

Abortion in America

Trends Over Time

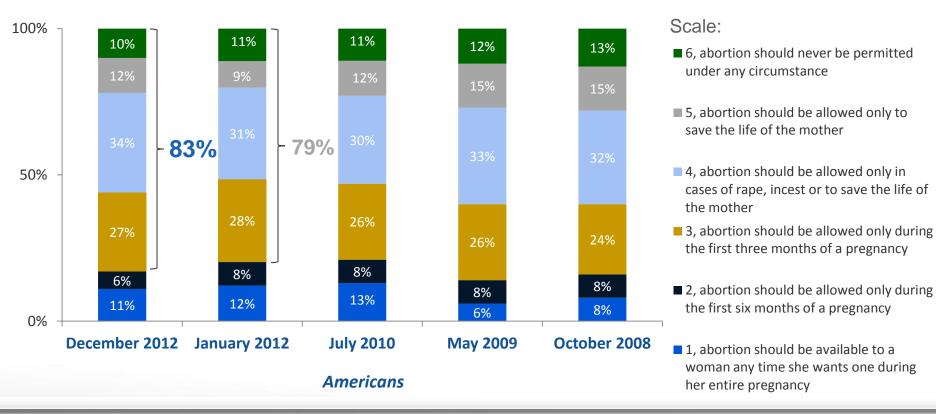
December 2012



Position on Abortion Over Time

Most Americans, 83%, believe abortion should be significantly restricted. This includes 56% 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.

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

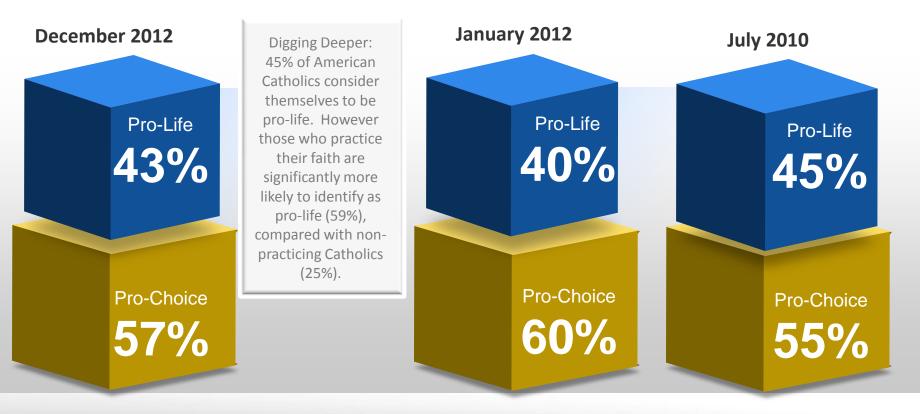






When asked to identify as either pro-life or pro-choice, over four in ten Americans consider themselves pro-life. However, even 70% of those who identify as pro-choice want some restrictions. In fact, 27% of pro-choice Americans want, at most, to allow abortion only in cases of rape, incest, to save the life of the mother, or think abortion should never be permitted.

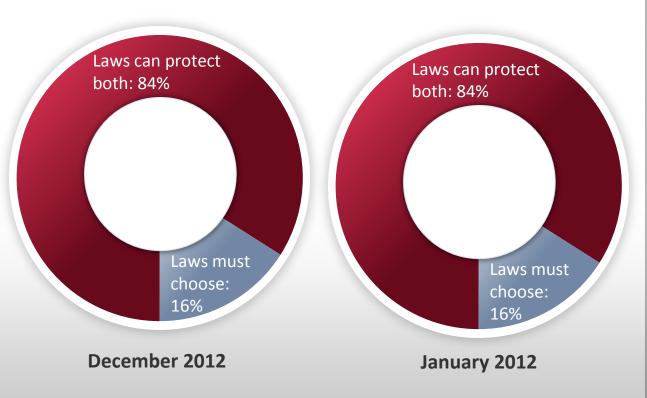
On the issue of abortion, do you consider yourself pro-life or pro-choice?



Protection for All



Which statement comes closer to your view? One, it is possible to have laws that 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?



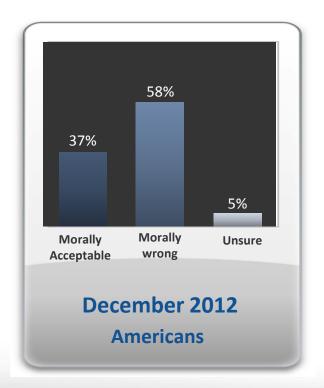
Most Americans, 84%, remain unchanged in their belief that it is possible to create legislation that is able to protect both the health and well-being of a woman as well as the life of the unborn. Even 77% of pro-choice supporters believe laws can protect both.





A majority of Americans, 58%, regardless of whether they think abortion should be legal, believe abortion is morally wrong.

Regardless of whether or not you think it should be legal, do you believe that, in general, abortion is:



Digging Deeper: 61% of American Catholics believe abortion is morally wrong. However those who practice their faith are significantly more likely to hold this view (73%), compared with non-practicing Catholics (44%).

How the Survey was Conducted



- This study was done in partnership with The Knights of Columbus and conducted by The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion.
- This report details the findings from a telephone survey of 1,246 adults residing in the continental United States. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. To increase coverage, this landline sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers. The two samples were then combined and balanced to reflect the 2010 census results for age, gender, income, race, and region.
- Reports for adults have a margin of error within +/- 2.8 percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.
- Interviews were conducted from December 4, 2012 through December 6, 2012.

Contact Information





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1 Columbus Plaza New Haven, CT 06510 (203) 752-4253 The Knights of Columbus is one of the nation's premiere volunteer and charitable organizations. Last year, Knights worldwide donated nearly 69 million hours, and more than \$150 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 127 years, and is the world's largest Catholic service organization.



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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.