Attitudes to the death penalty

Emily Gray, Rea Robey and Daniel Cameron
This data is based on the most recent wave of the Globus survey. Fieldwork was conducted between 9 February and 5 April 2007.

Global Powers (Globus) is a quarterly comprehensive report about attitudes toward leading global companies, government and the economy in major developed countries worldwide.

The USA and South Korea are the only countries included that currently have the death penalty.
The UK is more supportive of the death penalty than other Western European countries.
Q: Do you favour or oppose the death penalty for people convicted of murder? Is that strongly favour/oppose or somewhat favour/oppose?

- South Korea: 72%
- Mexico: 71%
- USA: 69%
- UK: 50%
- France: 45%
- Canada: 44%
- Germany: 35%
- Italy: 31%
- Spain: 28%

Source: AP/Ipsos International Affairs Poll Feb-Apr 2007. Base c1,000 interviews in each country
And many British people believe that the death penalty would reduce the murder rate.
Q If the death penalty were implemented in <country>, do you think the number of murders would go up, go down, or stay about the same?

Source: AP/Ipsos International Affairs Poll Feb-Apr 2007. Base c1,000 interviews in each country.
Q: If the death penalty were abolished in <country>, do you think the number of murders would go up, go down, or stay about the same?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Would go up</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td></td>
<td>51%</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td></td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: AP/Ipsos International Affairs Poll Feb-Apr 2007. Base c1,000 interviews in each country
Opinion varies on whether it’s an appropriate punishment for Osama bin Laden
Q If Osama bin Laden is captured, tried and convicted of being a terrorist, which punishment should he receive?

Source: AP/Ipsos International Affairs Poll Feb-Apr 2007. Base c1,000 interviews in each country.
But overall, Britons still think the best way to deal with murder is life imprisonment.
Preferred punishment for murder - UK

Q  Which punishment do you prefer for people convicted of murder?

- Life in prison without the chance of parole: 44%
- The death penalty: 34%
- A long prison sentence with the chance of parole: 19%
- Not sure: 3%

Source: AP/Ipsos International Affairs Poll Feb-Apr 2007. Base c500 interviews in the UK
Q Which punishment do you prefer for people convicted of murder?

- Spain: 64%
- Italy: 60%
- Germany: 59%
- France: 55%
- Canada: 51%
- UK: 44%
- South Korea: 44%
- Mexico: 43%
- USA: 37%

Source: AP/Ipsos International Affairs Poll Feb-Apr 2007. Base c500 interviews in each country
Q Which punishment do you prefer for people convicted of murder?

- **The death penalty**
  - USA: 52%
  - Mexico: 46%
  - South Korea: 35%
  - UK: 34%
  - Canada: 25%
  - France: 21%
  - Italy: 16%
  - Spain: 12%
  - Germany: 11%

Source: AP/Ipsos International Affairs Poll Feb-Apr 2007. Base c500 interviews in each country.
### Preferred punishment for murder – possible parole

Q: Which punishment do you prefer for people convicted of murder?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: AP/Ipsos International Affairs Poll Feb-Apr 2007. Base c500 interviews in each country.
And the most favoured execution method in the USA?
Lethal injection
Regardless of your views on the death penalty, which one of these methods do you think should be used for executions in the US?

- Lethal injection: 69%
- Hanging: 9%
- Firing squad: 8%
- Electrocnution: 6%
- Gas chamber: 5%
- Other: 1%
- Not sure: 2%

Source: AP/Ipsos International Affairs Poll Feb-Apr 2007. Base 1,000 interviews in US