

Omnican Report  
LifeCanada

Canadians' Opinion on Abortion

#10598-001  
October 2002



## Introduction

---

### Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this Omnican study conducted by Leger Marketing for LifeCanada are to evaluate Canadians' opinion on:

1. The point of Human Development when the Law Should Protect Life;
2. The Use of Public Funds for Abortions.

### Methodology

This study was conducted by Leger Marketing through telephone interviews among a representative sample of 1501 English- or French-speaking Canadians for the first objective and among 3010 English- or French-speaking Canadians for the second objective, 18 years old of age or older.

The interviews were conducted from our Montreal and Winnipeg call centers from October 1 to October 6, 2002 and between October 15 and October 20, 2002. Up to ten recalls were made in the case of non-response.

Using statistics from the 1996 Census, the results were weighted according to region, gender and language spoken at home to ensure a sample representative of the entire Canadian adult population. The maximum margin of error obtained for the first part is of  $\pm 2.5\%$  and of  $\pm 1.8\%$  for the second part.

## Detailed Results

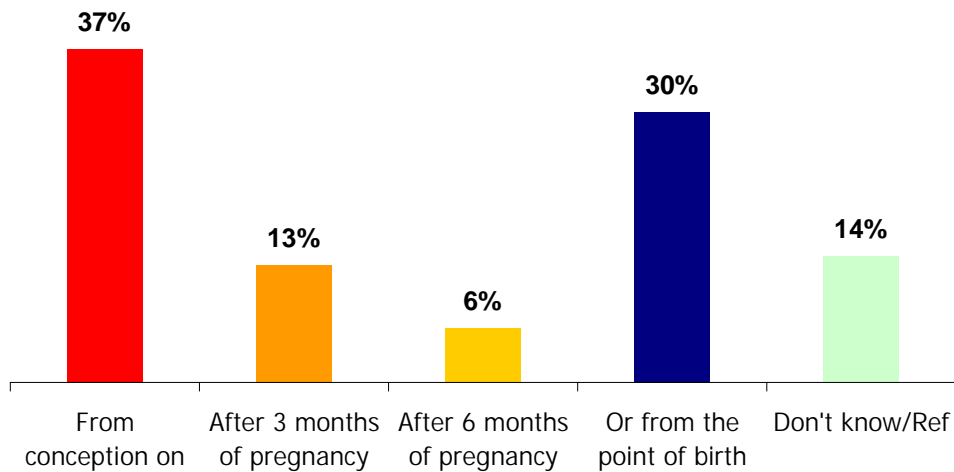
---

## 1. Point of Human Development when the Law Should Protect Life

The Canadian population seems relatively divided on the moment when the law should protect human life. Nearly four-in-ten Canadians (37%) indicate that the law should protect human life from the moment of conception, while a little less than one third (30%) think the law should protect human life from the point of birth. In addition, roughly one-in-ten respondents (13%) think the law should protect human life after 3 months of pregnancy and only 6% after 6 months of pregnancy.

*In your opinion, at what point during human development should the law protect human life? Should it be...*

n=1501



- Women (41% vs. 33% of men), homemakers (55%, vs. 30% of professionals), people from Atlantic Provinces (47%), elementary (54%) and high school graduates (41% vs. 29% of university graduates) think the law should protect human life **from the conception (37%)**.
- On the other hand, men (33%) are more numerous than women (27%) in the opinion that the law should protect human life **from the point of birth (30%)**. Also, French-speaking people (39%, vs. 28% of English-speaking people), people from Province of Quebec (39%, vs. 19% of Prairies residents) and unemployed people (44% vs. 21% of homemakers) said the law should protect human life from the point of birth.

### Results per Canadian Region

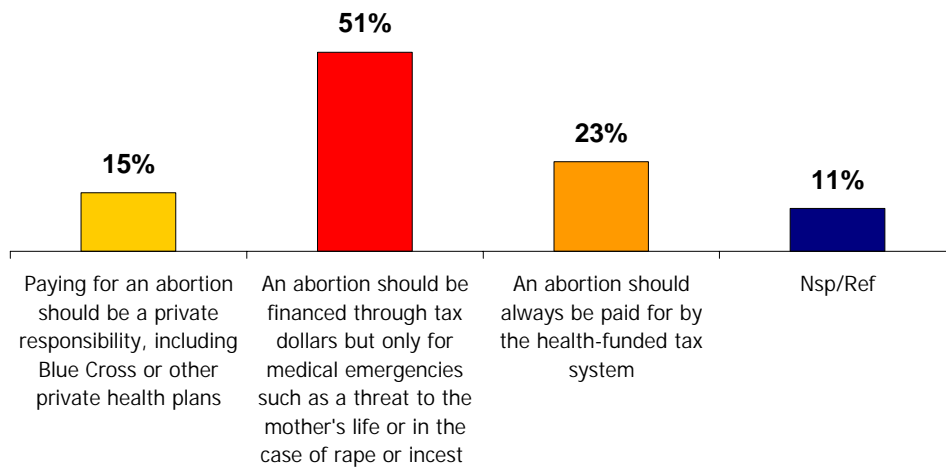
<b>Margin of error n=1501</b>	<b>±2,5%</b>	<b>±9,7%</b>	<b>±4,9%</b>	<b>±4%</b>	<b>±8,8%</b>	<b>±8,8%</b>	<b>±8%</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Atl. Prov.</b>	<b>Quebec</b>	<b>Ontario</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Alberta</b>	<b>B-C.</b>
<b>From conception on</b>	37%	47%	34%	35%	44%	38%	35%
<b>After 3 months of pregnancy</b>	13%	8%	14%	14%	20%	11%	13%
<b>After 6 months of pregnancy</b>	6%	7%	6%	5%	5%	3%	7%
<b>From the point of birth</b>	30%	25%	39%	29%	19%	30%	26%
<b>Dnk/Refusal</b>	14%	13%	7%	16%	13%	18%	20%

## 2. Opinion of Canadians toward the Use of Public Funds for Abortions

Half of Canadians (51%) think abortion should be financed through taxes but only in case of medical emergencies such as, a threat to the mother's life or in the case of rape or incest. Only 23% indicate that abortion should always be financed by health-funded tax system and even fewer (15%) think that abortion should be a private responsibility (including Blue Cross or other private health plans).

*When it comes to the use of public funds for abortions, which of the following options best corresponds to your opinion? ...*

n=3010



- 25-34 years old respondents (57%, vs. 46% of 65 year old and more) and people from the Prairies (59%) are more numerous to think that **abortion should be financed through taxes but only in case of medical emergencies (51%)**.
- Furthermore, the following sub-groups are more numerous to think that **abortion should always be financed by the health-funded tax system (23%)**:
  - o 55-64 years old (28%)
  - o French-speaking people (32%, vs. 20% of English-speaking people)
  - o People from the Province of Quebec (34%, vs. 20% of those of Ontario and 11% from the Prairies)
  - o People with a family income above \$60,000 (27% vs. 20% of those with a family income between \$20,000 and \$39,999)
  - o University graduates (32% vs. 16% of those having a high school degree)
  - o Services, sales or office employees (26%, vs. 16% of homemakers)

- Finally, 18-24 years old people (23%, vs. 13% of 45-54 years old), people from the Prairies (21%, vs. 11% of those from the Province of Quebec), 18-24 years old people (23%, vs. 13% of 45-54 years old), high school graduates (18% vs. 12% of university graduates) feel that **abortion should be a private responsibility (15%)**.

#### Results per Canadian Region

<b>Margin of error n=3010</b>	<b>±1,8%</b>	<b>±6,9%</b>	<b>±3,4%</b>	<b>±2,8%</b>	<b>±6,2%</b>	<b>±6,2%</b>	<b>±5,6%</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Atl. Prov.</b>	<b>Quebec</b>	<b>Ontario</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Alberta</b>	<b>B-C.</b>
<b>Private responsibility</b>	15%	19%	11%	15%	21%	18%	16%
<b>Financed through tax for medical emergencies</b>	51%	51%	50%	50%	59%	54%	49%
<b>Always paid for by health-funded tax system</b>	23%	19%	34%	20%	11%	18%	22%
<b>Dnk/Refusal</b>	11%	12%	5%	14%	9%	10%	13%