



AEI Public Opinion  
Studies

# Attitudes About Abortion

Compiled by Karlyn Bowman, Resident Fellow, AEI and Andrew Rugg, Research  
Assistant

Updated January 2012

**ABORTION:** *In the 39 years since the Supreme Court decided Roe v. Wade, pollsters have asked hundreds of questions about abortion. This AEI Public Opinion Study brings many of those questions together in one place. It shows how different pollsters have approached the subject.*

*Opinion on abortion has been very stable. Between 1975 and 2011, Gallup has asked the identical question on abortion more than 50 times. In 1975, 21 percent said abortion should be legal under all circumstances, 54 percent legal only under certain circumstances, and 22 percent illegal in all circumstances. Those responses in Gallup’s May 2011 poll were 27, 50, and 22 percent, respectively. This constancy of opinion is evident on many questions in this document.*

*Although opinion about abortion is stable, it is also deeply ambivalent. Americans are at once pro-life and pro-choice. On the one hand, substantial numbers tell the pollsters that abortion is an act of murder. On the other, they say that the decision to have an abortion should be a personal choice. Those two views are fundamentally contradictory, yet many Americans hold them within themselves. They see no reason to resolve the tensions in their own positions. They believe in the sanctity of life and in the importance of individual choice.*

*Most Americans do not want to overturn Roe v. Wade. At the same time, however, they are willing to put significant restrictions on abortion. Majorities of Americans favor notification of spouses, parental consent, and 24-hour waiting periods. They support first-term abortions, but oppose second and third trimester ones. They oppose public funding.*

*Ninety percent of Americans told Los Angeles Times interviewers in 2000 that they had never been active in the abortion debate. Between 1980 and 2000, in every presidential election, abortion was included in the list of issues people could pick as a top issue (or one of the issues for them) in casting their presidential ballot. In each of these presidential contests, these single-issue voters cast their ballots for the Republican presidential candidate. In 2004 and 2008, the national exit pollsters did not include abortion as a category people could check as their top issue. In 2004, the Los Angeles Times did include the category “social issues such as abortion and gay marriage.” We have not included that question in this document.*

## Table of Contents

ABORTION AS MURDER .....	3
WOMAN’S CHOICE.....	5
UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES? .....	7
RESTRICTIONS ON ABORTION.....	17
Partial Birth Abortion .....	19
Federal Subsidies of Abortion .....	20
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.....	21
VOTERS’ VIEWS OF ABORTION, BY SUBGROUP .....	25
ABORTION AS AN ELECTION ISSUE .....	27
VOTERS’ VIEWS ON ABORTION .....	29
PRO-CHOICE OR PRO-LIFE? .....	31
MISCELLANEOUS .....	34

**ABORTION AS MURDER:** *In 2000, the Los Angeles Times asked people to agree or disagree with the statement “abortion is murder.” Fifty-six percent of those surveyed agreed, and 37 percent disagreed. Those responses were virtually identical to the ones the survey organization got when they asked that question for the first time in 1989. The belief that life begins at conception may pull people toward the view that abortion is murder. In a June 2006, Fox News/Opinion Dynamics poll, 65 percent said that abortion ends a human life.*

*Although the questions have not been asked recently, questions asked awhile ago show that pluralities say they are personally against abortion, and separately, that they think the bad effects of abortion outweigh the good. In May 2011, 39 percent told Gallup that abortion was morally acceptable while 51 percent said it was morally wrong. In July, 33 percent told the Public Religion Research Institute that having an abortion was morally acceptable; 55 percent said it was morally wrong.*

*Q: On the issue of abortion, do you believe that abortion ends a human life?*

		Yes	No
Jun. 2006	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	65%	26%

*Q: Do you agree or disagree with this statement: "Abortion is murder"? Do you strongly agree/disagree or only somewhat agree/disagree?*

		Strongly Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Mar. 1989	L.A. Times	42%	16%	15%	19%	19%
Jun. 2000	L.A. Times	44	12	13	24	24

*Q: Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion -abortion is the same thing as murdering a child, OR abortion is not murder because a fetus isn't a person? (1983-1987)*

*Q: Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion: abortion is the same thing as murdering a child, OR abortion is not murder because the fetus really isn't a child? (1989-1998)*

		Murder	Not Murder	Depends
Nov. 1983	NYT	57%	30%	-
Nov. 1985	CBS News/NYT	54	35	-
Dec. 1985	CBS News/NYT	55	35	-
Aug. 1987	CBS News/NYT	50	35	-
Apr. 1989	CBS News/NYT	48	40	4
Jul. 1989#	CBS News/NYT	40	47	7
Jan. 1995	CBS News/NYT	46	41	5
Jan. 1998	CBS News/NYT	50	38	5

Note: # Question wording read, "...abortion is not murder because the fetus really hasn't developed into a child yet."

*Q: Some people say that abortion is an act of murder, while other people disagree with this. What is your view—do you think that abortion is an act of murder or don't you feel this way?*

		An Act of Murder	Don't Feel This Way
Aug. 1994	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	43%	47%

Jan. 1995	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	40	51
Jan. 1998	Yankelovich/Time/CNN/Gallup	48	45
Jan. 2003	Harris/Time/CNN	46	46

*Q: Do you believe that life begins at conception, or at birth, or somewhere in between?*

		Conception	Birth	Somewhere in between
Mar. 1989	L.A. Times	41%	15%	27%
Jun. 2000	L.A. Times	53	12	29

*Q: Many things in our society have both good and bad effects. For example, aviation does because it provides fast transportation. Here is a list of some different things that have resulted in both good and bad effects. [Card is shown to respondent.] Would you read down the list and for each one tell me whether, on balance, you think the good effects outweigh the bad, or whether the bad effects outweigh the good?...Abortion.*

		Good Outweighs Bad	Bad Outweighs Good	Equally Good and Bad
Mar. 1992	Roper Starch Worldwide	24%	47%	20%
Mar. 1995	Roper Starch Worldwide	24	47	21

*Q: Regardless of whether or not you think abortion should be legal, do you personally believe that having an abortion is morally wrong in nearly all circumstances, morally wrong in some circumstances, or is it not a moral issue?*

		All circumstances	Some circumstances	Not a Moral Issue
Jul. 2005	PSRA/Pew Research Center	29%	41%	26%
Jul. 2006	SRB/Pew Research Center	24	49	24

*Q: Next, I'm going to read you a list of issues. 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...Abortion*

		Abortion is morally acceptable	Morally Wrong	Depends
May 2001	Gallup	42%	45%	11%
May 2002	Gallup	38	53	8
May 2003	Gallup	37	53	9
May 2004	Gallup	40	50	8
May 2005	Gallup	40	51	8
May 2006	Gallup	43	44	11
May 2007	Gallup	40	51	7
May 2008	Gallup	40	48	10
May 2009	Gallup	36	56	6
May 2010	Gallup	38	50	9
May 2011	Gallup	39	51	7

*Q: Next I'm going to read you a series of statements about personal behavior. Regardless of whether or not you think it should be legal, for each one, please tell me whether you personally believe that it is morally acceptable or morally wrong... having an abortion.*

	Having an abortion is morally acceptable	Morally wrong	Depends
July 2011 PRRI	33%	55%	8%

PRRI is the Public Religion Research Institute.

Q: Do you personally believe that \_\_\_\_\_ is morally acceptable, morally wrong, or is it not an issue?

		Acceptable	Wrong	Not an issue	Depends
Having an abortion					
Feb. 2006	Pew	12%	52%	23%	11%
Aug. 2009	Pew	10	52	25	8
Homosexual behavior					
Feb. 2006	Pew	12	50	33	1
Aug. 2009	Pew	9	49	35	2
Divorce					
Aug. 2009	Pew	20	29	40	6
Drinking alcohol					
Aug. 2009	Pew	20	15	56	6

**WOMAN'S CHOICE:** *The belief that individuals should be able to make their own choices shapes attitudes about abortion and many other things. Most Americans believe, for example, that smoking is a bad habit, but they also believe that people should be able to make their own choice about whether or not to smoke. Survey question after survey question that discusses abortion in the context of choice reveals broad support for the idea.*

Q: Which of the following best represents your views about abortion—the choice on abortion should be left up to the woman and her doctor, abortion should be legal only in cases in which pregnancy results from rape or incest or when the life of the woman is at risk, or abortion should be illegal in all circumstances?

		The choice should be left up to the woman and her doctor	Legal only in cases of rape/incest /life of woman	Illegal in all circumstances
Jul. 1990	NBC News/WSJ	57%	33%	8%
Jun. 1991	NBC News/WSJ	57	36	7
Jul. 1991	NBC News/WSJ	60	31	8
Dec. 1995	NBC News/WSJ	60	28	10
Mar. 1996	NBC News/WSJ	56	31	10
May 1996	NBC News/WSJ	55	35	7
Jun. 1996	NBC News/WSJ	58	31	9
Aug. 1999	NBC News/WSJ	56	30	12
Jan. 1997	NBC News/WSJ	60	26	11
Jun. 2000	NBC News/WSJ	57	32	9
Jul. 2000	NBC News/WSJ	57	29	12
Jan. 2003	NBC News/WSJ	59	29	9
Nov. 2003	NBC News/WSJ	53	29	15
May 2005	NBC News/WSJ	55	29	14
Apr. 2007	NBC News/WSJ	55	30	13
Oct. 2009	NBC News/WSJ	51	31	15

*Q: I would like to read several statements about some social issues facing America. For each issue, please tell me whether you agree strongly, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or disagree strongly with that statement...: The government should not interfere with a woman's ability to have an abortion.*

		Agree Strongly	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree Strongly
Jun 1993#	NBC News/WSJ	63%	12%	7%	14%
Jun 1994	NBC News/WSJ	53	17	9	18

Note: # Question wording read, "...woman's right to have an abortion."

*Q: Frequently on any controversial issue there is no clear-cut side that people take, and also frequently solutions on controversial issues are worked out by compromise. But I'm going to name some different things, and for each one would you tell me whether on balance you would be more in favor of it or more opposed to it?...Legal abortions for those woman who choose to have them.*

		----Legal Abortions for women who choose to have them----		
		On balance, more in favor	On balance, more oppose	Don't know/ Mixed feelings
1978	Roper Starch Worldwide	46%	42%	12%
1981	Roper Starch Worldwide	46	42	12
1984	Roper Starch Worldwide	47	39	15
1989	Roper Starch Worldwide	46	38	16
1993	Roper Starch Worldwide	49	36	15
1995	Roper Starch Worldwide	49	35	16
1998	Roper Starch Worldwide	48	37	15

*Q: If a woman wants to have an abortion, and her doctor agrees to it, should she be allowed to have an abortion, or not?*

		----If a woman wants to have an abortion----		
		Should be allowed	Should not	Depends
Aug 1980	CBS News/NYT	62%	19%	15%
Apr 1981	CBS News/NYT	63	25	9
Jun 1981	CBS News/ NYT	65	22	10
Jan 1989	CBS News/ NYT	61	25	11
Apr 1989	CBS News/ NYT	63	24	10
Jul 1989	CBS News/ NYT	63	24	11
Sep 1989	CBS News/ NYT	58	26	13
Jun 1992	ICR/AP	58	20	16
Feb 1995	ICR/AP	66	22	11
Jan 1998	CBS News/ NYT	59	24	14

**UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES?** *The Gallup question shown below has been asked more than 50 times since 1975 and the results are remarkably stable. Most people say that abortion should be legal only under certain circumstances.*

*What are some of those circumstances? By overwhelming margins, American support legal abortion if the women's health is seriously endangered, if there is a chance of a serious defect in the baby, or if the pregnancy is a result of rape. These are all situations in which the circumstance of the pregnancy is beyond a woman's control. People are more divided in their support for legal abortion if the women is not married and does not want to have more children, or if she wants an abortion for any reason.*

*Q: Do you think abortions should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances? [Starting in 1994, those people who answered "legal under certain circumstances" were asked another question asking them whether abortion should be legal under most circumstances or only in a few circumstances.]*

		Legal under All Circumstances	Legal under certain circumstances			Illegal in all circumstances
Apr. 1975	Gallup	21%	54%			22%
Dec. 1977	Gallup	22	55			19
Feb. 1979	Gallup	22	54			19
Jul. 1980	Gallup	25	53			18
May. 1981	Gallup	23	52			21
Jun. 1983	Gallup	23	58			16
Jan. 1985	Gallup	21	55			21
Oct. 1988	Gallup	24	57			17
Apr. 1989	Gallup/Newsweek	27	50			18
Jul. 1989	Gallup	29	51			17
Apr. 1990	Gallup	31	53			12
May. 1991	Gallup	32	50			17
Sep. 1991	Gallup	33	49			14
Jan. 1992	Gallup	31	53			14
Jul. 1992	Gallup/Newsweek	34	48	Legal	Legal in only	13
Mar. 1993	Gallup	32	51	under most	a few	13
Mar. 1994	Gallup	31	51	circumstances*	circumstances*	15
Sep. 1994	Gallup	33	52	13%	38%	13
Feb. 1995	Gallup	33	50	9	41	15
Sep. 1995	Gallup	31	54	14	39	12
Jul. 1996	Gallup	25	58	13	43	15
Sep. 1996	Gallup	23	51	-	-	18
Aug. 1997	Gallup	22	61	12	48	15
Nov. 1997	Gallup	26	55	15	40	17
Jan. 1998	Gallup	23	59	16	42	17
Apr. 1999	Gallup	27	55	12	42	16
Jan. 2000	Gallup	26	56	17	39	15
Mar. 2000	Gallup	28	51	11	38	19
Mar. 2001	Gallup	26	51	13	38	18
May. 2001	Gallup	26	58	15	41	15
Aug. 2001	Gallup	26	56	12	43	17
Feb. 2002	Gallup	26	54	-	-	18

Mar. 2002	Gallup	27	53	12	40	19
May. 2002	Gallup	25	51	12	39	22
Jan. 2003	Gallup	24	57	14	42	18
May. 2003	Gallup	23	57	15	42	19
Oct. 2003	Gallup	26	55	14	40	17
May. 2004	Gallup	24	56	13	42	19
Mar. 2005	Gallup	23	55	14	39	20
May. 2005	Gallup	23	53	12	40	22
Sep. 2006	CNN/ORC	24	50	10	40	24
May. 2007	Gallup	26	55	15	40	18
Oct. 2007	CNN/ORC	23	54	13	40	22
May. 2008	Gallup	28	54	40	13	17
Jun. 2008	CNN/ORC	25	51	12	39	22
May. 2009	Gallup	22	53	15	37	23
Jul. 2009	Gallup/USA Today	21	57	13	42	18
Nov. 2009	CNN/ORC	26	50	10	40	23
Apr. 2010	CNN/ORC	21	56	13	42	22
May 2010	Gallup	24	54	15	37	19
May 2011	Gallup	27	50	10	39	22
Sept. 2011	CNN/ORC	25	53	12	41	21

Note: \*The categories “legal under most circumstances” and “legal under a few circumstances” do not add up to “legal under certain circumstances” because of “do not know” and “refused to answer” responses. For more information, see the following Gallup studies: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/126581/Generational-Differences-Abortion-Narrow.aspx>, <http://www.gallup.com/poll/127559/Education-Trumps-Gender-Predicting-Support-Abortion.aspx>, and <http://www.gallup.com/poll/1576/Abortion.aspx>.

*Q: Do you think abortion should be legal in all cases, should be legal in most cases, illegal in most cases, or illegal in all cases?*

		Legal in all cases	Legal most cases	Illegal most cases	Illegal all cases
Jul. 1995	ABC News/WP	27%	32%	26%	14%
Sept. 1995	ABC News/WP	24	36	25	11
Oct. 1995	ABC News/WP	26	35	25	12
Jun. 1996	ABC News/WP	24	34	25	14
Aug. 1996	ABC News/WP	22	34	27	14
Jul. 1998	ABC News/WP	19	35	29	13
Mar. 1999	ABC News/WP	21	34	27	15
Sept. 1999	ABC News/WP	20	37	26	15
Jul. 2000	ABC News/WP	20	33	26	17
Sept. 2000#	ABC News/WP	20	35	25	16
Jan. 2001	ABC News/WP	21	38	25	14
Jun. 2001	ABC News/WP	22	31	23	20
Aug. 2001	ABC News/WP	22	27	28	20
Jan. 2003	ABC News/WP	34	25	17	20
May 2004	ABC News/WP	23	31	23	17
Dec. 2004	ABC News/WP	21	34	25	14
Apr. 2005	ABC News/WP	20	36	27	13
Dec. 2005	ABC News/WP	17	40	27	12
Feb. 2007	ABC News/WP	16	39	31	16
Nov. 2007	ABC News/WP	19	36	27	15
Jan. 2008	ABC News/WP	21	36	25	16
Jun. 2008	ABC News/WP	18	35	28	18
Aug. 2008	ABC News/WP	22	32	26	18
Jun. 2009	ABC News/WP	20	35	26	17
Nov. 2009	ABC News/WP	19	35	28	16
Mar. 2010	WP	17	35	27	18

Nov. 2005	PSRA/Newsweek	17	41	23	14
Aug. 2007	PSRA/Pew	17	35	26	15
Oct. 2007	PSRA/Pew	21	32	24	15
Nov. 2007	PSRA/Pew	18	33	29	13
Jun. 2008	PSRA/Pew	19	38	24	15
Aug. 2008	PSRA/Pew	17	37	26	14
Oct. 2008	PSRA/Pew	19	38	22	16
Late Oct. 2008	PSRA/Pew	18	35	24	16
Apr. 2009	PSRA/Pew	18	28	28	16
Aug. 2009	PSRA/Pew	17	31	27	17
Jul.-Aug. 2010	PSRA/Pew	17	33	27	17
Apr.-May 2007	Quinnipiac	17	37	26	13
Jul. 2008	Quinnipiac	19	38	24	14
Apr. 2009	Quinnipiac	15	37	27	14
Jan. 2010	Quinnipiac	18	34	24	18
Apr. 2010	Quinnipiac	18	33	27	16
May-Jun. 2010	AP-Gfk/Roper	19	33	24	20

*Q: When do you think abortion should be legal?*

June 2011	Economist/YouGov	
Abortion should always be legal. There should be no restrictions on abortion.		23 %
Abortion should be legal, but with some restrictions, such as for minors or late-term abortions		34
Abortion should only be legal in special circumstances, such as when the life of the mother is in danger.		30
Abortion should be illegal. It should never be allowed.		13

*Q: Which comes closest to your view? (1) Abortion should be generally available to those who want it; or (2) Abortion should be available but under stricter limits than it is now; or (3) Abortion should not be permitted.*

		Generally Available	Stricter Limits	Not Permitted
Sept. 1989#	CBS News/NYT	40%	40%	18%
Nov. 1989	CBS News/NYT	41	42	15
Jan. 1990	CBS News/NYT	39	40	18
Aug. 1990	CBS News/NYT	41	41	16
June. 1991	CBS News/NYT	37	38	22
Aug. 1991	CBS News/NYT	41	40	15
Sept. 1991	CBS News/NYT	42	38	18
Jan. 1992	CBS News/NYT	40	39	19
Mar. 1992	CBS News/NYT	44	37	17
Jun. 1992	CBS News/NYT	42	39	17
Jun. 1992	CBS News/NYT	43	39	16
Jul. 1992	CBS News/NYT	41	39	18
Aug. 1992	CBS News/NYT	41	40	17
Oct. 1992	CBS News/NYT	43	37	16
Mar. 1993	CBS News/NYT	42	36	20
Jul. 1994	CBS News/NYT	40	37	21
Jan. 1995	CBS News/NYT	40	37	21
Jan. 1995	CBS News/NYT	40	37	23
Feb. 1995	CBS News/NYT	43	38	18

Apr. 1995	CBS News/NYT	38	40	20
Aug. 1995	CBS News/NYT	40	36	22
Oct. 1995	CBS News/NYT	37	41	20
Feb. 1996	CBS News/NYT	40	41	18
Apr. 1996	CBS News/NYT	37	41	21
Jun. 1996	CBS News/NYT	35	41	20
Jul. 1996	CBS News/NYT	37	42	19
Jan. 1998	CBS News/NYT	32	45	22
Nov. 1999	CBS News/NYT	34	41	22
Feb. 2000	CBS News/NYT	34	41	23
May 2000	CBS News/NYT	37	39	22
Jul. 2000	CBS News/NYT	28	48	21
Jul. 2000	CBS News/NYT	34	40	22
Sept. 2000	CBS News/NYT	35	42	21
Oct. 2000	CBS News/NYT	32	44	21
Mar. 2001	CBS News/NYT	33	43	23
Jan. 2003	CBS News/NYT	38	37	22
Jan. 2003	CBS News/NYT	39	38	22
Jan. 2003	CBS News/NYT	41	43	11
Jul. 2003	CBS News/NYT	35	38	25
May 2004	CBS News/NYT	36	37	25
Nov. 2004	CBS News/NYT	34	44	21
Jan. 2005	CBS News/NYT	36	35	26
Mar. 2005	CBS News/NYT	35	37	25
Apr. 2005	CBS News/NYT	36	38	24
Dec. 2005	CBS News/NYT	38	39	20
Jan. 2006	CBS News/NYT	38	38	21
Mar. 2007	CBS News/NYT	34	41	23
May 2007	CBS News/NYT	39	37	21
Jul. 2007	CBS News/NYT	41	34	22
Sep. 2007	CBS News/NYT	34	39	25
Dec. 2007	CBS News/NYT	36	43	18
Aug. 2008	CBS News/NYT	34	39	24
Sep. 2008	CBS News/NYT	37	42	19
Jun. 2009	CBS News/NYT	36	41	21
Oct. 2009	CBS News	41	35	20
Nov. 2009	CBS News	34	40	23
Apr. 2010	CBS News	36	38	23
Aug. 2010	CBS News	36	39	23
Dec. 2010	CBS/NYT	36	40	20
Sep. 2011	CBS/NTY	31	42	23

Note: # Question wording was, "...abortion should be available but more difficult to get than it is now or abortion should not be available."

*Q: Which of these comes closest to your view? Abortion should be generally available to those who want it, abortion should be available but under stricter limits than it is now, abortion should not be permitted?*

		-----17 to 29 year-olds-----		
		Generally available	Stricter limits	Not permitted
Jun. 2007	CBS News/MTV/NYT	37%	38%	24%

*Q: Which of these comes closest to your general view? (1) Abortion should be generally available to those who want it; (2) Abortion should be available but under stricter limits than it is now; (3) Abortion should be against the law except in cases of rape, incest, and to save the woman's life; or (4) Abortion should not be permitted at all.*

		Generally available	Available but under stricter limits	Against the law except for rape, incest, mother's life	Not permitted
Apr. 1995	CBS News/NYT	35%	20%	36%	8%
Aug. 1995	CBS News/NYT	36	20	34	9
Oct. 1995	CBS News/NYT	35	22	36	6
Feb. 1996	CBS News/NYT	36	22	34	7
Apr. 1996	CBS News/NYT	37	17	34	10
Jun. 1996	CBS News/NYT	36	18	37	8
Jun. 1996	PSRA/Pew Research Center	32	24	33	9
Jul. 1996	CBS News/NYT	33	21	34	9
Jun. 1997	PSRA/Pew Research Center	30	21	36	12
Jan. 1998	CBS News/NYT	25	25	41	9
Jul. 2005	PSRA/Pew Research Center	35	23	31	9
Nov. 2005	PSRA/Pew Research Center	30	19	31	16
Dec. 2005	PSRA/Pew Research Center	35	20	31	11
Jan. 2006	PSRA/Pew Research Center	30	19	31	16
Jul. 2006	SRB/Pew Research Center	31	20	35	11
Nov. 2006	PSRA/Pew Research Center	32	20	32	12

*Q: Which comes closest to your view on abortion - abortion should always be legal, should be legal most of the time, should be made illegal except in cases of rape, incest, and to save the mother's life, or abortion should be made illegal without any exceptions?*

		Always legal	Legal most of the time	Only in cases of rape or incest	Always illegal
Jan. 2003	NBC/WSJ	27%	17%	40%	14%
Nov. 2003	NBC/WSJ	29	14	41	13
Jun. 2004	NBC/WSJ	29	12	45	12
Jan. 2005	NBC/WSJ	24	19	41	12
Apr. 2006	NBC/WSJ	27	19	41	10
Nov. 2007	NBC/WSJ	25	15	40	13
Sep. 2008	NBC/WSJ	25	24	37	10

*Q: What is your personal feeling about abortion: (1) It should be permitted in all cases; (2) It should be permitted, but subject to greater restrictions than it is now; (3) It should be permitted in such cases as rape, incest, and to save the woman's life; or (4) It should only be permitted to save the woman's life?*

		----Convention delegates, partisans, and registered voters----				
		Permitted in all cases	Permitted with some restrictions	Permitted for rape/incest/life	Only to save a life	Not permitted at all
1996						
Dem. delegate	CBS News/NYT	61%	15%	13%	3%	-
Democrats	CBS News/NYT	30	11	41	13	2%
All Reg. Voters	CBS News/NYT	27	14	39	14	3
Republicans	CBS News/NYT	21	16	39	18	4
Rep. delegate	CBS News/NYT	11	12	38	27	4
Standard Polling Samples						
Jul. 2005	CBS/NYT	28	15	33	15	5
Jan. 2005	CBS/NYT	27	15	33	17	5
Jan. 2006	CBS News	27	15	33	17	5

Apr. 2006	CBS News	29	17	33	14	4
Jan. 2007	CBS News	31	16	30	12	5
Oct. 2007	CBS News	26	16	34	16	4
Feb. 2009*	CBS News	30	15	29	14	8

Note: \*Survey conducted of a half sample.

*Q: In general, do you favor permitting a woman who wants one to have an abortion in all circumstances, some circumstances, or no circumstances?*

		All circumstances	Some circumstances	No circumstances
1985	Harris	26%	53%	20%
1992	Harris	29	54	14
1992	Harris	34	52	11
1993	Harris	30	55	14
1996	Harris	25	53	19
1998	Harris	23	58	17
2005	Harris	23	55	21
2006	Harris	24	53	20
2007	Harris	25	52	20
2009	Harris	23	53	21

*Q: Please tell me whether or not you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion if*

...

		A woman's health seriously endangered by the pregnancy		There is a strong chance of a serious defect in baby		The pregnancy as a result of a rape	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
1972	NORC	83%	13%	75%	20%	75%	20%
1973	NORC	91	8	82	15	81	16
1974	NORC	90	7	83	14	83	13
1975	NORC	88	9	80	16	80	16
1976	NORC	89	9	82	16	81	16
1977	NORC	89	9	83	14	81	16
1978	NORC	88	9	80	18	81	16
1980	NORC	88	10	80	16	80	16
1982	NORC	90	8	81	15	83	13
1983	NORC	87	10	76	20	80	16
1984	NORC	88	10	78	19	77	19
1985	NORC	87	10	76	21	78	18
1987	NORC	86	11	77	20	78	18
1988	NORC	86	11	76	21	77	18
1989	NORC	88	10	79	18	80	16
1990	NORC	89	8	78	18	81	15
1991	NORC	--	--	80	16	83	13
1993	NORC	86	10	79	18	79	16
1994	NORC	88	9	80	17	81	16
1996	NORC	89	8	79	18	81	15
1998	CBS News/NYT	88	7	75	18	84	12
1998	NORC	84	12	75	21	77	19
2000	NORC	85	11	75	20	76	18
2002	NORC	90	8	76	21	78	20
2004	NORC	83	14	69	27	73	24
2006	NORC	84	13	70	26	74	22
2008	NORC	85	11	70	25	72	23

		Family has very low income and cannot afford any more children		Woman is married and does not want more children	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
1972	NORC	46%	48%	38%	57%
1973	NORC	52	45	46	51
1974	NORC	52	43	45	50
1975	NORC	51	45	44	52
1976	NORC	51	45	45	52
1977	NORC	52	45	45	51
1978	NORC	46	51	39	58
1980	NORC	50	46	45	51
1982	NORC	50	46	46	49
1983	NORC	42	54	38	59
1984	NORC	45	52	41	56
1985	NORC	42	55	39	58
1987	NORC	44	53	40	56
1988	NORC	41	56	39	58
1989	NORC	46	50	43	54
1990	NORC	46	49	43	53
1991	NORC	47	49	43	53
1993	NORC	48	48	45	50
1994	NORC	49	48	47	50
1996	NORC	45	51	45	51
1998	CBS News/NYT	43	54	39	55
1998	NORC	42	53	40	55
2000	NORC	40	55	39	57
2002	NORC	43	54	43	54
2004	NORC	39	58	39	57
2006	NORC	41	56	40	57
2008	NORC	41	56	43	55

*Q: Please tell me whether or not you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion if*

...

		Woman is not married and does not want to marry the man		She wants it for any reason	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
1972	NORC	41%	53%	--	--
1973	NORC	47	49	--	--
1974	NORC	48	48	--	--
1975	NORC	46	49	--	--
1976	NORC	48	48	--	--
1977	NORC	48	48	37%	60%
1978	NORC	40	57	32	65
1980	NORC	46	49	39	57
1982	NORC	47	49	39	56
1983	NORC	38	58	33	64
1984	NORC	43	54	37	60
1985	NORC	40	57	36	61
1987	NORC	40	56	38	58
1988	NORC	38	58	35	61
1989	NORC	43	52	39	57
1990	NORC	43	52	42	54
1991	NORC	43	53	41	51

1993	NORC	46	49	43	52
1994	NORC	46	51	45	52
1996	NORC	43	53	43	52
1998	CBS News/NYT	35	62	--	--
1998	NORC	40	55	39	56
2000	NORC	37	58	38	57
2002	NORC	41	56	42	56
2004	NORC	40	58	38	58
2006	NORC	37	60	38	59
2008	NORC	39	58	40	57

*Q: Please tell me if you think abortion should be legal or illegal in each of the following situations...*

Fox News/Opinion Dynamics

	Legal	Illegal
If the pregnancy was the result of rape or incest		
Feb.-Mar. 2006	74%	21%
Oct. 2007	70	21
If the pregnancy puts the mother's life at risk		
Feb.-Mar. 2006	83	12
Oct. 2007	73	15
If the pregnancy puts the mother's mental health at risk		
Feb.-Mar. 2006	62	30
Oct. 2007	56	28
If the pregnancy is unwanted		
Feb.-Mar. 2006	43	49
Oct. 2007	39	50
If the baby has a fatal birth defect		
Oct. 2007	53	30

*Q: Please tell me if you think abortion should be or should not be legal in each of the following situations. First, what about . . . ?*

Nov. 2005 PSRA/Newsweek

	Legal	Not legal
When a pregnancy results from rape or incest	78%	15%
When a pregnancy puts the woman's health at risk	80	13
When the woman does not want to have a child	40	53
When the child will be born with mental or physical disabilities	48	40
When the woman cannot afford to raise the child	36	56
When the woman is under 18 years of age	44	46

*Q: On another subject, do you tend to agree or disagree with this statement: A woman should be able to get an abortion if she decides she wants one no matter what the reason?*

----She decides she wants one no matter what the reason----

		Agree	Disagree
May 1981	ABC News/Washington Post	40%	59%
Jan. 1985	ABC News/Washington Post	52	46
Feb. 1986	ABC News/Washington Post	54	44
Aug. 1987	ABC News/Washington Post	53	44
Feb. 1989	ABC News/Washington Post	50	49
Oct. 1989	ABC News/Washington Post	54	45
Jul. 1990	ABC News/Washington Post	54	46
Jun. 1991	ABC News/Washington Post	57	41

Aug. 1993	ABC News/Washington Post	59	40
Aug. 1994	ABC News/Washington Post	54	34
Jan. 1998	ABC News/Washington Post	50	47

*Q: There has been some discussion about abortion during recent years. Which one of the opinions on this page best agrees with your view? (1) Abortion should never be permitted, (2) Abortion should be permitted only if the life and health of the woman is in danger; (3) Abortion should be permitted if, due to personal reasons, the woman would have difficulty in caring for the child; or (4) Abortion should never be forbidden, since one should not require a woman to have a child she doesn't want.*

		Never be Permitted	Only if life and health in danger	Personal difficulty	Should never be forbidden
1972#	Univ. of Mich.	11%	46%	17%	24%
1976#	Univ. of Mich.	11	44	16	26
1978	Univ. of Mich.	10	43	16	26
1980	Univ. of Mich.	10	44	18	27

Note: Question wording read, "Still on the subject of women's rights..."

*Q: There has been some discussion about abortion during recent years. Which one of the opinions on this page best agrees with your view? (1) By law, abortion should never be permitted; (2) The law should permit abortion only in cases of rape, incest, or when the woman's life is in danger; (3) The law should permit abortion for reasons other than rape, incest, or danger the woman's life, but only after the need for the abortion has been clearly established; or (4) By law, a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice.*

		Never permitted	Only in the case of rape, incest, or danger	Clear need	Always as personal choice
1980	Univ. of Mich.	11%	32%	18%	35%
1982	Univ. of Mich.	13	30	19	35
1984	Univ. of Mich.	13	29	19	35
1986	Univ. of Mich.	13	28	18	38
1988	Univ. of Mich.	12	33	18	35
1990	Univ. of Mich.	12	33	14	40
1992	Univ. of Mich.	10	28	14	46
1994	Univ. of Mich.	12	30	14	42
1996	Univ. of Mich.	12	29	16	42
1998	Univ. of Mich.	12	29	17	41
2000	Univ. of Mich.	12	29	15	42
2004	Univ. of Mich.	13	31	17	37
2008	Univ. of Mich.	15	29	15	40

*Q: Which of these positions best represents your views about abortion? (1) A woman should be able to get an abortion if she decides she wants one, no matter what the reason; (2) Abortion should only be legal in certain circumstances, such as when a woman's health is in endangered or when the pregnancy results from rape or incest; (3) Abortion should be illegal in all circumstances*

		Woman's decision no matter what the reason	Legal in certain circumstances	Illegal in all circumstances
Aug. 1987	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	34%	51%	12%
Apr. 1989	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	37	51	9
Jul. 1989	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	38	50	9
Apr. 1990	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	43	45	9
May 1990	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	43	43	10
Jul. 1991	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	44	44	11

Apr. 1992	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	47	37	10
Aug. 1992	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	49	38	12
Jan. 1993	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	43	43	10
Aug. 1993	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	47	37	11
Jan. 1994	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	45	39	13
May 1994	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	47	39	12
Sept. 1995	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	44	43	10
May 1996	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	40	46	11
Jan. 1998	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	38	43	16
Mar. 1999	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	38	46	12
Jan. 2001	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	35	50	12
Jul. 2001	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	39	40	17

*Q: Which comes closest to your view on abortion: Abortion should always be legal, or should be made illegal except in cases of rape, incest and to save the mother's life, or abortion should be made illegal without any exceptions?*

		Always Legal/Legal	Illegal except in cases of rape, incest, or to save the mother's life	Illegal without exceptions
Jun. 2000	LA Times	43%	46%	8%
Mar. 2001	LATimes	42	41	12

*Q: Which comes closest to your view on abortion: Abortion should always be legal, should be legal most of the time, or should be made illegal except in cases of rape, incest and to save the mother's life, or abortion should be made illegal without any exceptions?*

		Always legal	Legal most of the time	Illegal with exceptions	Always illegal
Jan. 2003	LA Times	27%	17%	40%	14%
Nov. 2003	LA Times	29	14	41	13
Nov. 2004	LA Times	29	12	45	12
Jan. 2006	LA Times	24	19	41	12
Apr. 2006	LA Times/Bloomberg	27	19	41	10
Oct. 2007	LA Times/Bloomberg	31	13	40	10
Nov.-Dec. 2007	LA Times/Bloomberg	25	15	40	13

*Q: Regardless of whether or not you think abortion should be legal, do you think it would be a good thing to reduce the number of abortions performed in the United States, or don't you feel this way?*

		Good thing to reduce	Don't feel this way
Jul. 2005	PSRA/Pew Research Center	59%	33%
Aug. 2009*	PSRA/Pew Research Center	65	26

Note: \*Asked of a half sample.

*Q: Would you favor or oppose a law in your state that would ban all abortions except those necessary to save the life of the mother?*

		Favor	Oppose
Aug. 30-Sep. 2, 2006	CNN/ORC	45%	51%

**RESTRICTIONS ON ABORTION:** *Americans do not want to outlaw abortion. At the same time, however, they are willing to put restrictions on its use. Large majorities favor 24-hour waiting periods, parental consent, a law requiring doctors to tell people about alternatives to abortion, and spousal notification.*

*People say abortion should be legal in the first trimester. They oppose second and third trimester abortions.*

*Q: Would you like to see abortion laws in this country made more strict, less strict, or remain as they are?*

		More strict	Less strict	Remain same
Jan. 10-14, 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	34%	17%	46%
Apr. 5-7, 2002	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	39	19	39
Jan. 13-16, 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	36	21	39
Jan. 12-15, 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	37	20	40
Jan. 3-5, 2005	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	38	19	41
Jan. 9-12, 2006	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	38	20	39

*Q: Do you favor or oppose each of the following proposals . . . ?*

A law requiring women seeking abortions to wait 24 hours before having the procedure done

		Favor	Oppose
Jan. 1992	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	73%	23%
Jul. 1996	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	74	22
Jan. 1998	CBS News/NYT	79	16
Jan. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	78	19
July 2011	Gallup	69	28

A law requiring doctors to inform patients about alternatives to abortion before performing procedure

		Favor	Oppose
Jan. 1992	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	86%	12%
Jul. 1996	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	86	11
Jan. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	88	11

A law requiring women under 18 to get parental consent for any abortion

		Favor	Oppose
Jul. 1989	CBS News/NYT	60%	28%
Jan. 1992	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	70	23
Jul. 1996	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	74	23
Jan. 1998	CBS News/NYT	78	17
Jan. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	73	24
Nov. 2005	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	69	28
July 2011	Gallup	71	27

A law requiring that the husband of a married woman be notified if she decides to have an abortion

		Favor	Oppose
Jan. 1992	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	73%	25%
Jul. 1996	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	70	26
Jan. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	72	26
Nov. 2005	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	64	34

*Q: Please tell me if you would support or oppose each of the following restrictions on abortion that some state legislatures have considered. First, would you support or oppose . . . ?*

A law requiring teenagers to have their parents' permission

		Support	Oppose
Jul. 1989	PSRA/Newsweek	75%	22%
Nov. 2005	PSRA/Newsweek	71	23

A law requiring that parents of teenagers must be notified

		Support	Oppose
Jul. 1989	PSRA/Newsweek	79	17
Nov. 2005	PSRA/Newsweek	78	18

A law requiring women seeking abortions to be counseled about the dangers and alternatives to abortion

		Support	Oppose
Jul. 1989	PSRA/Newsweek	88	9
Nov. 2005	PSRA/Newsweek	81	16

A law requiring a married woman to notify her husband if she decides to have an abortion

		Support	Oppose
Nov. 2005	PSRA/Newsweek	67	29

A law requiring women seeking abortions to wait 24 hours before having the procedure done

		Support	Oppose
Nov. 2005	PSRA/Newsweek	71	23

*Q: Do you favor or oppose the following policies?\**

Jun. 2011 Economist/YouGov

Require minors to notify their parents before getting an abortion

Favor	Oppose
67%	15%

Require minors to get their parents' permission before getting an abortion

Favor	Oppose
62	18

Require a 'waiting period' before getting an abortion

Favor	Oppose
47	30

Require counseling before getting an abortion

Favor	Oppose
62	17

Require women be told the gestational age of the fetus

Favor	Oppose
51	20

Require that women be offered ultrasound images of the fetus

Favor	Oppose
39	30

Note: \*Asked of a half sample.

*Q: Do you favor or oppose requiring that women under the age of 18 get the consent of at least one parent before they are allowed to have an abortion?*

		Favor	Oppose
May 1992	PSRA/Pew Research Center	73%	23%
Sept. 1999	PSRA/Pew Research Center	69	28
Jul. 2005	PSRA/Pew Research Center	73	22
Aug. 2009	PSRA/Pew Research Center	76	19

*Q: Thinking more generally, do you think abortion should be generally legal or generally illegal during each of the following stages of pregnancy?*

		----Stages of pregnancy and the question of legality----		
		Should be generally legal	Should be generally illegal	Depends
<b>In the first three months of pregnancy</b>				
Aug. 1996	Gallup/CNN/USA TODAY	64%	30%	4%
Mar. 2000	Gallup	65	31	2
Jan. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA TODAY	66	29	-
June 2011	Gallup	62	35	2
<b>In the second three months of pregnancy</b>				
Aug. 1996	Gallup/CNN/USA TODAY	26	65	7
Mar. 2000	Gallup	24	69	4
Jan. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA TODAY	25	68	-
June 2011	Gallup	24	71	3
<b>In the last three months of pregnancy</b>				
Aug. 1996	Gallup/CNN/USA TODAY	13	82	3
Mar. 2000	Gallup	8	86	3
Jan. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA TODAY	10	84	-
June 2011	Gallup	10	86	2

## Partial Birth Abortion

*Q: Do you think partial birth abortions – an abortion procedure conducted late in pregnancy – should be banned or not?*

		Should be banned	Should not be banned
May 1996	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	46%	37%
Jul. 1998	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	54	28
Feb.-Mar. 2006	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	61	28

*Q: Now I would like to ask your opinion about a specific abortion procedure known as "late-term" abortion or "partial birth" abortion, which is sometimes performed on women during the last few months of pregnancy. Do you think that this procedure should be legal or illegal?*

		Legal	Illegal
Oct. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	25%	68%
May 2007	Gallup/USA Today	22	72
Aug. 2007	PSRA/Pew Research Center	17	75
May 2007	CNN/ORC	28	66

*Q: Next, do you favor or oppose each of the following proposals; A law which would make it illegal to perform a specific abortion procedure conducted in the last six months of pregnancy known as a “partial birth abortion,” except in cases necessary to save the life of the mother.*

		Favor law to make it illegal	Oppose
1996	Gallup	57%	39%
1997	Gallup	55	40
1998	Gallup	61	36
1999	Gallup	61	34
Jan.2000	Gallup	64	31
Mar-Apr. 2000	Gallup	66	29
Oct. 2000	Gallup	63	35
2003	Gallup	70	25
2011	Gallup	64	31

Note: Question wording varies slightly year to year.

*Q: As you may know, the Supreme Court recently upheld a law that makes the procedure commonly known as a partial birth abortion illegal. Do you favor or oppose this ruling by the Supreme Court?*

		Favor	Oppose
Apr. 2007	NBC News/WSJ	53%	34%

*Q: The Supreme Court also recently upheld a federal restriction on the procedure known as partial birth abortion, banning the procedure except when a woman's life is at risk. Do you approve or disapprove of this decision?*

		Approve	Disapprove
Jul. 2007	ABC News/Washington Post	55%	43%

*Q: Have you heard or read anything about the recent Supreme Court decision on partial birth abortion?*

		Yes	No
Apr-May 2007	Quinnipiac	64%	34%

(If yes) Do you agree or disagree with the recent Supreme Court decision on partial birth abortion?

Agree	Disagree
41%	41%

## Federal Subsidies, Public Funds for Abortion

*Q: If the federal government provides subsidies or credits to help people buy health insurance, do you think those insurance plans should or should not cover abortion procedures?*

			Should	Should not
Nov. 2009	CBS News	National	34%	56%
		Republicans	29	63
		Democrats	45	45
		Independents	28	62

*Q: Do you support or oppose allowing abortions to be paid for by public funds under a health care reform bill?*

		Support	Oppose
Dec. 2009	Quinnipiac	23%	72%
Jan. 2010	Quinnipiac	27	67

Note: Ninety-one percent of Republicans, 74 percent of independents, and 54 percent of Democrats opposed allowing abortions to be paid for by public funds.

*Q: Generally speaking, are you in favor or opposed of using public funds for abortions when the woman cannot afford it?*

		Favor	Opposed
Nov. 2009	CNN/ORC	37%	61%
Apr. 2011	CNN/ORC	35	61(p)

*Q: Say someone buys private health insurance using government assistance to help pay for it. Do you think insurance sold that way should or should not be allowed to include coverage for abortions?*

		Should	Should not
Nov. 2009	ABC News/Washington Post	35%	61%

*(If no) What if the insurance company used private funds, not public funds, to provide the abortion coverage – in that case do you think this coverage should or should not be available?*

	Should	Should Not
	31%	65%

*Q: If an individual receives financial assistance from the federal government to purchase private health insurance, do you think they should or should not be able to buy an insurance plan that covers abortion procedures?*

		Should	Should not
Dec. 2009	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	39%	52%

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT:** *Americans do not favor a constitutional amendment to ban abortion. Opinion is also stable on this point. In most polls, 60 percent or more say they do not want to see the Supreme Court overturn Roe v. Wade.*

*Q: Do you favor or oppose...a constitutional amendment to ban legalized abortion?*

		Favor	Oppose
Sep. 1980	Harris/ABC	34%	61%
Nov. 1980	Harris/ABC	34	62
Feb. 1982	Harris	33	61
Jul. 1982	Harris	31	62
Mar. 1984	Harris	33	62
Jul. 1987	Harris	33	62
Jan. 1989	Harris	29	68

*Q: Do you favor or oppose...a constitutional amendment to ban abortions?*

		Favor	Oppose
Apr. 1984	Harris	34%	59%
Sept. 1984	Harris	31	63
Sept. 1984	Harris	20	61
Jan. 1985	Harris	38	58
Sept. 1985	Harris	37	55

*Q: Do you favor or oppose each of the following...a constitutional amendment to ban all abortions?*

		Favor	Oppose
Feb. 1996	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	24%	70%
Mar. 1996	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	21	70
May 1996	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	28	64

*Q: Would you favor or oppose an amendment to the Constitution which would make all abortions illegal?*

		Favor	Oppose
Sept. 1982	CBS News/NYT	28%	68%
Jan. 1998	CBS News/NYT	22	76

*Q: Generally speaking, are you in favor of an amendment to the United States Constitution that would prohibit abortions, or are you opposed to that? Are you strongly in favor or opposed to that or only somewhat?*

		Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Mar. 1989	L.A. Times	20%	8%	21%	42%
Jun. 2000	L.A. Times	19	7	17	49

*Q: Would you vote...for or against a constitutional amendment that would overturn the Roe v. Wade decision, and make abortion illegal in all states?*

		For	Against
Oct. 2000	Gallup	30%	67%

*Q: The 1973 Roe v. Wade decision established a woman's constitutional right to an abortion, at least in the first three months of pregnancy. Would you like to see the Supreme Court completely overturn its Roe v. Wade decision or not?*

		Yes, completely overturn	No
Jul. 1989	Gallup	31%	58%
Oct. 1989	Gallup	33	61
Aug. 1992	Gallup	34	60
Mar. 2002	Gallup	36	60
Jan. 2003	PSRA/Pew Research Center	31	62
Jun. 2005	PSRA/Pew Research Center	30	63
Jul. 2005	Gallup	29	68
Jul. 2005*	NBC/WSJ	29	65
Jul. 2005	PSRA/Pew Research Center	29	65
Dec. 2005*	NBC/WSJ	30	66
Jan. 2006	Gallup	25	66
May 2009	CNN/ORC	30	68
May 2011	Gallup	33	52

Note: \*Question begins "The Supreme Court's 1973. . ." .

*Q: In general, do you agree or disagree with the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that established a woman's right to an abortion?*

		Agree	Disagree
Mar. 2003	Quinnipiac	62%	35%
May 2005	Quinnipiac	63	33
Jul. 2005	Quinnipiac	65	30
Dec. 2005	Quinnipiac	63	32
Aug. 2007	Quinnipiac	62	32
Jul. 2008	Quinnipiac	63	33
Apr. 2010	Quinnipiac	60	35

*Q: Twenty-five years ago, the Supreme Court's decision in Roe v. Wade established a constitutional right for women to obtain legal abortions in this country. In general, do you think the Court's decision was a good thing or a bad thing?*

		Good thing	Bad thing
Jan. 1998	CBS News/NYT	60%	33%
Jul. 2005#	CBS News/NYT	59	32
Jun. 2009*	CBS News/NYT	62	32
Apr. 2010*	CBS News/NYT	58	34

Note: # Question wording read, "More than thirty years ago, ..." \*Question wording read, "More than thirty-five years ago, ..."

*Q: How about.... a constitutional amendment to ban abortion in all circumstances, except in cases necessary to save the life of the mother?*

		Favor	Oppose
Jan. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	38%	59%
Nov. 2005	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	37	61

*Q: Do you think making abortion illegal is the kind of issue you would like to change the Constitution for, or isn't abortion that kind of issue?*

1996		----Convention delegates, partisans, and registered voters----	
		Kind of issue	Not that kind of issue
Dem. delegate	CBS News/NYT	3%	96%
Democrats	CBS News/NYT	22	71
All Reg. Voters	CBS News/NYT	22	71
Republicans	CBS News/NYT	24	69
Rep. delegates	CBS News/NYT	34	57

*Q: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: there should be a constitutional amendment outlawing abortion?*

		----The public and conventional delegates----	
		Agree	Disagree
<i>Republican delegates</i>			
1988	ABC News/Washington Post	36%	53%
1992	ABC News/Washington Post	28	55
1996	ABC News/Washington Post	36	58
<i>General population</i>			
Jul. 1992	ABC News/Washington Post	25	67
Jun. 1996	ABC News/Washington Post	24	75
Aug. 1996	ABC News/Washington Post	26	72
<i>Democratic delegates</i>			
1980	ABC News/Washington Post	10	na
1984	ABC News/Washington Post	9	83

1988	ABC News/Washington Post	6	87
1992	ABC News/Washington Post	3	93
1996	ABC News/Washington Post	1	98

*Q: For each one, please say whether you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied. How about the nation's policies regarding the abortion issue?*

		Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Jan. 2001	Gallup	11%	32%	21%	26%
Jan. 2002	Gallup	11	37	19	24
Jan. 2003	Gallup	10	32	24	22
Jan. 2004	Gallup	12	33	22	24
Jan. 2005	Gallup	13	29	21	26
Jan. 2006	Gallup	11	29	22	25
Jan. 2007	Gallup	12	29	22	25
Jan. 2008	Gallup	12	31	23	20

*Q: Now, we'd like to get your predictions for next year. Please say whether you think each of the following will or will not happen in 2007. The Supreme Court will overturn the Roe v. Wade decision on abortion.*

Dec. 18-20, 2006	Gallup	Will happen 13%	Will not 84%
------------------	--------	--------------------	-----------------

*Q: At what point in a pregnancy do you think state laws should be able to restrict a woman's access to abortion...from the moment of conception, in the first three months, in the second three months, in the third three months, or never?*

		Conception	First 3 months	Second 3 months	Third 3 months	Never
Jul. 1989	PSRA/Newsweek	17%	31%	12%	3%	27%
Nov. 2005	PSRA/Newsweek	17	32	15	7	23

*Q: From what you know about the laws in your state, do you think there are too many legal restrictions on a woman's access to abortion, not enough legal restrictions, or about the right amount?*

Nov. 2005	PSRA/Newsweek	Too many 13%	Not enough 23%	Right amount 46%
-----------	---------------	-----------------	-------------------	---------------------

*Q: By the end of George W. Bush's second term in office, do you think most abortions in the United States will be legal or will most abortions be against the law?*

Jan. 2005	CBS News/NYT	Legal 47%	Against the law 43%
Jan. 2006	CBS News/NYT	47	41

*Q: Would you like to see the Supreme Court overturn its 1973 Roe versus Wade decision concerning abortion, or not?*

June 2009	CBS/ NYT	Overturn 29%	Do not 64%
-----------	----------	-----------------	---------------

*Q: Still thinking about the 1973 Supreme Court ruling, over the next few years do you think it is likely that this U.S. Supreme Court decision will be overturned or do you think the law will remain unchanged?*

Apr. 2006	Harris Interactive	Overturned 32%	Unchanged 63%
Oct. 2007	Harris Interactive	24	69

*Q: The Supreme Court legalized abortion 37 years ago in the ruling known as Roe versus Wade. If that case came before the court again, would you want (name of Justice) to vote to uphold Roe versus Wade, or vote to overturn it?*

		Uphold	Overturn
Jul. 2005	ABC News/Washington Post	65%	32%
Aug. 2005	ABC News/Washington Post	60	33
Nov. 2005	ABC News/Washington Post	64	31
Dec. 2005	ABC News/Washington Post	61	35
Jun. 2009	ABC News/Washington Post	60	34
Apr. 2010	ABC News/Washington Post	59	38

**VOTERS' VIEWS OF ABORTION, BY SUBGROUP:** *In 1992 and 1996, exit pollsters asked those people leaving the polls to check a box on the exit poll ballot that best represented their position on abortion. The results of those questions from 1992 and 1996 are shown below for all voters and for subgroups. Some findings are worth noting. Men and women do not differ on the issue. Those who actively practice their religion, no matter what their denomination, are more likely to oppose abortion than are those who don't go to church at all. A Protestant who attends church regularly looks more like a Catholic or Jew who attends church or synagogue regularly than that Protestant looks like another Protestant who doesn't attend church at all. An identical question was not asked in the 2000, 2004, or 2008 exit polls.*

*Q: Which comes closest to your position? Abortion should be . . .*

	-----Views of different groups of voters about abortion, 1992 and 1996-----							
	1992				1996			
	Legal, all cases	Legal most cases	Illegal most cases	Illegal all cases	Legal all cases	Legal most cases	Illegal most cases	Illegal all cases
All voters	34%	30%	23%	9%	25%	35%	24%	12%
Men	31	32	25	8	22	36	27	11
Women	37	28	22	10	28	33	22	13
Married	30	30	26	10	--	--	--	--
Single	43	29	18	7	--	--	--	--
18-29 years	41	27	21	8	29	35	22	11
Men	37	30	22	9	24	39	27	9
Women	44	24	20	8	33	32	18	14
30-44 years	34	32	23	8	29	33	23	11
Men	29	36	25	6	26	35	26	10
Women	37	28	21	10	32	31	21	13
45-59 years	31	31	26	9	22	36	27	10
Men	28	32	28	8	19	41	26	10
Women	35	30	24	8	26	32	28	11
60+ years	30	27	24	11	17	35	26	15
Men	31	26	26	11	17	32	31	15
Women	30	28	22	12	19	37	20	15

< High School grad.	26	22	27	15	20	34	26	14
High School grad.	27	30	26	12	20	35	27	13
Some College	36	30	23	8	22	37	25	12
College								
Grad.	35	31	23	7	28	30	24	13
Postgrad.	43	29	20	6	32	37	20	8
Democrat	40	31	17	7	33	39	17	8
Men	38	33	18	6	30	42	16	8
Women	42	30	16	7	36	35	17	8
Republican	25	28	32	12	16	29	33	19
Men	23	31	34	11	14	31	37	16
Women	28	26	29	13	20	26	28	23
Independ./Other	37	30	22	8	24	38	25	8
Men	34	34	23	6	23	37	28	8
Women	40	27	22	8	25	38	22	9
White								
Black	34	30	24	9	24	34	25	12
Hispanic	38	29	17	9	28	39	18	8
Asian	31	26	25	16	26	32	24	12
	22	30	27	13	--	--	--	--
Protestant								
Catholic	30	31	26	9	21	35	28	13
Jewish	30	29	26	10	22	37	25	12
Other-	62	31	5	1	51	40	5	1
Christian	28	25	29	15	19	29	31	18
None	60	32	4	2	46	36	9	5

Source: Exit polls by Voter Research and Surveys, a consortium of ABC News, Associated Press, CBS News, CNN, and NBC News, November 3, 1992, and by VNS, a consortium of ABC News, Associated Press, CBS News, CNN, Fox News, and NBC News, November 5, 1996.

*Q: Do you think abortion should be made illegal in all cases, except for rape, incest, and to save the life of the mother? [Put an X in the box.] Yes, made illegal with exceptions; Yes, made illegal without any exception; No, not made illegal.*

*Q: What religion do you consider yourself? [Put an X in the box.] Protestant, Roman Catholic, other Christian, Jewish, other religion, or no religion.*

*Q: How frequently do you attend religious services or do you never attend religious services? [Put an X in the box.] Never; Less than once a year; Once a year; Several times a year; Once a month; Several times a month; Once a week; Several times a week; Once a day; Several times a day.*

Los Angeles Times exit poll Nov. 5, 1996

	-----Voters abortion attitudes by denomination and participation-----		
	Not illegal	Illegal with exceptions	Illegal always
Protestant	48%	41%	11%
Catholic	46	41	14
Other Christian	41	44	15
Jewish	74	21	5
No religion	80	16	5
Attend church rarely			
Protestant	62	33	5
Catholic	62	33	5

Other Christian	59	34	7
Attend church regularly			
Protestant	34	50	17
Catholic	27	50	23
Other Christian	22	55	23

Note: Rarely is the combination of never, less than once a year, once a year, and several times a year. Regularly is the combination of several times a week, once a day, several times a day.

**ABORTION AS AN ELECTION ISSUE:** *Most people say abortion is one of many issues they will consider when they vote. In a 2008 Gallup question, 13 percent said they would only vote for a candidate who shared their view on abortion, while 46 percent said that a candidate's position on abortion would be just one of many important factors when voting, and 37 percent did not see abortion as a major issue for them. Other polls in this section suggest that around 15 percent are single issue abortion voters. Many election-related questions from 2008 regarding abortion lump abortion together with other issues such as gay rights. Some questions asked people which candidate they preferred on the issue. We did not include either of those types of questions in this report.*

*Q: If you agreed with a presidential candidate on other issues, but not on the issue of abortion, do you think you could still vote for that candidate or not?*

		Yes	No
Apr-May 2007	Quinnipiac	69%	22%

*Q: Do you think abortion is a critical issue facing the country, one among many important issues, not that important compared to other issues?*

		Critical	Among many	Not important
Mar. 2006	PSRA/Pew Research Center	28%	38%	32%
Aug. 2009	PSRA/Pew Research Center	15	33	48

*Q: Is there any one issue that you feel so strongly about that you would vote for or against a candidate based on that issue alone?*

		---Abortion as an election issue---		
		No one issue	Abortion--oppose	Abortion--favor
Jul. 1992	Wirthlin Worldwide	55%	10%	8%
May 1996	Wirthlin Worldwide	53	9	6

*Q: Thinking about how the abortion issue might affect your vote for major offices, would you: Only vote for a candidate who shares your views on abortion; or consider a candidate's position on abortion as just one of many important factors when voting; or not see abortion as a major issue?*

		---How abortion might affect your vote---		
		Only vote for candidate who shares views	Just one of many important factors	Not see abortion as major issue
Jun. 1992	Gallup	13%	46%	36%
July 18-21 1996	Gallup	17	50	30
July 25-28 1996	Gallup	15	53	30
Apr-May 1999	Gallup	19	52	26

Mar-Apr. 2000	Gallup	14	52	32
May 2001	Gallup	21	52	25
May 2004	Gallup	14	46	39
Oct. 2004	Gallup	17	46	35
May 2007	Gallup	16	60	23
May 2008	Gallup	13	49	37

Note: Samples are registered voters.

*Q: Do you know George W. Bush's view on abortion – is he in favor of abortion rights, that is allowing a woman the right to choose whether or not to have an abortion, or is he against abortion except in the cases of rape, incest, and the mother's health?*

----George W. Bush view on abortion----				
		Pro-abortion rights	Against abortion	Don't know
Jun. 2000	L.A. Times	7%	31%	62%

Note: Asked of registered voters.

*Q: Do you know Al Gore's view on abortion – is he in favor of abortion rights, that is allowing a woman the right to choose whether or not to have an abortion, or is he against abortion except in the cases of rape, incest, and the mother's health?*

-----Al Gore's view on abortion-----				
		Pro-abortion rights	Against abortion	Don't know
Jun. 2000	L.A. Times	35%	6%	59%

Note: Asked of registered voters.

*Q: Does each of the following make you more likely to vote for Barack Obama for President in 2008, less likely to vote for him, or does it make no difference to your vote? How about his pro-choice position on abortion?*

-----Obama's position on abortion-----				
		More likely	No difference	Less likely
Oct. 2008	Gallup	38%	29%	31%

*Q: Does each of the following make you more likely to vote for John McCain for President in 2008, less likely to vote for him, or does it make no difference to your vote? How about his pro-life position on abortion?*

-----McCain's position on abortion-----				
		More likely	No difference	Less likely
Oct. 2008	Gallup	34%	29%	35%

**VOTERS' VIEWS ON ABORTION:** *Nationally, voters who say abortion is the top issue (or one of the top two issues) for them vote for the Republican candidate. This has been true in every exit poll that included the question since 1984. The proportion saying it is the most important issue varies depending on how questions are worded and what other choices are given. Close readers will note that we do not have results here for 2004 or 2008. An abortion question like the ones below was not asked in those elections by the exit poll consortium.*

*Q: Which issues were most important in deciding how you voted today?*

		ERA/Abortion most important	----Voted For----	
			Reagan	Carter
1980	CBS News/NYT Exit Poll	7%	38%	50%

Note: Voters could choose up to two responses from a list of eight. "ERA/Abortion" was a single category.

*Q: Which issues mattered most in deciding how you voted?*

		Abortion one of the issues that mattered most	----Voted For----	
			Reagan	Carter
1984	CBS News/NYT Exit Poll	8%	71%	28%

Note: Voters could choose up to two responses from a list of eight, including "none of these."

*Q: Were any of the items [listed on survey ballot] very important in making your presidential choice?*

		Abortion was very important	----Voted For----	
			Bush	Dukakis
1988	ABC News Exit Poll	33%	54%	45%

Note: "The candidates' stand on abortion" was one of twenty-one items listed, including "none of the above."

*Q: Which issues mattered most in deciding how you voted today?*

		Abortion one of the issues that mattered most	----Voted For ----	
			Bush	Dukakis
1988	CBS News/NYT Exit Poll	7%	65%	33%

Note: Voters could choose up to two responses from a list of nine.

*Q: Which one or two issues mattered most in deciding how you voted?*

		Abortion was an issue that mattered most	----Voted For-----		
			Bush	Clinton	Perot
1992	VRS	12%	55%	36%	9%

Note: Voters could choose up to two responses from a list of nine.

*Q: Which issues—if any—were most important to you in deciding how you would for president today?*

		Abortion was most important issue	9%	----Voted For----		
1996	LAT Exit Poll			Dole	Clinton	Perot
				60%	34%	4%

Note: Voters could choose up to two responses from a list of eleven, including "none of the above."

*Q: Which issues—if any—were most important to you in deciding how you would for president today?*

		Abortion was an issue that mattered most	14%	-----Voted For-----		
2000	LAT Exit Poll			Bush	Gore	Nader
				58%	41%	1%

Note: Voters could choose up to two responses from a list of twelve, including "none of the above."

*Q: What do you think are the two most important issues for the government to address?*

		Healthcare	Economy	Employment	War	Taxes	Terrorism	<b>Abortion</b>	Crime
May 1997	Harris	10%	8%	5%	-	14%	-	<b>2%</b>	19%
Jan. 1998	Harris	11	9	3	-	16	-	<b>2</b>	13
Feb. 1999	Harris	12	7	4	-	12	-	<b>2</b>	8
Aug. 2000	Harris	15	5	4	-	13	-	<b>6</b>	10
Dec. 2001	Harris	5	32	7	12	6	22	<b>1</b>	1
Dec. 2002	Harris	10	34	8	18	5	17	<b>1</b>	2
Jun. 2003	Harris	14	25	8	8	11	11	<b>1</b>	3
Oct. 2004	Harris	18	28	10	35	8	7	<b>4</b>	1
Aug. 2005	Harris	11	19	3	41	5	7	<b>2</b>	3
Jun. 2006	Harris	12	14	7	27	4	4	<b>1</b>	2
Oct. 2007	Harris	25	13	5	24	3	4	<b>2</b>	2
Oct. 2008	Harris	22	64	5	14	6	3	<b>1</b>	1
Jan. 2009	Harris	16	59	20	15	5	2	<b>1</b>	1
Mar. 2009	Harris	25	50	21	9	4	4	<b>1</b>	-
May 2009	Harris	31	45	19	8	5	3	<b>1</b>	1
Sept. 2009	Harris	55	36	21	5	5	2	<b>1</b>	1
Nov. 2009	Harris	47	34	24	9	4	3	<b>1</b>	1
Jan. 2010	Harris	45	32	31	2	4	6	<b>1</b>	1
Apr. 2010	Harris	34	27	34	6	7	2	-	1
Jun. 2010	Harris	23	28	28	6	4	3	-	-

*Q: What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?*

		Economy	Healthcare	Jobs	Wars	Dissatis. Govt.	Federal deficit	Taxes	Gap of Rich/Poor
Apr. 2009	Gallup	48%	7%	17%	3%	5%	4%	1%	-
May 2009	Gallup	47	9	14	4	8	5	2	-
Jun. 2009	Gallup	41	14	14	3	6	5	-	-
Jul. 2009	Gallup	38	16	19	3	8	4	1	-
Aug. 2009	Gallup	33	25	14	2	7	7	1	-
Aug. 2009-									
Sept. 2009	Gallup	29	26	15	4	10	9	1	-
Oct. 2009	Gallup	26	22	17	3	11	5	1	-
Nov. 2009	Gallup	31	22	20	8	8	6	1	-
Dec. 2009	Gallup	26	16	16	6	9	8	1	1%
Jan. 2010	Gallup	25	18	22	6	11	6	1	-
Feb. 2010	Gallup	31	23	31	4	10	11	1	1
Mar. 2010	Gallup	24	20	31	4	10	8	1	-

Apr. 2010	Gallup	23	17	30	3	14	10	2	1
May 2010	Gallup	26	15	22	2	12	9	1	-
Jun. 2010	Gallup	28	11	21	4	14	7	1	-
Jul. 2010	Gallup	31	7	22	4	11	6	2	-
Aug. 2010	Gallup	30	7	28	4	12	7	2	-
Sept. 2010	Gallup	33	6	28	3	11	7	1	1
Oct. 2010	Gallup	35	10	28	5	11	5	2	1
Nov. 2010	Gallup	31	15	33	3	14	9	2	1
Dec. 2010	Gallup	30	8	24	5	13	10	4	1
Jan. 2011	Gallup	26	13	29	5	11	12	2	1

		Fuel Prices	Terrorism	Crime	Enviro- ment	Abortion	Social Security	Sit. In Afgh.	Sit. in Iraq
Apr. 2009	Gallup	-	-	1%	1%	-	-	-	3%
May 2009	Gallup	-	-	1	1	<b>1%</b>	1%	-	5
Jun. 2009	Gallup	1%	-	1	-	<b>1</b>	1	1%	4
Jul. 2009	Gallup	1	-	1	2	-	-	1	2
Aug. 2009	Gallup	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	3
Aug.-Sept 2009	Gallup	1	-	-	1	<b>1</b>	-	1	3
Oct. 2009	Gallup	-	-	1	1	<b>1</b>	-	3	4
Nov. 2009	Gallup	-	-	1	1	-	-	4	3
Dec. 2009	Gallup	-	3%	1	3	-	1	4	2
Jan. 2010	Gallup	1	8	2	1	-	1	1	2
Feb. 2010	Gallup	-	4	1	1	<b>1</b>	1	2	2
Mar. 2010	Gallup	-	2	1	2	-	-	1	2
Apr. 2010	Gallup	-	1	1	1	-	1	2	2
May 2010	Gallup	1	4	1	3	-	1	1	3
Jun. 2010	Gallup	-	1	1	3	<b>1</b>	1	1	3
Jul. 2010	Gallup	5	1	1	2	-	1	3	3
Aug. 2010	Gallup	-	1	1	1	-	1	2	1
Sept. 2010	Gallup	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	1
Oct. 2010	Gallup	-	2	1	1	<b>1</b>	1	1	1
Nov. 2010	Gallup	-	1	-	1	<b>1</b>	1	1	1
Dec. 2010	Gallup	1	2	-	1	-	1	-	1
Jan. 2011	Gallup	3	2	1	1	-	-	1	-

**PRO-CHOICE OR PRO-LIFE?** *Three polling organizations have asked people for a number of years whether they are pro-choice or pro-life. The July 2011 Gallup question shows that 47 percent consider themselves pro-choice and 47 percent pro-life.*

*Q: Thinking about abortion, if you had to choose, would you describe yourself as being more pro-choice-supporting a woman's right to have an abortion-or more pro-life-protecting the rights of unborn children?*

		Pro-choice	Pro-life
Oct.-Nov. 1995	Yankelovich/Time/CNN	53%	40%
Aug. 1996	Yankelovich/TIME/CNN	52	40
May 1998	Yankelovich/TIME/CNN	45	44
Mar. 1999	Yankelovich/TIME/CNN	46	43
Jan. 2000	Yankelovich/TIME/CNN	46	48

Jul. 2001	Yankelovich/TIME/CNN	46	47
Jan. 2003	Harris/Time/CNN	49	45

*Q: On the issue of abortion, would you say you are more pro-life or more pro-choice?*

		Pro-choice	Pro-life
Aug. 1997	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	50%	40%
Jan. 1998	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	49	46
Jun. 1999	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	42	44
Jan. 2000	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	43	44
Jul. 2000	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	54	38
Jan. 2001	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	47	42
Jan. 2002	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	47	41
Apr. 2003	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	49	41
Jul. 2003	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	44	44
Apr. 2004	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	44	47
Apr. 2005	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	47	42
Feb.-Mar. 2006	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	49	41
Feb. 2007	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	51	40
May 2007	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	51	39
Oct. 2007	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	48	37
Sep. 2008	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	49	41
May 2009	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	43	49
Nov. 2009	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	47	44
Jan. 2011	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	50	42

*Q: With respect to the abortion issue, would you consider yourself to be pro-choice or pro-life?*

		Pro-choice	Pro-life
Sept. 1995	Gallup	56%	33%
Jul. 1996	Gallup	53	36
Aug. 1997	Gallup	47	44
Nov. 1997	Gallup	51	40
Jan. 1998	Gallup	48	45
Apr.-May 1999	Gallup	48	42
Mar.-Apr. 2000	Gallup	48	43
Mar. 2001	Gallup	47	41
May 2001	Gallup	48	42
Aug. 2001	Gallup	46	46
May 2002	Gallup	47	46
May 2003	Gallup	48	45
Oct. 2003	Gallup	48	45
May 2004	Gallup	49	44
May 2005	Gallup	48	44
May 2006	Gallup	51	41
May 2007	CNN/ORC	45	50
May 2007	Gallup	49	45
Aug. 2008	CNN/ORC	53	44
May 2008	Gallup	50	44
Apr. 2009	CNN/ORC	49	45
May 2009	Gallup	42	51
Jul. 2009	Gallup/USA Today	46	47
May 2010	Gallup	45	47
May 2011	Gallup	49	45
June 2011	Gallup	46	48
July 2011	Gallup	47	47

Note: The trend here is taken only from polls where the pro-life/pro-choice question was asked after other questions on abortion.

*Q: On another subject, which side of the political debate on the abortion issue do you sympathize with more? The Right to Life movement that believes abortion is the taking of human life and should be outlawed or the Pro-Choice movement that believes a woman has the right to choose what happens to her body, including deciding to have an abortion?*

		Right to Life	Pro-Choice
Oct. 1998	PSRA/Newsweek	39%	51%
Nov. 2005	PSRA/Newsweek	34	57
Aug. 2006	PSRA/Newsweek	37	54
Oct. 2006	PSRA/Newsweek	39	53

*Q: In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that states laws which made it illegal for a woman to have an abortion up to three months of pregnancy were unconstitutional, and that the decision on whether a woman should have an abortion up to three months of pregnancy should be left to the woman and her doctor to decide. In general, do you favor or oppose this part of the U.S. Supreme Court decision making abortions up to three months of pregnancy legal?*

		Favor	Oppose
1973	Harris	52%	42%
1976	Harris	59	28
1979	Harris	60	37
1981	Harris	56	41
1985	Harris	50	47
1989	Harris	59	37
1991	Harris	65	33
1992	Harris	61	35
1993	Harris	56	42
1996	Harris	52	41
1998	Harris	57	41
2005	Harris	52	47
2006	Harris	49	47
2007	Harris	56	40
2009	Harris	51	44
Party Identification (2007)			
	Republican	45	51
	Democrat	63	33
	Independent	61	36
Party Identification (2009)			
	Republican	39	59
	Democrat	57	36
	Independent	57	38

*Q: Do you favor laws that would make it more difficult for a woman to get an abortion, favor laws that would make it easier to get an abortion or should no change be made to existing abortion laws?*

		More difficult	Easier	No change
1992	Harris Interactive	34%	18%	44%
1993	Harris Interactive	35	22	39
1998	Harris Interactive	40	16	39
2005	Harris Interactive	42	13	42
2006	Harris Interactive	40	15	40
2007	Harris Interactive	42	16	38

2009 Harris Interactive 41 14 40

*Q: Next I'm going to read some behaviors. For each, please tell me whether you personally believe that it is morally acceptable, morally wrong, or is it not a moral issue?*

PSRA/Pew Research Center		Wrong	Acceptable	Not a moral issue
Married people having an affair	Feb. 2006	88%	3%	7%
Not reporting all income on taxes	Feb. 2006	79	5	14
Drinking alcohol excessively	Feb. 2006	61	5	31
<b>Having an abortion</b>				
	Feb. 2006	<b>52</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>23</b>
	Aug. 2009	<b>52</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>25</b>
Smoking marijuana	Feb. 2006	50	10	35
Homosexual behavior				
	Feb. 2006	50	12	33
	Aug. 2009	49	9	35
Telling a lie to spare someone's feelings	Feb. 2006	43	23	26
Sex between unmarried adults	Feb. 2006	35	22	37
Gambling	Feb. 2006	35	17	42
Overeating	Feb. 2006	32	6	58
Divorce	Aug. 2009	29	20	40
Drinking alcohol	Aug. 2009	15	20	56

*Q: On another topic, for each of the following issues, please indicate how you feel. Abortion rights?*

		Support	Neither	Oppose
Aug. 2007	Harris Interactive	52%	15%	29%

## MISCELLANEOUS

*Q: Have you ever been involved in the abortion movement – that is, tried to make it easier for people to have abortions or tried to convince people not to have abortions?*

		Never involved abortion	Involved for abortion	Involved against abortion
Jun. 2000	L.A. Times	90%	1%	7%

*Q: Which comes closer to your view about the abortion issue?*

PSRA/Pew Research Center		Jul. 2006	Aug. 2009
The country needs to find a middle			

ground on abortion laws	66%	60%
There's no room for compromise when it comes to abortion laws	29	29

*Q: Do you ever wonder whether your own position on abortion is the right one or not?*

		Yes	No
Dec. 1988	Gallup	33%	60%
Jul. 2006	SRB/Pew Research Center	30	66
Aug. 2009	SRB/Pew Research Center	26	66

*Q: Do you think the question of whether abortion should be legally permitted is something that should be decided at the national level, or is it something that each state should decide for itself?*

		National	State
Jul. 6-19, 2006	SRB/Pew Research Center	55%	39%

*Q: Do you personally believe that having an abortion is a sin, or not?*

		Having an abortion is a sin	Is not
July 2011	PRRI	52%	41%

*Q: Do you know anyone who has had an abortion?*

		Know someone who has had an abortion	Do not
Apr.-May 2011	PRRI	61%	38%

Note: Those who knew someone who had had an abortion were asked “And was this person someone in your own generation or someone in another generation.” Sixty-four percent said their own generation, and 22 percent another generation. Thirteen percent of this group said both.

*Q: In your community, how difficult do you think it is to get an abortion?*

		In my community			
		Very difficult to get an abortion	Somewhat	Not too	Not at all difficult
Apr.-May 2011	PRRI	14%	19%	28%	23%

The data in this report come from the archive of public opinion polls at AEI and from The Roper Center's archive at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Connecticut. The Roper Center is the oldest and largest archive of public opinion data in the world. To learn more about the Roper Center, visit <http://www.ropercenter.uconn.edu/>.

This Public Opinion Study was adapted from *Public Opinion About Abortion*, Everett Carl Ladd and Karlyn Bowman, AEI Press, 1999.



## Also from AEI's Political Corner: Political Report!

The American Enterprise Institute's *Political Report* is a monthly publication that examines current trends in public opinion and political developments. This easy-to-read report summarizes surveys from major pollsters on topics of current interest.

If you'd like to be added to the mailing list, please feel to contact Andrew Rugg at [Andrew.Rugg@aei.org](mailto:Andrew.Rugg@aei.org).