

Americans' Opinions on Abortion

January 2020



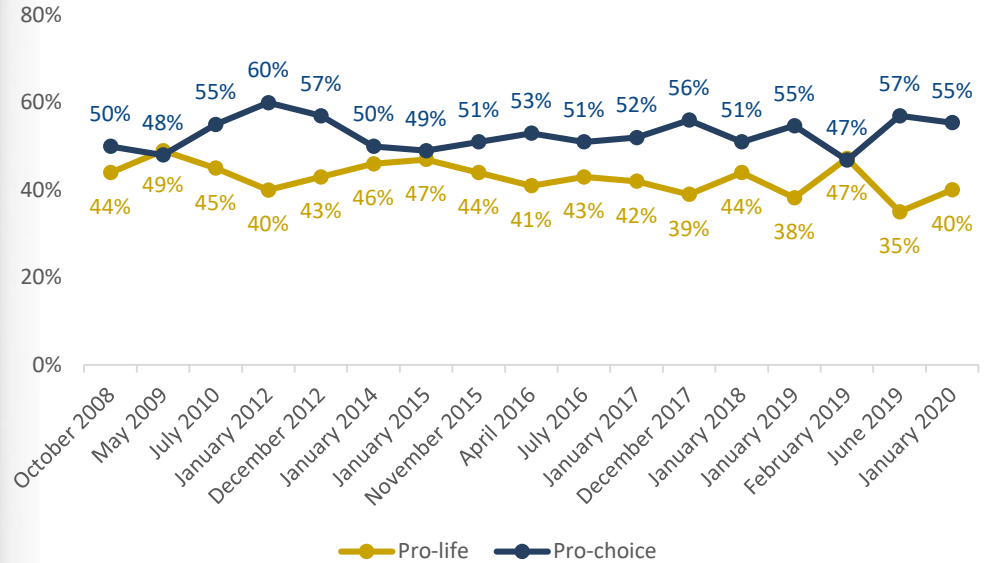
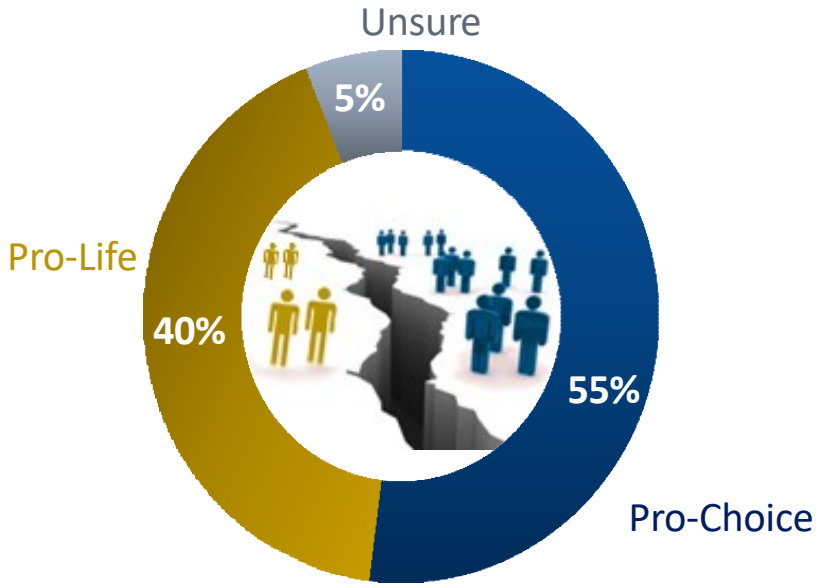
MARIST
POLLTM

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



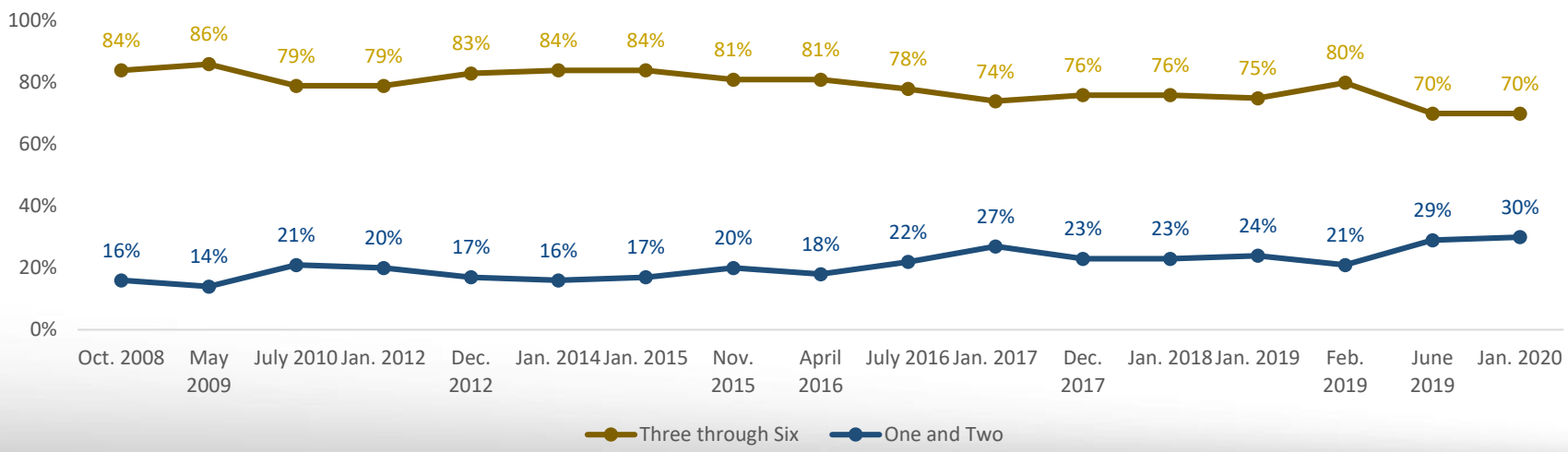
	Pro-Life	Pro-Choice	Unsure
Democrat	17%	78%	5%
Republican	71%	28%	1%
Independent	40%	57%	4%

Seven in ten Americans, including nearly half 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	21%	2%	36%
2 Only during the first six months of a pregnancy	9%	<1%	17%
3 Only during the first three months of a pregnancy	24%	11%	35%
4 Only in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother	26%	45%	10%
5 Only to save the life of the mother	11%	24%	1%
6 Should never be permitted under any circumstance	9%	18%	1%



For most Americans, a candidate's position on abortion is a deciding factor in their vote, including a plurality who say it is a major factor to them.



Americans

Major factor

Minor factor

Not a factor



Is a politician's position on abortion a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor in deciding your vote for president?

	Major factor
Pro-life	45%
Pro-choice	35%
Democrat	45%
Republican	43%
Independent	31%

Americans who are pro-life are more likely to see the issue of abortion as a major factor in deciding their vote than are Americans who consider themselves pro-choice.

Most Republicans, more than six in ten independents, and even a notable proportion of Democrats want to vote for a candidate who wants significant restrictions on abortion.



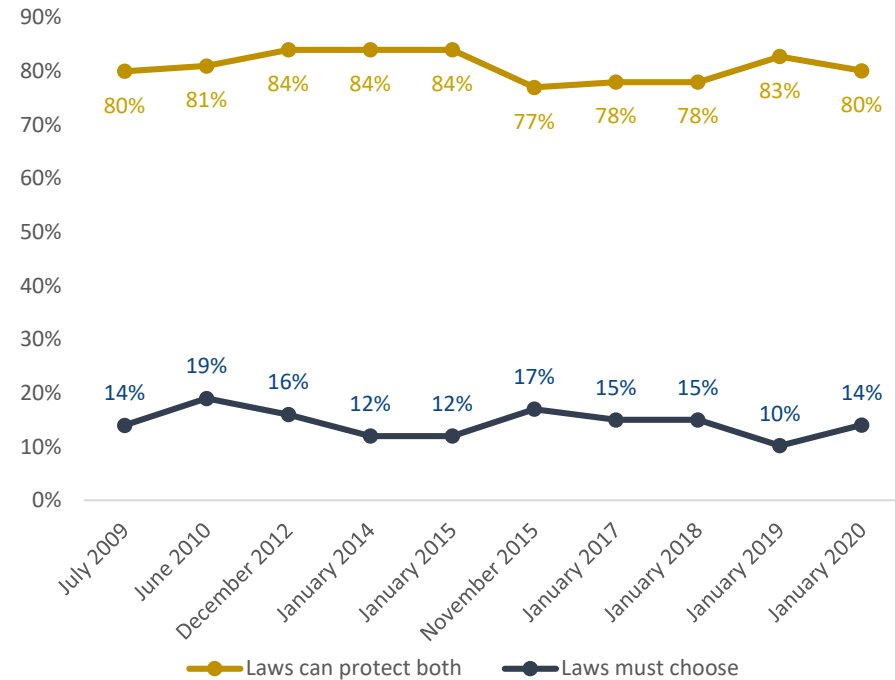
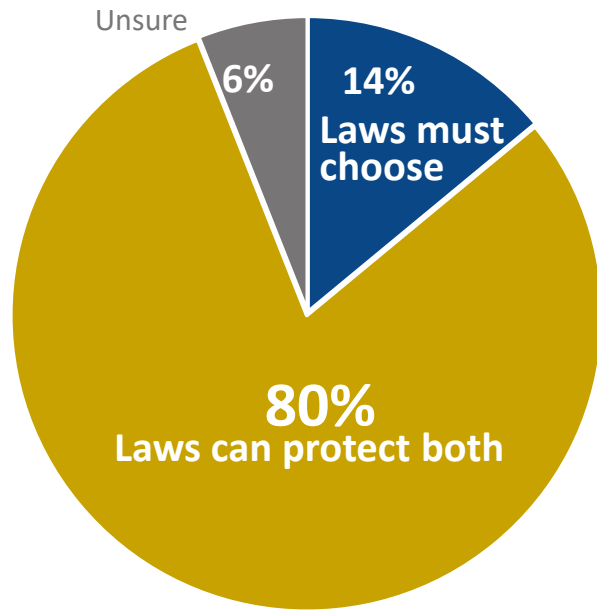
Thinking about a candidate's position on abortion, which one of the following are you most to likely vote for:

	A candidate who thinks abortion should be available to a woman any time she wants one during her entire pregnancy	A candidate who thinks abortion should be allowed only during the first six months of a pregnancy	Likely to vote for a candidate who wants significant restrictions	A candidate who thinks abortion should be allowed only during the first three months of a pregnancy	A candidate who thinks abortion should be allowed only in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother	A candidate who thinks abortion should be allowed only to save the life of the mother	A candidate who thinks abortion should never be permitted under any circumstance
Americans	25%	9%	65%	23%	23%	12%	7%
Democrat	41%	14%	44%	23%	13%	4%	4%
Republican	9%	3%	88%	19%	29%	26%	14%
Independent	26%	11%	62%	24%	27%	7%	4%

Most Americans agree laws can protect both a woman and the life of the unborn.



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?



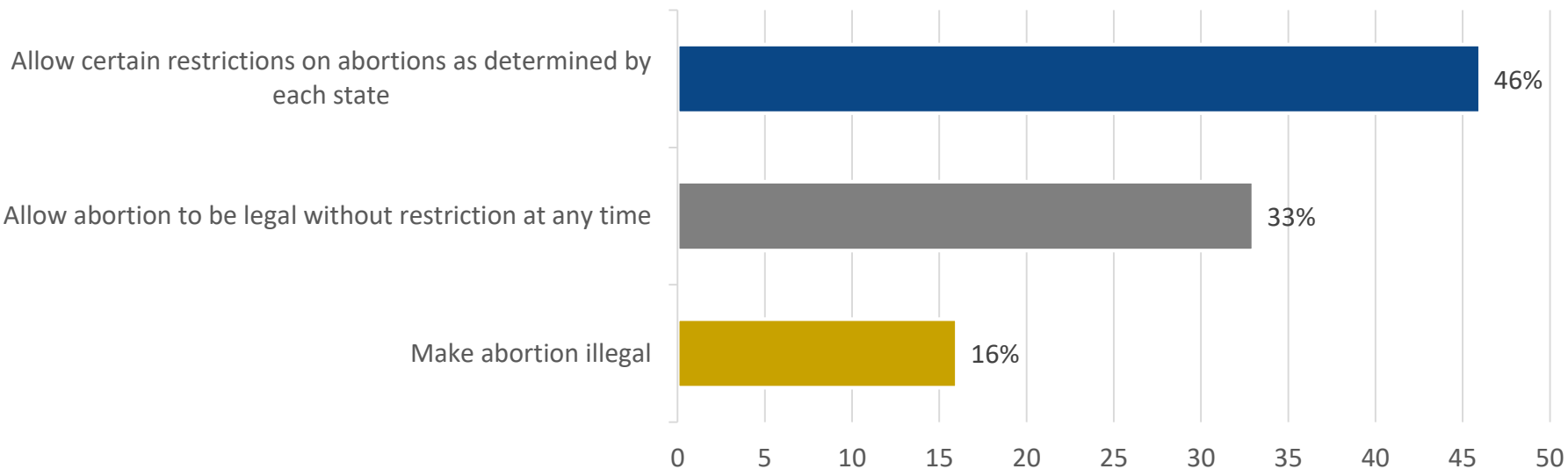
	Laws can protect both	Laws must choose	Unsure
Pro-Life	85%	11%	4%
Pro-Choice	78%	17%	6%
Democrat	76%	17%	7%
Republican	85%	8%	6%
Independent	79%	17%	4%

Over three in four of those identifying either as pro-choice (78%) or as a Democrat (76%) believe laws can protect both a mother and her unborn child.

Many 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

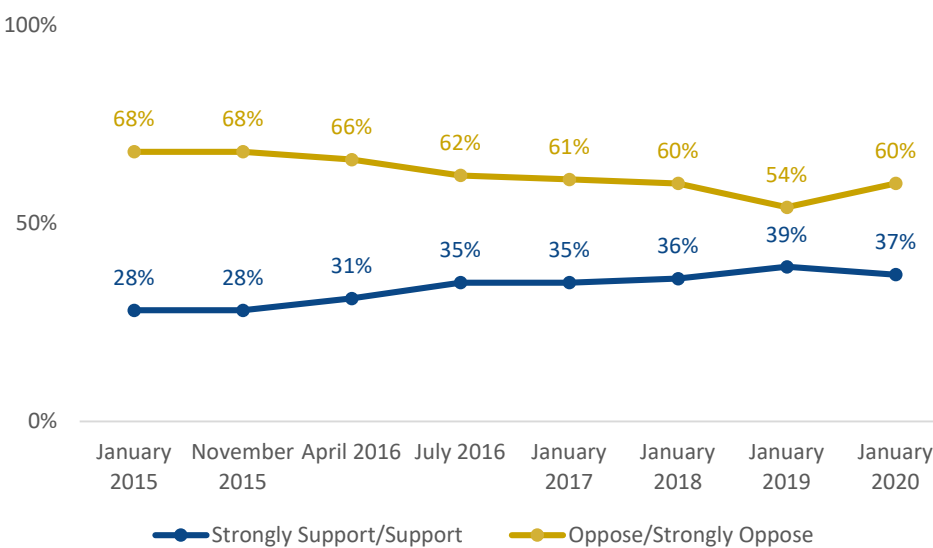
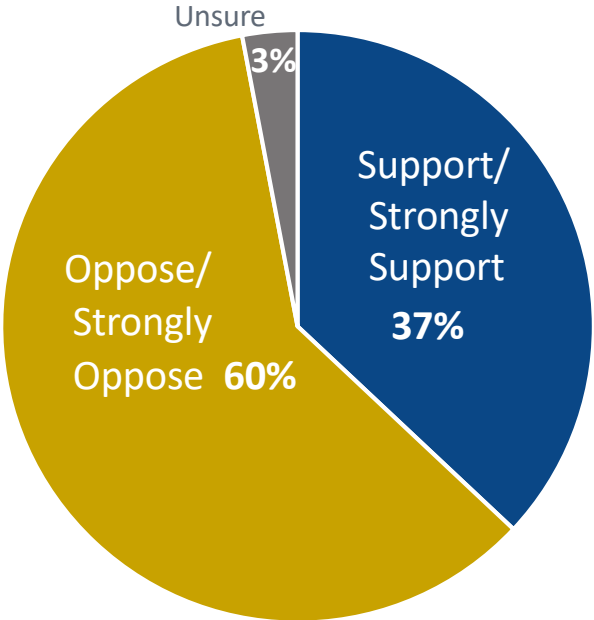
Make abortion illegal

	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%	4%	35%
Pro-Choice	38%	56%	2%
Democrat	34%	56%	5%
Republican	51%	11%	34%
Independent	53%	32%	12%

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 (42%) and a notable proportion of Democrats (35%) oppose tax payer funding of abortion.

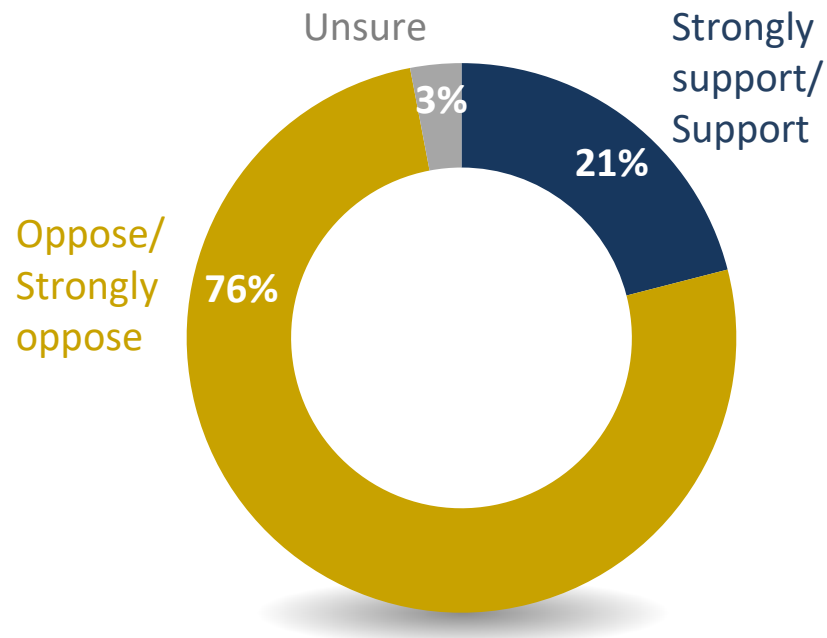
	Strongly Support/Support	Oppose/Strongly Oppose	Unsure
Pro-Life	9%	89%	2%
Pro-Choice	60%	37%	3%
Democrat	60%	35%	4%
Republican	9%	90%	1%
Independent	42%	55%	3%

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



Slightly over six in ten of those who identify as pro-choice (61%), oppose using tax dollars to support abortion in other countries.

Americans



Please tell me if you strongly support, support, oppose, or strongly oppose using tax dollars to support abortion in other countries.

	Pro-life	Pro-choice
Strongly support/Support	4%	36%
Oppose/Strongly oppose	95%	61%
Unsure	1%	4%

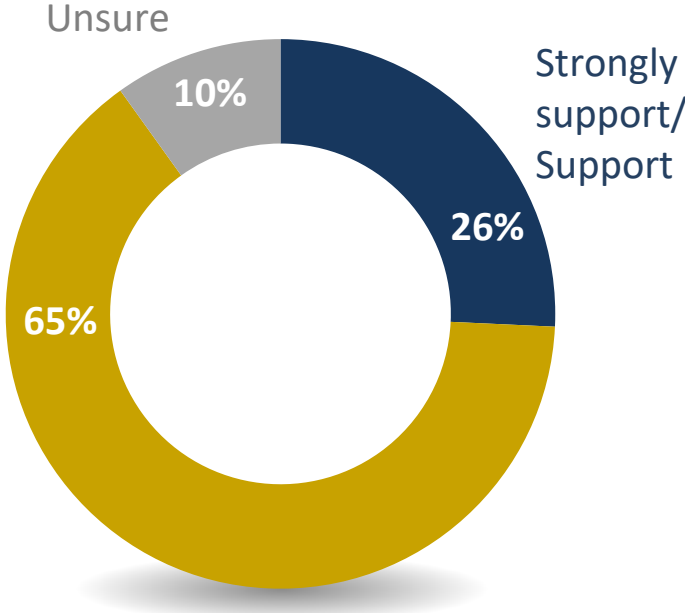
Nearly two-thirds of Americans oppose abortion if the child will be born with Down Syndrome.



Half of those who identify as pro-choice (50%), oppose aborting a child based on the expectation that the baby will be born with Down Syndrome.

Americans

Oppose/Strongly oppose



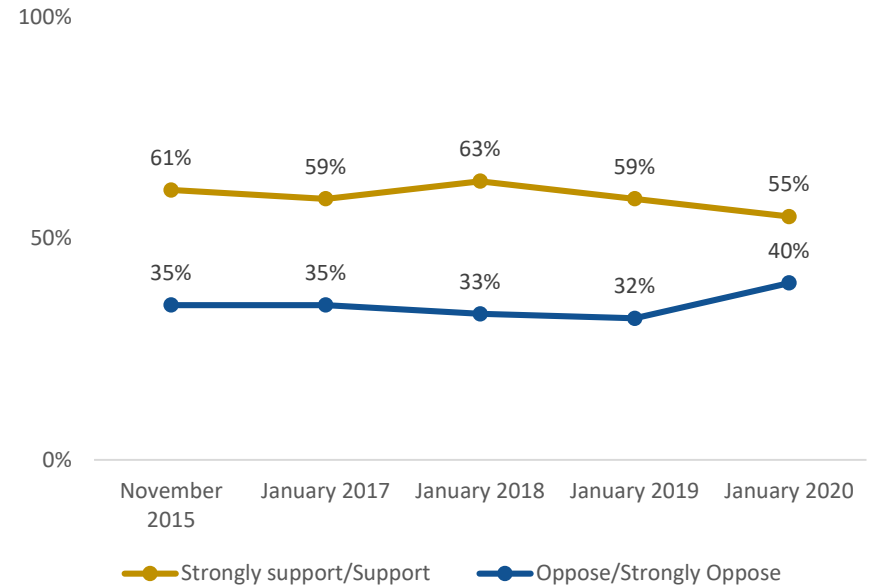
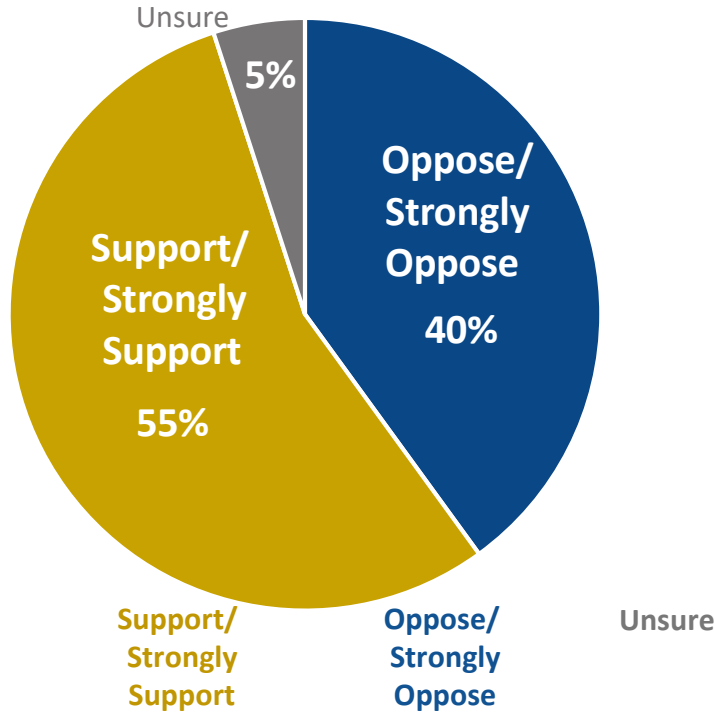
	Pro-life	Pro-choice
Strongly support/Support	8%	39%
Oppose/Strongly oppose	85%	50%
Unsure	6%	10%

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

A majority of Americans want to ban abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy.



Please tell me if you strongly support, support, oppose, or strongly oppose banning abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy except to save the life of the mother.



	Support/ Strongly Support	Oppose/ Strongly Oppose	Unsure
Pro-Life	69%	26%	5%
Pro-Choice	45%	52%	4%
Democrat	43%	52%	5%
Republican	64%	32%	4%
Independent	55%	38%	7%

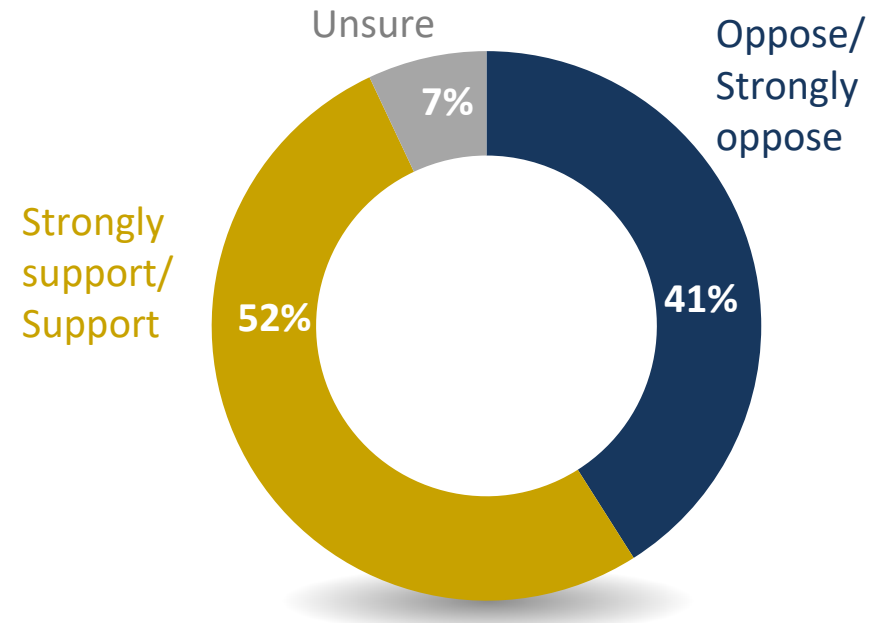
Over half of Americans (55%) support a ban on abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy except to save the life of the mother.

Over half of Americans support requiring a woman to have an ultrasound at least 24 hours before the procedure.



Nearly four in ten of those who identify as pro-choice (38%), support an ultrasound at least 24 hours before an abortion procedure.

Americans



	Pro-life	Pro-choice
Strongly support/Support	72%	38%
Oppose/Strongly oppose	20%	57%
Unsure	8%	5%

Please tell me if you strongly support, support, oppose, or strongly oppose requiring a woman to have an ultrasound at least 24 hours before the procedure.

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 continental United States were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. The questions were available in English or Spanish.
- 1,237 adults were interviewed from January 7th through the 12th, 2020.
- Mobile telephone numbers were randomly selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation from Dynata (formerly Survey Sampling International). 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. Assistance was provided by Luce Research for data collection. 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 ± 3.7 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.

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The Knights of Columbus is one of the nation's premiere volunteer and charitable organizations. In 2018, Knights worldwide donated more than 76 million hours, and more than \$185 million to charitable causes in communities throughout the Americas, as well 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.



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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 and *The Wall Street Journal* 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.