

Americans' Opinions on Abortion

January 2021



**Knights of
Columbus®**

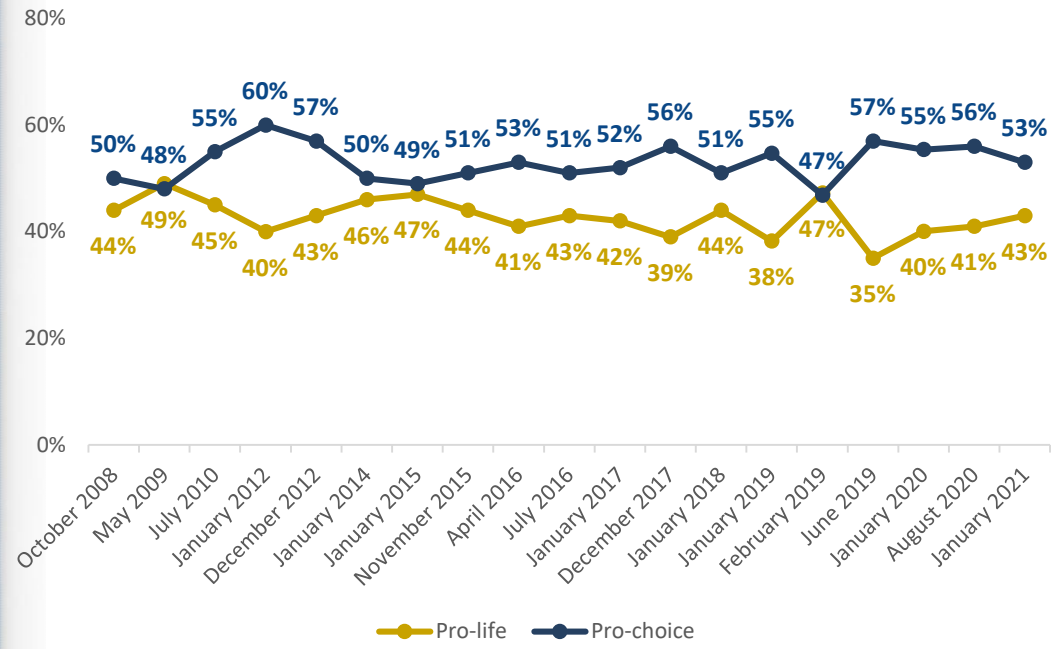
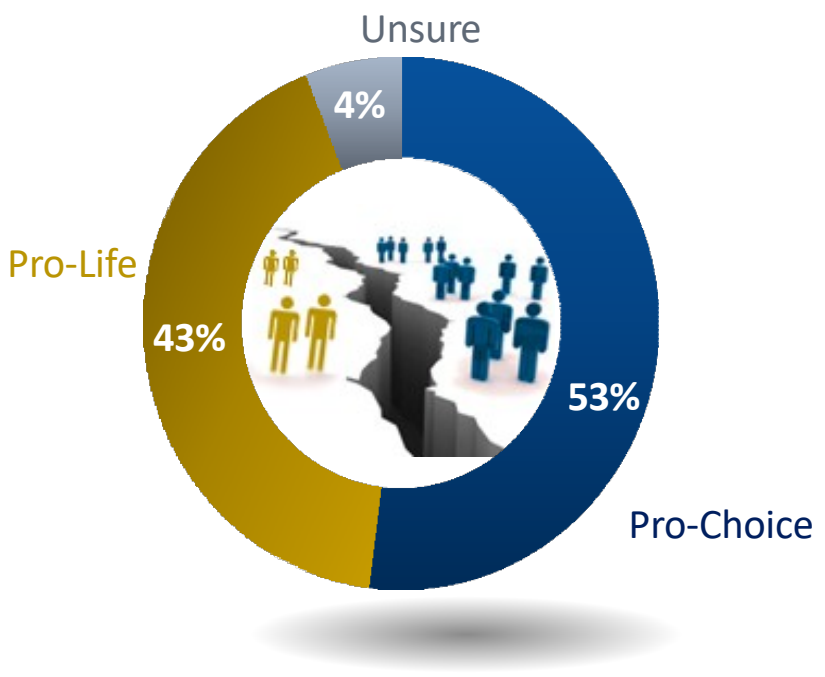
MARIST
POLL™

When asked to align with one side of the abortion debate, a majority of Americans describe themselves as pro-choice.



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

Americans



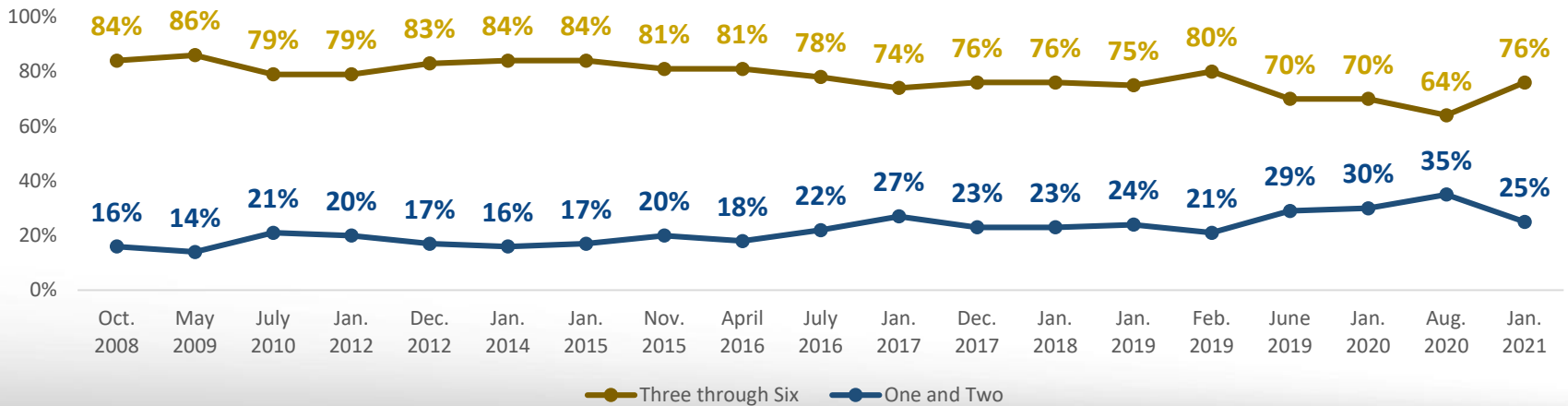
	Pro-Life	Pro-Choice	Unsure
Democrat	20%	77%	3%
Republican	78%	20%	2%
Independent	40%	56%	4%

Three quarters of Americans, including a majority who identify as pro-choice, want significant restrictions on abortion.



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

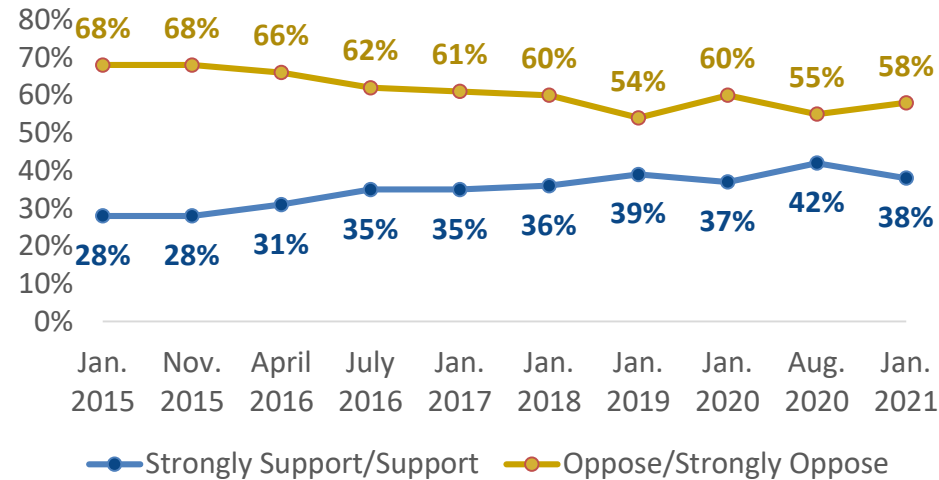
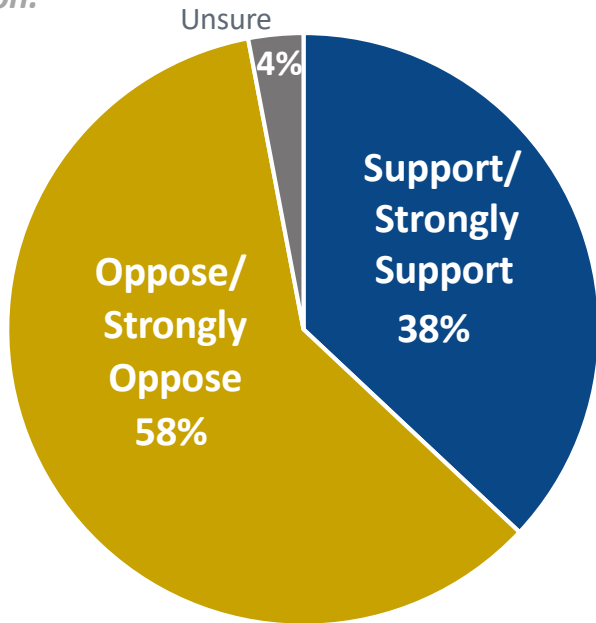
	Americans	Pro-Life	Pro-Choice
1 Available to a woman any time during her entire pregnancy	15%	1%	27%
2 Only during the first six months of a pregnancy	10%	2%	17%
3 Only during the first three months of a pregnancy	25%	14%	35%
4 Only in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother	28%	40%	16%
5 Only to save the life of the mother	11%	21%	2%
6 Should never be permitted under any circumstance	12%	23%	2%



Nearly six in ten Americans oppose using tax dollars to pay for a woman's abortion.



Please tell me if you strongly support, support, oppose, or strongly oppose using tax dollars to pay for a woman's abortion.



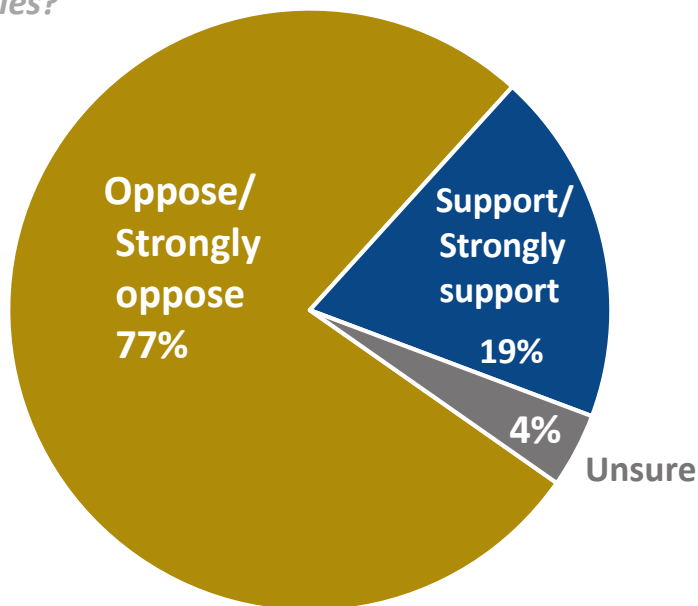
A majority of independents (65%) and a notable proportion of Democrats (31%) oppose taxpayer funding of abortion.

	Strongly Support/Support	Oppose/Strongly Oppose	Unsure
Pro-Life	10%	87%	2%
Pro-Choice	61%	34%	5%
Democrat	63%	31%	6%
Republican	13%	83%	4%
Independent	32%	65%	3%

More than three in four Americans oppose using tax dollars to support abortions in other countries.



Do you strongly support, support, oppose, or strongly oppose using tax dollars to support abortion in other countries?

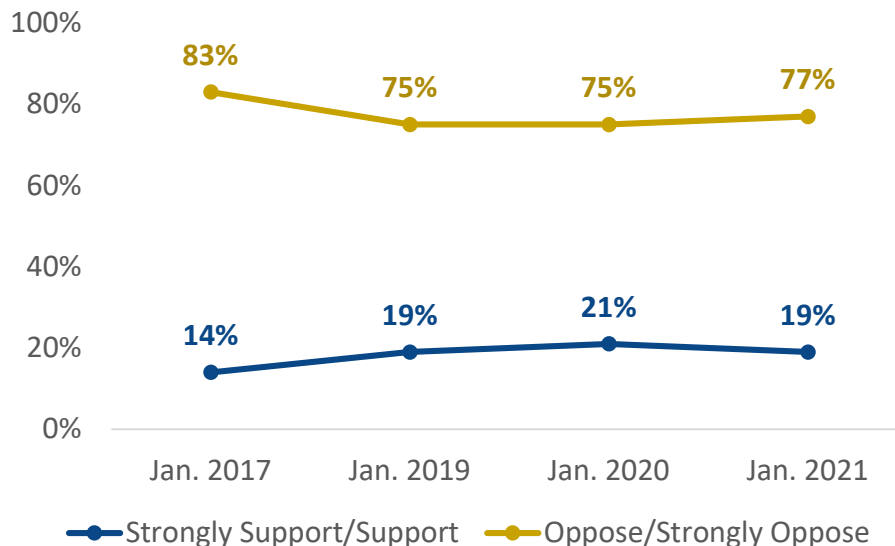


Support/
Strongly
Support

Oppose/
Strongly
Oppose

Unsure

	Support/ Strongly Support	Oppose/ Strongly Oppose	Unsure
Pro-Life	5%	94%	2%
Pro-Choice	32%	64%	5%
Democrat	38%	55%	6%
Republican	3%	95%	3%
Independent	13%	85%	2%



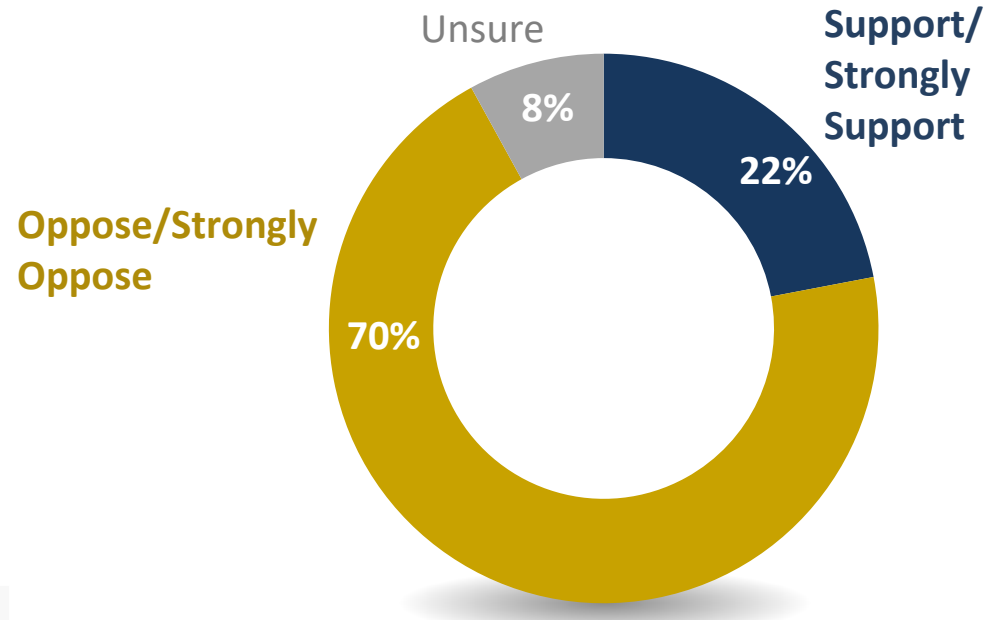
Over six in ten of those who identify as pro-choice (64%), oppose using tax dollars to support abortion in other countries.

70% of Americans oppose abortion if the child will be born with Down Syndrome.



Over half of those who identify as pro-choice (56%), oppose or strongly oppose abortion due to the expectation a child will be born with Down Syndrome.

Americans



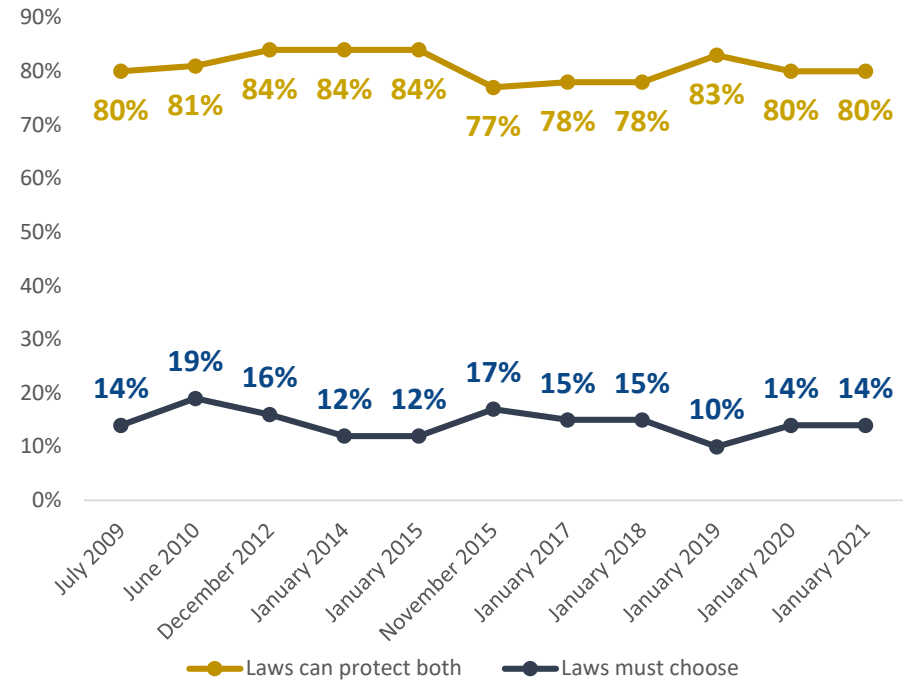
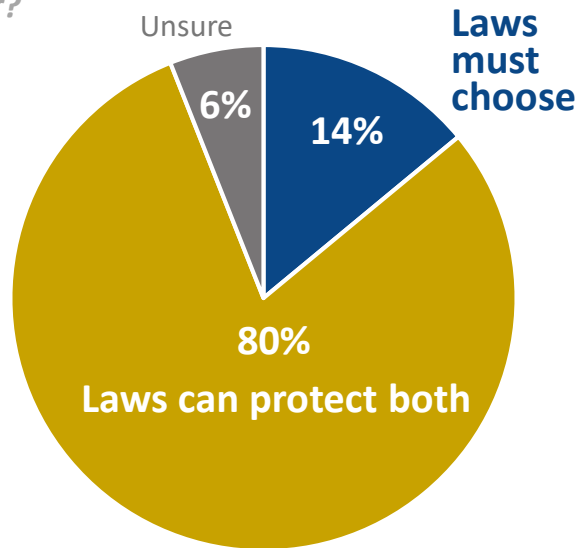
Please tell me if you strongly support, support, oppose, or strongly oppose abortion because the child will be born with Down Syndrome.

	Support/ Strongly Support	Oppose/ Strongly Oppose	Unsure
Pro-Life	9%	88%	3%
Pro-Choice	35%	56%	10%
Democrat	31%	59%	10%
Republican	12%	82%	6%
Independent	24%	70%	6%

Laws can protect both a pregnant woman and the life of her unborn child according to eight in ten Americans.



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?



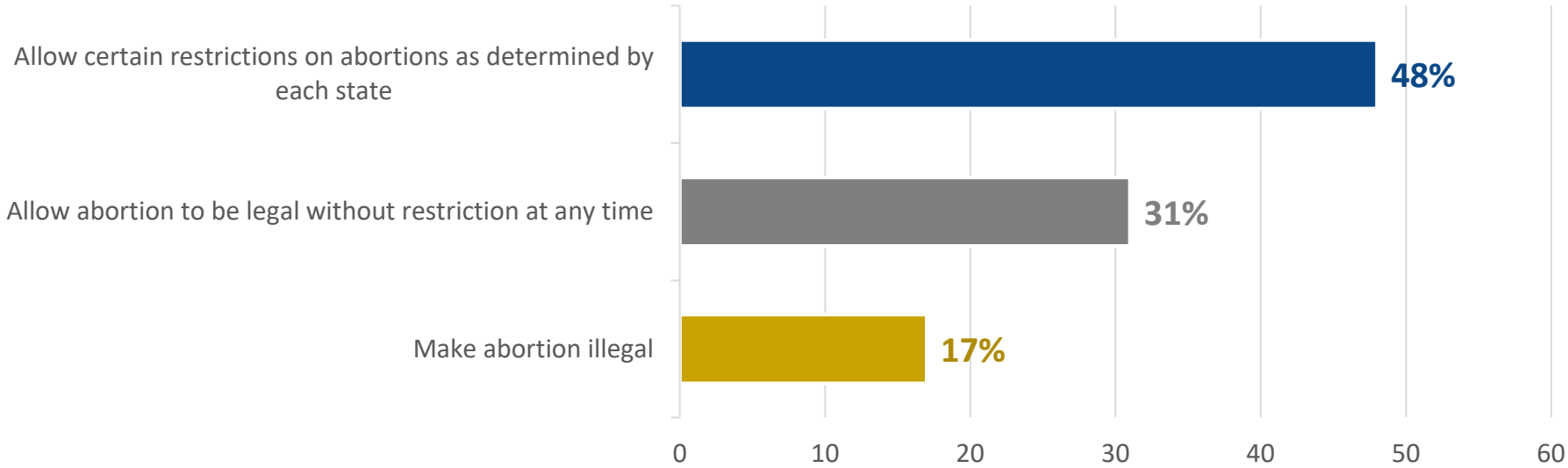
	Laws can protect both	Laws must choose	Unsure
Pro-Life	88%	7%	5%
Pro-Choice	77%	19%	5%
Democrat	78%	14%	8%
Republican	85%	10%	5%
Independent	81%	15%	5%

Over three in four Americans who identify as pro-choice (77%) or who identify as Democrats (78%) believe laws can protect both the mother and her unborn child.

65% of Americans want Roe v. Wade reinterpreted to either send the issue to the states or stop legalized abortion.



Which comes closest to your view of what the Supreme Court should do when it reconsiders Roe v. Wade, the 1973 ruling making abortion legal in the United States: It should rule to:



Allow certain restrictions on abortions as determined by each state **Allow abortion to be legal without restriction at any time** **Make abortion illegal**

	Allow certain restrictions on abortions as determined by each state	Allow abortion to be legal without restriction at any time	Make abortion illegal
Pro-Life	57%	5%	35%
Pro-Choice	42%	53%	3%
Democrat	40%	51%	5%
Republican	49%	11%	37%
Independent	56%	30%	11%

How the survey was conducted



- The survey was conducted by The Marist Poll sponsored and funded in partnership with The Knights of Columbus. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the contiguous United States were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. The questions were available in English or Spanish.
- 1,173 adults were interviewed from January 11th through the 13th, 2021.
- Mobile telephone numbers were randomly selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation. The exchanges were selected to ensure each region was represented in proportion to its population. Mobile phones are treated as individual devices. After validation of age, personal ownership, and non-business-use of the mobile phone, interviews are typically conducted with the person answering the phone. To increase coverage, respondents were also reached through random dialing of landline phone numbers. Within each landline household, a single respondent is selected through a random selection process to increase the representativeness of traditionally under-covered survey populations. The samples were then combined and balanced to reflect the 2017 American Community Survey 1-year estimates for age, gender, income, race, and region.
- The results are statistically significant within ± 3.5 percentage points. The error margin was adjusted for sample weights and increases for cross-tabulations.
- Analysis of sub-groups is included in this report when noteworthy and/or statistically different. Please note that some totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Contact Information



About the Knights of Columbus



Mr. Carl Anderson
Supreme Knight

Timothy M. Saccoccia
Senior Policy Director

Knights of Columbus
1 Columbus Plaza New
Haven, CT 06510
(203-752-4000)

The Knights of Columbus is one of the nation's premiere volunteer and charitable organizations. Last year, Knights worldwide donated more than 75.6 million hours, and more than \$185 million to charitable causes in communities throughout the Americas, as well as in Europe and Asia. From helping children in need, to providing wheelchairs for the disabled, to helping stock food banks, to offering top-rated and affordable life insurance to its members, the Knights has been at the service of the community for more than 130 years, and is the world's largest Catholic service organization.

Marist College Institute for Public Opinion

Lee M. Miringoff, PhD

Barbara L. Carvalho, PhD

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. The Marist Poll regularly partners with NBC News to conduct scientific public opinion polls in key electoral battleground states. It teams with NPR and PBS NewsHour to take the pulse of the country.