



**Marist
Poll**

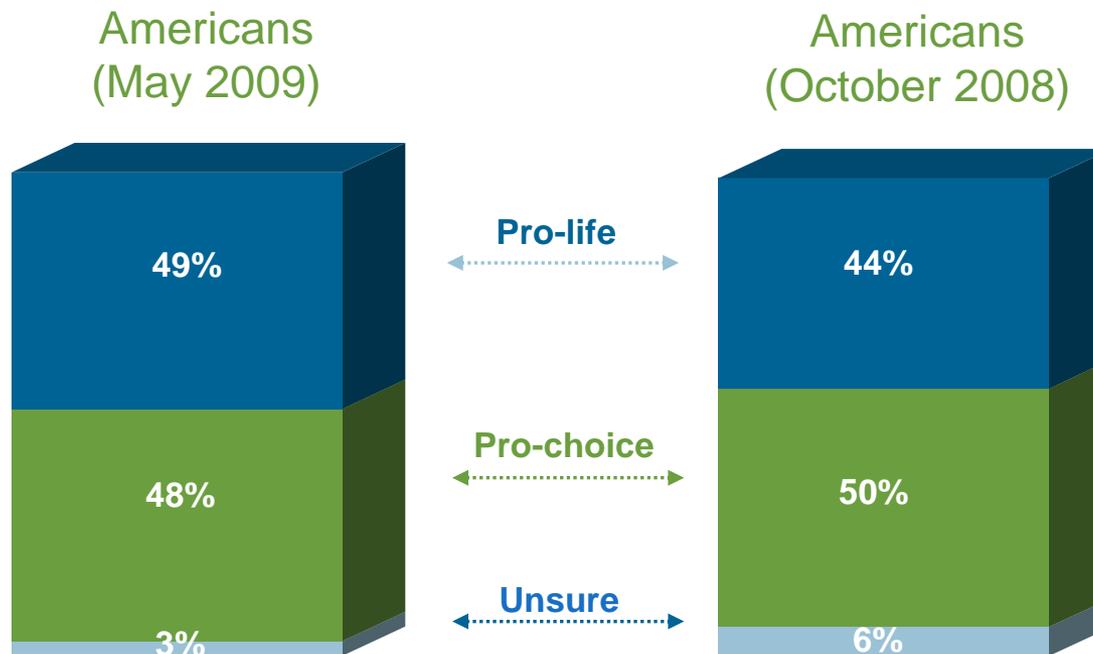


Knights of Columbus

Abortion in America
July 2009



When asked to identify as either pro-life or pro-choice, Americans continue to divide in the abortion debate. However, since October 2008, there has been movement toward the pro-life position.



Overall, on the issue of abortion, do you consider yourself pro-life or pro-choice?



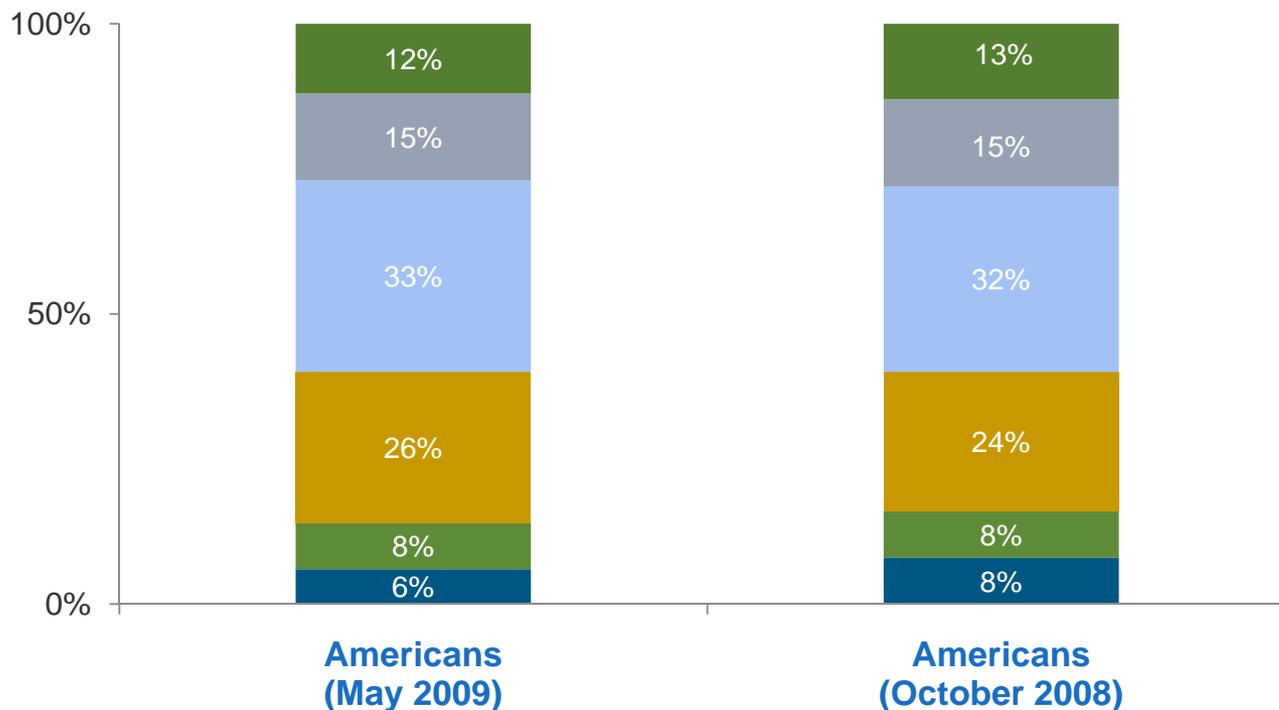
Population	Pro-life May 2009	Pro-life Oct 2008	Difference	Percent Change
Americans	49%	44%	+5	11%
Catholics: Practicing	67%	59%	+8	+14%
Catholics: Non-Practicing	23%	29%	-6	-21%
Gender: Men	49%	44%	+5	+11%
Gender: Women	48%	45%	+3	+7%
Income: Less than 50K	52%	49%	+3	+6%
Income: More than 50K	45%	42%	+3	+7%
Education: Not college graduate	54%	48%	+6	+13%
Education: College graduate	40%	39%	+1	+3%
Race: White	49%	47%	+2	+4%
Race: African-American	54%	41%	+13	+32%
Race: Latino	43%	39%	+4	+10%
Age: Under 45	45%	44%	+1	+2%
Age: 45 or older	51%	46%	+5	+11%
Age by Gender: Men under 45	40%	40%	0	0%
Age by Gender: Men 45 or older	56%	47%	+9	+19%
Age by Gender: Women under 45	51%	48%	+3	+6%
Age by Gender: Women 45 or older	48%	45%	+3	+7%



Population	Pro-life May 2009	Pro-life Oct 2008	Difference	Percent Change
Americans	49%	44%	+5	+11%
Region: Northeast	41%	42%	-1	-2%
Region: Midwest	47%	46%	+1	+2%
Region: South	64%	49%	+15	+31%
Region: West	32%	37%	-5	-14%
Ideology: Conservative	77%	75%	+2	+3%
Ideology: Moderate	34%	33%	+1	+3%
Ideology: Liberal	23%	16%	+7	+44%
Political Party: Democrat	30%	31%	-1	-3%
Political Party: Republican	72%	70%	+2	+3%
Political Party: Independent	47%	36%	+11	+31%



Most Americans (86%) continue to believe abortion should be significantly restricted. This includes 60% who want, at most, to allow abortion only in cases of rape, incest, to save the life of the mother, or who think abortion should never be permitted.



Scale:

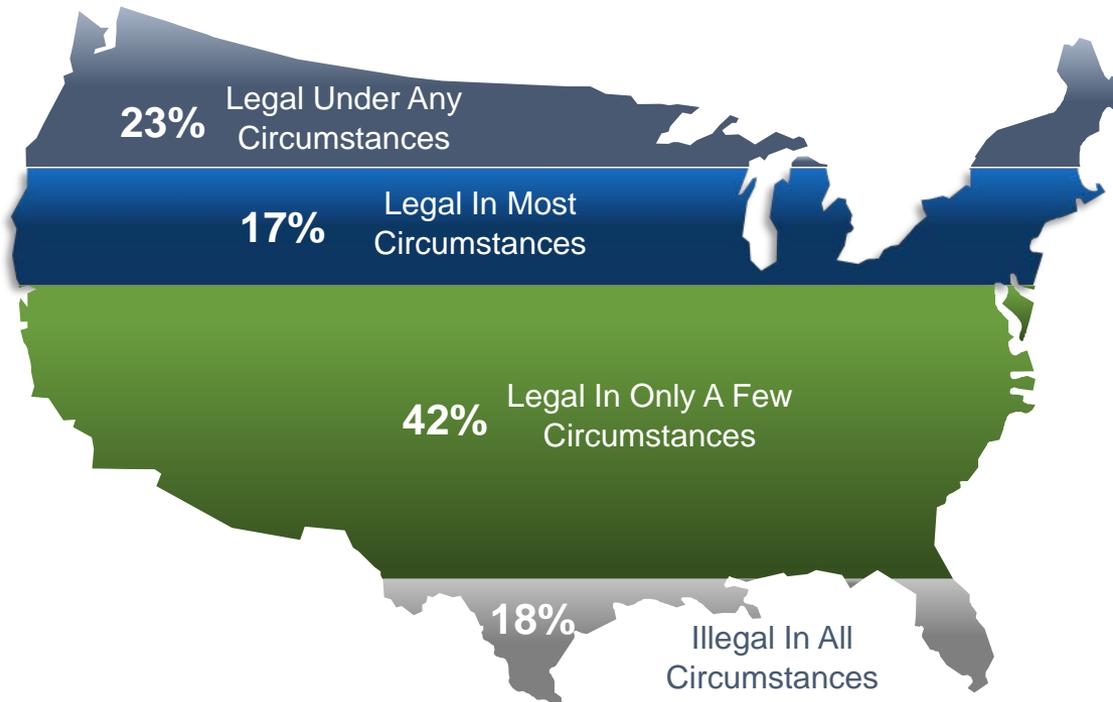
- 6, abortion should never be permitted under any circumstance
- 5, abortion should be allowed only to save the life of the mother
- 4, abortion should be allowed only in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother
- 3, abortion should be allowed only during the first three months of a pregnancy
- 2, abortion should be allowed only during the first six months of a pregnancy
- 1, abortion should be available to a woman any time she wants one during her entire pregnancy

Which one of the following statements comes closest to your opinion on abortion?



Six in ten Americans believe abortion should only be legal in a few circumstances or should not be legal at all.

Americans

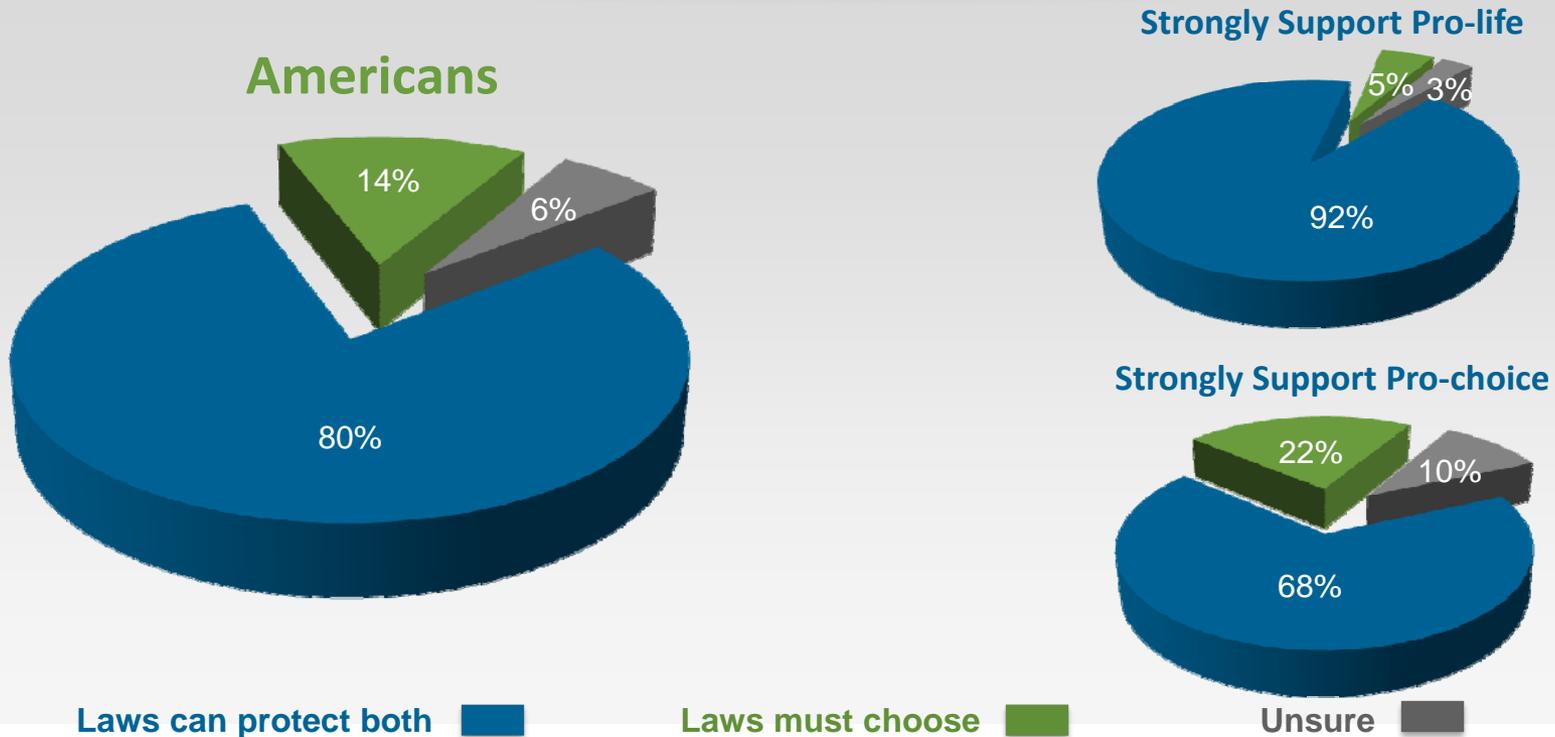


Do you think abortion should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?

Can laws protect both the health of a woman and the unborn?



8 in 10 Americans believe that it's possible for laws to protect both the health of a woman as well as the life of the unborn. Even 68% of strong pro-choice supporters believe laws can protect both.

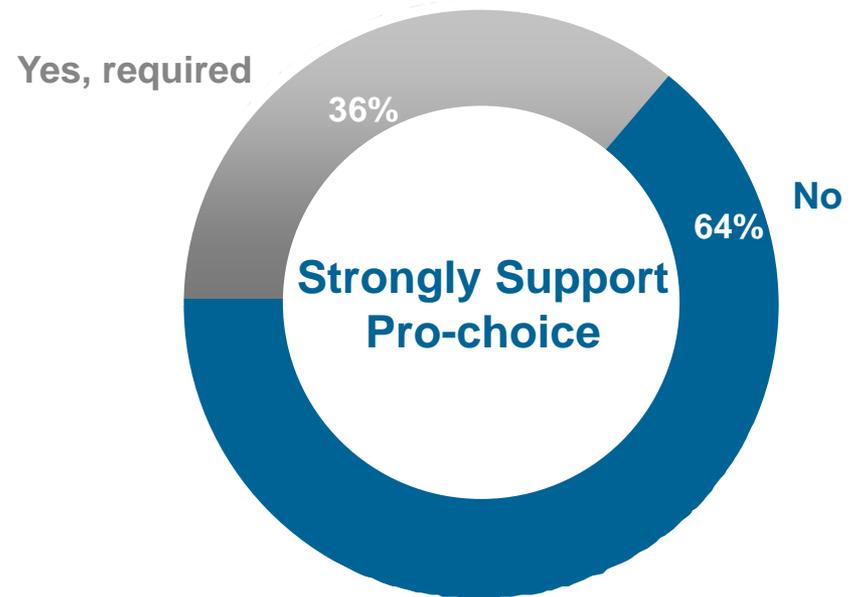
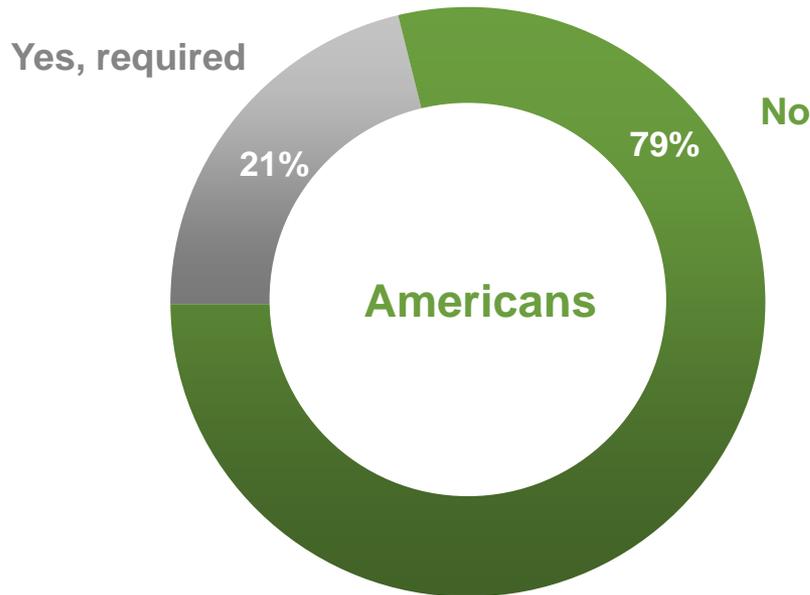


Which statement comes closer to your view: One, it is possible to have laws which protect both the health and well-being of a woman and the life of the unborn; or two, it is necessary for laws to choose to protect one and not the other?

Should there be conscience exemptions for health care workers?



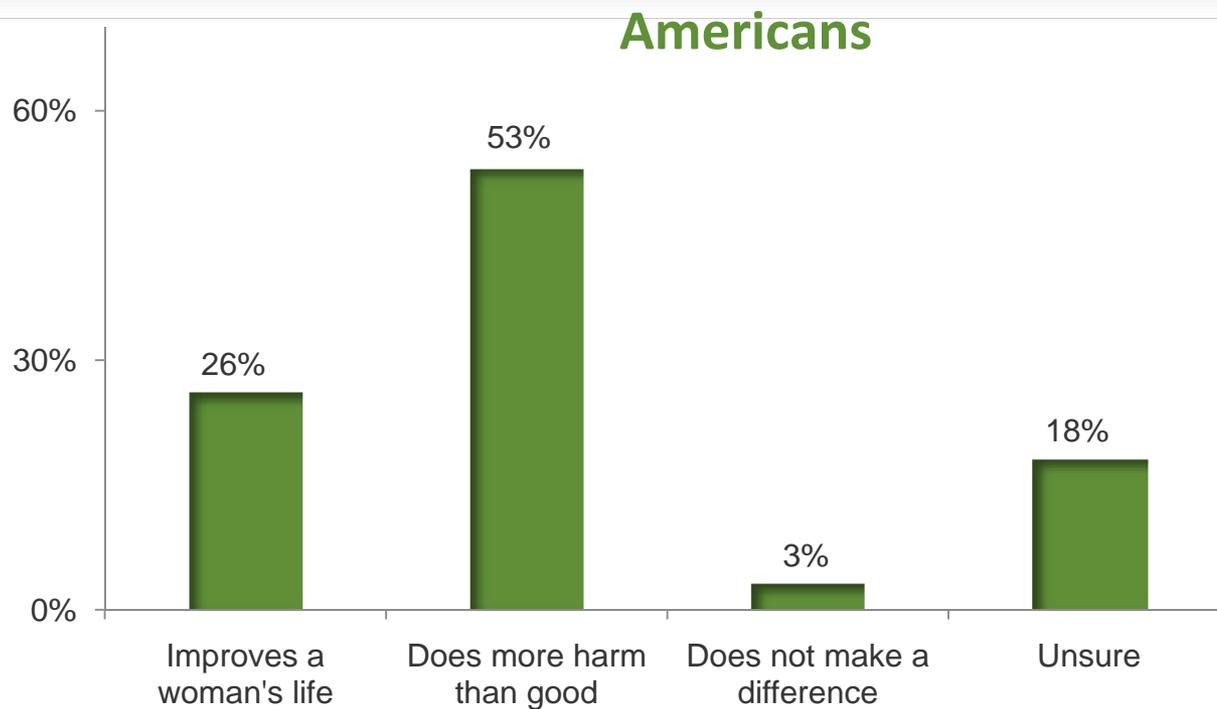
79% of Americans believe health care workers should not be mandated to perform an abortion if it conflicts with their personal values. In fact, even 64% of strong pro-choice supporters share this belief.



Do you think health care workers such as doctors and nurses who believe abortion is wrong should be required to perform them, or not?



53% of Americans believe having an abortion does more harm than good to a woman in the long run.



In the long run, do you believe having an abortion improves a woman's life, or in the long run do you believe abortion does more harm than good to a woman?



Many Americans (69%) believe it is appropriate for religious leaders to speak out on abortion. Many Americans believe debates about civil rights (61%) and abortion (59%) are issues for religious leaders to discuss.

	Americans	
	Yes	No
Do you think it is proper for religious leaders to speak out on abortion?	69%	31%
Do you think religious leaders have a key role to play in the debate about civil rights?	61%	39%
Do you think religious leaders have a key role to play in the debate about abortion?	59%	41%

- This study was undertaken by the Knights of Columbus in partnership with the Marist Institute for Public Opinion at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York.
- This report presents the findings from a telephone survey of 1,223 Americans. Reports for Americans have a margin of error of +/- 3%.
- Data were collected from May 28 through May 31, 2009.
- Analysis of sub-groups is included when noteworthy and/or statistically different.

Please note that some totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.



Knights of Columbus Headquarters

Mr. Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight

Mr. Andrew Walther, Director of Media Relations

1 Columbus Plaza
New Haven, CT 06510
(203) 752-4253

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic men's fraternal benefit society that was formed to render financial aid to members and their families. Mutual aid and assistance are offered to sick, disabled and needy members and their families. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief works. The Knights of Columbus has grown from several members in one council to more than 13,000 councils and 1.7 million members.



Marist College Institute for Public Opinion

Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director,
Marist Institute for Public Opinion

Dr. Barbara L. Carvalho, Director,
Marist Poll

Marist College
3399 North Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
(845) 575-5050

Founded in 1978, the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion (MIPO) is a survey research center at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York. The Marist Poll has conducted independent research on public priorities, elections, and a wide variety of social issues. Through the regular public release of surveys, MIPO has built a legacy of independence, reliability, and accuracy. Its results are featured in print and electronic media throughout the world.