

Table 2.101.2009

**Attitudes toward the legality of abortion**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 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
National	22%	53%	23%
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	19	59	19
Female	24	48	26
<b>Race</b>			
White	23	54	21
Nonwhite	18	50	28
Black	16	50	31
<b>Age</b>			
18 to 29 years	20	55	24
30 to 49 years	23	54	20
50 to 64 years	27	51	21
50 years and older	22	52	24
65 years and older	16	54	28
<b>Education</b>			
College post graduate	34	47	18
College graduate	24	59	17
Some college	21	57	17
High school graduate or less	15	50	32
<b>Income</b>			
\$75,000 and over	28	54	16
\$50,000 to \$74,999	19	60	20
\$30,000 to \$49,999	21	55	20
\$20,000 to \$29,999	18	46	34
Under \$20,000	16	47	35
<b>Region</b>			
East	24	50	22
Midwest	20	52	25
South	17	57	24
West	27	52	19
<b>Politics</b>			
Republican	11	54	35
Democrat	33	50	14
Independent	21	57	19
<b>Ideology</b>			
Conservative	11	56	32
Moderate	22	60	15
Liberal	46	41	11

Note: These data 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. The "no opinion" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

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