

# ***Framed or Freedom? Emotional Discourse of Individuals to the Overturned of Roe V. Wade***

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**Abstract:** The Roe V. Wade case has long been a noteworthy issue in the United States. According to research Basel 2022, approximately 504, 803 tweets have been filtered based on terms related to abortion. By collecting information and posts on Twitter, this study hopes to demonstrate how attitudes have changed in response to the adoption of abortion regulations. It's interesting to learn how the attitudes of various local residents toward this new law relate to one another. Sentiment analysis is applied to 200 postings with typical features in order to accomplish this goal. In order to complete and build a more distinct future trend, data are compared and evaluated with historical abstracts. The findings imply that people have a moderate tendency to take an optimistic perspective. Having stated that, this conclusion offers a projection of potential human behavior and the underlying rationale determining various perceptions. This study also seeks to understand the social repercussions and intimate relationship between abortion and conception. Which introduces feminism, gender equality, teen problems, and self-induced abortion by addressing potential results and possible conflicts. To sum up, this study uses emotional analysis and additional academic approaches to investigate the relationship between various demographic, and socioeconomic groups and their attitudes beforehand and following Roe v. Wade. Understanding how people feel is of utmost importance as abortion continues to be discussed incessantly online.

**Keywords:** Abortion, Roe V. Wade, Pro-life, Equality, Childbirth

## **1. Introduction**

The issue of "abortion" went popular so that the general public could grasp it after the US Supreme Court overturned abortion legislation in 2022. The Roe v. Wade case, which supported the operation of the legal system governing abortion, was crucial to this episode. After the final judgment was rendered, many people are hampered by the updating of this historic judgement. However, this issue tends to irk a lot of distinct social groups in society. People become passively impacted and lose their "privilege" to take charge of or control sexual outcomes. This was different from previous legal precedents and raised concerns about the implications for reproductive rights and broader human rights principles within the country [1]

Perhaps living in such a technological society closely connected with social media demonstrated a particularly strong emotional discourse surrounding this legal change. It is very important for people to acknowledge that abortions will be much more strenuous. Another main issue is whether the public will embrace to this change. The average age at which a person loses their virginity in the United

States is 17.10 for men and 17 for women, according to the CDC Report 2023. In addition, CNN News reported that abortion will not be permitted in cases of rape or incest. This suggests that in the future, the repercussions of sexual behavior may prove to be incalculable, suggesting a debate over whether or not young adults are willing to adapt to the shift.

The effects in this age range are more severe if the United States has dimensional communities that are sexually accepting [2]. It is also crucial for a child's development to determine whether restricting abortion rights will pose a risk to society.

There are possible ways for us to define their emotional outcome during this alteration. Besides, the visual and textual characteristics of social media posts enable users to share personal stories and images. For instance, individuals share personal experiences and informative infographics to convey their views on the issue. This diverse approach to communication has enhanced teenagers' emotional discourse.

On that latter, the objective of this research is to identify the changes in sentimental outcomes from different regional individuals via internet platforms. Indeed, people hold different perceptions toward this standpoint. The other goal of this review is to calculate and evaluate the trend and traits of the people who support different façades. According to ERLC May 6, 2022 [3], we speculate a typical pattern of what demographic groups or religious individuals act and express toward this event, and from it make an analysis of the key node that causes young individuals to exhibit responses with respective positions.

The decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, a precedent that had long protected the right to abortion, stirred emotions ranging from frustration to outrage and sadness to fear. These emotions didn't remain confined to private conversations; they spilled over onto social media platforms where young individuals found themselves in a digital forum where they could express themselves freely. The emotional resonance of this event sparked discussions that reverberated within digital communities, uniting individuals who shared similar concerns.

Following the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, a collective response appeared from over 200 medical associations and non-governmental organizations. These entities joined forces to communicate their concerns to high-ranking directors within YouTube, TikTok, and Twitter (Ashgold, Oct 18, 2022). They were worried about false medical information spreading on the internet, which posed a direct threat to the well-being of the public. As this being said, the research question of this study is: *How does the overturning of Roe V Wade influenced the outcome of emotional discourse on social media among different regional individuals?*

## 2. Literature Review

Abortion rights, which continue to be one of the most divisive constitutional rights in American history, sparked arguments between various social groupings. For instance, abortion is completely prohibited in fifteen states in the US. Contrarily, the states of New York, California, and Washington have all legalized abortion. On that latter, people online reflect quite differently since different jurisdictions have distinct legal frameworks. According to 'The New York Times' [4], 'The latest polling from the Public Policy Institute of California finds that 77 percent of adults here want *Roe V Wade*, the Supreme Court decision that established a constitutional right to abortions, to remain in place. That's nearly 20 percentage points higher than the share in recent national surveys.', This demonstrates how people want the government to protect their most fundamental human rights, even in jurisdictions where abortion is allowed, like California.

Whether abortion is moral, compared to those who support it, is what causes some people to oppose abortion from happening? A really widespread statement said 'If a child is a child from the moment of conception, then aborting him or her would mean it is murder. If a group of cells that cannot survive without the mother is not considered a child, then aborting it is the same as using

contraception or the morning after pill.’ (2023 EFC org) In light of that, we can presume that the majority of opponents define a child as a biologically fertilized egg. According to many religious authorities, if it has the potential to develop into a human being then it should be treated as one [5]. Up to this point, for conservative Christians who believes that beginning of life occurs at conception, they emphasize no claim to accommodate the issue of abortion [6]. The primary cause is how different groups of people define life; some believe that once indications of life appear, they should be recognized while others believe that society must be equitable for all. Others, however, contend that the human body shouldn't be regulated or defined by law. New legal treaties specifically indicate that in some states, even when rape and other immoral crimes occur and even when the woman is the passive party of the victim, they do not have the right to an abortion.

The growth of internet platforms appears to have accelerated in recent years, and a variety of social groupings have also published a significant amount of endorsement for and opposition to the so-called abortion right online. From the entire social media platform, Twitter is the main distribution channel for the public to express their thoughts. Research shows that overall, it was determined that more than 500,000 tweets contained at least one of the found keywords. The most common keywords from May 1 through July 15, 2022, are Female/woman/girls followed by abortion, supreme court/scotus, and roe v. wade. Other less popular keywords discussed various points of view and expressed worry about future access to birth control and emergency contraception [7]. Based on these results, we predicted "Female, Woman" will be the search term that the public finds to be the most relatable. It is true that you cannot justify whether people are opposing or supporting based on such data. However, we must acknowledge that the general public is paying more attention and making an attempt to defend their beliefs.

According to a study by Herane Mane, Xiao He Yue, and Weijun Wu [7], distinct topic volumes are provided in different states, which helps to explain if abortion stands out differently in each state. These maps from **Figure 1** show the percentages of tweets made from each state between May 1 and July 15, 2022, that mentioned one or more Roe v. Wade keywords or phrases.

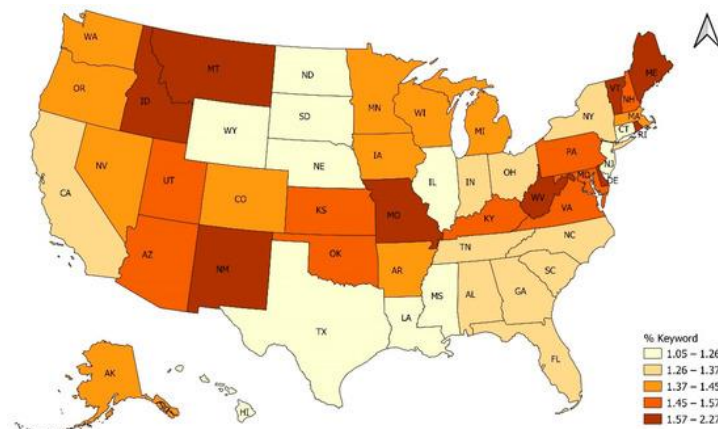


Figure 1: Geographical distribution

We may view the subject volume in **Figure 2** for phrases like "pro-life," "pro-choice life," and "neutral." The topic volume increased significantly between 2022-05 and 2022-07, particularly around the time of the US Supreme Court leak, according to the results.

The study by Herane Mane, Xiao He Yue, and Weijun Wu described earlier states that their map for topic volume expresses data collected from May 1 to July 15, 2022. Specific time series are displayed in this topic volume from January 2022 all the way to January 2023. Conducted by ‘Rong-Ching Chang, Ashwin Rao, Qiankun Zhong’ Published 2023 Feb [8].

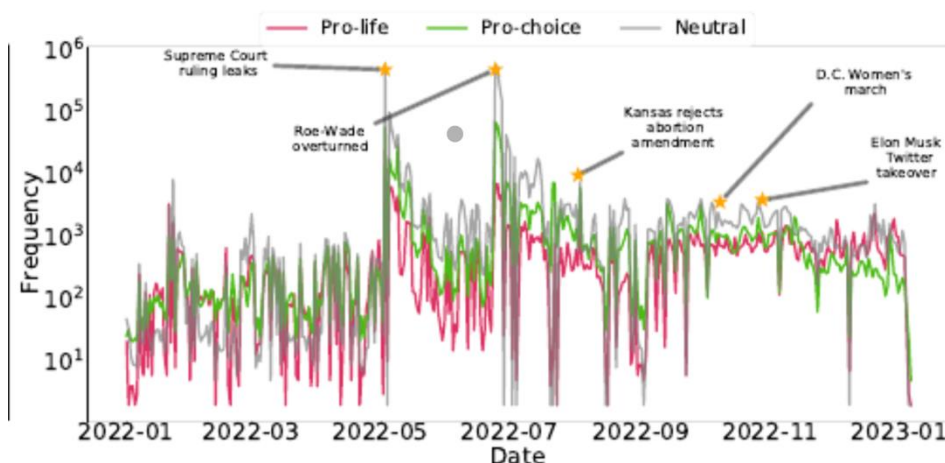


Figure 2: Topic volume

Dr. Joshua Trebach, an emergency medicine physician and medical toxicologist in New York City, noted a concerning trend across various social media platforms, including main distribution channels online. Individuals began sharing information about secret methods to induce abortion, fuelled by the anxiety surrounding the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. [9]

Social media companies told CNN they're taking a range of actions, including reviewing some abortion-related posts, elevating content from verified sources, and labeling or removing certain posts.

This type of abortion misinformation is "scary," said Trebach, an emergency medicine physician and a medical toxicologist in New York City. Some herbs people described may not do anything at all. Others could have a range of medical effects or even be deadly.

Myths about abortion and women's mental health are widespread. The online posts he saw came from unverified sources and described substances he learned about only in toxicology training. In the US, many herbs and supplements are regulated as food, not drugs, meaning there isn't safety or efficacy data to back their use. Negative effects from an herb can't always be treated easily, he said.

"At the end of the day, nothing – no plant, no herb, no tea, no tincture – is going to be safer or more effective than the current medical standard of abortion, the current medical therapies that we have," he said. "Nothing is a fair substitute for that."

Julie Weber, board chair of the American Association of Poison Control Centers, said centers have not seen an increase in exposure calls about people attempting abortions, but they're preparing for it. People can call the association or reach experts if they have questions about a substance and its potential effects.

"When I hear or start seeing questions on social media, I hear of people talking about alternative medications or herbal products or supplements, I do get concerned," Weber said. "And I am concerned with this, and we do want to get that message out there that this is not necessarily a safe alternative or one that's even going to be effective." [9]

Overall, the results of this literature review show why people have various opinions regarding abortion rights as well as how abortion is portrayed in both the public and online media.

### 3. Method

Capturing past comments on legal abortion contributes to the research to fulfill a contrast sample for collective data. For past online expressions, only data before 2022 July 1<sup>st</sup> are taken in consideration. For further demographic and geographical aim, only comments posted in states are taken in task. The rational use of keywords can effectively improve the search for information. For sentimental analysis,

assembling a corpus (Classifying positive and negative sensations) allows us to define specific turn of phrase that portrays an emotional discourse. Likewise, I used R studio to categorize emotions in each review. A sentimental score will then be conducted to oversee how individuals felt over this incident with the following rules: Positive +1, Negative -1 score. After visualizing the data, I chose to make a percentage scale to reflect the proportion of positivity being influenced. In order to anticipate future tendencies, I chose a similar abstract as a contrast sample. Research conducted in 2019/ sentimental analysis about how individuals inquire via abortion laws. It acts as a standard for comparison and decent evidence to support the reliability for this study. For participants, the most popular 200 comments with the highest clicks and likes are attained through online platforms and the only online tool used and analyzed is Twitter. On that latter, to distinguish between the affirmative and disagreeing side of the support, remarks that exhibit neutral ideas or did not exclaim a clear standpoint will be excluded out of the research.

Twitter's advanced search is another excellent tool for data collection because it helps limit the scope of information required. Users can customize the minimum number of likes, responses, and retweets in the search settings. Keep in mind that this study only looked at the top 200 comments. TAS (Twitter's advanced search) makes it easier to filter out remarks or retweets that are irrelevant or can be disregarded. Furthermore, users can specify a certain time series for a tweet's posting using its advanced search feature. This feature aids in separating comments made prior to and during the information leak at the US Supreme Court.

Another crucial factor is to accumulate a solid and comprehensive data set by throwing keywords to narrow down open information searches. However, because Twitter's user information is self-published, its IP address can be modified or concealed. In this instance, in an effort to maximize credibility, obtained comments must show their indication for geographical purposes. Regional keywords will also contribute to our understanding in an extensive way. This study will only focus on the following three states: Texas, California, and Arizona as abortion laws and policies differ between them. According to CNN News, various restrictions are found among these states. Texas totally banned abortion, Arizona with strict abortion time policies, and California being downright to process abortion. In view of the fact that these states have their own rules and regulations, regional keywords will promote and amplify the dissimilarities, which is beneficial for future analysis.

#### 4. Results

The results suggest a rapid increase of topic flow rate after the leak of US Supreme Court decision, from these overall 200 findings there is 80.5 percent of individuals that express a positive stance. On the basis of information from Texas area, there is over 10.9 percent of individuals claims abortion is immoral act. Oppositely speaking, there is approximately 98 individuals displaying positive behavior. Correspondingly, the same type of phenomenon is demonstrated in Arizona. Results implied that there is also a boost in amount of people supporting the act of abortion. 14.5 percent of individuals provide a positive comment after the leak of Supreme Court decision. Compared to data collected before July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, there is a significant increase on the supportiveness upon legal abortion.

By categorizing those 200 pieces of data from **Figure 3** we discovered that there are 112 posts about Texas, 29 posts about California, 40 posts about Arizona, and 9 other posts. (Other examples include posts with lots of topic discussion but none in the three key states we focused on.)



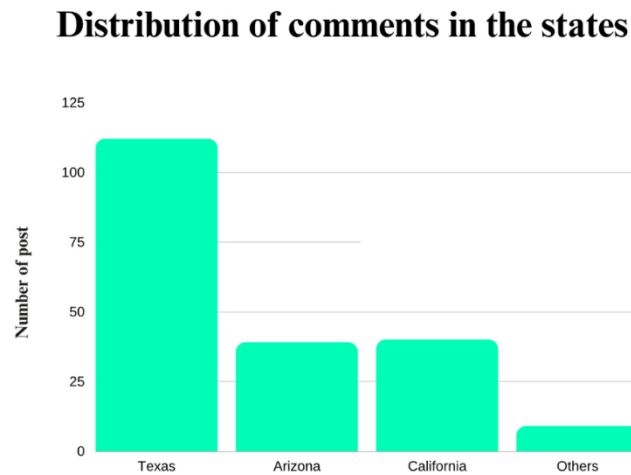


Figure 3: Distribution of comments in states

Interestingly, online abortion rights campaigners are largely silent. When TAS (Twitter Advance Search) is used to raise the informational threshold to more than 1,000 likes and 10000 views, there are hardly any negative comments online. Inversely speaking, when lowering down TAS's information threshold, accounts that opposed to abortion rights started to show up. Specifically saying we found individual accounts that were purposely set up to protest abortion rights. They identify themselves as 'Anti-abortion atheist' or 'Say no to abortion'. However, when it comes to the amount of likes or comments, we discover that the interaction between those who disapprove and those who favor something is utterly disproportionate. Another trend worth noting is that anti-abortion organizations appear more frequently at the most topical posts.

**Figure 4** shows the proportion of individual's approval rating toward abortion rights, we must acknowledge that only 39 posts out of the 200 indicate negative positions, making up 19.5 percent of the whole data set. With that said, a total of 161 responses present favorable viewpoints. It equals an average sentimental score of + 161 and an optimistic score of 80.5.

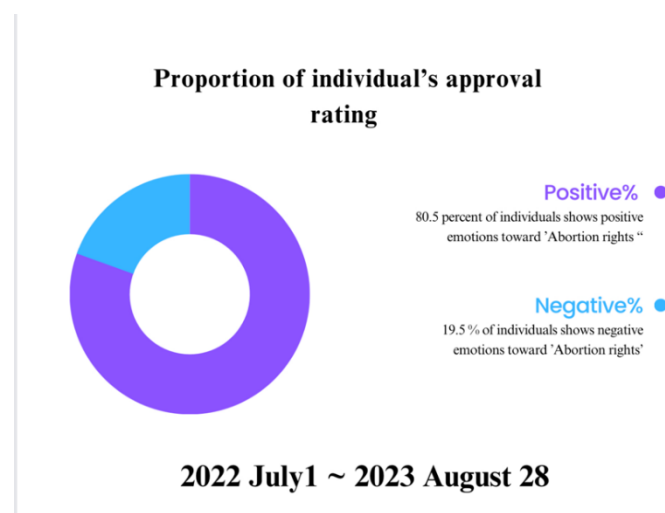


Figure 4: Propotion of approval rating

## 5. Discussion

The aim of this study is to comprehend the emotional drivers and phenomena behind the Roe v. Wade decision based on social media platforms. In this review, twitter serves as an intermediary, providing statistical reviews of people's emotional discourse that allow us to pinpoint specific future trends.

First of all, individuals are able to understand the predicament they are in. However, we are unable to determine whether this incident is right or wrong because it is highly subjective. Teenagers and young social groups are a particular portion of the population that are negatively impacted by the amendment of new laws and policies. In view of the fact that there is actually an augment on the attention paid by teenagers to this event. We can predict how specific social groupings is influenced and potential moral considerations in society, which also foresees the impact over younger generations, capturing their direct feedback over this political occasion. It can be difficult for teenagers who unintentionally get pregnant to undertake sexual consequences. Teenagers will also find it challenging to express complex feelings because many of them are still going through psychological development. When a teen decides to get an abortion, some of them can feel relieved, while others might feel guilty, depressed, sad, or regretful. In addition, many teenagers will be forced to accelerate their transition to adulthood as the availability of abortions declines. This implies that their plans might be interrupted, and more crucially, it might result in a demographic shift in the population.

In 2020, there were 930,160 abortions reported by Guttmacher's Abortion Provider Census, an 8% rise from 2017 when the data was last gathered. (NPR Sarah McCammon) [10]. This upward trend suggests more women are going through sexual repercussions, and during this time, it's possible that the main factors influencing abortion rights have altered. It covers social progress as well as alterations to economic classes. More research is required to establish the underlying causes of people's opposition to abortion rights if we are to counteract the effect of society in this topic.

On June 26, 2022, according to Miranda Fulmore of WBHM, hundreds gathered in Birmingham, Alabama, on Saturday to promote reproductive rights by reciting poetry, dancing, and giving out hugs. Not just this event but also nationwide protest marches by Americans. There has been a significant loss in national cohesion as a result of the interaction between the government and the populace. The majority of participants in these marches are women, which contributed to the feminist movement's growth. Indeed, not every feminism shares the same perspective on abortion. However, feminist and abortion are closely related in sense of advocacy of human rights, they seek equality and raise greater issues if present disagreement isn't resolved. According to SEP Friday Aug 2019 [11], feminist stresses freedom and body liberty, this resonates with most of the women in traditional culture. They believe that people should be free to make decisions about their bodies without interference from others, particularly the government. In terms of gender equality, the mind gap between men and women may deepen. Female groupings definitely will try to defend their rights by enhancing social intentions. 'In the last 50 years, gender inequality has undergone a major transition that social scientists have recorded. This change is frequently referred to as a "gender revolution." We demonstrate the rapid progress made in the direction of gender equality between 1970 and 2018, as well as the fact that progress has slowed or stopped in more recent decades., Paula England.' This incident paints a disturbing picture of a conflict among citizens. Given the ease of access to the internet and the widespread acceptance of free expression, this situation could evolve to a more complex matter. Unplanned pregnancies also adversely influence women's educational and employment prospects, hence exacerbating gender-based disparities. To this extend, unplanned pregnancies may negatively affect women's opportunities for higher education and employment, hence exacerbating gender-based inequality.

To credit a more comprehensive result, I selected an abstract with similar meanings. Its research was conducted by Valdez D. Goodson P, published in 2019 [12]. I've tried to compare the data collected to previous findings, and at that point the Roe v. Wade case has not yet been overturned. The overall analysis of the report indicates a trend of 56% negativity and 46% optimism among people and their sentimental feedback toward abortion laws. Which yielded with a total sentimental score of -1011. According to this study, more people are unhappy with the 2019 abortion policy. However, this value was very close at the time. My research indicates that more people are advocating for legalized abortion on social media. This is clearly tied to the findings of his experiment; in 2019 there were more people who disagreed with the legal agreement, and after Roe V. Wade was overturned, pro-abortion activists inevitably took to social media to defend their positions. This phenomenon justifies why there is more positive stance comparing to ones who oppose abortion laws.

As this report previously noted, the number of abortion cases has significantly increased in recent years. We anticipate the growth of underground networks that offer self-abortion procedures, particularly in regional areas where abortion is completely outlawed or severely limited. Self-abortion has been used in numerous extreme circumstances throughout history. Large international underground network, European abortion support network founded in 2015, Irish repeal of the eighth campaign, etc. Even if people are successful, they lack the requisite medical understanding for aftercare, making these "self-abortion" methods very risky and lacking in scientific support.

Last but not least, cultural and religious social groups have a history of violence and are largely responsible for influencing public opinion on abortion. This could result in more vigorous legal challenges to judicial decisions and constitutional provisions. Religious differences can result in more serious societal problems, just as different genders might cause conflicting arguments.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, over time, the public's attitude towards abortion is particularly scholastic. People's stance toward abortion laws varies with the change of social standards. We found that no single element can be utilized to justify someone's view on abortion rights. It is entangled with intricate issues involving religion, politics, economics, and culture. The public's opinions on abortion legislation typically run the gamut, from those who prefer tight limitations or total bans to others who support moderate regulation and still others who place more emphasis on the preservation of reproductive autonomy and rights. As a result, this review looks at how public emotional discourse and abortion policy relate to one another. This article aids in predicting future trends and people's impressions of future abortion rights when considered for real-world applications. In addition, this research can raise the public's exposure because political correctness in the United States permits unrestricted amplification of people's opinions on policy. Taking a wider view of this incredibly paradoxical case. Perhaps this will make it easier for more people to confirm their stance, and when conflicting viewpoints are understood, society as a whole may become more cohesive. Most importantly, it might lessen conflicts among those who hold different opinions. When all is said and done, the discussion surrounding reproductive rights has been irreversibly altered by the Roe v. Wade ruling, which emphasized the constitutional protection of a woman's right to choose and established a precedent that still influences legal, social, and ethical discussions on individual freedom and gender equality.

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