

I. (State-sponsored) religion in (public) schools

- A. State-sponsored religion in public schools widespread prior to 1962
- B. Key USSC cases
  - 1. *Engle v. Vitale* (1962): banned state-sponsored prayer in public schools
  - 2. *Abington School District v. Schempp* (1963): banned state-sponsored Bible reading in public schools
  - 3. *Brown v. Gilmore* (2001): let stand a VA statute authorizing a moment-of-silence in public schools
- C. Recent polling data: **spoken school prayer versus a moment of silence**  
[http://publicagenda.org/specials/religion/religion\\_compare.cfm](http://publicagenda.org/specials/religion/religion_compare.cfm)

How should the public schools deal with the issue of prayer in the classroom? In your view, would it be best for the public schools to:				
	General Public	Evangelical Christians	Jews	Non-Religious
Have a moment of silence	52.8%	52.6%	30.0%	35.6%
Say a Christian prayer which refers to Jesus	6.4%	11.6%	1.5%	1.0%
Say a prayer that refers to God but no specific religion	20.0%	26.2%	8.5%	6.7%
Public schools should avoid all of these	19.4%	7.4%	59.5%	55.8%
Don't know	1.4%	2.2%	0.5%	1.0%

- 1. Although many surveys have shown support for government-sponsored public-school prayer,
- 2. When given the option, a majority of Americans think a **moment of silence** is the "best" way to deal with prayer in the classroom (a majority of evangelical Christians also support this option).
  - a. Just 6% of the general public support a Christian prayer that refers to Jesus (12% of evangelical Christians support this option).
  - b. One in five (20%) of the general public prefers a prayer that refers to God but no specific religion (26% of evangelical Christians agree).
  - c. In contrast, 53% of Americans think a moment of silence is the "best" way to deal with prayer in the classroom (53% of evangelical Christians support this option).
- 3. Some are more wary of any government-sponsored public-school prayer:
  - a. While the general public prefers a moment of silence, Jews and nonreligious Americans feel differently. Sixty percent of Jews and 56% of nonreligious individuals prefer that schools avoid both prayer and a moment of silence (only 19% of the general public agree).
  - b. The survey shows, in addition, that most Jews and nonreligious Americans are more likely to believe school prayer violates the Constitution and the idea of separation of church and state.

II. Sex education in public schools

- A. Older controversy, dating to Progressive Era
- B. Current controversy focused on comprehensive v. abstinence-only curriculum

III. Sex in popular media

- A. Film – e.g., Hays Code (1934-68) was used to self-censor Hollywood films
- B. Other media: magazines, popular music, Internet, video games

IV. Abortion Figure 5-1, p. 97

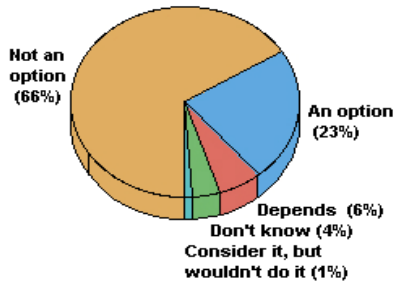
- A. Key USSC cases
  - 1. *Roe v. Wade* (1973)
  - 2. *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services* (1989)
  - 3. *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992)

- B. Survey questions about the legality of abortion often draw different responses depending on how questions are worded.  
[http://publicagenda.org/issues/red\\_flags.cfm?issue\\_type=abortion](http://publicagenda.org/issues/red_flags.cfm?issue_type=abortion)
1. This is generally a sign of conflicted feelings on the part of the public. The abortion issue features a number of conflicted and seemingly inconsistent findings.

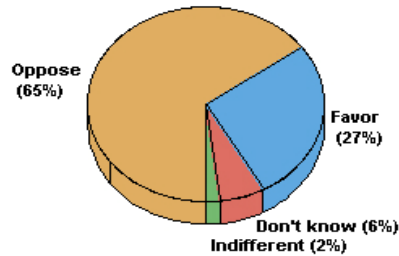
**While most Americans say they would not consider abortion an option for themselves or a partner, less than one-third favor a complete ban**

If you or your partner had an unplanned pregnancy, would you consider abortion as an option or would abortion not be an option that you would consider?

Generally speaking, are you in favor of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would prohibit abortion, or are you opposed to that?



Source: Los Angeles Times 6/00

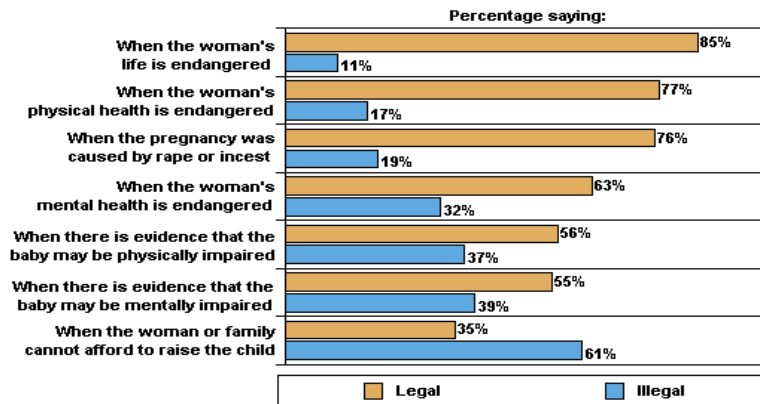


Source: Los Angeles Times 6/00

2. For example, large majorities favor laws to restrict abortions, but nearly two-thirds say the government should not interfere with a woman's access to abortion.
3. And, while most Americans are opposed to overturning the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion during the first three months of pregnancy, many are unsure whether the decision goes too far in making abortion legal.

**Majorities say abortion should be legal in some, but not all, circumstances**

Now I am going to read some specific situations under which an abortion might be considered. For each one, please say whether you think abortion should be legal in that situation, or illegal.



Source: Gallup / CNN / USA Today 1/03

V. The role of women in society

- A. Suffrage movement: 1820s-1920
- B. WWII
- C. 1960s-present Figure 5-2, p. 99

VI. The American family

- A. Women in the workforce Figure 5-3, p. 102
- B. Births to unmarried mothers Figure 5-4, p. 103
- C. Ratio of divorces to marriages Figure 5-5 p. 104
- D. Increase in births to unmarried teenage mothers Figure 5-6, p. 105
- E. Juvenile delinquency cases Figure 5-7, p. 107