

POLI 203  
Anonymous survey  
January 8, 2020

Part I. Opinion questions taken from the Gallup Poll Archives

Are you in favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of murder?

- a) Favor
- b) Oppose

If you could choose between the following two approaches, which do you think is the better penalty for murder –

- a) the death penalty or
- b) life imprisonment, with absolutely no possibility of parole?

Regardless of whether or not you think it should be legal, for each one, please tell me whether you personally believe that in general it is morally acceptable or morally wrong. How about the death penalty?

- a) Morally acceptable
- b) Morally wrong

In your opinion, is the death penalty imposed –

- a) too often,
- b) about the right amount or
- c) not often enough?

Generally speaking, do you believe the death penalty is applied fairly or unfairly in this country today?

- a) Fairly
- b) Unfairly

Apart from your opinion about the death penalty, what form of punishment do you consider to be the most humane –

- a) the electric chair,
- b) the gas chamber,
- c) lethal injection,
- d) firing squad, or
- e) hanging?

Do you feel that the death penalty acts as a deterrent to the commitment of murder, that it lowers the murder rate, or not?

- a) Yes, does
- b) No, does not

How often do you think that a person has been executed under the death penalty who was, in fact, innocent of the crime he or she was charged with -- do you think this has happened in the past five years, or not?

- a) Yes, has
- b) No, has not

Just your best guess, about what percent of people who are executed under the death penalty are really innocent of the crime they were charged with?

- a) (enter a number from 0 to 100)

Which comes closer to your view –

- b) states should be allowed to execute prisoners sentenced to the death penalty by means of lethal injection, or
- c) lethal injection of death row prisoners represents cruel and unusual punishment that should not be permitted?

Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for –

Women

- a) Favor
- b) Oppose

The mentally ill

- a) Favor
- b) Oppose

The mentally retarded

- a) Favor
- b) Oppose

Juveniles

- a) Favor
- b) Oppose

Part II: Factual questions

About how many million people live in the United States?

a) (enter a number)

About how many million people live in North Carolina?

a) (enter a number)

Roughly speaking, about how many homicides occur in the US in a given year?

a) (enter a number)

In North Carolina?

a) (enter a number)

Roughly speaking, what was the maximum number of homicides in the US in any single year from 1972 to present?

a) (enter a number)

In North Carolina?

a) (enter a number)

True or false: It costs more to maintain the death penalty than to have Life without Parole as the most severe punishment?

b) True

c) False

What is the greatest number of judicial executions in any given year in the US since 1972?

a) (enter a number)

What is the greatest number of death sentences in any given year in the US since 1972?

a) (enter a number)

True or false: No one in the US may serve on a jury in a capital case unless they believe in the death penalty.

a) True

b) False

Across the US from 1976 onwards, approximately what percentage of persons who have been sentenced to death have later been executed?

a) (enter a number)

Which state has executed the most people since 1976?

a) (enter a name of a state)

About how many individuals have been exonerated and released from prison in the US since 1972 after serving on death row?

a) (enter a number)

Which city has the most homicides since 1972:

- b) Los Angeles,
- c) Chicago, or
- d) St. Louis?

Which city has the most executions since 1972:

- e) Los Angeles,
- f) Chicago, or
- g) St. Louis?

Which city has the most death sentences since 1972:

- a) Los Angeles,
- b) Chicago, or
- c) St. Louis?

One county in the US has more executions than any state other than its own. Name that county or its major city.

a) (enter a name of a city or county)

Circle the states that currently have the death penalty:

- a) Michigan,
- b) Vermont,
- c) Oregon,
- d) New Jersey
- e) Ohio

In what year did North Carolina last carry out an execution?

a) (enter a year)

About how many people are currently on death row in North Carolina?

a) (enter a number)

Which NC County has imposed the most death sentences since 1972?

- b) Orange
- c) Durham
- d) Forsyth
- e) Robeson
- f) Mecklenberg