

*KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION/MTV: MUSIC TELEVISION*

# **SEX LAWS: YOUTH OPINION ON SEXUAL HEALTH ISSUES IN THE 2000 ELECTION**



**METHODOLOGY**

*Sex Laws: Youth Opinion on Sexual Health Issues in the 2000 Election* reports on the results of a national random sample telephone survey of 603 adults ages 18-24. The questionnaire was designed and analyzed by staff at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, MTV: Music Television and Princeton Survey Research Associates (PSRA), and was conducted by PSRA July 5-17, 2000. The margin of error is plus or minus 4 percent.

**TOPLINES**

N = 603 Adults ages 18 to 24

Margin of error: plus or minus 4 percent

Square root of design effect: 1.09

Field period: July 5-17, 2000

1. Suppose the 2000 presidential election were being held TODAY and you had to choose between Al Gore, the Democrat, and George W. Bush, the Republican – who would you vote for? As of today, do you LEAN more to Gore, the Democrat; or Bush, the Republican?

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Gore                      | 40 |
| Bush                      | 43 |
| Undecided/Other candidate | 17 |

2. Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in the United States at this time?

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Satisfied          | 61 |
| Dissatisfied       | 29 |
| Don't know/Refused | 10 |

- 3a. In your opinion, which ONE of the following is the MOST IMPORTANT problem facing our country today? (READ. ROTATE.)

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| Education                    | 29 |
| Crime and violence           | 27 |
| Health care                  | 10 |
| Drug abuse                   | 10 |
| The economy                  | 5  |
| Social Security              | 5  |
| AIDS                         | 5  |
| Some other problem (SPECIFY) | 7  |
| Don't know/Refused (VOL.)    | 1  |

3b. And, which do you think is the SECOND most important problem facing the country today?  
(READ REMAINING ISSUES, IF NECESSARY, IN SAME ORDER.)

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| Crime and violence           | 24 |
| Education                    | 17 |
| Drug abuse                   | 17 |
| Health care                  | 13 |
| The economy                  | 11 |
| Social Security              | 7  |
| AIDS                         | 6  |
| Some other problem (SPECIFY) | 3  |
| Don't know/Refused (VOL.)    | 4  |

3a/b. Combined responses of 3a and 3b.

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| Crime and violence           | 51 |
| Education                    | 46 |
| Drug abuse                   | 27 |
| Health care                  | 22 |
| The economy                  | 16 |
| Social Security              | 12 |
| AIDS                         | 11 |
| Some other problem (SPECIFY) | 10 |
| Don't know/Refused (VOL.)    | 1  |

4. Which of these issues is the biggest concern for you personally in your own life? (READ IF NECESSARY, IN SAME ORDER.)

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| Education                    | 29 |
| Crime and violence           | 18 |
| Health care                  | 15 |
| The economy                  | 14 |
| Social Security              | 4  |
| Drug abuse                   | 4  |
| AIDS                         | 2  |
| Some other problem (SPECIFY) | 4  |
| Don't know/Refused (VOL.)    | 10 |

## 5. Do you favor or oppose policies that...(INSERT. ROTATE.)

|  | <u>Favor</u> | <u>Oppose</u> | <u>Depends</u> | <u>DK/<br/>Refused</u> |
|--|--------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------|
| a. Would guarantee a woman's right to choose an abortion   | 66           | 29            | 3              | 3                      |
| b. Would make abortion ILLEGAL in all cases EXCEPT rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother       | 47           | 48            | 2              | 3                      |
| c. Would make abortion ILLEGAL in all cases  | 23           | 72            | 2              | 3                      |
| d. Would offer federal funding so that poor women have the same access to abortions as other women have  | 60           | 34            | 3              | 4                      |
| e. Would impose a mandatory waiting period of 24 hours before a woman can obtain an abortion             | 64           | 29            | 2              | 5                      |
| f. Would require a girl under age 18 to get a parent's consent before she is allowed to have an abortion | 68           | 28            | 1              | 2                      |

## 6. Whatever your own personal view of abortion, do you favor or oppose a woman in this country having the choice to have an abortion with the advice of her doctor?

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Favor              | 70 |
| Oppose             | 24 |
| Don't know/Refused | 5  |

## 7. If you knew a candidate for major political office favored overturning or strongly restricting a woman's right to choose abortion, would that make you MORE likely or LESS likely to support that candidate, or wouldn't it make much difference? (PROBE: Would you say much (more/less) likely, or only somewhat (more/less) likely?)

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Much more likely              | 10 |
| Somewhat more likely          | 8  |
| Somewhat less likely          | 13 |
| Much less likely              | 18 |
| Wouldn't make much difference | 47 |
| Don't know/Refused            | 3  |

8. If you knew a candidate for major political office wanted to require girls under the age of 18 to notify a parent prior to receiving an abortion, would that make you MORE likely or LESS likely to support that candidate, or wouldn't it make much difference? (PROBE: Would you say much (more/less) likely, or only somewhat (more/less) likely?)

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Much more likely              | 19 |
| Somewhat more likely          | 17 |
| Somewhat less likely          | 7  |
| Much less likely              | 6  |
| Wouldn't make much difference | 50 |
| Don't know/Refused            | 1  |

9. A federal law has been proposed that would make it a crime to transport a girl under 18 across state lines to get an abortion. Do you favor or oppose this type of law?

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Favor              | 42 |
| Oppose             | 53 |
| Don't know/Refused | 5  |

10. Another federal law has been proposed that would require girls under 18 to get a parent's permission before they can get a prescription from their doctor for birth control, such as the pill. Do you favor or oppose this type of law?

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Favor              | 34 |
| Oppose             | 63 |
| Don't know/Refused | 3  |

11. The federal Food and Drug Administration is currently considering whether to approve the use of a drug called mifepristone, also known as the French abortion pill, RU-486. This pill would allow women to terminate a pregnancy without undergoing a surgical abortion. Do you favor or oppose approval of this drug?

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Favor              | 44 |
| Oppose             | 47 |
| Don't know/Refused | 9  |

12. Have you ever personally known anyone who has had an abortion?

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Yes                | 62 |
| No                 | 37 |
| Don't know/Refused | *1 |

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<sup>1</sup> An asterisk indicates a value of less than 1%.

We are interested in finding out where people learn about sexual health issues.

13. Please tell me how much you have personally learned about sexual health issues from each of the following sources: a lot, some, only a little, or nothing? How much have you learned from...(INSERT. ROTATE.)

|  | <u>A lot</u> | <u>Some</u> | <u>Only a<br/>little</u> | <u>Nothing</u> | <u>DK/<br/>Refused</u> |
|--|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| a. Your Parents  | 34           | 24          | 27                       | 15             | *                      |
| b. Other family members                                  | 19           | 22          | 29                       | 30             | *                      |
| c. Your Friends  | 44           | 28          | 19                       | 9              | *                      |
| d. TV shows or movies                                    | 23           | 30          | 32                       | 15             | *                      |
| e. Magazines   | 16           | 26          | 28                       | 30             | *                      |
| f. The Internet  | 7            | 7           | 18                       | 67             | 1                      |
| g. Sex ed or health classes at school                    | 44           | 28          | 19                       | 9              | 1                      |
| h. Churches, other religious<br>organizations, or clergy | 10           | 13          | 21                       | 55             | *                      |
| i. Doctors or other health care<br>professionals         | 30           | 27          | 24                       | 18             | *                      |

14. Today, most federal funding for sex education classes is restricted to programs that teach abstinence ONLY. These funds CANNOT be used for classes that also teach students other ways to prevent pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, such as the use of condoms and other types of birth control. Do you favor or oppose restricting federal funding to those programs that teach abstinence ONLY?

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Favor              | 25 |
| Oppose             | 73 |
| Don't know/Refused | 1  |

15. If you knew a candidate for major political office FAVORED giving federal funds to high school sex education classes that teach students about birth control, condoms and other ways to prevent pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, would this make you MORE likely or LESS likely to support that candidate, or wouldn't it make much difference? (PROBE: Would you say much (more/less) likely, or only somewhat (more/less) likely?)

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Much more likely              | 37 |
| Somewhat more likely          | 23 |
| Somewhat less likely          | 2  |
| Much less likely              | 3  |
| Wouldn't make much difference | 32 |
| Don't know/Refused            | 1  |

16. Recently, state laws have been proposed that would ban high school sex education classes from discussing sexual orientation and homosexuality. Do you favor or oppose these types of laws?

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Favor              | 24 |
| Oppose             | 72 |
| Don't know/Refused | 3  |

17. As far as you know, did your high school have extracurricular activities, such as clubs, specifically for gay and lesbian students?

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Yes                | 8  |
| No                 | 87 |
| Don't know/Refused | 5  |

18. If schools encouraged tolerance of all groups, including gays and lesbians, do you think this would promote homosexuality among students, or not?

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Yes                | 30 |
| No                 | 64 |
| Don't know/Refused | 6  |

19. Do you think high school health centers should or should NOT make condoms available to students who ask for them?

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Should make available     | 84 |
| Should not make available | 14 |
| It depends (VOL.)         | 1  |
| Don't know/Refused        | 1  |

Now I would like to ask you some questions about government policies on HIV and AIDS.

20. In general, do you think the government has a role to play in funding the effort to fight AIDS, or do you think the efforts should be funded by private contributions only?

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Government should play a role | 85 |
| Private contribution only     | 10 |
| Don't know/Refused            | 5  |



21. I'm going to read you a short list of measures some people think the federal government should take to help fight AIDS. As I read each, please tell me whether you think the government should make it a TOP priority, an important but not the top priority, a lower priority, or not a priority at all in fighting AIDS? (INSERT. ROTATE.)

|   | <u>Top<br/>Priority</u> | <u>Important,<br/>but not<br/>Priority</u> | <u>A<br/>lower<br/>priority</u> | <u>Not a<br/>priority</u> | <u>Should<br/>not be<br/>done</u> | <u>DK/<br/>Refused</u> |
|---|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| a. HIV and AIDS education and other prevention                      | 61                      | 32   | 5                               | 1                         | 0                                 | 1                      |
| b. Making drug treatments available to those who cannot afford them | 58                      | 35   | 4                               | 2                         | *                                 | 1                      |
| c. Research to find better AIDS treatments                          | 66                      | 28   | 4                               | 1                         | *                                 | 1                      |
| d. Research to find an AIDS vaccine                                 | 78                      | 18   | 3                               | 1                         | *                                 | 1                      |

Now, I have some questions about different proposals that have been made to help stop the spread of AIDS.

22. One proposal requires mandatory reporting to health officials of the names of people who test positive for HIV. Some people FAVOR mandatory reporting as a way to help health officials learn more about the spread of the disease and make it easier to inform people with HIV about new treatments. Others OPPOSE mandatory reporting because they think the results of a person's HIV test should be private and confidential, and they think it might discourage people from getting tested for HIV if they know the results will be reported to others. Do you favor or oppose such a proposal for mandatory reporting?

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Favor               | 46 |
| Oppose              | 50 |
| Both/Neither (VOL.) | 1  |
| Don't know/Refused  | 3  |

23. Another proposal requires health officials to attempt to notify past sexual or needle-sharing partners of people who test positive for HIV. Some people FAVOR contacting past sexual or needle-sharing partners because it allows health officials to alert those who may have been exposed to HIV. Others OPPOSE this policy because they think the results of a person's HIV test should be private and confidential, and they think it might discourage people from getting tested for HIV if they know their former partners might be contacted. Do you favor or oppose such a proposal for partner notification?

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Favor               | 71 |
| Oppose              | 25 |
| Both/Neither (VOL.) | 1  |
| Don't know/Refused  | 2  |

24. As you may know, there is a federal law that mandates increased penalties for people who commit crimes against blacks and other minorities out of prejudice against them. Would you favor or oppose a similar federal law that would mandate increased penalties for people who commit hate crimes out of prejudice toward gays and lesbians?

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Favor              | 77 |
| Oppose             | 19 |
| Don't know/Refused | 4  |

25. Do you think there should or should NOT be...(INSERT. ROTATE.)

|  | Should<br><u>be</u> | Should<br><u>not be</u> | DK/<br><u>Refused</u> |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| a. Restrictions on sex between consenting adults in the privacy of their own home  | 16                  | 82                      | 2                     |
| b. Legally-sanctioned gay and lesbian marriages  | 54                  | 41                      | 5                     |
| c. Laws that provide gay and lesbian couples who form civil unions the same legal rights as married couples when it comes to things like inheritance, employer provided health insurance and hospital visits | 72                  | 23                      | 4                     |
| d. Adoption rights for gay and lesbian couples so they can legally adopt children  | 56                  | 38                      | 6                     |
| e. A change in policy to allow gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military   | 53                  | 41                      | 6                     |

26. If you knew a candidate for major political office favored expanding the legal protection for gay rights, would this make you MORE likely or LESS likely to support that candidate, or wouldn't it make much difference? (PROBE: Would you say much (more/less) likely, or only somewhat (more/less) likely?)

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Much more likely              | 15 |
| Somewhat more likely          | 13 |
| Somewhat less likely          | 8  |
| Much less likely              | 12 |
| Wouldn't make much difference | 51 |
| Don't know/Refused            | 2  |

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Now I have just a few questions for classification purposes only.

D1. What is your age? (RECORD ACTUAL AGE)

|              |    |
|--------------|----|
| 18-20        | 45 |
| 21-24        | 55 |
| Undetermined | *  |

D2. In general, would you describe your political views as...(READ. DO NOT ROTATE.)

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Total Conservative        | 26 |
| Very conservative         | 3  |
| Conservative              | 22 |
| Moderate                  | 40 |
| Total Liberal             | 27 |
| Liberal                   | 19 |
| Very liberal              | 9  |
| Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | 7  |

D3. In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent? As of TODAY do you LEAN more toward the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Republican                                       | 21 |
| Democrat   | 25 |
| Independent                                      | 43 |
| No preference/ Not interested in politics (VOL.) | 6  |
| Other party (VOL.)                               | *  |
| Don't know/Refused                               | 5  |
| Republican/Lean Republican                       | 33 |
| Democrat/Lean Democrat                           | 41 |

D4. Many people are not registered to vote because they're too busy or move around too often. Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district, or haven't you had a chance to register yet?

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Yes, registered               | 55 |
| No, not registered            | 43 |
| Don't have to register (VOL.) | *  |
| Don't know/Refused            | 1  |

D5. Do you plan to vote in the November presidential election?

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Yes                | 75 |
| No                 | 17 |
| Don't know/Refused | 8  |

D6. How important would you say religion is in your own life?

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Very important       | 45 |
| Somewhat important   | 31 |
| Not too important    | 12 |
| Not at all important | 11 |
| Don't know/Refused   | 1  |

D7. What is your religious preference – Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Mormon, an Orthodox Church, or some other religion? Do you think of yourself as a Christian, or not? Would you describe yourself as a born-again or Evangelical Christian, or not?

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Protestant (includes Baptist, Christian, Episcopalian, Jehovah's Witness, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, etc.) | 54 |
| Evangelical  | 28 |
| Non-Evangelical  | 26 |
| Roman Catholic   | 25 |
| Jewish   | 1  |
| Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints)   | 1  |
| Orthodox Church (Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, etc.)   | 1  |
| Other religion   | 8  |
| No religion/Atheist/Agnostic (VOL.)  | 8  |
| Undesignated   | 1  |

D8. Are you now married, LIVING AS married, divorced, separated or have you never been married?

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Married                   | 14 |
| Living as married         | 3  |
| Divorced                  | 2  |
| Separated                 | 1  |
| Never been married/Single | 80 |
| Refused                   | 1  |

D9. Are you now employed full-time, part-time, or are you not employed for pay?

|                    |  |    |
|--------------------|--|----|
| Employed full-time |  | 56 |
| Employed part-time |  | 25 |
| Not employed       |  | 16 |
| Retired (VOL.)     |  | 0  |
| Disabled (VOL.)    |  | 1  |
| Student (VOL.)     |  | 2  |
| Other (VOL.)       |  | *  |
| Don't know/Refused |  | 1  |

D10. Are you also a full- or part-time student?

|                    |    |    |
|--------------------|----|----|
| Total Students     |    | 51 |
| Yes, full-time     | 35 |    |
| Yes, part-time     | 16 |    |
| No                 |    | 49 |
| Don't know/Refused |    | 1  |

D11. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? (READ ONLY IF NECESSARY.)

|  |  |    |
|--|--|----|
| None, or grade 1-8   |  | *  |
| High school incomplete (grades 9-11)   |  | 9  |
| High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)   |  | 37 |
| Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school  |  | 3  |
| Some college, no 4-year degree   |  | 39 |
| College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other 4-year degree)  |  | 8  |
| Post-graduate training or professional schooling after college<br>(e.g., toward a master's degree or Ph.D.; law or medical school) |  | 1  |
| Don't know/Refused   |  | 2  |

D12. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Latin American background?

|                    |  |    |
|--------------------|--|----|
| Yes                |  | 15 |
| No                 |  | 85 |
| Don't know/Refused |  | 1  |

D13. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian, or some other race? IF R SAYS "HISPANIC" OR "LATINO" ASK: Do you consider yourself a WHITE Hispanic/Latino or a BLACK Hispanic/Latino?

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| White                         | 77 |
| Black/African-American        | 15 |
| Asian                         | 3  |
| Other or mixed race (SPECIFY) | 2  |
| Don't know/Refused            | 3  |

D14. Do you think of yourself as...(READ. DO NOT ROTATE.)

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Heterosexual       | 91 |
| Gay or Lesbian     | 1  |
| Bisexual           | 3  |
| Something else     | 2  |
| Don't know/Refused | 2  |

D15. RECORD RESPONDENT'S SEX:

|        |    |
|--------|----|
| Male   | 49 |
| Female | 51 |



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## THE HENRY J. KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION

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