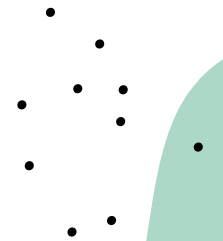


2021  
*Opinion Poll on*  
**RELIGION, POLITICS  
AND SEXUALITY**  
*in Mexico*



# Credits

## 2021 Opinion Poll on Religion, Politics, and Sexuality in Mexico

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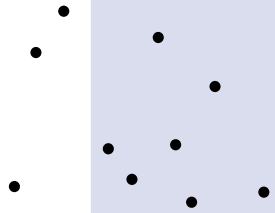
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First Edition  
Julio 2022, CDMX

We are grateful to all those who participated in the administration and design of the poll, especially Andrea Terceros, Stephanie Salazar, and Gisele Pereira.

# Table of Contents



# Presentation

We, at Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir Mexico, are pleased to present the results of the *2021 Opinion Poll on Religion, Politics, and Sexuality in Mexico*. We have prepared this document as part of our efforts to produce evidence to inform the continued work needed to advance sexual and reproductive rights and justice.

Ours is a context of continuous change, and it invites us to keep on thinking and advancing sexual and reproductive rights. The historical resolutions on abortion of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation (SCJN) in 2021,<sup>1</sup> the decriminalization of abortion in ten states,<sup>2</sup> and the passage of multiple bills in favor of same-sex marriage,<sup>3</sup> diverse gender identities,<sup>4</sup> and the ban of the grossly misnamed “conversion therapies”<sup>5</sup> in recent years have revealed that the Mexican population has become increasingly exposed to related public debates and cultural transformations.

In the framework of these processes, religious identity has continued to play an important role in the way we signify and position ourselves vis-à-vis several issues. Although a high percentage of the population still identifies itself with the main religions, these forms of identification have changed and are now more dynamic and complex, particularly as they relate to sexuality and reproduction.

In that regard, although religion is still a major variable in understanding moral conservatism, in practice most of the population expresses their religious identity by taking favorable positions on sexuality education, access to abortion, and the guarantee of the rights of sex-generic diversities. In addition, most Mexicans share the view—in accordance with our country's secular tradition—that religious beliefs should not influence public or political decisions.

In summary, this opinion poll as well as its previous editions<sup>6</sup> unequivocally show the distance between the official position of the religious hierarchies and the practices and identities of the faithful. This is evidence that we as believers experience religion and spirituality in varied and personal ways and can reconcile our faith with our freedom and autonomy based on such values as love and equality.

<sup>1</sup> The Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation issued three rulings in 2021. The first one, as of September 7<sup>th</sup> on Unconstitutionality Claim 148/2017, declared unconstitutional the total criminalization of women and other persons with the ability to conceive who have an abortion. The second, as of September 9<sup>th</sup> on Unconstitutionality Claim 106/2018 and the Appended 107/2018, declared unconstitutional to grant the status of person to the embryo or fetus in order to adopt restrictive measures relating to the right of reproductive autonomy of pregnant women/persons in the State of Sinaloa. The third ruling, as of September 21<sup>st</sup> on Unconstitutionality Claim 54/2018, invalidated the health providers' conscientious objection, established in the General Health Law, in accordance with the principle of secularism.

<sup>2</sup> Mexico City, Oaxaca, Veracruz, Hidalgo, Colima, Baja California, Coahuila (as per ruling of the SCJN), Sinaloa, Guerrero, and Baja California Sur.

<sup>3</sup> Aguascalientes, Baja California, Baja California Sur, Campeche, Coahuila, Colima, Chiapas, Chihuahua, Mexico City, Guanajuato, Hidalgo, Jalisco, Michoacan, Morelos, Nayarit, Nuevo Leon, Oaxaca, Puebla, Queretaro, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosi, Sinaloa, Sonora, Tlaxcala, Yucatan, Zacatecas, and Veracruz.

<sup>4</sup> Mexico City, Michoacan, Nayarit, Coahuila, Colima, Hidalgo, Chihuahua (through an administrative procedure), Oaxaca, Tlaxcala, San Luis Potosi, Sonora, Jalisco (through an administrative procedure), Quintana Roo, Puebla, State of Mexico, Baja California Sur, Morelos, Baja California, and Sinaloa.

<sup>5</sup> Baja California Sur, Mexico City, Colima, State of Mexico, Hidalgo, Jalisco, Puebla, Tlaxcala, Yucatan, and Zacatecas.

<sup>6</sup> Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir Mexico has published three National Catholic Opinion Polls (ENOC) (2014, 2010, and 2003). In the 2021 Poll we have included other religious affiliations and unaffiliated individuals.

# Technical data sheet

## Study Design

A CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) opinion poll.

## Target Population

Persons aged over 18 and from different socioeconomic strata, areas of residency, age groups, and genders.



Confidence Interval  
**95%**

March - April  
2021

Polling Period

## Sample Size

**1.080 cases** (simple random sampling)

Margin of Error  
**+/- 3%**

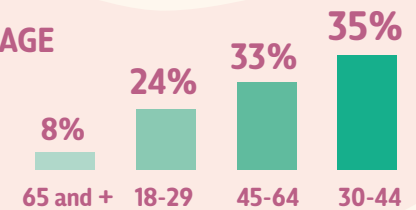
\* Since this is a probabilistic sample, data can be extrapolated to the general population.

## Characteristics of the surveyed population

### GENDER



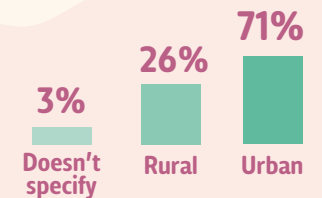
### AGE



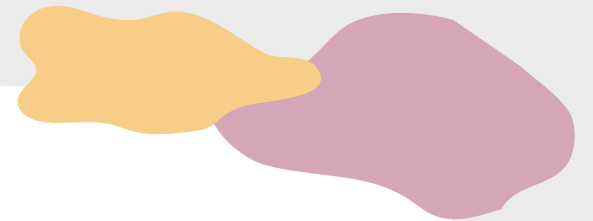
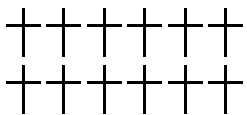
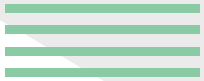
### EDUCATION LEVEL

No Education / Primary School	12%
Middle School	24%
Technical College	30%
University / Postgraduate	34%

### Area of Residency

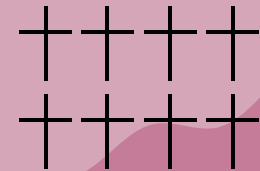


# Results

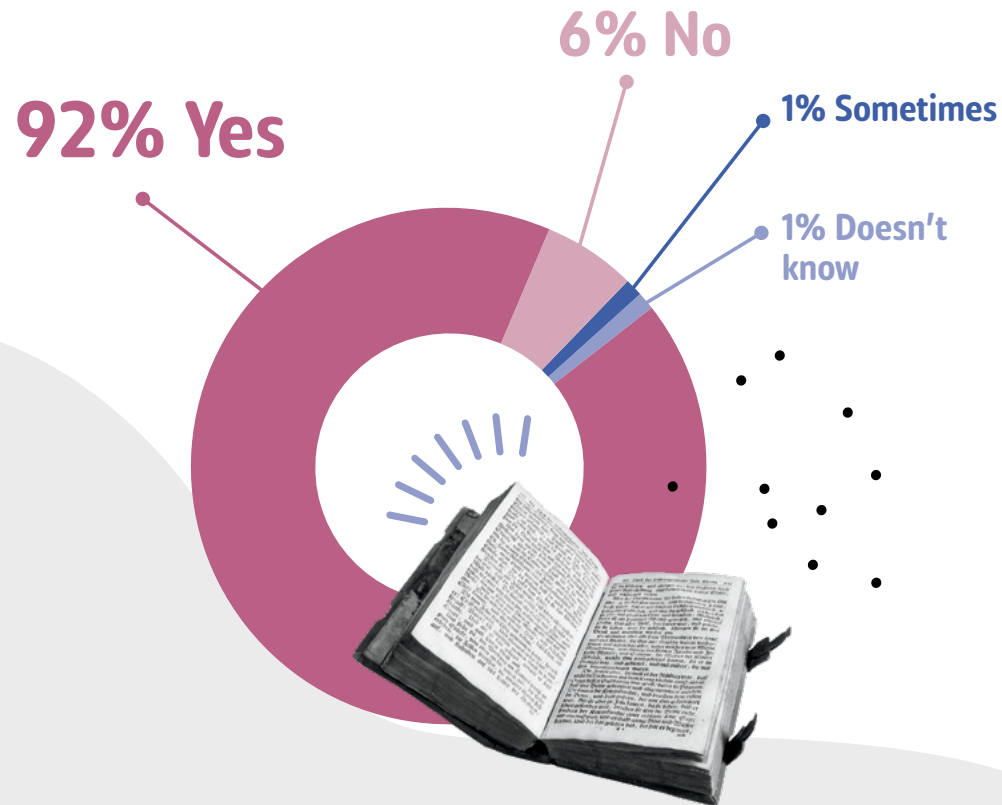


1.

# Beliefs and the Importance and Value of Religion



# 1.1 Do you believe in God?



The Mexican population consists mainly of believers:  
**92% say they believe in God.**

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

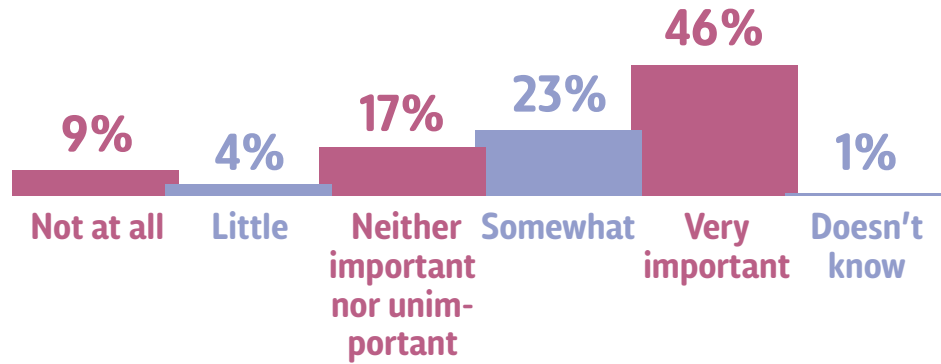
# 1.2 What is your religion?



Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.



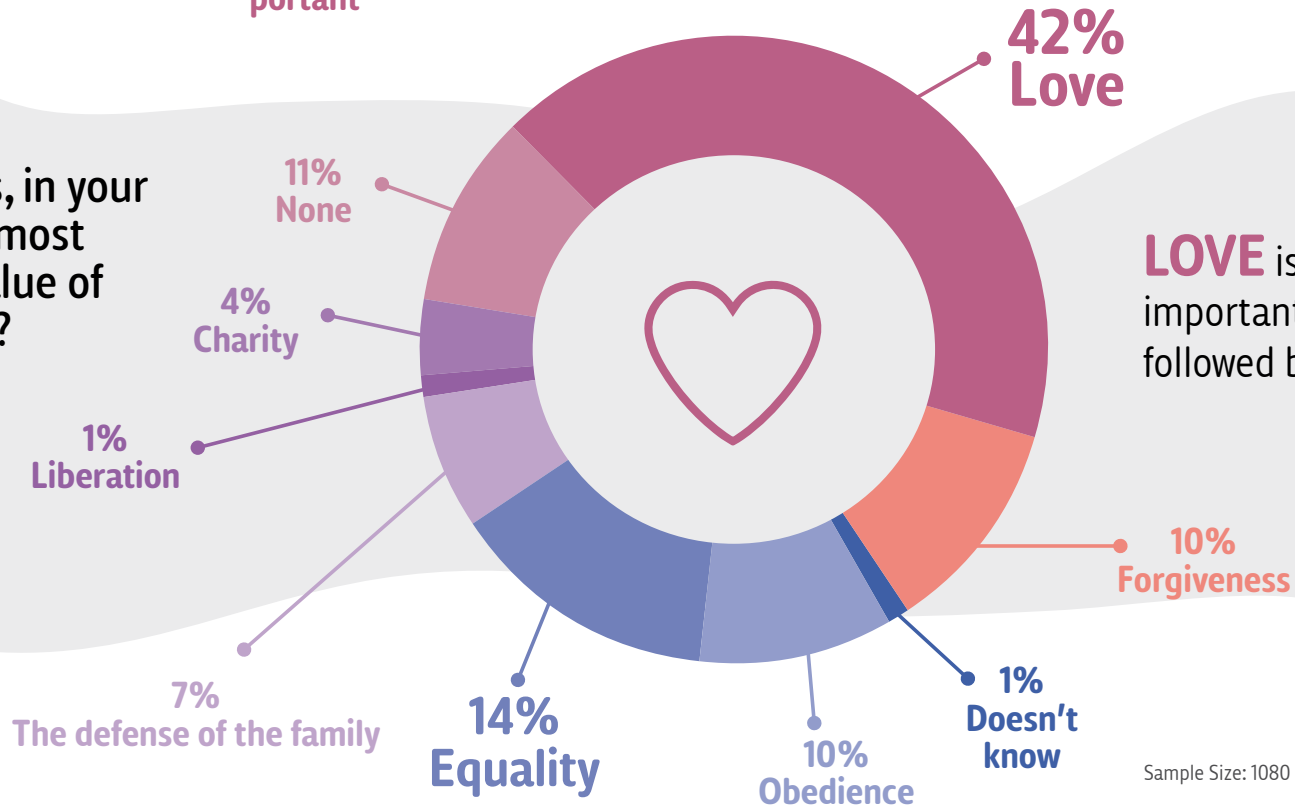
### 1.3 How important is religion in your life?



For **69%** of the Mexican population, religion is very or somewhat important to their lives.

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

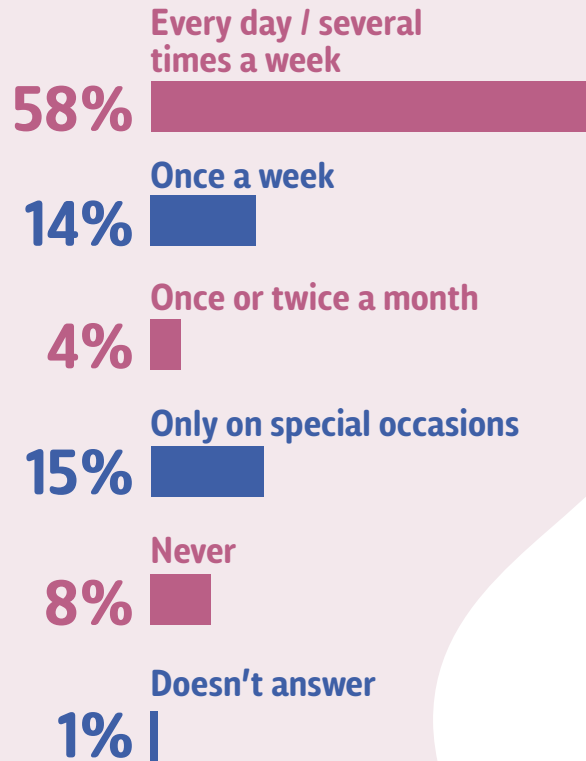
### 1.4 What is, in your opinion, the most important value of your religion?



**LOVE** is the most important religious value, followed by **EQUALITY**.

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

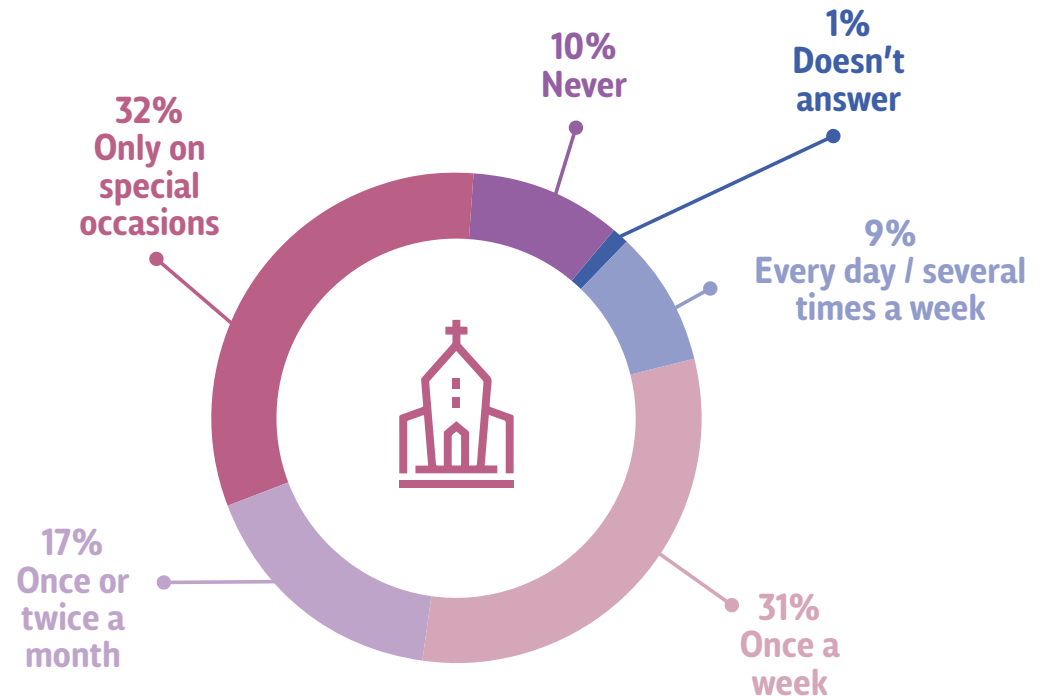
## 1.5 How often do you pray?



Praying is a common practice of the Mexican people: **58%** said they prayed every day or several times a week.

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

## 1.6 How often do you attend mass or your religious services or rituals?



For attendance to mass or a religious service or ritual, the results were uneven:

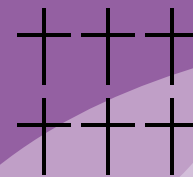
**32%** of the population attends these events only on special occasions

**31%** once a week.

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

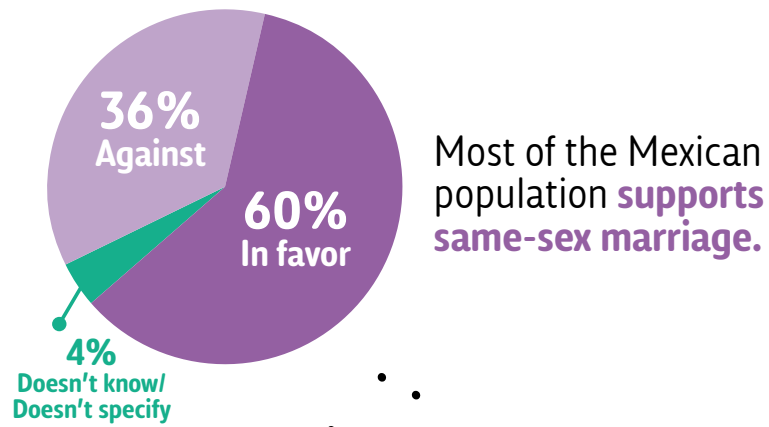
# 2.

## Citizens' Opinions on Sexuality and Reproduction

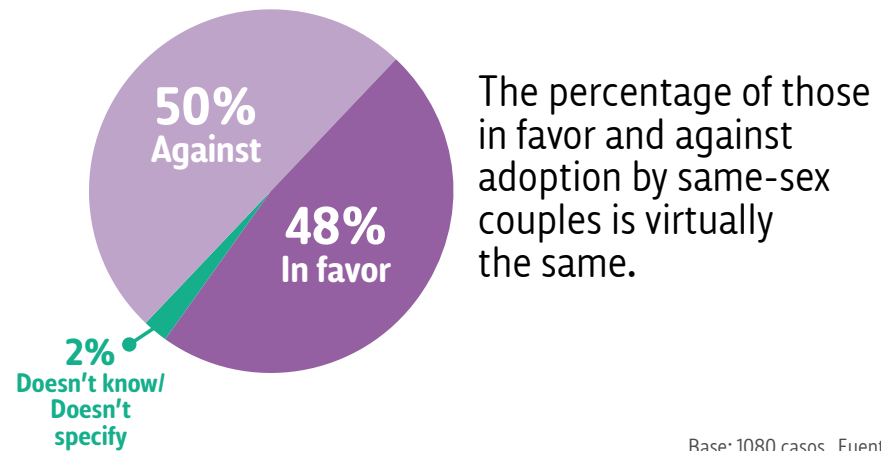


## 2.1 Opinion on same-sex marriage and adoption

### Marriage of two people of the same sex



### Adoption of children by couples of the same sex



Base: 1080 casos. Fuente: IPSOS, 2021.

### 2.1.1 Opinion about same-sex marriage, by religious affiliation

Answer	Total	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
In favor	60%	62%	26%	80%	41%
Against	36%	34%	66%	16%	36%
Doesn't know/Doesn't specify	4%	4%	8%	4%	23%

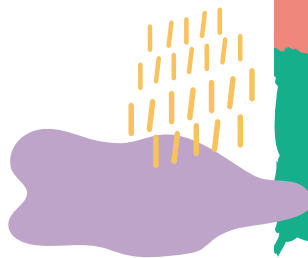
Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

## 2.1.2 Opinion about same-sex adoption of children, by religious affiliation

Answer	Total	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
In favor	<b>48%</b>	<b>49%</b>	23%	<b>71%</b>	32%
Against	<b>50%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>76%</b>	27%	<b>59%</b>
Doesn't know/ Doesn't specify	2%	2%	1%	2%	9%

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

As many as **62%** of Catholics support same-sex marriage and **49%** support same-sex adoption, compared to only **26%** and **23%**, respectively, among Evangelicals.



## Associations:<sup>7</sup>

Compared to men, women tend to agree more with same-sex marriage

**15% more** and same-sex adoption **14% more**).

The younger the person, the greater the support in both cases:

**8 in 10 young people** aged 18 - 29 are in favor of same-sex marriage



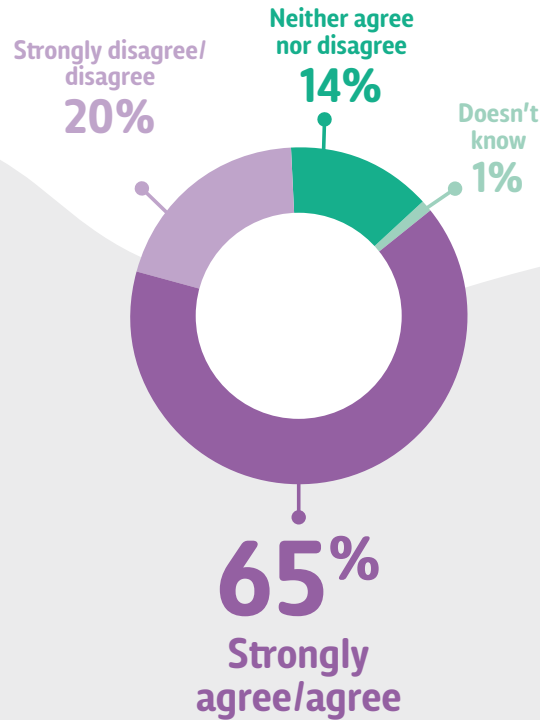
and **7 in 10 agree with same-sex adoption**. This level of support decreases among older individuals.



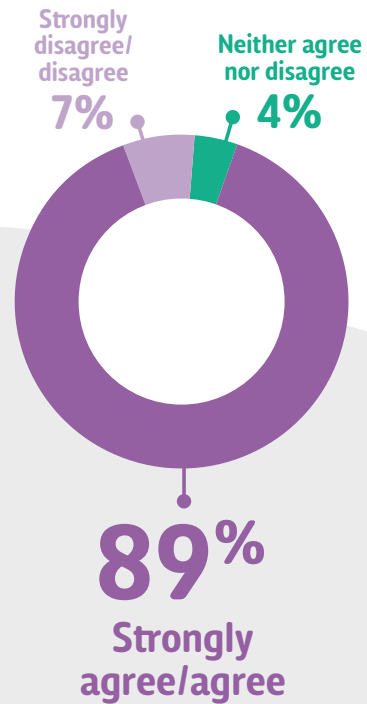
<sup>7</sup>This section focuses on relevant differences in opinion regarding gender, age, and education level, based on the results of the poll. The data, however, are not presented in tables.

## 2.2 How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

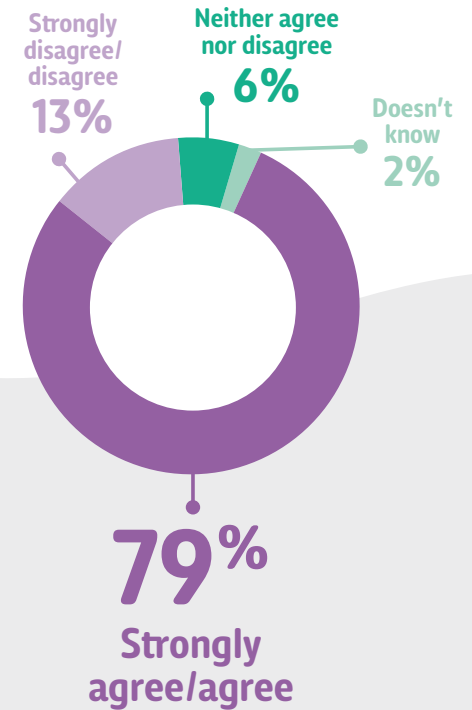
A woman who had an abortion<sup>8</sup> can still be a good believer



A person can use contraceptives and still be a good believer



Homosexual people can be good believers

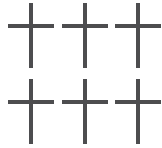


Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

<sup>8</sup> Throughout the document we refer to women because of the way the questions were formulated in the Opinion Poll. Nevertheless, CDD recognizes not only women but also all persons with the ability to become pregnant.

<sup>9</sup> This is a population survey. Therefore, the term "homosexual," not the LGBTQI categories, was used.

## 2.2.1 A woman who had an abortion can still be a good believer, by religious affiliation



Answer	Total	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
Strongly agree/agree	<b>65%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>72%</b>	35%
Strongly disagree/disagree	20%	21%	23%	10%	<b>43%</b>
Neither agree nor disagree	14%	14%	15%	17%	17%
Doesn't know	1%	1%	1%	1%	5%

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

## 2.2.2 A person can use contraceptives and still be a good believer, by religious affiliation

Answer	Total	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
Strongly agree/agree	<b>89%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>91%</b>
Strongly disagree/disagree	7%	8%	9%	1%	4%
Neither agree nor disagree	4%	3%	5%	5%	4%
Doesn't know	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

**For use of contraceptives and access to abortion, there are no significant differences between Catholics and Evangelicals.** In both cases, the interviewees have favorable opinions.

Regarding sexual orientation, there is a significant difference in opinion between both religions.

## 2.2.3 Homosexual people can be good believers, by religious affiliation

Answer	Total	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
Strongly agree/agree	<b>79%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>72%</b>
Strongly disagree/disagree	13%	10%	42%	6%	13%
Neither agree nor disagree	6%	6%	9%	8%	6%
Doesn't know	2%	0%	4%	3%	9%

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.



# 3.

## Secularism, Church, and State



### 3.1 Level of trust in the Catholic Church, by religious affiliation

Answer	Total	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
High	<b>30%</b>	<b>37%</b>	7%	1%	0%
Moderate	<b>32%</b>	<b>38%</b>	19%	6%	19%
Low	19%	18%	22%	20%	<b>37%</b>
No trust	19%	7%	<b>50%</b>	<b>73%</b>	32%
Doesn't know	0%	0%	2%	0%	3%

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

**62%** of the population reports having a high to moderate level of trust in the Catholic Church, whereas **38%** reports having a low level of trust or none at all.

The level of trust varies depending on the religious affiliation:

**75%** of the Catholics interviewed report a high or moderate level of trust, compared to only **26%** of Evangelicals and **7%** of unaffiliated persons.

## Associations:

The younger the interviewee, the lower their level of trust in the Catholic Church:

**45%**  
of the young people interviewed (aged 18 - 19)

report having a low level of trust in the Catholic Church (low or no trust). This percentage gradually decreases among older individuals, reaching

**28%**  
among interviewees older than 65 years.

## 3.2 Level of trust in the Catholic Church with regard to the news about sexual abuse of minors, by religious affiliation

Answer	Total	RELIGIÓN			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
Yes, my trust diminished	<b>47%</b>	<b>51%</b>	40%	21%	35%
No, my trust in the Catholic Church is the same	23%	29%	6%	5%	14%
Never heard news about such abuse	6%	7%	1%	3%	-
Don't believe such abuse ever happened	1%	2%	-	-	-
Never trusted the Catholic Church	19%	8%	<b>50%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>39%</b>
Doesn't know	4%	3%	3%	2%	12%

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

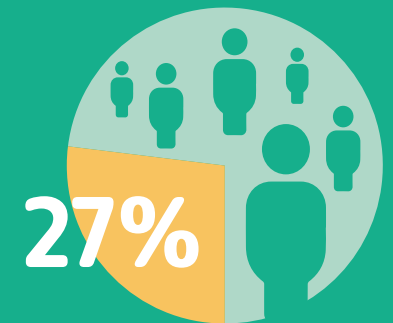
The Mexican population, in general, knows about cases of sexual abuse: **only 6% never heard news about them.**

Practically half of the interviewees (**47%**) report that having heard of these cases has diminished their trust in the Catholic Church.



## Associations

A higher percentage of younger interviewees, compared to other age groups, say that they have never trusted the Catholic Church.



### 3.3 In your opinion, should religion be taught at public schools or not? By religious affiliation

Answer	Total	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
Yes	31%	35%	30%	8%	17%
No	<b>67%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>78%</b>
Doesn't know	2%	1%	4%	0%	5%

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

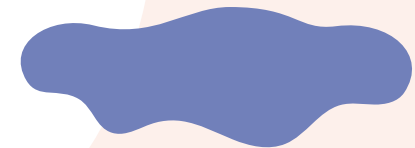
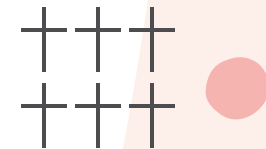
Almost **7 in 10**  
Mexicans think  
that religion  
should not be taught  
at public schools.

When comparing  
Catholics and Evangelicals,  
there is no significant difference  
because their percentages  
are close to the average.

Rejection increases to



Among **9 in 10**  
among unaffiliated  
individuals.



### 3.4 How strongly do you agree or disagree with priests, pastors, and other religious leaders who call on the believers to vote for or against specific candidates or political parties? By religious affiliation.

Answer	Total	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
Strongly agree/agree	16%	18%	18%	6%	4%
Strongly disagree/disagree	<b>72%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>65%</b>
Neither agree nor disagree	10%	10%	11%	9%	26%
Doesn't know	2%	2%	0%	0%	5%

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.



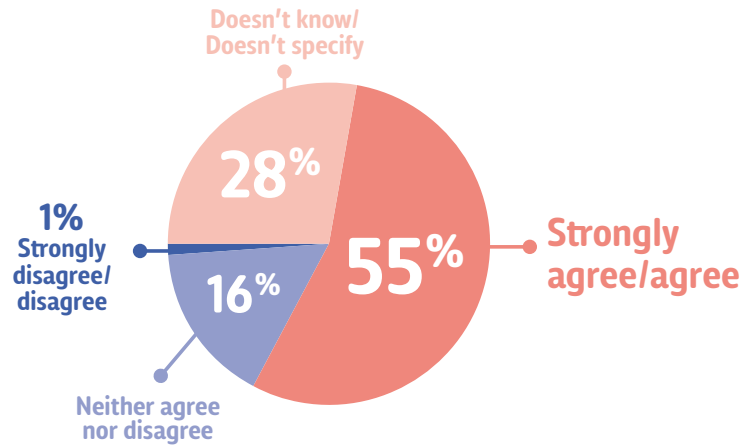
**7 in 10** interviewees **disagree** with religious leaders who call on the believers to vote for or against a candidate or political party.

There are no significant differences between the Catholic and the Evangelical populations.

**There is greater rejection, however, among individuals with no religious affiliation. 85% disagree**

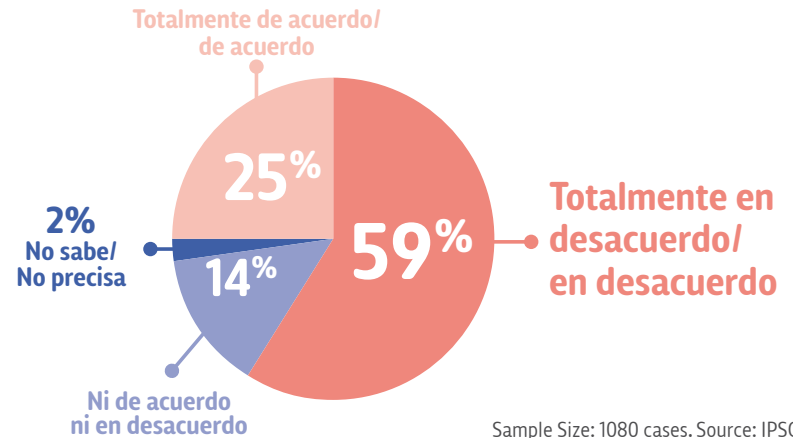
### 3.5 How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

A Catholic or Evangelical legislator is morally obligated to vote against abortion



Most of the population **DOES NOT** agree that to be a good believer, a person must vote for candidates that are against abortion.

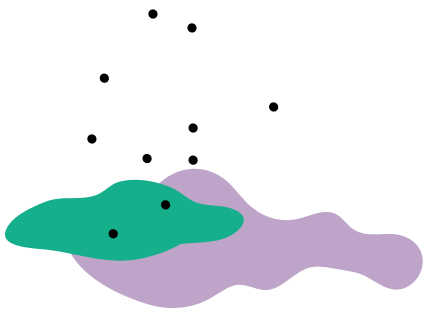
A good believer must vote for candidates that oppose abortion



Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

Most of the population **DOES NOT** agree that Catholic or Evangelical decision makers are morally obligated to vote against abortion.

Less than **30%** of the Mexican population agrees that political decisions on abortion must be made according to religious beliefs.



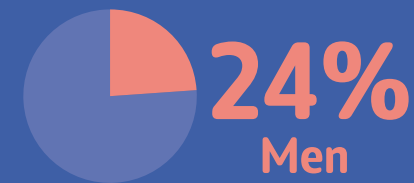
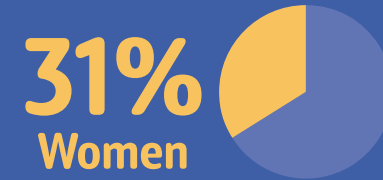
### 3.5.1 How strongly do you agree or disagree that a Catholic or Evangelical legislator is morally obligated to vote against abortion? By religious affiliation

Answer	Total	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
Strongly agree/agree	28%	28%	36%	16%	20%
Strongly disagree/disagree	<b>55%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>45%</b>
Neither agree nor disagree	16%	18%	15%	9%	26%
Doesn't know/Doesn't specify	1%	1%	1%	2%	9%

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

## Associations:

Compared to men, women agree somewhat more that Catholic and Evangelical decision makers are morally obligated to vote against abortion:



### 3.5.2 How strongly do you agree or disagree that a good believer must vote for candidates that oppose abortion? By religious affiliation

Answer	Total	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
Strongly agree/agree	25%	25%	35%	12%	24%
Strongly disagree/disagree	<b>59%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>44%</b>
Neither agree nor disagree	14%	15%	13%	8%	28%
Doesn't know/Doesn't specify	2%	2%	0%	2%	4%

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

There are no broad differences between the Catholic and the Evangelical populations regarding this statement. Nevertheless, the percentage of rejection is higher among individuals with no religious affiliation (**over 70%**).

4.

# Sexuality Education





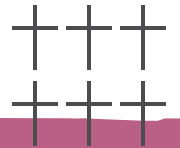
# 4.1 Do you agree or disagree that sexuality education should be taught at schools? By religious affiliation

Answer	Total	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
Agree	90%	91%	83%	95%	86%
Disagree	9%	9%	16%	5%	6%
Doesn't know/Doesn't specify	1%	0%	1%	0%	8%

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

Only **9%** of Catholics and **16%** of Evangelicals **disagree** that sexuality education should be taught at schools.

**9 in 10**  **interviewees agree** that sexuality education should be taught at schools.



## 4.2 Opinion about the teaching of sex education to boys and girls, according to religious affiliation

Answer	Total	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
Sex education should be taught only by the parents	22%	22%	31%	18%	20%
Sex education is a right of children that schools should guarantee	<b>70%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>62%</b>
Sex education should not be taught	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%
Doesn't know/Doesn't specify	7%	5%	11%	5%	18%

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

# 7 in 10



interviewees believe that sexuality education **is a right** of children that the schools should guarantee.



## Associations:

A larger number of younger interviewees tend to think sexuality education is a right of children, compared to those aged more than 54.

Although the Evangelicals are usually considered the more reactive to sexuality education at schools, the results show that virtually

# 6 in 10

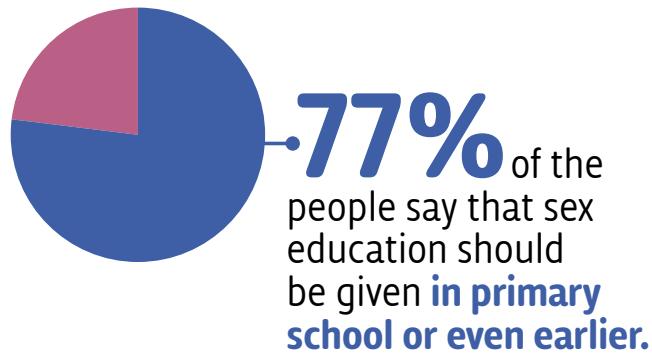
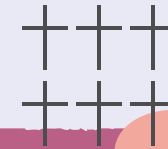
believe it is a right of children that the schools should guarantee.

## 4.3 Opinion about when students should receive sexuality education, by religious affiliation

Answer	Total	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
When they start preschool	22%	21%	25%	29%	23%
When they start primary school	<b>55%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>62%</b>
When they start middle school	21%	22%	26%	13%	10%
Doesn't know/Doesn't specify	2%	1%	2%	1%	5%

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

There are no major differences between the Evangelical population and the general average. In fact, the Evangelicals choose the preschool education option more frequently than the Catholics (4% more).

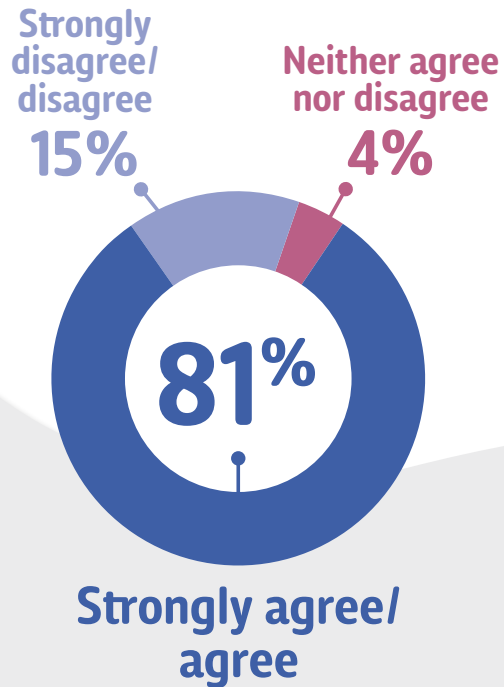


### Associations:

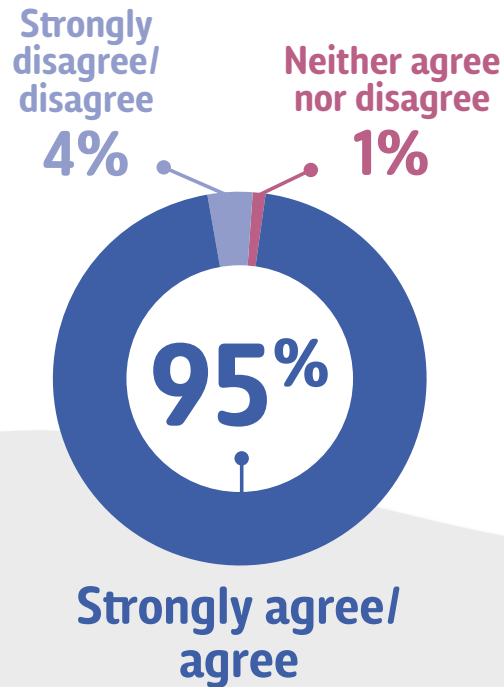
Women tend to favor the preschool education option more frequently than men (17% vs. 28%), and men say more frequently than women that sexuality education should be taught when children start middle school (28% vs. 16%).

## 4.4 Level of agreement with middle schools...

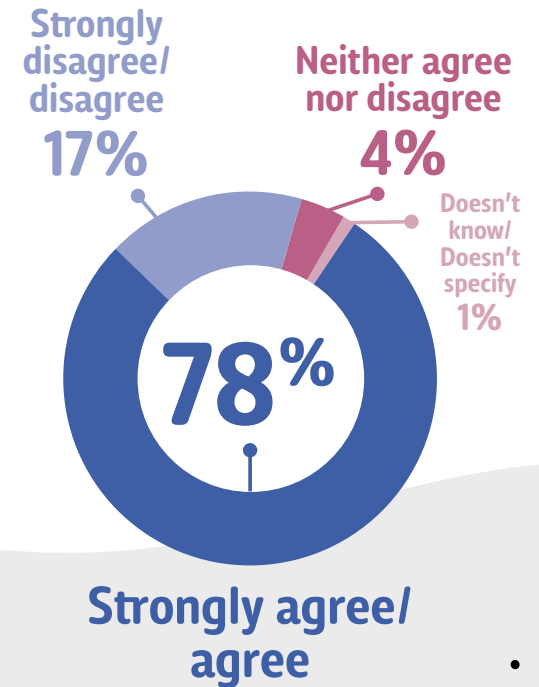
...teaching that everyone has the right to freely experience their sexuality regardless of their sexual orientation



...giving information about contraceptives, such as condoms and the pill



...giving information about abortion in the cases it is allowed by law



Most of the Mexican population agrees with this teaching

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

# Associations:

Younger interviewees tend to be more in agreement with the positive contents of sexuality education. For example,

**92%** in the 18-29 age group

believe the right to freely experience sexuality should be taught. This percentage decreases with the age of the interviewees: 81% in the 30-44 age group, 76% in the 45-64 age group, and 62% among those 65 and older.



## 4.4.1 Level of agreement with the statement that middle school should teach that everyone has the right to freely experience their sexuality regardless of their sexual orientation, by religious affiliation

Answer	Total*	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
Strongly agree/agree	81%	82%	61%	95%	72%
Strongly disagree/disagree	15%	14%	33%	4%	22%

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

\*The remaining percentage consists of those who do not know or did not answer.

Religious affiliation has a significant impact on the citizens' opinion about whether to teach that everyone has the right to freely experience their sexuality regardless of their sexual orientation.

Fewer Evangelicals (**61%**) than Catholics (**82%**) and individuals without any religious affiliation (**95%**) agree with the statement.

## 4.4.2 Level of agreement with the statement that middle school should give information about contraceptives, such as condoms and the pill, by religious affiliation

Answer	Total*	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
Strongly agree/agree	95%	94%	92%	99%	93%
Strongly disagree/disagree	4%	4%	5%	1%	7%

\* The remaining percentage consists of those who do not know or did not answer.

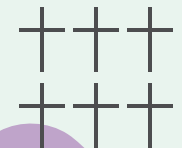
Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

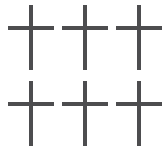
## 4.4.3 Level of agreement with the statement that middle school should give information about abortion in the cases it is allowed by law, by religious affiliation\*

Answer	Total *	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
Strongly agree/agree	78%	77%	70%	91%	81%
Strongly disagree/disagree	17%	18%	23%	4%	10%

\*The remaining percentage consists of those who do not know or did not answer.

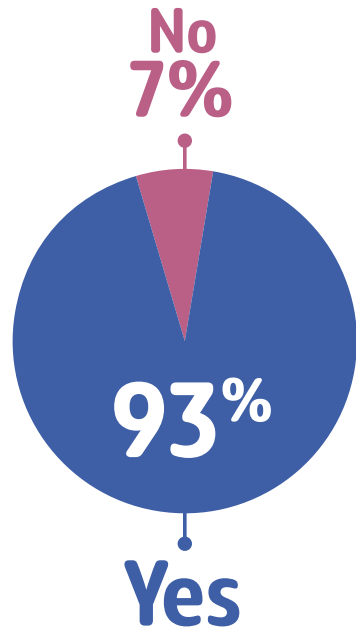
Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.



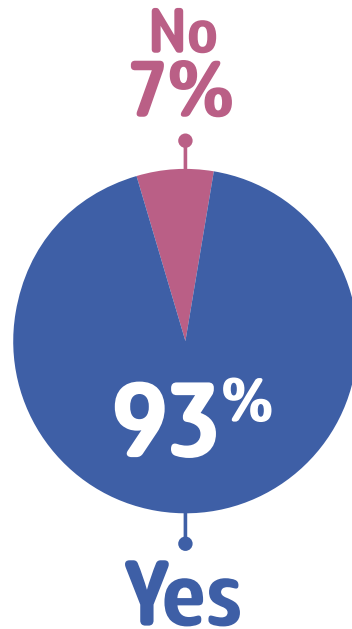


## 4.5 Providing sexuality education at public schools can...

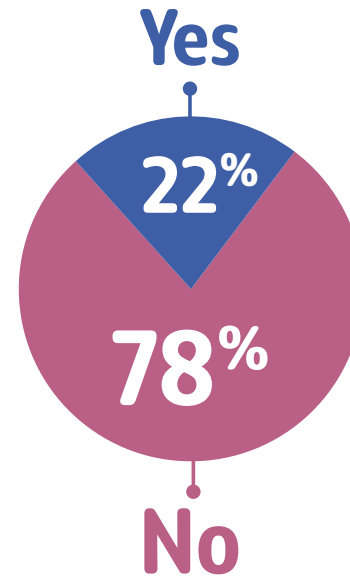
...help to prevent pregnancy and sexual abuse



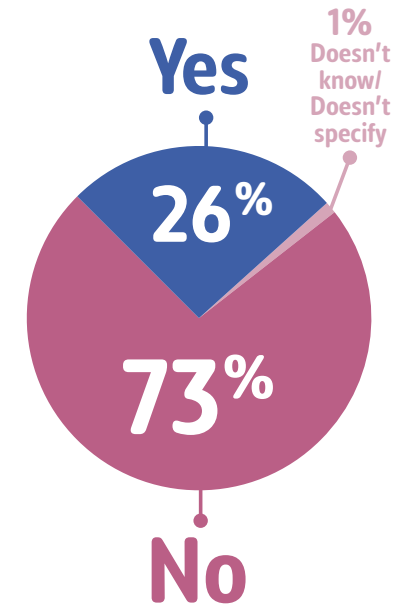
...help to build a society where girls and women have the same rights as men



...lead to early sexual relations



...dissolve the family



**More than 90%** of the interviewees think that **sexuality education has positive effects**; for example, it helps to prevent pregnancy and sexual abuse and build a more egalitarian society.

**Only 7%** think that it **has effects** such as leading to early sexual relations and the dissolution of the family.

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

## 4.5.1 Providing sexuality education at public schools can help to prevent pregnancy and sexual abuse, by religious affiliation

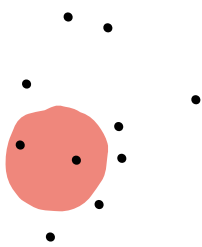
Answer	Total	RELIGION			
		Answer	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
Yes	<b>93%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>84%</b>
No	7%	8%	5%	2%	11%
Doesn't know/ Doesn't specify	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

## 4.5.2 Providing sexuality education at public schools can help to build a society where girls and women have the same rights as men, by religious affiliation

Answer	Total	RELIGIÓN			
		Answer	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
Yes	<b>93%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>89%</b>
No	7%	7%	11%	3%	11%
Doesn't know/ Doesn't specify	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.





### 4.5.3 Providing sexuality education at public schools can lead to early sexual relations, by religious affiliation

Answer	Total	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
Yes	22%	22%	28%	15%	16%
No	<b>78%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>84%</b>
Doesn't know/ Doesn't specify	0%	1%	0%	0%	-

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

### 4.5.4 Providing sexuality education at public schools can dissolve the family, by religious affiliation

Respuesta	Total	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
Yes	26%	26%	33%	16%	10%
No	<b>73%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>85%</b>
Doesn't know/ Doesn't specify	1%	1%	1%	1%	5%

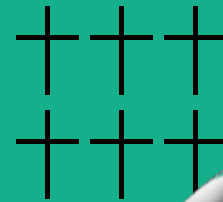
Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

## Associations:

In general, the younger interviewees agree more that sexuality education has positive effects and disagree that it has negative effects.

# 5.

## Abortion<sup>10</sup>

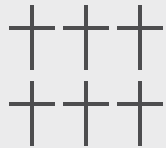


<sup>10</sup> The poll included questions to measure public opinion on abortion in Mexico three months before the historical resolution of the SCJN that decriminalized abortion at the national level. The questions were also included before abortion was decriminalized in various states of the country.

## 5.1 ¿Which of the following statements better reflects your opinion on abortion? By religious affiliation

Answer	Total	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
By law, abortion must be allowed in some or all cases	<b>81%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>94%</b>
By law, abortion must be banned in all cases	17%	17%	34%	3%	6%
Doesn't know/Doesn't specify	2%	2%	2%	-	-

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.



**8 in 10**

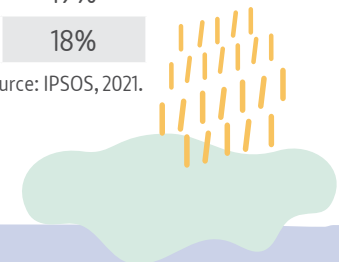


interviewees think that abortion **must be allowed in some or all cases**: **81%** of Catholics, **64%** of evangelical people and **97%** without religious affiliation are in favor.

## 5.2 Do you agree or disagree that a woman can seek an abortion... By religious affiliation

Answer	RELIGION				Total	
	Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other		
...when the pregnancy is the result of rape?	Agree	78%	79%	57%	95%	<b>83%</b>
	Disagree	21%	20%	42%	5%	17%
	Doesn't know/Doesn't specify	1%	1%	1%	-	-
...when her life is at risk?	Agree	88%	89%	81%	95%	<b>78%</b>
	Disagree	10%	10%	18%	5%	9%
	Doesn't know/Doesn't specify	2%	1%	1%	-	13%
...when her health is at risk?	Agree	87%	88%	76%	95%	<b>78%</b>
	Disagree	12%	11%	24%	5%	9%
	Doesn't know/Doesn't specify	1%	1%	-	-	13%
...when the fetus has serious physical or mental congenital defects?	Agree	73%	72%	62%	92%	<b>63%</b>
	Disagree	26%	26%	36%	8%	19%
	Doesn't know/Doesn't specify	1%	2%	2%	-	18%

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.



**More than 70%** of the interviewees **agree** that women can have an abortion when their life or health is at risk, the pregnancy is the result of rape, or the fetus has serious physical or mental congenital defects.

### 5.3 If abortion were legal/Now that abortion is legal in the state where you live, do you agree/strongly agree with the following scenarios? By religious affiliation

Answer	Total	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
Fewer women would/will die from clandestine abortions	74%	73%	71%	85%	71%
Women's right to make decisions about their bodies would/will be respected	75%	76%	63%	83%	56%
The number of abortions would/will increase	44%	46%	43%	36%	43%

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

**3 in 4**  Mexicans agree that **the legalization of abortion has positive impacts:** "Women's right to make decisions about their bodies would/will be respected" (75%) and "Fewer women would/will die from clandestine abortions" (74%).

In general, Catholics and Evangelicals have similar positions regarding the effect that legal abortion would have. Compared to the Evangelical population, more Catholic interviewees agree with the statement that women's right to choose would be respected.

### If abortion were legal/Now that abortion is legal in the state where you live, do you disagree/strongly disagree with the following scenarios? By religious affiliation

Answer	Total	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
Fewer women would/will die from clandestine abortions	40%	38%	46%	44%	33%
Women's right to make decisions about their bodies would/will be respected	21%	22%	23%	13%	23%
The number of abortions would/will increase	16%	15%	27%	11%	28%

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

## 5.4 Regardless the current laws on abortion, do you think a woman should be sentenced to prison for having an abortion when she doesn't want to continue with her pregnancy? By religious affiliation (%)

Answer	Total	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
Yes	32%	34%	36%	18%	28%
No	<b>65%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>54%</b>
Doesn't know/ Doesn't specify	3%	2%	3%	-	18%

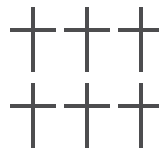
Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.

### Associations:

Disagreement with criminalizing a person for having an abortion is slightly higher among men than among women (**69% vs 62%**)

**2 in 3** 

interviewees **are against imprisoning a woman** for having an abortion when she does not want to continue with her pregnancy.



## 5.5 In your opinion, if a woman needs an abortion because her life is at risk, what should a doctor who is a believer do? By religious affiliation

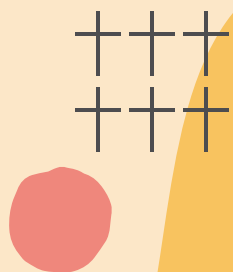
Answer	Total	RELIGION			
		Catholic	Evangelical	No religious affiliation	Other
They have the right to refuse to perform the abortion	14%	14%	28%	4%	15%
They can refuse to perform the abortion but they must find a doctor who is willing to carry out the procedure	36%	40%	29%	39%	27%
They should provide the abortion regardless of their religious beliefs	<b>43%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>38%</b>
Doesn't know	7%	4%	9%	2%	20%

Sample Size: 1080 cases. Source: IPSOS, 2021.



interviewees think that doctors **should guarantee access to abortion to a woman whose life is at risk** either by performing the abortion regardless of their religious beliefs or by referring her to another doctor willing to perform the procedure.

# Main findings





**6 in 10 interviewees** are in favor of same-sex marriage, and practically 5 in 10 agree with same-sex adoption.

\*In the 2014 National Catholic Opinion Poll (ENOC), **59%** of the Catholics said they were in favor of same-sex marriage and **42%** agreed with same-sex adoption (compared to **62%** and **49%**, respectively, in 2021). These results show that the Catholic population still tends to support same-sex marriage and adoption, with small increases in both cases.

**Most of the population** does not agree that believers or decision makers must vote against abortion, even if they are Catholic or Evangelical.

**Most Mexicans think that** persons who use contraceptives, homosexual people, and those who have had an abortion can still be good believers.

\*The 2014 ENOC showed that **50.8%** of the interviewees believed that a Catholic woman who has an abortion can still be a good Catholic. These findings reveal that among Catholics, the number of those who agree with this statement has increased (**50.8%** in 2014 vs. **64%** in 2021).

**Almost 7 in 10** interviewees do not agree with the notion that religion should be taught at public schools (**64%** of Catholics share this opinion).

\*The 2014 ENOC found that two thirds of the Catholic population in Mexico does not agree that public schools teach religion (**64%**), whereas only one third is in favor (**35%**). This trend has remained unchanged in the last years.

Practically all **the Mexican population** has heard of cases of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, and the trust of **47%** of the interviewees decreased after learning about these cases.

**The prevailing views are** that religious leaders should not call on believers to vote in favor or against a specific candidate or political party.

**2 out of 3 people** surveyed affirm no woman who voluntarily terminates a pregnancy should go to jail (**65% general, 64% catholics**)

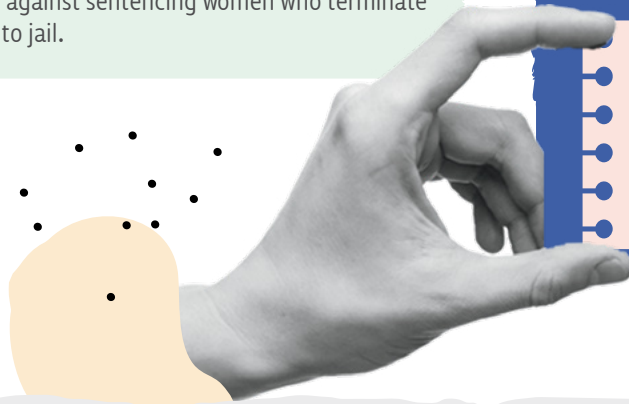
\*In 2009, the ENOC revealed that 30.9% of the catholic population rejected jail sentences as sanctions for women who don't wish to continue a pregnancy, and that almost half (45%) didn't have a defined position regarding the subject. This data shows that in over a decade there has been a significant increase in the number of catholic people who are against sentencing women who terminate a pregnancy voluntarily to jail.

Virtually **8 in 10 interviewees** agree that primary schools should teach that everyone has the right to freely experience their sexuality and provide information on the cases where abortion is allowed by law.

**7 in 10 interviewees** agree that sexuality education is a right of children, which schools should guarantee.

**9 in 10 inhabitants in Mexico** agree with the inclusion of sexuality education in school curricula.

\*Over the last seven years, most Catholics have strongly agreed with the notion that middle schools should provide students with information about all contraceptive methods, including condoms and the pill. The 2014 ENOC revealed that **90%** agreed with this idea.



**8 in 10 interviewees** (the proportion is the same among Catholics) say that they are in favor of laws that allow access to abortion in some or all cases.

\*The 2014 ENOC showed that 71% of Catholics in Mexico are in favor of legal abortion in some or all cases. The data reveal that, over the last six years, there has been an increase in the percentage of Catholics that support legal abortion in some or all cases and a decrease in the percentage of those in favor of a complete ban on abortion.

**3 in 4 interviewees** think that if abortion were legal in their state, the right of women to decide on their own body would be respected and fewer women would die from clandestine abortions.

**74%** General  
**73%** Catholics

This explains why a substantial majority considers that legalizing abortion would have positive consequences for women.

\*En la ENOC de 2014, 57% de la población católica consideraba que las leyes que permiten el aborto evitan que se practique a escondidas y protegen la salud de las mujeres. Estos datos dan cuenta que la mayoría de la población católica percibe que la despenalización del aborto en sus estados tendrían impactos positivos, apoyo que ha aumentado en los últimos años.

**79% of the Mexican population (83% of Catholics)** thinks that in the cases where the life of the woman is at risk, the doctor should either perform an abortion regardless of their religious beliefs or find another doctor willing to carry out the procedure.

\*The 2014 ENOC reported that 78% of the Catholic population in Mexico agreed with the statement that doctors "should perform the abortion regardless of their religious beliefs in cases where the woman's life is at risk," whereas 22% stated that the physician "has the right to refuse to perform the abortion." Although the questions were formulated differently in both polls, they reveal that most of the Mexican population is in favor that doctors and health institutions provide abortion services to a woman whose life is at risk.



**CATÓLICAS**  
**POR EL DERECHO**  
**A DECIDIR**  
MÉXICO

