

**2021 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 87 APRIL 2021
APRIL 5-11, 2021
N=5,109**

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

DTHPNLTY

Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

	-----FAVOR-----			-----OPPOSE-----			No answer
	NET	<i>Strongly favor</i>	<i>Somewhat favor</i>	NET	<i>Strongly oppose</i>	<i>Somewhat oppose</i>	
Apr 5-11, 2021	60	27	32	39	15	24	1
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	65	30	35	34	14	20	1
Jan 6-19, 2020	62	30	32	36	15	21	2
Sep 3-15, 2019	65	32	33	34	19	15	1

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

	-----FAVOR-----			-----OPPOSE-----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
	<u>Total</u>	<i>Strongly favor</i>	<i>Favor</i>	<u>Total</u>	<i>Strongly oppose</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	
July 23-Aug 4, 2020	52	20	31	44	19	25	5
Jan 8-13, 2020	53	28	25	42	19	24	5
Sep 5-16, 2019	55	27	28	40	16	24	5
Apr 25-May 1, 2018	54	23	30	39	13	26	7
Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016	49	21	27	42	14	28	9
Mar 25-29, 2015	56	23	34	38	13	24	6
Nov 9-14, 2011	62	28	34	31	11	20	7
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011 ¹	58	--	--	36	--	--	6
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	62	30	32	30	10	20	8
August, 2007	62	29	33	32	11	21	6
Early January, 2007	64	30	34	29	11	18	7
March, 2006	65	27	38	27	8	19	8
December, 2005	62	--	--	30	--	--	8
Mid-July, 2003	64	28	36	30	10	20	6
March, 2002	67	33	34	26	9	17	7
March, 2001	66	30	36	27	10	17	7
September, 1999	74	41	33	22	7	15	4
June, 1996	78	43	35	18	7	11	4

¹ In all surveys October 2011 and before, the question was asked as part of a list, except in November-December 2005.

ASK ALL; SHOW INTRO TEXT AND DTHPNLYA-DTHPNLYD ON SAME SCREEN USING VISUAL DIVIDER BETWEEN EACH VARIABLE:

Next are a few pairs of statements about the death penalty in the U.S. Please choose the statement that comes closer to your own views – even if neither is exactly right. **[RANDOMIZE THE ORDER OF PAIRS AND RANDOMIZE STATEMENTS WITHIN PAIRS].**

[Please select one item from each pair]

ASK ALL:

DTHPNLYA

	The death penalty deters people from committing <u>serious crimes</u>	The death penalty does NOT deter people from committing <u>serious crimes</u>	No answer	
Apr 5-11, 2021	35	63	2	
Jan 6-19, 2020	36	62	2	
<i>Phone trend for comparison:</i>			(VOL.) <u>Depends</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 8-13, 2020	38	59	1	2
Mar 25-29, 2015	35	61	1	3

ASK ALL:

DTHPNLYB

	When someone commits a crime like murder, the death penalty is <u>morally justified</u>	The death penalty is morally wrong, even when someone commits <u>a crime like murder</u>	No answer	
Apr 5-11, 2021	64	33	3	
Jan 6-19, 2020	66	31	3	
<i>Phone trend for comparison:</i>			(VOL.) <u>Depends</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 8-13, 2020	61	32	3	3
Mar 25-29, 2015	63	31	3	3

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,545]:

DTHPNLYC

	Minorities are more likely than whites to be sentenced to the death penalty for committing <u>similar crimes</u>	Whites and minorities are equally likely to be sentenced to the death penalty for committing <u>similar crimes</u>	No answer	
Apr 5-11, 2021	58	39	3	
Jan 6-19, 2020	54	44	3	
<i>Phone trend for comparison:</i>			(VOL.) <u>Depends</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 8-13, 2020	58	35	2	5
Mar 25-29, 2015	52	41	1	6

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,564]:

DTHPNLYCMOD	Black people are more likely than White people to be sentenced to the death penalty for committing <u>similar crimes</u>	White people and Black people are equally likely to be sentenced to the death penalty for committing <u>similar crimes</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Apr 5-11, 2021	56	41	3

ASK ALL:

DTHPNLYTD	There is some risk that an innocent person will <u>be put to death</u>	There are adequate safeguards to ensure that no innocent person will <u>be put to death</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Apr 5-11, 2021	78	21	2
Jan 6-19, 2020	79	19	1

<i>Phone trend for comparison:</i>			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
Jan 8-13, 2020	70	27	<u>Depends</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 25-29, 2015	71	26	*	2

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING [N=2,016]:

PARTYLN	As of today do you lean more to... ²	Something	No	Lean	Lean
		<u>else</u>	<u>answer</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>		
	24	32	27	16	1
				19	20

² Party and PartyIn asked in a prior survey.