

CBS NEWS POLL
The Terri Schiavo Case
March 21-22, 2005

q1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

| | ** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ** | | | |
|------------|-------------------------|-----|-------|--------|
| | ***Gender*** | | | |
| | Total | Men | Women | Feb05b |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Approve | 43 | 45 | 41 | 49 |
| Disapprove | 48 | 47 | 50 | 44 |
| DK/NA | 9 | 8 | 9 | 7 |

q2 What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| War in Iraq | 26 | 19 | 31 | 19 |
| Economy/jobs | 15 | 16 | 13 | 20 |
| Terrorism (general) | 6 | 8 | 3 | 6 |
| Social Security | 6 | 4 | 7 | 5 |
| Health Care | 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 |
| Budget Deficit /Nat'l Debt | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| Poverty / Homelessness | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Moral Values/Family Values | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Education | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| Defense / Military | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Foreign aid | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| The President/G.W. Bush | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Crime | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Other | 17 | 22 | 15 | 18 |
| DK/NA | 6 | 5 | 7 | 5 |

q3 How about the economy? Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy?

| | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|
| Approve | 36 | 39 | 33 | 38 |
| Disapprove | 53 | 49 | 56 | 54 |
| DK/NA | 11 | 12 | 11 | 8 |

q4 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?

| | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|
| Approve | 39 | 44 | 35 | 45 |
| Disapprove | 53 | 47 | 58 | 50 |
| DK/NA | 8 | 9 | 7 | 5 |

q5 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

| | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|
| Approve | 34 | 34 | 35 | 41 |
| Disapprove | 49 | 50 | 49 | 44 |
| DK/NA | 17 | 16 | 16 | 15 |

q6 Which of these comes closest to your view -- abortion should be generally available to those who want it, OR abortion should be available but under stricter limits than it is now, OR abortion should not be permitted?

| Feb05b | ** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ** | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-----|-------|
| | Total | Men | Women |
| % | % | % | % |
| Generally available 35 | 35 | 39 | 32 |
| Available but with limits 40 | 37 | 35 | 39 |
| Should not be permitted 23 | 25 | 23 | 27 |
| DK/NA 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 |

q8 Suppose a patient is in a coma, doctors say brain activity has stopped and the patient is getting food and water through a feeding tube. Should a close family member have the right to tell the doctor to take away the feeding tube and let the person die, or not?

| | Total | Men | Women | |
|-------------------------------|-------|-----|-------|-------------------|
| Allow feed tube removal 81 | 73 | 77 | 69 | A pril 1990 |
| Not allow 13 | 17 | 13 | 21 | |
| DK/NA 6 | 10 | 10 | 10 | |

q9 Suppose you were in a coma with no brain activity and were being kept alive by a feeding tube. Would you want your doctor to remove the feeding tube and let you die, or not?

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|----|
| Want removal of feed tubes 85 | 82 | 85 | 79 |
| Would not want 11 | 14 | 12 | 16 |
| DK/NA 4 | 4 | 3 | 5 |

q10 Suppose a patient is in a coma or vegetative state, and there is no legal document stating what the patient would like done for them medically. If members of the family do not agree about what to do, who do you think ought to have the final decision -- the patient's spouse, the patient's parents, or the patient's adult children if there are any?

| | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|
| Spouse | 62 | 64 | 61 |
| Parents | 15 | 17 | 14 |
| Adult children | 10 | 6 | 14 |
| Doctor (vol.) | 1 | 1 | 1 |

DK/NA 12 12 10

q13 Terri Schiavo has been in a persistent vegetative state since 1990. Terri's husband says his wife would not want to be kept alive under these circumstances and he wants her feeding tube removed. Terri's parents believe her condition could improve and they want the feeding tube to remain. How closely have you been following news about the case -- have you been following it very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not at all?

| | | | |
|------------------|----|----|----|
| Very closely | 32 | 28 | 36 |
| Somewhat closely | 44 | 45 | 44 |
| Not too closely | 17 | 21 | 14 |
| Not at all | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| DK/NA | 1 | 0 | 0 |

q14 What do you think should have happened in this case -- should the feeding tube have been removed or should it have remained?

PARTIAL SAMPLE

Gender

| | Total | Men | Women |
|-------------------|-------|-----|-------|
| | % | % | % |
| Should be removed | 61 | 62 | 59 |
| Should remain | 28 | 28 | 29 |
| DK/NA | 11 | 10 | 12 |

q19 What should happen now? Should the feeding tube be re-inserted, or not?

| | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|
| Reinsert | 27 | 25 | 28 |
| Not | 66 | 69 | 62 |
| DK/NA | 7 | 6 | 10 |

q15 How strongly do you feel about your views on this issue -- strongly, or not so strongly?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|----|----|
| Strongly | 78 | 75 | 80 |
| Not so strongly | 19 | 21 | 16 |
| DK/NA | 3 | 4 | 4 |

q16 Do you think this case ought to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, or not?

| | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|
| Ought to | 37 | 34 | 40 |
| Ought not to | 61 | 64 | 57 |
| DK/NA | 2 | 2 | 3 |

q17 Do you think Congress and the President should be involved in deciding what happens to Terri Schiavo, or is this a matter Congress and the President should stay out of?

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|
| Should be involved in | 13 | 12 | 14 |
| Should stay out of | 82 | 81 | 82 |
| DK/NA | 5 | 7 | 4 |

q18 Regardless of your opinion about the Terri Schiavo case in general, do you think the federal government should decide whether it is legal for family members to remove a patient from life support, or should each state government decide, or are these issues something the government should stay out of?

| | | | |
|------------------------|----|----|----|
| Federal | 9 | 10 | 9 |
| State | 13 | 16 | 9 |
| Government stay out of | 75 | 72 | 78 |
| DK/NA | 3 | 2 | 4 |

q20 Congress has passed a bill that would require Terri Schiavo's case to be heard in U.S. federal court. Do you think Congress passed this bill because they really care about what happens in this case, or do you think they passed the bill to advance a political agenda?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

Gender

| | Total | Men | Women |
|--------------------------|-------|-----|-------|
| | % | % | % |
| Really care | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Advance political agenda | 74 | 75 | 73 |
| Both (vol.) | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| Neither (vol.) | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| DK/NA | 9 | 7 | 12 |

q21 Do you think that Congress' actions in this case would make it easier for Congress to intervene in the lives of individual Americans in the future? IF YES: Are you concerned about that, or not?

| | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|----|
| Yes, concerned | 68 | 66 | 69 |
| Yes, not concerned | 9 | 11 | 7 |
| No, not concerned | 17 | 17 | 18 |
| DK/NA | 6 | 6 | 6 |

q22 A living will is a legal document that states what an individual wants to have done for them medically should they be unable to make medical decisions themselves. Do you personally have such a document, or do you not have one at this time?

| | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|
| Yes, have one | 33 | 31 | 34 |
| No, do not | 67 | 68 | 65 |
| DK/NA | 0 | 1 | 1 |

q23 In your opinion, is a doctor injecting a terminally ill person with a lethal dose of drugs at the person's request the same thing as murder, or not?

| | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|
| Same as murder | 28 | 23 | 32 |
| 30 | | | |
| Not the same | 63 | 67 | 60 |
| 61 | | | |
| Depends (vol.) | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| 3 | | | |
| DK/NA | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 6 | | | |

N
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q24 Would you say you attend religious services every week, almost every week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, or never?

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|
| Every week | 31 | 25 | 36 |
| Almost every week | 8 | 6 | 10 |
| Once or twice a month | 17 | 20 | 14 |
| A few times a year | 25 | 26 | 23 |
| Never | 18 | 20 | 16 |
| DK/NA | 3 | 3 | 1 |

q25 Some people think of themselves as evangelical or born again Christians. Do you ever think of yourself in either of these ways?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

Gender

| | Total | Men | Women |
|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| | % | % | % |
| Yes | 26 | 22 | 29 |
| No | 73 | 77 | 70 |
| DK/NA | 1 | 1 | 1 |

| | <u>UNWEIGHTED</u> | <u>WEIGHTED</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Total Respondents | 737 | |
| Total Men | 294 | 354 |
| Total Women | 443 | 383 |

Partial Sample (q14& q19) 321 316