

U.S. Public Opinion on Abortion Remains Largely Unchanged Three Years After *Roe v. Wade* Reversal

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Three years after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, public opinion on abortion in the United States has remained broadly consistent, with a majority of Americans continuing to support legal access to abortion services in some form. Despite significant legislative

changes across several states, the broader national sentiment reflects a preference for individual choice over government restriction.

According to a recent survey conducted by The Associated Press–NORC Center for Public Affairs Research (AP-NORC), 64% of U.S. adults say abortion should be legal in most or all cases in a July 10–14, 2025, AP–NORC poll. That level of support remains nearly identical to AP–NORC poll results from June 2022 and 2023, following the Dobbs decision, which removed the federal protection for abortion rights and allowed individual states to set their policies. 36% of adults say abortion should be illegal in most or all cases, while 9% say it should be banned entirely.

The AP-NORC (Associated Press National Opinion Research Center) poll highlights key generational and political divides. Democrats overwhelmingly favor legal abortion access, while Republicans are more divided, with a noticeable share supporting limited or full access. Younger adults continue to show stronger support for legal abortion than older groups, consistent with previous polling.

Since the Dobbs ruling, 12 states have enacted near-total abortion bans, and four more prohibit abortion after about six weeks, highlighting a sharp divergence in state policy. Some states have enacted near-total bans, while others have moved to enshrine abortion access into law. These changes have had a tangible impact on healthcare providers and patients, yet the underlying public opinion has not shifted significantly, indicating that legal restrictions have not necessarily aligned with popular consensus.

Melissa Bell, a senior researcher involved with the poll, noted, “What we see is that most Americans continue to support abortion rights to some extent, even in states with restrictive laws.” This disconnect between legislation and public sentiment may play a role in upcoming elections, particularly at the state level, where ballot measures related to abortion are gaining traction.

Moreover, the data shows that even among those who identify as conservative, many favor exceptions for cases of rape, incest, or risks to the mother’s health. This nuance often gets lost in broader political debates but underscores the complexity of voter opinions on this deeply personal issue.

As the national conversation continues, it’s clear that abortion remains a defining issue in American politics and culture. Despite the legal shifts, the core of public opinion – favoring

access with some limitations has remained largely steady. The AP-NORC poll serves as a reminder that political outcomes do not always mirror the values held by the majority of Americans.