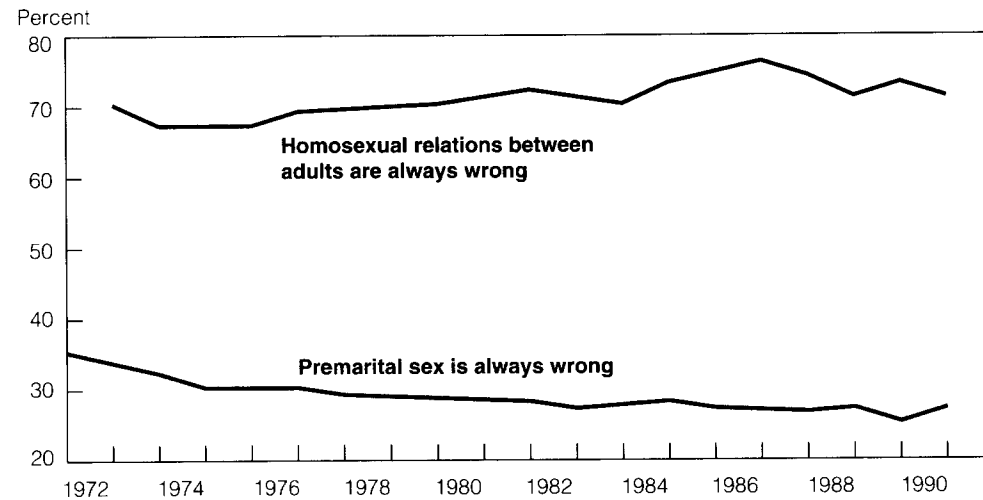


# VIEWS ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY

Since 1973, the National Opinion Research Center has asked Americans whether homosexual relations are wrong or not. Opinions have remained stable: 70 percent said "always wrong" in 1973, 71 percent gave that response in 1991. Over the same period, premarital sex has become more acceptable.

Question: **There's been a lot of discussion about the way morals and attitudes about sex are changing in this country. If a man and a woman have sex relations before marriage, do you think it is always wrong, almost always wrong, wrong only sometimes, or not wrong at all?**

Question: **What about sexual relations between two adults of the same sex—do you think it is always wrong, almost always wrong, wrong only sometimes, or not wrong at all?**



## "Always wrong" response

	Homosexual relations	Premarital sex
1972	—	35%
1973	70%	—
1974	67	32
1975	—	30
1976	67	—
1977	69	30
1978	—	29
1980	70	—
1982	72	28
1983	—	27
1984	70	—
1985	73	28
1986	—	27
1987	76	—
1988	74	26
1989	71	27
1990	73	25
1991	71	27

Source: Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center, latest that of February–April, 1991.

## SUBGROUP RESPONSES

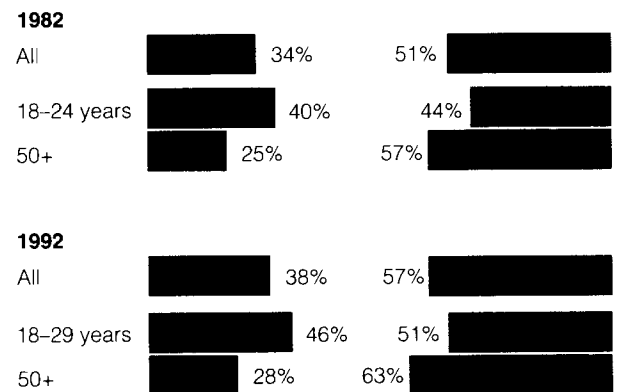
The figure above shows the percentage of Americans who say that homosexual relations are always wrong. Four percent say they are almost always wrong, 5% wrong only sometimes, and 14% percent take the view that they are not wrong at all. Looking at various subgroups we find that

- \* Women are less likely (69%) than men (74%) to say always wrong.
- \* In 1973, 55% of 18- to 29-year olds said always wrong; today, 67% do.
- \* 18- to 29-year-olds are less likely (67%) to say homosexual relations are always wrong than those 60 and over (80%), but solid majorities of both groups concur.
- \* Solid majorities of Democrats (68%), independents (67%), and Republicans (79%) say always wrong.
- \* Seventy-eight percent of veterans, compared to 72% of nonvets, say always wrong.
- \* Attitudes correlate strongly with education. Eighty-five percent of those with less than a high school diploma say always wrong compared to only 40% of those with a postgraduate education. Women are less likely to take the always wrong position than men in each education category.
- \* Combining age and education, we see that those under 45 with no college (76%) say always wrong; 86% of those over 45 with no college do.

Question: **Do you feel that homosexuality should be considered an acceptable alternative lifestyle or not?**

## Homosexuality should be considered an acceptable alternative lifestyle

Should not

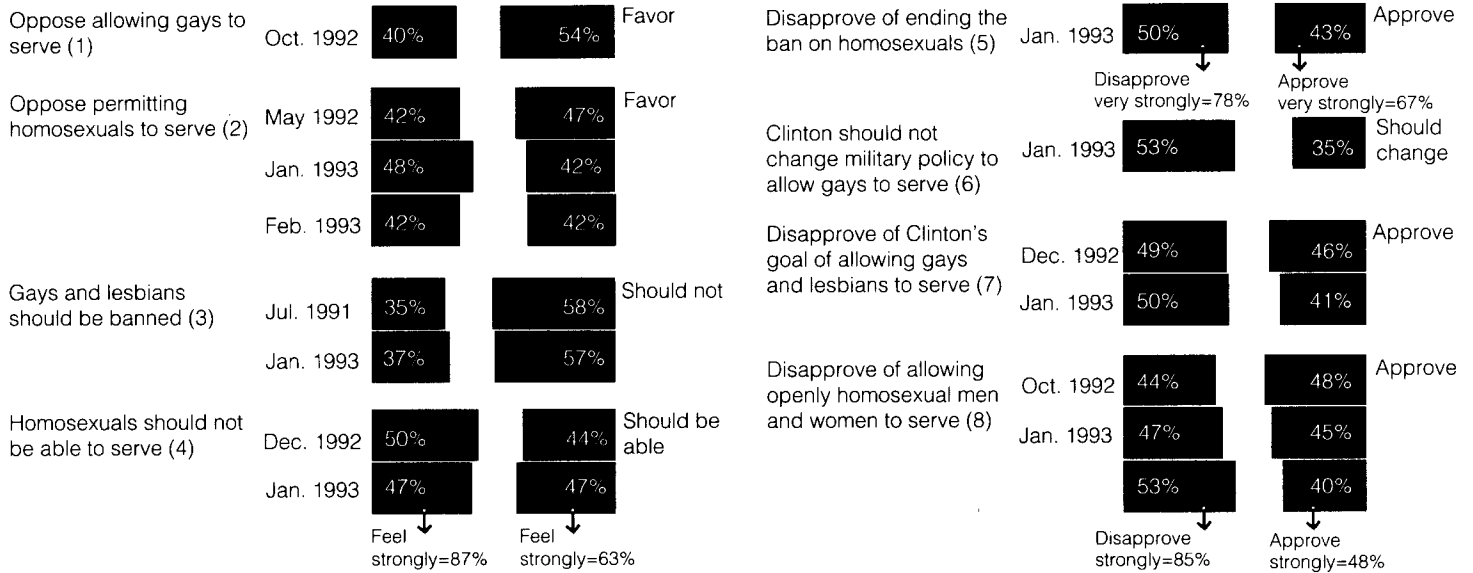


Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, latest that of June 4-8, 1992.

Note: 1989-91 data combined.  
Source: Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center.

Questions about whether the ban on homosexuals in the military should be lifted produce inconsistent responses. Opponents of lifting the ban appear to feel more strongly than those who feel it should be lifted. The Gallup data show that there are occupations for which the public believes sexual orientation should not be a factor in hiring.

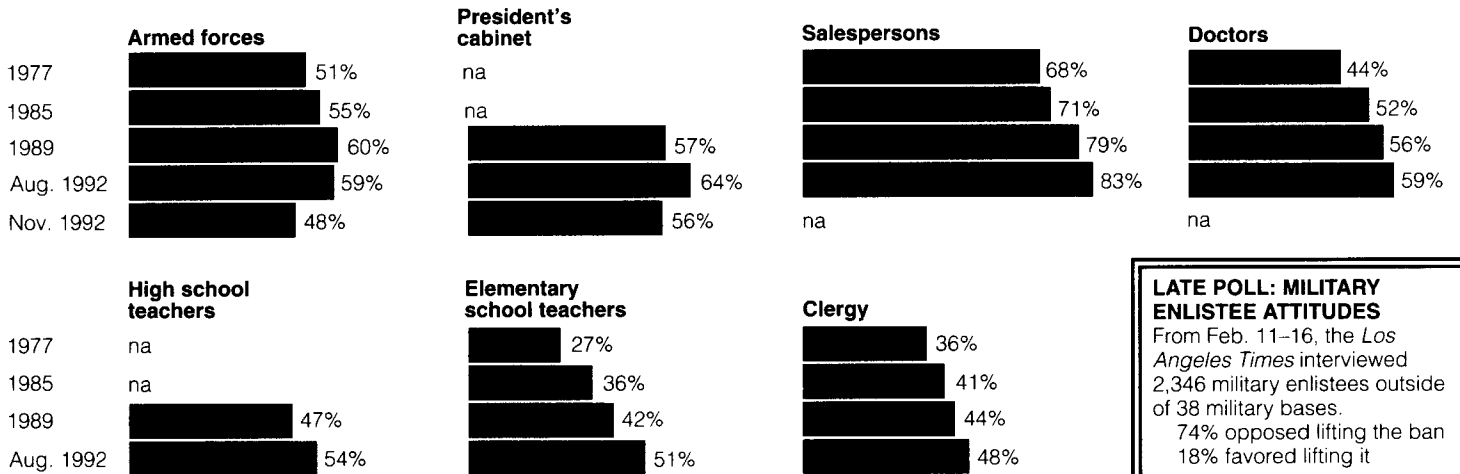
### The Current Controversy: Homosexuals and Military Service



**Question wordings and sources:** Do you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to serve in the military? (1=Louis Harris and Associates) Do you favor or oppose permitting homosexuals to serve in the military? (2=CBS News/New York Times) Currently, the United States military branches do not allow gays and lesbians to enlist. Do you think that gays and lesbians should be banned from the military or not? (3=Yankelovich Partners for Time and CNN) Do you think homosexuals should or should not be allowed to serve in the military? (4=ABC News/Washington Post) Do you approve or disapprove of ending the ban on homosexuals serving in the military? (5=Gallup/USA Today/CNN) Do you think Bill Clinton should or should not change military policy to allow gays to serve in the armed forces? (6=Gallup for Newsweek) Do you approve or disapprove of Bill Clinton's goal of allowing gays and lesbians to serve in the U.S. military? (7=NBC News/Wall Street Journal) Do you approve or disapprove of allowing openly homosexual men and women to serve in the armed forces of the United States? (8=Los Angeles Times).

Question: **Do you think homosexuals should or should not be hired for each of the following occupations?**

#### Homosexuals should be hired for...



**LATE POLL: MILITARY ENLISTEE ATTITUDES**  
 From Feb. 11-16, the Los Angeles Times interviewed 2,346 military enlistees outside of 38 military bases. 74% opposed lifting the ban 18% favored lifting it

**Note:** Na=not asked.  
**Source:** Surveys by the Gallup Organization, latest that of November 19-20, 1992, for Newsweek.