

To Abort or Not to Abort, That is the Question

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ABSTRACT

In the midst of a very heated political atmosphere, there are many issues that have surfaced regarding the views of abortion. Over the past 48 years the CDC has reported over 45 million abortions in the United States alone. While there are many differing opinions on the topic, this research aims to find out how the opinions of the public relate to the opinions of healthcare professionals as well as that of lawmakers. There are two main arguments that are currently being debated.

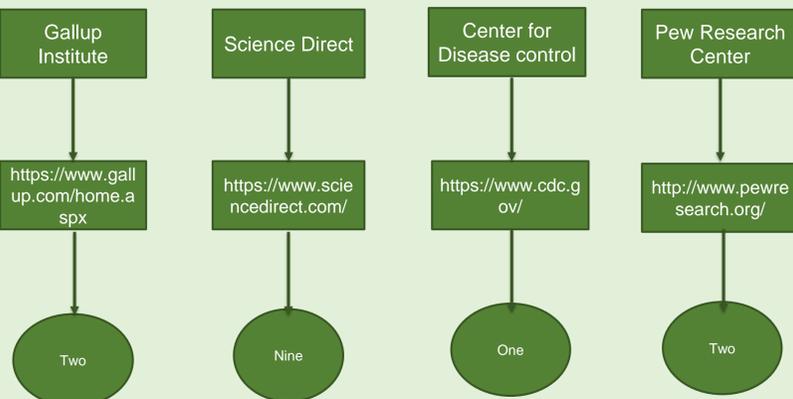
Many pro abortionists believe that women have a right to make decisions about their own body and that the decision to have an abortion is theirs alone to make. On the other hand, the abortion opposers believe that doctors should not be obligated to perform operations that they do not morally agree with. The purpose of our research is to evaluate current literature regarding the opinions of the public, medical professionals, and lawmakers.

OBJECTIVE

To analyze the arguments of abortion supporters and opposers and the different stakeholders that may play a role in this issue.

METHODOLOGY

Databases



DISCUSSION

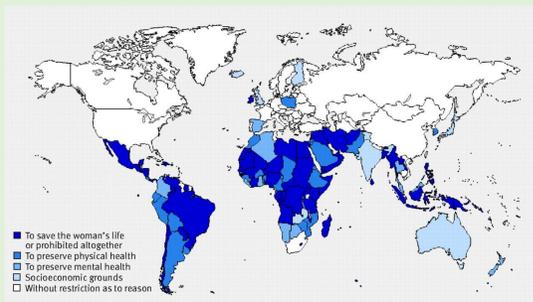


Figure 1. Abortion laws around the world (Brown, 2007). The laws of the areas have a deep influence on the opinions of the public.

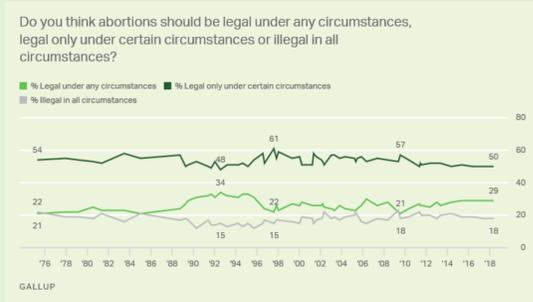


Figure 3. Abortion (The Gallup Institute). Current American public views of abortion as they correspond to the statements listed above the graph. Many of the opinions lie on a spectrum between being anti abortion and pro abortion beliefs.

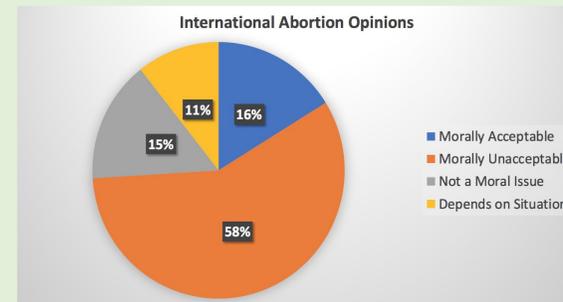


Figure 2. International Abortion Opinions (Pew Research Center, 2013). This chart represents the opinions of the public on an international scale as they relate to the statements shown in the key. Most of the public thinks that abortion is morally unacceptable.

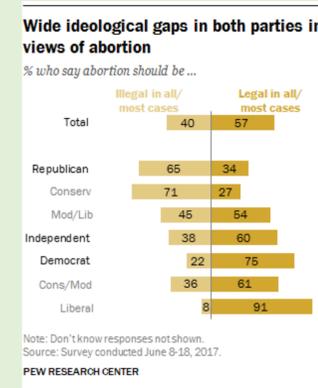


Figure 4. 5 Facts About Abortion (Pew Research Center, 2017). Due to the influence that the public has on the representatives elected, it is important to see how each party views abortion. It can be those views that influence who gets elected and what laws are made.

CONCLUSIONS

- Of 1,154 Obstetricians or Gynecologists surveyed, 97% had encountered patients seeking abortions and 14% said they were willing to provide them (Curlin 2011 et al.).
- On an international scale, 16% of the public said that abortion was acceptable, 11% said that it depends on the situation, 15% said that its not a moral issue and 58% said that it is morally unacceptable.
- The United States public opinion indicates that 50% think that it should be legal only under certain circumstances, 29% said that it should be legal under any circumstance and 18% said that it should be illegal in all circumstances.
- From a political perspective, most people believe that abortion should be legal in all or most cases. It is important to remember that public officials are elected by the public voters that pertain to these parties, and it is those officials that make laws regarding abortion.
- After going through various articles, we have come to the conclusion that views on abortion reside on a spectrum with strong pro and strong anti views at each end.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the UVU Department of Biology for the support we received while making this poster. We would also like to thank Doctor Olga Kopp for her assistance.

CITED LITERATURE

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Stakeholders	Autonomy	Beneficence	Justice
Abortion Supporters (Public)	The ability to choose to have an abortion.	Safe abortions supervised by healthcare professionals.	Women maintain rights over their own body. Freedom to make decisions.
Abortion Opposition (Public)	The rights of the fetus are protected.	Defending the right to human life of the fetus.	The right to maintain their morals and values.
Medical Professionals	Whether or not to perform abortions based on their personal values.	The doctor has the freedom to take the patients best interest in mind.	Being able to provide treatment to the public while maintaining their values.
Law Makers	To decide which laws should be established.	To maintain the order in society.	Give a voice to all the constituents.

Table 1. Ethical matrix for Abortion stakeholders. Description of ethical theories for stakeholders regarding their opinions based on principlism (autonomy, beneficence, and justice).