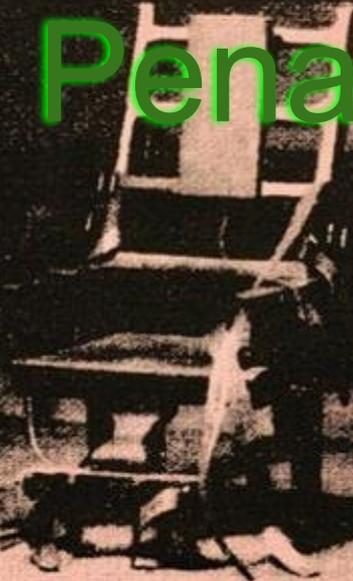


# UVU Students Views About the Death Penalty

By Eric, Alfredo,  
and Laura



# Procedure of our research

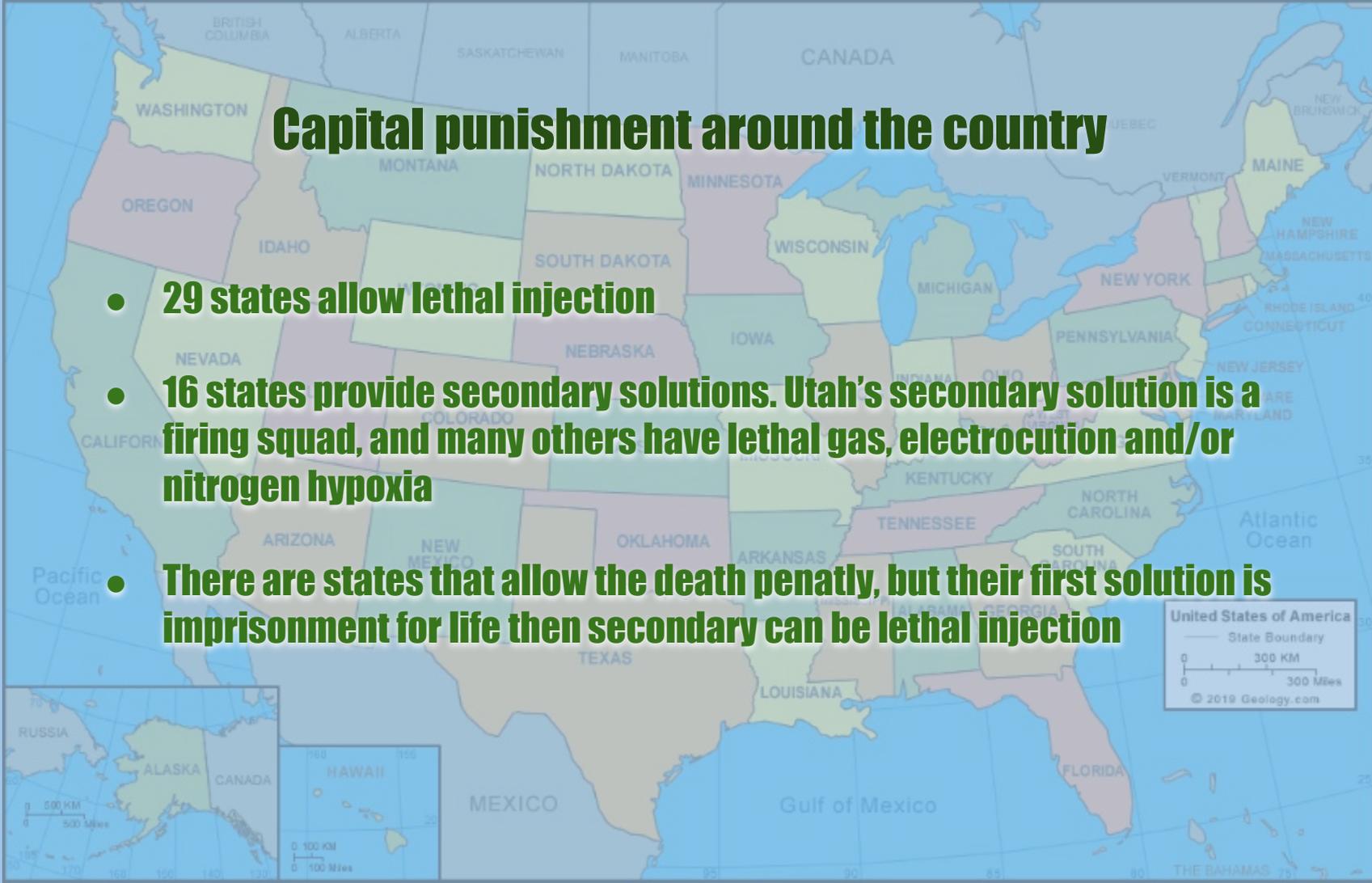
- First we researched if this has ever been done before
  - We looked at the general populations opinions on the death penalty, and if it was thought to be ethical or not according to the general public
- We decided we wanted to distribute it to current UVU students to get the most relevant data.
- 500 subjects (students) were provided by the IRI
- 83 responded to our survey
- Time: Data was taken for a period for 2 weeks
- Once we got our data back we compiled it into easily understandable graphs

# **The Purpose of our Survey**

- **What is the perspective of the student body of UVU when it comes to capital punishment?**
- **Does ethics when considering human mortality change with generations?**
- **Do these results give us an idea of what the future could hold regarding change in laws of capital punishment?**
- **Will our survey change the participant's perspective on capital punishment?**

# Capital punishment around the country

- **29 states allow lethal injection**
- **16 states provide secondary solutions. Utah's secondary solution is a firing squad, and many others have lethal gas, electrocution and/or nitrogen hypoxia**
- **There are states that allow the death penalty, but their first solution is imprisonment for life then secondary can be lethal injection**



# What we expected



Pew Research poll released  
June 11, 2018

- **54%** of Americans say they support the death penalty
- **39%** say they are opposed <sup>(1)</sup>



# What we Found

Support capital punishment.

**59.21% 45**

Do not support capital punishment

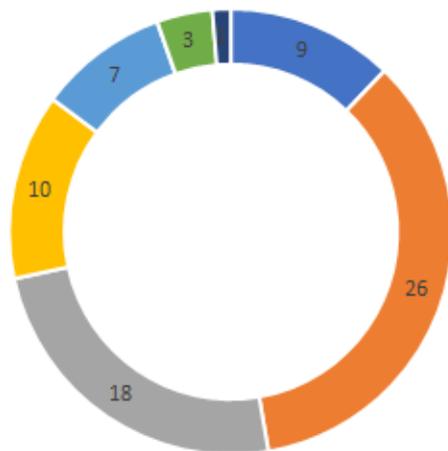
**28.95% 22**

No contest

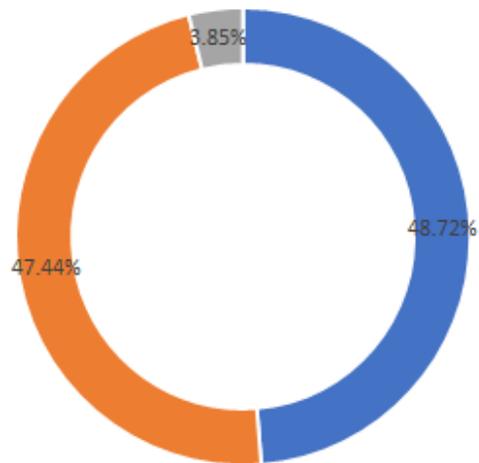
**11.84% 9**

## Age

- Eighteen to Nineteen
- Twenty to twenty-two
- Twenty-three to Twenty-five
- Twenty-six to Twenty-eight
- Thirty-one to Thirty-four
- Forty to Forty-one
- Ninety



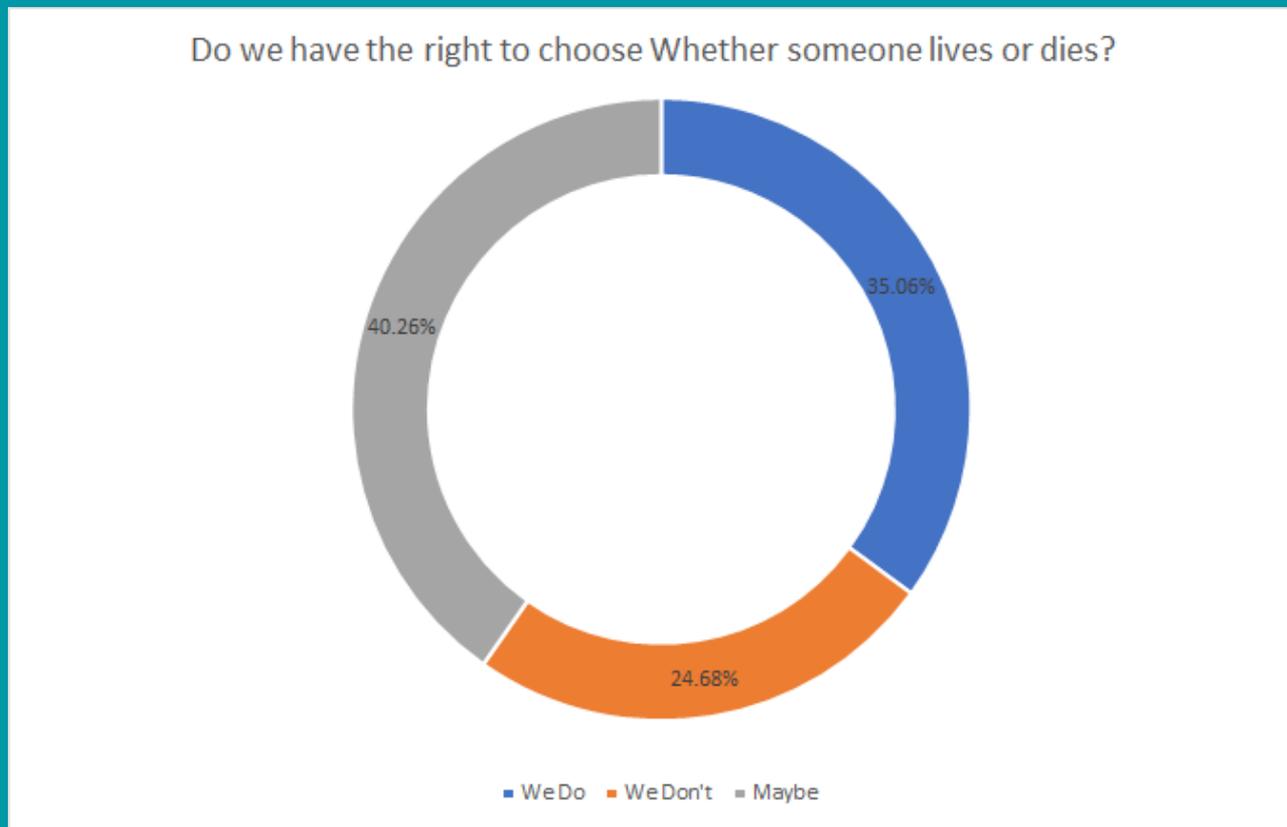
## Gender



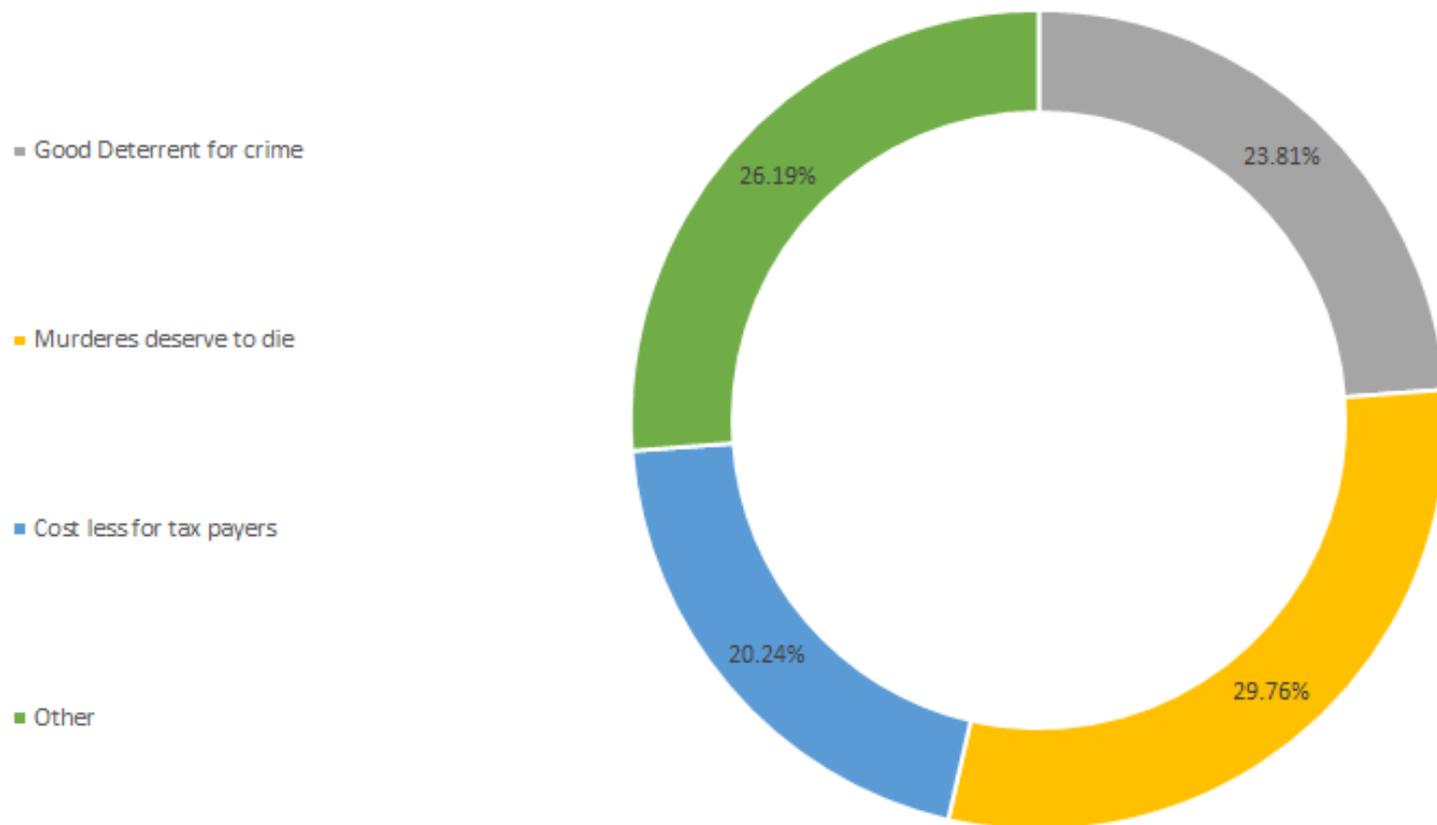
- Male
- Female
- Other



## Do we have the right to choose whether someone lives or dies?



## What are some reasons you do support capital punishment



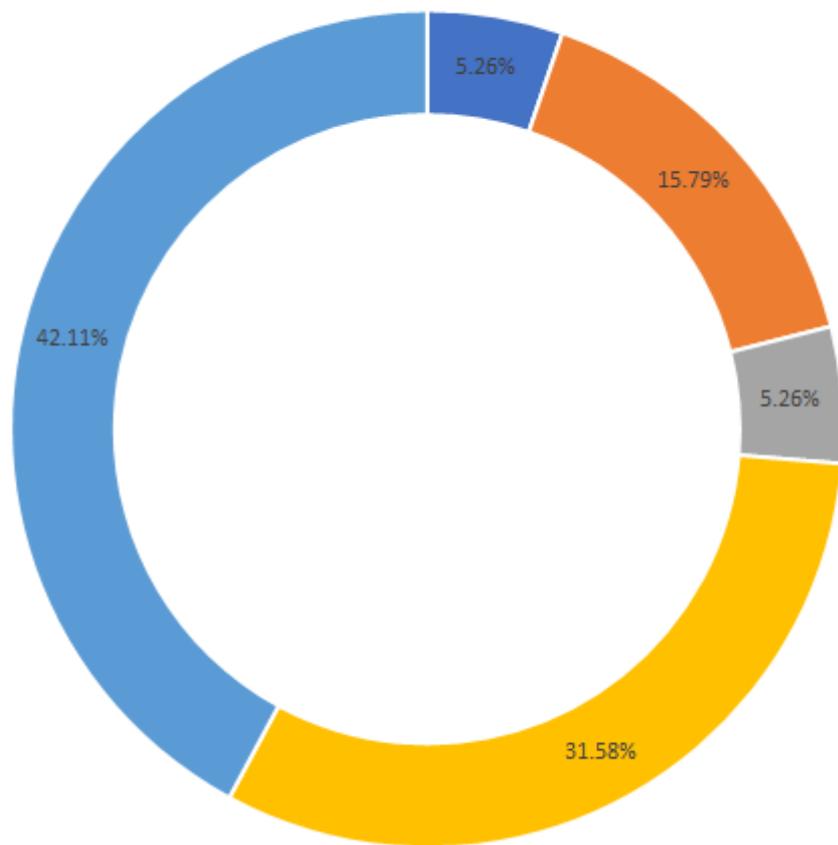
# Others explained out of 21 responses...

- (7) Murderers and rapists
- (4) Involvement of children
- (3) An eye for an eye
  
- “Wicked people should be executed to protect the innocent”
  
- “Some crimes are too intense to come back from and the world would better off without these types of criminals”



## What are some reasons why you do not support capital punishment

- it is cruel
- if we kill them then we become murderers too
- it is too expensive
- capital punishment does not deter crime
- other



# Others explained out of 8 responses...

- (4) It is an easy way out
- (3) All of the above



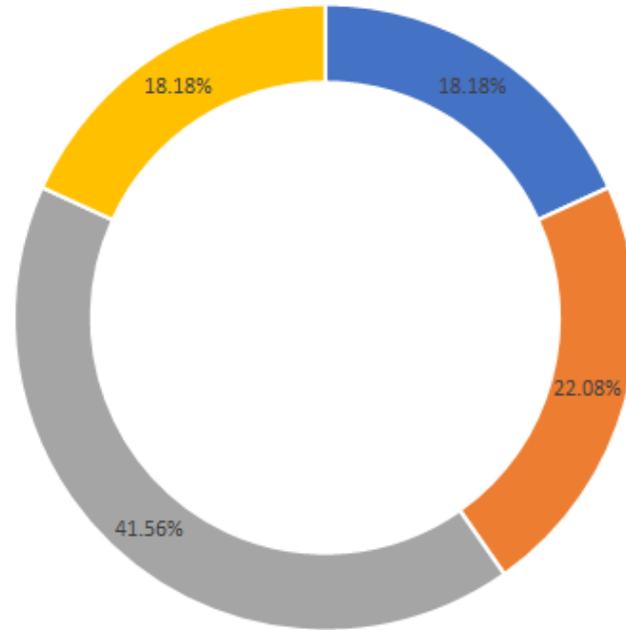
Please explain some of the benefits you believe the death penalty brings



Others explained out of 11 responses...

- (8) Cheaper to kill convicts / wasting taxpayers money

If someone sentenced to the death penalty dies but is later found to be innocent what do you suggest should be done?

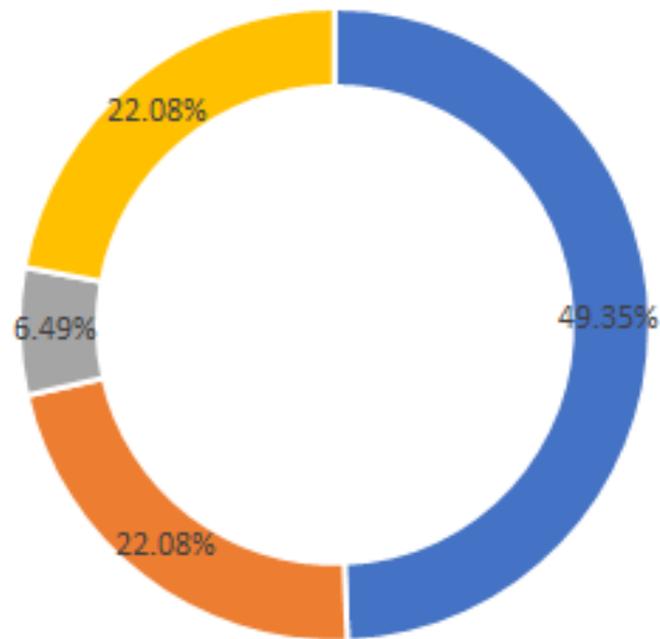


■ keep the death penalty ■ abolish the death penalty ■ Compensate the family ■ Other

Others explained out of 10 responses:

- (5) Re-evaluate the legal system

After being sentenced to death and all the appeals have been denied, how long should a criminal have to wait before he/she is executed?



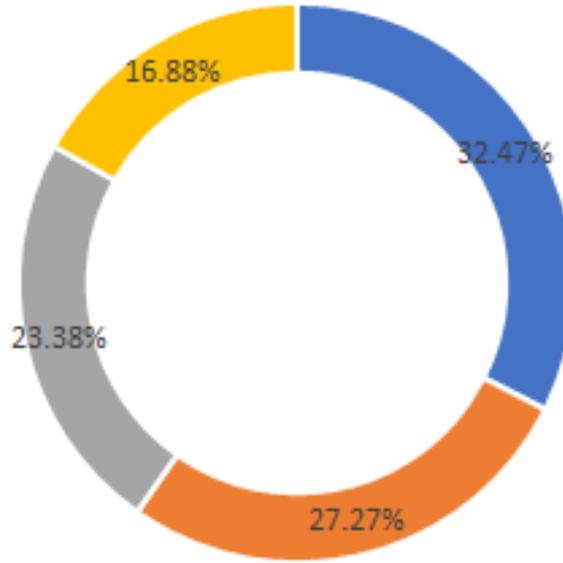
■ Weeks ■ Months ■ Years ■ Other

Others explained out of 15 responses...

- (9) There should be no waiting because it can be defined as torturous and along the lines of cruel punishment



Does it go against a person's 8th amendment rights, against "cruel and unusual punishment", to make a person wait in death row for a long time?



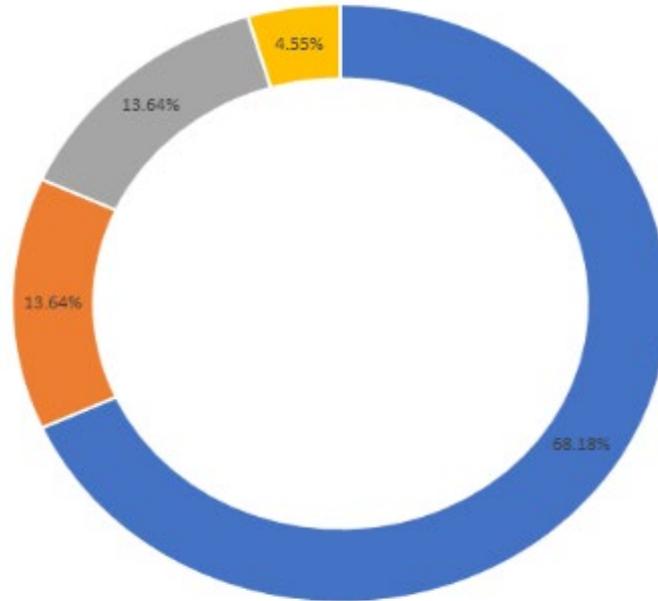
■ It does ■ it does not ■ maybe ■ other

Others explained out of 13 responses:

(7) No waiting for their punishment - Should be as soon as possible

## If you do not support capital punishment, what alternatives would you recommend for criminals?

What alternatives would you recommend for criminals if you do not support capital punishment?

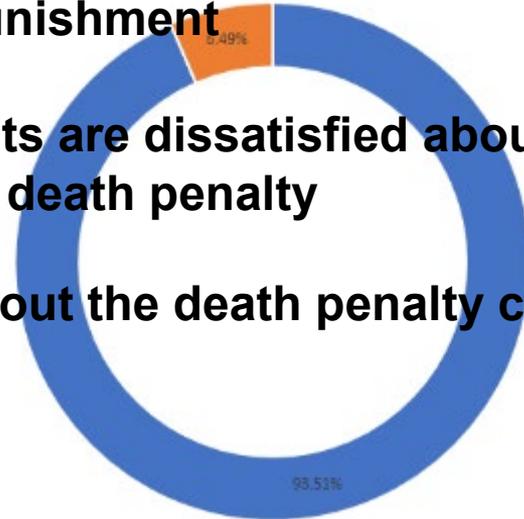


■ Life without possibility of parole ■ Restitution for victims and family ■ Prison labor ■ Other

# What we Learned

After taking this survey do you still agree with the answer you gave in question 1

- **Younger generation or UVU college students support capital punishment**
- **Majority of students are dissatisfied about the procedures of the death penalty**
- **People's views about the death penalty can be changed**



• I do agree with my answer in question 1

• I do not agree with my answer from question 1

## Why it Matters

- The future of our country is in the hands of college students. It is important to know what they are thinking, to be able to get a clear picture of what is to come
- It is important to know if the opinions of UVU students as it can reflect the general public's opinion about capital punishment

# What we could have done better

- We could have asked them what race they were to get more information
- Asked their religious beliefs, or if their opinions came outside of their religion
- If we had asked where they lived, it could have helped to explain their views
- Looking back we should have asked them if they thought that the death penalty was even an issue. If we had asked this we could have filtered the questions, so that we might not have ended up with so many Others, and no contests
- If we asked them what political party they belonged to, it would have helped us organize our data and it could have explained some of the choices that people made
- We could have focused more questions on juveniles and if capital punishment should be applied to them

# References

1. <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/news/pew-poll-finds-uptick-in-death-penalty-support-though-still-near-historic-lows>
1. <http://www.ncsl.org/research/civil-and-criminal-justice/death-penalty.aspx#:~:targetText=Lethal%20injection%20is%20currently%20the,use%20the%20method%2C%20in%201982>