

New survey reveals need for better information about **abortion**

Huge support for a **woman's right to know**

89% of British adults support “a woman’s right, enshrined in law, to be informed of all the physical, psychological and emotional risks associated with abortion.”

82% support “a legal duty on doctors to provide access to advice and information about alternatives to abortion, such as adoption.”

78% support “a compulsory cooling off period between diagnosis of pregnancy and an abortion, to ensure that the mother is sure of her decision.”

Huge **ignorance** over the scale of abortion

Last year there were more than **200,000 abortions** in Britain, yet **only 3%** of British adults estimate the actual number within 50,000.

Indeed, **nearly a third of people (30%)** estimate that the annual total is less than a tenth of the actual figure and a further **4 in 10 people** admit that they **don't know**.

When the true figure is revealed, **62%** of people say that it is “**too high** and ways should be found to reduce it.”

Support a **new debate**. Support ‘**informed consent**’.

Abortion: explain **all** the consequences and alternatives

choose**life**campaign.org



Abortions Survey

CATI Fieldwork : October 15th-17th 2010

Absolutes/col percents

Table 1
Q.1 How many abortions do you estimate take place in Britain each year?
Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age						Social Grade				Region				
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	South East	Mid-lands	North Eng-land	Wales & South West	Scot-land
Unweighted base	1001	457	544	83	106	143	230	179	260	346	193	156	306	268	259	246	140	88
Weighted base	1001	491	510	120	160	190	170	150	210	270	290	210	230	254	264	251	144	87
Up to 20,000	300 30%	143 29%	158 31%	54 45%	50 31%	52 27%	48 28%	34 23%	62 29%	82 30%	83 29%	63 30%	72 31%	87 34%	79 30%	79 31%	35 24%	20 23%
20,001-50,000	98 10%	54 11%	44 9%	12 10%	15 10%	20 11%	23 13%	13 9%	14 7%	30 11%	42 14%	16 7%	10 5%	28 11%	18 7%	26 11%	14 10%	11 12%
50,001-100,000	78 8%	44 9%	34 7%	9 7%	19 12%	13 7%	13 8%	17 11%	7 3%	21 8%	24 8%	27 13%	5 2%	13 5%	32 12%	13 5%	16 11%	4 5%
100,001-150,000	9 1%	3 1%	6 1%	2 1%	1 1%	1 *	3 2%	1 1%	1 *	5 2%	1 *	2 1%	1 *	4 2%	2 1%	1 1%	- -	1 1%
150,001-200,000	23 2%	12 2%	12 2%	3 3%	6 4%	7 4%	1 1%	3 2%	2 1%	6 2%	8 3%	4 2%	5 2%	6 2%	3 1%	7 3%	4 3%	3 3%
200,001-250,000	10 1%	6 1%	4 1%	1 1%	1 1%	2 1%	3 2%	1 *	3 1%	7 3%	- -	1 *	2 1%	1 1%	1 *	6 2%	1 1%	1 1%
250,001-500,000	32 3%	24 5%	8 1%	2 2%	5 3%	6 3%	9 5%	4 3%	5 2%	9 3%	8 3%	11 5%	4 2%	6 2%	11 4%	7 3%	4 3%	3 4%
Over 500,000	41 4%	14 3%	27 5%	4 4%	9 6%	9 5%	9 5%	6 4%	3 1%	15 6%	12 4%	7 3%	7 3%	10 4%	14 5%	8 3%	8 5%	1 1%
Don't know	411 41%	191 39%	220 43%	33 27%	53 33%	80 42%	61 36%	71 47%	113 54%	95 35%	112 39%	80 38%	124 54%	99 39%	104 39%	103 41%	62 43%	43 49%
Mean (000's)	66.81	80.86	51.63	50.08	68.87	75.23	77.52	74.81	52.74	73.50	62.91	80.85	45.07	53.46	72.01	67.77	70.48	84.58
Standard deviation	113.16	130.17	89.08	95.91	106.99	121.81	125.71	117.00	106.36	113.48	107.09	130.75	95.57	97.61	124.39	113.14	104.24	135.55
Standard error	4.92	8.15	5.38	12.70	13.27	13.97	10.78	12.92	10.01	7.95	10.30	13.71	8.51	7.97	10.79	9.70	12.64	20.92

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Table 2

Q.2 In fact, according to Government figures just over 200,000 abortions took place in Britain last year. Which of these statements best sums up your view on this statistic?

Base: All respondents

	Gender		Age						Social Grade				Region					
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	South East	Mid-lands	North Eng-land	Wales & South West	Scot-land
Unweighted base	1001	457	544	83	106	143	230	179	260	346	193	156	306	268	259	246	140	88
Weighted base	1001	491	510	120	160	190	170	150	210	270	290	210	230	254	264	251	144	87
It is too high and ways should be found to reduce it	625 62%	286 58%	339 66%	92 77%	91 57%	114 60%	108 64%	87 58%	132 63%	154 57%	192 66%	128 61%	150 65%	157 62%	161 61%	169 67%	86 59%	53 60%
It is a reasonable number and no action needs to be taken to reduce it	254 25%	148 30%	107 21%	24 20%	51 32%	56 29%	38 22%	35 23%	51 24%	80 30%	72 25%	55 26%	47 21%	71 28%	74 28%	51 20%	36 25%	23 26%
Don't know	121 12%	57 12%	65 13%	4 3%	18 11%	20 10%	24 14%	28 19%	27 13%	35 13%	26 9%	27 13%	33 14%	26 10%	29 11%	32 13%	23 16%	12 14%

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Table 3

Q.3 Would you support or oppose each of these possible changes to the law on abortion?**Base: All respondents**

	Gender		Age						Social Grade				Region					
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	South East	Mid-lands	North Eng-land	Wales & South West	Scot-land
Unweighted base	1001	457	544	83	106	143	230	179	260	346	193	156	306	268	259	246	140	88
Weighted base	1001	491	510	120	160	190	170	150	210	270	290	210	230	254	264	251	144	87
<u>A compulsory cooling off period between diagnosis of pregnancy and an abortion, to ensure that the mother is sure of her decision</u>																		
Support	778	390	388	99	117	145	137	122	159	204	223	172	179	194	210	201	107	66
	78%	80%	76%	82%	73%	76%	80%	81%	76%	75%	77%	82%	78%	76%	79%	80%	74%	76%
Oppose	142	57	85	18	28	32	25	14	24	46	49	20	27	40	35	27	23	17
	14%	12%	17%	15%	18%	17%	15%	10%	12%	17%	17%	10%	12%	16%	13%	11%	16%	20%
Don't know	81	43	38	4	15	14	9	14	27	20	19	18	24	20	20	23	14	4
	8%	9%	7%	3%	9%	7%	5%	9%	13%	7%	7%	8%	11%	8%	7%	9%	10%	5%
<u>A woman's right, enshrined in law, to be informed of all the physical, psychological and emotional risks associated with abortion</u>																		
Support	887	427	461	106	141	161	161	138	181	242	265	188	192	220	237	225	128	78
	89%	87%	90%	88%	88%	84%	94%	92%	86%	90%	91%	90%	83%	86%	90%	90%	88%	89%
Oppose	54	28	25	12	8	14	4	5	11	13	14	13	14	19	16	8	6	4
	5%	6%	5%	10%	5%	7%	2%	3%	5%	5%	5%	6%	6%	7%	6%	3%	4%	5%
Don't know	60	35	25	2	11	16	6	8	18	15	11	9	24	16	11	17	11	5
	6%	7%	5%	2%	7%	8%	3%	5%	9%	6%	4%	4%	10%	6%	4%	7%	8%	6%
<u>A legal duty on doctors to provide access to advice and information about alternatives to abortion, such as adoption</u>																		
Support	816	400	417	102	119	156	140	126	174	224	228	182	182	209	226	201	107	73
	82%	81%	82%	85%	74%	82%	82%	84%	83%	83%	79%	86%	79%	82%	86%	80%	74%	84%
Oppose	115	58	57	15	30	25	17	9	18	31	44	16	23	27	27	27	25	8
	11%	12%	11%	13%	19%	13%	10%	6%	8%	12%	15%	8%	10%	11%	10%	11%	17%	10%
Don't know	70	33	37	3	11	9	13	15	18	15	18	13	25	18	10	24	13	5
	7%	7%	7%	3%	7%	5%	8%	10%	8%	5%	6%	6%	11%	7%	4%	9%	9%	6%

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	Gender		Age						Social Grade				Region					
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	South East	Mid-lands	North Eng-land	Wales & South West	Scot-land
Weighted base	1001	491	510	120	160	190	170	150	210	270	290	210	230	254	264	251	144	87
<u>A reduction in the number of weeks' pregnancy at which an abortion can be conducted, which currently is 24 weeks or just under six months, to a limit of 20 weeks or less</u>																		
Support	615 61%	285 58%	330 65%	68 57%	98 61%	111 58%	105 62%	100 66%	133 64%	150 56%	180 62%	136 65%	150 65%	155 61%	167 63%	161 64%	82 56%	50 58%
Oppose	285 28%	148 30%	137 27%	49 41%	43 27%	64 34%	48 28%	32 22%	48 23%	96 35%	84 29%	54 26%	51 22%	68 27%	78 29%	60 24%	47 32%	32 37%
Don't know	101 10%	58 12%	43 9%	3 2%	19 12%	15 8%	17 10%	18 12%	29 14%	24 9%	27 9%	20 9%	30 13%	31 12%	19 7%	30 12%	16 11%	5 5%