The Morality of Abortion

Asked about the morality of abortion in general, Americans are evenly divided: 42% told Gallup in a May 2001 survey that abortion is morally acceptable while 45% answered that it is morally wrong.

Asked whether abortion is murder, slightly differently worded questions have produced slightly different rates of agreement, ranging between 45% and 57%. Questions that ask whether abortion is an "act of murder" tend to produce answers that are slightly lower than those that simply ask whether abortion is murder.

- *Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Abortion is murder.*

Los Angeles Times, June 2000: 57% agree; 36% disagree

- *Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion: Abortion is the same thing as murdering a child, or abortion is not murder because the fetus really isn't a child?*

CBS/New York Times, January 1998: 50% murder; 38% not murder

- *Do you think abortion is an act of murder, or don't you feel this way?*

CNN/USA Today/Gallup Poll, January 1998: 48% murder and 45% don't feel this way

- *What is your view -- do you think abortion is an act of murder, or don't you feel this way?* Time/CNN, August 1994: 43% murder; 47% don't feel this way