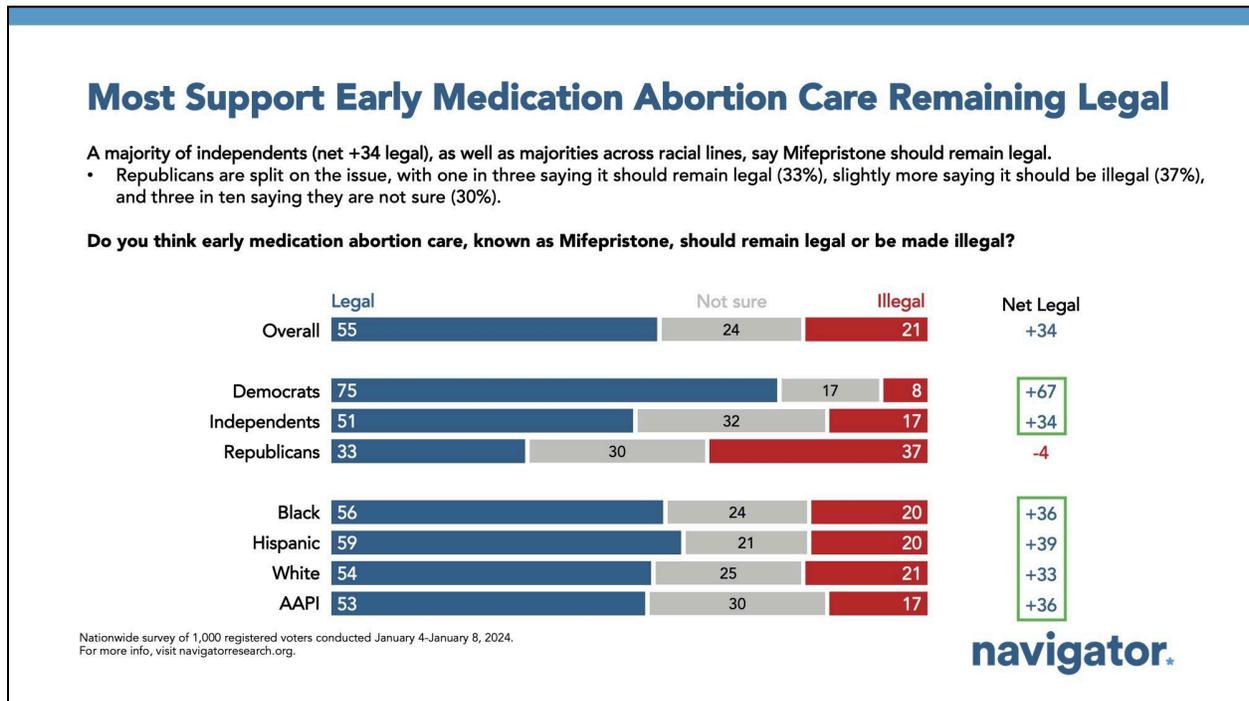


From: Navigator Research  
 To: Interested Parties  
 Re: Public Opinion on Medication Abortion  
 Date: March 26, 2024

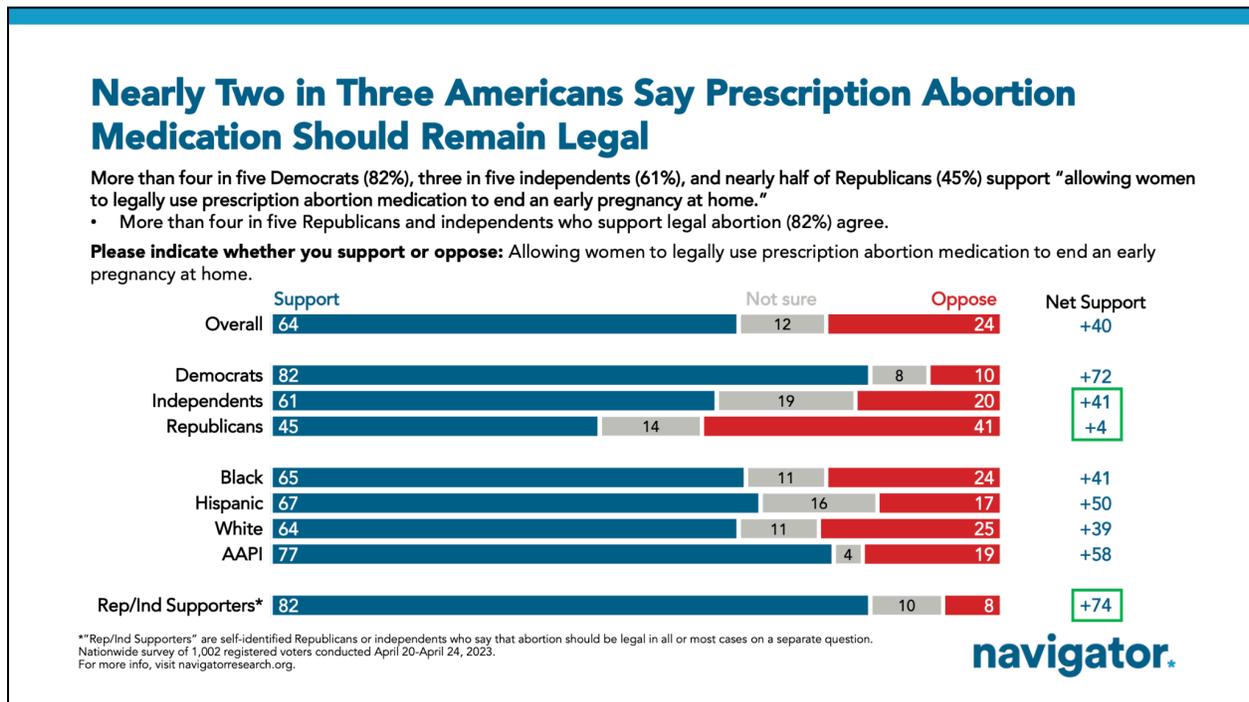
In the wake of the *Dobbs* decision, American public support for abortion has been [consistently strong – with no signs of receding](#). Further investigation from Navigator Research has shown that this strong support for abortion rights in general also extends to the discussion of reproductive health care at a granular level, including to birth control, IVF, and now abortion medication when discussed in the context of specific individual medical treatments.

Today, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments regarding access to Mifepristone, which a majority of Americans believe should remain legal (55 percent), including three in four Democrats (75 percent), a majority of independents (51 percent), and one in three Republicans (33 percent). Just one in five say it should be made illegal (21 percent), a number driven by 37 percent of Republicans. One in four are unsure about whether Mifepristone should be legal or illegal, including three in ten independents (32 percent) and Republicans (30 percent).



In a separate survey, Navigator found that by a 40-point margin, Americans overwhelmingly support “allowing women to legally use prescription abortion medication to end an early pregnancy at home” (64 percent support – 24 percent oppose), including four in five Democrats (net +72; 82 percent support – 10 percent oppose), three in five independents (net

+41; 61 percent support – 20 percent oppose), and a plurality of Republicans (net +4; 45 percent support – 41 percent oppose).



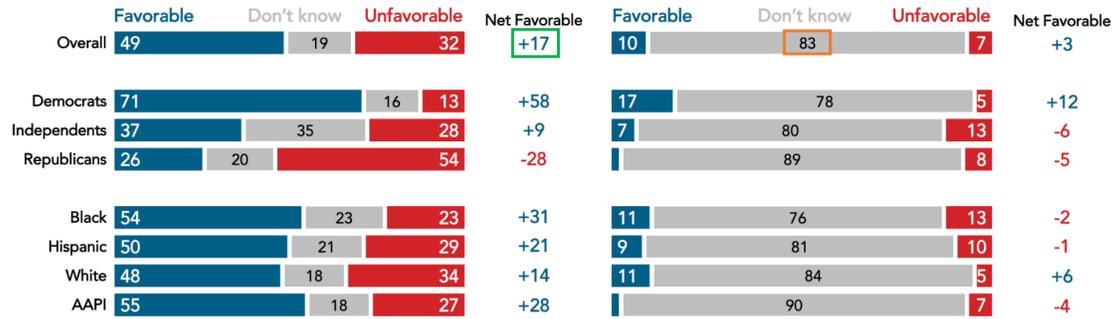
This slight difference in public opinion to a largely similar question reveals something important: the American people are new to this debate and just 17 percent of Americans are familiar with “Mifepristone” (net +3; 10 percent favorable – 7 percent unfavorable), compared to 81 percent of Americans who are familiar with the broader term “abortion medication,” which is viewed favorably by a 17-point margin (49 percent favorable – 32 percent unfavorable). “Abortion medication” is viewed favorably by a 58-point margin among Democrats (71 percent favorable – 13 percent unfavorable) and by an 11-point margin among independents (37 percent favorable – 26 percent unfavorable).

## Americans Are Not Familiar With Mifepristone By Name, But View Abortion Medication Favorably

More than four in five Americans (83%) are unfamiliar with Mifepristone by name, but Americans view “abortion medication” favorably by a net 17-point margin, with just 19% who say they do not know enough to say.

**(Split sample) Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to:** Abortion medication.

**(Split sample) Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to:** Mifepristone.



Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 4-January 8, 2024.  
For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).

When discussed without its medical name, but rather as a generic medical treatment, most Americans view abortion medication favorably. “Early medication abortion” is viewed most favorably by nearly three in five Americans (net +28; 58 percent favorable – 30 percent unfavorable), as is the “prescription abortion pill” (net +26; 57 percent favorable – 31 percent unfavorable). “Abortion medication” (net +22; 54 percent favorable – 32 percent unfavorable) and “prescription medication abortion” (net +20; 52 percent favorable – 32 percent unfavorable) are also viewed favorably by majorities.

## Most Americans View Abortion Medication in a Positive Light

There is relatively little difference in Americans' attitudes toward "abortion medication" (net +22 favorable overall) and "early abortion medication" (net +28), though the latter is viewed slightly more favorably overall.

- "Rep/Ind supporters" (Republicans and independents who think abortion should be legal in all or most cases) view "abortion medication" (net +52 favorable) and "prescription abortion medication" (net +51) most favorably.

You will now see the names of some people, groups, and other items. Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to each one.

*** Split sample	Favorable	Don't know	Unfavorable	Net Favorable				Rep/Ind Supp*
				Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	
**Early abortion medication	58	12	30	+28	+76	+25	-24	+35
**Prescription abortion pill	57	12	31	+26	+75	+18	-26	+29
*Abortion medication	54	14	32	+22	+54	+27	-15	+52
*Prescription abortion medication	52	16	32	+20	+48	+16	-11	+51

\*\*Rep/Ind Supp\* are self-identified Republicans or independents who say that abortion should be legal in all or most cases on a separate question. Nationwide survey of 1,002 registered voters conducted April 20-April 24, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).

The most convincing statements to keep abortion medication legal include allowing a patient to be able to make their own personal decision in privacy and that such medication can be used as life-saving treatment. Most Americans find a range of statements convincing to keep medication abortion legal, including that:

- *Having an abortion is a personal decision that should be between a patient, their doctor, and their family: prescription abortion medication allows people to end early pregnancies safely and more privately (71 percent convincing overall; 69 percent convincing among independents);*
- *Prescription abortion medication can be used as a life-saving treatment for miscarriage. When it comes to essential reproductive health care, we need all options to be available (69 percent convincing overall; 61 percent convincing among independents); and,*
- *For over twenty years, millions have safely used FDA-approved abortion medication to end early pregnancies. Prescription abortion medication has been safely used for decades, is used in more than half of all abortions in the U.S., and has a safety record of over 99% (66 percent convincing overall, including 66 percent among independents).*

## Most Convincing Arguments for Keeping Prescription Abortion Medication Legal Focus on How It Affects Americans' Lives

Republicans and independents who support legal abortion say that the most convincing reason to keep such medication legal is that "having an abortion is a personal decision that should be between a patient, their doctor, and their family" (86% convincing).

Below are some statements about prescription abortion medication used to end an early pregnancy at home. Please indicate how convincing you find each one as a reason to keep such medication legal.

	*** Split sample				Total Convincing				Rep/Ind Supp*
	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Don't believe	Not convincing	Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	
Having an abortion is a personal decision that should be between a patient, their doctor, and their family: prescription abortion medication allows people to end early pregnancies safely and more privately**	49	21	7	23	70	85	66	55	86
Prescription abortion medication can be used as a life-saving treatment for miscarriage. When it comes to essential reproductive health care, we need all options to be available	45	24	10	21	69	83	61	56	81
For over 20 years, millions have safely used FDA- approved abortion medication to end early pregnancies. Prescription abortion medication has been safely used for decades, is used in more than half of all abortions in the U.S., and has a safety record of over 99%	45	21	9	25	66	82	66	49	78
*Banning early prescription abortion medication will take away abortion access even in states where abortion is legal and protected. It would rob over 60 million Americans of access to a safe, effective option for abortion care in early pregnancy	41	23	10	26	64	79	53	49	79

\*\*Rep/Ind Supp\* are self-identified Republicans or independents who say that abortion should be legal in all or most cases on a separate question.  
 \*\*Half of respondents were asked a version that read "a woman, her doctor, and her family"; the combined results are displayed here.  
 Nationwide survey of 1,002 registered voters conducted April 20-April 24, 2023.  
 For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

By contrast, highly technical arguments reflecting the FDA process and the provenance of experts are less convincing for those surveyed, though majorities still find these arguments to be convincing.

## Process Arguments About FDA Approval of Abortion Medication Are Less Convincing

Republicans and independents who support legal abortion say arguments about "[upending] the U.S. drug approval process" (58% convincing) and "[ignoring] the law and scientific research" (60%) are least convincing.

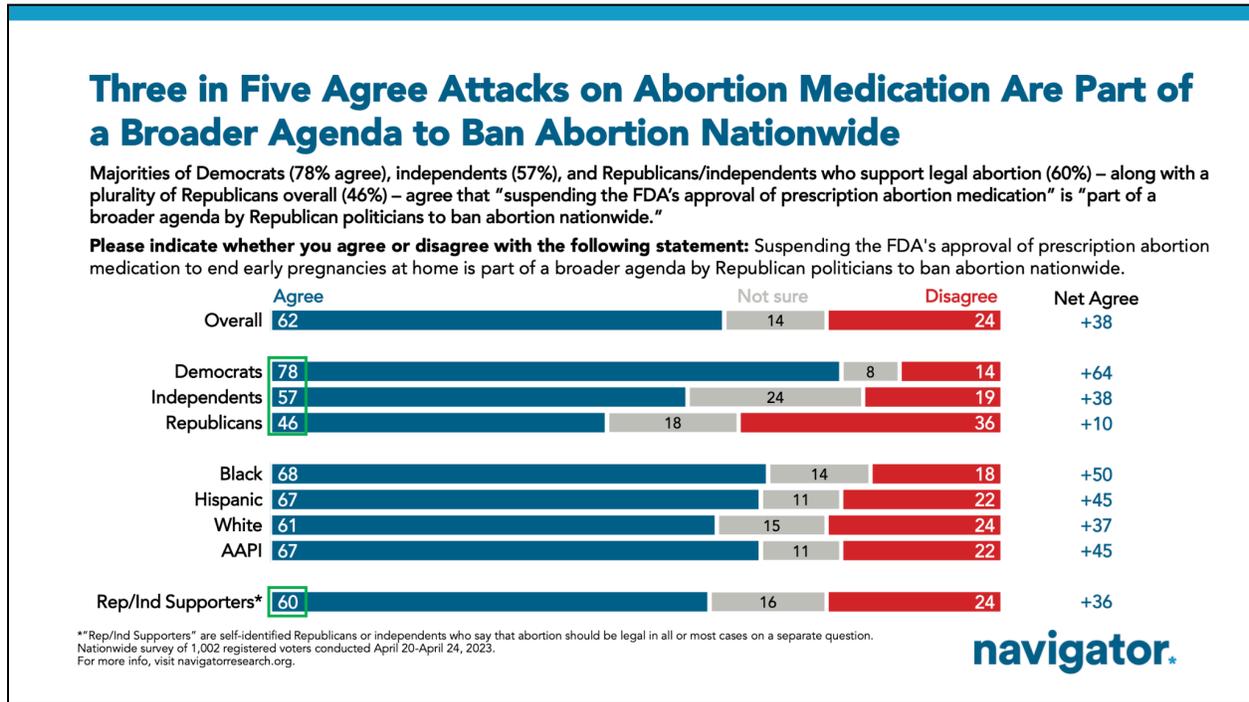
Below are some statements about prescription abortion medication used to end an early pregnancy at home. Please indicate how convincing you find each one as a reason to keep such medication legal.

	*** Split sample				Total Convincing				Rep/Ind Supp*
	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Don't believe	Not convincing	Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	
**The Supreme Court's recent decision to overturn Roe v. Wade was founded on the idea that abortion laws should be left up to the states. Banning early prescription abortion medication will take away abortion access in states where voters and their lawmakers have made abortion legal and protected, violating the very foundation of this ruling	34	26	11	29	60	73	48	49	73
Millions of American women live in a county without an abortion provider: the costs of traveling long distances for abortion care can be high, and early abortion medication can be safely prescribed by a doctor in a telehealth session	37	23	10	30	60	81	53	39	67
**If the FDA's approval of prescription abortion medication is permanently suspended, it will mean companies will not only have to endure millions of dollars, years of testing, and FDA scientific review for new medicines, but they'll also have to survive challenges in court that could take decades: it will upend the U.S. drug approval process	32	24	12	32	56	75	42	39	58
*The Texas judge's decision to suspend the FDA experts' approval of prescription abortion medication ignored the law and scientific research, substituting anti-abortion politics for the FDA's experts and authority to review medications	32	19	16	33	51	66	47	35	60

\*\*Rep/Ind Supp\* are self-identified Republicans or independents who say that abortion should be legal in all or most cases on a separate question.  
 Nationwide survey of 1,002 registered voters conducted April 20-April 24, 2023.  
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Placing attempts to ban abortion medication within the context of broader attempts to ban abortion is effective: more than three in five Americans agree that *“suspending the FDA’s approval of prescription abortion medication to end early pregnancies at home is part of a broader agenda by Republican politicians to ban abortion nationwide”* (62 percent agree – 24 percent disagree), including most independents (57 percent agree – 19 percent disagree) and a plurality of Republicans (46 percent agree – 36 percent disagree).



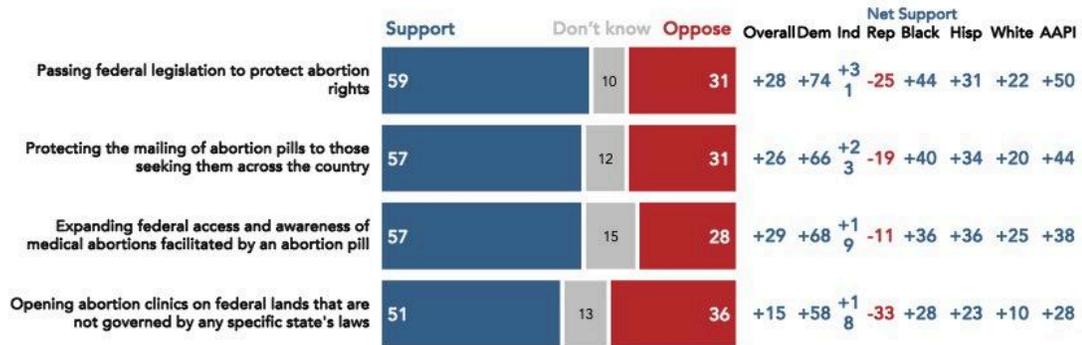
Majorities support federal action on abortion, including passing federal legislation to protect abortion rights (net +28; 58 percent support – 31 percent oppose), protecting the mailing of abortion pills to those seeking them across the country (net +26; 57 percent support – 31 percent oppose), and expanding federal access and awareness of medical abortions facilitated by an abortion pill (net +29; 57 percent support – 28 percent oppose).

Americans are most likely to describe Republican lawmakers who support a nationwide abortion ban as extreme (42 percent), out of touch (39 percent), and dangerous (39 percent). Independents and Democrats are most likely to describe these Republicans as out of touch (46 percent and 52 percent, respectively) and dangerous (40 percent and 57 percent, respectively). Even one in four Republicans call them extreme (28 percent) and out of touch (24 percent).

## Majorities Support Federal Action to Protect Abortion Including Codification, Protecting Mailing of and Access to Abortion Pills

At least seven in ten Democrats support each potential policy step Biden and the federal government could take.

Below is a list of policies that some have suggested Biden and the federal government take following the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. Please indicate whether you support or oppose Biden and the federal government taking each action.



Nationwide survey of 999 registered voters conducted June 30-July 3, 2022.  
For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).

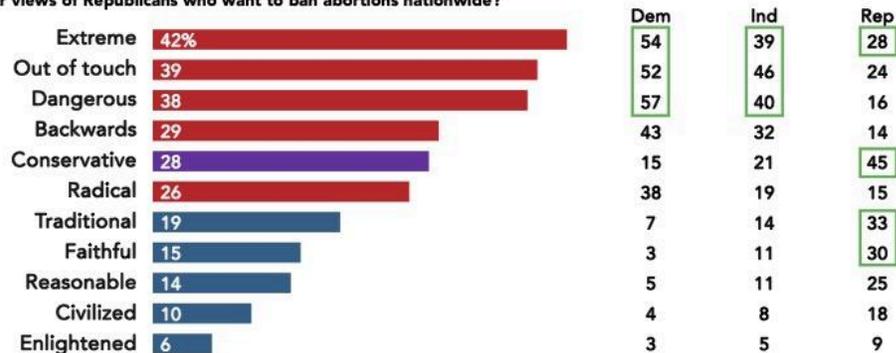
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## Americans Describe Republican Lawmakers Who Support an Abortion Ban As "Extreme," "Out of Touch," "Dangerous"

Democrats and independents are most likely to describe Republicans who support a nationwide abortion ban as "extreme" (54% and 39%, respectively), "out of touch" (52% and 46%), and "dangerous" (57% and 40%).

• Republicans are most likely to say "conservative" (45%), followed by "traditional" (33%), "faithful" (30%), and "extreme" (28%).

Below is a list of words and phrases that some have used to describe Republicans who support a nationwide ban on abortion. Which THREE best describe your views of Republicans who want to ban abortions nationwide?



Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted June 14-June 20, 2023.  
For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).

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