

Fracking and Fossil Fuels

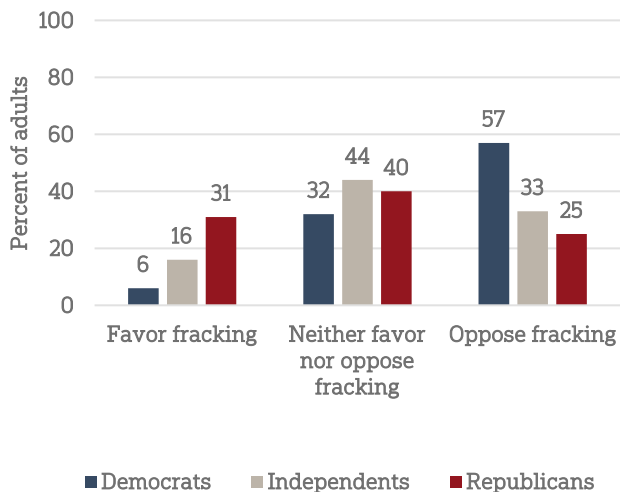
FINDINGS FROM AN AUGUST 2017 SURVEY OF ADULTS AGE 18 AND OLDER

✓ More Americans oppose the use of hydraulic fracturing in the United States than support it.

- Seventeen percent favor the use of fracking in the U.S. while 41% oppose it. Thirty-seven percent neither favor nor oppose fracking.
- Those who say energy policy is personally important to them are more likely to oppose fracking in the U.S. than those who say energy policy is not important to them (52% vs. 18%).
- Those who say climate change is happening are more than four times as likely to oppose fracking as those who say climate change is not happening.
- Fewer Democrats now favor fracking (6% in 2017 vs. 13% in 2016). Independents and Republicans remain unchanged in their views toward fracking.

Attitudes about fracking are closely tied with partisanship.

% who say they...



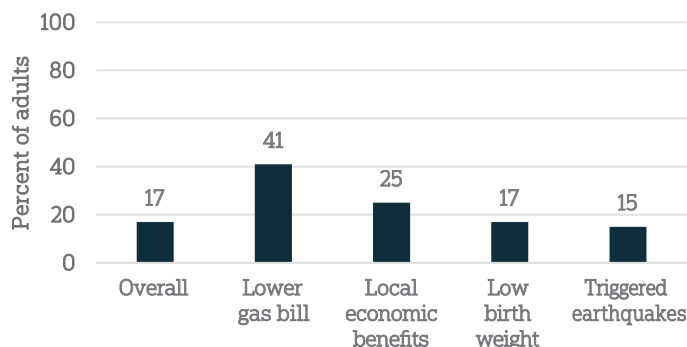
Questions: Do you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose the use of hydraulic fracturing, sometimes called "fracking," in the United States?

✓ The number of people who say they favor fracking more than doubles when presented with evidence that it will save them money, while arguments about the negative environmental and health effects of fracking have less of an impact on public opinion.

- Support for fracking jumps from 17% to 41% when presented with evidence that it will save them \$250 annually on their natural gas bill.
- There is a smaller increase in support to 25% when told that communities where fracking takes place would see localized economic benefits equal to about \$1,900 annually for the average household.
- The 41% who initially oppose fracking increases to 51% when presented with an argument that it leads to an increased risk of low birth weights for babies born to women living in close proximity to the fracking site.
- The percent of those opposed to fracking increases to 58% when shown evidence that the fracking process could trigger earthquakes.

Support for fracking more than doubles when presented with evidence that it will lower natural gas bills.

% who favor fracking under each condition.



Full question wording is available in the topline at www.apnorc.org.