

Abortion

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Abortion Polling al affiliation The debate on abortion is centered on polls in support of the practice or against it. These polls classify the respondents as either pro-choice or pro-life. The media as supporting a pro-choice option to abortion often cite the results from these polls. However, the results from these polls, especially those that show a pro-abortion majority, are often flawed. A common flaw in the results arises from over sampling a group, which is pro-abortion. The demographic group may comprise a larger percentage of individuals who are democrats as opposed to those who are republicans. Because the political parties are not fairly represented, the results from the poll will lean on pro-abortion (Knull, 2002).

The questions asked in the polls may also contain misleading information and, therefore, result in biased polls. The questions are often vague and receive different interpretations from the respondents, which result in indecisive responses. In the context of abortion, words such as a few or some mean different things to respondents. In this case, most respondents will respond to some of a few cases of abortion being illegal or legal as opposed to those who respond to abortion being illegal or legal in all cases (Susan, 2007).

Additionally, lack of information makes the polls flawed. An assumption, for example, that the respondents in a poll are aware of the mandate established in Roe v. Wade and the consequences of overturning this decision may significantly affect responses. Misunderstandings of the issues surrounding the debate on abortion and the individual's personal perception of the issues may taint responses used in these polls. Therefore, these polls do not represent the true position of respondents on the debate on abortion (Adamek, 1994).

Reference list

Adamek, R. J. (1994). A review: Public opinion and Roe v. Wade: measurement difficulties. *Public opinion quarterly* 409- 418.

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Susan, E. W. (2007, August 7). The Slippery Art of Abortion Polling. *National Catholic Register*. Retrieved from http://www.ncregister.com/site/article/the_slippery_art_of_abortion_polling/