



CARE – ABORTION SURVEY OCTOBER 2017

Methodology: ComRes surveyed 2,031 British adults aged 18+ between 20th and 22nd October 2017. Data were weighted to be representative of British adults aged 18+ by age, gender, region and social grade. ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.

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Abortion Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 20th-22nd October 2017

Absolutes/col percents

Table 1
Q.1 The current law permits abortion under certain conditions: the consent of 2 doctors is required, midwives are not allowed to conduct abortions and it is not legal to have an abortion after the 24th week of gestation unless the unborn child has a disability or the mother's life is in danger. Anyone acting outside of these parameters would be breaking the law. Do you support or oppose the idea that the practice of abortion should be governed by the law?
Base: All respondents

	Total	Gender		Age						Social Grade				Employment Sector				
		Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	18-34	35-54	55+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Public	Private
Unweighted base	2031	958	1073	202	307	346	373	298	505	509	719	803	599	560	341	531	309	812
Weighted base	2031	991	1040	227	349	327	361	299	468	576	688	767	544	566	418	503	334	836
NET: Support	1457 72%	727 73%	730 70%	146 64%	225 64%	216 66%	256 71%	235 79%	379 81%	371 64%	472 69%	614 80%	403 74%	413 73%	297 71%	344 68%	236 71%	573 69%
Strongly support	(4) 775 38%	381 38%	395 38%	63 28%	109 31%	122 37%	142 39%	120 40%	219 47%	172 30%	264 38%	339 44%	233 43%	207 37%	166 40%	169 34%	129 39%	299 36%
Tend to support	(3) 682 34%	346 35%	336 32%	84 37%	116 33%	94 29%	114 32%	115 38%	160 34%	199 35%	208 30%	275 36%	170 31%	205 36%	131 31%	175 35%	107 32%	274 33%
Tend to oppose	(2) 141 7%	63 6%	77 7%	30 13%	35 10%	21 6%	22 6%	11 4%	21 5%	65 11%	43 6%	33 4%	48 9%	38 7%	25 6%	30 6%	32 9%	55 7%
Strongly oppose	(1) 100 5%	32 3%	68 7%	10 4%	35 10%	22 7%	15 4%	5 2%	14 3%	45 8%	36 5%	19 2%	25 5%	28 5%	26 6%	22 4%	17 5%	48 6%
NET: Oppose	240 12%	95 10%	145 14%	40 18%	70 20%	43 13%	37 10%	16 5%	35 7%	110 19%	80 12%	51 7%	73 13%	66 12%	51 12%	51 10%	49 15%	103 12%
Prefer not to say	62 3%	34 3%	28 3%	11 5%	10 3%	7 2%	17 5%	12 4%	6 1%	21 4%	24 4%	17 2%	8 2%	22 4%	8 2%	24 5%	7 2%	39 5%
Don't know	271 13%	135 14%	137 13%	30 13%	44 13%	60 19%	52 14%	36 12%	49 10%	75 13%	112 16%	84 11%	60 11%	66 12%	62 15%	84 17%	43 13%	121 15%
Mean	3.26	3.31	3.21	3.07	3.02	3.22	3.31	3.39	3.41	3.04	3.27	3.41	3.28	3.24	3.26	3.24	3.22	3.22
Standard deviation	0.84	0.78	0.90	0.85	0.98	0.92	0.82	0.67	0.74	0.93	0.87	0.71	0.85	0.83	0.88	0.81	0.87	0.87
Standard error	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.03

Abortion Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 20th-22nd October 2017

Absolutes/col percents

Table 2
Q.1 The current law permits abortion under certain conditions: the consent of 2 doctors is required, midwives are not allowed to conduct abortions and it is not legal to have an abortion after the 24th week of gestation unless the unborn child has a disability or the mother's life is in danger. Anyone acting outside of these parameters would be breaking the law. Do you support or oppose the idea that the practice of abortion should be governed by the law?
Base: All respondents

	Total	Region										Work Status			
		NET: England	Scot-land	Wales	North East	North West	York-shire & Humb-erside	West Mid-lands	East Mid-lands	East-ern	London	South East	South West	Work-ing	Not work-ing
Unweighted base	2031	1717	199	115	83	237	195	156	154	202	232	281	177	1121	910
Weighted base	2031	1751	179	102	85	234	171	183	152	195	270	282	179	1170	861
NET: Support	1457 72%	1260 72%	127 71%	70 69%	55 65%	152 65%	135 79%	134 73%	112 73%	141 72%	187 69%	207 73%	138 77%	809 69%	648 75%
Strongly support	(4) 775 38%	678 39%	63 35%	35 35%	22 26%	90 39%	69 40%	83 45%	57 37%	76 39%	90 33%	118 42%	73 41%	428 37%	348 40%
Tend to support	(3) 682 34%	583 33%	64 36%	35 34%	33 39%	61 26%	67 39%	51 28%	54 36%	64 33%	96 36%	89 32%	65 37%	381 33%	301 35%
Tend to oppose	(2) 141 7%	109 6%	19 10%	13 13%	3 4%	20 9%	7 4%	9 5%	10 6%	15 8%	18 7%	20 7%	8 4%	86 7%	54 6%
Strongly oppose	(1) 100 5%	85 5%	10 6%	5 5%	6 7%	15 6%	7 4%	17 9%	1 *	4 2%	17 6%	10 4%	8 5%	65 6%	35 4%
NET: Oppose	240 12%	194 11%	29 16%	17 17%	9 11%	35 15%	14 8%	26 14%	10 7%	19 10%	35 13%	30 11%	16 9%	151 13%	89 10%
Prefer not to say	62 3%	53 3%	9 5%	- -	2 3%	10 4%	4 2%	6 3%	4 3%	8 4%	8 3%	4 1%	6 3%	45 4%	17 2%
Don't know	271 13%	244 14%	14 8%	14 14%	19 22%	37 16%	17 10%	17 9%	26 17%	27 14%	41 15%	41 15%	19 10%	164 14%	107 12%
Mean	3.26	3.27	3.15	3.15	3.11	3.22	3.32	3.25	3.38	3.33	3.17	3.32	3.32	3.22	3.30
Standard deviation	0.84	0.84	0.88	0.86	0.87	0.93	0.77	0.97	0.65	0.76	0.88	0.81	0.80	0.87	0.80
Standard error	0.02	0.02	0.07	0.09	0.11	0.07	0.06	0.08	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.03	0.03

Abortion Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 20th-22nd October 2017

Absolutes/col percents

Table 3

Q.2 For each of the following pairs of statements about abortion and the law, which comes closest to your viewpoint:

Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age									Social Grade				Employment Sector	
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	18-34	35-54	55+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Public	Private
Unweighted base	2031	958	1073	202	307	346	373	298	505	509	719	803	599	560	341	531	309	812
Weighted base	2031	991	1040	227	349	327	361	299	468	576	688	767	544	566	418	503	334	836
Changing the law so that abortion is never illegal would be good as it would remove the stigma from having an abortion	920 45%	465 47%	455 44%	131 58%	189 54%	159 49%	166 46%	117 39%	158 34%	319 55%	325 47%	275 36%	250 46%	245 43%	194 47%	231 46%	170 51%	421 50%
Changing the law so that abortion is never illegal would not be good because although it is often felt that abortion is acceptable in some contexts, it is also recognised that the unborn child requires some legal recognition and protection which would not be consistent with permitting abortion without any legal restraint.	1111 55%	526 53%	585 56%	97 42%	160 46%	168 51%	195 54%	182 61%	309 66%	257 45%	363 53%	491 64%	294 54%	321 57%	223 53%	272 54%	164 49%	415 50%

Abortion Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 20th-22nd October 2017

Absolutes/col percents

Table 4

Q.2 For each of the following pairs of statements about abortion and the law, which comes closest to your viewpoint:

Base: All respondents

	Region												Work Status		
	Total	NET: England	Scotland	Wales	North East	North West	Yorkshire & Humberside	West Midlands	East Midlands	East-ern	London	South East	South West	Work-ing	Not work-ing
Unweighted base	2031	1717	199	115	83	237	195	156	154	202	232	281	177	1121	910
Weighted base	2031	1751	179	102	85	234	171	183	152	195	270	282	179	1170	861
Changing the law so that abortion is never illegal would be good as it would remove the stigma from having an abortion	920 45%	782 45%	90 50%	48 47%	40 47%	109 46%	83 49%	81 44%	65 43%	78 40%	136 50%	124 44%	66 37%	591 51%	329 38%
Changing the law so that abortion is never illegal would not be good because although it is often felt that abortion is acceptable in some contexts, it is also recognised that the unborn child requires some legal recognition and protection which would not be consistent with permitting abortion without any legal restraint.	1111 55%	969 55%	89 50%	54 53%	45 53%	125 54%	88 51%	102 56%	87 57%	117 60%	134 50%	159 56%	112 63%	579 49%	532 62%

Abortion Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 20th-22nd October 2017

Absolutes/col percents

Table 5

Q.2 For each of the following pairs of statements about abortion and the law, which comes closest to your viewpoint:

Base: All respondents

	Gender		Age						Social Grade				Employment Sector					
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	18-34	35-54	55+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Public	Private
Unweighted base	2031	958	1073	202	307	346	373	298	505	509	719	803	599	560	341	531	309	812
Weighted base	2031	991	1040	227	349	327	361	299	468	576	688	767	544	566	418	503	334	836
Changing the law so that abortion is never illegal would be good as it would remove the threat to doctors of being prosecuted if they act in breach of the existing law	799 39%	406 41%	394 38%	118 52%	163 47%	146 45%	136 38%	95 32%	143 30%	281 49%	281 41%	237 31%	221 41%	219 39%	166 40%	193 38%	139 41%	370 44%
Changing the law so that abortion is never illegal would not be good because there are some situations - for example a perfectly healthy baby at 30 weeks gestation (approximately 8 months) - in which it should not be legal for doctors to perform abortions.	1232 61%	585 59%	646 62%	110 48%	186 53%	181 55%	226 62%	204 68%	325 70%	296 51%	407 59%	529 69%	323 59%	346 61%	252 60%	310 62%	195 59%	466 56%

Abortion Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 20th-22nd October 2017

Absolutes/col percents

Table 6

Q.2 For each of the following pairs of statements about abortion and the law, which comes closest to your viewpoint:

Base: All respondents

	Region											Work Status			
	Total	NET: England	Scotland	Wales	North East	North West	Yorkshire & Humberside	West Midlands	East Midlands	Eastern	London	South East	South West	Working	Not working
Unweighted base	2031	1717	199	115	83	237	195	156	154	202	232	281	177	1121	910
Weighted base	2031	1751	179	102	85	234	171	183	152	195	270	282	179	1170	861
Changing the law so that abortion is never illegal would be good as it would remove the threat to doctors of being prosecuted if they act in breach of the existing law	799 39%	681 39%	73 41%	46 45%	30 36%	96 41%	66 39%	77 42%	56 37%	75 39%	123 45%	105 37%	52 29%	508 43%	291 34%
Changing the law so that abortion is never illegal would not be good because there are some situations - for example a perfectly healthy baby at 30 weeks gestation (approximately 8 months) - in which it should not be legal for doctors to perform abortions.	1232 61%	1070 61%	106 59%	56 55%	55 64%	138 59%	104 61%	106 58%	96 63%	120 61%	147 55%	177 63%	126 71%	662 57%	570 66%

Abortion Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 20th-22nd October 2017

Absolutes/col percents

Table 7

Q.2 For each of the following pairs of statements about abortion and the law, which comes closest to your viewpoint:

Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age									Social Grade				Employment Sector	
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	18-34	35-54	55+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Public	Private
Unweighted base	2031	958	1073	202	307	346	373	298	505	509	719	803	599	560	341	531	309	812
Weighted base	2031	991	1040	227	349	327	361	299	468	576	688	767	544	566	418	503	334	836
Changing the law so that abortion is never illegal would be good as it would give women more time to make the right decision for them, later into pregnancy	766 38%	403 41%	364 35%	124 55%	154 44%	150 46%	120 33%	98 33%	121 26%	278 48%	270 39%	218 28%	203 37%	211 37%	166 40%	187 37%	143 43%	355 42%
Changing the law so that abortion is never illegal would not be good as it already gives women up to 24 weeks (approximately six months) to decide whether to abort an otherwise healthy baby and from that point onwards an increasing number of babies born prematurely survive.	1265 62%	588 59%	676 65%	103 45%	195 56%	177 54%	241 67%	201 67%	347 74%	298 52%	418 61%	548 72%	341 63%	355 63%	252 60%	317 63%	191 57%	481 58%

Abortion Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 20th-22nd October 2017

Absolutes/col percents

Table 8

Q.2 For each of the following pairs of statements about abortion and the law, which comes closest to your viewpoint:

Base: All respondents

	Region											Work Status			
	Total	NET: England	Scotland	Wales	North East	North West	Yorkshire & Humberside	West Midlands	East Midlands	East-ern	London	South East	South West	Work-ing	Not work-ing
Unweighted base	2031	1717	199	115	83	237	195	156	154	202	232	281	177	1121	910
Weighted base	2031	1751	179	102	85	234	171	183	152	195	270	282	179	1170	861
Changing the law so that abortion is never illegal would be good as it would give women more time to make the right decision for them, later into pregnancy	766 38%	654 37%	76 43%	36 36%	34 39%	92 39%	68 40%	64 35%	60 39%	68 35%	110 41%	101 36%	58 32%	498 43%	269 31%
Changing the law so that abortion is never illegal would not be good as it already gives women up to 24 weeks (approximately six months) to decide whether to abort an otherwise healthy baby and from that point onwards an increasing number of babies born prematurely survive.	1265 62%	1097 63%	102 57%	65 64%	52 61%	141 61%	102 60%	119 65%	93 61%	127 65%	160 59%	181 64%	121 68%	672 57%	592 69%

Abortion Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 20th-22nd October 2017

Absolutes/col percents

Table 9

Q.2 For each of the following pairs of statements about abortion and the law, which comes closest to your viewpoint:

Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age						Social Grade				Employment Sector				
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	18-34	35-54	55+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Public	Private
Unweighted base	2031	958	1073	202	307	346	373	298	505	509	719	803	599	560	341	531	309	812
Weighted base	2031	991	1040	227	349	327	361	299	468	576	688	767	544	566	418	503	334	836
Changing the law so that abortion is never illegal would be good as it would send a signal that it is a woman's right to choose what happens to her body	947 47%	473 48%	474 46%	130 57%	188 54%	164 50%	171 47%	122 41%	172 37%	317 55%	335 49%	295 38%	251 46%	264 47%	211 50%	220 44%	164 49%	429 51%
Changing the law so that abortion is never illegal would be wrong as it would no longer indicate the serious nature of a procedure that ends a human life	1084 53%	518 52%	566 54%	98 43%	161 46%	162 50%	191 53%	176 59%	295 63%	259 45%	353 51%	472 62%	292 54%	302 53%	207 50%	283 56%	170 51%	407 49%

Abortion Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 20th-22nd October 2017

Absolutes/col percents

Table 10

Q.2 For each of the following pairs of statements about abortion and the law, which comes closest to your viewpoint:

Base: All respondents

	Region											Work Status			
	Total	NET: England	Scotland	Wales	North East	North West	Yorkshire & Humberside	West Midlands	East Midlands	East-ern	London	South East	South West	Work-ing	Not work-ing
Unweighted base	2031	1717	199	115	83	237	195	156	154	202	232	281	177	1121	910
Weighted base	2031	1751	179	102	85	234	171	183	152	195	270	282	179	1170	861
Changing the law so that abortion is never illegal would be good as it would send a signal that it is a woman's right to choose what happens to her body	947 47%	806 46%	86 48%	55 54%	39 46%	122 52%	81 47%	79 43%	77 50%	91 47%	130 48%	125 44%	63 35%	593 51%	354 41%
Changing the law so that abortion is never illegal would be wrong as it would no longer indicate the serious nature of a procedure that ends a human life	1084 53%	945 54%	93 52%	47 46%	46 54%	112 48%	90 53%	104 57%	76 50%	104 53%	140 52%	157 56%	116 65%	577 49%	507 59%

Abortion Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 20th-22nd October 2017

Absolutes/col percents

Table 11

Q.2 For each of the following pairs of statements about abortion and the law, which comes closest to your viewpoint:

Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age									Social Grade				Employment Sector	
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	18-34	35-54	55+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Public	Private
Unweighted base	2031	958	1073	202	307	346	373	298	505	509	719	803	599	560	341	531	309	812
Weighted base	2031	991	1040	227	349	327	361	299	468	576	688	767	544	566	418	503	334	836
Changing the law so that abortion is never illegal would be good as it would help to normalise it	942 46%	488 49%	454 44%	144 64%	194 56%	168 51%	164 45%	110 37%	161 34%	338 59%	332 48%	271 35%	261 48%	264 47%	204 49%	213 42%	162 48%	429 51%
Changing the law so that abortion is never illegal would not be good because with 8.8 million abortions since 1967 (approaching 200,000 a year), abortion is already too readily available	1089 54%	503 51%	586 56%	83 36%	155 44%	159 49%	197 55%	188 63%	307 66%	238 41%	356 52%	495 65%	283 52%	302 53%	214 51%	291 58%	172 52%	407 49%

Abortion Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 20th-22nd October 2017

Absolutes/col percents

Table 12

Q.2 For each of the following pairs of statements about abortion and the law, which comes closest to your viewpoint:

Base: All respondents

	Region											Work Status			
	Total	NET: England	Scotland	Wales	North East	North West	Yorkshire & Humberside	West Midlands	East Midlands	East-ern	London	South East	South West	Work-ing	Not work-ing
Unweighted base	2031	1717	199	115	83	237	195	156	154	202	232	281	177	1121	910
Weighted base	2031	1751	179	102	85	234	171	183	152	195	270	282	179	1170	861
Changing the law so that abortion is never illegal would be good as it would help to normalise it	942 46%	805 46%	85 47%	52 51%	44 52%	104 45%	77 45%	76 42%	76 50%	87 45%	149 55%	124 44%	68 38%	591 51%	351 41%
Changing the law so that abortion is never illegal would not be good because with 8.8 million abortions since 1967 (approaching 200,000 a year), bortion is already too readily available	1089 54%	945 54%	94 53%	50 49%	41 48%	129 55%	93 55%	107 58%	77 50%	108 55%	121 45%	158 56%	111 62%	579 49%	510 59%