

**TABLE 2. Percentage distribution of medical school students, by level of agreement with attitudes and beliefs about abortion provision**

Characteristic	Strongly agree/agree	Neutral	Strongly disagree/disagree	Total
<b>General support for abortion provision</b>				
Safe, voluntary abortion should be legal and accessible.	40	17	43	100
The South African government should be responsible for providing abortions as a part of free public health care.	48	22	30	100
Abortion is morally unacceptable for any reason.†	29	26	45	100
Abortion should not be provided for any reason.†	22	16	62	100
A woman should have the right to decide for herself whether or not to have an abortion.	70	14	16	100
<b>Conditional support for abortion provision</b>				
Abortion should be legal if the woman's physical health is endangered by the pregnancy.	83	9	8	100
Abortion should be legal if the woman's mental health is endangered by the pregnancy.	69	16	15	100
Abortion should be legal if the woman is not married.	62	21	17	100
Abortion should be legal if the family (or woman) cannot afford to have the child.	48	21	31	100
Abortion should be legal if the fetus shows signs of serious congenital defect or malformation.	65	18	17	100
Abortion should be legal if the woman was raped.	64	18	17	100
Abortion should be legal if the pregnancy was the result of incest.	52	25	23	100
Abortion should be legal if the pregnancy would mean that the mother had to drop out of school.	27	22	51	100
Abortion should be legal if the pregnancy was unplanned, and the woman does not want to be pregnant.	30	16	54	100
<b>Intention to act according to attitudes/beliefs</b>				
I intend to provide legal abortion services to women once I am qualified.	23	26	51	100
I would refer patients for abortion services, in situations where I cannot or will not provide those services myself.	72	15	13	100
I would not refer a patient for abortion under any circumstances.†	11	19	70	100
I would not perform an abortion under any circumstances.†	31	22	47	100
If a female patient requested an abortion, I would try to discourage her from seeking the procedure.†	34	28	38	100
I would try to convince other health care providers not to perform abortions.†	17	24	58	100
<b>Additional items</b>				
I think I would be discriminated against/stigmatized if I provided abortions to women.	30	30	40	100
Health care providers who conscientiously object to abortion should be allowed to refuse to perform abortions.	87	6	7	100
Health care providers who conscientiously object to abortion should be required to refer patients seeking abortion to a nonobjecting provider.	72	13	15	100

†Reverse-coded in regression analyses.