

Table 2.101.2008

Attitudes toward the legality of abortion

By demographic characteristics, United States, 2008

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	28%	54%	17%
Sex			
Male	25	56	17
Female	31	52	17
Race			
White	28	53	17
Nonwhite	26	55	17
Black	27	52	18
Age			
18 to 29 years	29	45	25
30 to 49 years	33	52	13
50 to 64 years	29	56	14
65 years and older	22	59	17
65 years and older	14	63	22
Education			
College post graduate	35	51	10
College graduate	32	55	11
Some college	33	51	15
High school graduate or less	17	59	24
Income			
\$75,000 and over	30	56	12
\$50,000 to \$74,999	32	55	12
\$30,000 to \$49,999	27	56	17
\$20,000 to \$29,999	30	49	20
Under \$20,000	22	50	28
Region			
East	28	56	15
Midwest	27	53	17
South	23	56	20
West	36	50	13
Politics			
Republican	12	58	30
Democrat	37	50	10
Independent	30	55	14
Ideology			
Conservative	12	59	28
Moderate	30	56	12
Liberal	52	41	6

Note: These data are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 1,017 adults, 18 years of age and older, conducted May 8-11, 2008. 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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