

Table 2.73

Attitudes toward the death penalty for persons convicted of murder given evidence that innocent persons have been sentenced to death

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "Some experts estimate that one out of a hundred people who have been sentenced to death were actually innocent. If that estimate were right, would you still support the death penalty for a person convicted of a murder, or not?"

	Yes, still support	No, would not support	Depends
National	74%	20%	4%
Sex			
Male	79	15	5
Female	70	24	4
Race			
White	75	19	4
Black	61	28	9
Nonwhite ^a	68	22	8
Age			
18 to 29 years	73	23	2
30 to 49 years	76	20	4
50 to 64 years	76	15	8
50 years and older	74	17	6
65 years and older	72	19	5
Education			
College post graduate	77	20	2
College graduate	79	17	4
Some college	76	19	5
No college	70	22	5
Income			
\$50,000 and over	79	17	4
\$30,000 to \$49,999	78	17	3
\$20,000 to \$29,999	77	14	7
Under \$20,000	66	25	5
Community			
Urban area	69	24	5
Suburban area	82	12	4
Rural area	73	22	4
Region			
East	76	18	5
Midwest	72	21	4
South	73	22	5
West	77	16	4
Politics			
Republican	77	18	3
Democrat	70	23	6
Independent	75	18	4

Note: This question was asked of those respondents answering "yes" to the question presented in table 2.71. The "don't know/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aIncludes black respondents.

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