

Table 2.121

Attitudes toward the legality of abortion

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Do you think abortions should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?"

	Always legal	Legal under certain circumstances	Never legal
National	25%	58%	15%
Sex			
Male	24	61	13
Female	27	54	16
Race			
White	26	58	14
Black	20	57	20
Nonwhite ^a	23	55	19
Age			
18 to 29 years	29	53	18
30 to 49 years	27	59	12
50 to 64 years	26	54	16
65 years and older	17	63	18
Education			
College post graduate	35	52	11
College graduate	34	57	7
Some college	23	61	13
No college	21	58	19
Income			
\$75,000 and over	31	59	9
\$50,000 and over ^b	34	57	7
\$30,000 to \$49,999	26	57	16
\$20,000 to \$29,999	29	58	12
Under \$20,000	16	59	22
Community			
Urban area	32	56	9
Suburban area	27	55	16
Rural area	16	63	19
Region			
East	32	50	16
Midwest	23	60	15
South	25	58	15
West	21	64	12
Politics			
Republican	19	58	21
Democrat	28	60	9
Independent	28	55	15

Note: The "no opinion" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aIncludes black respondents.

^bIncludes \$75,000 and over category.

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 371 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, August 1996), p. 33. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.