

LET'S TALK
ABOUT
ABORTION

HOLIDAY CONVERSATION GUIDE

How to talk about abortion
(festively!) this holiday
season.



Effective conversations have five parts:


- 01** Ask their opinion about abortion and listen nonjudgmentally.
- 02** Find the common ground with your views and values and theirs.
- 03** Share a story that addresses those values.
- 04** Engage with their initial concerns and get them thinking.
- 05** Connect your conversation back to abortion access.

Listen, share, connect.

The goal of effective conversations about abortion isn't to convince your great-uncle or friend's aunt they're wrong but to build rapport and walk in another person's shoes.

Having deeper, nonjudgmental conversations in which you share personal, values-based stories has been shown to move the needle—even for people who start with opposite views. It isn't magic, and it doesn't work every time or even immediately, but these conversations can change the way Hoosiers think and talk about abortion.

The majority of Hoosiers believe in abortion access, so you're talking to someone who shares your values—like the freedom to control your own body, that every person should be able to decide if and when to have children, that one person's decision about abortion shouldn't depend on a politician's religious beliefs, or that every pregnancy is unique.



The way we talk about abortion makes a difference.

Whether it feels like it or not, the majority of Hoosiers believe we should all have access to abortion—just 13% want abortion banned entirely. Striking up a conversation with your friends and family means you're likely to find someone who agrees with you. Either way, you'll be having an important conversation.

Here are a few ways to talk about what the majority of Hoosiers believe:

“Every pregnancy is unique, which is why people must have the freedom to decide what’s best for them.” The more you talk to people about all the personal decisions that come up in pregnancy, the more you’ll hear about all the things that can and do go awry. Exceptions are not enough. People experiencing pregnancy complications are unable to access care because of the abortion bans in place across the country.

“People should have the freedom to decide if and when to have children.” And, even more basically, **“people should be able to make decisions about their own body.”** Being able to decide what’s best for yourself is relatable—it’s fundamental to a democratic society.

“Politicians’ religious beliefs shouldn’t interfere with people’s ability to make decisions about their own reproductive care.” Keeping politics out of doctors’ offices and out of personal medical decisions is something Hoosiers agree on.



Learn more and share more.

Trusted friends, family, and community members are the people who will change the minds of Hoosiers. It takes more than one conversation to change a person’s mind, but real-life, two-way conversations are the best place to start.

If you want to learn more about abortion and the state of reproductive rights in Indiana, visit letstalkabortionindiana.com.

If you need to find up-to-date information on the laws and restrictions on abortion, visit abortionfinder.org.

If you want guidance on writing your elected officials about restoring abortion access, visit www.aclu-in.org/en/act.



This guide was created for the Let's Talk About Abortion, Indiana campaign on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana.