Politics and Post-Abortion Awareness Survey

95% Confidence Limits are +/- 4%

National Survey of a Random Sample of Residential Phone Numbers

General Findings

- Approximately 85 percent of American adults believe negative emotional problems after an abortion are common to very common. Over 60% of those identifying themselves as very pro-choice also believe post-abortion emotional problems are common to very common.
- When negative emotional reactions occur, 84% believe the reactions are moderately to very severe.
- Only 15 percent of those polled believed that abortion generally makes women's lives better. Over half believe it generally makes women's lives worse.
- About half stated that it is common or very common for women to feel pressured into unwanted abortions. Only 14% believe that pressured or coerced abortions are rare.
- 80% believe abortion doctors should screen for women feeling pressured into unwanted abortions.
- 70% believe abortion doctors should screen for risk factors that identify women who are more likely to experience emotional problems after an abortion.
- 71% believe more research into the negative emotional effects should be of medium to high priority, with 41% rating it as of high priority. 11% believe there should be no more research done on this issue.
- Those who identify themselves as strongly pro-choice are evenly split regarding how common and severe negative post-abortion reactions are, but over 60% believe doctors should screen for women being pressured into unwanted abortions.
- Those who identify themselves as strongly pro-life are most likely to consider negative reactions to be very common and very severe and to support more research and requirements for pre-abortion screening for coercion and risk factors.
- Those who have the least affiliation with either a pro-life or pro-choice view, tend to have a significantly more negative view of abortions effects than those who are pro-choice, but not as negative as for those who are pro-life. Over 80% of this "middle" group support requiring doctors to screen for coercion and 70% support pre-abortion screening for other risk factors for negative reactions.

Methodology

This poll was conducted Feb 4 and Feb 5 of 2008 using the automated, recorded polling services of DialingServices.com and a national random sample drawn from InfoUSA's compiled list of all "white page" listed residential numbers in the United States. A total of 10,690 calls reached a voice response, and 626 respondents completed the poll.

As with all telephone surveys, the results may be affected by omission of persons who do not have a residential phone (due to either poverty or reliance on a cell phone), omission of persons who have unlisted numbers, and by overrepresentation of persons with more time or interest in answering polls.

Script And Results for Politics and Post-Abortion Awareness Poll

95% Confidence Limits are +/- 4%

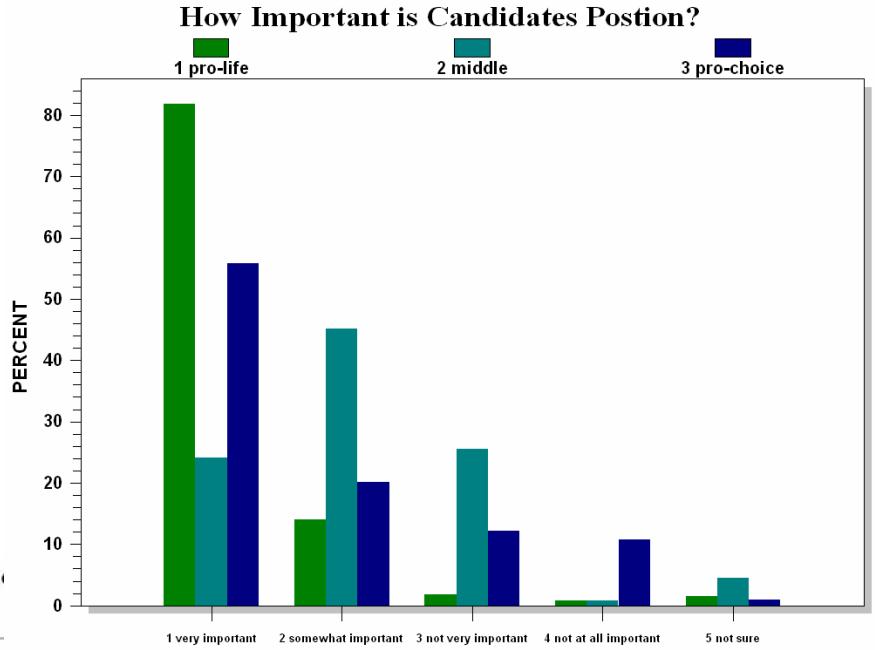
Hello, we are taking a nationwide opinion poll regarding abortion and politics. This poll has been commissioned by the Elliot Institute. We would appreciate your participation.

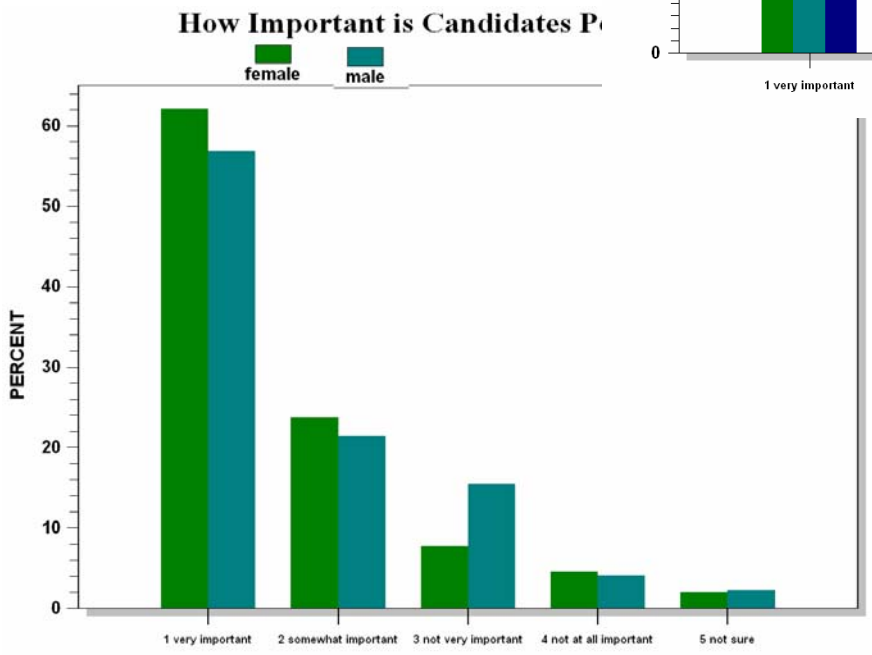
If you are over 18 years of age, please press 1 to continue -- or please give the phone to an adult in your home and ask them to press 2 to repeat this introduction. At any time you may press the pound or star key to repeat the question.

Candidate's Position	Percent
1 very important	60.2%
2 somewhat important	22.9%
3 not very important	10.5%
4 not at all important	4.3%
5 not sure	2.1%
Total n=621	100.0%

First, In terms of the way it impacts your vote for elected officials, how important is a candidate's position on abortion? If very important, press 1. If somewhat important, press 2. If not very important, press 3. If NOT AT ALL important, press 4. If you are not sure, press 5. Press the star key to repeat the question.

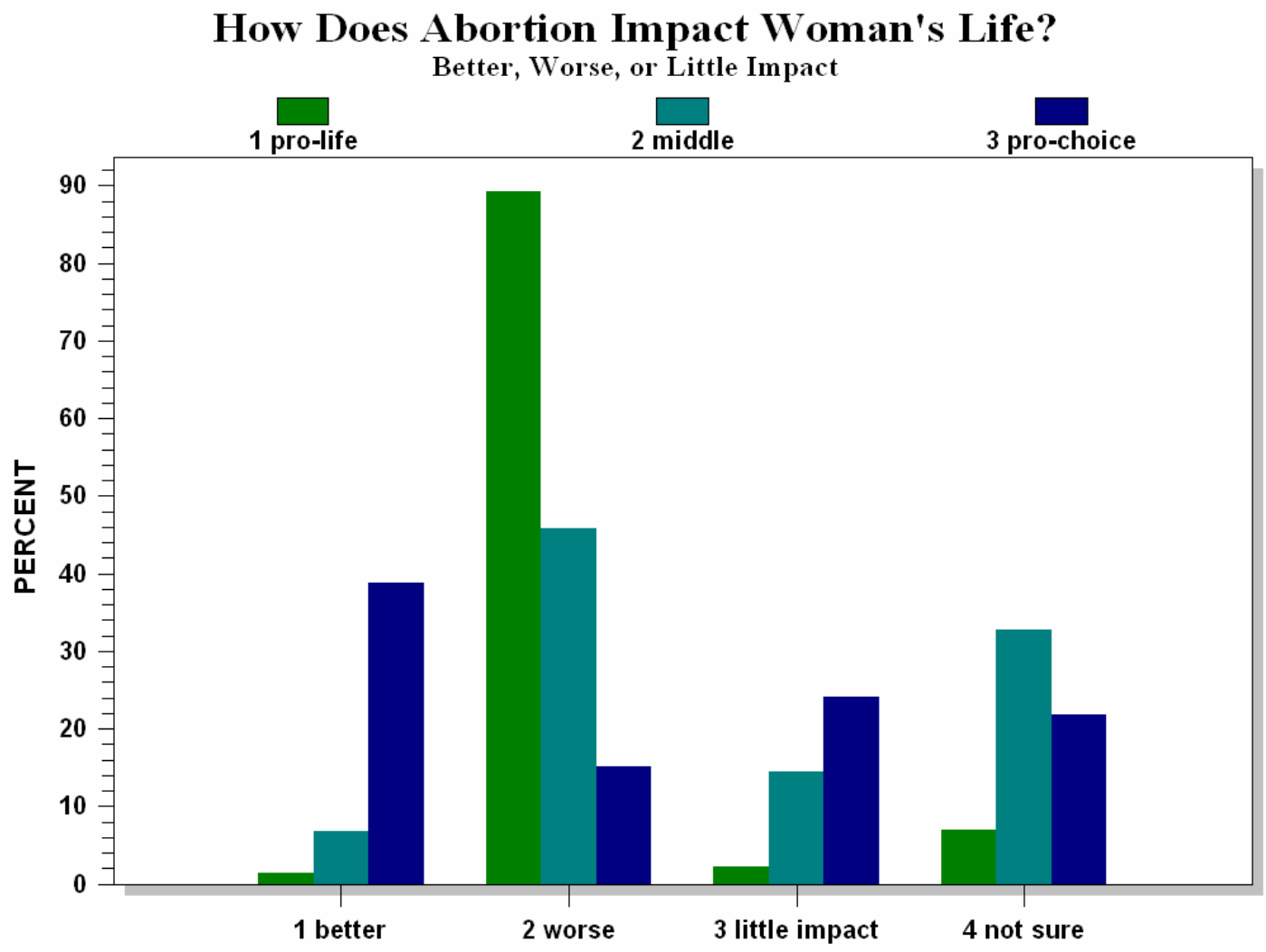
In all graphs, the view of the respondents (pro-life, middle, or prochoice) is drawn from question 5.

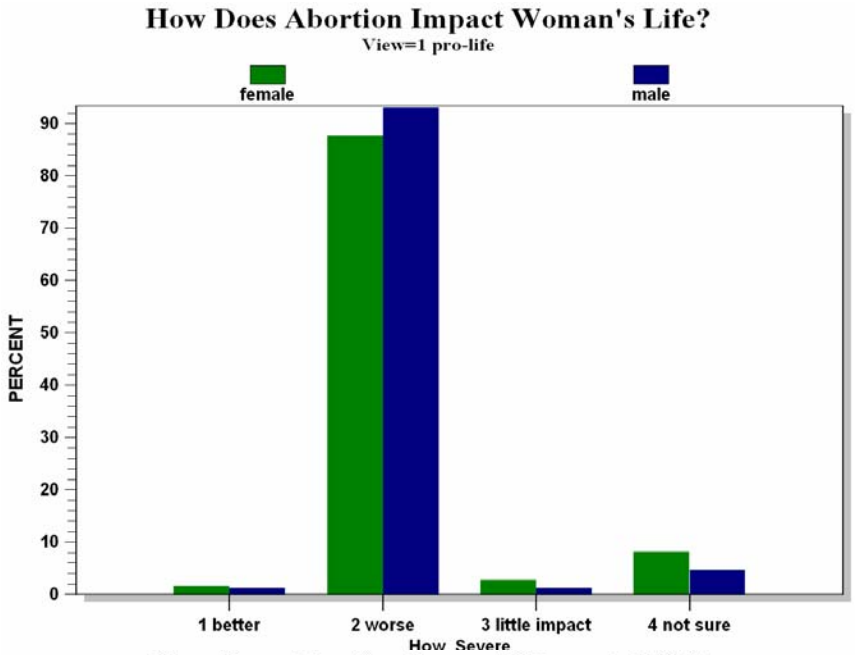


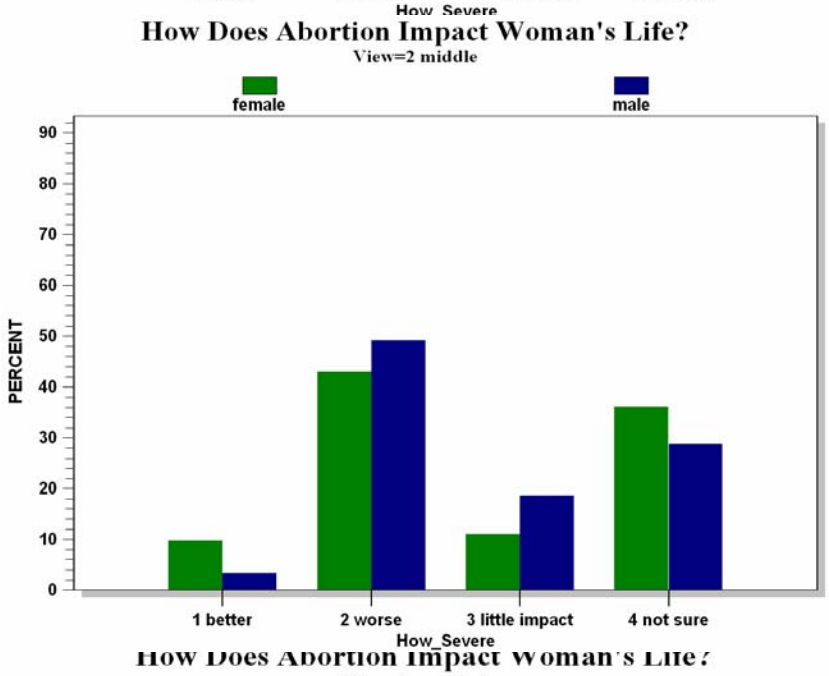


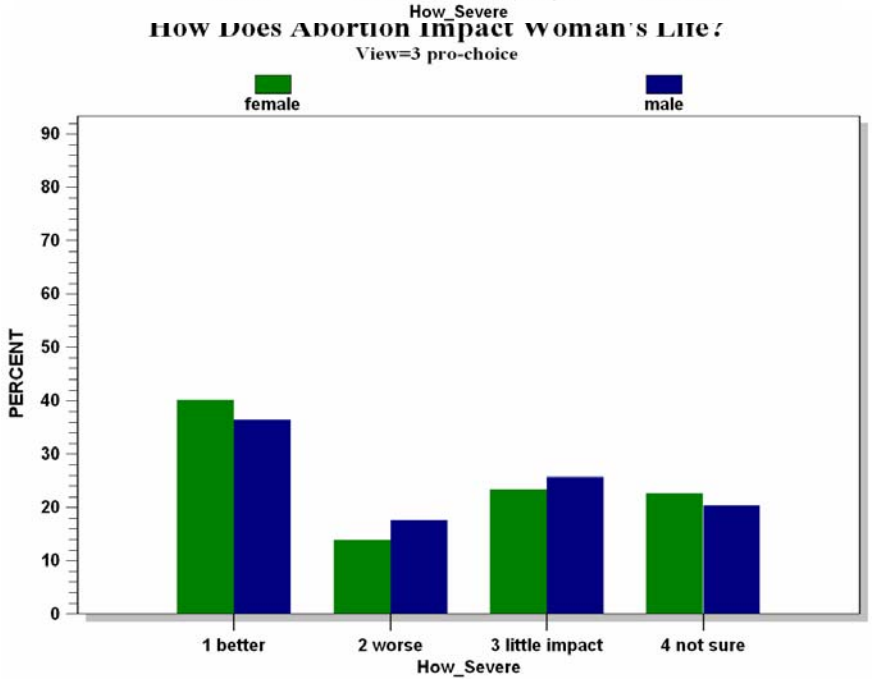
Question two: When a woman has an abortion, do you think it generally makes her life better, worse, or does it have little impact? If better, press 1. If worse, press 2. If little impact, press 3. If you are not sure, press 4. Press the star key to repeat the question.

Impact on Life	Percent
1 better	15.4%
2 worse	54.5%
3 little impact	12.3%
4 not sure	17.8%
Total n=618	100.0%




How Does Abortion Impact Woman's Life?
View=1 pro-life
female
male
PERCENT
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
1 better
2 worse
3 little impact
4 not sure
How_Severe


How Does Abortion Impact Woman's Life?
View=2 middle
female
male
PERCENT
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
1 better
2 worse
3 little impact
4 not sure
How_Severe

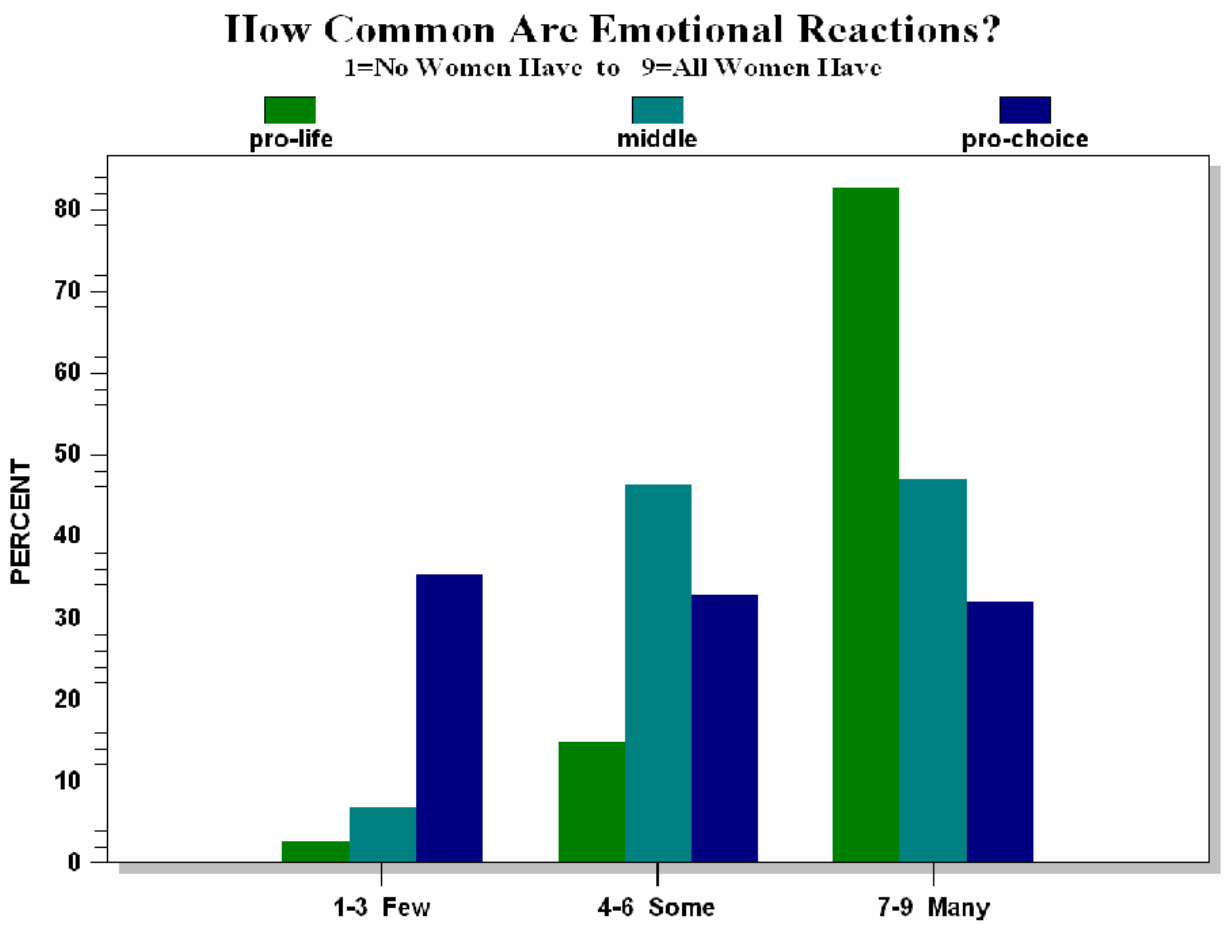

How Does Abortion Impact Woman's Life?
View=3 pro-choice
female
male
PERCENT
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
1 better
2 worse
3 little impact
4 not sure
How_Severe

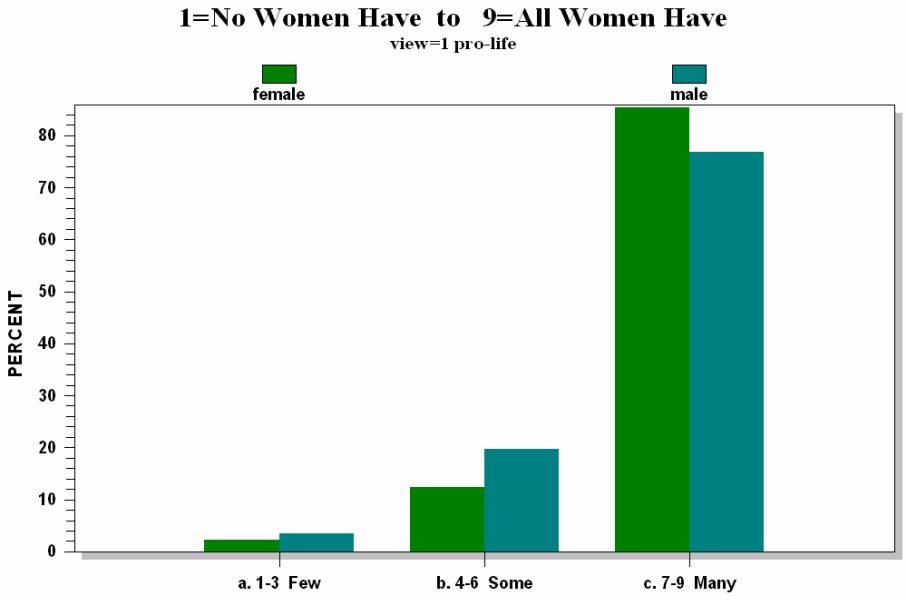
How many women have emotional problems following an abortion? Please answer this question using a scale from 1 to 9 where a 1 means that NO women suffer emotional problems following an abortion and 9 means that ALL women suffer emotional problems following an abortion. Please touch the appropriate number on your telephone keypad. Remember this is a scale where 1 means that NO women suffer emotional problems following an abortion and a 9 means that ALL women suffer emotional problems following an abortion.

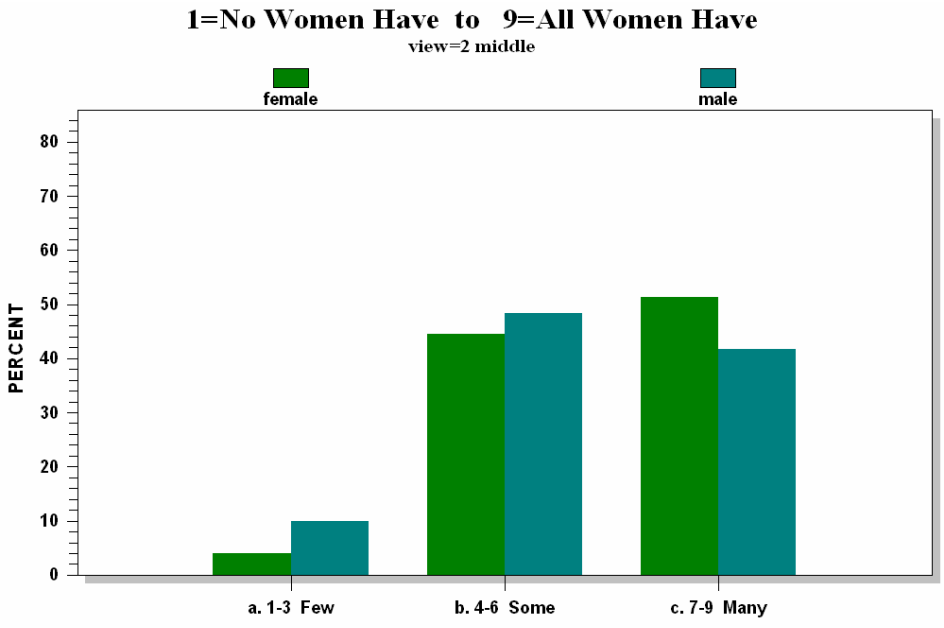
How Many	Frequency	Percent	Cum Percent
1 No Women	24	3.9%	3.9%
2	36	5.8%	9.6%
3	32	5.1%	14.8%
4	36	5.8%	20.5%
5	93	14.9%	35.5%
6	43	6.9%	42.4%
7	73	11.7%	54.1%
8	75	12.0%	66.1%
9 All Women	211	33.9%	100.0%
Total	623	100.0%	100.0%

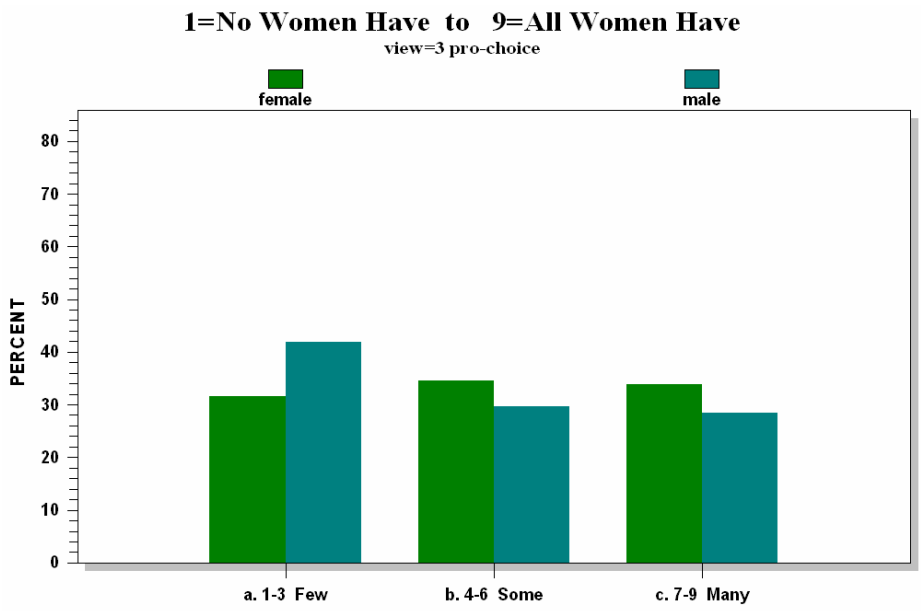
The graph below shows that pro-life and middle oriented persons were significantly more likely to believe reactions are common than pro-choice persons. Pro-choice persons are evenly split between few, some, and many women having problems.

The three graphs on the following page show that in all three view groups, women are more likely than men to believe negative reactions are common.



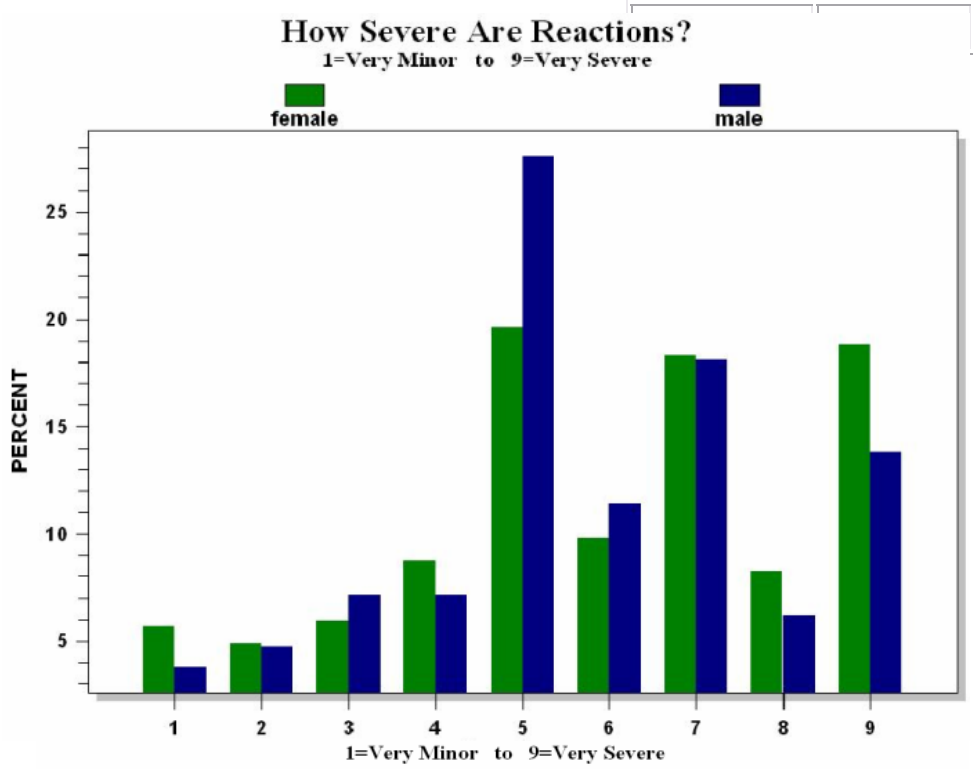

1=No Women Have to 9=All Women Have
view=1 pro-life
female
male
PERCENT
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
a. 1-3 Few
b. 4-6 Some
c. 7-9 Many

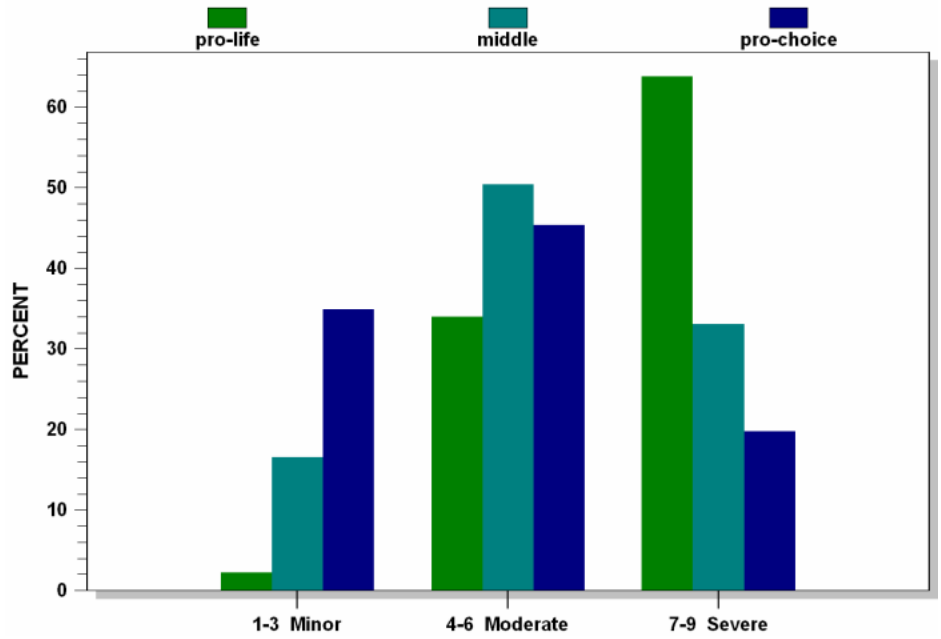

1=No Women Have to 9=All Women Have
view=2 middle
female
male
PERCENT
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
a. 1-3 Few
b. 4-6 Some
c. 7-9 Many


1=No Women Have to 9=All Women Have
view=3 pro-choice
female
male
PERCENT
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
a. 1-3 Few
b. 4-6 Some
c. 7-9 Many

Okay… When women do experience emotional problems after an abortion, how severe are they for most women? Please use a scale from 1 to 9 where a 1 means that the emotional problems are very minor and a 9 means that they are very severe.

How Severe	Frequency	Percent	Cum Percent
1 No Women	30	5.0%	5.0%
2	29	4.8%	9.9%
3	38	6.4%	16.2%
4	49	8.2%	24.4%
5	134	22.4%	46.8%
6	62	10.4%	57.2%
7	109	18.2%	75.4%
8	45	7.5%	82.9%
9 All Women	102	17.1%	100.0%
		100.0%	100.0%



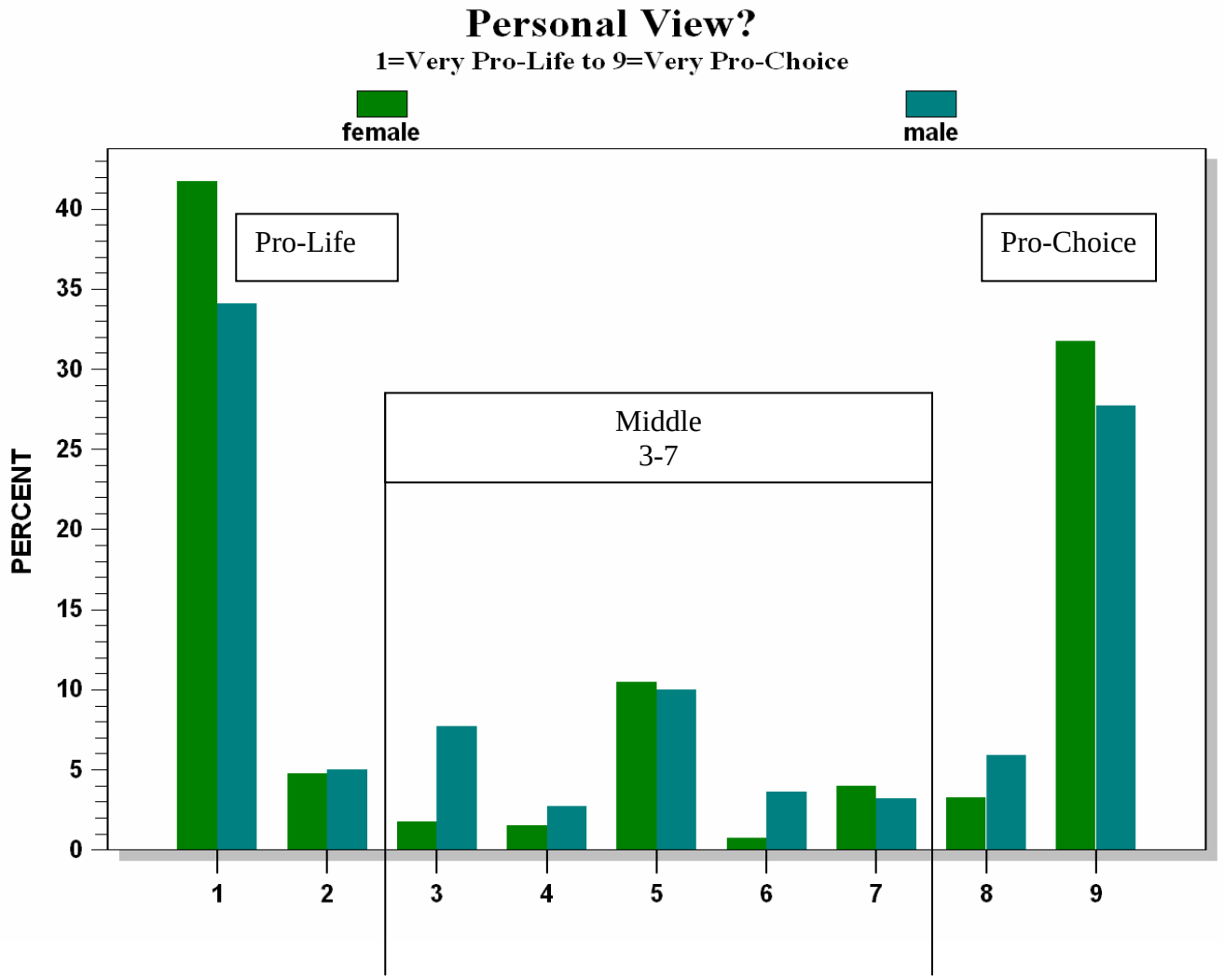


Regarding the political issue of abortion, on a scale of 1 to 9 where 1 is very pro-life and 9 is very pro-choice, how would you rate your personal view on abortion.

[pause two seconds] *Please touch the appropriate number on your telephone keypad. Remember, a 1 means very pro-life and 9 is very pro-choice. 5 is neutral.*

For analyses sorted by political view on abortion this question was used to segregate respondents by group using 1-2 for "pro-life" (n=272), 3-7 for "middle" (n=134) and 8-9 for "pro-choice" (n=214).

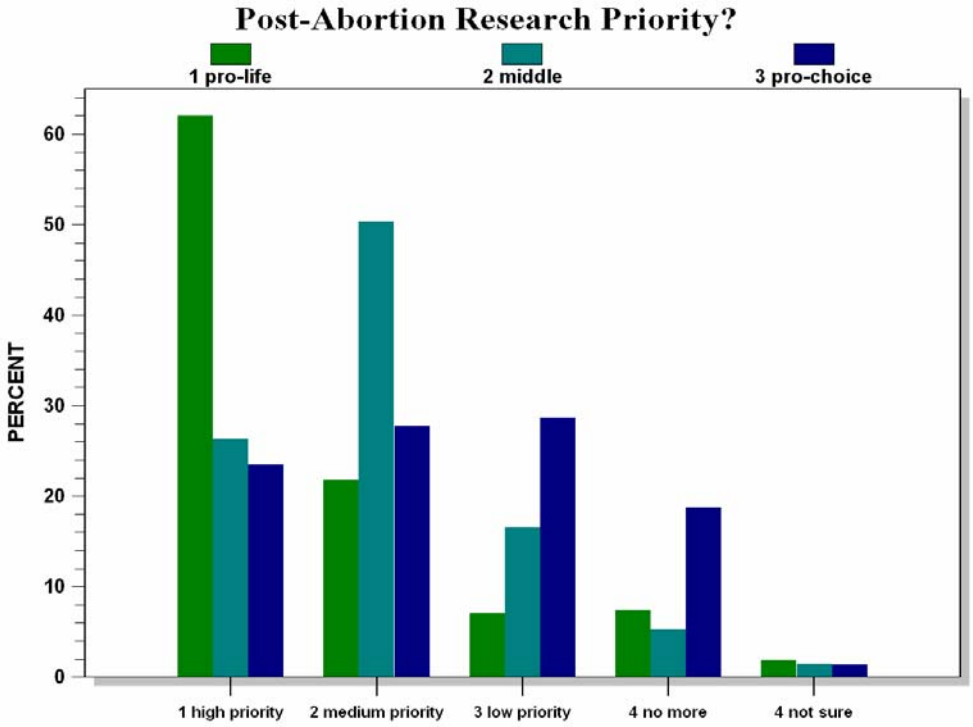
Personal View	Frequency	Percent	Cum Percent
1 (pro-life)	242	39.0%	39.0%
2 (pro-life)	30	4.8%	43.9%
3 (middle)	24	3.9%	47.7%
4 (middle)	12	1.9%	49.7%
5 (middle)	64	10.3%	60.0%
6 (middle)	11	1.8%	61.8%
7 (middle)	23	3.7%	65.5%
8 (pro-choice)	26	4.2%	69.7%
9 (pro-choice)	188	30.3%	100.0%
Total	620	100.0%	100.0%

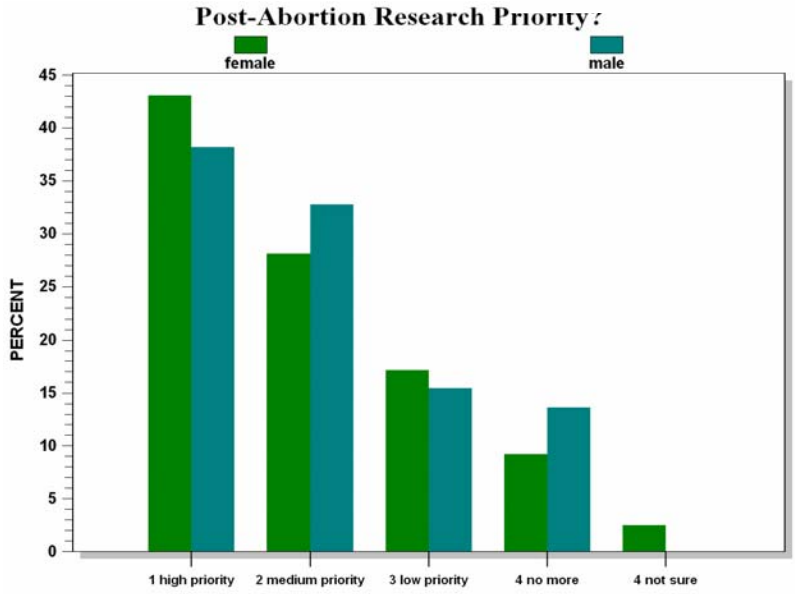


We're not going to use the 1 to 9 scale any more… Recent studies have shown that after an abortion some types of women are significantly more likely to experience negative emotional problems, such as grief, depression, substance abuse, or suicidal tendencies. These negative reactions appear to impact millions of women. Knowing this, Should more research on women's emotional reactions to abortion be a (1) a high priority, (2) a medium priority (3) a low priority, or (4) should no more research be done.

If a high priority, press 1
If a medium priority, press 2
If a low priority, press 3
If no more research should be done, press 4.
If you are not sure, press 5

More Research	Frequency	Percent	Cum Percent
1 high priority	257	41.3%	41.3%
2 medium priority	185	29.7%	71.1%
3 low priority	103	16.6%	87.6%
4 no more	67	10.8%	98.4%
5 not sure	10	1.6%	100.0%
Total	622	100.0%	100.0%

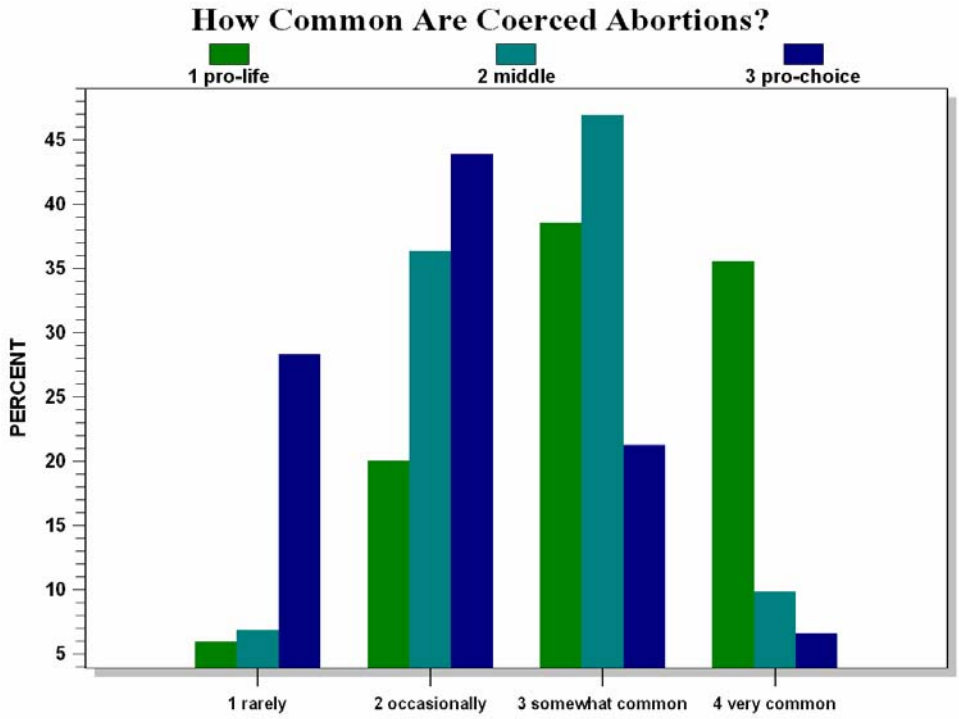


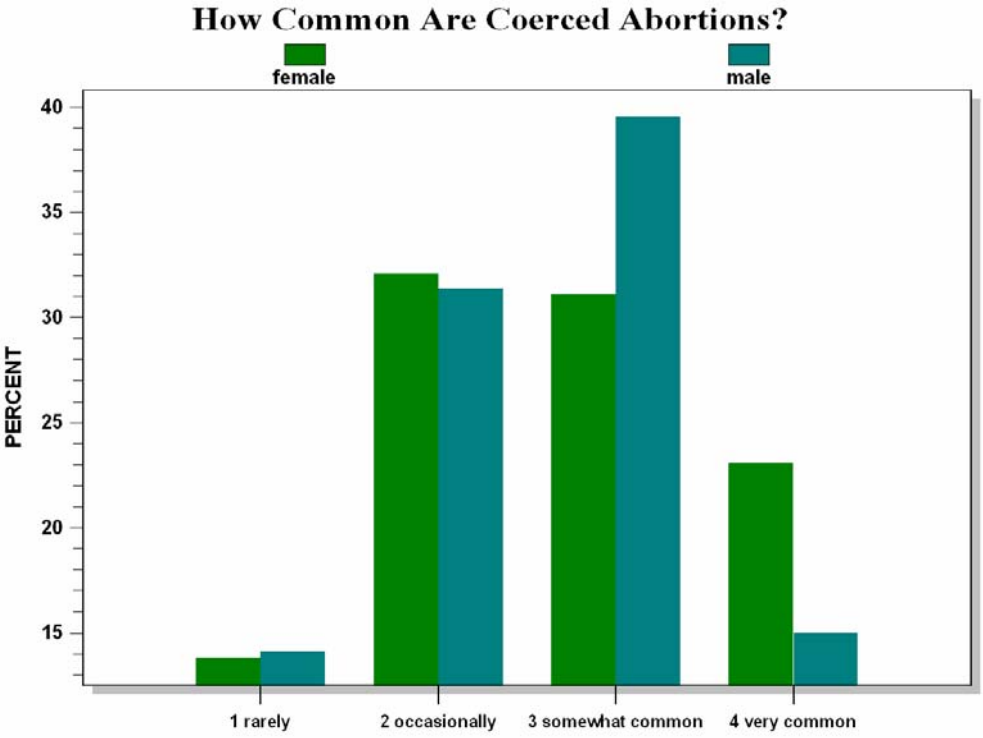


Unwanted Abortions	Frequency	Percent	Cum Percent
1 rarely	86	13.9%	13.9%
2 occasionally	197	31.8%	45.7%
3 somewhat common	211	34.1%	79.8%
4 very common	125	20.2%	100.0%
Total	619	100.0%	100.0%

Some women have said that they felt pressured or coerced by their parents or male partners to undergo "unwanted abortions"? Do you believe this problem of "unwanted abortions" happens rarely, occasionally, is somewhat common, or is very common?

If rarely, press 1
If occasionally, press 2
If somewhat common, press 3
If very common, press 4

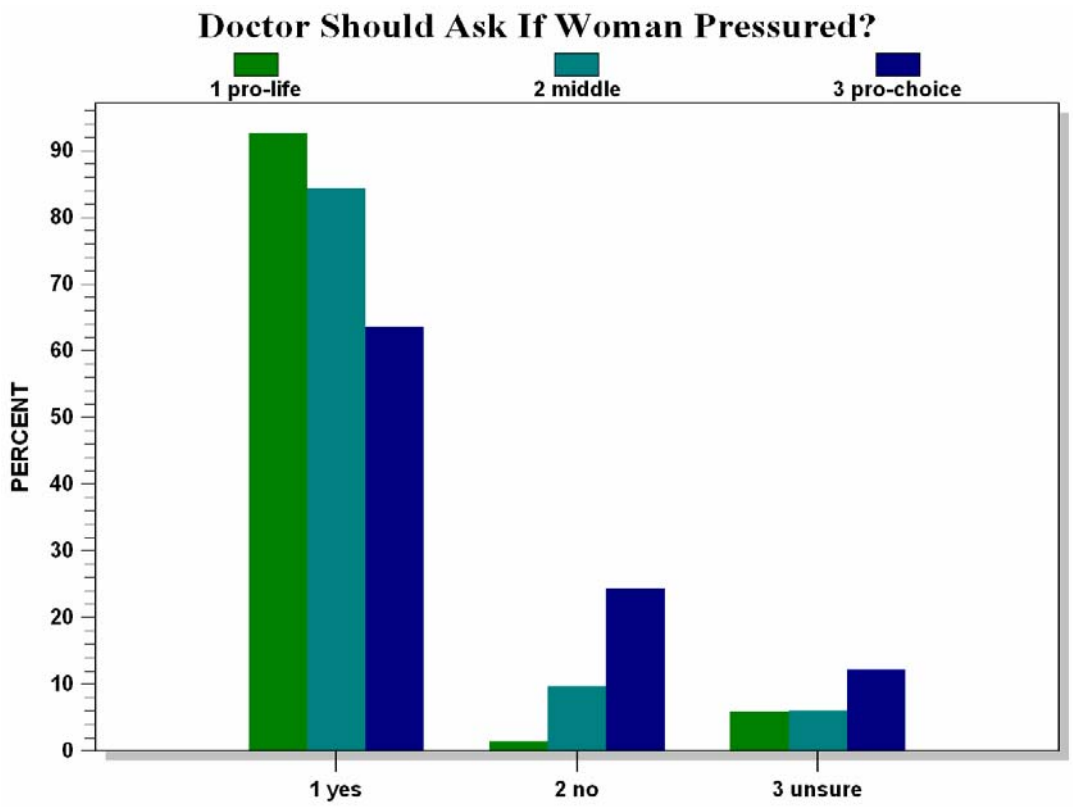


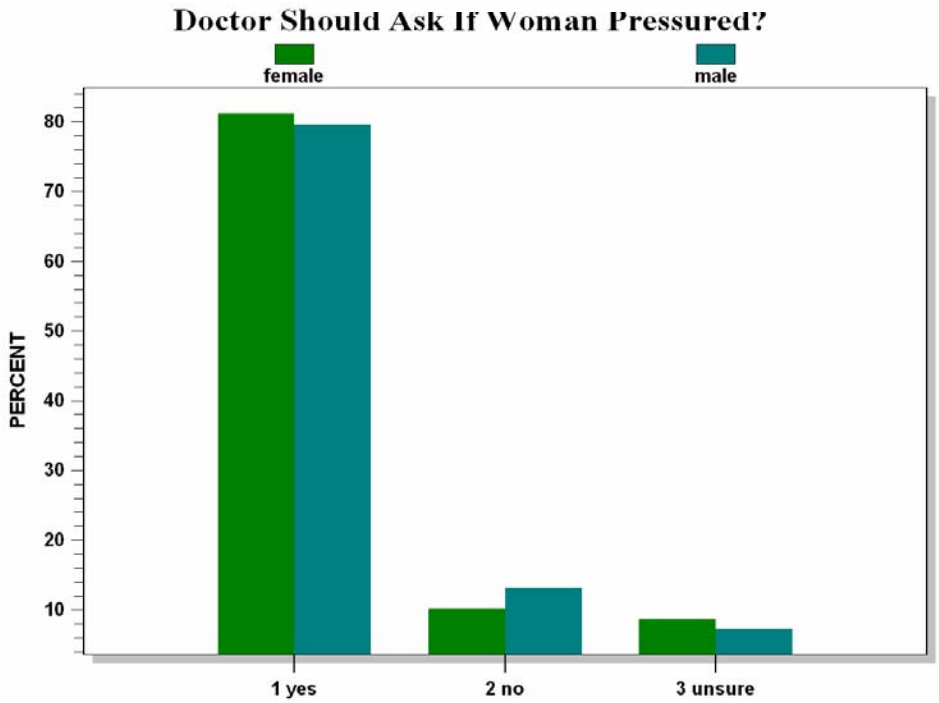


Women who feel pressured to have unwanted abortions are at much higher risk of experiencing more severe grief, guilt, depression and other psychological problems following an abortion. Do you believe abortion providers should ask if a woman is feeling pressured into an unwanted abortion?

Ask if Pressured	Frequency	Percent	Cum Percent
1 yes	505	80.7%	80.7%
2 no	70	11.2%	91.9%
3 unsure	51	8.1%	100.0%
Total	626	100.0%	100.0%

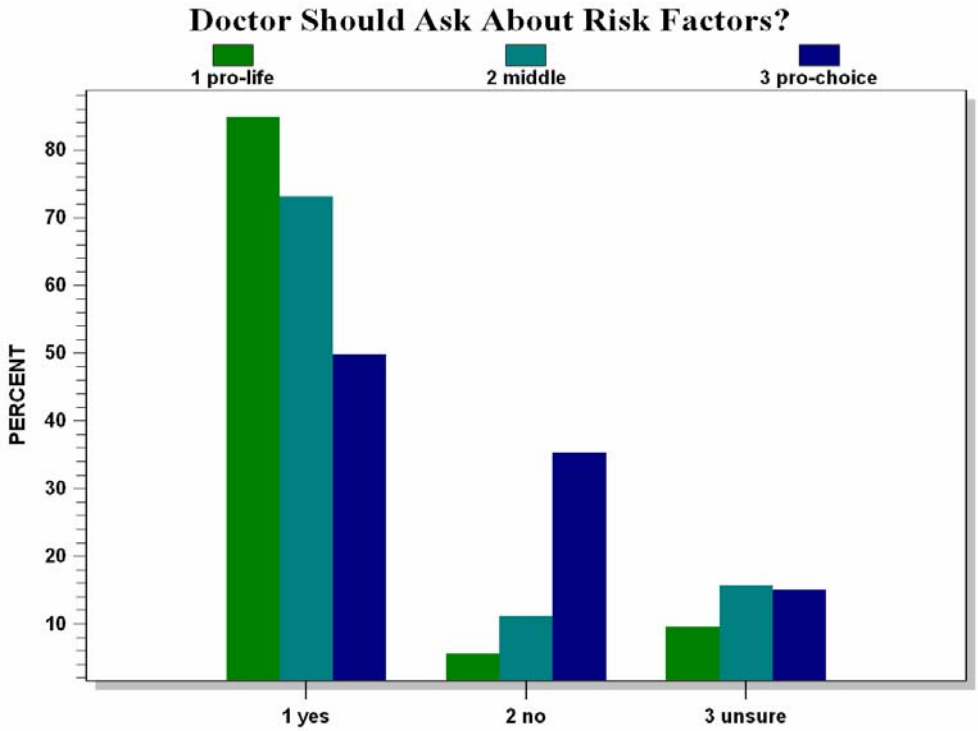
If yes, press 1
If no, press 2
If you are not sure, press 3

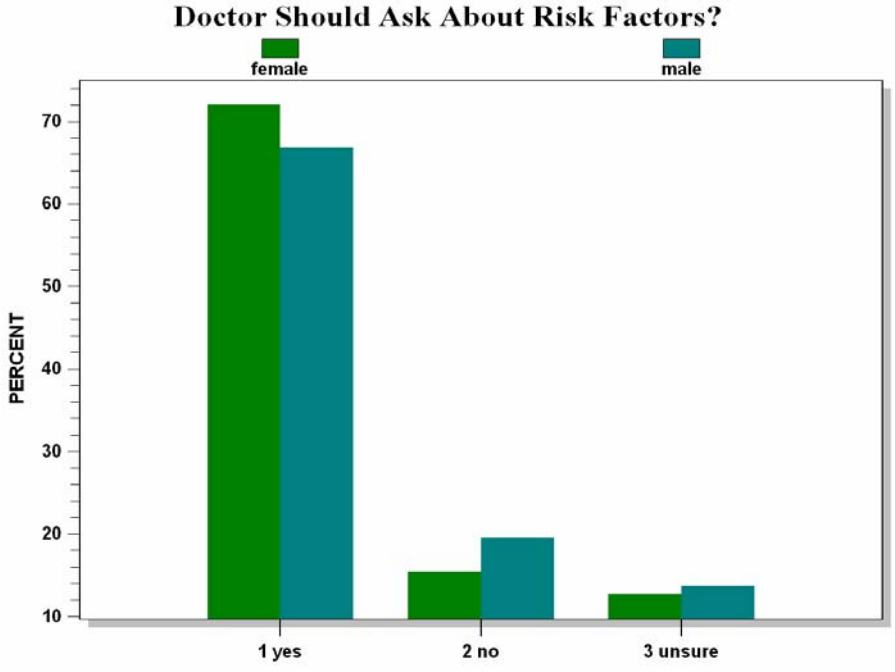




Do you believe abortion providers should ask about risk factors that can help identify if a woman is more likely to experience emotional problems after an abortion?
If yes, press 1
If no, press 2
If you are not sure, press 3

Ask About Risk Factors ?	**Frequency**	**Percent**	**Cum Percent**
1 yes	438	70.2%	70.2%
2 no	105	16.8%	87.0%
3 unsure	81	13.0%	100.0%
Total	624	100.0%	100.0%

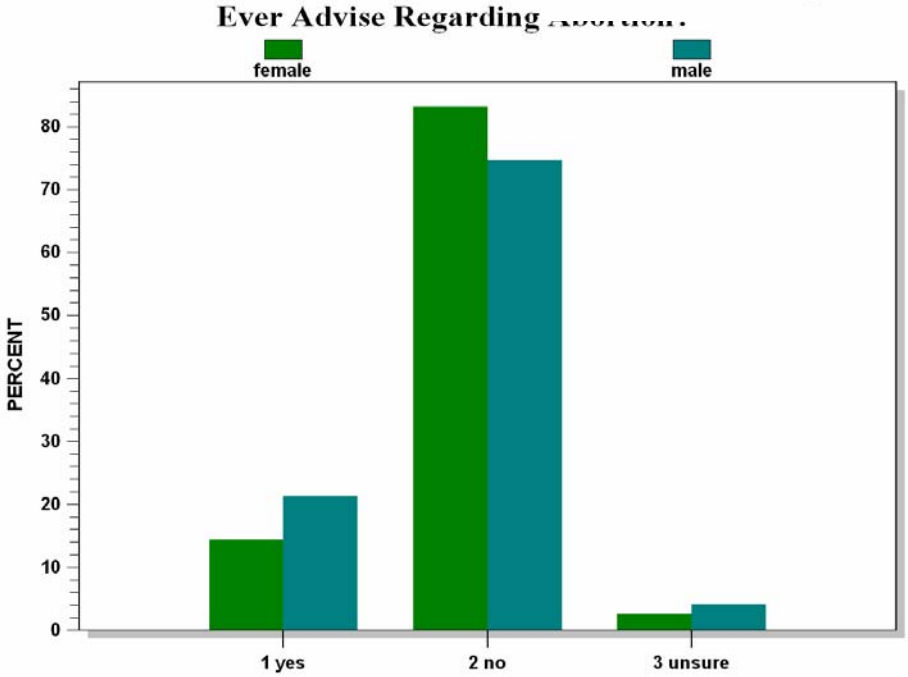




Have you ever been involved in advising someone to have an abortion?

If yes, press 1.
If no, press 2.
If unsure, press 3.

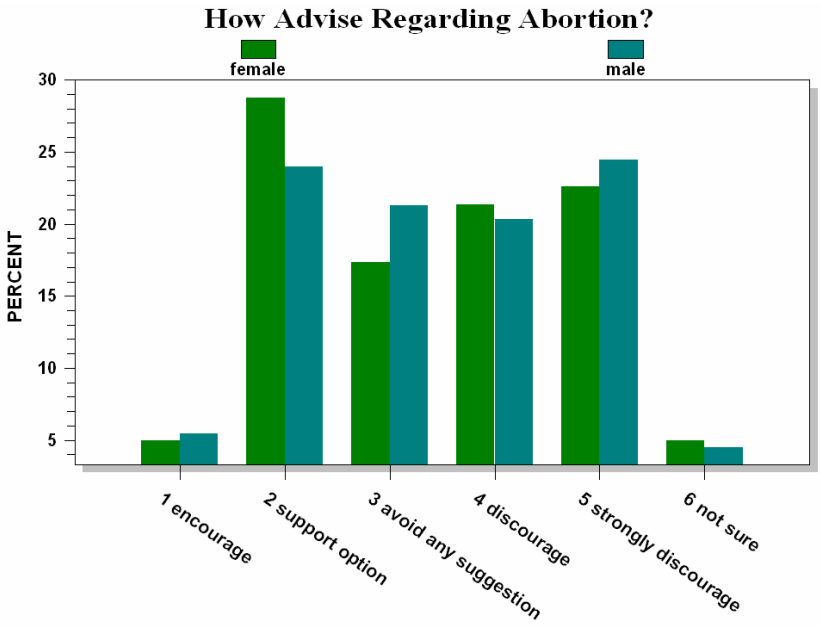
Advised to have Abortion	Frequency	Percent	Cum Percent
1 yes	105	16.8%	16.8%
2 no	500	80.1%	97.0%
3 unsure	19	3.0%	100.0%
Total	624	100.0%	100.0%



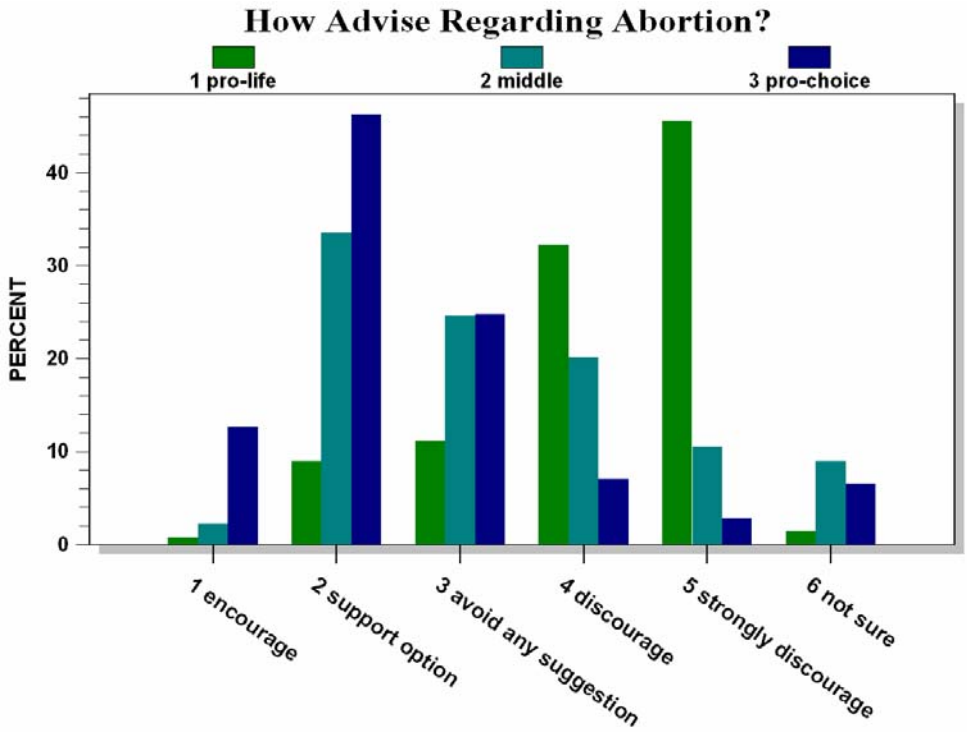
21% of men reported having advised someone to have an abortion compared to 14% of women.

Imagine that an unmarried friend or family member told you she was pregnant, but she could not expect any support from her male partner. How would you advise her?

If you would encourage abortion, press 1.
If you would support the option of abortion, press 2.
If you would avoid making any suggestion, press 3.
If you would discourage abortion, press 4.
If you would strongly discourage abortion, press 5.
If you are not sure, press 6



No Support from Partner	Frequency	Percent	Cum Percent
1 encourage	32	5.1%	5.1%
2 support option	169	27.1%	32.2%
3 avoid any suggestion	117	18.8%	51.0%
4 discourage	131	21.0%	72.0%
5 strongly discourage	145	23.2%	95.2%
6 not sure	30	4.8%	100.0%
Total	624	100.0%	100.0%



Are you likely to vote the 2008 Presidential election?

If yes, press 1
If no, press 2
If you are not sure, press 3

Likely to Vote	Frequency	Percent	Cum Percent	
Yes	595	95.2%	95.2%	
No	17	2.7%	97.9%	
Not Sure	13	2.1%	100.0%	
Total	625	100.0%	100.0%	

Looking back to 2004, did you vote for Republican George W. Bush, Democrat John Kerry, some other candidate, or did you not vote?

If you voted for Bush, press 1.
If you voted for Kerry, press 2.
If you voted for another candidate, press 3.
If you did not vote press 4.
If you are not sure, press 5

2004 Election	Frequency	Percent	Cum Percent	
Bush	315	50.4%	50.4%	
Kerry	217	34.7%	85.1%	
Other	41	6.6%	91.7%	
did not vote	41	6.6%	98.2%	
not sure	11	1.8%	100.0%	
Total	625	100.0%	100.0%	

2004 Election	1 pro-life	2 middle	3 pro-choice	TOTAL
1 Bush	210	52	50	312
Row %	67.3	16.7	16.0	100.0
Col %	77.2	38.8	23.5	50.4
2 Kerry	30	50	134	214
Row %	14.0	23.4	62.6	100.0
Col %	11.0	37.3	62.9	34.6
3 Other	13	12	16	41
Row %	31.7	29.3	39.0	100.0
Col %	4.8	9.0	7.5	6.6
4 did not vote	15	13	13	41
Row %	36.6	31.7	31.7	100.0
Col %	5.5	9.7	6.1	6.6
5 not sure	4	7	0	11
Row %	36.4	63.6	0.0	100.0
Col %	1.5	5.2	0.0	1.8
TOTAL	272	134	213	619
Row %	43.9	21.6	34.4	100.0
Col %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

If you are older than 18 and younger than 30, press 1.
If you are 30 to 45 years of age, press 2
If you are 46 to 60, press 3.
If you are over 60, press 4.
If you are under 18, press 5.
To have these choices repeated, press the star key.

Age	Frequency	Percent	Cum Percent	
18-29	59	9.5%	9.5%	
30-45	134	21.5%	30.9%	
46-60	205	32.9%	63.8%	
over 60	222	35.6%	99.4%	
under 18	4	0.6%	100.0%	
Total	624	100.0%	100.0%	

Age	1 pro-life	2 middle	3 pro-choice	TOTAL
age 18-29	19	18	21	58
Row %	32.8	31.0	36.2	100.0
Col %	7.0	13.4	9.9	9.4
age 30-45	56	40	37	133
Row %	42.1	30.1	27.8	100.0
Col %	20.7	29.9	17.4	21.5
age 46-60	92	35	77	204
Row %	45.1	17.2	37.7	100.0
Col %	33.9	26.1	36.2	33.0
over 60	103	39	77	219
Row %	47.0	17.8	35.2	100.0
Col %	38.0	29.1	36.2	35.4
under 18	1	2	1	4
Row %	25.0	50.0	25.0	100.0
Col %	0.4	1.5	0.5	0.6
TOTAL	271	134	213	618
Row %	43.9	21.7	34.5	100.0
Col %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

What is your educational background?

For High School, press 1
For Some College, press 2
For College degree, press 3
For Post-Graduate Degree, press 4

To have these choices repeated, press the star key.

Education	Frequency	Percent	Cum Percent	
High School	161	26.0%	26.0%	
Some College	149	24.0%	50.0%	
College Degree	182	29.4%	79.4%	
Post-College Degree	128	20.6%	100.0%	
Total	620	100.0%	100.0%	

Education	1 pro-life	2 middle	3 pro-choice	TOTAL
college degree	68	34	78	180
Row %	37.8	18.9	43.3	100.0
Col %	25.4	25.8	36.4	29.3
high school	81	35	42	158
Row %	51.3	22.2	26.6	100.0
Col %	30.2	26.5	19.6	25.7
post-college degree	46	31	51	128
Row %	35.9	24.2	39.8	100.0
Col %	17.2	23.5	23.8	20.8
some college	73	32	43	148
Row %	49.3	21.6	29.1	100.0
Col %	27.2	24.2	20.1	24.1
TOTAL	268	132	214	614
Row %	43.6	21.5	34.9	100.0
Col %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

If you are Male, press 1. If you are Female, press 2. To have these choices repeated, press the star key.

Gender	Frequency	Percent	Cum Percent	
Male	221	35.3%	35.3%	
Female	405	64.7%	100.0%	
Total	626	100.0%	100.0%	

(BRANCH BASED ON MALE OR FEMALE)

(FEMALE)

If you have NEVER had an abortion, press 1
If you have had two or more abortions, press 2
If you have had one abortion, press 3

. *(one second pause) Press the star key to repeat these choices.*

(one second pause) To skip this question, press 4

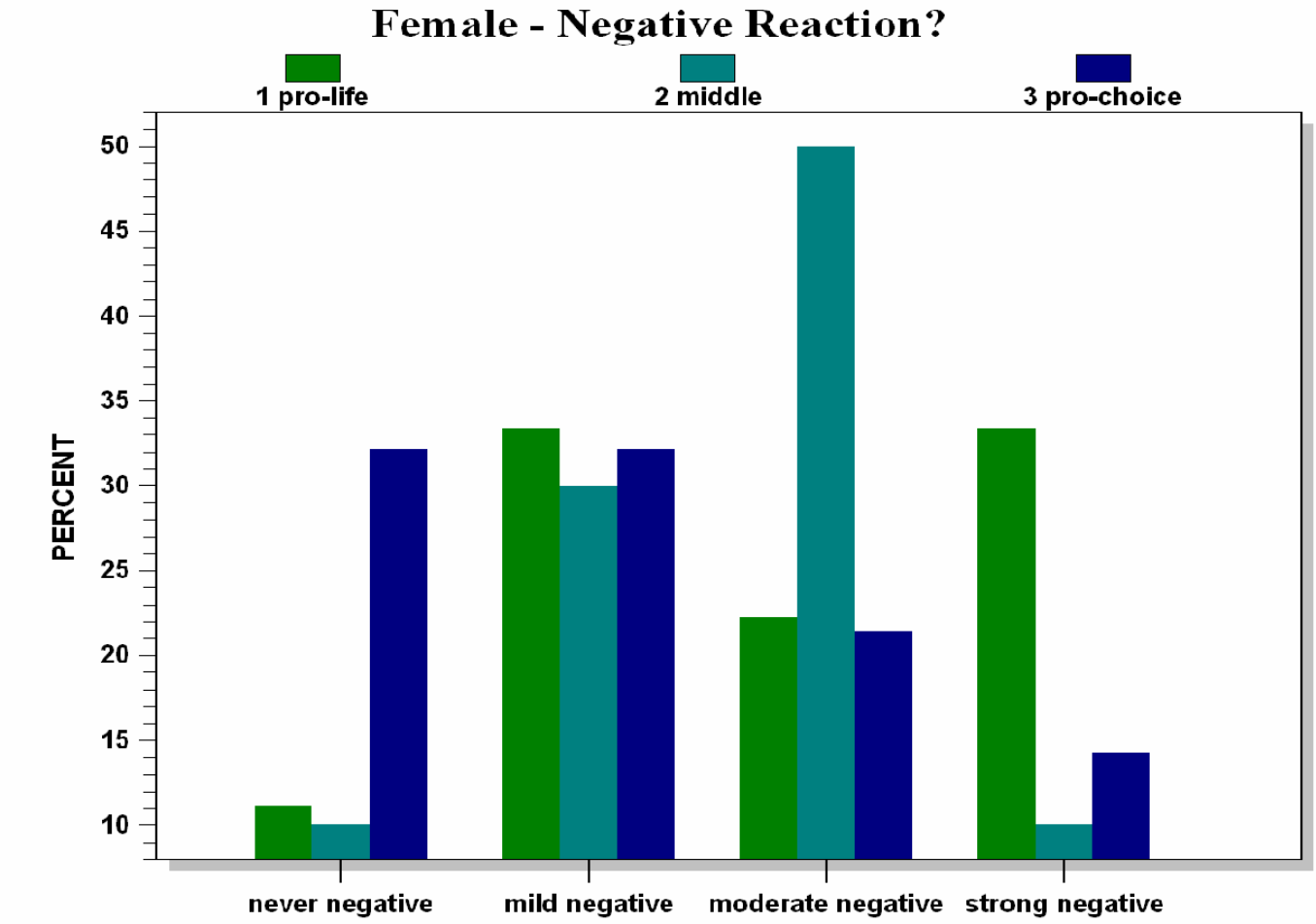
Female Had Abortion	Frequency	Percent	Cum Percent	
1 abortion	19	4.7%	4.7%	
2 or more abortions	32	7.9%	12.6%	
no abortions	333	82.4%	95.0%	
Skip	20	5.0%	100.0%	
Total	404	100.0%	100.0%	

(IF Never had abortion, 1, go to THANK YOU & Goodbye, otherwise….)

.(IF FEMALE AND HAD ABORTION, otherwise go to goodbye)

Press 1 if you have ever had strong negative emotional reactions to your abortion.
Press 2 if you have had moderate negative reactions
Press 3 if you have had only mild negative emotional reactions
Press 4 if you have never had any negative reactions to your abortion

Female Reaction	Frequency	Percent
strong negative	11	17.0%
moderate negative	13	27.7%
mild negative	15	31.9%
never negative	8	23.4%
Total	47	100.0%



(MALE) *Have you ever been the male partner in a pregnancy that was aborted?*
If yes, press 1
If no, press 2
If you are uncertain, press 3

. *(one second pause) Press the star key to repeat this question.*

(one second pause) To skip this question, press 4

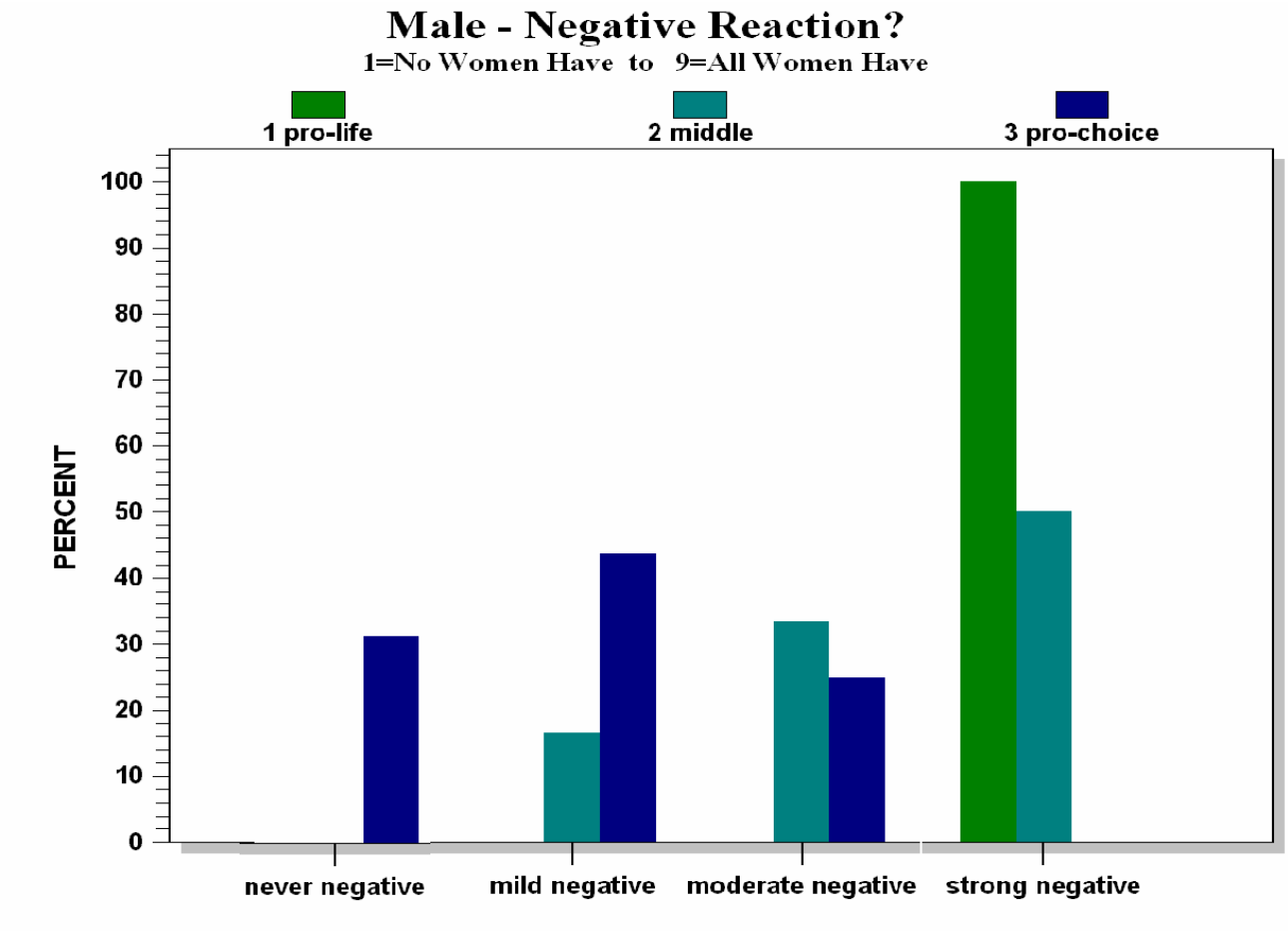
(IF Never had abortion, 2, go to THANK YOU & Goodbye, otherwise….)

Male Partner	Frequency	Percent	Cum Percent	
1 yes	26	11.9%	11.9%	
2 no	186	85.3%	97.2%	
3 uncertain	5	2.3%	99.5%	
4 skip	1	0.5%	100.0%	
Total	218	100.0%	100.0%	

(IF MALE INVOLVED IN ABORTION, 1, ask following, otherwise go to goodbye)

Press 1 if you have ever had strong negative emotional reactions regarding the abortion.
Press 2 if you have had moderate negative reactions
Press 3 if you have had only mild negative emotional reactions
Press 4 if you have never had any negative reactions to the abortion

Male Reaction	Frequency	Percent
strong negative	6	24.0%
moderate negative	6	24.0%
mild negative	8	32.0%
never negative	5	20.0%
Total	25	100.0%



THANK YOU for your participation. GOOD-BYE