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### **Abstract**

NES has used different labels for the proponents of different sides of the abortion question in its feeling thermometer questions. In 1984 it asked about "anti-abortionists," while in 1988 and 1990 the object was "opponents of abortion." In discussing the options for a set of questions on abortion in the 1997 Pilot, the committee considered the problem that none of these terms is the label most commonly used in public debate and discussion. Abortion politics activists long ago chose their devices in the symbolic battles over policy, and journalists, the public, and even scholars ultimately followed their lead, referring to proponents and opponents of legal access to abortion as "pro-choice" and "pro-life" people.