

GLOBAL VIEWS ON ABORTION

A 29-country Global Advisor survey

August 2023

For more information: www.ipsos.com/en/global-advisor-abortion-2023

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GAME CHANGERS



KEY FINDINGS



This document is interactive, please click the [links](#) to jump to the findings



Support for abortion

Broad agreement that abortion should be legal

Across 29 countries, a majority (56%) believe abortion should be legal. More than one in four believe this should be the case in all situations (27%), while one in ten (11%) feel it should be illegal in all cases. Support for abortion is higher in older people with 62% of Baby Boomers in favour compared to 55% for Gen X, 53% for Millennial and 55% for Gen Z.



Differences in opinion

Opinions vary greatly between Europe and Asia Pacific

Support for abortion in all cases is highest in Europe with Sweden top with 61%, followed by France (56%) and Netherlands (44%). Asia Pacific is the region with the least support, with Indonesia and Malaysia the only two countries where more than one in two say abortion should be illegal (74% and 50% respectively).



When it should be legal















Many prioritise a woman's health when it comes to abortion

More than three in four (78%) think abortion should be legal if the pregnancy affects a woman's health, while 72% feel it should be legal in the case of rape and 65% if the baby will be born with severe disabilities or health issues. People are more likely to support a woman having an abortion earlier in her pregnancy. Three in five (60%) support abortion in the first six weeks of pregnancy, but this falls to 25% after 20 weeks.

AT A GLANCE



This document is interactive, please click the [links](#) to jump to the findings

Should abortion be legal...	Yes	No	Yes highest in:	No highest in:
in all or most cases	56%	29%	 Sweden (87%)	 Indonesia (74%)
if the pregnancy threatens the woman's life or health	78%	10%	 Sweden (92%)	 India (26%)
if the pregnancy is the result of a rape	72%	15%	 France (89%) Sweden (89%)	 Indonesia (50%)
if the baby is likely to be born with severe disabilities or health problems	65%	17%	 France (84%)	 Indonesia (41%)
for any woman in the first 6 weeks of a pregnancy	60%	22%	 Sweden (82%)	 Indonesia (44%)
for any woman in the first 14 weeks of a pregnancy	42%	34%	 Sweden (67%) France (67%)	 Peru (60%) Colombia (60%)
for any woman in the first 20 weeks of a pregnancy	25%	48%	 France (40%)	 Colombia (72%)

Base: 23,348 online adults across 29 countries

The "Global Country Average" reflects the average result for all the countries and markets where the survey was conducted. It has not been adjusted to the population size of each country or market and is not intended to suggest a total result. The samples in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, Thailand, and Turkey are more urban, more educated, and/or more affluent than the general population.

Q

Support for abortion legality

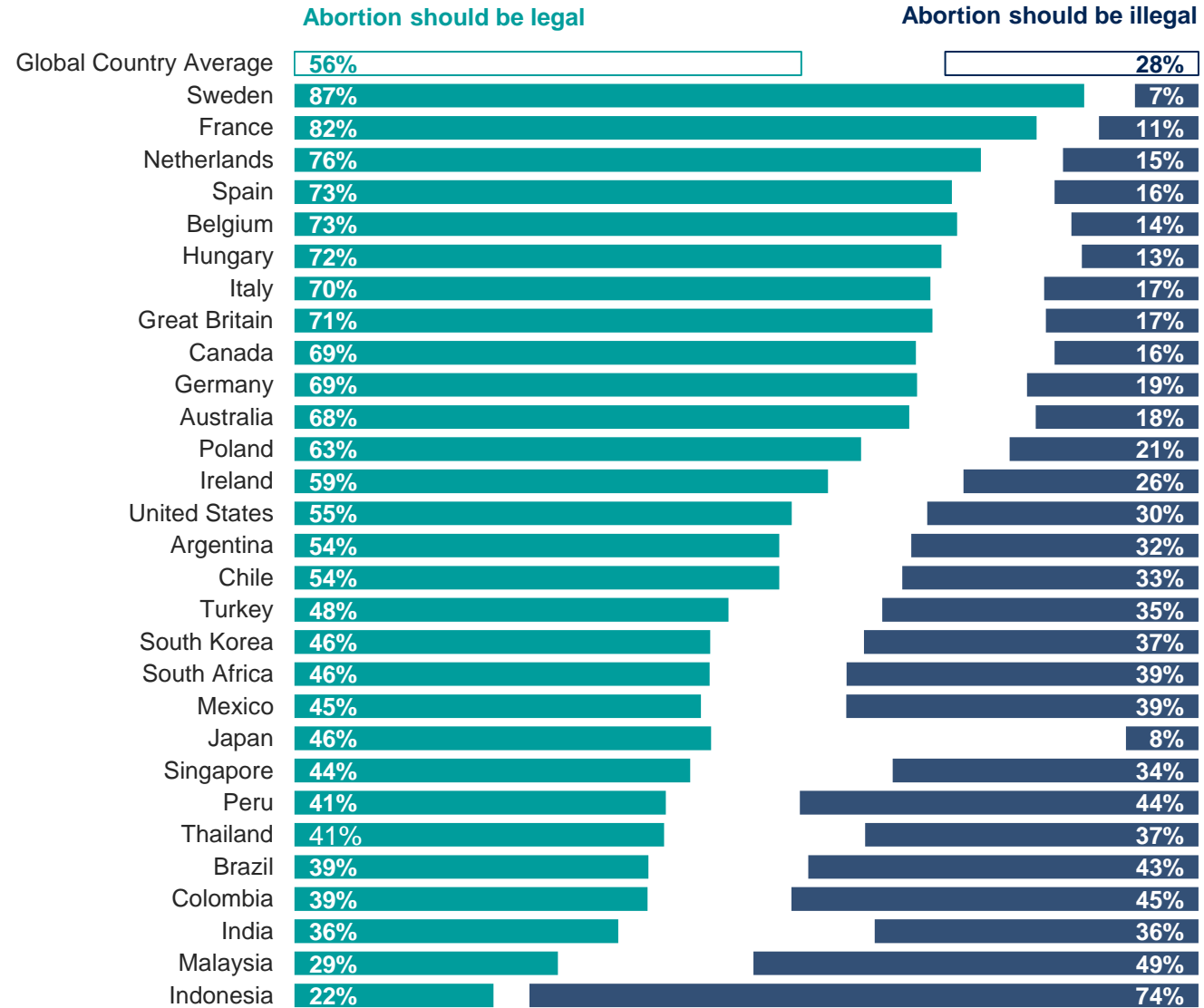
By country

Q. Thinking of abortion, which of the following is closest to your personal opinion?

Abortion should be...



[Click here for the full breakdown.](#)



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Q

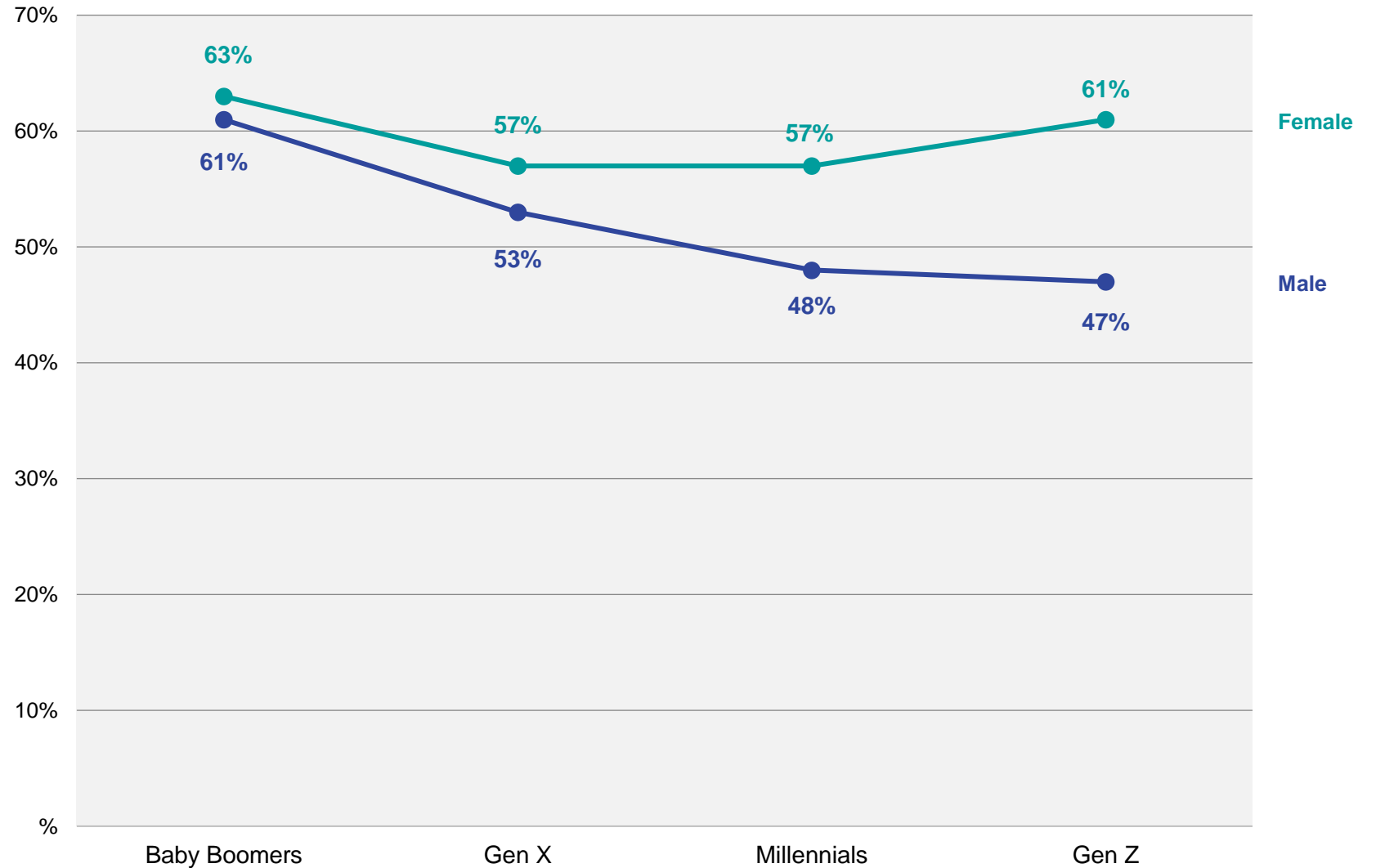
Thinking of abortion, which of the following is closest to your personal opinion?

Abortion should be legal

While the stereotype is Gen Z have liberal beliefs, it is younger men who have the lowest support for abortion. There is a split between Gen Z men and women on the topic, with 61% of women saying abortion should be legal, while only 47% of men feel the same. At the other end of the spectrum there is little difference between the genders among Baby Boomers.



[Click here for the demographic breakdown.](#)



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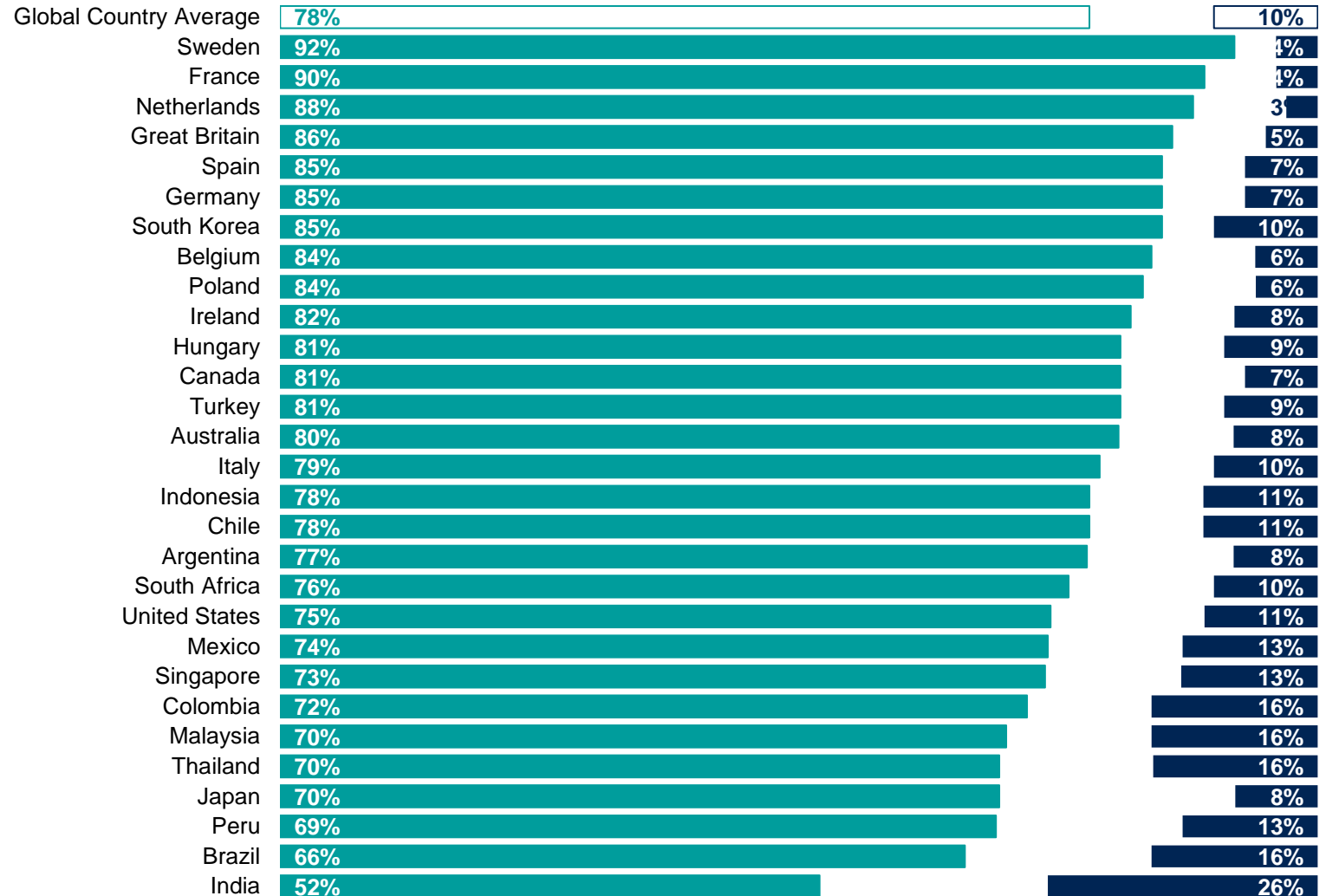
Q

Do you think abortion should be legal in the following circumstances...
(% Yes among all adults)

If the pregnancy threatens the woman's life or health

% Yes among all adults

% No among all adults



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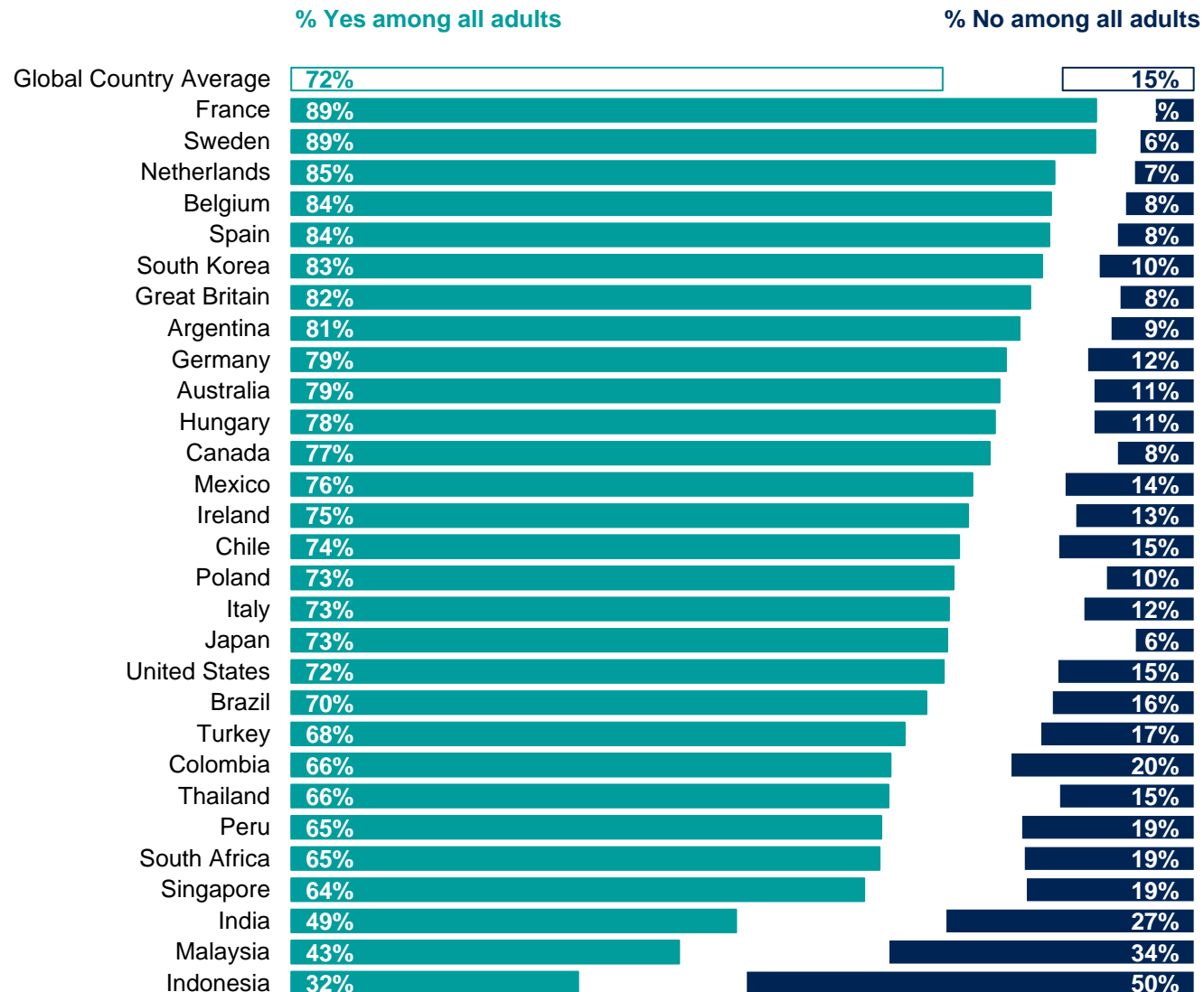
Q

Do you think abortion should be legal in the following circumstances...

If the pregnancy is the result of a rape



[Click here for the full breakdown.](#)



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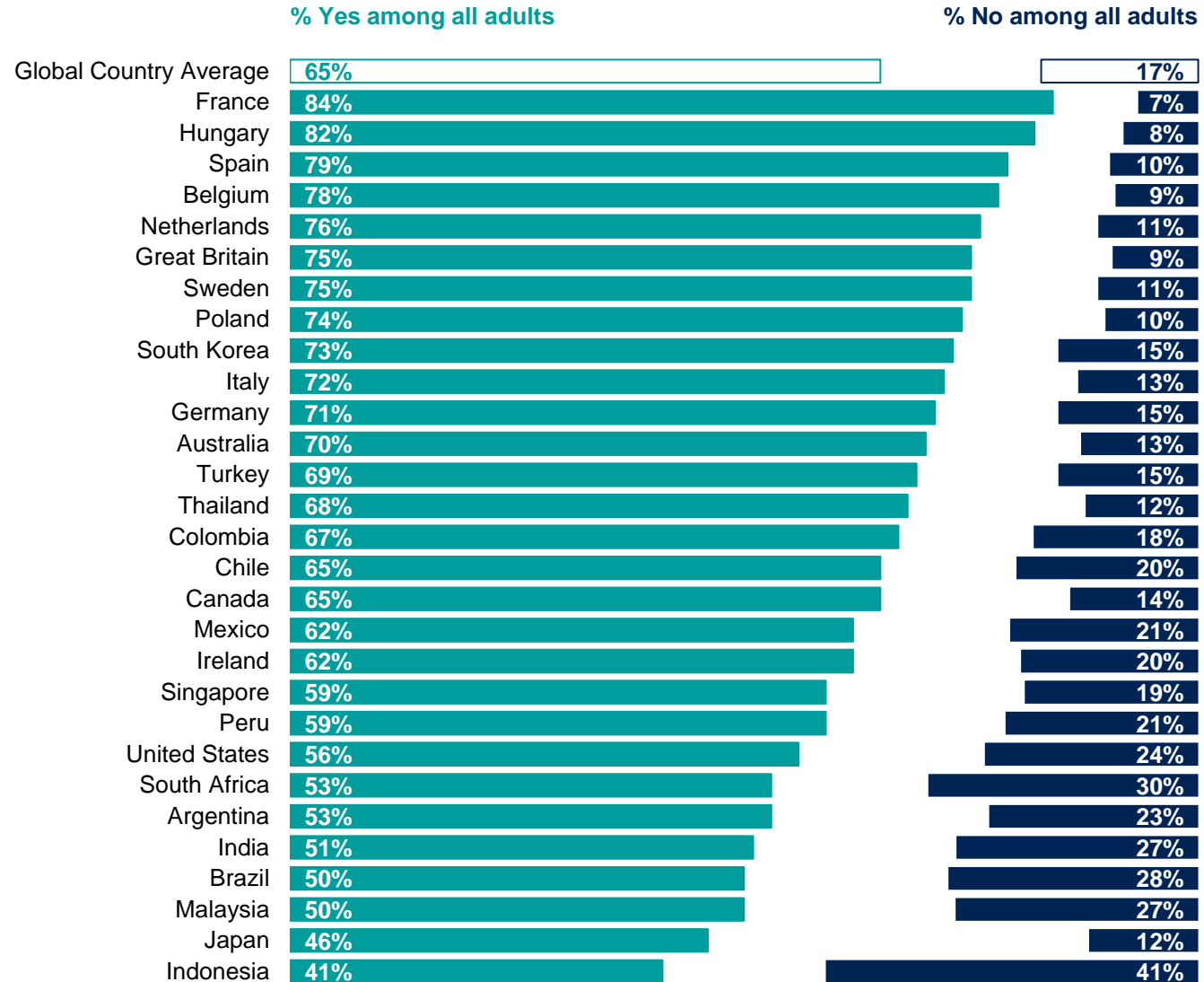
Q

Do you think abortion should be legal in the following circumstances...

If the baby is likely to be born with severe disabilities or health problems



[Click here for the full breakdown.](#)



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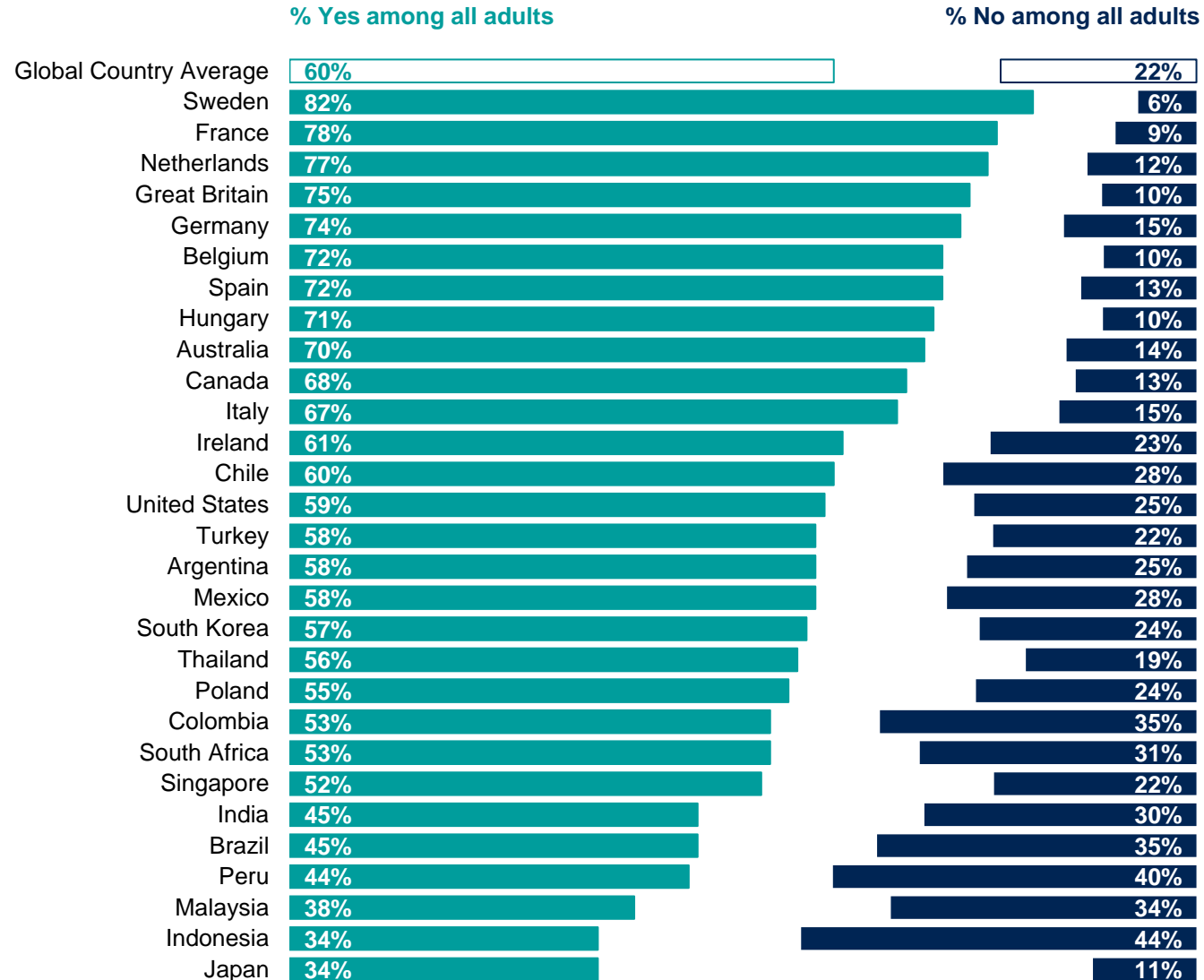
Q

Do you think abortion should be legal in the following circumstances...

For any woman in the first 6 weeks of a pregnancy



[Click here for the full breakdown.](#)



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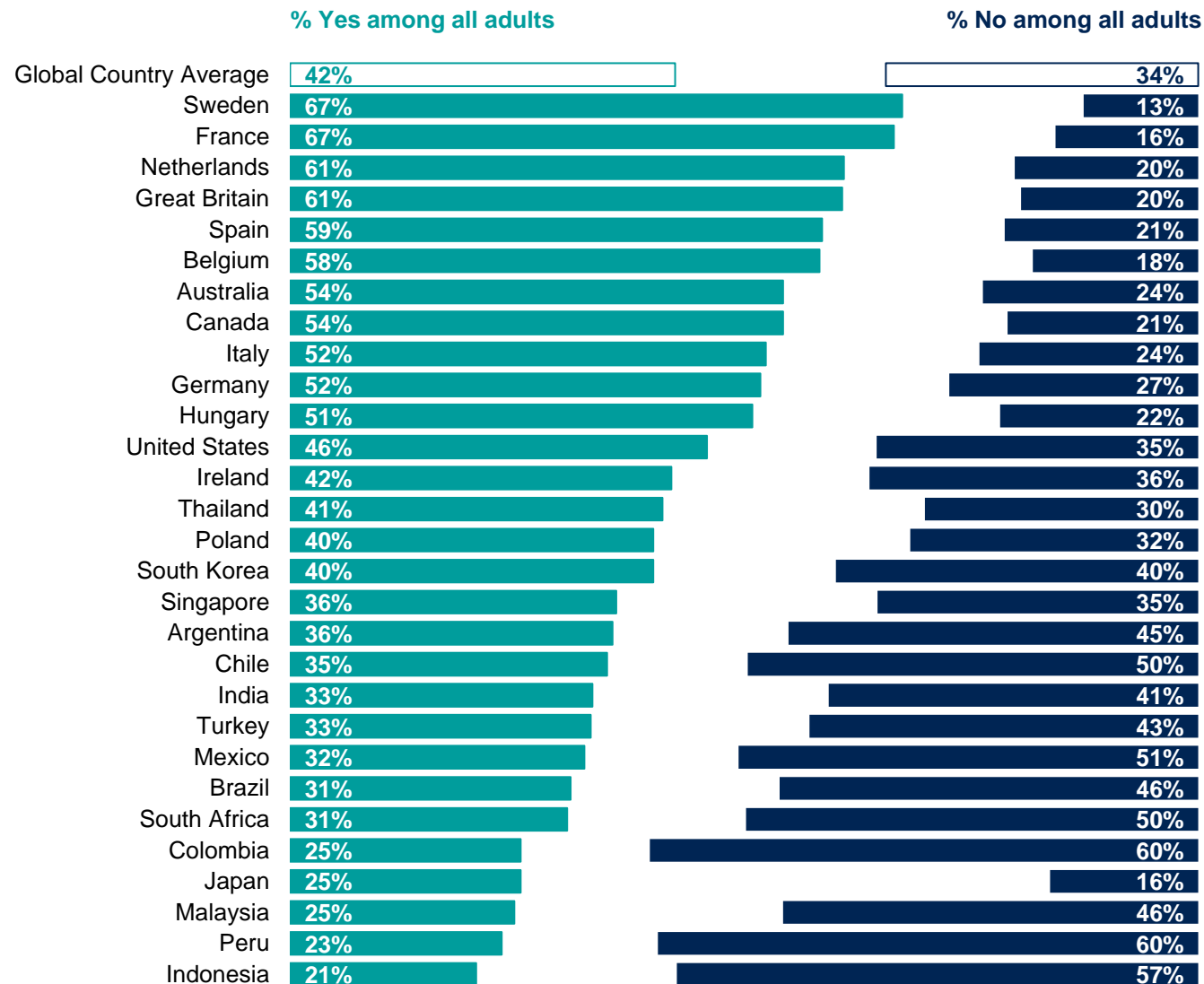
Q

Do you think abortion should be legal in the following circumstances...

For any woman in the first 14 weeks of a pregnancy



[Click here for the full breakdown.](#)



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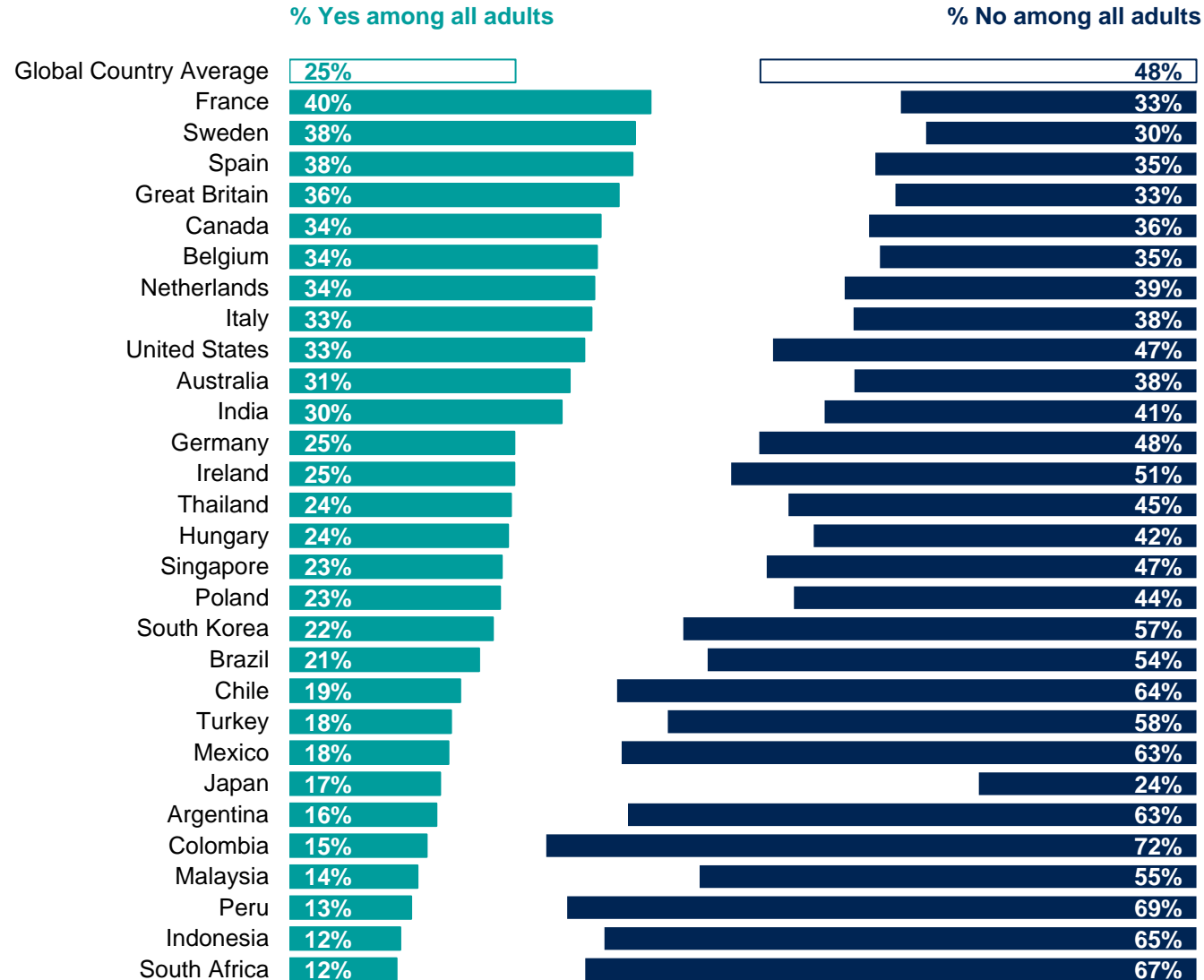
Q

Do you think abortion should be legal in the following circumstances...

For any woman in the first 20 weeks of a pregnancy



[Click here for the full breakdown.](#)



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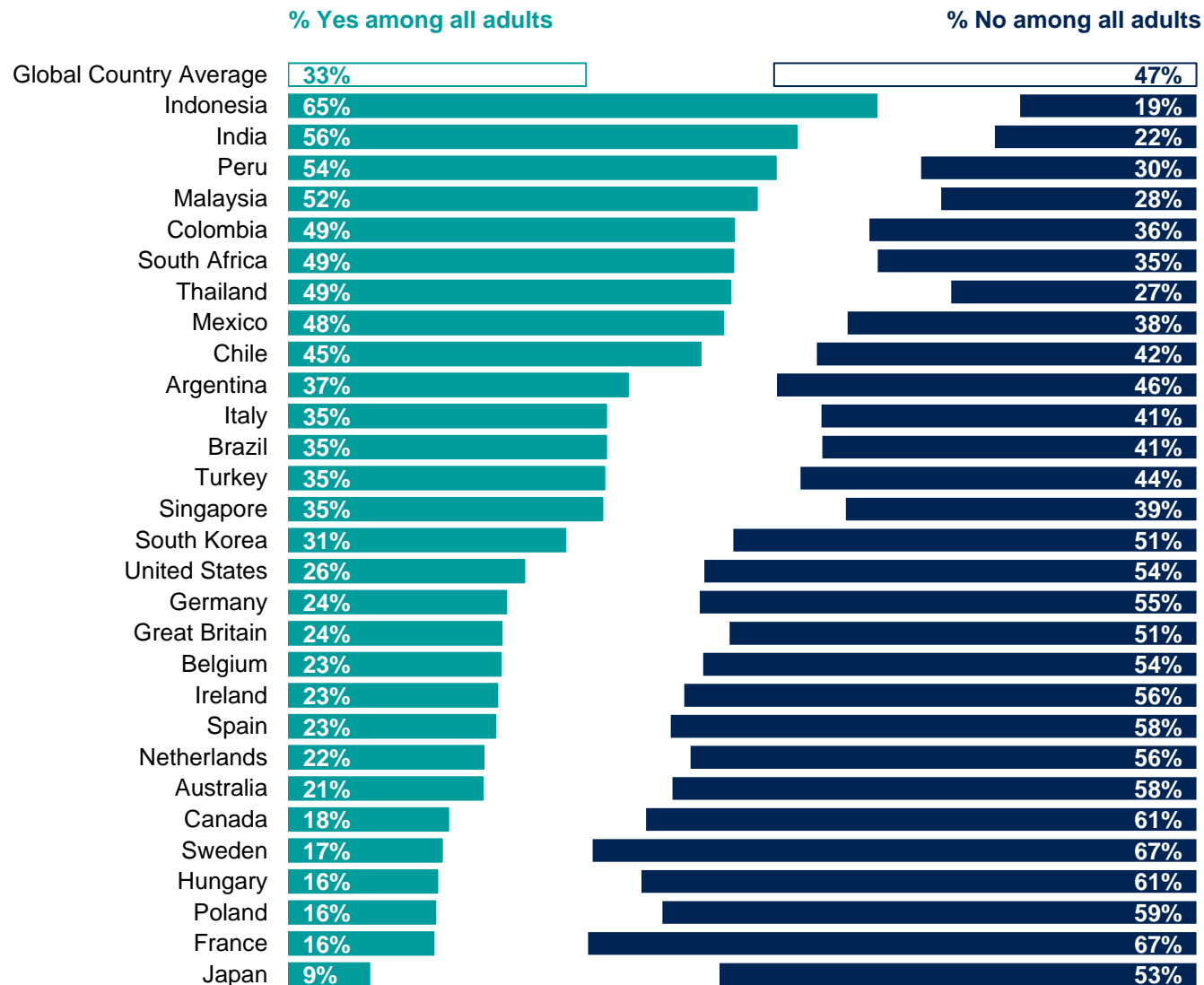
Q

If an abortion was carried out in a situation where it is illegal, do you think each of the following should face a penalty?

The woman who had an abortion



[Click here for the full breakdown.](#)



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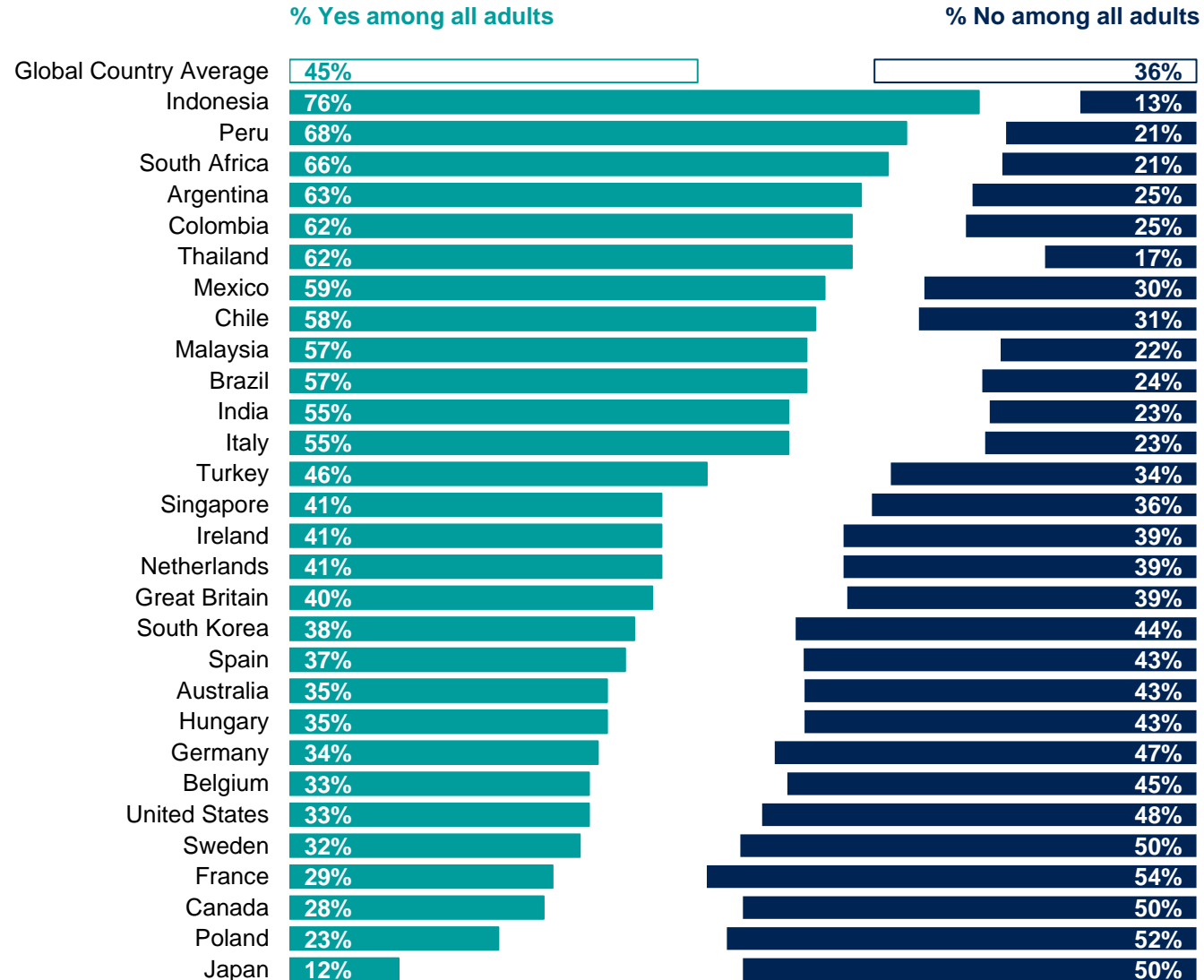
Q

If an abortion was carried out in a situation where it is illegal, do you think each of the following should face a penalty?

The person who performed the abortion



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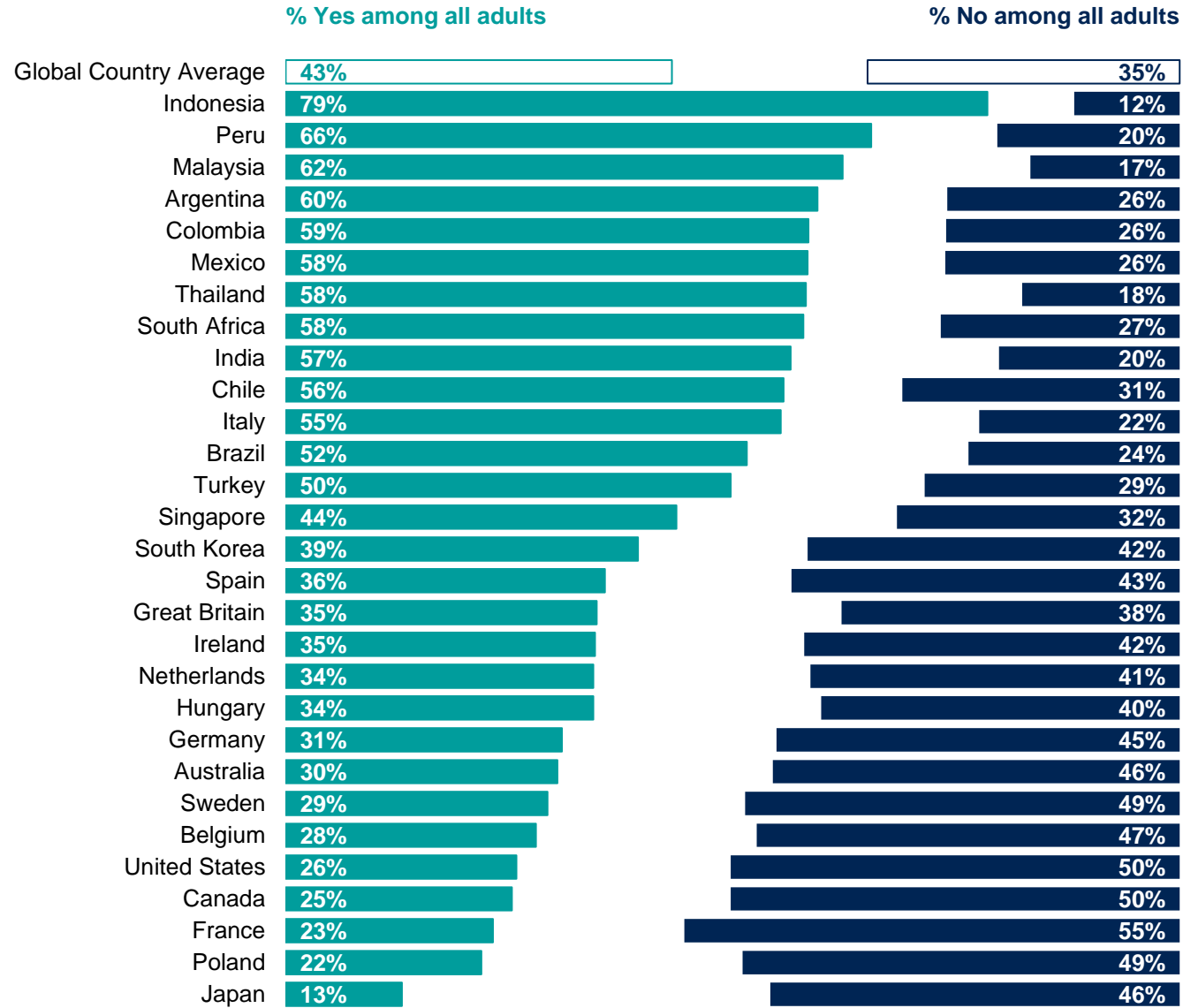
Q

If an abortion was carried out in a situation where it is illegal, do you think each of the following should face a penalty?

Someone else who arranged for the abortion



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APPENDIX

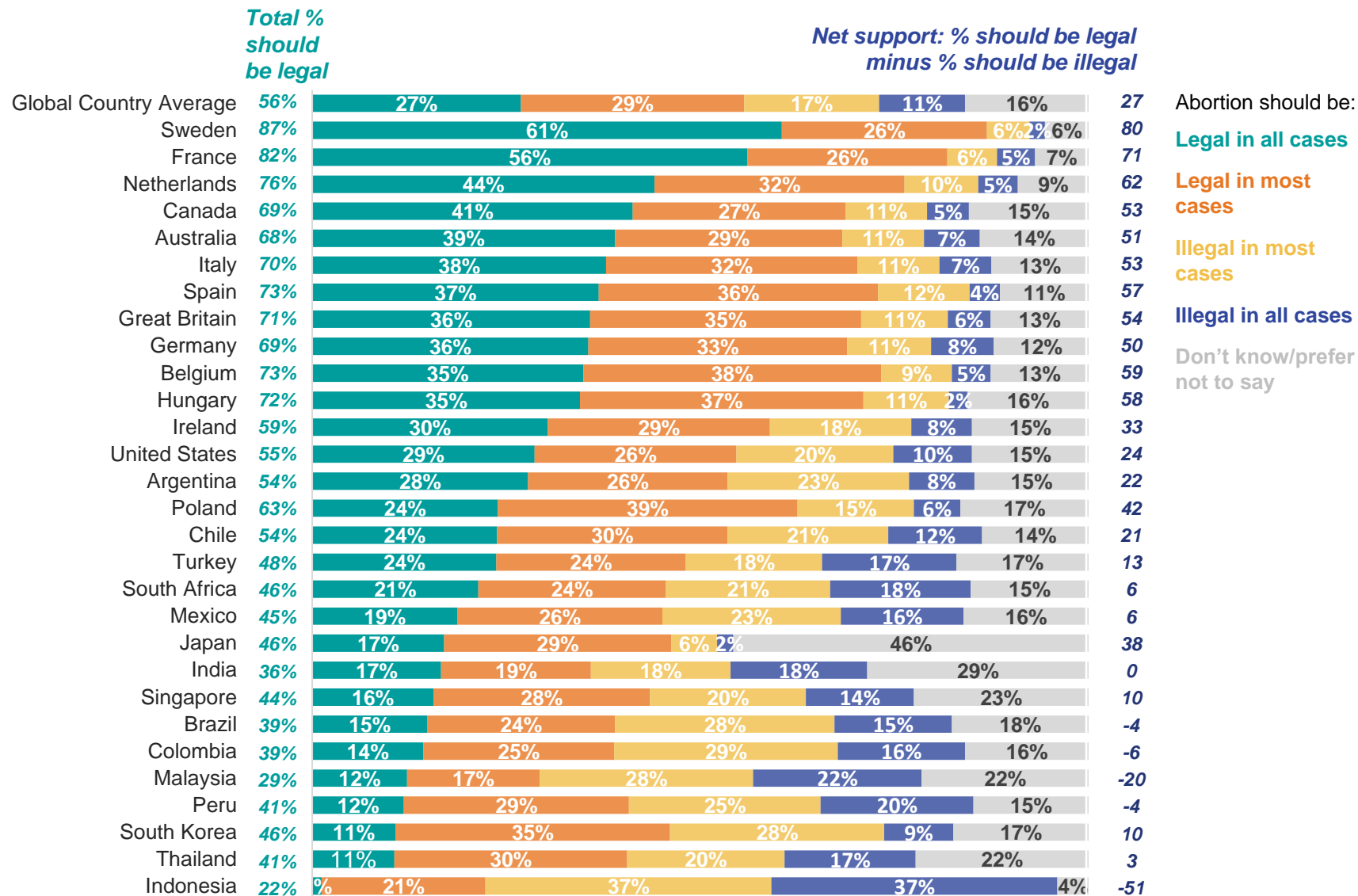


Support for abortion legality

By country

Q. Thinking of abortion, which of the following is closest to your personal opinion?

Abortion should be...



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Trends in support for legal status of abortion

By country since 2014

Total % "abortion should be..."	"permitted whenever a woman decides she wants one" or "permitted in certain circumstances, such as when a woman has been raped"									"legal in all cases" or "legal in most cases"	
	YEAR	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Sweden	91	87	93	87	88	84	88	88	86	87	
France	90	88	90	86	84	86	84	81	83	82	
Netherlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	83	85	78	76	
Belgium	85	85	90	87	83	87	87	79	78	73	
Spain	88	86	86	83	80	84	83	80	70	73	
Hungary	79	77	83	84	81	78	78	79	70	71	
Great Britain	85	84	86	82	76	84	83	80	74	71	
Italy	73	74	74	71	73	73	70	77	73	70	
Germany	85	83	84	84	77	82	76	81	70	69	
Canada	76	74	79	77	77	74	77	77	70	69	
Australia	77	75	77	77	74	75	78	76	70	68	
Poland	-	-	-	-	71	74	69	74	60	63	
United States	64	68	69	68	68	68	64	66	54	55	
Argentina	64	65	66	66	74	71	72	79	52	54	
Chile	65	71	73	75	71	-	68	73	55	54	
Turkey	71	68	72	63	64	58	56	56	51	48	
Japan	67	67	65	60	62	65	66	67	49	46	
South Korea	59	56	71	58	56	61	79	79	54	46	
South Africa	74	77	80	80	84	80	64	62	42	46	
Mexico	51	49	58	57	59	62	64	59	52	45	
Peru	-	-	53	49	53	50	48	53	31	41	
Brazil	53	52	57	50	57	61	53	64	48	39	
Colombia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	62	40	39	
India	61	63	70	68	64	64	63	63	40	36	
Malaysia	-	-	-	-	27	28	24	30	32	29	

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Support for abortion legality

Globally by gender, generation and education

Q. Thinking of abortion, which of the following is closest to your personal opinion?

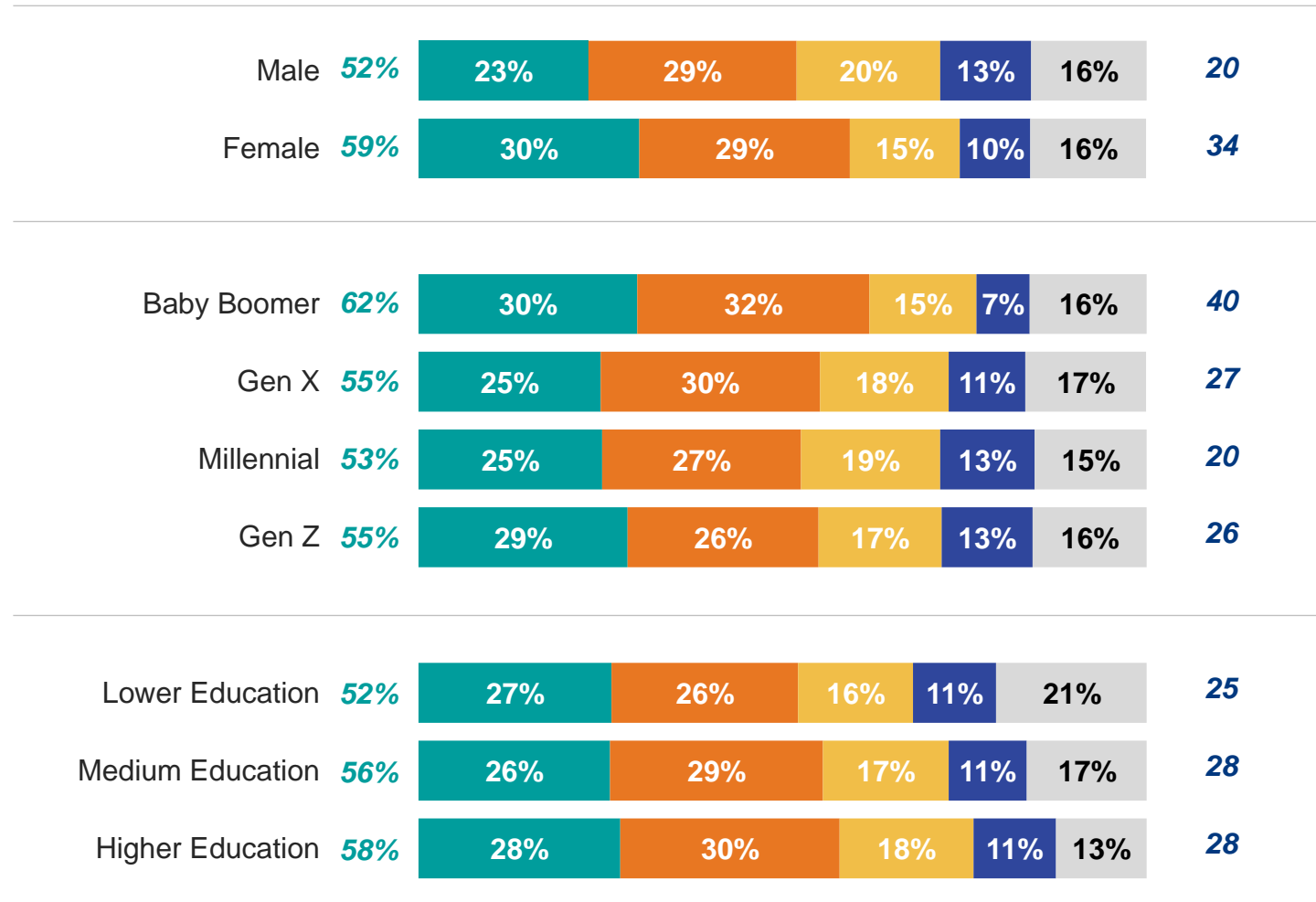
Abortion should be...



[Click here for the generation breakdown by gender.](#)

Total % should be legal

Net support: % should be legal minus % should be illegal



Abortion should be:

Legal in all cases

Legal in most cases

Illegal in most cases

Illegal in all cases

Don't know/prefer not to say

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Thinking of abortion, which of the following is closest to your personal opinion?

Abortion should be legal in all cases.

Looking at the countries where the difference between men and women in support for abortion in all cases is highest, the gap is highest in France.

While Hungary, Australia, Italy and Argentina make up the remainder of the top five for countries having the biggest gap in opinion between men and women.



[Click here for the full country breakdown.](#)



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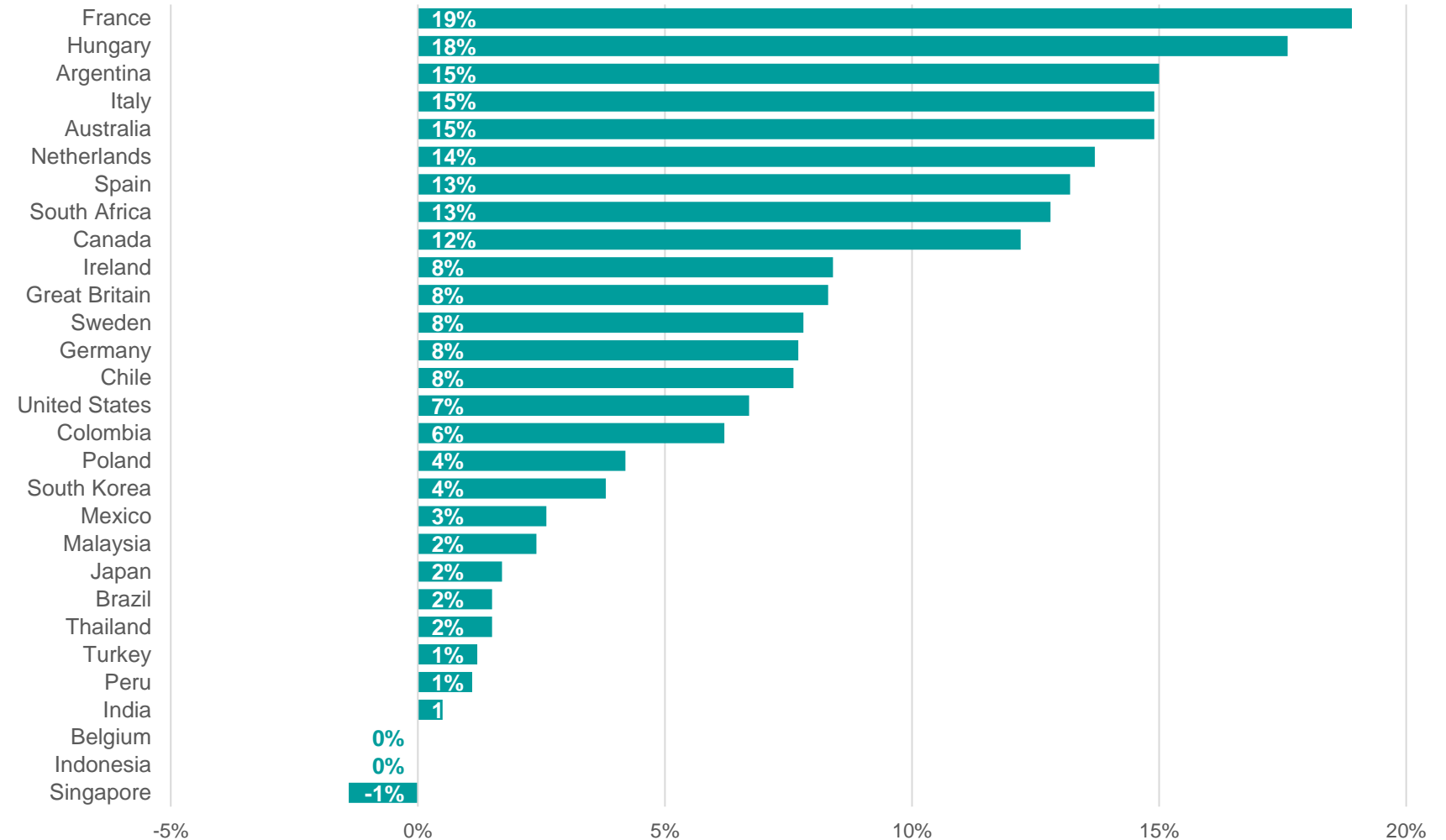
Q

Support for abortion legality

By gender

Q. Thinking of abortion, which of the following is closest to your personal opinion?

Gender divide - % Difference between women vs. men answering yes



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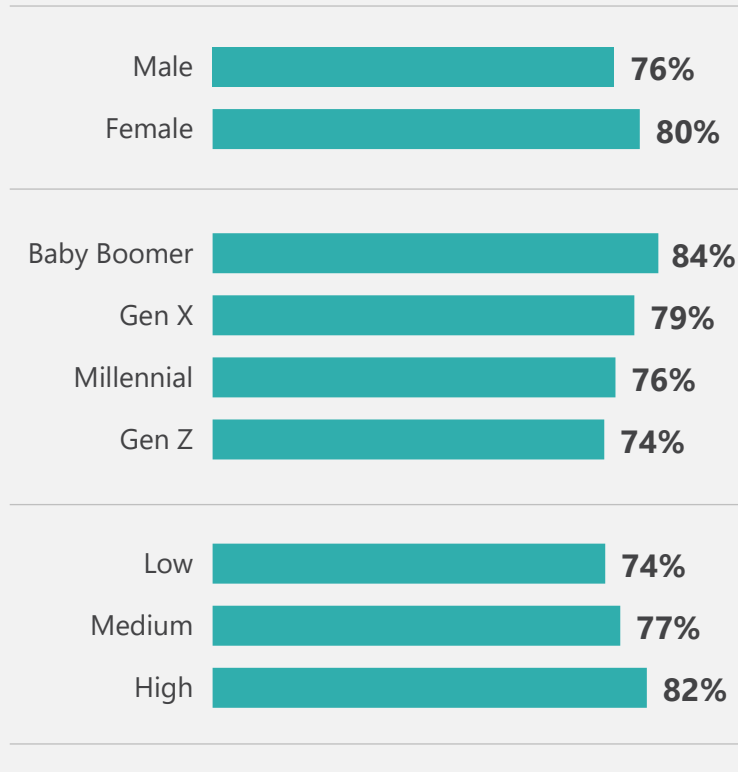
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CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN ABORTION SHOULD BE LEGAL

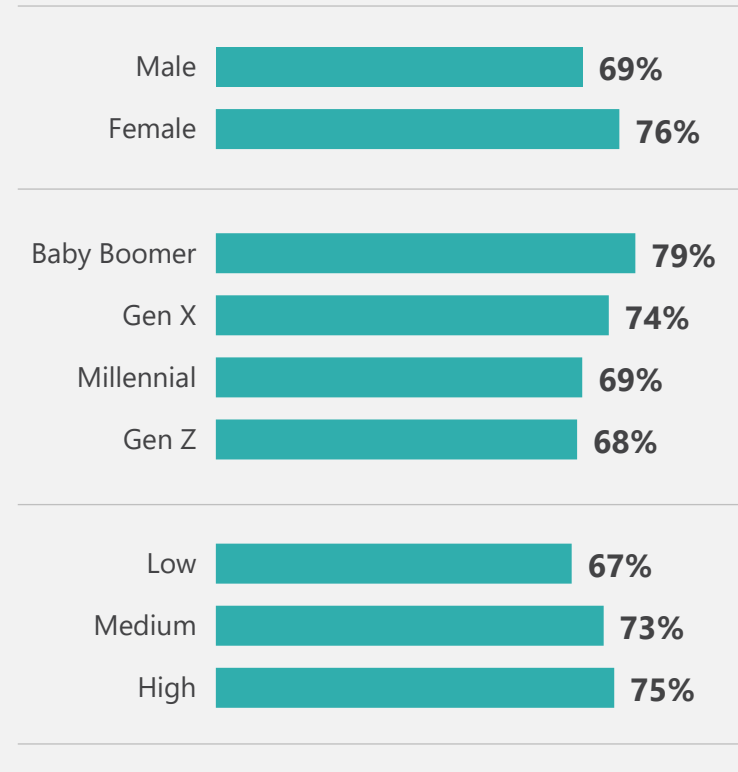
By gender, generation and education

Q. Do you think abortion should be legal in the following circumstances... (% Yes among all adults)

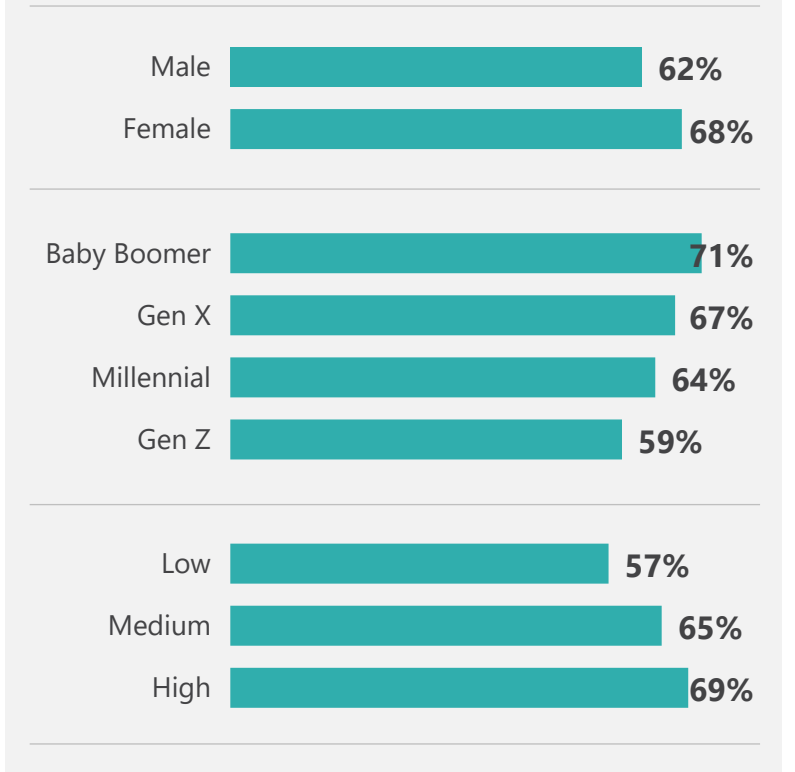
If the pregnancy threatens the woman's life or health



If the pregnancy is the result of a rape



If the baby is likely to be born with severe disabilities or health problems



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WHEN ABORTION SHOULD BE LEGAL

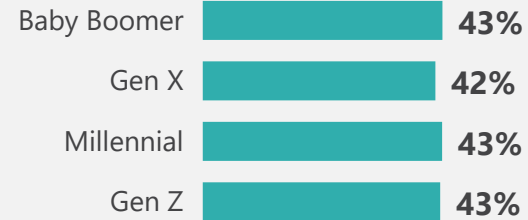
By gender, generation and education

Q. Do you think abortion should be legal for any woman ... (% Yes among all adults)

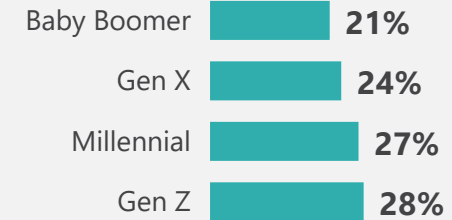
For any woman in the first 6 weeks of a pregnancy



For any woman in the first 14 weeks of a pregnancy



For any woman in the first 20 weeks of a pregnancy



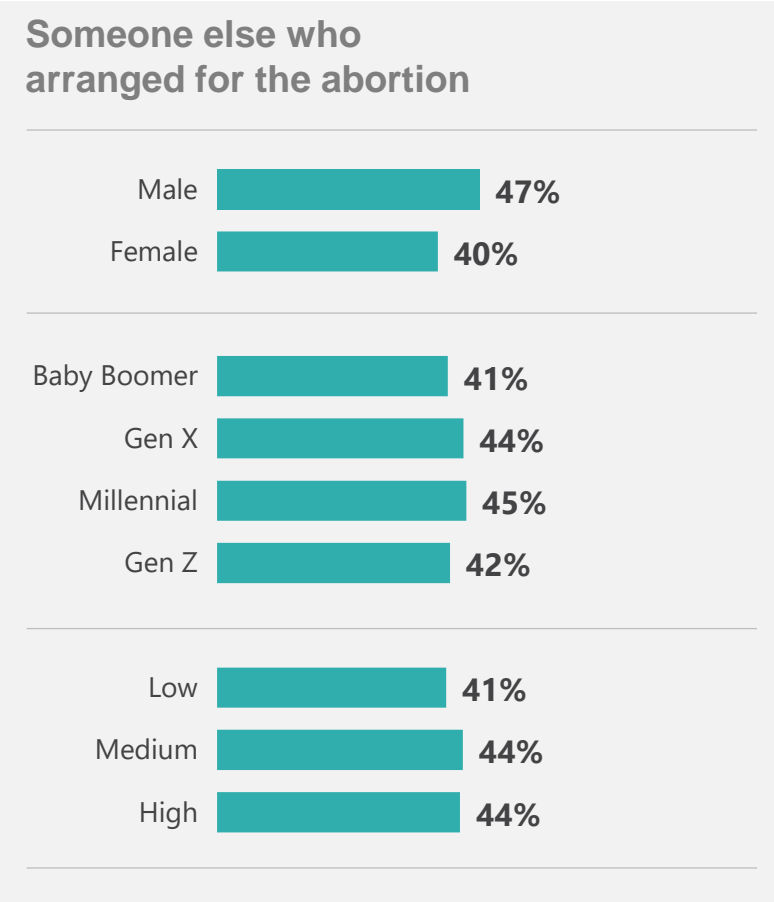
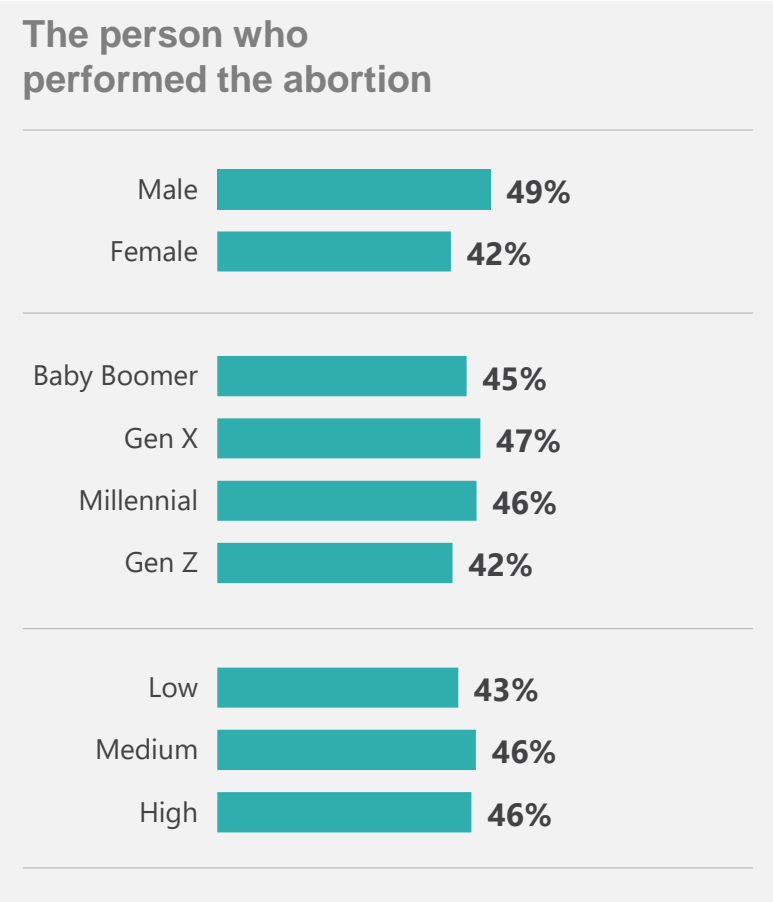
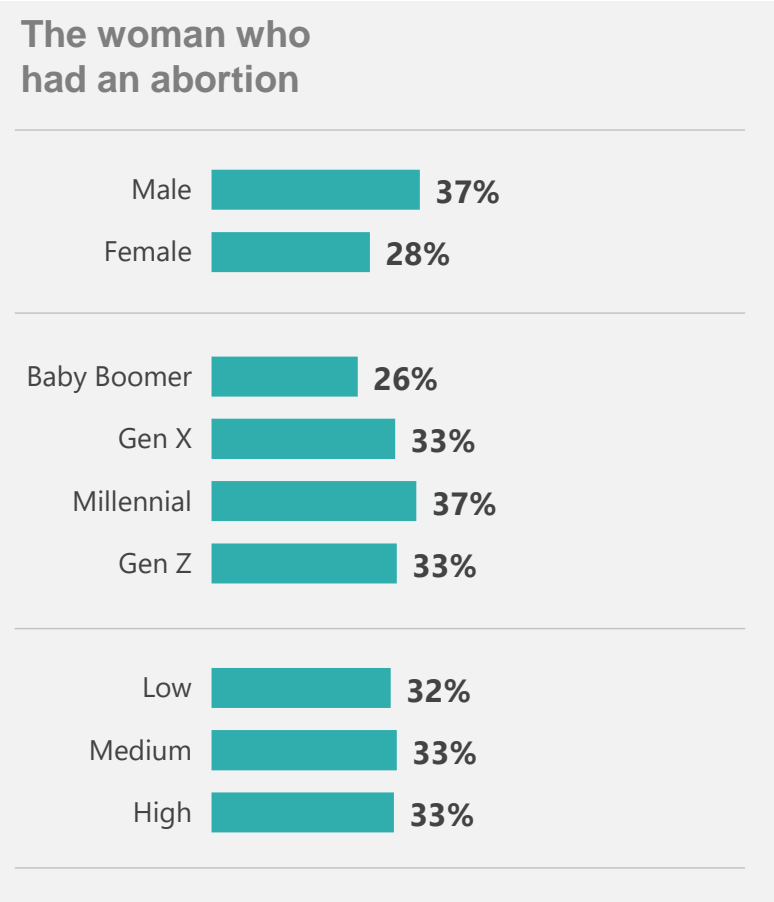
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SUPPORT FOR PENALIZING THOSE INVOLVED IN AN ILLEGAL ABORTION

By gender, generation and education

Q. If an abortion was carried out in a situation where it is illegal, do you think each of the following should face a penalty? (% Yes among all adults)



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Methodology

These are the findings of a 29-country Ipsos survey conducted June 23 – July 7, 2023, among 23,248 adults aged 21-74 in Indonesia and Singapore, 20-74 in Thailand, 18-74 in the United States, Canada, the Republic of Ireland, Malaysia, South Africa, and Turkey, and 16-74 in other countries, via Ipsos's Global Advisor online survey platform.

The sample consists of approximately 2,000 individuals in Japan, 1,000 individuals in Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Mexico, Singapore, Spain, and the U.S., and 500 individuals in Argentina, Belgium, Chile, Colombia, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Thailand, and Turkey.

The sample in India consists of approximately 2,200 individuals, of whom approximately 1,800 were interviewed face-to-face and 400 were interviewed online.

The samples in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, and the U.S. can be taken as representative of these countries' general adult population under the age of 75.

The samples in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, and Turkey are more urban, more educated, and/or more affluent than the general population. The survey results for these markets should be viewed as reflecting the views of the more "connected" segment of their population.

India's sample represents a large subset of its urban population – social economic classes A, B and C in metros and tiers 1-3 town classes across all four zones.

The data is weighted so that each market's sample composition best reflects the demographic profile of the adult population according to the most recent census data.

"The Global Country Average" reflects the average result of all the countries and markets where the survey was conducted that year. It has not been adjusted to the population size of each country or market and is not intended to suggest a total result.

Where results do not sum to 100 or the 'difference' appears to be +/-1 more/less than the actual, this may be due to rounding, multiple responses or the exclusion of don't knows or not stated responses.

The precision of Ipsos online polls is calculated using a credibility interval with a poll of 1,000 accurate to +/- 3.5 percentage points and of 500 accurate to +/- 4.8 percentage points. For more information on Ipsos's use of credibility intervals, please visit the Ipsos website.

The publication of these findings abides by local rules and regulations.

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“Game Changers” – our tagline – summarises our ambition to help our 5,000 clients to navigate more easily our deeply changing world.

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GAME CHANGERS

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At Ipsos we believe our clients need more than a data supplier, they need a partner who can produce accurate and relevant information and turn it into actionable truth.

This is why our passionately curious experts not only provide the most precise measurement, but shape it to provide True Understanding of Society, Markets and People.

To do this we use the best of science, technology and know-how and apply the principles of security, simplicity, speed and substance to everything we do.

So that our clients can act faster, smarter and bolder. Ultimately, success comes down to a simple truth:
You act better when you are sure.

