

A Barometer of Modern Morals
Sex, Drugs and the 1040

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MARCH 28, 2006

- Is cheating on your taxes worse than cheating on your spouse?
- Excessive drinking worse than smoking pot?
- And other questions of right and wrong...

Paul Taylor, Executive Vice President
Cary Funk, Senior Project Director
Peyton Craighill, Project Director

MEDIA INQUIRIES CONTACT:
Pew Research Center
202 419 4328
<http://pewresearch.org>

PewResearchCenter
A Social Trends Report

Sex, Drugs and the 1040

Cheating on your taxes is almost as bad as cheating on your spouse.

Drinking excessively is worse than smoking marijuana.

Engaging in homosexual behavior and having an abortion are equally fraught.

Telling a lie to spare someone’s feelings is worse than gambling.

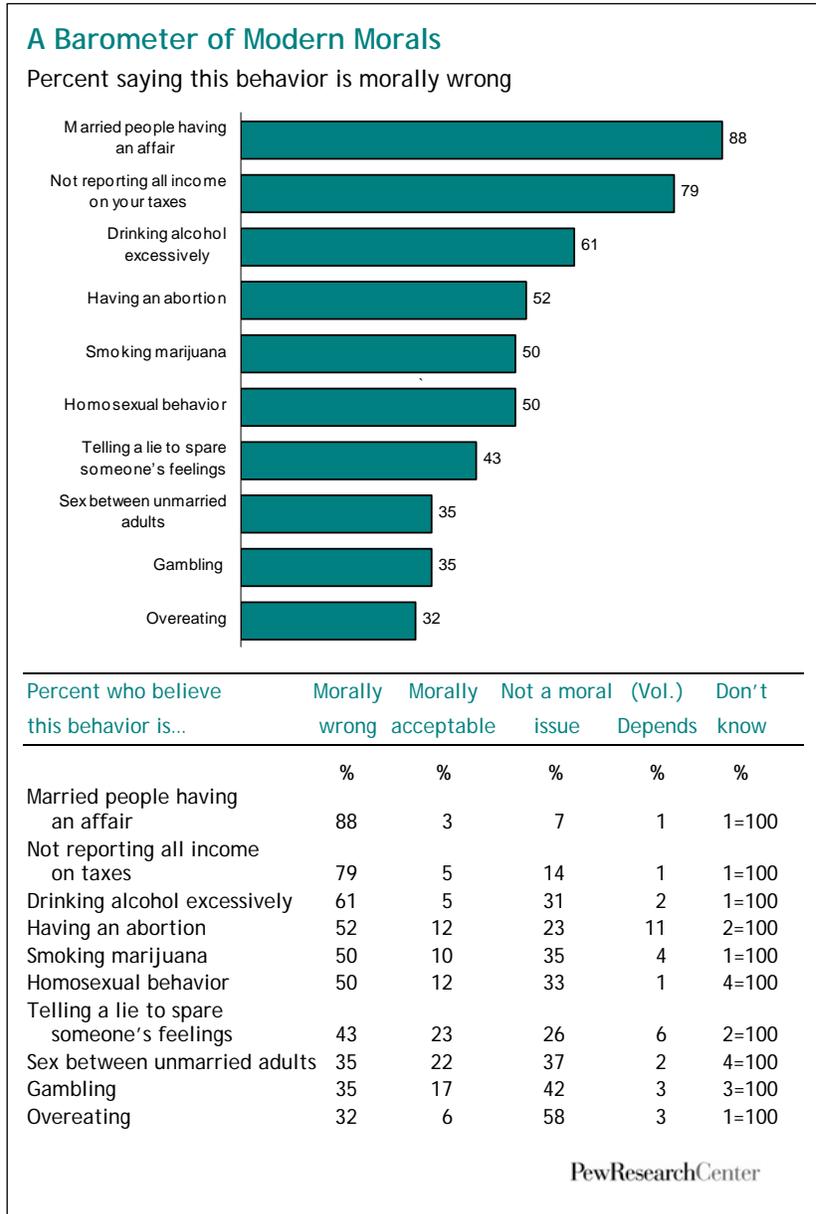
Sex between unmarried adults is more objectionable than overeating (but not by much).

Those edicts aren’t drawn from some new millennium user’s guide to morality. Rather, they represent the collective judgment of the American public when asked in a Pew Research Center survey to assess the moral dimensions of different kinds of behaviors.

Survey respondents were read a list of ten behaviors and asked whether, in their personal opinion, each one is “morally acceptable, morally wrong, or not a moral issue.”

The survey, by design, covered a wide range of activities, in part to avoid signaling to respondents that inclusion on the list was meant to convey a presumption of moral unacceptability.

The activity that drew the most widespread moral disapproval, 88%, was “married people having an affair,” while the one that drew the least was “overeating” – although a sizable minority (32%) said that activity was morally wrong.



The survey did not measure intensity of feelings. It's possible, therefore, that the difference between the 79% who say it's morally wrong to cheat on one's taxes and the 88% who say the same about cheating on one's spouse is greater (or smaller) than those numbers indicate. Judgments about right-and-wrong are by nature profound, and – in real life – often nuanced and situational. By contrast, this survey questionnaire is a blunt instrument.

Even so – and in admittedly coarse strokes – the alignment of responses to the ten questions paints an interesting portrait of contemporary American morality.

About that IO40

As April 15 approaches and tens of millions of Americans prepare their tax returns, they may be interested to know that eight-in-ten of their fellow citizens (79%) consider not reporting all income on one's taxes to be morally wrong, while just 5% consider it morally acceptable and 14% say it's not a moral issue.

Moral disapproval is one thing, behavior another. Earlier this year the IRS reported that in 2001 (the last year for which it had conducted such research) there was a gross “tax gap” of \$345 billion, resulting from an overall non-compliance rate of about 16 percent. Of that gap, the biggest missing slice, some \$197 billion, was from underreporting of income on individual income tax returns; most of that missing sum, in turn, resulted from underreporting of business income on those individual returns, the IRS found.

About a Different Kind of Cheating

The only behavior on the Pew list that draws more moral condemnation than cheating on one's taxes is cheating on a spouse. Some 88% say it is morally wrong for married people to have an affair, while 3% say it is morally acceptable and 7% say it is not a moral issue.

Here again, condemnation is one thing, behavior another. The General Social Survey (which is funded by the National Science Foundation) has been asking about adulterous behavior in numerous surveys since 1991. In 2004, it finds that 15% percent of those ever married say that they have had sex outside of their marriage, and that more (currently or formerly married) men (20%) than women (12%) report this behavior. (Needless to say, on a topic as sensitive as adultery, it is possible that people are not always honest when asked in a survey questionnaire about their personal behavior).

In the Pew survey, there are also some gender differences in moral judgments about adultery. Some 90% of women, compared with 85% of men, say adultery is morally wrong. Men (3%) are no more inclined than women (2%) to say it is morally acceptable, but 10 percent of men say extra-marital sex is “not a moral issue,” compared with just 5% of women who feel that way.

Men and Women, Young and Old Differ On Abortion and Homosexuality

Two moral issues that have had the greatest political resonance in recent years – homosexuality and abortion – divide the broad public in almost exactly the same way, but are seen differently by some sub-groups in the population.

Men are more morally disapproving than women of homosexuality, but both genders have similar views about abortion. Likewise, the old and the young judge the morality of these two behaviors in different ways. On the question of homosexuality, the old are more disapproving than the young. But on the question of abortion, there is no clear difference between the old and the young.

Catholics are more disapproving of abortion than they are of homosexuality. Married people are more disapproving of abortion than are those not currently married, but there is no clear difference between the married and unmarried on homosexuality.

Despite these sub-group differences, the two behaviors wind up being judged in nearly identical ways by the full population. About half of those surveyed say abortion (52%) and homosexual behavior (50%) are morally wrong, while an identical 12% say that each of these activities is morally acceptable. Another one in three (33%) say homosexuality is “not a moral issue.” Some 23% also say that about abortion, with an additional 11% volunteering an answer to the effect that “it depends on the situation.” (Of all ten behaviors tested, abortion drew the most volunteered responses of that nature.)

Differences by Age, Income, Religiosity, Ideology and Party Line Up with Differing Responses

These are the some of the traits associated with responses to the battery of ten questions:

- The groups with a majority saying that eight or more of the behaviors are morally wrong include: conservatives, frequent church-goers; white evangelical Christians, and those ages 65 and older.
- Majorities of three groups – weekly church-goers, white evangelical Christians and those ages 65 and older – say that nine of the 10 behaviors are morally wrong. Among these groups, overeating is the only behavior not judged by a majority to be morally wrong.
- Groups with a majority saying that no more than two of these behaviors are morally wrong include college graduates, people with family incomes of at least \$75,000 a year, and people who seldom or never attend religious services. For all those groups, adultery and income tax cheating are the only two behaviors that a majority judge to be morally wrong.
- There is a partisan divide in how people judge these behaviors. A majority of Republicans say seven of the ten behaviors are morally wrong; while a majority of Democrats and independents say just three of the behaviors (adultery, underreporting taxable income; drinking excessively) are morally wrong. Independents are the least inclined of the three partisan groups to view the behaviors as morally wrong and most prone to see them as “not a moral issue.”

- Some demographic factors – including gender and marital status – are not strongly correlated with views on these questions. However, there is regional pattern in the responses, with Southerners more likely than people living in the Northeast or West, and slightly more likely than those living in the Midwest, to describe the 10 behaviors as morally wrong. There are too few respondents in the survey for a substantive analysis by race and ethnicity.
- People who decline to call a behavior morally wrong don't necessarily believe it is morally acceptable. In fact, for all ten items on the list, those who say a behavior is "not a moral issue" outnumber those who say it is morally acceptable, generally by a sizable margin. A majority of all adults (58%) believe that overeating is "not a moral issue," while pluralities say this about gambling (42%) and sex between unmarried adults (37%).

About the Pew Social Trends Reports

The Pew social trends reports explore the behaviors and attitudes of Americans in key realms of their lives – family, community, health, finance, work and leisure. Reports analyze changes over time in social behaviors and probe for differences and similarities between key sub-groups in the population.

The surveys are conducted by the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan “fact tank” that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

Survey reports are the result of the collaborative effort of the social trends staff, which consists of:

- Paul Taylor, Executive Vice President
- Cary Funk, Senior Project Director
- Peyton Craighill, Project Director

About the Survey

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted with a nationally representative sample of adults, ages 18 years and older, living in continental U.S. telephone households.

- Interviews conducted February 1- 5, 2006
- 745 interviews for the half sample (1,502 interviews for the full sample)
- Margin of sampling error is plus or minus 4 percentage points for results based on the total sample at the 95% confidence level. The margin of sampling error is higher for results based on subgroups of respondents.

Survey interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International.

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

PEW SOCIAL TRENDS
FINAL TOPLINE
February 1 - 5, 2006¹

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=745]:

Q.47F2 Next, I'm going to read some behaviors. For each, please tell me whether you personally believe that it is morally acceptable, morally wrong, or is it not a moral issue. First **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**

[IF NECESSARY:] Is **[INSERT ITEM]** morally acceptable, morally wrong, or is it not a moral issue?

	Morally acceptable	Morally wrong	Not a moral issue	(VOL.) Depends on situation	Don't know /Refused
a. Having an abortion	12	52	23	11	2=100
b. Married people having an affair	3	88	7	1	1=100
c. Homosexual behavior	12	50	33	1	4=100
d. Drinking alcohol excessively	5	61	31	2	1=100
e. Gambling	17	35	42	3	3=100
f. Not reporting all income on your taxes	5	79	14	1	1=100
g. Sex between unmarried adults	22	35	37	2	4=100
h. Telling a lie to spare someone's feelings	23	43	26	6	2=100
i. Overeating	6	32	58	3	1=100
j. Smoking marijuana	10	50	35	4	1=100

¹ Q.47f2a-j were part of a larger survey conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. The full series of questions from this survey is available at <http://people-press.org/>.

Having an Abortion

Percent who believe this behavior is...

	Morally wrong	Morally acceptable	Not a moral issue	(Vol.) Depends	Don't know	N
	%	%	%	%	%	
All adults	52	12	23	11	2=100	745
Gender						
Men	54	13	21	10	2=100	359
Women	50	11	24	12	3=100	386
Age						
18-49	53	12	26	7	2=100	357
50-64	48	14	20	15	3=100	230
65+	50	9	17	21	3=100	147
Education						
College grad	40	18	29	9	4=100	304
Some college	47	13	30	8	2=100	188
High school or less	60	8	16	14	2=100	249
Family Income						
\$75,000 or more	43	15	32	7	3=100	234
\$30,000 to \$75,000	55	10	20	12	3=100	254
Less than \$30,000	57	11	18	13	1=100	180
Marital Status						
Married	56	10	22	9	3=100	447
Not married	46	15	24	13	2=100	292
Church Attendance						
Weekly or more	71	6	12	8	3=100	290
Monthly or less	44	13	24	17	2=100	246
Seldom or never	33	19	37	9	2=100	198
Religion						
White evangelical						
Protestant	73	6	6	14	1=100	173
White mainline						
Protestant	35	14	31	16	4=100	172
Catholic	57	9	21	12	2=100	173
Ideology						
Conservative	66	8	13	10	3=100	301
Moderate	47	13	27	12	1=100	291
Liberal	30	20	36	11	3=100	126
Party Identification						
Republican	68	7	15	9	1=100	242
Democrat	43	16	25	13	3=100	239
Independent	43	15	28	12	2=100	228
Region						
Northeast	44	16	26	14	0=100	128
Midwest	53	11	24	11	1=100	177
South	61	8	18	9	4=100	254
West	42	16	28	11	3=100	186

Source: Pew Research Center survey, February 1 - 5, 2006

Married People Having an Affair

Percent who believe this behavior is...

	Morally wrong	Morally acceptable	Not a moral issue	(Vol.) Depends	Don't know	N
	%	%	%	%	%	
All adults	88	3	7	1	1=100	745
Gender						
Men	85	3	10	2	*=100	359
Women	90	2	5	2	1=100	386
Age						
18-49	89	2	7	1	1=100	357
50-64	89	3	6	1	1=100	230
65+	83	4	9	3	1=100	147
Education						
College grad	87	3	7	2	1=100	304
Some college	92	2	5	1	*=100	188
High school or less	85	3	9	2	1=100	249
Family Income						
\$75,000 or more	88	4	6	2	0=100	234
\$30,000 to \$75,000	88	2	8	1	1=100	254
Less than \$30,000	87	3	8	1	1=100	180
Marital Status						
Married	90	1	6	2	1=100	447
Not married	85	5	8	1	1=100	292
Church Attendance						
Weekly or more	90	1	5	3	1=100	290
Monthly or less	88	4	7	1	0=100	246
Seldom or never	84	2	11	1	2=100	198
Religion						
White evangelical protestant	95	2	2	1	*=100	173
White mainline protestant	88	3	7	1	1=100	172
Catholic	85	2	8	5	*=100	173
Ideology						
Conservative	89	2	7	1	1=100	301
Moderate	90	2	4	3	1=100	291
Liberal	81	5	13	1	*=100	126
Party Identification						
Republican	94	2	4	*	*=100	242
Democrat	83	4	8	4	1=100	239
Independent	87	2	9	1	1=100	228
Region						
Northeast	84	7	5	4	0=100	128
Midwest	90	3	5	1	1=100	177
South	92	1	6	1	*=100	254
West	82	2	13	1	2=100	186

Source: Pew Research Center survey, February 1 - 5, 2006

Homosexual Behavior

Percent who believe this behavior is...

	Morally wrong	Morally acceptable	Not a moral issue	(Vol.) Depends	Don't know	N
	%	%	%	%	%	
All adults	50	12	33	1	4=100	745
Gender						
Men	58	9	29	1	3=100	359
Women	43	15	36	2	4=100	386
Age						
18-49	48	13	36	*	3=100	357
50-64	51	11	33	3	2=100	230
65+	60	10	19	3	8=100	147
Education						
College Grad	36	17	42	1	4=100	304
Some college	42	20	37	*	1=100	188
High school or less	63	6	24	2	5=100	249
Family Income						
\$75,000 or more	39	19	39	1	2=100	234
\$30,000 to \$75,000	52	11	31	2	4=100	254
Less than \$30,000	56	8	32	1	3=100	180
Marital Status						
Married	52	11	33	1	3=100	447
Not married	48	14	32	2	4=100	292
Church Attendance						
Weekly or more	66	6	21	2	5=100	290
Monthly or less	46	15	36	1	2=100	246
Seldom or never	34	18	45	*	3=100	198
Religion						
White evangelical protestant	75	6	14	1	4=100	173
White mainline protestant	45	13	37	1	4=100	172
Catholic	43	13	39	2	3=100	173
Ideology						
Conservative	67	7	22	1	3=100	301
Moderate	45	13	37	1	4=100	291
Liberal	27	25	45	1	2=100	126
Party Identification						
Republican	64	9	23	2	2=100	242
Democrat	44	16	35	1	4=100	239
Independent	42	14	39	1	4=100	228
Region						
Northeast	36	16	42	3	3=100	128
Midwest	49	10	34	1	6=100	177
South	64	10	24	0	2=100	254
West	43	15	37	3	2=100	186

Source: Pew Research Center survey, February 1 - 5, 2006

Drinking Alcohol Excessively

Percent who believe this behavior is...

	Morally wrong	Morally acceptable	Not a moral issue	(Vol.) Depends	Don't know	N
	%	%	%	%	%	
All adults	61	5	31	2	1=100	745
Gender						
Men	59	7	31	2	1=100	359
Women	63	3	31	2	1=100	386
Age						
18-49	55	5	37	2	1=100	357
50-64	64	4	28	2	2=100	230
65+	80	3	15	2	*=100	147
Education						
College Grad	43	4	49	3	1=100	304
Some college	59	8	31	2	*=100	188
High school or less	74	4	20	1	1=100	249
Family Income						
\$75,000 or more	48	5	44	2	1=100	234
\$30,000 to \$75,000	62	4	31	2	1=100	254
Less than \$30,000	72	5	20	2	1=100	180
Marital Status						
Married	62	4	31	2	1=100	447
Not married	61	6	30	2	1=100	292
Church Attendance						
Weekly or more	76	2	19	2	1=100	290
Monthly or less	58	7	33	2	*=100	246
Seldom or never	44	6	45	3	2=100	198
Religion						
White evangelical protestant	82	2	15	1	0=100	173
White mainline protestant	58	5	32	2	3=100	172
Catholic	58	4	34	4	*=100	173
Ideology						
Conservative	71	3	24	1	1=100	301
Moderate	58	6	33	3	*=100	291
Liberal	50	7	40	2	1=100	126
Party Identification						
Republican	67	6	26	1	*=100	242
Democrat	63	5	28	2	2=100	239
Independent	57	3	37	2	1=100	228
Region						
Northeast	58	5	35	2	0=100	128
Midwest	58	4	35	2	1=100	177
South	70	4	23	2	1=100	254
West	55	5	36	2	2=100	186

Source: Pew Research Center survey, February 1 - 5, 2006

Gambling

Percent who believe this behavior is...

	Morally wrong	Morally acceptable	Not a moral issue	(Vol.) Depends	Don't know	N
	%	%	%	%	%	
All adults	35	17	42	3	3=100	745
Gender						
Men	33	20	42	3	2=100	359
Women	38	13	43	3	3=100	386
Age						
18-49	30	19	45	3	3=100	357
50-64	33	13	48	3	3=100	230
65+	52	15	27	3	3=100	147
Education						
College Grad	24	17	53	3	3=100	304
Some college	26	17	50	5	2=100	188
High school or less	46	17	33	1	3=100	249
Family Income						
\$75,000 or more	23	19	53	2	3=100	234
\$30,000 to \$75,000	37	16	43	3	1=100	254
Less than \$30,000	43	16	34	4	3=100	180
Marital Status						
Married	39	16	39	4	2=100	447
Not married	30	19	47	2	2=100	292
Church Attendance						
Weekly or more	50	13	31	3	3=100	290
Monthly or less	29	21	46	3	1=100	246
Seldom or never	21	17	56	2	4=100	198
Religion						
White evangelical protestant	57	7	29	4	3=100	173
White mainline protestant	30	20	46	2	2=100	172
Catholic	24	24	48	3	1=100	173
Ideology						
Conservative	47	14	35	2	2=100	301
Moderate	30	18	45	4	3=100	291
Liberal	19	17	58	4	2=100	126
Party Identification						
Republican	43	16	37	3	1=100	242
Democrat	34	22	38	2	4=100	239
Independent	27	11	55	4	3=100	228
Region						
Northeast	23	19	52	4	2=100	128
Midwest	35	14	46	2	3=100	177
South	49	17	30	2	2=100	254
West	26	17	49	4	4=100	186

Source: Pew Research Center survey, February 1 - 5, 2006

Not Reporting All Income on Your Taxes

Percent who believe this behavior is...

	Morally wrong	Morally acceptable	Not a moral issue	(Vol.) Depends	Don't know	N
	%	%	%	%	%	
All adults	79	5	14	1	1=100	745
Gender						
Men	79	3	16	1	1=100	359
Women	79	6	13	1	1=100	386
Age						
18-49	74	6	18	1	1=100	357
50-64	83	3	12	2	*=100	230
65+	88	3	6	2	1=100	147
Education						
College Grad	79	3	15	2	1=100	304
Some college	75	4	20	0	1=100	188
High school or less	80	6	11	1	2=100	249
Family Income						
\$75,000 or more	81	3	15	1	*=100	234
\$30,000 to \$75,000	78	5	15	*	2=100	254
Less than \$30,000	76	5	17	1	1=100	180
Marital Status						
Married	81	4	13	1	1=100	447
Not married	76	6	16	1	1=100	292
Church Attendance						
Weekly or more	87	2	9	1	1=100	290
Monthly or less	74	8	16	1	1=100	246
Seldom or never	73	5	21	*	1=100	198
Religion						
White evangelical protestant	92	3	5	0	0=100	173
White mainline protestant	80	3	13	2	2=100	172
Catholic	78	4	17	1	0=100	173
Ideology						
Conservative	86	4	8	1	1=100	301
Moderate	77	5	16	1	1=100	291
Liberal	68	6	23	2	1=100	126
Party Identification						
Republican	87	3	10	0	*=100	242
Democrat	81	6	11	1	1=100	239
Independent	73	3	22	1	1=100	228
Region						
Northeast	79	5	14	2	0=100	128
Midwest	74	6	19	1	0=100	177
South	84	2	11	1	2=100	254
West	77	6	14	1	2=100	186

Source: Pew Research Center survey, February 1 - 5, 2006

Sex Between Unmarried Adults

Percent who believe this behavior is...

	Morally wrong	Morally acceptable	Not a moral issue	(Vol.) Depends	Don't know	N
	%	%	%	%	%	
All adults	35	22	37	2	4=100	745
Gender						
Men	36	23	35	3	3=100	359
Women	35	20	39	2	4=100	386
Age						
18-49	30	26	40	2	2=100	357
50-64	35	19	37	5	4=100	230
65+	54	10	27	2	7=100	147
Education						
College Grad	26	24	46	1	3=100	304
Some college	31	22	41	1	5=100	188
High school or less	43	20	30	4	3=100	249
Family Income						
\$75,000 or more	24	24	47	1	4=100	234
\$30,000 to \$75,000	36	20	37	2	5=100	254
Less than \$30,000	39	23	33	4	1=100	180
Marital Status						
Married	38	20	36	2	4=100	447
Not married	32	23	39	3	3=100	292
Church Attendance						
Weekly or more	60	11	25	2	2=100	290
Monthly or less	22	27	44	3	4=100	246
Seldom or never	18	30	47	1	4=100	198
Religion						
White evangelical protestant	60	8	25	5	2=100	173
White mainline protestant	24	30	39	2	5=100	172
Catholic	27	22	47	2	2=100	173
Ideology						
Conservative	52	15	29	1	3=100	301
Moderate	27	23	43	3	4=100	291
Liberal	20	31	44	2	3=100	126
Party Identification						
Republican	50	18	29	1	2=100	242
Democrat	30	24	40	2	4=100	239
Independent	25	24	43	4	4=100	228
Region						
Northeast	20	28	46	3	3=100	128
Midwest	35	17	44	*	4=100	177
South	47	21	27	3	2=100	254
West	31	23	39	2	5=100	186

Source: Pew Research Center survey, February 1 - 5, 2006

Telling a Lie to Spare Someone's Feelings

Percent who believe this behavior is...

	Morally wrong	Morally acceptable	Not a moral issue	(Vol.) Depends	Don't know	N
	%	%	%	%	%	
All adults	43	23	26	6	2=100	745
Gender						
Men	43	22	27	6	2=100	359
Women	42	25	24	7	2=100	386
Age						
18-49	42	26	28	3	1=100	357
50-64	39	21	25	11	4=100	230
65+	50	19	18	9	4=100	147
Education						
College Grad	36	26	32	5	1=100	304
Some college	40	22	31	6	1=100	188
High school or less	48	22	20	7	3=100	249
Family Income						
\$75,000 or more	33	26	35	4	2=100	234
\$30,000 to \$75,000	41	27	26	6	*=100	254
Less than \$30,000	52	20	18	8	2=100	180
Marital Status						
Married	44	21	27	6	2=100	447
Not married	41	26	24	7	2=100	292
Church Attendance						
Weekly or more	55	15	21	6	3=100	290
Monthly or less	39	27	26	7	1=100	246
Seldom or never	29	32	33	4	2=100	198
Religion						
White evangelical protestant	58	16	19	3	4=100	173
White mainline protestant	36	28	26	8	2=100	172
Catholic	37	29	26	6	2=100	173
Ideology						
Conservative	54	15	24	6	1=100	301
Moderate	35	31	26	6	2=100	291
Liberal	31	28	30	6	5=100	126
Party Identification						
Republican	48	21	26	4	1=100	242
Democrat	40	25	23	10	2=100	239
Independent	37	26	29	5	3=100	228
Region						
Northeast	33	30	30	7	*=100	128
Midwest	41	24	28	3	4=100	177
South	54	18	21	6	1=100	254
West	37	25	26	9	3=100	186

Source: Pew Research Center survey, February 1 - 5, 2006

Overeating

Percent who believe this behavior is...

	Morally wrong	Morally acceptable	Not a moral issue	(Vol.) Depends	Don't know	N
	%	%	%	%	%	
All adults	32	6	58	3	1=100	745
Gender						
Men	32	7	55	4	2=100	359
Women	31	5	60	3	1=100	386
Age						
18-49	29	5	61	3	2=100	357
50-64	32	6	57	3	2=100	230
65+	40	7	48	4	1=100	147
Education						
College Grad	17	4	74	2	3=100	304
Some college	27	8	60	4	1=100	188
High school or less	42	6	47	4	1=100	249
Family Income						
\$75,000 or more	19	6	71	1	3=100	234
\$30,000 to \$75,000	29	9	58	3	1=100	254
Less than \$30,000	45	4	45	5	1=100	180
Marital Status						
Married	29	6	62	2	1=100	447
Not married	35	6	53	5	1=100	292
Church Attendance						
Weekly or more	42	5	47	5	1=100	290
Monthly or less	30	7	60	2	1=100	246
Seldom or never	18	7	70	3	2=100	198
Religion						
White evangelical protestant	46	4	45	4	1=100	173
White mainline protestant	17	7	73	2	1=100	172
Catholic	31	8	55	3	3=100	173
Ideology						
Conservative	39	4	52	3	2=100	301
Moderate	26	9	61	3	1=100	291
Liberal	21	6	68	3	2=100	126
Party Identification						
Republican	38	4	56	1	1=100	242
Democrat	34	8	50	5	3=100	239
Independent	23	5	68	3	1=100	228
Region						
Northeast	24	9	61	4	2=100	128
Midwest	31	4	61	3	1=100	177
South	40	6	48	4	2=100	254
West	27	5	66	1	1=100	186

Source: Pew Research Center survey, February 1 - 5, 2006

Smoking Marijuana

Percent who believe this behavior is...

	Morally wrong	Morally acceptable	Not a moral issue	(Vol.) Depends	Don't know	N
	%	%	%	%	%	
All adults	50	10	35	4	1=100	745
Gender						
Men	51	10	35	3	1=100	359
Women	50	10	35	4	1=100	386
Age						
18-49	44	11	41	3	1=100	357
50-64	51	8	33	6	2=100	230
65+	74	6	16	3	1=100	147
Education						
College Grad	37	8	52	1	2=100	304
Some college	42	9	45	4	*=100	188
High school or less	63	10	20	5	2=100	249
Family Income						
\$75,000 or more	36	7	54	2	1=100	234
\$30,000 to \$75,000	50	10	33	6	1=100	254
Less than \$30,000	60	10	25	3	2=100	180
Marital Status						
Married	52	8	37	2	1=100	447
Not married	50	11	32	5	2=100	292
Church Attendance						
Weekly or more	66	5	24	3	2=100	290
Monthly or less	45	13	38	4	*=100	246
Seldom or never	37	11	47	4	1=100	198
Religion						
White evangelical protestant	68	5	21	6	0=100	173
White mainline protestant	47	14	35	2	2=100	172
Catholic	51	6	38	2	3=100	173
Ideology						
Conservative	65	7	24	3	1=100	301
Moderate	48	8	39	4	1=100	291
Liberal	29	19	50	1	1=100	126
Party Identification						
Republican	65	5	28	2	0=100	242
Democrat	47	11	33	6	3=100	239
Independent	41	11	45	2	1=100	228
Region						
Northeast	44	14	39	2	1=100	128
Midwest	50	9	37	3	1=100	177
South	61	5	29	5	*=100	254
West	40	14	38	5	3=100	186

Source: Pew Research Center survey, February 1 - 5, 2006