

ABORTION ISSUES POLL January 2017

- CLIENT:** Abortion Law Reform Association of New Zealand
- POLL DATES:** Sun 22 to Mon 30 January 2017. The median response was collected on Thu 26 January 2017.
- TARGET POPULATION:** Eligible New Zealand voters.
- SAMPLE POPULATION:** Eligible New Zealand voters who are contactable on a landline.
- SAMPLE SIZE:** 1,000 respondents agreed to participate.
- SAMPLE SELECTION:** A random selection of 15,000 nationwide phone numbers.
- WEIGHTING:** The results are weighted to reflect the overall voting adult population in terms of gender, age, and area.
- SAMPLE ERROR:** Based on this sample of 1,000 respondents, the maximum sampling error (for a result of 50%) is +/- 3.1%, at the 95% confidence level.
- CODE COMPLIANCE:** This poll was conducted in accordance with the New Zealand Political Polling Code, the Research Association New Zealand Code of Practice and the International Chamber of Commerce/European Society for Opinion and Market Research Code on Market and Social Research.



Executive Summary

- Only 14% of adults correctly estimated that around one in four women have had an abortion. 37% thought the prevalence rate was under 20% while 19% thought it was over 30%
- A majority of New Zealanders supported abortion being legal in all seven specific circumstances given to them.
- The net level of support (those saying legal less those saying illegal for each circumstance was:
 - Pregnant woman likely to die +72%
 - Foetus has no chance of survival +70%
 - Pregnant woman likely to be permanently harmed +70%
 - Pregnancy is a result of rape +65%
 - Pregnancy is a result of birth control failure +31%
 - Pregnant mother can't afford to have another child +27%
 - Pregnant woman doesn't want to be a mother +22%
- Men are less supportive of the legality of abortion where there is no physical harm to the health of the mother
- Over 60s are less supportive of the legality of abortion than other age groups
- There is little variation by area when it comes to views on abortion
- Pacific Island respondents were overall less supportive of the legality of abortion
- Green party voters were most supportive of the legality of abortion, followed by Labour voters then National voters and least supportive were NZ First voters

What percentage of women in New Zealand have had an abortion would you estimate? Is it under 10%, 10% to 19%, 20% to 29%, 30% to 39%, 40% to 59% or over 50%?

Abortion prevalence

		Count	Col %
Abortion prevalence	Under 10%	188	19%
	10% to 19%	179	18%
	20% to 29%	144	14%
	30% to 39%	92	9%
	40% to 49%	55	6%
	Over 50%	38	4%
	Unsure/Refuse	305	30%
	Total	1000	100%

Only 14% correctly estimated that 20% to 29% of New Zealand women have had an abortion. 37% thought the prevalence was less than this and 19% thought the prevalence was greater with 30% unsure.

Abortion prevalence BY Gender

		Gender	
		Female	Male
		Col %	Col %
Abortion prevalence	Under 10%	14%	25%
	10% to 19%	17%	19%
	20% to 29%	18%	10%
	30% to 39%	11%	7%
	40% to 49%	6%	5%
	Over 50%	5%	2%
	Unsure/Refuse	29%	32%
	Total	100%	100%

31% of women and 44% of men thought the prevalence rate was under 20%.

Abortion prevalence BY Age Group

		Age Group			
		18-30	31-45	46-60	61+
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Abortion prevalence	Under 10%	27%	21%	17%	15%
	10% to 19%	13%	22%	18%	17%
	20% to 29%	17%	15%	15%	11%
	30% to 39%	16%	9%	8%	7%
	40% to 49%	13%	5%	4%	4%
	Over 50%	4%	4%	4%	3%
	Unsure/Refuse	11%	23%	35%	42%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

I'm now going to read out a number of circumstances in which a woman might want an abortion. For each circumstance can you tell me whether or not you think an abortion should be legal or illegal.

- ***The pregnant woman is likely to die without an abortion***
- ***The pregnant woman's health is likely to be permanently harmed without an abortion***
- ***The foetus has no chance of survival***
- ***The pregnancy is a result of rape***
- ***The pregnancy is a result of birth control failure***
- ***The pregnant woman can't afford to have another child***
- ***The pregnant woman doesn't want to be a mother***

Pregnant woman is likely to die without an abortion + Pregnant woman’s health is likely to be permanently harmed without an abortion + Foetus has no chance of survival + Pregnancy is a result of rape + Pregnancy is a result of birth control failure + Pregnant woman can’t afford to have another child + Pregnant woman doesn’t want to be a mother

		Count	Col %
Pregnant woman is likely to die without an abortion	Legal	773	77%
	Illegal	46	5%
	Unsure/refuse	179	18%
Pregnant woman's health is likely to be permanently harmed without an abortion	Legal	756	76%
	Illegal	63	6%
	Unsure/refuse	180	18%
Foetus has no chance of survival	Legal	759	76%
	Illegal	63	6%
	Unsure/refuse	177	18%
Pregnancy is a result of rape	Legal	734	73%
	Illegal	82	8%
	Unsure/refuse	183	18%
Pregnancy is a result of birth control failure	Legal	548	55%
	Illegal	240	24%
	Unsure/refuse	211	21%
Pregnant woman can't afford to have another child	Legal	535	54%
	Illegal	267	27%
	Unsure/refuse	197	20%
Pregnant woman doesn't want to be a mother	Legal	505	51%
	Illegal	288	29%
	Unsure/refuse	206	21%

The level of support for abortion being legal in each situation is:

1. Pregnant woman likely to die 77%
2. Foetus has no chance of survival 76%
3. Pregnant woman likely to be permanently harmed 76%
4. Pregnancy is a result of rape 73%
5. Pregnancy is a result of birth control failure 55%
6. Pregnant mother can't afford to have another child 54%
7. Pregnant woman doesn't want to be a mother 51%

The level of support for abortion being illegal in each situation is:

1. Pregnant woman likely to die 5%
2. Foetus has no chance of survival 6%
3. Pregnant woman likely to be permanently harmed 6%
4. Pregnancy is a result of rape 8%
5. Pregnancy is a result of birth control failure 24%
6. Pregnant mother can't afford to have another child 27%
7. Pregnant woman doesn't want to be a mother 29%

The net level of support (those saying legal less those saying illegal) in each situation is:

1. Pregnant woman likely to die +72%
2. Foetus has no chance of survival +70%
3. Pregnant woman likely to be permanently harmed +70%
4. Pregnancy is a result of rape +65%
5. Pregnancy is a result of birth control failure +31%
6. Pregnant mother can't afford to have another child +27%
7. Pregnant woman doesn't want to be a mother +22%

Pregnant woman is likely to die without an abortion + Pregnant woman's health is likely to be permanently harmed without an abortion + Foetus has no chance of survival + Pregnancy is a result of rape + Pregnancy is a result of birth control failure + Pregnant woman can't afford to have another child + Pregnant woman doesn't want to be a mother BY Gender

		Gender	
		Female Col %	Male Col %
Pregnant woman is likely to die without an abortion	Legal	78%	77%
	Illegal	6%	3%
	Unsure/refuse	17%	19%
Pregnant woman's health is likely to be permanently harmed without an abortion	Legal	76%	75%
	Illegal	7%	6%
	Unsure/refuse	17%	20%
Foetus has no chance of survival	Legal	77%	75%
	Illegal	6%	6%
	Unsure/refuse	17%	19%
Pregnancy is a result of rape	Legal	76%	71%
	Illegal	7%	10%
	Unsure/refuse	17%	20%
Pregnancy is a result of birth control failure	Legal	59%	50%
	Illegal	23%	26%
	Unsure/refuse	19%	24%
Pregnant woman can't afford to have another child	Legal	58%	48%
	Illegal	25%	29%
	Unsure/refuse	17%	23%
Pregnant woman doesn't want to be a mother	Legal	53%	47%
	Illegal	28%	29%
	Unsure/refuse	18%	23%

Pregnant woman is likely to die without an abortion + Pregnant woman's health is likely to be permanently harmed without an abortion + Foetus has no chance of survival + Pregnancy is a result of rape + Pregnancy is a result of birth control failure + Pregnant woman can't afford to have another child + Pregnant woman doesn't want to be a mother BY Age Group

		Age Group			
		18-30	31-45	46-60	61+
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Pregnant woman is likely to die without an abortion	Legal	85%	78%	78%	73%
	Illegal	9%	4%	4%	4%
	Unsure/refuse	7%	18%	19%	23%
Pregnant woman's health is likely to be permanently harmed without an abortion	Legal	82%	76%	77%	71%
	Illegal	7%	6%	6%	6%
	Unsure/refuse	10%	18%	17%	23%
Foetus has no chance of survival	Legal	83%	77%	75%	71%
	Illegal	8%	6%	7%	5%
	Unsure/refuse	8%	16%	18%	24%
Pregnancy is a result of rape	Legal	76%	78%	75%	67%
	Illegal	9%	5%	6%	12%
	Unsure/refuse	15%	17%	19%	21%
Pregnancy is a result of birth control failure	Legal	60%	63%	58%	42%
	Illegal	27%	18%	20%	32%
	Unsure/refuse	13%	19%	23%	26%
Pregnant woman can't afford to have another child	Legal	61%	61%	55%	41%
	Illegal	26%	19%	26%	34%
	Unsure/refuse	14%	19%	19%	24%
Pregnant woman doesn't want to be a mother	Legal	61%	58%	53%	37%
	Illegal	27%	22%	26%	39%
	Unsure/refuse	12%	20%	22%	24%

Pregnant woman is likely to die without an abortion + Pregnant woman’s health is likely to be permanently harmed without an abortion + Foetus has no chance of survival + Pregnancy is a result of rape + Pregnancy is a result of birth control failure + Pregnant woman can’t afford to have another child + Pregnant woman doesn’t want to be a mother BY Urban Type

		Urban Type		
		Cities Col %	Towns Col %	Rural Col %
Pregnant woman is likely to die without an abortion	Legal	78%	77%	78%
	Illegal	4%	6%	4%
	Unsure/refuse	18%	17%	18%
Pregnant woman’s health is likely to be permanently harmed without an abortion	Legal	77%	74%	72%
	Illegal	5%	9%	7%
	Unsure/refuse	18%	16%	21%
Foetus has no chance of survival	Legal	77%	76%	73%
	Illegal	5%	9%	8%
	Unsure/refuse	18%	15%	19%
Pregnancy is a result of rape	Legal	74%	76%	70%
	Illegal	8%	6%	10%
	Unsure/refuse	18%	17%	20%
Pregnancy is a result of birth control failure	Legal	56%	52%	53%
	Illegal	24%	24%	26%
	Unsure/refuse	21%	24%	22%
Pregnant woman can’t afford to have another child	Legal	55%	53%	49%
	Illegal	26%	28%	31%
	Unsure/refuse	20%	19%	20%
Pregnant woman doesn’t want to be a mother	Legal	50%	48%	53%
	Illegal	29%	30%	25%
	Unsure/refuse	20%	21%	22%

Pregnant woman is likely to die without an abortion + Pregnant woman’s health is likely to be permanently harmed without an abortion + Foetus has no chance of survival + Pregnancy is a result of rape + Pregnancy is a result of birth control failure + Pregnant woman can’t afford to have another child + Pregnant woman doesn’t want to be a mother BY Deprivation Decile

		Deprivation Decile		
		Deciles 1 - 3 Col %	Deciles 4 - 7 Col %	Deciles 8 - 10 Col %
Pregnant woman is likely to die without an abortion	Legal	79%	78%	73%
	Illegal	5%	2%	9%
	Unsure/refuse	17%	19%	18%
Pregnant woman’s health is likely to be permanently harmed without an abortion	Legal	77%	76%	73%
	Illegal	4%	6%	12%
	Unsure/refuse	19%	18%	16%
Foetus has no chance of survival	Legal	78%	74%	76%
	Illegal	4%	7%	9%
	Unsure/refuse	18%	19%	15%
Pregnancy is a result of rape	Legal	75%	71%	75%
	Illegal	5%	9%	12%
	Unsure/refuse	19%	21%	12%
Pregnancy is a result of birth control failure	Legal	61%	53%	49%
	Illegal	18%	26%	32%
	Unsure/refuse	22%	22%	19%
Pregnant woman can’t afford to have another child	Legal	58%	49%	55%
	Illegal	23%	30%	28%
	Unsure/refuse	20%	21%	17%
Pregnant woman doesn’t want to be a mother	Legal	55%	47%	48%
	Illegal	23%	32%	33%
	Unsure/refuse	21%	21%	19%

Note that decile 1 – 3 means respondents who live in the least deprived areas. Deciles 8 to 10 means respondents who live in the most deprived areas.

Pregnant woman is likely to die without an abortion + Pregnant woman’s health is likely to be permanently harmed without an abortion + Foetus has no chance of survival + Pregnancy is a result of rape + Pregnancy is a result of birth control failure + Pregnant woman can’t afford to have another child + Pregnant woman doesn’t want to be a mother BY Children < 18

		Children < 18	
		Yes	No
		Col %	Col %
Pregnant woman is likely to die without an abortion	Legal	79%	77%
	Illegal	5%	5%
	Unsure/refuse	16%	18%
Pregnant woman’s health is likely to be permanently harmed without an abortion	Legal	77%	76%
	Illegal	8%	6%
	Unsure/refuse	15%	18%
Foetus has no chance of survival	Legal	79%	75%
	Illegal	7%	6%
	Unsure/refuse	13%	19%
Pregnancy is a result of rape	Legal	77%	73%
	Illegal	7%	9%
	Unsure/refuse	16%	19%
Pregnancy is a result of birth control failure	Legal	61%	53%
	Illegal	22%	25%
	Unsure/refuse	17%	22%
Pregnant woman can’t afford to have another child	Legal	59%	52%
	Illegal	25%	28%
	Unsure/refuse	16%	21%
Pregnant woman doesn’t want to be a mother	Legal	56%	49%
	Illegal	26%	30%
	Unsure/refuse	18%	21%

Those marked as yes currently have one or more children aged under 18.

Pregnant woman is likely to die without an abortion + Pregnant woman’s health is likely to be permanently harmed without an abortion + Foetus has no chance of survival + Pregnancy is a result of rape + Pregnancy is a result of birth control failure + Pregnant woman can’t afford to have another child + Pregnant woman doesn’t want to be a mother BY Ethnicity

		Ethnicity			
		European	Maori	Pacific	Asian
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Pregnant woman is likely to die without an abortion	Legal	78%	75%	78%	80%
	Illegal	4%	8%	0%	4%
	Unsure/refuse	18%	17%	22%	15%
Pregnant woman’s health is likely to be permanently harmed without an abortion	Legal	77%	72%	78%	70%
	Illegal	5%	11%	7%	15%
	Unsure/refuse	18%	17%	15%	15%
Foetus has no chance of survival	Legal	78%	70%	68%	70%
	Illegal	5%	11%	17%	15%
	Unsure/refuse	17%	19%	15%	15%
Pregnancy is a result of rape	Legal	75%	70%	55%	45%
	Illegal	8%	11%	30%	10%
	Unsure/refuse	17%	19%	15%	45%
Pregnancy is a result of birth control failure	Legal	56%	53%	16%	51%
	Illegal	23%	26%	69%	34%
	Unsure/refuse	21%	20%	15%	15%
Pregnant woman can’t afford to have another child	Legal	55%	53%	16%	51%
	Illegal	26%	27%	47%	34%
	Unsure/refuse	19%	21%	37%	15%
Pregnant woman doesn’t want to be a mother	Legal	51%	54%	32%	41%
	Illegal	29%	23%	47%	44%
	Unsure/refuse	20%	22%	21%	15%

Pregnant woman is likely to die without an abortion + Pregnant woman’s health is likely to be permanently harmed without an abortion + Foetus has no chance of survival + Pregnancy is a result of rape + Pregnancy is a result of birth control failure + Pregnant woman can’t afford to have another child + Pregnant woman doesn’t want to be a mother BY Probed Party Vote (All Voters)

		Probed Party Vote (All Voters)				
		National	Labour	NZ First	Green	Undecided
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Pregnant woman is likely to die without an abortion	Legal	78%	84%	59%	85%	70%
	Illegal	3%	2%	15%	5%	3%
	Unsure/refuse	19%	15%	26%	10%	26%
Pregnant woman’s health is likely to be permanently harmed without an abortion	Legal	77%	81%	58%	84%	65%
	Illegal	6%	4%	10%	7%	6%
	Unsure/refuse	17%	16%	32%	8%	28%
Foetus has no chance of survival	Legal	77%	80%	58%	85%	61%
	Illegal	6%	6%	10%	7%	8%
	Unsure/refuse	17%	14%	32%	8%	31%
Pregnancy is a result of rape	Legal	75%	72%	57%	90%	61%
	Illegal	6%	11%	14%	4%	5%
	Unsure/refuse	18%	17%	29%	6%	34%
Pregnancy is a result of birth control failure	Legal	52%	58%	37%	79%	48%
	Illegal	26%	25%	29%	12%	20%
	Unsure/refuse	21%	18%	34%	9%	32%
Pregnant woman can’t afford to have another child	Legal	50%	56%	41%	73%	50%
	Illegal	31%	27%	30%	16%	21%
	Unsure/refuse	19%	16%	29%	11%	29%
Pregnant woman doesn’t want to be a mother	Legal	45%	56%	36%	73%	48%
	Illegal	34%	27%	33%	15%	20%
	Unsure/refuse	20%	17%	30%	12%	32%

		Ethnicity			
		European	Maori	Pacific	Asian
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Pregnant woman is likely to die without an abortion	Legal	78%	75%	78%	84%
	Illegal	4%	8%	0%	0%
	Unsure/refuse	18%	17%	22%	16%
Pregnant woman's health is likely to be permanently harmed without an abortion	Legal	77%	72%	78%	70%
	Illegal	5%	11%	7%	15%
	Unsure/refuse	18%	17%	15%	15%
Foetus has no chance of survival	Legal	78%	70%	68%	70%
	Illegal	5%	11%	17%	15%
	Unsure/refuse	17%	19%	15%	15%
Pregnancy is a result of rape	Legal	75%	70%	55%	45%
	Illegal	8%	11%	30%	10%
	Unsure/refuse	17%	19%	15%	45%
Pregnancy is a result of birth control failure	Legal	56%	53%	16%	51%
	Illegal	23%	26%	69%	34%
	Unsure/refuse	21%	20%	15%	15%
Pregnant woman can't afford to have another child	Legal	55%	53%	16%	51%
	Illegal	26%	27%	47%	34%
	Unsure/refuse	19%	21%	37%	15%
Pregnant woman doesn't want to be a mother	Legal	51%	54%	32%	41%
	Illegal	29%	23%	47%	44%
	Unsure/refuse	20%	22%	21%	15%

MARGINS OF ERROR

The following maximum sampling margin of errors apply for each demographic group:

- All 3.1%
- Women 4.2%
- Men 5.5%
- Under 30s 7.8%
- 31 to 45 6.2%
- 46 to 60 5.6%
- Over 60s 5.6%
- Cities 3.7%
- Towns 7.9%
- Rural 8.1%
- Deciles 1 to 3 5.0%
- Deciles 4 to 7 4.8%
- Deciles 8 to 10 6.6%
- Parents 6.1%
- Non-parents 3.6%
- National voters 4.7%
- Labour voters 6.4%
- NZ First voters 10.3%
- Greens voters 10.0%
- Unsure voters 11.9%
- European 3.5%
- Maori 9.5%
- Pacific >12%
- Asian >12%

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31 January 2017