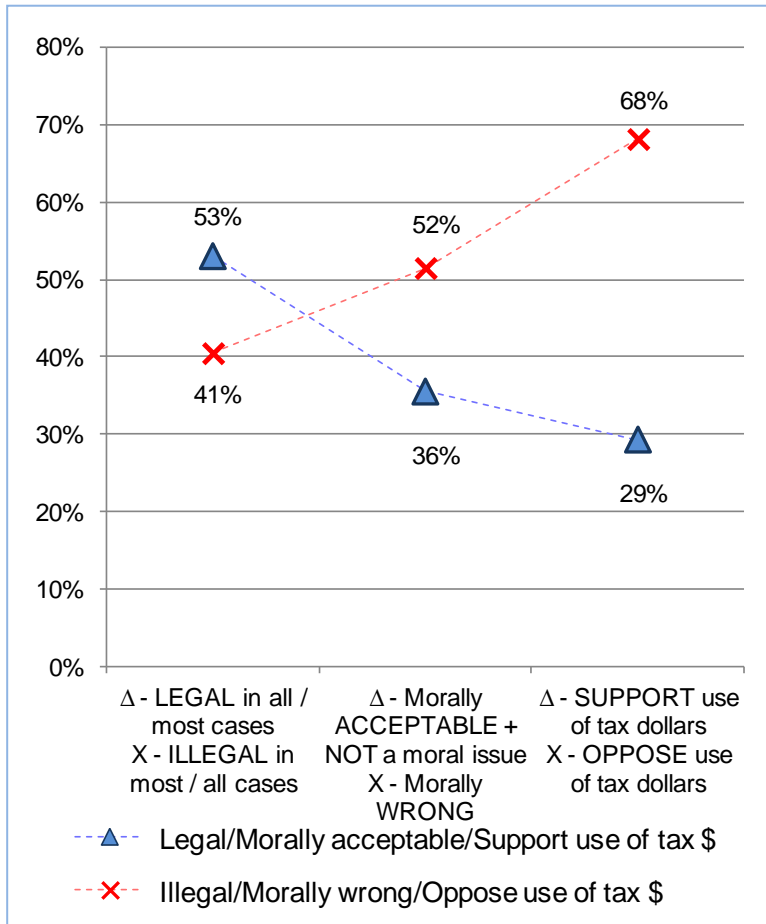




# CATHOLIC DEMOCRATS

- The American public has nuanced, often ambivalent feelings about the issue of abortion
- Majorities support the legality of abortion but also think it is morally wrong and oppose tax dollars to pay for abortion



Compiled by *Catholic Democrats*.

**Methodology:** *Catholic Democrats* averaged the results of surveys on the legality and morality of abortion conducted by the Pew Research Center and the Public Religion Institute (PRRI) in 2013 to obtain more representative results. This was the most recent year when both survey organizations asked the same questions on both the legality and morality of abortion.

**Data Source:** See Data Table.

Data Table						
Regarding Legality of Abortion	Survey / Data Source	Date	TOTAL Legal in all/most cases	TOTAL Illegal in all/most cases	NET Legal in all/most cases	Margin of Error
Legality question	PRRI (1)	Dec-13	52%	41%	11%	+/- 1.7%
Legality question	Pew (2)	Jul-13	54%	40%	14%	n/a
<b>Pew/PRRI Average USED FOR GRAPH</b>			<b>53.0%</b>	<b>40.5%</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	
Legality question: FOR 2016 COMPARISON	Pew (A)	Mar-16	56%	41%	15%	n/a

Regarding Morality of Abortion	Survey / Data Source	Date	TOTAL Morally acceptable/ Not a moral issue	Morally wrong	NET Morally wrong	Margin of Error
Morality question	PRRI (1)	Dec-13	33%	54%	21%	+/- 1.7%
Morality question	Pew (3)	Aug-13	38%	49%	11%	+/- 2.1%
<b>Pew/PRRI Average USED FOR GRAPH</b>			<b>35.5%</b>	<b>51.5%</b>	<b>16.0%</b>	
Morality question: FOR 2016 COMPARISON	Marist (B)	Nov-15	39%	60%	21%	+/- 2.4%

**Data Sources:**

(1) PRRI, "A Shifting Landscape: A Decade of Change in American Attitudes about Same-Sex Marriage and LGBT Issues," February 26, 2014, See "Topline Questionnaire," Q7 and Q11a.

<http://www.prii.org/research/2014-lgbt-survey/>

(2) Pew Res. Ctr., "Public Opinion on Abortion," April 8, 2016. See Views on Abortion 1996-2016, Data tab, 2013.

<http://www.pewforum.org/2016/04/08/public-opinion-on-abortion-2/>

(3) Pew Res. Ctr., "Abortion Viewed in Moral Terms...," August 15, 2013. See "Topline Questionnaire," Q58a of survey conducted in April 2013.

<http://www.pewforum.org/2013/08/15/abortion-viewed-in-moral-terms/>

**Note:** For comparison purposes, data from late 2015 and 2016 is included in the data table. Based on the data used for the graph, there is a 28.5% difference between the spreads for abortion legality and morality. Based on the 2015/2016 data - from different survey organizations - that difference would be 36%. This strongly suggests that views on the legality and morality of abortion have held stable and that the data presented is not overstated.

(A) Pew Res. Ctr., "Public Opinion on Abortion," April 8, 2016. See Views on Abortion 1996-2016, Data tab, 2016.

<http://www.pewforum.org/2016/04/08/public-opinion-on-abortion-2/>

(B) The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion/Knights of Columbus (MCIPO), *Abortion in America*, January 2016, p. 8.

<http://www.kofc.org/un/en/resources/communications/abortion-america-january2016.pdf>

**Support for Use of Tax Dollars:** MCIPO, *Abortion in America*, January 2016, p.12.

<http://www.kofc.org/un/en/resources/communications/abortion-america-january2016.pdf>