IPSOS / REUTERS POLL DATA

Prepared by Ipsos Public Affairs

Ipsos Poll Conducted for Reuters

Abortion Topline 11.17.2015

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted November 12 –17, 2015 on behalf Thomson Reuters. For the survey, a sample of 3,387 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample included 1,286 Democrats, 1,280 Republicans, and 443 Independents.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos's online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Amparo Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2015 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Post-hoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, region, race/ethnicity and income.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 1.9 percentage points for all respondents (see link below for more info on Ipsos online polling "Credibility Intervals"). Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=3,387, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=3.4).

The poll also has a credibility interval plus or minus 3.1 percentage points for Democrats, plus or minus 3.1 percentage points for Republicans, and plus or minus 5.3 percentage points for (see link below for more info on Ipsos online polling "Credibility Intervals").

For more information about Ipsos online polling methodology, please go here http://goo.gl/yJBkuf

		Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
PV16 - V19 - When you think about abortion, which of the following is closest to your personal opinion?	Abortion should be illegal in all cases	17%	11%	24%	18%
	Abortion should be illegal in most cases	24%	17%	35%	26%
	Abortion should be legal in most cases	23%	29%	21%	20%
	Abortion should be legal in all cases	20%	30%	10%	18%
	Unsure	16%	13%	10%	17%
	Total	3387	1286	1280	443
PV30 - V27 - Regardless of your opinion about abortion, do you think the federal government should decide whether abortion should be legal or not, or should each state government decide?	Federal Government	36%	48%	31%	33%
	Each State Government	34%	26%	47%	34%
	Unsure	30%	26%	22%	33%
	Total	3387	1286	1280	443
PV31 - V28 - And which of the below is closest to your view about where abortion laws	Abortion laws should be made at the state level by state legislators	13%	11%	16%	13%

should be made in this country?	Abortion laws should be made at the state level by voter referendum	21%	16%	29%	24%
	Abortion laws should be made at the national level by Congress	11%	11%	13%	9%
	Abortion laws should be made by the U.S. Supreme Court declaring a nationwide constitutional right	29%	42%	20%	25%
	Don't know	27%	20%	22%	30%
	Total	3387	1286	1280	443
TM729Y15 - Thinking now about the buildings where abortions may occur, in your opinion should clinics that perform abortions follow the same building standards as...?	Medical (non-hospital) facilities that perform outpatient medical procedures	30%	37%	27%	29%
	Hospitals facilities that perform more invasive medical procedures	44%	40%	51%	46%
	Don't know	26%	23%	22%	24%
	Total	3387	1286	1280	443
TM730Y15 - Which of the below statements comes closer to your own opinion on doctors that perform abortions at clinics?	They should be able to work there regardless of their affiliation with nearby hospitals or other medical facilities	38%	50%	31%	39%
	They should have to be affiliated with a nearby hospital or facility in addition to the clinic where they perform abortions	31%	25%	40%	35%
	Don't know	31%	25%	29%	26%
	Total	3387	1286	1280	443
TM731Y15 - As you may know, the US Supreme Court is currently reviewing a Texas law about abortion...In your opinion are these laws designed to...?	Make abortion clinics safer	41%	42%	42%	42%
	Make it very difficult or impossible to obtain an abortion in the area	35%	38%	38%	33%
	Don't know	24%	20%	19%	25%
	Total	3387	1286	1280	443
TM732Y15 - As you may know, the US Supreme Court is currently reviewing a Texas law about abortion...In your opinion should the Supreme Court...?	Strike down the law because it restricts access to abortion services	24%	41%	13%	22%
	Strike down the law because of other reasons	9%	9%	9%	9%
	Uphold the law because it does not restrict access to abortion services	22%	15%	30%	25%
	Uphold the law because of other reasons	10%	6%	17%	9%
	Don't know	36%	28%	32%	35%
	Total	3387	1286	1280	443

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How to Calculate Bayesian Credibility Intervals

The calculation of credibility intervals assumes that Y has a binomial distribution conditioned on the parameter θ\, i.e., Y|θ~Bin(n,θ), where n is the size of our sample. In this setting, Y counts the number of "yes", or "1", observed in the sample, so that the sample mean ($\bar{y}$) is a natural estimate of the true population proportion θ. This model is often called the likelihood function, and it is a standard concept in both the Bayesian and the Classical framework. The Bayesian [1] statistics combines both the prior distribution and the likelihood function to create a posterior distribution. The posterior distribution represents our opinion about which are the plausible values for θ adjusted after observing the sample data. In reality, the posterior distribution is one's knowledge base updated using the latest survey information. For the prior and likelihood functions specified here, the posterior distribution is also a beta distribution (π(θ/y)~β(y+a,n-y+b)), but with updated hyper-parameters.

Our credibility interval for ϑ is based on this posterior distribution. As mentioned above, these intervals represent our belief about which are the most plausible values for ϑ given our updated knowledge base. There are different ways to calculate these intervals based on π(θ/y). Since we want only one measure of precision for all variables in the survey, analogous to what is done within the Classical framework, we will compute the largest possible credibility interval for any observed sample. The worst case occurs when we assume that *a*=1 and *b*=1 and y=*n/2*. Using a simple approximation of the posterior by the normal distribution, the 95% credibility interval is given by, approximately:

$$\bar{y} \mp \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$$

For this poll, the Bayesian Credibility Interval was adjusted using standard weighting design effect 1+L=1.3 to account for complex weighting[2]

Examples of credibility intervals for different base sizes are below. Ipsos does not publish data for base sizes (sample sizes) below 100.

Sample size	Credibility intervals
2,000	2.5
1,500	2.9
1,000	3.5
750	4.1
500	5.0
350	6.0
200	7.9
100	11.2