

Frequency Tables

Opinions on Hydraulic Fracturing

How much have you heard or read about hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” a process that uses the high-pressure injection of water, sand, and chemicals to remove natural gas from rocks deep in the earth’s surface?

Response	Southern IL 10/13	Statewide 3/15	Southern IL 10/15
A lot	32.3%	33.2%	43.1%
Some	37.5%	27.9%	34.7%
Not much	18.4%	14.3%	11.7%
Nothing so far	9.9%	21.3%	6.7%
Other/Don’t know	2.0%	3.3%	3.7%

As far as you know, do you think hydraulic fracturing or fracking is a very safe method to extract natural gas from the ground, somewhat safe, not very safe, or not at all safe?

Response	Southern IL 10/13	Statewide 3/15	Southern IL 10/15
Very safe	9.4%	7.8%	6.7%
Somewhat safe	39.7%	31.3%	34.4%
Not very safe	16.4%	14.8%	21.7%
Not at all safe	12.2%	20.9%	23.7%
Other/Don’t know	22.3%	25.2%	13.5%

Some people say the state should encourage hydraulic fracturing because of the economic benefits, while others say the state should not encourage hydraulic fracturing because of potential environmental impact. Which comes closer to your view?

Response	Southern IL 10/13	Statewide 3/15	Southern IL 10/15
Should encourage for economic benefit	40.7%	31.8%	33.9%
Should not encourage because of environmental impact	39.7%	48.6%	52.4%
Other/Don’t know	19.6%	19.6%	13.7%