

ABORTION

A Third of Americans Are Willing to Re-Open Abortion Debate

Two thirds of respondents support limiting or regulating abortions, while one fifth think abortion should be legal in all cases.

[NEW YORK – Jul. 20, 2010] – Although most people in the United States think there is no need to re-open a national discussion on abortion, a large proportion of Americans do want to have this conversation, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,002 American adults, 33 per cent of respondents say a debate about abortion is long overdue in the U.S. and it is time to talk about this issue. However, 51 per cent of respondents disagree.

Personal Feeling

Americans remain divided on how to best regulate abortions. While one fifth of respondents say the procedure should be permitted in all cases, 18 per cent say it should be allowed but under the current restrictions.

An additional 26 per cent of Americans think abortion should only be permitted in cases of rape, incest, and to save a woman's life; 15 per cent think abortions should only happen when the woman's life is in danger; and nine per cent of respondents say they should be subject to greater restrictions than they are now.

KEY FINDINGS

- **33% would re-open abortion debate; 51% disagree with this course of action**
- **30% say abortion should be permitted only in cases of rape, incest, or to save the woman's life**
- **31% claim pregnant women don't have enough information about alternatives to abortion**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From July 8 to July 9, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,002 American adults who are Springboard America panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of the United States.

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Legality

Almost half of Americans (46%) think abortion should be legal but only under certain circumstances. In contrast, three-in-ten respondents say abortion should always be legal. Fifteen per cent of Americans would completely ban abortions, in all circumstances.

One-in-five Republicans (22%) advocate for an outright ban on abortion.

Information and Consent

Three quarters of U.S. respondents (75%) think women under the age of 18 should require parental consent before having an abortion. Only 16 per cent disagree with this notion.

About a third of respondents (32%) think pregnant women currently lack appropriate access to information on alternatives to abortion, such as counseling and adoptions. A majority of Americans (54%) think the opposite—than women have plenty of access to this kind of information.

Our previous poll on abortion in the United States, conducted in January 2010, is available [here](#).

For all our abortion polls, including our most recent in Canada and Britain and more, go to our [website](#) / Follow us on [Twitter](#)

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Abortion

What is your personal feeling about abortion?

	Gender			Political Affiliation		
	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Abortion should be permitted in all cases	20%	18%	22%	26%	12%	23%
Abortion should be permitted, but subject to greater restrictions than now	9%	8%	10%	9%	12%	8%
Abortion should be permitted only in cases such as rape, incest and to save the woman's life	26%	28%	25%	23%	29%	29%
Abortion should only be permitted to save the woman's life	15%	16%	14%	10%	25%	11%
Abortion should be permitted, but with the same restrictions that are currently in place	18%	19%	16%	20%	13%	20%
Not sure	12%	11%	12%	12%	10%	8%

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

	Gender			Political Affiliation		
	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Legal under any circumstances	30%	27%	34%	36%	23%	30%
Legal only under certain circumstances	46%	50%	42%	42%	50%	48%
Illegal in all circumstances	15%	15%	15%	12%	22%	14%
Not sure	9%	8%	9%	10%	5%	7%

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In your view, should women under the age of 18 require the consent of their parents or legal guardians in order to have an abortion?

	Total	Gender		Political Affiliation		
		Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Yes	74%	75%	73%	68%	83%	74%
No	16%	16%	17%	21%	12%	15%
Not sure	10%	10%	10%	12%	5%	11%

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From what you have seen, read or heard, would you say that pregnant women in the United States have access to enough information about alternatives to abortion, such as adoption, counseling for pregnant women, etc.?

	Gender			Political Affiliation		
	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
They DO have enough access to information about alternatives	54%	54%	54%	56%	50%	56%
They DO NOT have enough access to information about alternatives	32%	30%	34%	28%	41%	33%
Not sure	14%	16%	12%	16%	9%	11%

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Finally, which of the following statements comes closest to your own point of view?

	Gender			Political Affiliation		
	Total	Male	Female	Democrat	Republican	Independent
There is no point in re-opening a debate about abortion in the U.S. right now	51%	51%	51%	49%	49%	55%
A debate about abortion is long overdue in the U.S., and the discussion should be re-opened	33%	33%	33%	31%	40%	33%
Not sure	16%	16%	15%	19%	11%	12%

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Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995

Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.

Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election.

<http://bit.ly/4zxf1S>

Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://bit.ly/3z0u1l>

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:
<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>**

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