

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HEALTHCARE CONSUMERS: ABORTION

MARCH 2011



THOMSON REUTERS™

SURVEY OVERVIEW

Each year, the Thomson Reuters PULSE™ Healthcare Survey collects information about health behavior, attitudes and utilization from more than 100,000 U.S. households. This nationally representative telephone survey is conducted in 11 waves (each a standalone market research study) conducted sequentially throughout the year. Many healthcare topics are covered, including health status, insurance coverage, use of medical services, lifestyle, and current topics and issues. The survey is self-funded and the data it generates are used in Thomson Reuters' information products for healthcare professionals (particularly strategic planning and marketing managers in hospitals.)

The results depicted below represent responses from 3,013 survey participants interviewed from March 1-14, 2011. The survey questions, which address consumer attitudes towards abortion, were developed in conjunction with NPR. The margin of error is 1.8 percent.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The survey asked respondents about their attitudes towards abortion. Among those polled, the results were split fairly evenly: 51% said abortion should remain legal in all or most cases, while 48% said it should be illegal in all or most cases. Despite a slight majority who think abortion should remain legal, 59% of respondents said that they consider abortion to be “wrong” when asked to leave their views on legality aside. When screened for demographics, the results show statistically a significant trend toward greater acceptance of abortion among respondents with higher incomes and higher levels of education.

- The opinion that abortion should be legal in all or most cases increased as income and education levels rose. A similar correlation existed between those who considered abortion “wrong,” as a higher percentage of respondents who said they thought abortion was wrong tended to have lower incomes and degrees of schooling.
- 46% of respondents said they think U.S. abortion laws should be more strict, while 36% said they should remain the same and 18% feel the current laws should be relaxed.
- When asked if private health insurance plans should cover all or most of the cost of an abortion, a majority (53%) responded yes. This sentiment increased with income and education: 65% of those earning over \$100,000 a year and 65% of those with a college education or higher said private health insurance should cover abortion.
- 58% said that government-sponsored insurance plans should NOT cover abortion. This sentiment increased as income and education levels decreased: 66.1% of those earning less than \$25K and 66.2% of those with high school or lower education levels said government funds should not be used to cover abortion.



SURVEY DATA

Responses in **RED** are statistically significant.

QUESTION 1: Do you think abortion should be...?

- 1) Legal in all cases
- 2) Legal in most cases
- 3) Illegal in most cases
- 4) Illegal in all cases

	Legal all cases	Legal most cases	Illegal most cases	Illegal all cases
Age				
<35	15.2%	27.7%	31.6%	25.5%
35 - 64	22.8%	33.8%	26.8%	16.6%
65+	16.7%	29.1%	32.5%	21.6%
Total	20.2%	31.7%	28.9%	19.2%
Income				
< \$25k	15.5%	27.8%	28.1%	28.6%
\$25k - \$49.9k	17.0%	30.5%	31.7%	20.8%
\$50k - \$99.9k	24.2%	37.6%	26.0%	12.1%
\$100k+	27.5%	31.4%	30.9%	10.2%
Total	20.2%	31.7%	28.9%	19.2%
Education				
High School or Less	13.3%	29.7%	31.0%	26.0%
Some College	20.3%	30.2%	27.8%	21.7%
College+	25.2%	34.4%	28.1%	12.2%
Total	20.2%	31.7%	28.9%	19.2%

QUESTION 2: Regardless of whether you think abortion should be allowed or not, do you personally believe having an abortion is wrong?

	Yes	No
Age		
<35	65.5%	34.5%
35 - 64	57.0%	43.0%
65+	60.9%	39.1%
Total	59.3%	40.7%
Income		
< \$25k	67.9%	32.1%
\$25k - \$49.9k	63.3%	36.7%
\$50k - \$99.9k	51.6%	48.4%
\$100k+	50.0%	50.0%
Total	59.3%	40.7%
Education		
High School or Less	65.6%	34.4%
Some College	61.0%	39.0%
College+	53.2%	46.8%
Total	59.3%	40.7%



QUESTION 3: Would you like to see abortion laws in this country made...?

1. More strict
2. Less strict
3. Remain the same

	More Strict	Less Strict	Remain the Same
Age			
<35	54.6%	12.5%	32.9%
35 - 64	42.0%	20.4%	37.6%
65+	50.2%	14.7%	35.1%
Total	45.9%	17.8%	36.3%
Income			
< \$25k	57.6%	13.7%	28.7%
\$25k - \$49.9k	46.1%	17.6%	36.3%
\$50k - \$99.9k	40.8%	19.5%	39.7%
\$100k+	33.3%	23.0%	43.7%
Total	45.9%	17.8%	36.3%
Education			
High School or Less	53.9%	16.1%	30.0%
Some College	50.2%	16.0%	33.8%
College+	36.5%	20.6%	42.9%
Total	45.9%	17.8%	36.3%

QUESTION 4: Now thinking about women who are covered by private health insurance plans that are paid for by private individuals or employers with no money from the government involved. Do you think private insurance plans should cover some or all of the costs of an abortion, or do you think that women who want an abortion should have to pay the complete costs of that abortion out of their own pockets?

1. Plans cover some or all
2. Woman pay all costs

	Plans cover some/all	Women pay all costs
Age		
<35	48.2%	51.8%
35 - 64	55.6%	44.4%
65+	46.5%	53.5%
Total	52.5%	47.5%
Income		
< \$25k	39.6%	60.4%
\$25k - \$49.9k	47.5%	52.5%
\$50k - \$99.9k	65.0%	35.0%
\$100k+	65.3%	34.7%
Total	52.5%	47.5%
Education		
High School or Less	40.6%	59.4%
Some College	48.4%	51.6%
College+	64.5%	35.5%
Total	52.5%	47.5%



QUESTION 5: Say someone buys private health insurance using government assistance to help pay for it. Do you think insurance sold that way should or should not be allowed to include coverage for abortions?

	Yes	No
Age		
<35	35.5%	64.5%
35 - 64	45.7%	54.3%
65+	36.6%	63.4%
Total	42.0%	58.0%
Income		
< \$25k	33.9%	66.1%
\$25k - \$49.9k	38.6%	61.4%
\$50k - \$99.9k	50.0%	50.0%
\$100k+	51.0%	49.0%
Total	42.0%	58.0%
Education		
High School or Less	33.8%	66.2%
Some College	37.5%	62.5%
College+	51.5%	48.5%
Total	42.0%	58.0%

