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## In Gay Marriage Debate, Both Supporters and Opponents See Legal Recognition as 'Inevitable'

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT  
THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE  
PEOPLE & THE PRESS**

**Michael Dimock**

Director

**Carroll Doherty**

Associate Director

1615 L St, N.W., Suite 700

Washington, D.C. 20036

Tel (202) 419-4350

Fax (202) 419-4399

[www.people-press.org](http://www.people-press.org)

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# In Gay Marriage Debate, Both Supporters and Opponents See Legal Recognition as ‘Inevitable’

As support for gay marriage continues to increase, nearly three-quarters of Americans – 72% – say that legal recognition of same-sex marriage is “inevitable.” This includes 85% of gay marriage supporters, as well as 59% of its opponents.

The national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted May 1-5 among 1,504 adults, finds that support for same-sex marriage continues to grow: For the first time in Pew Research Center polling, just over half (51%) of Americans favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally. Yet the issue remains divisive, with 42% saying they oppose legalizing gay marriage. Opposition to gay marriage – and to societal acceptance of homosexuality more generally – is rooted in religious attitudes, such as the belief that engaging in homosexual behavior is a sin.

At the same time, more people today have gay or lesbian acquaintances, which is associated with acceptance of homosexuality and support for gay marriage. Nearly nine-in-ten Americans (87%) personally know someone who is gay or lesbian (up from 61% in 1993). About half (49%) say a close family member or one of their closest friends is gay or lesbian. About a quarter (23%) say they know a lot of people who are gay or lesbian, and 31% know a gay or lesbian person who is raising children. The link between these experiences and attitudes about homosexuality is strong. For example, roughly two-thirds (68%) of those who know a lot of people who are gay or lesbian favor gay marriage, compared with just 32% of those who don’t know anyone.

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## Most See Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Marriage as ‘Inevitable’

	2004	2013
Percent who say legal recognition of same-sex marriage is inevitable	59%	72%

*Among those who...*

Favor allowing gays to marry legally	85%
Oppose allowing gays to marry legally	59%

PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013.

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## Half Have ‘Close’ Gay Friends or Family

<i>Do you personally know anyone who is gay or lesbian?</i>	Jun 1993	May 2013
	%	%
Yes	61	87
No/DK	<u>38</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100

*How many people who are gay or lesbian do you know?*

A lot	23%
Some	44%
Only one or two	19%
None/Don’t know	<u>13</u>
	100

*Have close family members or friends who are gay or lesbian?*

Yes	49%
No/Don’t know	<u>51</u>
	100

*Know any gay or lesbian people raising children?*

Yes	31%
No/Don’t know	<u>69</u>
	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER. May 1-5, 2013. Q59-62. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. June 1993 survey by NBC News/Wall Street Journal.

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Part of this is a matter of who is more likely to have many gay acquaintances: the young, city dwellers, women, and the less religious, for example. But even taking these factors into account, the relationship between personal experiences and acceptance of homosexuality is a strong one.

Yet opposition to gay marriage remains substantial, and religious beliefs are a major factor in opposition. Just under half of Americans (45%) say they think engaging in homosexual behavior is a sin, while an equal number says it is not. Those who believe homosexual behavior is a sin overwhelmingly oppose gay marriage. Similarly, those who say they personally feel there is a lot of conflict between their religious beliefs and homosexuality (35% of the public) are staunchly opposed to same-sex marriage.

The survey finds that as support for same-sex marriage has risen, other attitudes about homosexuality have changed as well. In a 2004 Los Angeles Times poll, most Americans (60%) said they would be upset if they had a child who told them that they were gay or lesbian; 33% said they would be very upset over this. Today, 40% say they would be upset if they learned they had a gay or lesbian child, and just 19% would be very upset.

Favorable opinions of both gay men and lesbians have risen since 2003. Moreover, by nearly two-to-one (60% to 31%), more Americans say that homosexuality should be accepted rather than discouraged by society. A decade ago, opinions about societal acceptance of homosexuality were evenly divided (47% accepted, 45% discouraged).

The religious basis for opposition to homosexuality is seen clearly in the reasons people give for saying it should be discouraged by society. By far the most frequently cited factors – mentioned by roughly half (52%) of those who say homosexuality should be discouraged – are moral objections to homosexuality, that it conflicts with religious

### Shift in Public Attitudes Goes Far Beyond Same-Sex Marriage

	2003	2013	Change
<i>Homosexuality should be...</i>	%	%	
Accepted by society	47	60	+13
Discouraged by society	45	31	-14
<i>Favorable opinion of ...</i>			
Gay men	38	54	+16
Lesbian women	39	58	+19
<i>Reaction if your child told you they were gay or lesbian*...</i>			
Very/Somewhat upset	60	40	-20
<i>Very upset</i>	33	19	-14
Not upset	36	55	+19
<i>Is it a sin to engage in homosexual behavior?</i>			
Is a sin	55	45	-10
Is not a sin	33	45	+12
<i>Same-sex marriage would go against my religious beliefs**</i>			
Agree	62	56	-6
Disagree	33	41	+8

PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013. Q17b, Q56, Q63, Q72, Q59/Q61.

\*Trend from March 2004 survey by Los Angeles Times.

\*\*From March 2013 Pew Research Center survey.

beliefs, or that it goes against the Bible. No more than about one-in-ten cite any other reasons as to why homosexuality should be discouraged by society.

## Widespread Belief that Legal Recognition Is ‘Inevitable’

Despite the increasing support for legal same-sex marriage in recent years, opinions about the issue remain deeply divided by age, partisanship and religious affiliation.

By contrast, large majorities across most demographic groups think that legal recognition of same-sex marriage is inevitable.

Republicans (73%) are as likely as Democrats (72%) or independents (74%) to view legal recognition for gay marriage as inevitable. Just 31% of Republicans favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally, compared with majorities of Democrats (59%) and independents (58%).

Similarly, people 65 and older are 30 points more likely to view legal recognition of same-sex marriage as inevitable than to favor it (69% vs. 39%). Among those younger than 30, about as many see legal same-sex marriage as inevitable as support gay marriage (69%, 65%).

Just 22% of white evangelical Protestants favor same-sex marriage, but about three times that percentage (70%) thinks legal recognition for gay marriage is inevitable. Among other religious groups, there are smaller differences in underlying opinions about gay marriage and views of whether it is inevitable.

### Far More See Same-Sex Marriage as Inevitable than Support It

	Favor same-sex marriage %	Same-sex marriage is inevitable %	Diff
Total	51	72	+21
Men	46	70	+24
Women	56	75	+19
White	51	77	+26
Black	39	69	+30
Hispanic	60	62	+2
18-29	65	69	+4
30-49	54	76	+22
50-64	45	74	+29
65 and older	39	69	+30
College grad+	62	82	+20
Some college	51	78	+27
HS or less	43	62	+19
Republican	31	73	+42
Democrat	59	72	+13
Independent	58	74	+16
Protestant	37	71	+34
White evangelical	22	70	+48
White mainline	56	79	+23
Catholic	61	71	+10
Unaffiliated	71	82	+11
Northeast	64	77	+13
Midwest	50	74	+24
South	43	69	+26
West	53	73	+20

PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013. Q36a, 38.  
Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic.

## SECTION 1: SAME-SEX MARRIAGE, CIVIL UNIONS AND INEVITABILITY

Support for same-sex marriage has edged above 50% for the first time in a Pew Research Center survey. Currently, 51% favor gays and lesbians marrying legally, while 42% are opposed. [In March](#), 49% favored same-sex marriage and 44% were opposed.

The long-term trend toward support for gay marriage exists across most segments of the American population, though significant divides persist. People younger than 30 support gay marriage by about two-to-one, while those age 50 and older are divided. There is far more support for gay marriage among college graduates than among those who never attended college. And there continues to be a substantial difference of opinion regionally, with more support in the Northeast than in other regions.

As support for same-sex marriage has increased, so too has the percentage favoring legal agreements for gays and lesbians that would give them many of the same rights as married couples. Currently, 67% favor gays and lesbians being allowed to enter legal agreements that would give them many of the rights of married couples, while just 28% are opposed. Support for legal agreements crossed the 50% threshold in 2005, but a decade ago, opinion was evenly divided (46% favor, 47% oppose).

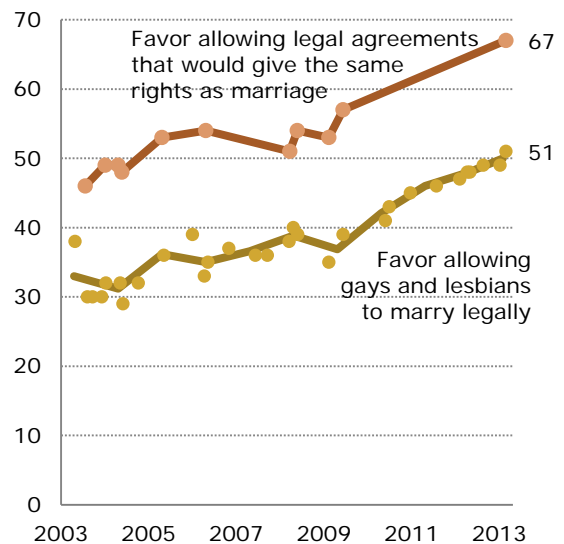
### Behind the Growing Support for Gay Marriage

See the following resources for detailed investigations on attitudes toward gay marriage

- Click [HERE](#) for a detailed look at opinions about same-sex marriage based on combined data from our 2003 and 2013 surveys.
- Click [HERE](#) to view an interactive slideshow on how views on this issue have changed since 2001.
- Click [HERE](#) to see a state-by-state map of policies toward gay marriage.
- Click [HERE](#) for our March report on how both generational change and shifting attitudes are affecting views on the issue.
- Click [HERE](#) for our November report on the geographic divide in gay marriage attitudes.
- Click [HERE](#) to see attitudes toward homosexuality around the world.

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### Growing Support for Same-Sex Marriage, Gay Legal Agreements



PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013. Q36a-b. Trend line for gay marriage shows yearly averages for readability.

Like the rise in support for same-sex marriage, growing support for providing the same legal rights to gay and lesbian couples has occurred among most demographic and partisan groups. But some of the most dramatic increases have occurred among groups in which there continues to be broad opposition to gay marriage, including Republicans, older Americans and white evangelical Protestants.

Currently, 63% of Republicans favor legal agreements for gays and lesbians that would give them many of the rights of married couples, up from just 34% a decade ago. In the current survey, Republicans are nearly as likely as Democrats (68%) to favor legal agreements for gays and lesbians that give them similar rights to married couples. In 2003, there was a 21-point gap in these opinions.

Over the past decade, support for legal agreements for gays and lesbians has about doubled among people 65 and older (from 26% to 57%) and white evangelical Protestants (from 23% to 49%).

And while support for legal agreements continues to be virtually unanimous among all who support same-sex marriage, it has increased by 16 points – from 20% to 36% among those who oppose same-sex marriage.

## Little Partisan Gap in Views of Legal Agreements for Gays

*% favoring legal agreements for gays & lesbians giving many of same rights as married couples ...*

	Oct 2003	May 2013	Diff
	%	%	
Total	46	67	+21
Men	40	61	+21
Women	51	71	+20
18-29	60	73	+13
30-49	48	76	+28
50-64	45	57	+12
65 and older	26	57	+31
College grad+	52	78	+26
Some college	53	72	+19
HS or less	40	55	+15
Republican	34	63	+29
Democrat	55	68	+13
Independent	54	69	+15
Protestant	38	58	+20
White evangelical	23	49	+26
White mainline	57	72	+15
Catholic	50	76	+26
White Catholic	49	81	+32
Unaffiliated	--	75	--
Favor same-sex marriage	97	93	-4
Oppose same-sex marriage	20	36	+16

PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013. Q36b. Asked of Form 1 only (n=740). Whites include only those who are not Hispanic. Oct 2003 asked about "gay and lesbian couples." Data for unaffiliated in 2003 not shown because survey used different measure of religious disaffiliation.

Overall, 15% of Americans say they support legal agreements that would give gay and lesbian couples the same rights as married couples, but oppose same-sex marriage. When asked to explain in their own words why they oppose gay marriage, 41% cite moral concerns and religious beliefs as the reason. As one 34-year-old woman put it: *“For me, I think it’s a religious and moral issue. They shouldn’t be discriminated against but it’s important to preserve what marriage is morally.”*

In addition, 37% holding these views say that marriage is only for a man and a woman, or that the main purpose of marriage is procreation. *“I am old-fashioned. I believe marriage is between a man and a woman,”* said a 79-year-old woman. Another 10% emphasize the term “marriage” itself, such as this 64-year-old man: *“Marriage is a religious institution that belongs to religion, not the government.”*

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### Why Some Favor Gay Legal Rights, But Oppose Same-Sex Marriage

<i>Among those who oppose same-sex marriage and favor legal agreements (15% of public), why do you oppose it?</i>	May 1-5, 2013
	%
Morally wrong/Against religious beliefs	41
Marriage only for man and a woman/Needed to procreate	37
The term “marriage”/Part of religion	10
It’s just wrong/Don’t agree with it	4
Other	10
Don’t know/Refused	8

PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013. Q37F1.  
Open-ended responses. Asked of Form 1 only (n=123).  
Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses.

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## Is Gay Marriage 'Inevitable'?

Along with rising support for gay marriage is the increasing sense that the legal recognition of gay marriage is inevitable: 72% of Americans now say this, up from 59% in a 2004 Los Angeles Times survey.

The rising sense of inevitability is most notable among some of the groups that tend to be the least supportive of gay marriage itself. The share of Republicans who see gay marriage as inevitable rose from 47% to 73% over the past nine years. While there was a steep partisan divide in 2004, now there is none: Republicans are just as likely as Democrats (72%) and independents (74%) to see legal recognition of same-sex marriage as inevitable.

Similarly, in 2004 71% of 18-29 year-olds felt that gay marriage was inevitable, compared with 45% of those age 65 and older. Today there is no such divide: 69% of both the youngest and oldest hold this view.

The same pattern holds along religious lines: the share of white evangelical Protestants who see gay marriage as inevitable rose from 49% to 70%, and there is less of a difference across religious lines today than in 2004.

One divide that exists on this opinion is by education. Eight-in-ten adults with at least some college believe same-sex marriage is inevitable, compared to about six-in-ten (62%) of those with no college experience. This gap did not exist in 2004, when about six-in-ten people of all educational levels believed this.

## More See Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Marriage as Inevitable

% saying legal recognition of same-sex marriage is inevitable	March 2004	May 2013	Diff
	%	%	
Total	59	72	+13
Men	63	70	+7
Women	54	75	+21
White	59	77	+18
Black	--	69	--
Hispanic	--	62	--
18-29	71	69	-2
30-49	60	76	+16
50-64	54	74	+20
65 and older	45	69	+24
College grad+	59	82	+23
Some college	60	78	+18
HS or less	58	62	+4
Republican	47	73	+26
Democrat	67	72	+5
Independent	61	74	+13
Protestant	52	71	+19
White evangelical	49	70	+21
White mainline	58	79	+21
Catholic	66	71	+5
White Catholic	66	76	+10
Unaffiliated	73	82	+9

PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013. Q38.  
Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic.  
March 2004 data from L.A. Times (not sufficient sample size to separately show blacks and Hispanics).



## SECTION 2: VIEWS OF GAY MEN AND LESBIANS, ROOTS OF HOMOSEXUALITY, PERSONAL CONTACT WITH GAYS

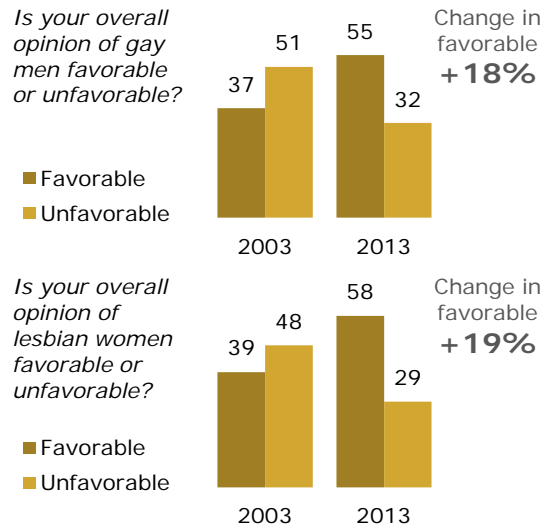
Most Americans say they are not personally bothered being around gays and lesbians. Currently, 82% say “it doesn’t bother them to be around homosexuals,” while 14% say it does. This is only modestly changed from a decade ago, when there was far less acceptance of homosexuality generally. In October 2003, 76% said it did not bother them to be around homosexuals.

The new survey finds larger changes over the past decade in favorable opinions of gay men and lesbians. Ten years ago, the balance of opinion toward both gay men and lesbians was unfavorable: 37% viewed gay men favorably, while 51% viewed them unfavorably; 39% had a favorable impression of lesbian women while 48% had an unfavorable opinion.

Today, by a 55% to 32% margin, more have a favorable than unfavorable opinion of gay men. And about twice as many view lesbian women favorably (58%) than unfavorably (29%).

As with many attitudes about homosexuality, opinions about gay men and lesbians have become more positive across nearly all demographic and partisan categories over the past decade. Yet there continue to be wide differences among these groups in opinions about both gay men and lesbians.

### A Decade of Change in Favorable Views of Gay Men, Lesbians



PEW RESEARCH CENTER. May 1-5, 2013. Q56.

More than eight-in-ten liberal Democrats view gay men (85%) and lesbian women (84%) favorably. Opinions are nearly as favorable among white women college graduates (81% favorable view of gay men, 80% favorable view of lesbians).

By contrast, just 36% of white evangelical Protestants have a favorable opinion of gay men, while 50% have an unfavorable view. White evangelicals express mixed views of lesbian women (39% favorable, 46% unfavorable).

Among African Americans, about as many have favorable views as unfavorable opinions of both gay men (42% favorable, 50% unfavorable) and lesbians (50% favorable, 45% unfavorable).

### Large Majorities of Liberals, White Female College Grads View Gays, Lesbians Favorably

	Gay men		Lesbians	
	Fav %	Unfav %	Fav %	Unfav %
Total	55	32	58	29
<i>Groups highly favorable...</i>				
Liberal Democrat	85	12	84	13
White college+ women	81	11	80	11
All post-grad	72	17	74	14
Religiously unaffiliated	66	24	73	17
White Catholic	66	20	66	22
18-29	64	26	70	22
<i>Groups w/unfavorable or mixed views</i>				
White evangelical Protestant	36	50	39	46
African American	42	52	50	45
Conservative Republican	41	39	42	37
All high school or less	45	42	51	37
White non-college-grad men	41	43	47	37

PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013. Q56. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic.

And while white women college graduates stand out for their positive views of both groups, white men who have not completed college have mixed impressions of gay men (41% favorable, 43% unfavorable) and lesbian women (47% favorable, 37% unfavorable).

## Reactions to Learning Your Child Is Gay or Lesbian

In 1985, a Los Angeles Times survey found that 64% of the public said they would be “very upset” if their child told them he or she was gay or lesbian. By 2004, that number had fallen by almost half (33%). Since then, it has declined another 14 points, to 19%.

Instead, a majority (55%) now says they would not be upset if they learned their child was gay or lesbian, a 19-point increase since 2004 and a 46-point increase since the mid-1980s.

Again, this has been an across-the-board shift in attitudes. Yet the change has been more dramatic among some groups than others. In 2004, fully 82% of those 65 and older said they would be upset if their child told them they were gay, and 50% said they’d be very upset. Today, only about half (47%) say they’d be upset and just 24% say they’d be very upset.

### Most Now Say They Would Not Be Upset If They Learned Their Child Was Gay or Lesbian

<i>Reaction if your child told you he or she was gay or lesbian ...</i>	<b>Dec 1985</b>	<b>June 2000</b>	<b>March 2004</b>	<b>May 2013</b>
	%	%	%	%
Very upset	64	36	33	19
Somewhat upset	25	37	27	21
Not upset	9	23	36	55
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER May-1-5 2013. Q63. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.  
1985-2004 from Los Angeles Times.

### Steep Decline in Share of Older Americans Who'd Be Very Upset If Child Was Gay, Lesbian

<i>Reaction if your child told you he or she was gay or lesbian ...</i>	March 2004			May 2013		
	<b>Upset</b>	<b>Very upset</b>	<b>Not upset</b>	<b>Upset</b>	<b>Very upset</b>	<b>Not upset</b>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	61	33	36	40	19	55
Men	62	35	34	45	19	50
Women	59	32	38	36	19	60
18-29	48	30	51	36	18	62
30-49	57	28	37	34	12	63
50-64	62	33	35	47	26	46
65+	82	50	14	47	24	47
Republican	78	44	16	55	22	40
Democrat	53	28	44	37	18	60
Independent	53	27	44	34	19	60
Parent of child under 18	58	30	38	40	18	57
Not a parent	62	35	34	41	20	54

PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013. Q63. 2004 data from Los Angeles Times.

Among Republicans, the percentage saying they’d be very upset if they learned their child was gay or lesbian also has fallen by half – from 44% to 22% – since 2004.

## Views of Gays, Lesbians Raising Children

In recent years, there has been a decline in the percentage of Americans who think that more gays and lesbians raising children is a bad thing for American society. Currently, 35% view this as a negative trend for society. While that is unchanged from 2011, it represents a 15-point decline since 2007 (from 50%), according to a separate survey, conducted March 21-April 8 among 4,006 adults.

Over this period, the percentage saying more gays and lesbians raising children is a good thing has nearly doubled, from 11% to 21%. About four-in-ten (41%) say more gays and lesbians raising children does not make much difference.

The public also takes a more positive view of another social trend – more people of different races marrying each other. Currently, 37% say this is a good thing for American society, up from 25% in 2011 and 24% in 2010. About half (51%) say more interracial marriage does not make much difference, compared with 64% in 2011 and 61% in 2010. About one-in-ten (10%) continue to view this as a negative trend for American society.

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### Fewer Express Negative Views of More Gays Raising Children

<i>Is each a good/bad thing for American society, or doesn't it make much difference?</i>	<b>Good thing</b>	<b>Bad thing</b>	<b>Not much diff</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%	%
<b>More gay and lesbian couples raising children</b>				
April 2013	21	35	41	3=100
March 2011	14	35	48	3=100
Jan 2010	13	42	40	4=100
Feb 2007	11	50	34	5=100
<b>More people of different races marrying each other</b>				
April 2013	37	10	51	2=100
March 2011	25	9	64	2=100
Jan 2010	24	13	61	3=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 21-April 8, 2013.

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## Divided Opinions over Why People Are Gay, Lesbian

The public has divided views about why people are gay or lesbian: 42% say being gay or lesbian is “just the way some people choose to live,” while nearly as many say “people are born gay or lesbian.” Just 8% say being gay or lesbian “is a result of a person’s upbringing.”

A decade ago, in a slightly different version of the question, 30% said that “homosexuality is something that people are born with.”

Opinions about why people are gay or lesbian vary widely by race, educational attainment, partisanship and religious affiliation. Fully 66% of African Americans think that being gay or lesbian is just the way some people choose to live, while just 20% say people are born gay or lesbian. Among whites and Hispanics, opinion is more closely divided: 44% of whites say people are born lesbian or gay while 39% say it is a choice; Hispanics’ views are similar (48% born, 36% choice).

### Wide Racial, Education Differences in Opinions About Why People Are Gay or Lesbian

*Which comes closer to your view?*

	People are born gay or lesbian	Result of person’s upbringing	Just the way some choose to live	DK
	%	%	%	%
Total	41	8	42	9=100
Men	35	12	43	11=100
Women	47	5	41	7=100
White	44	8	39	9=100
Black	20	9	66	6=100
Hispanic	48	8	36	8=100
18-29	38	13	45	4=100
30-49	42	6	45	7=100
50-64	42	8	40	10=100
65+	43	7	35	15=100
Post grad degree	58	5	27	10=100
College degree	50	5	36	9=100
Some college	38	10	43	8=100
High school or less	35	9	48	9=100
Republican	28	10	52	10=100
Democrat	48	7	39	7=100
Independent	45	8	37	9=100
Protestant	29	9	53	9=100
White evangelical	18	9	62	11=100
White mainline	52	7	33	9=100
Catholic	54	8	28	10=100
White Catholic	52	7	28	10=100
Unaffiliated	53	7	34	7=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013. Q57. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Overall, most (58%) who say that homosexuality should be accepted think that people are born gay or lesbian. A majority (63%) of those who say homosexuality should be discouraged think it is just a way some people choose to live.

However, while people under 30 are more likely than those 50 and older to favor societal acceptance of homosexuality, young people are actually more likely than older people to say being gay or lesbian is just the way some people choose to live.

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### Most Who Favor Acceptance of Homosexuality Say It Is Something People are Born With

*Which comes closer to your view?*

	People are born gay or lesbian	Result of person's upbringing	Just the way some choose to live	DK
	%	%	%	%
Total	41	8	42	9=100
<i>Among those who say homosexuality should be _____ by society...</i>				
Accepted (60%)	58	6	30	6=100
Discouraged (31%)	13	13	63	11=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013. Q57. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## Personal Contacts with Gays and Lesbians

An overwhelming percentage of Americans (87%) say they know someone who is gay or lesbian. Twenty years ago, far fewer (61%) say they had a gay or lesbian acquaintance, according to an NBC News/Wall Street Journal survey.

Nearly a quarter (23%) say they personally know “a lot” of gay or lesbian people, while 44% say they know some, and 19% have only one or two gay or lesbian acquaintances. Overall, nearly a third of Americans (31%) say they know no one who is gay or lesbian (12%) or have only one or two gay acquaintances (19%).

About half of Americans (49%) say that a close family member or one of their closest friends is gay or lesbian. And nearly a third (31%) say they know gays or lesbians who are raising children.

While large majorities across virtually all demographic and partisan groups say they know at least someone who is gay or lesbian, there are differences in the number of gay acquaintances that people have.

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### Half Have ‘Close’ Gay Friends or Family

<i>Do you personally know anyone who is gay or lesbian?</i>	<b>May 2013</b> %
Yes	87
No	12
Don't know	<u>1</u>
	100

<i>How many people who are gay or lesbian do you know?</i>	
A lot	23
Some	44
Only one or two	19
None/Don't know	<u>13</u>
	100

<i>Have close family members or friends who are gay or lesbian?</i>	
Yes	49
No/Don't know	<u>51</u>
	100

<i>Know any gay or lesbian people raising children?</i>	
Yes	31
No/Don't know	<u>69</u>
	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER. May 1-5, 2013. Q59-62. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Adults ages 65 and older are half as likely as those under 30 to know a lot of gays and lesbians (15% vs. 30%). Roughly one-in-five of those 65 and older (21%) say they do not know any at all.

Familiarity with gays and lesbians also differs by religious affiliation. Three-in-ten (30%) of those unaffiliated with a religion say they know a lot of gays and lesbians and just 8% say they know none. Among Catholics, 22% know a lot of gays and lesbians, while 14% of white evangelical Protestants say this.

Democrats (24%) and independents (27%) are about equally likely to know a lot of gays and lesbians, compared to 13% of Republicans. There is also a divide based on community type: People who live in urban areas (29%) are much more likely to know a lot of gays and lesbians than suburbanites (20%) or people in rural areas (17%).

### Gay Contacts Vary by Age, Community Type

*How many gays and lesbians do you know?*

	<b>A lot</b>	<b>Some</b>	<b>Only 1-2</b>	<b>None</b>
	%	%	%	%
Total	23	44	19	12
Men	20	42	21	15
Women	26	46	17	10
White	20	48	20	11
Black	30	35	22	11
Hispanic	25	37	13	23
18-29	30	43	15	11
30-49	24	49	16	11
50-64	21	43	24	10
65+	15	40	21	21
Republican	13	47	27	12
Democrat	24	43	16	16
Independent	27	45	17	9
Protestant	19	47	20	13
White evangelical	14	49	22	13
White mainline	16	52	21	10
Catholic	22	40	20	16
White Catholic	24	43	23	10
Unaffiliated	30	47	15	8
Urban	29	42	17	10
Suburban	20	45	21	14
Rural	17	49	17	14

PEW RESEARCH CENTER. May 1-5, 2013. Q59-60.

Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic. Figures read across.



## Gay Friends and Support for Same-Sex Marriage

Fully 68% of those who know a lot of gays and lesbians – and 61% who have close friends or family members who are gay – say they support same-sex marriage.

There is far less support for gay marriage among those with few or no gay contacts and those who do not have close gay friends or family members. Just 37% of those who know only one or two gay people favor gay marriage, as do 32% of those with no gay acquaintances.

People who have more gay contacts and close gay friends are more likely to be women, young, and religiously unaffiliated, groups that tend to be more supportive of same-sex marriage. But even holding demographic factors constant, those who have many gay acquaintances, or close gay friends and family members, are more likely to favor same-sex marriage than those who do not.

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### Those Most Familiar with Gays Strongly Back Same-Sex Marriage

<i>Do you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?</i>	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
	%	%
Total	51	42
<i>How many people who are gay or lesbian do you know?</i>		
A lot* (23%)	68	24
Some (44%)	53	40
Only one or two (19%)	37	58
None/Don't know (13%)	32	55
<i>Thinking about your close family members and closest friends, are any of them gay or lesbian?</i>		
Yes* (49%)	61	32
No/Don't know (51%)	41	51
<i>Do you know any gay or lesbian people raising children?</i>		
Yes* (31%)	66	29
No/Don't know (69%)	44	47
All 3 starred answers (10%)	76	18

PEW RESEARCH CENTER. May 1-5, 2013. Q36a.

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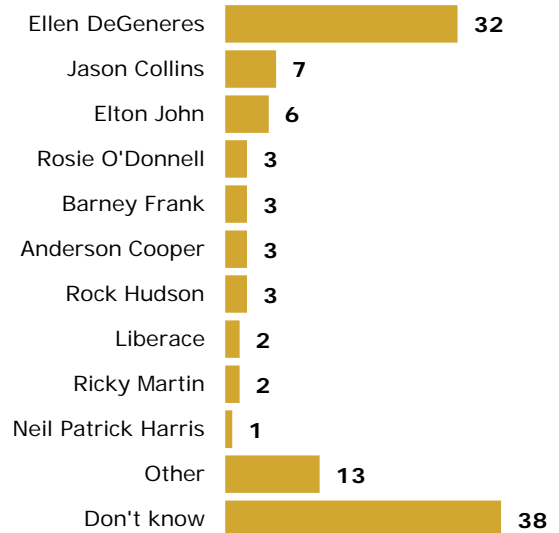
## Most Visible Gay, Lesbian Public Figure: Ellen DeGeneres

Comedian and talk show host Ellen DeGeneres is by far the most visible gay or lesbian public figure. When asked which public or entertainment figures who are gay or lesbian first come to mind, 32% cite DeGeneres. Jason Collins, the professional basketball player who revealed he was gay shortly before the survey was conducted, was named by 7%, while 6% named Elton John.

Overall, 38% of the public could not name any gay or lesbian public figure. This includes 61% of those age 65 and older and 57% those with no more than a high school education.

### 'Ellen' Is Most Visible Gay or Lesbian Public Figure

*What entertainment or public figures, if any, first come to mind who are gay or lesbian?*



PEW RESEARCH CENTER. May 1-5, 2013. Q70. Open-ended responses. Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses.

## SECTION 3: RELIGIOUS BELIEF AND VIEWS OF HOMOSEXUALITY

Religious belief continues to be an important factor in opposition to societal acceptance of homosexuality and same-sex marriage.

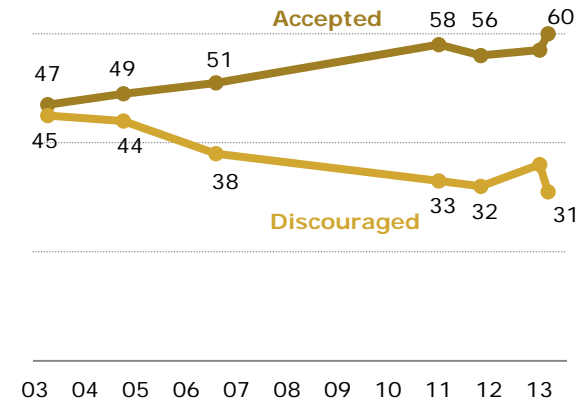
Overall, the share of Americans who say that homosexuality should be accepted by society has increased from 47% to 60% over the past decade, while the percentage saying it should be discouraged has fallen from 45% to 31%.

Yet among those who attend religious services weekly or more, there continues to be slightly more opposition than support for societal acceptance of homosexuality. And when the nearly one-third of Americans who say homosexuality should be discouraged are asked in an open-ended question why they feel this way, by far the most common reason – given by 52% – is that homosexuality conflicts with their religious or moral beliefs.

A 62-year-old man said: *“My religious background taught me that this was something that was taboo and not accepted.”* A 32-year-old woman described her reasons for why homosexuality should be discouraged this way: *“It clearly states in the Bible that it goes against God’s teachings.”*

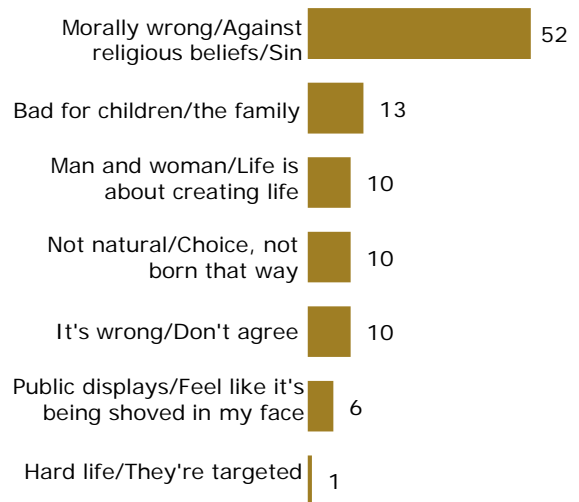
Much smaller percentages cite other reasons, such as concerns that homosexuality is bad for the family or bad for children (mentioned by 13%), that a man and woman are needed to create life, that it’s not natural, or “just wrong” (10% each).

### Should Homosexuality Be Accepted or Discouraged?



PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013. Q17b.

### Why Do You Think Homosexuality Should Be Discouraged?



PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013. Q71. Open-ended question asked of half of those who say homosexuality should be discouraged by society (N=243). Multiple responses accepted.

Across most demographic subgroups, including most religious groups, the percentage saying homosexuality should be accepted has increased over the past decade.

Nonetheless, about half (48%) of those who attend religious services weekly or more often say homosexuality should be discouraged. Among less frequent attenders, 71% favor societal acceptance of homosexuality.

White evangelical Protestants, by about two-to-one (59% to 30%), think that homosexuality should be discouraged. Among black Protestants, as well, more say homosexuality should be discouraged (51%) than accepted (39%).

By contrast, wide majorities of Catholics (71%) and white mainline Protestants (65%) say homosexuality should be accepted by society. And those without religious affiliation favor societal acceptance of homosexuality by roughly five-to-one (79% to 16%).

### White Evangelical, Black Protestants Say Homosexuality Should Be Discouraged

<i>Should homosexuality be _____ by society?</i>	<i>June 2003</i>		<i>May 2013</i>		<b>Change in accepted</b>
	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Dis-couraged</b>	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Dis-couraged</b>	
Total	47	45	60	31	+13
Protestant	36	57	47	43	+11
White evangelical	22	71	30	59	+8
White mainline	49	43	65	26	+16
Black Protestant	--	--	39	51	--
Catholic	62	32	71	20	+9
White Catholic	65	28	70	22	+5
Unaffiliated	--	--	79	16	--
<i>Attend services</i>					
Weekly or more	33	60	41	48	+8
Less than weekly	55	37	71	22	+16

PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013. Q17b. Figures read across. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic.

## Conflict Between Religious Beliefs and Homosexuality

About half of Americans (48%) say there is a conflict between their religious beliefs and homosexuality, with 35% saying there is a lot of conflict. Another 48% see no conflict between their religious beliefs and homosexuality.

Among those who attend religious services weekly or more, 66% say homosexuality conflicts with their religious beliefs, with 50% saying there is a great deal of conflict. Most people (59%) who attend religious services less than once a week see no conflict between their beliefs and homosexuality.

Fully 74% of white evangelical Protestants say there is a conflict between homosexuality and their religious beliefs, as do majorities of white Catholics (62%) and black Protestants (58%).

Among white mainline Protestants, however, 41% say there is a conflict between their religious beliefs and homosexuality, while 55% see no conflict.

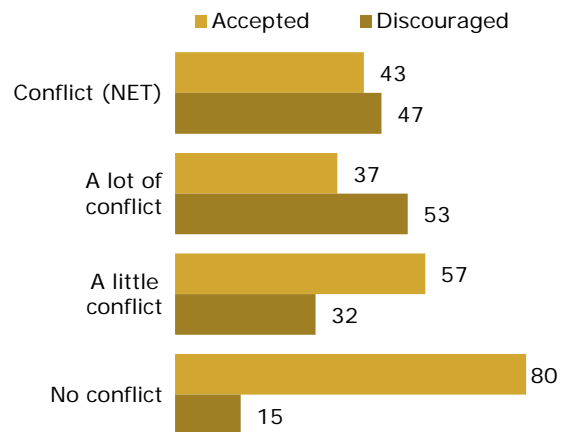
The tension between religious beliefs and homosexuality is closely associated with views about societal acceptance of homosexuality. Among those who see a lot of conflict between their own religious beliefs and homosexuality, a majority (53%) opposes societal acceptance. Those who see a little conflict between religion and homosexuality favor societal acceptance by 57% to 32%. And 80% of those who say there is no conflict between their religious beliefs and homosexuality support societal acceptance.

### About Half Say Religious Beliefs, Homosexuality Conflict

<i>Conflict between your religious beliefs and homosexuality?</i>	<b>Yes, conflict</b>	<b>A lot</b>	<b>A little</b>	<b>No conflict</b>
	%	%	%	%
Total	48	35	12	48
Protestants	58	42	16	37
White evang.	74	54	20	22
White mainline	41	26	15	55
Black Prot.	58	48	11	35
Catholic	54	42	12	43
White Catholic	62	48	14	37
All affiliated	55	41	14	41
Unaffiliated	16	10	7	81
<i>Attend services</i>				
Weekly or more	66	50	16	30
Less than weekly	38	27	11	59
<i>Religion in your life is</i>				
Very important	59	46	14	37
Less important	32	21	11	65

PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013. Q58. Figures read across. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic.

### Should Homosexuality Be Accepted or Discouraged by Society?



PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013. Q17b.

## Fewer See Homosexual Behavior as a Sin

The public is divided over whether engaging in homosexual behavior is a sin: 45% say it is a sin while an identical percentage says it is not. In 2003, a majority (55%) viewed homosexual behavior as was sinful, while 33% disagreed.

Among several religious groups, there has been relatively little change in these opinions over the past decade. Fully 78% of white evangelical Protestants view homosexual behavior as a sin; 82% said this in 2003. About as many black Protestants view homosexuality as a sin today (79%) as did so ten years ago (74%).

### Is It a Sin to Engage in Homosexual Behavior?

	Oct 2003		May 2013		Change in 'yes'
	Yes %	No %	Yes %	No %	
Total	55	33	45	45	-10
Protestant	64	25	64	28	0
White evangelical	82	9	78	14	-4
White mainline	43	44	38	53	-5
Black Protestant	74	14	79	11	+5
Catholic	49	37	33	53	-16
White Catholic	49	36	35	55	-14
Unaffiliated	--	--	18	72	
<i>Attend services</i>					
Weekly or more	73	15	67	24	-6
Less than weekly	44	45	34	57	-10

PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013. Q72. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic.

However, opinions among Catholics have changed substantially. In 2003, more Catholics said homosexual behavior was a sin than said it was not (49% vs. 37%). Today, a third of Catholics (33%) say it is sin, while 53% disagree.

People who attend religious services weekly or more continue to view homosexual behavior as a sin by a wide margin (67% to 24%). Nearly six-in-ten (57%) of those who attend less often think such behavior is not a sin, while 34% say it is; 10 years ago, opinion was divided (44% sin, 45% not a sin).

Opinions about whether homosexuality is sinful – as well as views about the conflict between religious beliefs and homosexuality – are highly associated with attitudes toward gay marriage.

Nearly three-quarters (74%) of those who say engaging in homosexual behavior is a sin oppose same-sex marriage. An even larger percentage (84%) of those who say it is not sinful favor gay marriage.

The gap in opinions about gay marriage is nearly as wide between those who say there is a lot of conflict between homosexuality and their religious beliefs (67% oppose gay marriage) and those who see no conflict (71% favor gay marriage).

Similarly, those who say religion is very important in their lives are only half as likely to support gay marriage as those who place less importance on religion (36% favor vs. 72% favor).

## Religious Beliefs Strongly Linked with Views of Gay Marriage

*Do you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?*

	Favor %	Oppose %
Total	51	42

*Do you think it is a sin, or not, to engage in homosexual behavior?*

Is a sin (45%)	21	74
Is not a sin (45%)	84	11

*Is there a conflict between your religious beliefs and homosexuality?*

Yes, a lot (35%)	28	67
Yes, a little (12%)	43	48
No conflict (48%)	71	21

*Importance of religion in your life*

Very important (59%)	36	56
Less important (41%)	72	21

*Religion*

Protestant	37	56
White evangelical	22	72
White mainline	56	36
Black Protestant	30	61
Catholic	61	31
White Catholic	59	34
Unaffiliated	71	20

*Attend services*

Weekly or more (35%)	31	62
At least a few times a year (35%)	56	37
Seldom/Never (28%)	69	22

PEW RESEARCH CENTER. May 1-5, 2013. Q36a. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic.

## About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted May 1-5, 2013 among a national sample of 1,504 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (751 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 753 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 401 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2011 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2012 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1,504	2.9 percentage points
Republicans	399	5.7 percentage points
Democrats	489	5.2 percentage points
Independents	529	5.0 percentage points
Favor gay marriage	756	4.1 percentage points
Oppose gay marriage	625	4.6 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.



**SAME-SEX MARRIAGE DETAILED TABLES**

Pew Research Center

Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

	2003			2003 N	March-May 2013			2013 N
	Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %		Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %	
<b>TOTAL</b>	32	59	9	3181	50	43	8	3005
<b>SEX</b>								
Men	28	63	9	1543	46	46	8	1451
Women	36	55	9	1638	53	39	7	1554
<b>AGE</b>								
18-49	40	52	9	1773	58	35	7	1283
50+	22	68	10	1361	39	52	9	1673
<b>DETAILED AGE</b>								
18-29	51	42	7	577	68	28	4	494
30-49	34	57	9	1196	51	40	9	789
50-64	27	64	9	823	41	51	7	885
65+	14	75	11	538	36	53	11	788
<b>SEX BY AGE</b>								
Men 18-49	35	56	9	891	56	37	7	688
Men 50+	19	72	9	639	32	58	10	742
Women 18-49	45	47	8	882	61	33	7	595
Women 50+	25	65	10	722	45	47	8	931
<b>RACE</b>								
White, non-Hispanic	32	59	9	2483	50	43	6	2114
Black, non-Hispanic	28	63	9	277	38	51	10	306
Hispanic	--	--	--	92	54	32	13	320
<b>EDUCATION</b>								
College grad+	44	48	8	1137	61	33	6	1115
Some college	34	57	9	776	51	43	6	866
High school or less	26	65	9	1257	41	49	10	999
<b>FAMILY INCOME</b>								
\$75,000+	39	54	7	716	55	37	7	866
\$30,000-\$74,999	33	59	8	1185	51	44	6	911
Less than \$30,000	31	59	10	849	47	44	10	848
<b>DETAILED INCOME</b>								
\$100,000+	40	51	9	386	58	36	7	547
\$75,000-\$99,000	38	57	5	330	52	39	9	319
\$50,000-\$74,990	33	58	9	514	53	44	3	415
\$30,000-\$49,999	34	59	7	671	49	44	7	496
Less than \$30,000	31	59	10	849	47	44	10	848
<b>REGION</b>								
Northeast	40	49	11	609	61	32	7	539
Midwest	30	59	10	816	49	45	6	675
South	25	67	8	1149	41	49	10	1076
West	40	51	8	607	55	38	8	715

Data shown represent averages of multiple Pew Research Center surveys that asked about same-sex marriage. This includes three surveys from 2003 and two surveys from 2013, including the most recent May 2013 survey. Whites and blacks are non-Hispanic only; Hispanics are of any race. Hispanic figures are based only on surveys where bilingual interviews were used. Figures are not shown when too few interviews are available.

## SAME-SEX MARRIAGE DETAILED TABLES (CONT.)

Pew Research Center

Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

	2003			2003 N	March-May 2013			2013 N
	Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %		Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %	
<b>PARTY ID*</b>								
Republican	22	71	7	545	29	65	6	819
Democrat	43	48	9	527	59	34	7	976
Independent	40	48	12	529	57	36	7	1027
<b>IDEOLOGY</b>								
Conservative	18	76	6	1285	30	63	8	1186
Moderate	36	55	10	1126	58	34	8	1015
Liberal	57	33	10	621	73	22	5	649
<b>PARTY AND IDEOLOGY*</b>								
Conservative Republican	15	80	5	367	23	70	6	566
Mod/Lib Republican	36	53	11	169	42	52	6	241
Mod/Cons Democrat	37	55	8	340	47	44	8	572
Liberal Democrat	61	29	10	167	79	18	3	367
<b>PARTY AND AGE*</b>								
<i>Republican</i>								
18-29	--	--	--	82	--	--	--	97
30-49	25	68	7	225	32	62	6	201
50-64	13	79	7	134	25	68	7	254
65+	--	--	--	95	18	74	9	260
<i>Democrat</i>								
18-29	--	--	--	94	73	25	2	140
30-49	46	44	10	186	61	32	7	261
50-64	35	57	8	154	55	37	7	284
65+	--	--	--	86	47	42	11	285
<i>Independent</i>								
18-29	46	46	8	122	77	20	4	222
30-49	41	44	15	202	57	34	8	279
50-64	37	49	13	136	44	49	6	306
65+	--	--	--	64	43	47	11	201
<b>RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE</b>								
Total Protestants	23	69	8	1877	37	55	8	1542
White non-Hisp. evang.	12	83	5	743	23	72	5	610
White non-Hisp. Mainline	35	53	12	753	55	35	9	494
Black non-Hisp. Protestant	25	68	7	222	32	56	12	233
Total Catholic	38	51	11	684	54	37	9	650
White non-Hisp. Cath.	36	54	11	523	53	41	6	433
Hispanic Catholic	--	--	--	49	55	31	15	160
Jewish	--	--	--	50	--	--	--	65
Unaffiliated	59	31	10	351	74	18	8	520

\* Figures by party affiliation for 2003 are based on two surveys rather than three surveys as shown for other subgroups. The omitted survey asked party affiliation only of registered voters.

**SAME-SEX MARRIAGE DETAILED TABLES (CONT.)**

Pew Research Center

Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

	2003				March-May 2013			
	<u>Favor</u> %	<u>Oppose</u> %	<u>DK/Ref</u> %	2003 <u>N</u>	<u>Favor</u> %	<u>Oppose</u> %	<u>DK/Ref</u> %	2013 <u>N</u>
<b>ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES</b>								
Weekly or more	17	76	8	1315	30	61	8	1136
Less than weekly	43	47	10	1837	61	32	7	1838
<b>RELIGION BY ATTENDANCE</b>								
<i>White non-Hisp. evang. Prot.</i>								
Weekly or more	7	90	3	513	16	79	5	378
Less than weekly	21	71	8	228	33	62	5	230
<i>White non-Hisp. mainline Prot.</i>								
Weekly or more	22	60	18	203	47	42	11	134
Less than weekly	40	50	10	547	59	33	8	354
<i>Black non-Hisp. Protestant</i>								
Weekly or more	17	80	4	121	22	69	10	125
Less than weekly	34	56	11	101	44	41	14	108
<i>White non-Hisp. Catholic</i>								
Weekly or more	23	68	9	243	40	53	7	190
Less than weekly	46	43	12	279	61	34	5	242
<b>RELIGION AND AGE</b>								
<i>White non-Hisp. evang. Prot.</i>								
18-34	25	68	7	127	--	--	--	67
35-49	13	83	4	216	29	69	3	107
50-64	6	91	3	211	21	75	4	211
65+	5	88	6	178	17	73	10	216
<i>White non-Hisp. mainline Prot.</i>								
18-34	49	41	9	141	--	--	--	81
35-49	39	51	10	204	--	--	--	69
50-64	36	52	12	231	55	39	6	153
65+	17	67	16	168	42	45	13	185
<i>Catholic</i>								
18-34	58	33	9	181	71	22	7	110
35-49	38	49	13	234	55	33	12	161
50-64	26	60	14	162	47	44	9	206
65+	12	82	6	102	43	51	6	162
<i>Unaffiliated</i>								
18-34	67	23	10	145	85	10	5	194
35-49	--	--	--	98	69	23	8	123
50-64	--	--	--	79	60	30	10	125
65+	--	--	--	25	--	--	--	73

**SAME-SEX MARRIAGE DETAILED TABLES (CONT.)**

Pew Research Center

Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

	2003			2003 N	March-May 2013			2013 N
	Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %		Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %	
<b>AMONG WHITES</b>								
Men	28	64	9	1206	46	47	7	1021
Women	36	55	9	1277	54	40	6	1093
18-49	40	51	9	1266	61	34	5	754
18-29	52	40	8	354	71	26	3	261
30-49	35	56	9	912	54	40	6	493
50+	22	69	10	1190	41	51	8	1332
50-64	28	62	9	703	43	51	6	676
65+	13	77	10	487	38	52	10	656
College grad+	44	48	8	946	63	31	6	860
Some college or less	27	64	9	1530	45	48	7	1246
Male college grad+	39	53	8	478	58	35	7	440
Female college grad+	48	42	9	468	68	28	4	420
Male some college or less	23	68	9	724	41	52	7	577
Female some college or less	31	60	9	806	48	45	6	669
\$75,000+	39	54	7	599	55	39	7	700
\$30,000-\$74,999	32	60	8	950	51	43	6	656
Less than \$30,000	31	59	11	592	47	47	6	488
Republican*	21	72	7	490	28	65	7	718
Democrat*	47	42	10	328	70	26	4	554
Independent*	41	46	12	404	57	35	7	748
Northeast	41	47	12	490	63	31	6	385
Midwest	30	60	10	713	49	45	6	547
South	24	68	8	861	40	52	8	712
West	38	54	8	419	58	37	6	470
<b>AMONG BLACKS</b>								
Men	22	69	9	125	35	57	9	137
Women	32	59	9	152	41	47	11	169
18-49	30	63	7	197	43	48	9	167
18-29	--	--	--	85	--	--	--	76
30-49	27	66	7	112	--	--	--	91
50+	--	--	--	77	30	58	12	137
College grad+	--	--	--	63	--	--	--	87
Some college or less	27	64	9	214	37	53	10	217
<b>AMONG HISPANICS</b>								
Men	--	--	--	57	50	36	14	152
Women	--	--	--	35	58	30	12	168
18-49	--	--	--	69	61	26	13	225
18-29	--	--	--	30	74	20	7	104
30-49	--	--	--	39	51	32	17	121
50+	--	--	--	20	--	--	--	93
College grad+	--	--	--	18	--	--	--	59
Some college or less	--	--	--	74	53	34	13	258

\* Figures by party affiliation for 2003 are based on two surveys rather than three surveys as shown for other subgroups. The omitted survey asked party affiliation only of registered voters.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**MAY 2013 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**May 1-5, 2013**  
**N=1,504**

**QUESTIONS 1-5, 9, 14, 17c PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**  
**QUESTION 17a HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**  
**NO QUESTIONS 6-8, 10-13, 15-16**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.17 Here are some pairs of statements. Please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. The first pair is...  
**[READ AND RANDOMIZE PAIRS BUT NOT STATEMENTS WITHIN EACH PAIR]**

	<u>Homosexuality should be accepted by society</u>	<u>Homosexuality should be discouraged by society</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> Both/Neither/ DK/Ref
b.			
May 1-5, 2013	60	31	8
Mar 13-17, 2013	57	36	7
Jan 4-8, 2012	56	32	12
Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011	58	33	8
October, 2006 <sup>1</sup>	51	38	11
December, 2004	49	44	7
June, 2003	47	45	8
September, 2000	50	41	9
August, 1999	49	44	7
October, 1997	46	48	6
June, 1997	45	50	5
October, 1996	44	49	7
April, 1996	44	49	7
October, 1995	45	50	5
April, 1995	47	48	5
October, 1994	46	48	6
July, 1994	46	49	5

**QUESTIONS 17c, 18-20, 25-27, 29-30 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**  
**NO QUESTIONS 21-24, 28, 31-35**

<sup>1</sup> In 2006 and before, both answer choices began "Homosexuality is a way of life that should be..."

**ASK ALL:**

Next,

Q.36 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose [INSERT ITEM; ASK ITEMS IN ORDER].  
And how about [NEXT ITEM]?

- a. Allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
	Total	<i>Strongly</i> <i>favor</i>	<i>Favor</i>	Total	<i>Strongly</i> <i>oppose</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	
May 1-5, 2013	51	21	30	42	19	22	8
Mar 13-17, 2013 <sup>2</sup>	49	22	27	44	22	21	8
Oct 24-28, 2012	49	22	27	40	19	21	11
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	48	23	25	44	24	20	8
Jun 7-17, 2012	48	23	25	44	23	21	9
Apr 4-15, 2012	46	22	25	43	22	21	11
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	46	--	--	44	--	--	9
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	45	20	25	46	25	21	9
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	43	16	27	47	26	22	10
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	41	17	24	48	24	24	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	39	14	25	53	31	22	8
April 14-21, 2009	35	14	21	54	31	23	11
August, 2008	39	13	26	52	30	22	9
June, 2008	40	15	25	52	31	21	8
Late May, 2008	38	15	23	49	29	20	13
November, 2007	36	12	24	54	29	25	10
August, 2007	36	13	23	55	31	24	9
Early January, 2007	37	13	24	55	33	22	8
July, 2006	35	12	23	56	31	25	9
June, 2006	33	13	20	55	32	23	12
March, 2006	39	10	29	51	28	23	10
July, 2005	36	13	23	53	31	22	11
December, 2004	32	14	18	61	38	23	7
August, 2004	29	8	21	60	35	25	11
July, 2004	32	10	22	56	33	23	12
Mid-March, 2004	32	10	22	59	35	24	9
Early February, 2004	30	9	21	63	42	21	7
November, 2003	30	10	20	62	41	21	8
October, 2003	30	9	21	58	33	25	12
Mid-July, 2003	38	10	28	53	30	23	9
March, 2001	35	8	27	57	34	23	8
June, 1996	27	6	21	65	41	24	8

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=740]:**

- b.F1 Allowing gays and lesbians to enter into legal agreements with each other that would give them many of the same rights as married couples?

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
	Total	<i>Strongly</i> <i>favor</i>	<i>Favor</i>	Total	<i>Strongly</i> <i>oppose</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	
May 1-5, 2013	67	30	36	28	13	15	5
August 11-17, 2009 <sup>3</sup>	57	22	35	37	21	17	6
April 14-21, 2009	53	20	33	39	21	18	8
August, 2008	54	18	36	40	21	19	6
Late May, 2008	51	21	30	41	25	16	8
July, 2006	54	19	35	42	24	18	4

<sup>2</sup> In March 2013, October 2012, June 2012, April 2012, March 2011, September 2010, April 2009, May and June 2008, November 2007, June and July 2006, mid-March through August 2004, and October 2003, the question was not part of a list of items. In June and April 2012, August and April 2009, and June and May 2008, the question read "allowing gay and lesbian couples"; all other instances read "allowing gays and lesbians."

<sup>3</sup> In August 2009 and earlier, the question read "allowing gay and lesbian couples" rather than "allowing gays and lesbians." For all surveys prior to August 2009 (with the exception of August 2008) question was not part of a list.

**Q.36 CONTINUED...**

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			<b>(VOL.)</b> DK/Ref
	<i>Strongly</i>			<i>Strongly</i>			
	<u>Total</u>	<u>favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>oppose</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	
July, 2005	53	22	31	40	24	16	7
August, 2004	48	15	33	45	24	21	7
July, 2004	49	18	31	43	25	18	8
Mid-March, 2004	49	16	33	44	26	18	7
October, 2003	46	14	32	47	27	20	8

**ASK IF FAVOR LEGAL AGREEMENTS AND OPPOSE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE (Q36a=3,4 AND Q36bF1=1,2) [N=123]:**

Q.37F1 Why do you oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally? **[OPEN END: ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES.] [IF RESPONDENT IS UNCLEAR/IF NECESSARY: "You said you favor allowing legal agreements for gay and lesbian couples but that you oppose gay marriage, why is that?"]?**

May 1-5  
2013

- 41 Morally wrong/Against religious beliefs/A sin/God says (or) Bible says  
Definition of marriage is only for a man and a woman/God created man and woman/
- 37 Man and woman needed to procreate
- 10 The term "marriage"/Marriage is part of religion
- 4 It's just wrong/I don't agree with it
- 10 Other
- 8 Don't know/Refused

*Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses.*

**ASK ALL:**

Q.38 Regardless of your opinion about same-sex marriage, do you think legal recognition of it is inevitable, or not?

		<i>LA Times</i>
		March
		<u>2004</u>
May 1-5		
<u>2013</u>		
72	Inevitable	59
21	Not inevitable	31
7	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	10

**NO QUESTIONS 39, 43-45, 54-55  
QUESTIONS 40-42, 46-53 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK ALL:**

Now thinking generally about homosexuality...

Q.56 Would you say your overall opinion of **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]** is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable or very unfavorable? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**?

		<u>Very favorable</u>	<u>Mostly favorable</u>	<u>Mostly unfavorable</u>	<u>Very unfavorable</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Gay men					
	May 1-5, 2013	18	36	15	17	13
	October, 2003	8	30	21	29	12
b.	Lesbian women					
	May 1-5, 2013	20	38	14	15	13
	October, 2003	9	30	22	26	13

**ASK ALL:**

Q.57 Thinking about people who are gay or lesbian. Which comes closer to your view. **[READ IN ORDER; IN REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF SAMPLE]**

May 1-5

2013

- 41 People are born gay or lesbian  
 8 Being gay or lesbian is a result of a person's upbringing [OR]  
 42 Being gay or lesbian is just the way that some people choose to live?  
 9 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

*In your opinion, do you think that homosexuality is [READ IN ORDER]*

	Jul <u>2012</u>	Jul <u>2006</u>	Oct <u>2003</u>	L.A. Times <u>Sep 1983</u> <sup>4</sup>
Something that people are born with	41	36	30	16
Something that develops because of the way people are brought up	13	13	14	25
Or is it just the way that some people prefer to live?	35	38	42	37
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	11	13	14	22

**ASK ALL:**

Q.58 And thinking about your own religious beliefs, do you personally feel that there is a conflict between your religious beliefs and homosexuality, or not? **[IF CONFLICT: How much conflict do you think there is, a lot or a little?]**

May 1-5

2013

- 35 Yes, a lot of conflict  
 12 Yes, a little conflict  
 48 No, no conflict  
 4 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK ALL:**

Q.59 Do you personally know anyone who is gay or lesbian, or not?

**ASK IF KNOW ANYONE (Q59=1):**

Q.60 And about how many people who are gay or lesbian would you say you personally know **[READ OPTIONS IN ORDER; REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF SAMPLE]?**

May 1-5

2013

		NBC/WSJ <u>June 1993</u>
87	Yes	61
23	A lot	--
44	Some [OR]	--
19	Only one or two	--
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	--
12	No/None in Q.60 (VOL.)	37
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1

<sup>4</sup> In Sep 1983 the *Los Angeles Times* question was worded: "In your opinion, what causes homosexuality? Is it ... "



**ASK ALL:**

Q.59 Do you personally know anyone who is gay or lesbian, or not?

**IF KNOW SOMEONE (Q.59=1):**

Q.61 And thinking about your CLOSE family members and closest friends, are any of them gay or lesbian, or not?

May 1-5

2013

87	Yes
49	Yes, close family members or closest friends
37	No, no close family members or closest friends
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
12	No
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK ALL:**

Q.59 Do you personally know anyone who is gay or lesbian, or not?

**IF KNOW SOMEONE (Q.59=1):**

Q.62 And do you happen to personally know any gay or lesbian people who are raising children, or not?

May 1-5

2013

87	Yes
31	Yes, know people who are raising children
56	No, do not know people who are raising children
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
12	No
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=740]:**

Q.63F1 If you had a child who told you he or she was gay or lesbian, what do you think your reaction would be? Would you be upset or not? [IF UPSET: would you be very upset or somewhat upset?]

May 1-5

2013

		<i>L.A. Times</i> <u>Mar 2004</u>	<i>L.A. Times</i> <u>June 2000</u> <sup>5</sup>	<i>L.A. Times</i> <u>Dec 1985</u>
19	Very upset	33	36	64
21	Somewhat upset	27	37	25
55	Not upset	36	23	9
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	4	3

**NO QUESTIONS 64-68****ASK ALL:**

Q.69 Would you say [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

May 1-5

2013

82	It doesn't bother you to be around homosexuals [OR]	Oct <u>2003</u> 76
14	It makes you uncomfortable to be around homosexuals	20
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4

<sup>5</sup> In June 2000 and Dec 1985, the *Los Angeles Times* question was worded: "If you had a child who told you he or she was gay or a lesbian, what do you think your reaction would be? Would you be very upset, somewhat upset, not very upset or not upset at all?" "Not very upset" and "Not upset at all" are merged into "Not upset."

**ASK FORM 1a ONLY<sup>6</sup> [N=426]:**

Q.70F1a What entertainment or public figures, if any, first come to mind who are gay or lesbian? **[OPEN END: ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES]**

May 1-5

2013

32	Ellen DeGeneres
7	Jason Collins
6	Elton John
3	Rosie O'Donnell
3	Barney Frank
3	Anderson Cooper
3	Rock Hudson
2	Liberace
2	Ricky Martin
1	Neil Patrick Harris
12	Other (specific)
1	Other (general)
38	Don't know/Refused

*Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses.*

**ASK IF FORM 2 AND DISCOURAGE HOMOSEXUALITY (FORM=2 AND Q.17b=2) [N=243]:**

Q.71F2 Earlier you said that homosexuality should be discouraged by society. What are the main reasons you think this? **[OPEN END: ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES. PROBE ONCE FOR CLARITY IF RESPONSE IS SIMPLY "IT'S WRONG" OR "IT'S BAD" OR "I JUST DON'T AGREE WITH IT" OR SIMILARLY VAGUE ANSWERS]**

May 1-5

2013

52	Morally wrong/Against religious beliefs/A sin/The Bible says
13	Bad for children/the family
10	Man and woman/Life is about creating life
10	Not natural/Not normal/Choice, not born that way
10	It's just wrong/I just don't agree with it
6	Public displays/Feel like being shoved in face
1	Hard life/They are targeted
9	Other
5	Not sure/Don't know

*Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses.*

**ASK ALL:**

Q.72 Do you think it is a sin, or not, to engage in homosexual behavior?

May 1-5

2013

		Oct <u>2003</u>	<i>L.A. Times</i> <u>Aug 1987</u>
45	Is a sin	55	69
45	Is not a sin	33	21
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	12	10

**NO QUESTIONS 73-74**

<sup>6</sup> Also asked of Form 1b on Wednesday, May 1, and some interviews on Thursday, May 2. These responses are included here.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.75 How important is religion in your life – very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

May 1-5

2013

59 Very important  
 22 Somewhat important  
 11 Not too important  
 8 Not at all important  
 1 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

**ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
May 1-5, 2013	25	32	37	2	1	3	14	16
Mar 13-17, 2013	26	33	34	3	1	3	14	15
Feb.13-18, 2013	22	32	41	2	*	2	15	19
Jan 9-13, 2013	25	32	38	2	*	2	15	16
Dec 17-19, 2012	21	32	38	4	*	4	15	14
Dec 5-9, 2012	23	33	38	3	1	2	14	19
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012	26	34	34	3	1	3	13	16
Oct 24-28, 2012	28	33	33	4	*	2	12	16
Oct 4-7, 2012	27	31	36	3	1	3	15	15
Sep 12-16, 2012	24	35	36	2	*	2	14	16
Jul 16-26, 2012	22	33	38	4	*	3	14	15
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	17
Jun 7-17, 2012	24	33	39	2	*	2	17	17
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	24	32	36	4	*	4	13	14
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	31	39	3	*	2	15	15
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5

## PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No	Other	DK/Ref	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
				preference	party			
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

## ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1) [N=600]:

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

May 1-5		Mar 13-17	Feb 13-18	Jan 9-13
<u>2013</u>		<u>2013</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2013</u>
28	Agree	43	36	35
8	Disagree	7	9	10
61	No opinion either way	47	52	51
2	Haven't heard of (VOL.)	1	1	2
1	Refused (VOL.)	1	3	2