

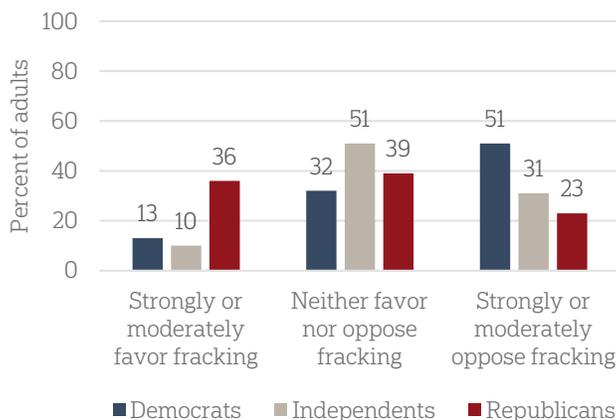
# Fracking and Fossil Fuels

## RESULTS FROM A NATIONALLY REPRESENTATIVE SURVEY OF ADULTS AGE 18 AND OLDER TAKEN AUGUST 11-14, 2016

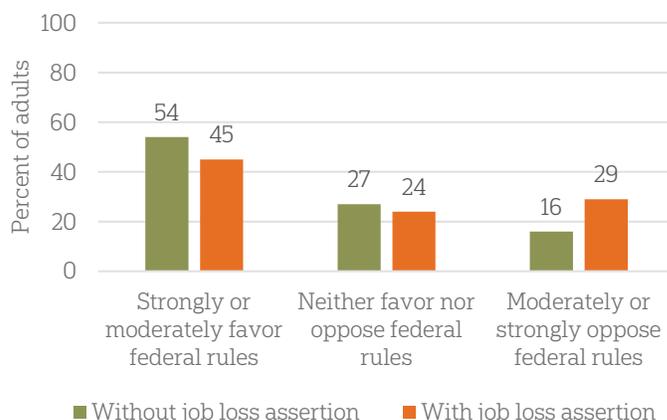
- ✓ **Americans are largely unaware of the share of U.S. natural gas that is produced using hydraulic fracturing, with most underestimating its share.**
  - Just 1 in 5 correctly say that fracking produces about two-thirds of the U.S. natural gas supply.
  - Most believe it's less: 4 in 10 say about one-quarter, and another 27 percent say about one-half. Six percent overestimate the figure to be about three-quarters, and another 5 percent say they don't know.
  - Those who correctly say that fracking produces two-thirds of the U.S. natural gas supply are no more or less likely to favor fracking practices.
- ✓ **Although few understand its role in the U.S. energy supply, more oppose hydraulic fracturing than support it.**
  - Nearly 4 in 10 Americans don't hold an opinion on hydraulic fracturing. Among those who do, twice as many Americans oppose than support it.
  - Republicans (36 percent) are more likely than Democrats (13 percent) or independents (10 percent) to favor fracking.
  - Those who say climate change is happening are far less likely to favor fracking than those who say it isn't happening or aren't sure (16 percent vs. 40 percent).

- ✓ **Just over half of Americans say they favor federal rules that would decrease U.S. coal consumption, but when paired with the assertion that such regulations have resulted in the loss of thousands of coal jobs, support wanes slightly.**
  - Over half (54 percent) of Americans favor federal regulations aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants that would decrease U.S. coal consumption.
  - Democrats (67 percent) are more likely than Republicans (46 percent) and independents (35 percent) to favor these regulations.
  - When paired with the assertion that these regulations have resulted in the loss of thousands of jobs, support declines from 54 percent to 45 percent.
  - Democrats express the same level of support regardless of whether or not they are supplied with the assertion about job loss, but support declines among Republicans (46 to 25 percent) and independents (35 to 28 percent).

### Attitudes towards fracking vary by political party, with Republicans most likely to support it.



### Support for federal regulations that would decrease U.S. coal consumption depends on having the assertion that such regulations have resulted in the loss of thousands of jobs.



Full question wording available at [www.apnorc.org](http://www.apnorc.org)

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

This survey was conducted by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC) and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, with funding from EPIC. Interviews were conducted on the AmeriSpeak® Omnibus with a nationally representative sample of 1,096 adults age 18 and over online and using landlines and cell phones from August 11-14, 2016. Results have a margin of sampling error of +/- 3.6 percentage points. A full topline is available at [www.apnorc.org](http://www.apnorc.org).