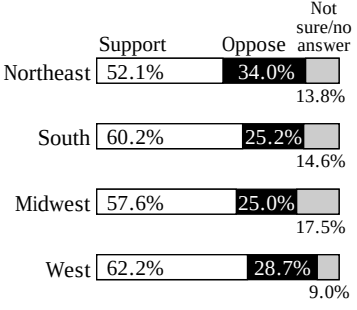
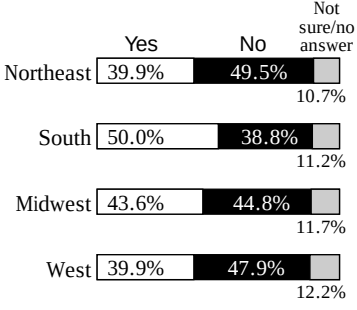
Regional differences

Americans' support for the death penalty varies, depending on where they live. Those most likely to approve live in the West and the South, the regions that include most of the 38 states with capital punishment laws.

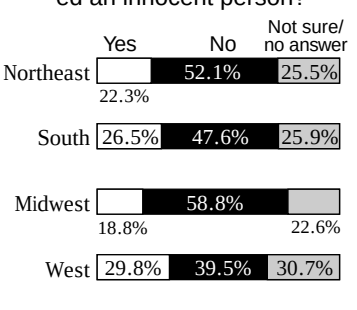
Q Do you support or oppose the death penalty?



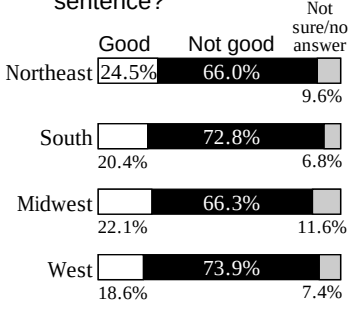
Q In general, do you believe the death penalty is fairly applied in the United States?



Q Since the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976, do you believe your state has executed an innocent person?



Q If the defendant demonstrates a change in character, undergoing a religious conversion, do you think this is a good reason or not a good reason for commuting a death sentence?



Source: The Houston Chronicle poll was conducted by the University of Houston's Center For Public Policy Survey Research Institute, which conducted random telephone interviews with 1,773 adults over age 18. The poll was conducted Nov. 29-Dec. 21. The margin of error varies between 3.5 and 5 percentage points.

Chronicle