

Table 2.100.2012

Attitudes toward the legality of abortion

United States, selected years 1975-2012^a

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
1989 April	27	50	18	5
1989 July	29	51	17	3
1990	31	53	12	4
1991 May	32	50	17	1
1991 September	33	49	14	4
1992 January	31	53	14	2
1992 June	34	48	13	5
1993	32	51	13	4
1994 March	31	51	15	3
1994 September	33	52	13	2
1995 February	33	50	15	2
1995 September	31	54	12	3
1996 July	25	58	15	2
1996 September	24	52	17	7
1997 August	22	61	15	2
1997 November	26	55	17	2
1998	23	59	17	1
1999	27	55	16	2
2000 January	26	56	15	3
2000 March	28	51	19	2
2001 March	26	51	18	5
2001 May	26	58	15	1
2001 August	26	56	17	1
2002 February	26	54	18	2
2002 March	27	53	19	1
2002 May	25	51	22	2
2003 January	24	57	18	1
2003 May	23	57	19	1
2003 October	26	55	17	2
2004	24	56	19	1
2005 March	23	55	20	2
2005 May	23	53	22	2
2005 June	24	55	20	1
2005 November	26	56	16	2
2006	30	53	15	2
2007	26	55	18	1
2008	28	54	17	2
2009 May	22	53	23	2
2009 July	21	57	18	4
2010	24	54	19	3
2011 May	27	50	22	2
2011 June	26	52	21	1
2011 July	26	51	20	3
2012 May	25	52	20	3
2012 December	28	52	18	3

Note: Sample sizes vary from year to year; the data for December 2012 are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 1,012 adults, 18 years of age and older, conducted Dec. 27-30, 2012. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Source: Gallup, Inc., *The Gallup Poll* [Online]. Available: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/1576/Abortion.aspx> [Jan. 22, 2013]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.