

RELIGION, MILLENNIALS AND ABORTION SURVEY
PUBLIC RELIGION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

April 22 – May 8, 2011

N=3,000

Q.1 Generally speaking, do you think that things in this country are going in the right direction, or do you think things have gotten off on the wrong track?

29	Right Direction
65	Wrong Track
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.2 Over the NEXT two years do you think the economy will get better, get worse, or will it stay about the same?

36	Better
33	Worse
28	About the same
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.3 Thinking about some issues in the country today, do you think that **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]** is a critical issue facing the country, one among many important issues or not that important compared to other issues? What about **[INSERT; NEXT]**?

REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Is this a critical issue facing the country, one among many important issues or not that important compared to other issues?

a. Abortion

29	Critical issue
29	One among many
40	Not that important
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Same-sex marriage

23	Critical issue
21	One among many
53	Not that important
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. Immigration

43	Critical issue
36	One among many
20	Not that important
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. The environment

42	Critical issue
39	One among many
18	Not that important
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

e. The economy

78	Critical issue
18	One among many
3	Not that important
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.4 If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services, or a bigger government providing more services?

50	Smaller government
41	Bigger government
2	Depends (VOL.)
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.5 How much of the time do you think you can trust the government to do what is right? **[READ IN ORDER]**

[FORM 1 READ CATEGORIES IN ORDER, FORM 2 READ IN REVERSE ORDER]

14	None of the time
60	Some of the time
21	Most of the time
3	Just about always
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Thinking about some issues in the country today...

Q.6 Do you think abortion should be **[READ IN ORDER]**

[FORM 1 READ CATEGORIES IN ORDER, FORM 2 READ IN REVERSE ORDER]

19	Legal in all cases
37	Legal in most cases
26	Illegal in most cases
14	Illegal in all cases
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.7 Which of the following statements comes closest to your own view **[READ IN ORDER]**?

40	Gay couples should be allowed to marry
24	Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions, but not marry, OR
32	There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.8 Now, I'd like to get your views on some other issues that are being discussed in the country today. All in all, do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose **[INSERT FIRST TIME; RANDOMIZE]**? What about **[NEXT ITEM]**?

REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose?

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,512]:

af1. The death penalty for persons convicted of murder

35	Strongly favor
32	Favor
19	Oppose
10	Strongly oppose
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

bf1. Expanding access to birth control for women who cannot afford it

46	Strongly favor
36	Favor
10	Oppose
6	Strongly oppose
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

cf1. Allowing undocumented immigrants who have been in the U.S. for several years to earn legal working status and an opportunity for citizenship in the future

21	Strongly favor
38	Favor
19	Oppose
19	Strongly oppose
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,488]:

df2. Requiring that women under the age of 18 get the consent of at least one parent before they are allowed to have an abortion

42	Strongly favor
31	Favor
11	Oppose
13	Strongly oppose
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ef2. Comprehensive sex education in public schools

33	Strongly favor
45	Favor
12	Oppose
8	Strongly oppose
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ff2. Tougher laws and regulations to protect the environment even if it raises prices or costs jobs

21	Strongly favor
37	Favor
25	Oppose
14	Strongly oppose
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK ALL:

On a different topic...

Q.9 As I read a pair of statements please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. **[ROTATE OPTIONS]**

43	1—There are things that are just wrong regardless of the situation
54	2—What is right or wrong almost always depends on the situation
*	Neither (VOL.)
*	Both equally (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Turning to the issue of abortion...

Q.10 Please tell me whether or not you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion in the following circumstances. First... **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**. Should it be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion in this circumstance, or not?

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,512]:

af1. If the woman's physical health is seriously endangered by the pregnancy

86	Yes, should
10	No, should not
2	Depends (VOL.)
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,488]:

bf2. If the woman's mental health is seriously endangered by the pregnancy

74	Yes, should
22	No, should not
1	Depends (VOL.)
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK ALL:

c. If there is a strong chance of serious defect in the baby

66	Yes, should
28	No, should not
2	Depends (VOL.)
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. If she became pregnant as the result of rape

79	Yes, should
17	No, should not
1	Depends (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

e. If she is not married and does not want to marry the man

39	Yes, should
58	No, should not
2	Depends (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

f. If the family has a very low income and cannot afford any more children

45	Yes, should
52	No, should not
1	Depends (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

g. If she is still in high school

47	Yes, should
49	No, should not
3	Depends (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.11 Thinking about the PURPOSE of abortion laws please tell me whether you think it is appropriate or NOT appropriate for these laws to do any of the following? First... **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**? Is it appropriate for abortion laws to do this, or not?

a. Protect the health and well-being of women

82	Appropriate
15	Not Appropriate
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Encourage women to make more responsible decisions

78	Appropriate
18	Not Appropriate
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. Protect the life of the fetus throughout the entire pregnancy

63	Appropriate
31	Not Appropriate
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. Preserve a woman's freedom to make her own decision

70	Appropriate
27	Not Appropriate
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

On a different topic...

Q.12 As I read a few personal characteristics, please tell if they describe you very well, somewhat well, not too well or not at all well. The first statement is... **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**. Would you say this describes you very well, somewhat well, not too well or not at all well? How about...

a. Before judging someone I always put myself in their shoes

53	Very well
37	Somewhat well
5	Not too well
4	Not at all well
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. When I feel strongly about an issue I don't waste time trying to understand the other side

17	Very well
22	Somewhat well
26	Not too well
35	Not at all well
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. I hardly ever criticize anyone even if I strongly disagree with what they are doing

23	Very well
40	Somewhat well
21	Not too well
16	Not at all well
<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. After hearing my friends' point of view I sometimes change my mind about important issues

16	Very well
46	Somewhat well
21	Not too well
16	Not at all well
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.13 Now, as I read some statements on a few different topics, please tell me if you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree or completely disagree with each one. (First/Next) **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**.

a. All in all, family life suffers when the woman has a full-time job

11	Completely agree
28	Mostly agree
33	Mostly disagree
26	Completely disagree
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Discrimination against women is no longer a problem in the United States

9	Completely agree
23	Mostly agree
38	Mostly disagree
30	Completely disagree
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. God always rewards those who have faith with good health, financial success and fulfilling personal relationships

17	Completely agree
29	Mostly agree
24	Mostly disagree
26	Completely disagree
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.14 Now as I read a couple of terms please tell me how well the following describe you. First, **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**. Would you say this describes you very well, somewhat well, not too well or not at all well? Next... **[INSERT NEXT]**?

a. Pro-life

35	Very well
31	Somewhat well
13	Not too well
18	Not at all well
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Pro-choice

38	Very well
32	Somewhat well
11	Not too well
16	Not at all well
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.15 In America today, do you think it is more socially acceptable to be pro-life or pro-choice?

32	Pro-life
53	Pro-choice
2	Neither (VOL.)
2	Both (VOL.)
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.16 As I read a pair of statements please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. **[ROTATE OPTIONS]**

35	1—Having an abortion is a selfish decision that allows a woman to avoid taking responsibility
59	2—In certain circumstances, having an abortion is the most responsible decision a woman can make
2	Neither (VOL.)
1	Both equally (VOL.)
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.17 Next, I'm going to read you a series of statements. Regardless of whether or not you think it should be legal, for each one, please tell me whether you personally believe that it is morally acceptable or morally wrong. How about **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**? Is this morally acceptable, or morally wrong?

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,512]:

af1. Sex between an unmarried man and woman

57	Morally acceptable
41	Morally wrong
1	Depends on the situation (VOL.)
*	Not a moral issue (VOL.)
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,488]:

bf2. Sex between a young man and young woman under the age of 18

34	Morally acceptable
61	Morally wrong
3	Depends on the situation (VOL.)
*	Not a moral issue (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK ALL:

c. Having an abortion

40	Morally acceptable
52	Morally wrong
5	Depends on the situation (VOL.)
*	Not a moral issue (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. Getting divorced

66	Morally acceptable
27	Morally wrong
6	Depends on the situation (VOL.)
*	Not a moral issue (VOL.)
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

e. Sex between two adults of the same gender

41	Morally acceptable
55	Morally wrong
1	Depends on the situation (VOL.)
*	Not a moral issue (VOL.)
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Now a few different questions...

ATTEND 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?

14	More than once a week
25	Once a week
13	Once or twice a month
18	A few times a year
18	Seldom
12	Never
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.18 How important is religion in your life – the most important thing, very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

19	The most important thing
37	Very important
23	Somewhat important
9	Not too important
10	Not at all important
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.19 Which comes closest to your view? **[READ, IN ORDER]**

IF BELIEVE HOLY BOOK IS WORD OF GOD (Q.19=1), ASK:

Q.20 And would you say that **[READ, IN ORDER]**?

67	[Holy book] is the word of God, OR
35	<i>[Holy book] is to be taken literally, word for word, OR</i>
30	<i>Not everything in [Holy book] should be taken literally, word for word.</i>
2	Other/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
28	[Holy book] is a book written by men and is not the word of God.
1	Other (VOL.)
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF ATTEND AT LEAST ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH (ATTEND<4), ASK [N=1,633]:

Thinking about your place of worship...

Q.21 Does the clergy at your place of worship ever speak out about **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**? What about **[INSERT]**? Does the clergy at your place of worship ever speak out about this, or not?

a. The issue of homosexuality

51	Yes
47	No
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. The issue of abortion

54	Yes
44	No
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF HEARD ABOUT 'HOMOSEXUALITY' (Q21a=1), ASK [N=822]:

Q.22a When your clergy has spoken about the issue of homosexuality do they say it is morally acceptable, morally wrong or do they not take a position on the issue?

5	Morally acceptable
77	Morally wrong
16	Don't take a position
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF HEARD ABOUT 'ABORTION' (Q21b=1), ASK [N=915]:

Q.22b When your clergy has spoken about the issue of abortion do they say it is morally acceptable, morally wrong or do they not take a position on the issue?

3	Morally acceptable
81	Morally wrong
15	Don't take a position
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK FORM 2 ONLY:

IF RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION (RELG=1-8, 11,13,14), ASK [N=1,182]:

Q.23a Do you think it is possible to disagree with your religion's teachings on the issue of abortion and still be considered a good [INSERT RELIGION]?

72	Possible
23	Not possible
1	Depends (VOL.)
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK FORM 1 ONLY:

IF RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION (RELG=1-8, 11,13,14), ASK [N=1,224]:

Q.23b Do you think it is possible to disagree with your religion's teachings on the issue of homosexuality and still be considered a good [INSERT RELIGION]?

63	Possible
33	Not possible
1	Depends (VOL.)
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF CATHOLIC (RELG=2), ASK [N=612]:

Q.24 Do you think the position of the Catholic Church on the issue of abortion is too conservative, too liberal, or is it about right?

44	Too conservative
7	Too liberal
45	About right
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK ALL:

Q.25 Do you personally believe that having an abortion is a sin, or not?

46	Yes
44	No
5	Depends (VOL.)
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.26 Do you think it is right or wrong for religious leaders to attempt to publicly pressure politicians on issues such as abortion?

35	Right
61	Wrong
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK IF RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION (RELG=1-8, 11,13,14), ASK [N=2,413]:

Q.27 Thinking about how your own place of worship handles certain social and political issues. If you had to grade your own place of worship on how it handles **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**. Would you give it an "A", a "B", a "C", a "D" or an "F"? **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**?

REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Would you give it an "A", a "B", a "C", a "D" or an "F"?

a. The issue of abortion

34	A
24	B
18	C
7	D
8	F
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. The issue of homosexuality

34	A
21	B
20	C
7	D
9	F
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK ALL:

Now a few questions about your community...

Q.28 In your community, how difficult do you think it is to get an abortion? **[READ IN ORDER]**

14	Very difficult
19	Somewhat difficult
28	Not too difficult
23	Not at all difficult
*	Depends (VOL.)
<u>17</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.29 In your community, how difficult do you think it is for a woman who is pregnant to get the government or community support she might need to carry the child to term? **[READ IN ORDER]**

12	Very difficult
26	Somewhat difficult
29	Not too difficult
25	Not at all difficult
*	Depends (VOL.)
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.30 Do you think at least some health care professionals in your community should provide legal abortions, or not?

58	Yes, should
38	No, should not
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.31 How difficult do you think it is for a woman who is pregnant to give her baby up for adoption? **[READ IN ORDER]**

39	Very difficult
21	Somewhat difficult
18	Not too difficult
16	Not at all difficult
1	Depends (VOL.)
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Thinking about you and the people that you know...

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,512]:

Q.32a Have you recently seen a movie or TV show about young unmarried women who are pregnant?

48	Yes [IF 'YES'—SPECIFY WHAT SHOW OR MOVIE]
50	No
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,488]:

Q.32b Have you recently seen an ultrasound image of a fetus from a friend or family member?

58	Yes [IF 'YES'—SPECIFY WHERE]
41	No
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK ALL:

Q.33 Do you have a close friend or family member who is gay or lesbian?

54	Yes
45	No
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.34 Do you know anyone who has a child with a disability or special needs?

74	Yes
25	No
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.35 Do you know anyone who has had an abortion?

61	Yes
38	No
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF 'YES' (Q35=1), ASK [N=1,855]:

Q.36 And was this person someone in your own generation or someone in another generation?

64	Own generation
22	Other generation
13	Both my generation and another generation (VOL.)
*	Neither (VOL.)
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Survey Methodology

The survey was designed and conducted by Public Religion Research Institute and funded by the Ford Foundation. Results of the survey were based on bilingual (Spanish and English) telephone interviews conducted between April 22, 2011 and May 8, 2011, by professional interviewers under the direction of Directions in Research. Interviews were conducted by telephone among a random sample of 3,000 adults 18 years of age or older in the continental United States (750 respondents were interviewed on a cell phone). The final sample was weighted to ensure proper representativeness.

The weighting was accomplished in two stages. The first stage of weighting corrected for different probabilities of selection associated with the number of adults in each household and each respondent's telephone usage patterns.¹ In the second stage, sample demographics were balanced by form to match target population parameters for gender, age, education, race and Hispanic ethnicity, region (U.S. Census definitions), population density and telephone usage. The population density parameter was derived from Census 2000 data. The telephone usage parameter came from an analysis of the July-December 2009 National Health Interview Survey. All other weighting parameters were derived from an analysis of the Census Bureau's 2009 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) data.

The sample weighting was accomplished using Sample Balancing, a special iterative sample-weighting program that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on the final results. The use of these weights in statistical analysis ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target populations.

The margin of error is +/- 2.0% for the general sample at the 95% confidence interval. In addition to sampling error, surveys may also be subject to error or bias due to question wording, context, and order effects.

¹ Telephone usage refers to whether respondents have only a landline telephone, only a cell phone or both types.