

Table 2.100.2009

Attitudes toward the legality of abortion

United States, selected years 1975-2009

Question: "Do you think abortions should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?"

	Always legal	Legal under certain circumstances	Never legal	No opinion
1975	21%	54%	22%	3%
1977	22	55	19	4
1979	22	54	19	5
1980	25	53	18	4
1981	23	52	21	4
1983	23	58	16	3
1985	21	55	21	3
1988	24	57	17	2
April 1989	27	50	18	5
July 1989	29	51	17	3
1990	31	53	12	4
May 1991	32	50	17	1
September 1991	33	49	14	4
January 1992	31	53	14	2
June 1992	34	48	13	5
1993	32	51	13	4
March 1994	31	51	15	3
September 1994	33	52	13	2
February 1995	33	50	15	2
September 1995	31	54	12	3
July 1996	25	58	15	2
September 1996	24	52	17	7
August 1997	22	61	15	2
November 1997	26	55	17	2
1998	23	59	17	1
1999	27	55	16	2
January 2000	26	56	15	3
March 2000	28	51	19	2
March 2001	26	51	18	5
May 2001	26	58	15	1
August 2001	26	56	17	1
February 2002	26	54	18	2
March 2002	27	53	19	1
May 2002	25	51	22	2
January 2003	24	57	18	1
May 2003	23	57	19	1
October 2003	26	55	17	2
2004	24	56	19	1
March 2005	23	55	20	2
May 2005	23	53	22	2
June 2005	24	55	20	1
November 2005	26	56	16	2
2006	30	53	15	2
2007	26	55	18	1
2008	28	54	17	2
2009	22	53	23	2

Note: Sample sizes vary from year to year; the data for 2009 are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 1,015 adults, 18 years of age and older, conducted May 7-10, 2009. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

Source: The Gallup Organization, Inc., *The Gallup Poll* [Online]. Available: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/1576/Abortion.aspx> [May 29, 2009]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.