

ABORTION

Canadians Uphold Abortion Policy, Split on Health Care System's Role

Younger, wealthier and university-educated Canadians would not limit abortion availability.

[VANCOUVER – Jun. 20, 2008] – Many Canadians believe abortion should remain legal under any circumstances, but the public is divided on whether the health care system should continue to fund the procedure whenever it is requested, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, Canadians were asked questions on their personal feelings about abortion, their views on the legality of the procedure, the role of the health care system, and parental consent for minors.

Almost half of respondents (46%) believe abortion should be permitted in all cases. Roughly two-in-five Canadians (19%) would subject abortion to greater restrictions than now, 22 per cent would allow the procedure only in cases such as rape, incest and to save the woman's life, and seven per cent would only permit abortion to save the woman's life.

Respondents in Quebec (50%) and British Columbia (50%)—as well as men (48%) and Canadians aged 18-34 (53%)—are in favour of allowing abortion in all cases. Support for this directive is higher among respondents living in households earning \$100,000 a year or more (61%) and those with a university degree (69%).

Half of Canadians (49%) believe abortion should be legal under any circumstances. Conversely, 42 per cent of respondents want the procedure to be legal only under certain circumstances, while five per cent

KEY FINDINGS

- **46% believe abortion should be permitted in all cases**
- **49% think abortion should be legal under any circumstances**
- **43% say the health care system should fund abortions whenever they are requested**
- **53% want women under the age of 18 to have parental consent in order to have an abortion**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From June 4 to June 5, 2008 Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,003 adult Canadians. The margin of error for the total sample is +/- 3.1 %, 19 times out of 20. 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 Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

would outlaw abortion altogether. Once again, younger, wealthier and university-educated respondents are more likely to uphold the legality of abortion.

A question on the role of the health care system provides an evident split, with 44 per cent of respondents calling for the health care system to only fund abortion in the event of medical emergencies, and 43 per cent stating that the procedure should be funded by the health care system whenever it is requested. Four per cent of respondents believe the health care system should play no role in funding abortion.

Residents of Manitoba and Saskatchewan and Canadians living in households earning less than \$50,000 a year are more likely to state that the health care system should only fund abortions in the event of medical emergencies.

A majority of Canadians (53%) agrees with women under the age of 18 requiring the consent of their parents or legal guardians in order to have an abortion. Respondents in British Columbia (45%) and Quebec (45%) are less likely to support this directive, along with university graduates (37%).

Abortion							
What is your personal feeling about abortion?							
	Region						
	National	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Abortion should be permitted in all cases	46%	50%	44%	28%	50%	47%	33%
Abortion should be permitted, but subject to greater restrictions than now	19%	19%	17%	21%	16%	22%	24%
Abortion should be permitted only in cases such as rape, incest and to save the woman's life	22%	16%	19%	32%	23%	21%	23%
Abortion should only be permitted to save the woman's life	7%	7%	8%	8%	6%	5%	13%
Not sure	6%	7%	11%	11%	4%	6%	6%

Abortion

What is your personal feeling about abortion?

	Gender		Age			Income			Education		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/ Tech school	Univ+
Abortion should be permitted in all cases	48%	44%	53%	44%	42%	37%	49%	61%	32%	41%	69%
Abortion should be permitted, but subject to greater restrictions than now	17%	21%	17%	18%	23%	21%	18%	15%	23%	22%	10%
Abortion should be permitted only in cases such as rape, incest and to save the woman's life	20%	24%	20%	22%	23%	28%	19%	10%	31%	22%	11%
Abortion should only be permitted to save the woman's life	8%	5%	4%	9%	6%	7%	5%	9%	7%	7%	6%
Not sure	7%	6%	7%	6%	6%	5%	9%	5%	7%	8%	3%

Abortion

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

	Region						
	National	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Abortion should be legal under any circumstances	49%	53%	52%	24%	50%	53%	40%
Abortion should be legal only under certain circumstances	42%	40%	40%	64%	41%	39%	49%
Abortion should be illegal in all circumstances	5%	3%	3%	7%	6%	6%	5%
Not sure	3%	4%	6%	4%	3%	2%	6%

Abortion

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

	Gender		Age			Income			Education		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/ Tech school	Univ+
Abortion should be legal under any circumstances	48%	50%	56%	46%	47%	41%	51%	61%	33%	49%	66%
Abortion should be legal only under certain circumstances	43%	42%	33%	46%	46%	48%	43%	32%	57%	41%	28%
Abortion should be illegal in all circumstances	6%	5%	7%	6%	4%	6%	5%	4%	5%	6%	5%
Not sure	2%	4%	4%	3%	3%	6%	1%	3%	4%	4%	1%

Abortion

In Canada, abortions are provided on request to Canadian citizens and permanent residents, and are funded by the health care system. Which of these statements comes closer to your own point of view?

	Region						
	National	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
The health care system should fund abortions whenever they are requested	43%	46%	48%	29%	49%	39%	38%
The health care system should only fund abortions in the event of medical emergencies	44%	40%	40%	53%	43%	47%	48%
The health care system should not fund abortions at all	4%	2%	6%	7%	4%	3%	3%
Not sure	8%	12%	6%	10%	5%	11%	11%

Abortion

In Canada, abortions are provided on request to Canadian citizens and permanent residents, and are funded by the health care system. Which of these statements comes closer to your own point of view?

	Gender		Age			Income			Education		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/ Tech school	Univ+
The health care system should fund abortions whenever they are requested	44%	42%	45%	41%	45%	37%	45%	60%	31%	42%	60%
The health care system should only fund abortions in the event of medical emergencies	44%	45%	45%	45%	43%	50%	42%	32%	55%	44%	33%
The health care system should not fund abortions at all	4%	4%	5%	3%	4%	2%	6%	3%	2%	6%	3%
Not sure	8%	9%	4%	11%	8%	11%	7%	5%	12%	8%	5%

Abortion

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?

	Region						
	National	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Yes	53%	45%	53%	61%	58%	45%	62%
No	36%	44%	34%	18%	31%	44%	31%
Not sure	12%	11%	13%	21%	11%	11%	8%

Abortion

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?

	Gender		Age			Income			Education		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/ Tech school	Univ+
Yes	53%	53%	48%	55%	54%	61%	47%	44%	61%	57%	37%
No	37%	35%	40%	34%	34%	28%	41%	42%	28%	32%	51%
Not sure	11%	12%	11%	11%	12%	11%	12%	14%	11%	11%	13%

Angus Reid Strategies is a full-service polling and market research firm which 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.

Angus Reid Strategies, along with its sister company, Vision Critical, is now the largest Canadian-owned market research enterprise. In addition to its four offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices San Francisco, New York and London, England. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Strategies polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum online panel (www.angusreidforum.com), which is recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a randomized, widespread invitation approach and a triple opt-in screening procedure. The panel is maintained through state-of-the-art sampling techniques and frequent verifications of personal identity, contact information, and demographic characteristics. This premier online survey platform presents respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses.

Over the last year, Angus Reid has covered five 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. <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=194>

More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF.WP.pdf>

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

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:
www.angusreidstrategies.com**