



## Opinion on Abortion Choice

### Lethbridge Public Opinion Study – Winter 2012







---

February 24, 2012

**Dr. Faron Ellis**  
**Citizen Society Research Lab**  
Lethbridge College  
3000 College Drive South  
Lethbridge AB T1K 1L6  
faron.ellis@lethbridgecollege.ca  
[www.lethbridgecollege.ca/go/csrl](http://www.lethbridgecollege.ca/go/csrl)



## Methodology

-  **Population** The city of Lethbridge has a total population of 87,882 residents (2011 census) approximately 80% of which are 18 years of age or older (70,305). A total of 43,011 Lethbridge residents are male (48.9%) while 44,871 are female (51.1%). South Lethbridge is home to 30,504 residents (34.7%) while the rapidly expanding west side is now home to 32,063 residents (36.5%). There are 25,315 north Lethbridge residents (28.8%). Coaldale has a total population of 6,943 residents (2009 census).
-  **Sample Data** Collected by Lethbridge College and Athabasca University students enrolled in STS270 – Social Science Research Methods in the winter of 2012. Students interviewed 738 randomly selected, adult Lethbridge and Coaldale residents by telephone on February 11–12, 2012 under the supervision of School of Liberal Arts faculty member Faron Ellis. Telephone numbers were selected from a sample drawn from InfoCanada directories. We sincerely appreciate and thank all those who took time to respond to our survey. Full methodological notes for samples from previous Lethbridge and Alberta Public Opinion Studies can be obtained by visiting the CSRL web pages at:  
[www.lethbridgecollege.ab.ca/go/csrl](http://www.lethbridgecollege.ab.ca/go/csrl)
-  **Representativeness** Analysis of the demographic data indicates that, within acceptable limits, the sample accurately represents the demographic distribution of the adult population within the city of Lethbridge. The sample has been statistically weighted to even better reflect the population (gender, age and area of the city of Lethbridge).
-  **Confidence** The weighted sample yields a margin of error of  $\pm 3.6$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error increases when analyzing sub-samples of the data. For example, the Lethbridge subsample margin of error is  $\pm 3.9$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20, while the Coaldale subsample has a margin of error of  $\pm 9.5$  percentage points 19 times out of 20.
-  **IB Commons Call Centre** Students conducted interviews using the facilities of the Lethbridge College IB Commons Call Centre and applications developed by the Open Source Learning Lab. We thank Dr. James Manis and the OSL for their efforts in working with us to establish and maintain the IB Commons Call Centre.
-  **Sponsorship** These data are part of a larger study of the opinions and attitudes of Lethbridge residents conducted by the Citizen Society Research Lab at Lethbridge College. This particular question was derived from student and faculty interest in the topic.

## Abortion Choice

Substantial majorities of Lethbridge (77.0%) and Coaldale residents (70.6%) support a woman's right to choose to have an abortion. Men (80.7%) are even more supportive than are women (73.0%). Furthermore, substantial majorities in most demographic categories demonstrate strong support. Religion is the most important determinant of opinion on this issue with a slight majority of the most religious opposed (51.0%). Support climbs to 89.9% among the least religious.

Opinion on this issue has been relatively stable over time and is driven by the foundational values held by proponents and opponents.

Abortion Choice	Feb. '03	Feb. '04	Oct. '04	Feb. '05	Oct. '05	Feb. '06	Oct. '06	Oct. '07	Feb. '08	Feb. '09	Feb. '10	Feb. '11	Feb. '12
Agree	69.9	75.3	73.3	70.3	75.4	74.8	73.0	77.9	75.0	76.2	79.2	74.1	<b>76.6</b>
Disagree	30.1	24.7	26.7	29.7	24.6	25.2	27.0	22.1	25.0	23.8	20.8	25.9	<b>23.4</b>

### Abortion choice by demographic group (February 2012) (%)

Gender*	Male	Female	Lethbridge	Coaldale
Agree	80.7	73.0	77.0	70.6
Disagree	19.3	27.0	23.0	29.4

Area	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge
Agree	79.2	77.3	75.0
Disagree	20.8	22.7	25.0

Household Income*	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	71.9	76.3	83.1
Disagree	28.1	23.7	16.9

Religious Attendance*	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	49.0	82.1	89.9
Disagree	51.0	17.9	10.1

Education*	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	74.1	69.5	82.0	80.1
Disagree	25.9	30.5	18.0	19.9

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	71.6	74.0	80.5	77.6
Disagree	28.4	26.0	19.5	22.4

Provincial Vote*	PC	Wildrose	Liberal	NDP	Undecided
Agree	76.5	60.2	83.6	92.0	76.5
Disagree	23.5	39.8	16.4	8.0	23.5

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

## Demographics

Gender (%)		Area of City (%)		Income (%)		Education (%)		Age (%)	
Male	48.0	South	34.3	Under \$40,000	20.7	H-School/less	23.4	18-29	21.3
Female	52.0	North	27.3	\$40-\$80,000	42.2	Some P-Sec.	22.9	30-44	20.2
		West	38.4	Over \$80,000	37.0	Col-Tech-Grad	18.0	45-64	31.6
						University Grad	35.7	65 or older	26.9

Church Attendance (%)	
2-3/month +	31.3
Several/year	21.3
Rarely/never	47.4

Provincial Vote (%)	
PC	41.7
Wildrose	18.8
Liberal	18.8
NDP	17.2
Alberta Party	1.1

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

## Question

Abortion is a matter of choice that should be decided between a woman and her doctor.

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know (unprompted)
- Refused (unprompted)