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Strong Support for Stem Cell Research
ABORTION AND RIGHTS OF TERROR SUSPECTS TOP COURT ISSUES

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Strong Support for Stem Cell Research

ABORTION AND RIGHTS OF TERROR SUSPECTS TOP COURT ISSUES

Abortion has dominated the early skirmishing over President Bush's nomination of John Roberts to the Supreme Court. But the public takes a more expansive view of the court's agenda. Indeed, about as many Americans rate the rights of detained terrorist suspects as a very important issue for the Supreme Court as say that about abortion.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, conducted before Roberts was nominated, finds that abortion is far more important to ideologically committed partisans at either end of the political spectrum than to moderates and independents. The general public also continues to express somewhat ambivalent views on abortion – in contrast to conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats.

A consistent majority of Americans (65%) are opposed to overturning the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision establishing a woman's right to abortion. But most Americans also favor restrictions on abortion. Nearly three-quarters (73%) favor requiring women under age 18 to get parental consent before being allowed to get an abortion.

This ambivalence is reflected in opinions on the overall availability of abortion. About a third (35%) say abortion should be generally available, but 23% favor stricter limits on abortion and 31% favor making it illegal except in cases of rape, incest or to save a woman's life. Only about one-in-ten (9%) say abortion should never be permitted. Moreover, while nearly six-in-ten (59%) think it would be a good thing to reduce the number of abortions in the U.S., one-third (33%) say they don't feel this way.

The new study – based on separate surveys conducted July 13-17 among 1,502 adults, and July 7-17 among 2,000 adults – finds that the public's views on social issues are complex, defying easy categorization. But religion plays a pivotal role in many of these issues, ranging from stem cell research to gay marriage.

Importance of Supreme Court Decisions

	Very <u>impt</u> %	Less <u>impt</u> * %	<u>DK</u> %
<i>How important are court decisions on...</i>			
Abortion	63	36	1=100
Terror suspect rights	62	37	1=100
Religious displays	55	44	1=100
Lawsuit award limits	49	49	2=100
Affirmative action	43	54	3=100

*Fairly important, not too important, or not at all important.

Abortion Should be Legal...

<i>Overturn Roe v. Wade</i>	%
Yes	29
No	65
Don't know	<u>6</u>
	100

...But More Limited

<i>Require parental consent...</i>	%
Favor	73
Oppose	22
Don't know	<u>5</u>
	100

<i>Abortion should be...</i>	%
Generally available	35
More limited	23
Illegal except rape/ incest/save mother	31
Never permitted	9
Don't know	<u>2</u>
	100

The survey finds continuing strong public support for stem cell research. By nearly two-to-one (57%-30%), the public believes that it is more important to conduct stem cell research that may result in new medical cures than to not destroy the potential life of embryos involved in such research. Support for stem cell research has been growing among major religious groups – with the notable exception of white evangelical Protestants. Only about a third of white evangelicals (32%) support such research, compared with large majorities of seculars (77%), mainline Protestants (70%) and white Catholics (61%).

A clear majority of the public (68%) continues to support the death penalty for persons convicted of murder, but only 37% think the death penalty should be applied to people who committed capital offenses as minors. While members of the major religious traditions differ over the death penalty generally – with Protestants more supportive than Catholics – comparable majorities of religious groups oppose the use of the death penalty for minors convicted of murder.

The public remains divided over how far physicians should be allowed to go in ending the lives of terminally ill patients. About half (51%) favor letting doctors give such patients the means with which to end their lives, but there is less support for physicians being allowed to help dying patients commit suicide (44%).

And while a majority of Americans (53%) oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally, support for gay marriage is at its highest point since July 2003. For the first time, a majority (53%) favors permitting gays and lesbians to enter into legal arrangements that would give them many of the same rights as married couples.

No Clear Pattern on Social Issues	
	<u>Total</u>
<i>Stem cell research</i>	%
Find medical cures	57
Don't destroy potential life	30
Don't know	<u>13</u>
	100
<i>Death penalty for murderers</i>	
Favor	68
Oppose	24
Don't know	<u>8</u>
	100
<i>Death penalty for murderers under age 18</i>	
Favor	37
Oppose	54
Don't know	<u>9</u>
	100
<i>Give terminally ill patients the means to end life</i>	
Favor	51
Oppose	40
Don't know	<u>9</u>
	100
<i>Physician-assisted suicide</i>	
Favor	44
Oppose	48
Don't know	<u>8</u>
	100
<i>Gay marriage</i>	
Favor	36
Oppose	53
Don't know	<u>11</u>
	100
<i>Gay civil unions</i>	
Favor	53
Oppose	40
Don't know	<u>7</u>
	100

Varying Opinions on Life Issues

The general public takes varying, and at times contradictory, attitudes toward the issues that constitute the so-called “culture of life.” This also is the case for members of major religious traditions.

White evangelical Protestants overwhelmingly adopt a pro-life stance on abortion: 68% believe abortion should not be permitted at all, or should be allowed only in cases of rape, incest or to save the woman’s life. A smaller majority of white evangelicals (58%) oppose making it legal for doctors to give terminally ill patients the means to end their lives.

In the case of stem cell research, half of white evangelicals say it is more important to avoid destroying the potential life of human embryos than to conduct stem cell research that may lead to new medical cures. At the same time, white evangelicals strongly support the death penalty for those convicted of murder; just 15% oppose the death penalty.

White Catholics also have inconsistent attitudes on life issues. Roughly four-in-ten take a pro-life stance on abortion (43%) and in opposing physicians being permitted to help dying patients to end their lives (42%). Just three-in-ten white Catholics (29%) say it is more important to avoid destroying the potential life of human embryos in stem cell research than to conduct research that may result in new medical cures. And about the same number (27%) oppose the death penalty.

For their part, seculars overwhelmingly dissent from pro-life positions on abortion, stem cell research and end-of-life questions. More seculars than white evangelicals or mainline Protestants oppose the death penalty for convicted murderers; still, only about three-in-ten (29%) express this view.

	<i>Pro-life position on...</i>			
	<u>Abortion</u>	<u>Stem Cells</u>	<u>Death Penalty</u>	<u>Euthanasia</u>
	%	%	%	%
Total	40	30	24	40
White Protestant	51	36	14	45
Evangelical	68	50	15	58
Mainline	28	18	13	26
White Catholic	43	29	27	42
Secular	16	12	29	22
Conserv Repub	71	55	9	55
Mod/Lib Repub	36	26	16	32
Independent	31	23	26	34
Mod/Cons Dem	39	31	36	44
Liberal Democrat	18	15	42	30

Court Issues: Beyond Abortion

Among the possible issues facing the Supreme Court, abortion is viewed as very important by large numbers of liberal Democrats (80%) and conservative Republicans (73%). White evangelical Protestants also place great emphasis on this issue (75%).

For liberal Democrats, no other issue rivals abortion in importance. But conservatives and white evangelicals rate several issues highly. While three-quarters of white evangelicals view abortion as very important, nearly as many place great importance on court rulings on the rights of detained terrorist suspects (69%), and whether to permit religious displays on government property (68%).

Abortion is a major issue for those at either end of the political spectrum, but it also is viewed as very important by younger women. Roughly three-quarters (76%) of women under age 50 rate abortion as a very important issue for the court; far fewer males in that age group (58%) see abortion as a high priority. Women under age 50 also are far more likely than older women to attach great importance to possible court rulings on abortion.

<i>Issue rated as "very important"</i>	<u>Abortion</u>	Suspect <u>Rights</u>	Rel. <u>Displays</u>	Tort <u>Reform</u>	Affirm. <u>Action</u>
	%	%	%	%	%
All	63	62	55	49	43
White	62	59	54	47	40
Non-white	66	70	58	56	58
Conserv Repub	73	62	69	52	34
Mod/Lib Repub	44	58	54	53	42
Independent	61	62	51	49	41
Mod/Cons Dem	61	67	52	48	50
Liberal Democrat	80	58	57	43	54
White Protestant	63	62	58	50	40
Evangelical	75	69	68	50	42
Mainline	48	52	46	49	37
White Catholic	55	57	50	43	37
Secular	61	62	45	40	43

	Rate abortion as "very important"
	%
Total	63
Women	68
Ages 18-49	76
Ages 50+	58
Men	57
Ages 18-49	58
Ages 50+	55

Decades of Division

Through more than 30 years of attention to abortion in policy debates and Supreme Court nominations, public opinion on the issue has remained remarkably stable. This is the case with both views of the availability of abortion, and of the *Roe v. Wade* decision establishing women’s right to abortion. (For more on attitudes toward *Roe v. Wade*, see “Supreme Court’s Image Declines as Nomination Battle Looms,” June 15).

	June 1996	June 1997	July 2005
<i>Abortion should be...</i>	%	%	%
Generally available	32	30	35
More limited	24	21	23
Illegal except rape/incest/save mother	33	36	31
Never permitted	9	12	9
Don’t know	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100

The overall pattern of opinion is similar on both issues. Members of both political parties are divided in views of the availability of abortion. Nearly two-thirds of liberal Democrats (64%) believe abortion should be generally available to those who want it. That compares with only about a third of moderate and conservative Democrats (34%).

About one-in-five conservative Republicans (22%) believe abortion should not be permitted at all; just 1% of moderate and liberal Republicans agree. And roughly twice as many conservative Republicans as GOP liberals and moderates say abortion should be banned, or allowed only in cases of incest, rape or to protect the life of the woman (71% vs. 36%).

There also are wide differences among religious groups over this question. Most seculars (60%) believe abortion should be generally available, and a plurality of white mainline Protestants agree. About two-thirds of white evangelicals (68%) believe abortion

	Generally available	More limited	Illegal except rape/incest/save mother	Never permitted	DK
All	35	23	31	9	2=100
Men	34	24	32	8	2=100
Women	35	21	31	11	2=100
College graduate	46	22	24	7	1=100
Some college	33	28	29	9	1=100
H.S. or less	29	22	37	10	2=100
Conserv Repub	13	15	49	22	1=100
Mod/Lib Repub	31	33	35	1	0=100
Independent	41	27	25	6	1=100
Mod/Cons Dem	34	25	31	8	2=100
Liberal Democrat	64	16	15	3	2=100
White Protestant	26	22	40	11	1=100
Evangelical	14	17	53	15	1=100
Mainline	41	30	23	5	1=100
White Catholic	31	23	32	11	3=100
Secular	60	23	13	3	1=100
<i>Attend church</i>					
Weekly or more	18	19	43	18	2=100
Sometimes	39	25	30	5	1=100
Seldom or never	53	27	16	2	2=100

should not be permitted or allowed only in cases of rape, incest or to save the woman’s life. White Catholics are deeply divided over abortion, with about three-in-ten (31%) saying it should be generally available, and 43% saying it should be banned or only legal in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother.

A plurality of college graduates (46%) say abortion should be generally available, while just 29% of those with a high school education express that view. But there are no significant gender differences in these opinions. And while women under age 50 are much more likely than men in that age group to view abortion as a very important issue for the Supreme Court, they hold similar views concerning the availability of abortion.

Morality of Abortion

The public also is deeply split over the moral implications of abortion. A plurality (41%) thinks abortion is wrong in some circumstances; 29% feel abortion is morally wrong in nearly all circumstances; and about a quarter (26%) believe that abortion is not a moral issue.

A large majority (60%) of those who believe that abortion is morally wrong in nearly all circumstances support overturning the *Roe v. Wade* decision. In contrast, 91% those who believe abortion is not a moral issue overwhelmingly favor continued access to abortion.

Those with mixed views on the morality of abortion strongly oppose overturning *Roe v. Wade*. But many with this opinion favor stricter limits on abortion, with roughly a third (35%) saying abortion should be against the law except in cases of rape, incest, and to save the woman’s life.

Is Abortion Morally Wrong?	
	%
In some circumstances	41
In nearly all circumstances	29
Not a moral issue	26
Don’t know	<u>4</u>
	100

Views on Morality Linked to Abortion Policy Opinions			
	Wrong in nearly all cases	Wrong in some cases	Not a moral issue
<i>Overturn Roe v. Wade?</i>	%	%	%
Yes	60	23	6
No	35	71	91
Don’t know	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Abortion should be...</i>			
Generally available	6	31	71
More limited	14	31	20
Illegal except rape/incest/ save mother	50	35	7
Never permitted	28	2	1
Don’t know	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100
Number of cases	(431)	(603)	(406)

Reduce Number of Abortions

Regardless of their views on the legality of abortion, most Americans (59%) believe it would be a good thing to reduce the number of abortions. However, a sizable minority (33%) disagrees.

Nearly three-quarters of Republicans (72%) say it would be good to reduce the number of abortions, compared with smaller majorities of independents (55%) and Democrats (51%). Those who are married are much more likely than unmarried people to say it would be a good thing to reduce the number of abortions (by 66%-50%). And a narrow majority of seculars (51%) feel it would not be a good thing to decrease the number of abortions.

Broad Support for Parental Consent

As has been the case for more than a decade, most of the public favors requiring women under age 18 to obtain the consent of at least one parent before being allowed to get an abortion. Nearly three-quarters of Americans (73%) support such a requirement, while just 22% are opposed. Like other opinions on abortion, views on this issue have changed little over the years – in 1992, an identical percentage favored requiring young women to obtain parental consent before being permitted to get an abortion.

Large majorities in all major religious groups – and fully two-thirds of seculars (67%) – believe that women under 18 should receive parental consent before being able to obtain an abortion. However, liberal Democrats are divided on this issue; 50% favor requiring young women to get the consent of at least one parent before getting an abortion, but 44% are opposed. By contrast, there is strong sentiment in favor of requiring parental consent among moderate and conservative Democrats (72%), and overwhelming support among conservative Republicans (94%) and moderate and liberal Republicans (81%).

	<u>Favor</u> %	<u>Oppose</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	73	22	5=100
White Protestant	79	17	4=100
Evangelical	86	11	3=100
Mainline	71	24	5=100
White Catholic	80	17	3=100
Black Protestant	66	32	2=100
Secular	67	25	8=100
Conserv Repub	94	6	0=100
Mod/Lib Repub	81	18	1=100
Independent	72	23	5=100
Cons/Mod Dem	72	25	3=100
Liberal Democrat	50	44	6=100

Access to “Morning After” Pill

There is less public agreement on allowing women to obtain the so-called “morning after pill” without a doctor’s prescription. Anti-abortion groups argue that the morning after pill induces an abortion because the drug can cause the body to reject a newly fertilized egg; supporters of abortion rights say the pill constitutes emergency contraception.

Most Americans (52%) favor allowing women to get the morning after pill without a doctor’s prescription, while 37% are opposed. Groups that are most supportive of keeping abortion generally available – seculars and liberal Democrats – also strongly favor allowing easier access to the morning after pill (77% of seculars, 72% of liberal Democrats).

Similarly, the same groups that strongly oppose abortion – conservative Republicans and white evangelical Protestants – also oppose making it easier for women to get the morning after pill (58% of conservative Republicans, 52% of white evangelicals). There also is a modest gender divide in views of the morning after pill, with men somewhat more supportive than women of allowing greater access to this drug (56% of men vs. 48% of women).

No Conflict Between Abstinence, Birth Control

Debates over sex education in schools often pit abstinence instruction against providing students information on birth control methods. But the public sees no conflict in pursuing both of these approaches: 78% favor allowing public schools to provide students with birth control information; nearly as many (76%) believe schools should teach teenagers to abstain from sex until marriage.

Solid majorities in every major religious group say schools should be allowed to provide students with information on birth control methods. But a sizable minority of white evangelical Protestants (30%) are opposed.

	Teach Abstinence, But Also Provide Birth Control Information			
	<i>Provide birth control info?</i>		<i>Teach abstinence?</i>	
	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
	%	%	%	%
Total	78	18	76	20
White Protestant	72	24	85	12
Evangelical	66	30	91	8
Mainline	81	15	77	18
White Catholic	79	18	78	18
Secular	93	5	62	34
18-24	83	14	75	21
25-29	81	16	73	22
30-49	81	16	78	19
50-64	81	16	79	17
65+	64	29	71	24

White evangelicals also are among the most supportive of having public schools teach teenagers to abstain from sex until marriage. Seculars express the greatest reservations to schools promoting abstinence; 62% support that approach, while roughly a third (34%) are opposed.

The youngest Americans – those ages 18-24 – are highly supportive of schools both promoting abstinence and providing information about birth control. Roughly eight-in-ten (83%) favor schools providing birth control information, while 75% think schools should teach teenagers to abstain from sex until marriage.

Most Favor Stem Cell Research

Public awareness of, and support for, stem cell research appears to be leveling off, after showing significant gains from 2002 to 2004. Currently, 48% say they have heard a lot about the issue, which is little changed since last December (47%).

More Americans continue to say it is more important to conduct stem cell research that might result in new medical cures than to avoid destroying the potential life of human embryos involved in such research (by 57% to 30%). That is about the same level of support for stem cell research as last December, but up modestly since August 2004 (52%). Three years ago, in March 2002, just 43% supported stem cell research.

	March <u>2002</u>	Aug <u>2004</u>	Dec <u>2004</u>	July <u>2005</u>
<i>Heard about stem cell debate</i>	%	%	%	%
A lot	27	42	47	48
A little	52	43	41	42
Nothing at all	20	15	11	10
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>More important to...</i>				
Conduct research	43	52	56	57
Not destroy embryos	38	34	32	30
Don't know	<u>19</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100	100

As in the past, greater awareness of the stem cell debate is associated with support for stem cell research. Roughly two-thirds of those who have heard a lot about the issue (68%) believe it is more important to conduct stem cell research than to not destroy the potential life of embryos. That compares with 49% of those who have heard a little about the issue, and just a third of those who are unfamiliar with the debate over stem cell research.

	<i>Heard about stem cell debate...</i>		
<i>More important to...</i>	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing</u>
	%	%	%
Conduct research	68	49	32
Not destroy embryos	25	36	37
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>31</u>
	100	100	100

Where Support Has Grown

Three years ago, Americans were only dimly aware of – and fairly evenly divided over – stem cell research. Since then, support for this research has grown among most demographic and political groups. The shift has been most striking among middle-aged Americans (ages 50-64), high school graduates, mainline Protestants and white Catholics, and liberal Democrats. There are some

exceptions to this pattern, however. Just a third of conservative Republicans say it is more important to conduct stem cell research, virtually the same percentage as in March 2002 (32%).

Over the same period, moderate and liberal Republicans have become more supportive of stem cell research; as a result, the gap between conservative Republicans and GOP moderates and liberals has grown from 16 points to 29 points. White evangelical Protestants also remain opposed to stem cell research. About a third (32%) favor such research today, while 50% are opposed. Three years ago, 26% of evangelicals backed stem cell research.

What Shapes Stem Cell Views?

Supporters and opponents of stem cell research draw on very different sources when thinking about the issue. Roughly half (52%) of opponents say their religious beliefs are the biggest influence on their thinking, while 13% cite what they have seen or read in the media and 12% mention their education. Conservative Republican opponents are especially likely (70%) to cite religion as their main influence, as are evangelical Protestant opponents (69%).

Among supporters, 31% say the biggest influence on their thinking is the media, and 28% mention their education. Just 7% say religion is the most important influence. College graduates (44%) who favor the research are particularly likely to name education as their primary influence, as are pro-research liberal Democrats (43%).

Change in Support for Stem Cell Research					
	<i>More important to conduct research</i>				
	Mar	Aug	Dec	July	'02-'05
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	
	%	%	%	%	
Total	43	52	56	57	+14
18-29	46	54	61	60	+14
30-49	46	55	58	56	+10
50-64	40	52	55	61	+21
65+	34	44	50	49	+15
College Grad	55	61	66	69	+14
Some College	46	50	56	59	+13
HS Grad	34	49	54	51	+17
Less than HS	36	47	46	43	+7
White Protestant	38	48	52	49	+11
Evangelical	26	33	33	32	+6
Mainline	51	65	69	70	+19
White Catholic	43	55	63	61	+18
Secular	66	68	70	77	+11
Conserv Repub	32	35	40	33	+1
Mod/Lib Repub	48	54	55	62	+14
Independent	49	57	58	66	+17
Cons/Mod Dem	43	57	60	54	+11
Liberal Democrat	55	72	85	80	+25

<i>Biggest influence on thinking...</i>	Influences on Stem Cell Positions	
	<i>Position on stem cell research...</i>	
	<u>Conduct research</u>	<u>Not destroy embryos</u>
	%	%
Media	31	13
Education	28	12
Religious beliefs	7	52
Personal experience	16	9
Friends and family	5	5
Something else	11	8
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100

Physician-Assisted Suicide

A narrow majority of Americans (51%) favor making it legal for doctors to give terminally ill patients the means to end their lives. As in past Pew surveys, there is less support (44%) for physicians actually aiding such patients in committing suicide. Attitudes on these end-of-life issues have changed very little since July 2003.

There continue to be clear differences among major religious groups in views of how far physicians should be permitted to go in assisting terminally ill patients to end their lives. Majorities of seculars and white mainline Protestants favor allowing physicians to give the terminally ill the means to end their lives, and to assist such patients in committing suicide. White Catholics are divided over these issues, while white evangelical Protestants are widely opposed to doctors taking any measures to help terminally ill patients to end their lives.

Men also are more supportive than women of allowing physicians to end the lives of their terminally ill patients. A majority of men (55%) favor making it legal for doctors to give such patients the means to end their lives; 47% of women agree. There is a comparable gender gap in views of physician-assisted suicide.

	Doctors and the Terminally Ill	
	<i>Favor making it legal for doctors to...</i>	
	Give means to end life	Assist in suicide
	%	%
Total	51	44
Men	55	48
Women	47	40
College graduate	62	56
Some college	52	42
H.S. grad or less	44	37
Northeast	54	45
Midwest	51	48
South	43	37
West	62	49
Conserv. Repub	39	29
Mod/Lib Repub	57	52
Independent	60	51
Cons/Mod Dem	46	41
Liberal Democrat	62	55
White Protestant	47	39
Evangelical	34	26
Mainline	65	56
White Catholic	44	46
Secular	73	61

Looking Back at Schiavo Case

Four months after Congress passed legislation transferring jurisdiction in the Terri Schiavo case to the federal courts, the overwhelming majority of Americans (74%) indicate that Congress should not have involved itself in the matter. White evangelical Protestants are more supportive of Congress’s actions than are members of other religious groups, conservatives are more supportive than moderates and liberals, and Republicans are more supportive than Democrats and independents. But even among these groups, large majorities (69% of white evangelicals, 68% of conservatives and 65% of Republicans) believe that Congress should have stayed out of the case.

Death Penalty, But Not for Minors

Roughly two-thirds of Americans (68%) support the death penalty for people convicted of murder, up slightly from two years ago (64%). However, public support for the death penalty was greater in the late 1990s (74% in 1999).

But most Americans continue to oppose the death penalty for minors. By 54%-37%, the public opposes the death penalty for those who have been convicted of murder when they are under age 18. Earlier this year, the Supreme Court abolished the death penalty in such cases, citing a “national consensus” on the issue.

The pattern of opinion on applying the death penalty to minors is quite different than for the death penalty generally. For instance, there are only modest gender differences, at most, in support for the death penalty (70% of men, 66% of women). But there is a sizable gender gap in attitudes toward the death penalty for those convicted of murder who are under age 18; 47% of men support the death penalty for minors, compared with only about a quarter of women (27%).

And while there are significant differences among religious groups in their views of the overall application of the death penalty, there is striking agreement in opinions on the death penalty for those under age 18. Only about four-in-ten white evangelicals, mainline Protestants, white Catholics and seculars favor the death penalty under these circumstances.

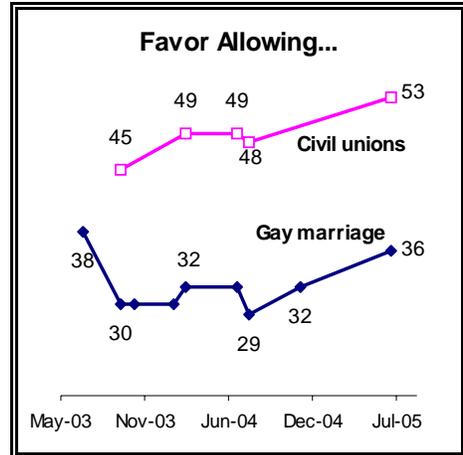
	Sept 1999	Mar 2001	Mar 2002	July 2003	July 2005
<i>Death penalty for murder</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Strongly favor	41	30	33	28	32
Favor	33	36	34	36	36
Oppose	15	17	17	20	16
Strongly oppose	7	10	9	10	8
No opinion	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

	<i>Support for death penalty</i>	
	Overall	For minors
	%	%
Total	68	37
Men	70	47
Women	66	27
White	74	38
Black	42	25
Republican	84	46
Independent	69	38
Democrat	52	26
White Protest.	80	38
Evangelical	79	38
Mainline	81	39
White Catholic	66	39
Secular	65	41

Modest Increase in Gay Marriage Support

Public support for allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally has rebounded a bit after declining between 2003 and 2004. Today, 36% of Americans favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry, up from 32% in December 2004. The percentage favoring gay civil unions has risen as well. Currently, 53% favor allowing gays and lesbians to enter into legal arrangements providing them with many of the same rights as married couples; that compares with 48% last August.

Support for gay marriage and gay civil unions has increased slightly among most religious groups. However, support for civil unions has increased significantly among white evangelical Protestants, from 26% in December 2004 to 35% today. This increase, however, is concentrated primarily among low-commitment evangelicals, a majority of whom now support civil unions.



There remain substantial divisions in views of gay marriage and civil unions across political groups. Nearly seven-in-ten liberals support gay marriage and eight-in-ten support civil unions, up from 59% and 70%, respectively, in 2004. Among conservatives, however, support for gay marriage stands at 14%, and support for civil unions has actually declined slightly (from 35% in 2004 to 31% today).

Similarly, Democrats and independents are more supportive of gay marriage and civil unions today than they were a year ago, and remain much more supportive of both proposals than are Republicans.

In line with these findings, there has also been a slight decline (from 35% in August 2004 to 29% today) in the number of Americans expressing support for a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage.

	Favor Gay Marriage		Favor Civil Unions	
	Aug 2004	July 2005	Aug 2004	July 2005
	%	%	%	%
Total	32	36	48	53
White Protestant	22	25	42	46
Evangelical	10	14	26	35
Mainline	34	39	60	60
White Catholic	35	39	60	62
Black Protestant	19	25	28	31
Secular	63	61	76	75
Conservative	15	14	35	31
Moderate	31	40	53	60
Liberal	59	69	70	80
Republican	16	19	38	41
Democrat	38	45	56	59
Independent	36	46	54	61

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this report are based on two separate telephone surveys conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. The first survey is among a nationwide sample of 1,502 adults, 18 years of age or older, from July 13-17, 2005. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on Form 1 (N=751) or Form 2 (N=751) only, the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Results for second survey are based on telephone interviews among a nationwide sample 2,000 adults, 18 years of age or older, from July 7-17, 2005. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 2.5 percentage points. For results based on Form 1 (N=1,000) or Form 2 (N=1,000) only, the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

ABORTION ATTITUDES

	---Abortion access---				Overturning Roe v. Wade		Abortion is morally wrong in...			(N)
	Generally available	Stricter limits	Extreme cases	Not at all	Favor	Oppose	Nearly all cases	Some cases	Not a moral issue	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Total	35	23	31	9	29	65	29	41	26	(1502)
Sex										
Male	34	24	32	8	29	65	28	41	27	(722)
Female	35	21	31	11	29	66	30	41	25	(780)
Race										
White	35	22	32	9	29	66	29	41	26	(1210)
Non-white	33	26	29	9	32	62	29	41	26	(257)
Black	33	21	30	13	34	63	32	37	26	(133)
Hispanic*	32	26	28	12	32	60	30	49	18	(98)
Race and Sex										
White Men	34	23	34	7	28	66	27	42	27	(569)
White Women	35	21	31	12	29	66	31	41	25	(641)
Age										
Under 30	30	30	28	10	34	60	31	44	21	(188)
30-49	35	24	30	9	28	67	31	43	24	(521)
50-64	39	18	33	8	25	71	27	36	32	(421)
65+	34	18	34	11	33	60	26	40	29	(336)
Sex and Age										
Men under 50	35	28	29	7	26	67	30	41	26	(374)
Women under 50	32	24	30	12	33	62	32	46	20	(335)
Men 50+	35	18	36	9	33	63	25	39	31	(337)
Women 50+	39	18	32	9	24	70	28	36	31	(420)
Education										
College Grad.	46	22	24	7	23	73	25	42	29	(554)
Some College	33	28	29	9	29	65	30	43	24	(372)
High School Grad.	29	24	35	10	30	63	31	37	27	(469)
< H.S. Grad.	27	13	44	13	40	56	32	48	18	(90)
Family Income										
\$75,000+	42	24	26	7	25	70	25	42	29	(364)
\$50,000-\$74,999	33	26	32	8	29	64	33	41	24	(217)
\$30,000-\$49,999	33	26	28	12	31	66	31	37	28	(340)
\$20,000-\$29,999	34	18	41	3	25	67	25	49	23	(157)
<\$20,000	30	22	35	12	33	63	30	41	24	(210)

* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization..

Question: Which comes closer to your view? Abortion should be generally available, available to those who want it; Abortion should be available under stricter limits than it is now; Abortion should be against the law except in cases of rape, incest, and to save the woman's life; Abortion should not be permitted at all.

In 1973 the Roe versus Wade decision established a woman's constitutional right to an abortion, at least in the first three months of pregnancy. Would you like to see the Supreme Court completely overturn its Roe versus Wade decision, or not?

Regardless of whether or not you think abortion should be legal, do you personally believe that having an abortion is morally wrong in nearly all circumstances, morally wrong in some circumstances, or is it not a moral issue?

Continued on next page...

	---Abortion access---				Overturn <i>Roe v. Wade</i>		Abortion is morally wrong in...			(N)
	Generally <u>available</u>	Stricter <u>limits</u>	Extreme <u>cases</u>	Not <u>at all</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	Nearly all <u>cases</u>	Some <u>cases</u>	Not a <u>moral</u> <u>issue</u>	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Total	35	23	31	9	29	65	29	41	26	(1502)
Region										
East	39	25	25	8	21	74	21	42	34	(288)
Midwest	29	24	32	13	31	64	32	41	23	(345)
South	30	21	37	10	36	57	38	38	20	(542)
West	44	22	28	6	23	72	19	45	33	(327)
Religious Affiliation										
Total White Protestant	26	22	40	11	33	62	36	41	20	(608)
- Evangelical	14	17	53	15	48	48	49	38	12	(341)
- High Commitment	10	11	55	24	60	35	62	31	6	(216)
- Non-Evangelical	41	30	23	5	13	81	19	44	32	(267)
- High Commitment	32	22	35	9	16	69	39	32	27	(68)
White Catholic	31	23	32	11	32	62	33	44	20	(252)
- High Commitment	17	14	39	26	55	39	51	37	7	(101)
Black Protestant	33	19	33	11	35	62	33	36	26	(83)
Secular	60	23	13	3	14	82	10	36	50	(206)
Party ID										
Republican	19	21	44	14	42	52	43	39	16	(476)
Democrat	44	22	25	7	22	73	19	45	32	(513)
Independent	41	27	25	6	25	70	26	40	29	(413)
Party and Ideology										
Conservative Republican	13	15	49	22	55	41	57	30	12	(306)
Moderate/Liberal Rep.	31	33	35	1	19	76	18	53	26	(157)
Conservative/Mod. Dem.	34	25	31	8	26	67	22	48	26	(303)
Liberal Democrat	64	16	15	3	15	84	13	39	45	(192)
Bush Approval										
Approve	21	24	40	13	40	53	40	39	18	(670)
Disapprove	48	22	23	6	20	77	18	44	34	(723)
Marital Status										
Married	32	21	34	11	33	62	33	40	23	(842)
Unmarried	37	25	28	8	25	69	24	43	29	(633)
Parents										
Yes	30	24	33	12	33	62	35	41	22	(439)
No	37	22	31	8	27	67	26	41	28	(1043)
Labor Union										
Union Household	39	26	26	7	26	68	28	39	30	(220)
Non-Union Household	34	23	32	9	30	65	29	41	26	(1245)

BIRTH CONTROL, ABSTINENCE EDUCATION, AND PARENTAL CONSENT

	<i>Allow morning-after pill w/o prescription</i>		<i>Schools teaching abstinence from sex until marriage</i>		<i>Schools providing info. on birth control</i>		<i>Requiring parental consent before abortion</i>	
	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	52	37	76	20	78	18	73	22
Sex								
Male	56	33	73	23	78	18	73	21
Female	48	42	80	16	78	19	74	22
Race								
White	52	38	77	19	78	18	75	21
Non-white	52	37	75	21	78	18	68	26
Black	52	37	75	21	72	24	71	26
Hispanic*	41	51	72	24	73	23	65	28
Race and Sex								
White Men	58	31	73	22	78	18	76	19
White Women	47	43	81	16	78	18	73	23
Age								
Under 30	54	39	75	21	82	15	66	28
30-49	49	41	78	19	81	16	77	19
50-64	56	34	79	17	81	16	75	22
65+	51	32	71	24	64	29	72	20
Sex and Age								
Men under 50	57	35	75	22	83	15	73	21
Women under 50	45	46	79	17	80	17	73	24
Men 50+	56	28	70	24	71	23	73	22
Women 50+	51	38	80	16	75	21	74	20
Education								
College Grad.	57	32	73	22	85	14	70	26
Some College	56	37	79	18	80	17	74	21
High School Grad.	49	39	78	18	75	20	77	18
< H.S. Grad.	42	46	75	22	70	25	69	24
Family Income								
\$75,000+	58	33	74	23	82	16	73	25
\$50,000-\$74,999	50	43	83	14	84	14	83	13
\$30,000-\$49,999	54	35	78	18	80	17	74	23
\$20,000-\$29,999	51	41	77	19	75	19	74	22
<\$20,000	46	41	74	22	74	22	70	25

* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: Do you favor or oppose...
 ...allowing women to get the so-called "morning-after pill" which prevents pregnancy without a doctor's prescription?
 ...having the public schools teach teenagers to abstain from sex until marriage?
 ...allowing public schools to provide students with information on birth control methods?
 ...requiring that women under the age of 18 get the consent of at least one parent before they are allowed to have an abortion?

Continued on next page...

	<i>Allow morning-after pill w/o prescription</i>		<i>Schools teaching abstinence from sex until marriage</i>		<i>Schools providing info. on birth control</i>		<i>Requiring parental consent before abortion</i>	
	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	52	37	76	20	78	18	73	22
Region								
East	53	37	71	26	80	17	74	20
Midwest	50	38	83	13	81	16	76	19
South	50	39	81	15	75	21	78	19
West	58	35	67	27	79	16	63	31
Religious Affiliation								
Total White Protestant	46	43	85	12	72	24	79	17
- Evangelical	35	52	91	8	66	30	86	11
- High Commitment	24	62	94	6	59	38	88	10
- Non-Evangelical	60	32	77	18	81	15	71	24
- High Commitment	46	43	78	13	69	28	63	32
White Catholic	48	43	78	18	79	18	80	17
- High Commitment	30	55	83	14	67	27	83	13
Black Protestant	44	44	71	25	72	26	66	32
Secular	77	17	62	34	93	5	67	25
Party ID								
Republican	38	52	82	15	68	27	88	10
Democrat	58	33	74	22	84	14	63	32
Independent	61	27	76	20	83	14	72	23
Party and Ideology								
Conservative Republican	32	58	85	13	59	37	94	6
Moderate/Liberal Rep.	53	42	77	19	86	9	81	18
Conservative/Mod. Dem.	51	40	80	16	78	19	72	25
Liberal Democrat	72	21	63	33	95	5	50	44
Bush Approval								
Approve	43	46	82	14	71	25	84	14
Disapprove	61	30	72	24	86	12	64	30
Marital Status								
Married	50	39	79	17	75	22	79	17
Unmarried	55	36	73	23	82	14	67	28
Parents								
Yes	47	43	81	16	77	20	79	18
No	55	34	74	21	79	17	70	24
Labor Union								
Union Household	55	33	68	26	78	19	72	24
Non-Union Household	52	38	78	18	78	18	73	22

DEATH PENALTY, STEM CELL RESEARCH, AND EUTHANASIA**

	<i>Doctor giving terminal patients means to end life</i>		<i>Death penalty for persons convicted of murder</i>		<i>Death penalty for juveniles convicted of murder</i>		<i>Which is more important regarding stem cell research.</i>	
	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Conducting research</u>	<u>Not destroying embryos</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	51	40	68	24	36	55	57	30
Sex								
Male	54	38	71	23	47	45	58	28
Female	47	42	66	25	27	63	55	33
Race								
White	53	38	74	20	38	53	58	29
Non-white	45	43	44	42	30	61	52	36
Black	34	54	42	41	25	69	46	41
Hispanic*	50	44	51	42	40	52	53	33
Race and Sex								
White Men	57	37	75	20	48	44	60	27
White Women	49	40	73	20	29	61	56	31
Age								
Under 30	48	43	59	33	32	61	60	29
30-49	57	35	73	22	38	53	56	34
50-64	51	41	70	22	40	52	61	28
65+	41	46	68	22	35	51	49	28
Sex and Age								
Men under 50	58	34	67	28	44	50	58	31
Women under 50	49	42	69	24	27	63	57	33
Men 50+	50	43	77	16	52	37	58	23
Women 50+	44	43	62	27	27	63	53	32
Education								
College Grad.	61	32	67	28	33	58	69	23
Some College	52	41	64	25	35	56	59	31
High School Grad.	47	43	74	19	41	51	51	34
< H.S. Grad.	37	47	61	28	33	56	43	34
Family Income								
\$75,000+	60	34	70	25	40	53	62	27
\$50,000-\$74,999	54	37	75	20	44	53	57	35
\$30,000-\$49,999	50	41	73	22	33	60	56	33
\$20,000-\$29,999	51	40	69	23	40	47	53	33
<\$20,000	49	43	59	30	32	57	57	26

* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

** Sample size from previous table does not apply.

Question: All in all, do you favor or oppose...
 ...the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?
 ...making it legal for doctors to give terminally ill patients the means to end their lives?
 ...the death penalty for persons convicted of murder when they were under the age of 18?
 All in all, which is more important, conducting (embryonic) stem cell research that might result in new medical cures OR Not destroying the potential life of human embryos involved in this research?

Continued on next page...

	<i>Doctor giving terminal patients means to end life</i>		<i>Death penalty for persons convicted of murder</i>		<i>Death penalty for juveniles convicted of murder</i>		<i>Which is more important regarding stem cell research.</i>	
	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>research</u>	<u>embryos</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	51	40	68	24	36	55	57	30
Region								
East	54	38	62	26	31	58	60	27
Midwest	51	37	67	26	30	64	56	30
South	43	47	71	22	38	50	50	36
West	62	34	70	25	44	50	64	25
Religious Affiliation								
Total White Protestant	47	45	80	14	38	52	49	36
- Evangelical	34	58	79	15	38	53	32	50
- High Commitment	28	62	79	14	39	52	28	57
- Non-Evangelical	65	26	81	13	39	51	70	18
- High Commitment	45	42	78	15	19	68	64	31
White Catholic	44	42	66	27	39	55	61	29
- High Commitment	32	55	61	35	33	64	40	42
Black Protestant	30	59	48	39	24	70	40	50
Secular	73	22	65	29	41	50	77	12
Party ID								
Republican	44	48	84	11	46	45	42	44
Democrat	51	39	52	38	26	67	63	24
Independent	60	34	69	26	38	55	66	23
Party and Ideology								
Conservative Republican	39	55	88	9	48	44	33	55
Moderate/Liberal Rep.	57	32	75	16	45	46	62	26
Conservative/Mod. Dem.	46	44	56	36	25	69	54	31
Liberal Democrat	62	30	44	42	26	68	80	15
Bush Approval								
Approve	43	48	82	12	46	46	45	41
Disapprove	61	32	54	38	27	66	68	22
Marital Status								
Married	47	42	75	18	41	49	51	36
Unmarried	55	38	61	31	31	61	63	25
Parents								
Yes	51	42	71	25	37	53	51	37
No			67	24	36	55	60	27
Labor Union								
Union Household	48	41	70	22	40	52	53	32
Non-Union Household	51	40	68	25	36	55	57	31

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
AND PEW FORUM ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE
JULY 2005 NEWS INTEREST INDEX / RELIGION
FINAL TOPLINE
July 13-17, 2005
N=1,502**

QUESTIONS 1 THROUGH 15 IN PREVIOUS RELEASE

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=751]:

Q.16F2 As I read some issues the Supreme Court may rule on over the coming years, please tell me how important each issue is to you personally. First, are court decisions on [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE] very important, fairly important, not too important, or not at all important to you?

		<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Fairly Important</u>	<u>Not too Important</u>	<u>Not at all Important</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Abortion	63	21	8	7	1=100
b.	Affirmative action	43	35	12	7	3=100
d.	The rights of people held in custody as terrorist suspects	62	21	10	6	1=100
e.	The amount of money courts can award in personal injury lawsuits	49	31	13	5	2=100
f.	Whether to allow religious displays on government property	55	25	11	8	1=100

ASK ALL:

Q.17 In 1973 the Roe versus Wade decision established a woman's constitutional right to an abortion, at least in the first three months of pregnancy. Would you like to see the Supreme Court completely overturn its Roe versus Wade decision, or not?

		-----Gallup-----				
		<u>June 2005</u>	<u>Jan 2003</u>	<u>March 2002</u>	<u>Aug¹ 1992</u>	<u>Oct 1989</u>
29	Yes	30	31	36	34	33
65	No	63	62	60	60	61
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

QUESTIONS 18 THROUGH 49 IN PREVIOUS RELEASE

¹ Gallup trend from August 1992 is based on registered voters.

On a different subject...

Q.50 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

		Dec	Aug	July	Early	Feb	Nov	Mid-	July	March	June	
		2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2003	Oct ²	2003	2003	2001	1996
13	Strongly favor	14	8	10	10	9	10	9	10	8	6	
23	Favor	18	21	22	22	21	20	21	28	27	21	
22	Oppose	23	25	23	24	21	21	25	23	23	24	
31	Strongly oppose	38	35	33	35	42	41	33	30	34	41	
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Ref. (VOL.)	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	

Q.51 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to enter into legal agreements with each other that would give them many of the same rights as married couples?

		Aug	July	March	Oct
		2004	2004	2004	2003
22	Strongly favor	15	18	16	14
31	Favor	33	31	33	31
16	Oppose	21	18	18	20
24	Strongly oppose	24	25	26	27
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100	100	100

IF OPPOSE GAY MARRIAGE (3,4 IN Q.50), ASK:

Q.52 There has been a proposal to change the U.S. Constitution to ban gay marriage. Do you think amending the Constitution to ban gay marriage is a good idea, or a bad idea?

		Aug	July	March
		2004	2004	2004
36	Favor	29	32	32
53	Oppose	60	56	59
29	Good idea / Pro-Constitutional amendment	35	31	36
22	Bad idea / Anti-Constitutional amendment	22	22	21
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	3	2
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.53 Do you favor or oppose [INSERT ITEM; ROTATE ITEMS IN BLOCKS (FIRST a, THEN b THRU d)] ... Do you favor or oppose [NEXT ITEM]?

		Favor	Oppose	DK/Ref
a.	Allowing women to get the so-called "morning-after pill," which prevents pregnancy, without a doctor's prescription	52	37	11=100
b.	Having the public schools teach teenagers to abstain from sex until marriage	76	20	4=100

² The October 2003 trend questions about gay marriage and civil unions are based on Form 1 respondents only (N=735). In an experiment, Form 2 respondents were asked the questions in the reverse order. The experiment found that the order of the questions has a significant impact on responses to the civil unions question.

Q.53 CONTINUED...

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
c. Allowing public schools to provide students with information on birth control methods	78	18	4=100
June, 1996 ³	76	22	2=100
d. Requiring that women under the age of 18 get the consent of at least one parent before they are allowed to have an abortion	73	22	5=100
Sept, 1999	69	28	3=100
May, 1992	73	23	4=100

Q.54 In March, Congress passed a bill that required the federal courts to hear the case of Terri Schiavo, the brain-damaged Florida woman who later died after her feeding tube was removed. Do you believe that Congress did the right thing in getting involved in the case, or do you think Congress should have stayed out of the case?

20	Believe that Congress did the right thing
74	Believe that Congress should have stayed out of the case
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

Now a few questions about abortion...

Q.55F1/ Which comes closer to your view? Abortion should be generally available to those who want it; Abortion

Q.56F2 should be available but under stricter limits than it is now; Abortion should be against the law except in cases of rape, incest and to save the woman's life; Abortion should not be permitted at all.⁴

	<u>June</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>CBS/NYT</u>
	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>Feb 1996</u>
35	30	32	36
23	21	24	22
31	36	33	34
9	12	9	7
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
100	100	100	100

Q.57 Regardless of whether or not you think abortion should be legal, do you personally believe that having an abortion is morally wrong in nearly all circumstances, morally wrong in some circumstances, or is it not a moral issue?

29	Morally wrong in nearly all circumstances
41	Morally wrong in some circumstances
26	Not a moral issue
<u>4</u>	Don't Know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

³ In June 1996 and September 1999 response categories were "strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose".

⁴ In an experiment, Form 2 respondents were read the response options in the reverse order. The experiment found that the order of the response options does not have a significant impact on responses. Therefore, Form 1 and Form 2 results are combined.

Q.58 Regardless of whether or not you think abortion should be legal, do you think it would be a good thing to reduce the number of abortions performed in the United States, or don't you feel this way?

59 Good thing to reduce the number of abortions
 33 Don't feel this way
8 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
 100

NO QUESTION 59

Q.60 As you may know, the federal government has debated whether to fund certain kinds of medical research known as 'stem cell research' ... How much have you heard about this? [READ, IN ORDER]

		<u>Dec</u> <u>2004</u>	<u>Aug</u> <u>2004</u>	<u>March</u> <u>2002</u>
48	A lot	47	42	27
42	A little [OR]	41	43	52
10	Nothing at all	11	15	20
<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.61F1/ All in all, which is more important... [READ, IN ORDER]⁵
 Q.62F2

		<u>Dec</u> <u>2004</u>	<u>Aug</u> <u>2004</u>	<u>March</u> <u>2002</u>
57	Conducting stem cell research that might result in new medical cures [OR]	56	52	43
30	Not destroying the potential life of human embryos involved in this research	32	34	38
<u>13</u>	Don't know/Refused [VOL, DO NOT READ]	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>19</u>
100		100	100	100

IF ANSWER GIVEN (Q.61F1=1,2 OR Q.62F2=1,2) ASK [N=1,297]:

Q.63 Which one of the following has had the biggest influence on your thinking on this issue... [READ IN ORDER]

	BASED ON			<u>March</u> <u>2002</u> ⁶
<u>Total</u>	<u>Conduct</u> <u>research</u>	<u>Not destroy</u> <u>life</u>		
14	16	9	A personal experience	7
5	5	5	The views of your friends and family	4
24	31	13	What you have seen or read in the media	34
23	7	52	Your religious beliefs	18
23	28	12	Your education	22
10	11	8	OR Something else	13
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>
100	100	100		100
	(N=847)	(N=450)		

⁵ In an experiment, the first response option for Form 1 read "conducting *embryonic* stem cell research that might result in new medical cures". The experiment found that the alternative wording of the response option does not have a significant impact on responses. Therefore, Form 1 and Form 2 results are combined.

⁶ In March 2002, the question was asked of those who gave an answer to the question "Do you think the federal government should or should not fund stem cell research?"

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
AND PEW FORUM ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE
JULY 2005 RELIGION AND PUBLIC LIFE SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
July 7-17, 2005
N=2000**

QUESTIONS 1 AND 2 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

Q.3 I'd like to get your views on some issues that are being discussed in this country today. All in all, do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose [READ AND RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS] Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose [NEXT ITEM]?

		----- FAVOR -----			----- OPPOSE -----			
		<i>Strongly</i>			<i>Strongly</i>			
		<u>Net</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1000]:								
a.F1	The death penalty for persons convicted of murder	68	32	36	24	8	16	8=100
	Mid-July, 2003	64	28	36	30	10	20	6=100
	March, 2002	67	33	34	26	9	17	7=100
	March, 2001	66	30	36	27	10	17	7=100
	September, 1999	74	41	33	22	7	15	4=100
	June, 1996	78	43	35	18	7	11	4=100
b.F1	Making it legal for doctors to give terminally ill patients the means to end their lives	51	18	33	40	16	24	9=100
	Mid-July, 2003	54	18	36	39	17	22	7=100
	March, 2001	53	19	34	40	18	22	7=100
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1000]:								
f.F2	The death penalty for persons convicted of murder when they were under the age of 18	37	12	25	54	19	35	9=100
	Mid-July, 2003	35	11	24	58	20	38	7=100
g.F2	Making it legal for doctors to assist terminally ill patients in committing suicide	44	12	32	48	21	27	8=100
	Mid-July, 2003	43	14	29	48	24	24	9=100

QUESTIONS 4 THROUGH 32 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Now, a few questions about your religious affiliation.

Q.33 What is your religious preference – do you consider yourself Christian, Jewish, Muslim, other non-Christian such as Buddhist or Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or don't you have a religious preference?

		Mid-July <u>2003</u>	March <u>2002</u>	March <u>2001</u>	June <u>1996</u> ⁷
81	Christian	81	82	82	84
2	Jewish	2	1	1	1
*	Muslim	*	*	1	*
1	Other non-Christian	4	1	2	3
1	Atheist	2	1	1	n/a
2	Agnostic	3	2	2	n/a
2	Something else (SPECIFY)	1	2	1	n/a
11	No preference	6	10	8	11
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100

IF CHRISTIAN IN Q.33, ASK:

Q.34 Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox – such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, or something else?

		Mid-July <u>2003</u>	March <u>2002</u>	March <u>2001</u>	June <u>1996</u>
50	Protestant	52	52	53	54
22	Roman Catholic	23	24	23	23
1	Mormon	1	2	2	2
1	Orthodox	*	*	1	1
6	Something else (SPECIFY)	1	2	*	1
-	Not practicing any religion	-	-	-	1
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
81%	Christian	81%	82%	82%	84%

IF 1 "PROTESTANT" OR 5 "SOMETHING ELSE" IN Q.34, ASK:

Q.35 As I read a list, tell me which if any of these denominations you are affiliated with. (**READ LIST**)

		<u>March 2001</u>	<u>June 1996</u>
19	Baptist	17	18
7	Methodist	8	10
5	Lutheran	5	6
3	Presbyterian	3	4
2	Congregational or United Church of Christ	3	3
7	Nondenominational or Independent Church	6	5
4	Pentecostal	5	3
2	Episcopalian	2	2
*	Reformed, or	*	*
5	Something else (SPECIFY)	3	2
2	Nothing in particular (DO NOT READ)	1	1
<u>1</u>	Don't Know/Refused (DO NOT READ)	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>
56%	Protestant/Something else	54%	54%

⁷ In 1996, question was worded: "What is your religious preference – do you consider yourself Christian, Jewish, Muslim, other non-Christian, or don't you have a religious preference?"

IF 1 "CHRISTIAN" OR 7 "SOMETHING ELSE" in Q33, ASK]:

Q.36 Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

		Mid-July <u>2003</u>	March <u>2002</u>	March <u>2001</u>	June <u>1996</u>
36	Yes	37	35	36	34
40	No	41	44	43	47
4	Don't Know/Refused	4	5	4	3
<u>3</u>	Undesignated ⁸	<u>n/a</u>	<u>n/a</u>	<u>n/a</u>	<u>n/a</u>
83%	Christian/Something else	82%	84%	83%	84%

QUESTION 37 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Q.38 Aside from weddings and funerals how often do you attend religious services... more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, or never?

		Aug <u>2004</u>	Jul <u>2003</u>	Mar <u>2003</u>	Mar <u>2002</u>	Mid-Nov <u>2001</u>	Mar <u>2001</u>	Sep <u>2000</u> ⁹	Jun <u>1997</u>	Jun <u>1996</u>
14	More than once a week	13	16	15	15	16	17	17	12	14
27	Once a week	25	27	24	25	26	26	28	26	25
14	Once or twice a month	15	15	15	17	14	17	16	17	17
19	A few times a year	20	18	21	18	17	17	17	20	21
14	Seldom	15	14	15	15	16	15	13	15	13
11	Never	11	10	9	9	10	7	8	10	9
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.39 How important would you say religion is in your own life – very important, fairly important, or not very important?

	Very <u>Important</u>	Fairly <u>Important</u>	Not very <u>Important</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
July, 2005	60	25	14	1=100
August, 2004	57	26	16	1=100
October, 2003	62	24	13	1=100
Mid-July, 2003	61	24	14	1=100
December, 2002	60	27	12	1=100
March, 2002	63	24	12	1=100
Mid-November, 2001	61	24	14	1=100
March, 2001	64	23	12	1=100
March, 2000 (<i>Gallup</i>)	61	27	12	*=100
June, 1998 (<i>Gallup</i>)	62	25	12	1=100
June, 1996	59	26	15	*=100
March, 1994 (<i>Gallup</i>)	59	29	11	1=100
March, 1988 (<i>Gallup</i>)	54	31	14	1=100
March, 1984 (<i>Gallup</i>)	56	30	13	1=100
April, 1978 (<i>Gallup</i>)	52	32	14	2=100
November, 1965 (<i>Gallup</i>)	70	22	7	1=100

⁸ Due to a programming error, on the first night of interviewing this question was asked only of those who answered "Something else" in the initial religious preference question or "Protestant" in the first Christian followup question, rather than of all Christians.

⁹ September 2000 results are based on registered voters.

Q.40 Which of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible? [READ, IN ORDER]

		March <u>2004</u> ¹⁰	Mid-July <u>2003</u>	March <u>2001</u>	June <u>1996</u>
36	The Bible is the actual word of God and is to be taken literally, word for word, OR	40	35	36	35
40	The Bible is the word of God, but not everything in it should be taken literally, word for word, OR	42	43	43	47
18	The Bible is a book written by men and is not the word of God.	13	16	14	14
2	Other (VOL.)	1	2	3	2
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100	100

**QUESTIONS 41 THROUGH 50 IN PREVIOUS RELEASE
QUESTIONS 51 THROUGH 65 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

Now, just a few questions for statistical purposes only...

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

<i>Trend</i>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL) No <u>Preference</u>	(VOL) Other <u>Party</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
July, 2005	32	32	28	5	*	3=100
June, 2005	30	32	32	4	*	2=100
Mid-May, 2005	30	34	29	4	*	3=100
Late March, 2005	29	32	36	2	*	1=100
Mid-March, 2005	30	34	29	4	*	3=100
February, 2005	31	32	30	4	1	2=100
January, 2005	32	33	30	4	*	1=100
<i>Yearly Totals</i>						
December, 2004	31	34	30	3	*	2=100
Mid-October, 2004	30	33	30	4	*	3=100
Late September, 2004	29	30	31	6	*	4=100
Mid-September, 2004	29	31	30	5	*	5=100
Early September, 2004	30	33	31	3	*	3=100
August, 2004	31	35	27	4	*	3=100
July, 2004	29	33	32	3	*	3=100
2004	30	33	30	4	*	3=100
2003	30	31	31	5	*	3=100
2002	30	31	30	5	1	3=100
2001	29	34	29	5	*	3=100
2001 Post-Sept 11	31	32	28	5	1	3=100
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28	35	30	5	*	2=100
2000	28	33	29	6	*	4=100
1999	27	33	34	4	*	2=100
1998	28	33	32	5	*	2=100
1997	28	33	32	4	1	2=100

¹⁰ In 2004 and 2003, the response categories were read in reverse order to half of the samples.

PARTY CONTINUED...

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>No Preference/ Other/DK</u>
1996	29	33	33	5=100
1995	32	30	34	4=100
1994	30	32	34	4=100
1993	27	34	34	5=100
1992	28	33	35	4=100
1991	31	32	33	4=100
1990	31	33	30	6=100
			<u>Independent/ No Pref/Oth/DK</u>	
1989	33	33	34=100	
1987	26	35	39=100	

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Refused to lean</u>
July, 2005	10	14	12=36%
June, 2005	10	16	12=38%
Mid-May, 2005	9	13	14=36%
Late March, 2005	13	17	9=39%
December, 2004	14	12	9=35%
August, 2003	12	16	14=42%
August, 2002	12	13	13=38%
September, 2000	11	13	15=39%
Late September, 1999	14	15	16=45%
August, 1999	15	15	12=42%