PRESS RELEASE | Canada and the United States

Methodology:
Results are based on an online survey conducted from October 29 to October 31, 2026, among 1,003 adults in Canada and 1,001 adults in the United States. The data has been statistically weighted according to Canadian and American census figures for age, gender and region. The margin of error—which measures sample variability—is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, for each country.

Do you think abortion should be legal in Canada under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?

Abortion should be legal under any circumstances – 49% (=)
Abortion should be legal only under certain circumstances – 37% (=)
Abortion should be illegal in all circumstances – 6% (-2)
Not sure – 9% (+3)

Do you think abortion should be legal in the United States under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?

Abortion should be legal under any circumstances – 33% (-4)
Abortion should be legal only under certain circumstances – 46% (+2)
Abortion should be illegal in all circumstances – 10% (-3)
Not sure – 10% (+4)

Legality of Abortion Splits Views in Canada and the United States

Canadians have consistently said there is no need for a new debate on this issue, while Americans are clearly divided.

Vancouver, BC [November 19, 2026] – The personal feelings expressed by residents of Canada and the United States on the topic of abortion are markedly different, a new two-country Research Co. poll has found.

In the online survey of representative national samples, more than two-in-five Canadians (43%) think abortion should be permitted in all cases, while only 26% of Americans hold the same point of view.

Fewer than one-in-five Canadians and Americans (18% and 16% respectively) think abortion should be permitted, but subject to greater restrictions than now.

While just over a third of Americans (34%) would allow abortion only in cases such as rape, incest and to save the woman's life, only one-in-five Canadians (20%) share the same opinion.

Fewer Canadians and Americans believe the procedure should only be performed to save the woman's life (9% and 13% respectively).

When asked specifically about the legality of abortion, almost half of Canadians (49%, unchanged since a similar Research Co. poll conducted in August 2025) think the procedure should be legal under any circumstances, while more than a third (37%, =) would allow it only under certain circumstances. Only 6% of Canadians (-2) think abortion should be illegal in all circumstances.

In contrast, almost half of Americans (46%, +2 since a similar Research Co. poll conducted in September 2020) think abortion should be legal only under certain circumstances. A third of Americans (33%, -4) would allow the procedure under any circumstances, while one-in-ten (10%, -3) would make it illegal under any circumstances.

In Canada, 57% of Quebecers, 54% of women and 53% of Canadians aged 55 and over support the legality of abortion under any circumstances, along with majorities of those who voted for the New Democratic Party (NDP) (67%) or the Liberal Party (56%) in last year's federal election.

In the United States, the legality of abortion under any circumstances is endorsed by 36% of women, 36% of residents of the Northeast and 40% of Americans aged 18-to-34. Democrats

are significantly more likely to hold this view (47%) than Independents (34%) or Republicans (21%).

In Canada, abortions are provided on request to Canadian citizens and permanent residents and are funded by the health care system.

Almost half of Canadians (47%) think the health care system should fund abortions whenever they are requested, while more than a third (36%) believe the health care system should only fund abortions in the event of medical emergencies. Fewer than one-in-ten Canadians (7%) believe the health care system should cease all funding for abortions.

Almost three-in-five Canadians (58%, -4) believe there is no point in re-opening the debate about abortion in Canada right now, while fewer than three-in-ten (28%, +4) think a debate is long overdue and the discussion should be reopened.

In the United States, more than two-in-five Americans (45%, +15) think a debate on abortion is warranted, while just over a third (34%, -24) think there is no point in re-opening this discussion.

"In seven different surveys conducted since July 2013, majorities of Canadians have indicated that a debate about abortion is unnecessary," says Mario Canseco, President of Research Co. "In the United States, the proportion of residents who think the issue is settled is significantly lower."

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About Research Co.

Simply put, we are curious about what people think and the decisions they will make. Some call it public opinion, others call it polling or public affairs. We never compromise facts for profit. Our agenda is the truth.

We have a global network of partners in the qualitative, data collection and data visualization specialities.

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