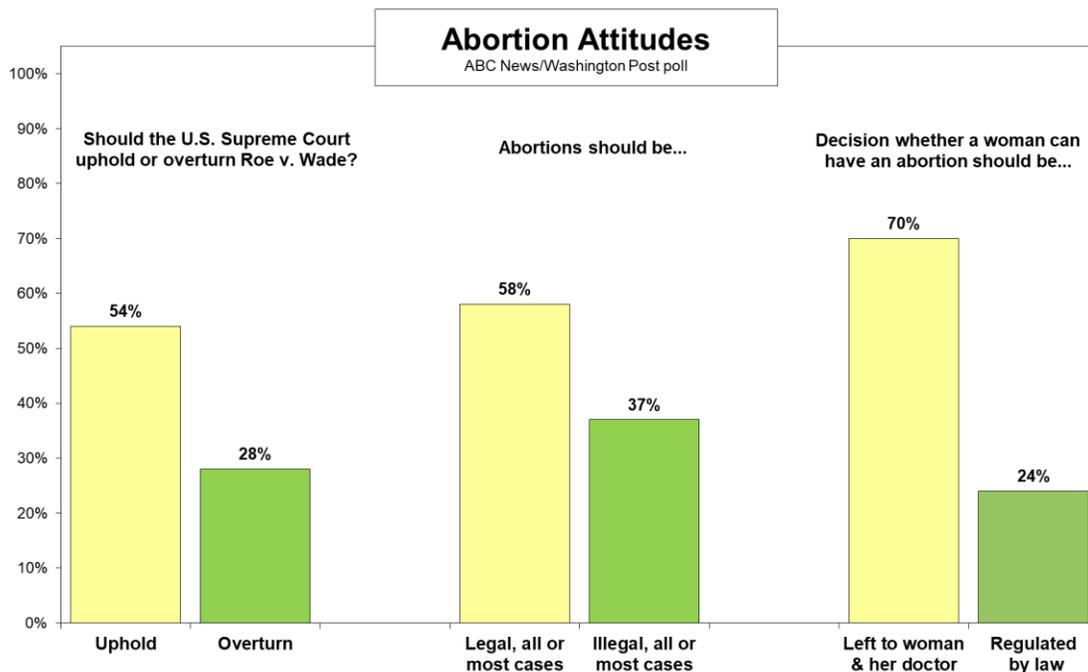


## With Supreme Court Poised to Reverse Roe, Most Americans Support Abortion Rights

Amid reports of a draft Supreme Court opinion that would overturn *Roe v. Wade*, an ABC News/Washington Post poll finds that majorities of Americans support upholding *Roe*, say abortion should be legal in all or most cases and – by a wide margin – see abortion as a decision to be made by a woman and her doctor, not by lawmakers.

The national survey was completed last week, in advance of a report by [Politico](#) last night that a proposed first draft of an opinion, apparently by Justice Samuel Alito, called for reversing *Roe* in a case challenging Mississippi's ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.



In this poll, by contrast, 57 percent of Americans oppose a ban after 15 weeks; 58 percent say abortion should be legal in all or most cases; and 54 percent say the court should uphold *Roe*, compared with 28 percent who say the ruling should be overturned.

Support for upholding *Roe* is 6 percentage points lower than it was in an ABC/Post poll last November. Preference for reversing it is essentially unchanged; instead, more in this survey express no opinion, 18 percent.

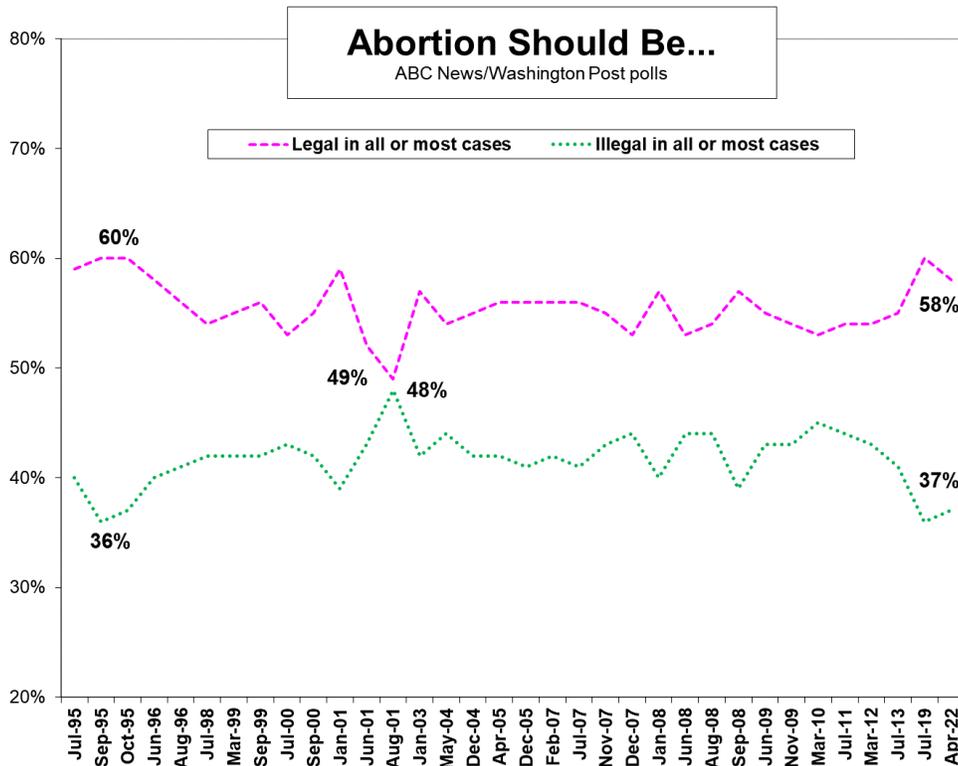
Moving the question outside a legal framework, seven in 10 say the decision whether or not a woman can have an abortion should be left to the woman and her doctor; this also is down from

November, by 5 points. Twenty-four percent instead say abortion should be regulated by law. Even among those who say abortion should be illegal in all or most cases, a substantial share, 41 percent, also say it should be left to the woman and her doctor.

Trends are not consistent. While support for abortion rights is down slightly in the two items noted above, it's higher than previously (up 12 points from 2011) “when the woman cannot afford to have a child,” and unchanged in other measures.

**LEGAL OR ILLEGAL?** – Basic views on whether or not abortion should be legal have been more or less stable in polling back 27 years. The 58 percent who say it should be legal in all or most cases is very near the average, 56 percent, in nearly three dozen ABC/Post polls since mid-1995, ranging from 49 to 60 percent. This includes 26 percent who now say it should be legal in all cases, exceeding the average, 21 percent; and 33 percent who say it should be legal in most cases.

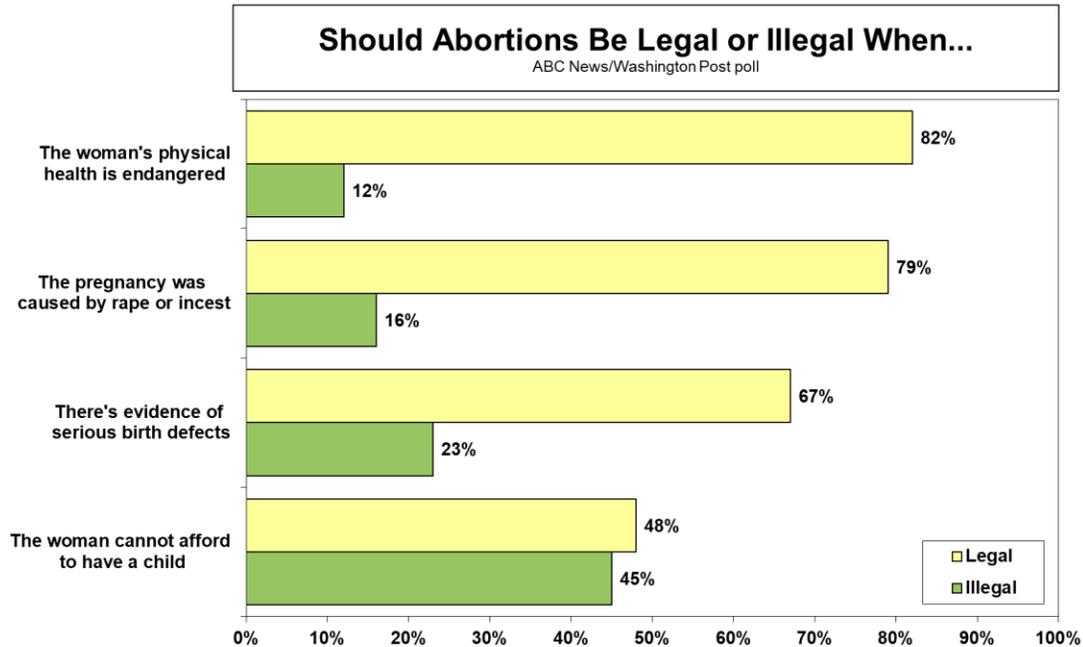
Thirty-seven percent in this poll, produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#), instead say abortion should be illegal in most cases (21 percent) or all cases (16 percent). That's less than the long-term average, 42 percent, with a range from 36 to 48 percent. (Five percent have no opinion on this question.)



**CIRCUMSTANCES** – Considering specific circumstances, substantial majorities say abortion should be legal when the woman’s physical health is endangered (82 percent), when the

pregnancy was caused by rape or incest (79 percent) and when there's evidence of serious birth defects (67 percent).

The public divides on another circumstance: When the woman cannot afford to have a child, 48 percent say abortion should be legal, 45 percent illegal. Support for legal abortion in this case is its highest in six polls dating to 1996.



On another front, the poll finds most Americans unaware of new abortion restrictions in their states: In the 22 states that have passed abortion restrictions since 2020, just 30 percent of residents are aware that this has occurred; more, 44 percent, think not, with 26 percent unsure. An open question is how people who favor legal abortion may react if and when they learn their state has taken a different tack.

STATE LAWS – Regarding state-level action, 36 percent say laws on access to abortion in their state should be left as they are now and 33 percent say access to abortion should be easier than it is now. Fewer, 25 percent, say abortion access should be harder than it is currently.

Support for greater restrictions is muted, 30 percent, even in the 26 states that are reported by the [Guttmacher Institute](#) as likely to ban legal abortion if Roe v. Wade were overturned. This shrinks to 21 percent in other states.

	Own state should make abortions		
	Harder to get	Easier to get	No change
All states	25%	33	36
States likely to ban	30	30	34
Other states	21	37	37

Testing two specific restrictions, almost identical numbers say they'd oppose a law in their state making abortions legal only in the first six weeks of pregnancy (58 percent) or, as mentioned, only in the first 15 weeks (57 percent); 36 percent alike support each prospect. At least 12 states have passed six-week bans (most of which have been struck down or blocked by the courts) and five states have passed 15-week bans, with partial passage in a sixth.

**GROUPS** – Sixty-two percent of women and 55 percent of men say abortion should be legal in all or most cases. The gap widens on the shares who say it should be legal in all cases – 33 percent of women, compared with 19 percent of men, a wider gap than typical.

Support for legal abortion is highest among liberals (82 percent), people with no religious preference (80 percent), Democrats (79 percent), those with post-graduate degrees (74 percent), and Northeasterners (72 percent). It's lowest among strong conservatives (20 percent), evangelical Protestants (28 percent) and Republicans (33 percent).

As noted, Americans by 54-28 percent say the Supreme Court should uphold Roe; it's a similar 51-32 percent in the states where abortion bans or severe restrictions are anticipated if the ruling were overturned. Among groups, support for overturning Roe reaches a slim majority only among conservatives, 52 percent. Perhaps surprisingly, support for overturning the precedent reaches only 44 percent among Republicans and 45 percent among evangelical Protestants, two of the groups most apt to say abortion should be illegal.

**METHODOLOGY** – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone April 24-28, 2022, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,004 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 percentage points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 29-25-40 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#), with sampling and data collection by Abt Associates. See details on the survey's methodology [here](#).

Analysis by Christine Filer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com. Join our [mailing list](#) to get updates on all new poll releases.

Media contacts: [Van Scott](#) (212-456-7243) or [Caragh Fisher](#) (212-456-3437).

Full results follow.

1-9, 17-22 previously released. \*= less than 0.5 percent

10. Do you think abortion should be legal in all cases, legal in most cases, illegal in most cases or illegal in all cases?

	----- Legal -----			----- Illegal -----			
	NET	All cases	Most cases	NET	Most cases	All cases	No opinion
4/28/22	58	26	33	37	21	16	5
7/1/19	60	27	33	36	22	14	4
7/21/13	55	20	35	41	26	15	3

3/10/12	54	21	33	43	25	17	3	
7/17/11	54	19	35	44	30	15	2	
3/26/10	53	17	35	45	27	18	2	
11/23/09	54	19	35	43	28	16	2	
6/21/09	55	20	35	43	26	17	2	
9/7/08	RV	57	19	38	39	24	15	4
8/22/08	54	22	32	44	26	18	3	
6/15/08	53	18	35	44	28	16	3	
1/12/08	57	21	36	40	25	15	3	
12/9/07	53	18	35	44	27	17	3	
11/1/07	55	19	36	43	27	16	2	
7/21/07	56	23	34	41	28	14	2	
2/25/07	56	16	39	42	31	12	2	
12/18/05	56	17	40	41	27	13	3	
4/24/05	56	20	36	42	27	14	3	
12/19/04	55	21	34	42	25	17	3	
5/23/04	54	23	31	44	23	20	2	
1/20/03	57	23	34	42	25	17	2	
8/12/01	49	22	27	48	28	20	3	
6/24/01	52	22	31	43	23	20	4	
1/15/01	59	21	38	39	25	14	1	
9/6/00	RV	55	20	35	42	25	16	3
7/23/00	53	20	33	43	26	17	4	
9/2/99	56	20	37	42	26	15	2	
3/14/99	55	21	34	42	27	15	3	
7/12/98	54	19	35	42	29	13	4	
8/5/96	56	22	34	41	27	14	3	
6/30/96	58	24	34	40	25	14	2	
10/1/95	60	26	35	37	25	12	3	
9/21/95	60	24	36	36	25	11	4	
7/17/95	59	27	32	40	26	14	1	

11. As you may know, abortion law in the United States is based on the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court ruling known as Roe v. Wade. Do you think the Supreme Court should (uphold) Roe v. Wade or (overturn) it?

	Uphold	Overturn	No opinion	
4/28/22	54	28	18	
11/10/21	60	27	12	
10/9/20	RV	62	24	14

Compare to:

The Supreme Court legalized abortion 37 years ago in the ruling known as Roe versus Wade. If that case came before the court again, would you want [ITEM] to vote to (uphold) Roe versus Wade, or vote to (overturn) it?

	Uphold	Overturn	No opinion
Next justice, 4/25/10	59	38	3
Sotomayor, 6/21/09	60	34	6
Alito, 12/18/05	61	35	4
Alito, 11/2/05	64	31	5
Roberts, 8/28/05	60	33	7
Roberts, 7/21/05	65	32	4

12. Should your state make it (easier) for women to have access to abortion, make it (harder) for women to have access to abortion, or leave the law on women's access to abortion as it is now?

	Easier	Harder	Leave as it is now	No opinion
4/28/22	33	25	36	6

7/1/19            32            24            41            4

Compare to: Would you like to see the Supreme Court (make it easier to get an abortion than it is now), (make it harder to get an abortion than it is now), or (leave the ability to get an abortion the same as it is now)?

	Easier	Harder	Same	No opinion
8/29/18	21	30	45	4
12/18/05	11	42	45	2
8/28/05	9	42	47	2

Generally speaking, do you think it should be made easier or harder for a woman to obtain a legal abortion?

	Easier	Harder	Same (vol.)	No opinion
3/31/92*	39	47	8	7

\* Washington Post

13. As far as you are aware, has your state passed any laws recently making it harder to get an abortion, or not?

	Has passed laws	Has not passed laws	No opinion
4/28/22	15	62	24

14. Would you support or oppose a law in your state making abortions legal ONLY in the first [ITEM] weeks of pregnancy?

4/28/22 Summary table

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
a. six	36	58	6
b. 15	36	57	8

\*half sample asked item a, other half asked b

15. Do you think abortions should be legal or illegal [ITEM]?

4/28/22 - Summary table

	Legal	Illegal	No opinion
a. when the woman's physical health is endangered	82	12	6
b. when there's evidence of serious birth defects	67	23	10
c. when the pregnancy was caused by rape or incest	79	16	5
d. when the woman cannot afford to have a child	48	45	7

Trend:

a. when the woman's physical health is endangered

	Legal	Illegal	Depends (vol.)	No opinion
4/28/22	82	12	NA	6
8/23/12*	83	12	2	2
6/12/11**	82	15	1	2
1/20/03	82	14	NA	4
1/12/03**	77	17	4	2
1/15/01	85	14	NA	1
4/2/00**	81	15	2	2

1/13/98	79	19	NA	2
7/28/96**	82	11	6	2

\*CNN

\*\*Gallup or Gallup/USA Today

b. No trend.

c. when the pregnancy was caused by rape or incest

	Legal	Illegal	Depends (vol.)	No opinion
4/28/22	79	16	NA	5
9/13/21*	83	12		5
5/20/19*	82	13		6
8/25/15*	78	17	"	5
8/16/15**	80	18	1	1
8/23/12**	83	14	1	3
6/12/11***	75	22	1	2
10/24/07**** RV	70	21	6	3
3/1/06**** RV	74	21	NA	6
11/11/05*****	78	15		7
1/20/03	81	17	"	2
1/12/03***	76	19	2	3
1/15/01	83	16	NA	2
4/2/00***	78	19	1	2
1/13/98	78	20	NA	2
7/28/96***	77	18	3	2
4/13/89***	81	16	NA	3

\*Quinnipiac University

\*\*CNN

\*\*\*Gallup, Gallup/CNN/USA Today, Gallup/Newsweek

\*\*\*\*Fox News

\*\*\*\*\*Newsweek

d. when the woman cannot afford to have a child

	Legal	Illegal	Depends (vol.)	No opinion
4/28/22	48	45	NA	7
6/12/11*	36	61	1	2
11/11/05**	36	56	NA	8
1/12/03	35	61	2	2
4/2/00	34	62	2	2
7/28/96	32	62	3	3

\*6/12/11, 1/12/03 and previous: Gallup, Gallup/USA Today and CNN/USA Today/Gallup  
 "women or family cannot afford to raise the child"

\*\*Newsweek: "when the woman cannot afford to raise the child"

16. Overall, do you think the decision whether or not a woman can have an abortion should be (regulated by law) or should be (left to the woman and her doctor)?

	Regulated by law	Left to the woman and her doctor	No opinion
4/28/22	24	70	6
11/10/21	20	75	5

\*\*\* END \*\*\*