

Views on Women’s Reproductive Health

Findings from a Louisiana Statewide Survey among Black Adults

To: Interested Parties
From: PerryUndem Research/Communication
Date: February 1, 2017

I. Introduction

In Our Own Voice: National Black Women’s Reproductive Justice Agenda (NBWRJA)¹ commissioned PerryUndem Research/Communication to conduct a survey of Black adults in Louisiana on the topic of women’s reproductive health and sex education programs, and contraception.

The research shows that very large majorities of Black adults in Louisiana support a woman’s right to make her own decision on abortion and access to affordable, respectful care is critical. Large majorities of both Black women and men agree we should trust Black women to make their own decisions on this issue based on their circumstances. Nearly all respondents agree that a woman’s ability to control whether and when she has children is an important part of financial stability for herself and her family. Most Black adults in Louisiana also see contraception as part of basic health care and feel it should be included in health care coverage. Finally, a majority of respondents also support comprehensive sex education including topics such as birth control, all pregnancy options including abortion, sexual orientation, and gender identity. These findings cut across religion, party identification, and gender.

PerryUndem conducted a statewide survey among n = 504 registered Black adults, including 90 percent who are registered voters, in Louisiana from September 28 to October 31, 2016. The survey was administered by telephone by SSRS. The margin of sampling error for results is ± 6.5 percentage points. See a more detailed methodology at the end of this report.

¹ NEO Philanthropy is the fiscal sponsor for NBWRJA.

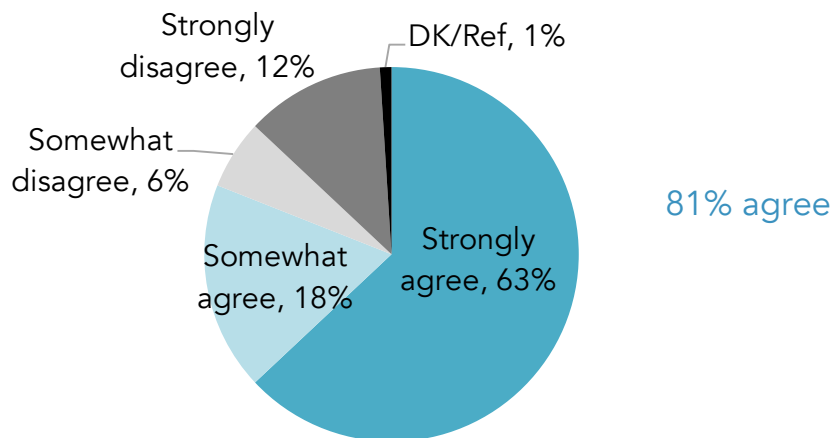
II. Key Findings

- A large majority of Black adults in Louisiana (81 percent) agrees each woman should have the right to make her own decision on abortion, even if they may disagree with her reason. Similarly, 81 percent agree we should trust Black women to make personal decisions that are best for themselves and their families.
- More than half (67 percent) do not want the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade* including 66 percent of those who self-identify as very religious.
- Nearly all Black adults in Louisiana (97 percent) believe a woman's ability to control whether or when she has children is an important part of financial stability for herself and her family.
- When it comes to access to abortion care, majorities want care to be directed by a doctor (92 percent), affordable (85 percent), respectful of a woman's decision (80 percent), and in their community (79 percent).
- Six in ten (62 percent) say they pay attention to a political candidate's view on a woman's right to get an abortion.
- For a majority of Black adults in Louisiana, religious beliefs do not interfere with their views toward abortion. Two-thirds (66 percent) agree abortion should remain legal even if church leaders take a stance against abortion.
- In their personal lives, the vast majority (80 percent) would support a loved one who had an abortion, with 54 percent saying would give "a lot of" support.
- A majority of respondents (85 percent) considers birth control part of basic women's health care coverage. Similarly, (84 percent) agree every woman should have access to the full range of pregnancy care including abortion. A large majority (91 percent) agrees a woman should be able to get birth control even if her boss disagrees.
- Majorities of Black adults also want comprehensive sex education in schools, including topics such as birth control (92 percent), pregnancy options including abortion (83 percent), sexual orientation (72 percent), and gender identity (67 percent).
- Close to eight in ten (78 percent) would take their own teenager to get birth control if they needed it; 58 percent say they would definitely take them.

III. Detailed Findings

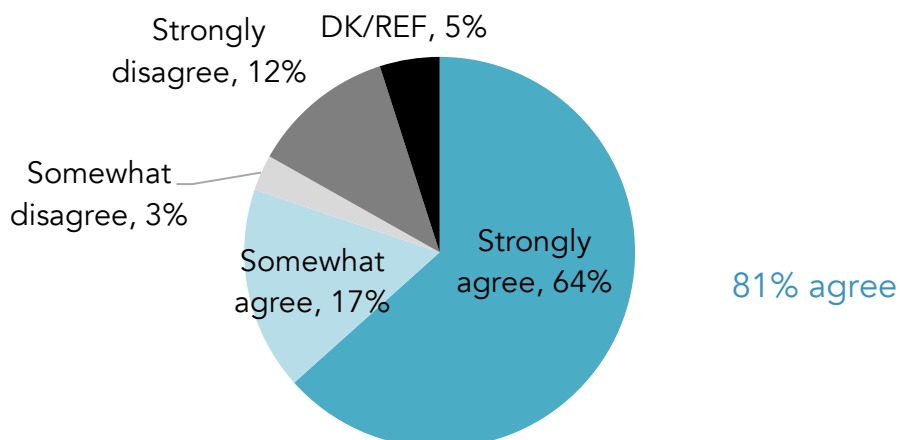
A large majority of Black adults in Louisiana hold firm views in support of a woman’s right to abortion. More than eight in ten (81 percent) respondents agree with the statement: “Each woman should have the right to make her own decision on abortion, even if I may disagree with her reasons.” (See Figure 1.)

Figure 1: Each woman should have the right to make her own decision on abortion, even if I may disagree with her reasons.



Eight in ten feel we should trust Black women to make the decisions best for them. Close to two-thirds (64 percent) agree strongly. (See Figure 2.)

Figure 2: When it comes to abortion, we should trust Black women to make the important personal decisions that are best for themselves and their families.



Majorities across segments agree a woman should have a right to make her own decision and trust Black women to make the best decisions for themselves and their families, including conservatives and those who attend religious services regularly. (See Tables 1 and 1a.)

Table 1: Do you agree or disagree... (% Agree)

	A woman should have a right to make her own decision, even if I disagree with reasons.	We should trust Black women to make decisions that are best for themselves and their families.
Total	81	81
Men	85	83
Women	77	78
18-49 years old	80	83
50-64	80	77
65 +	83	78
High school or less	75	74
Some college (<i>n</i> =88)	78	81
College +	95	94
<\$30K HH income	72	68
\$30K-75K	90	92
\$75K + (<i>n</i> =98)	95	95
Married or living w/ partner	82	83
Widowed/divorced/separated	78	70
Never married	81	85
Liberal	89	84
Moderate	86	88
Conservative	71	70
Religious service weekly or more	80	77
At least once a month	78	79
Less often/never	86	85
Registered to vote	82	80
New Orleans area	91	91
North LA	82	72
Acadiana/FL parishes	74	79

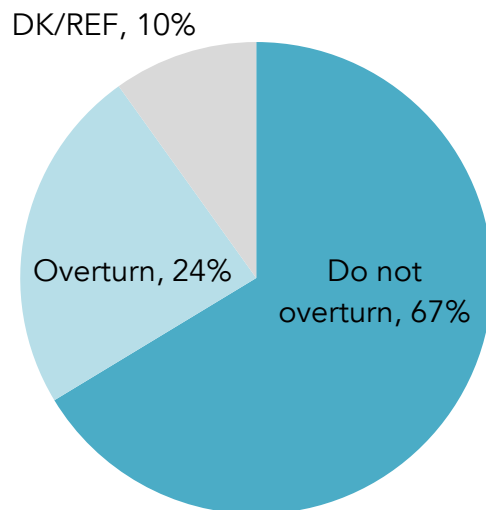
Table 1a: Do you agree or disagree... (% Agree) [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	A woman should have a right to make her own decision, even if I disagree with reasons.	We should trust Black women to make decisions that are best for themselves and their families.
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	80	77
Men (<i>n</i> =95)	86	82
Women	77	75
50 + years old	82	75
Some college or less	75	72
College +	94	91
<\$50K HH income	73	67
\$50K + (<i>n</i>=95)	88	90

General Views on the Right to Abortion

A majority of Black adults in Louisiana do not want to see *Roe v. Wade* overturned. Two-thirds (67 percent) say they do not want to see the decision overturned. (See Figure 3.)

*Figure 3: In 1973, the Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision established a woman’s constitutional right to have an abortion. Would you like to see the Supreme Court overturn its *Roe v. Wade* decision, or not?*



A plurality across all demographic groups does not want to overturn *Roe*. (See Tables 2 and 2a.)

Table 2: Would you like to see the Supreme Court overturn its *Roe v. Wade* decision, or not?

	Do not overturn	Overturn
Total	67	24
Men	70	26
Women	64	23
18-49 years old	69	26
50-64	66	20
65 +	61	26
High school or less	57	31
Some college (<i>n</i> =88)	69	22
College +	83	11
<\$30K HH income	58	33
\$30K-75K	81	17
\$75K + (<i>n</i> =98)	75	17
Married or living w/ partner	74	19
Widowed/divorced/separated	49	34
Never married	69	25
Liberal	78	15
Moderate	78	17
Conservative	47	37
Religious service weekly or more	25	66
At least once a month	63	30
Less often/never	78	13
Registered to vote	65	26
New Orleans area	76	16
North LA	65	32
Acadiana/FL parishes	64	23

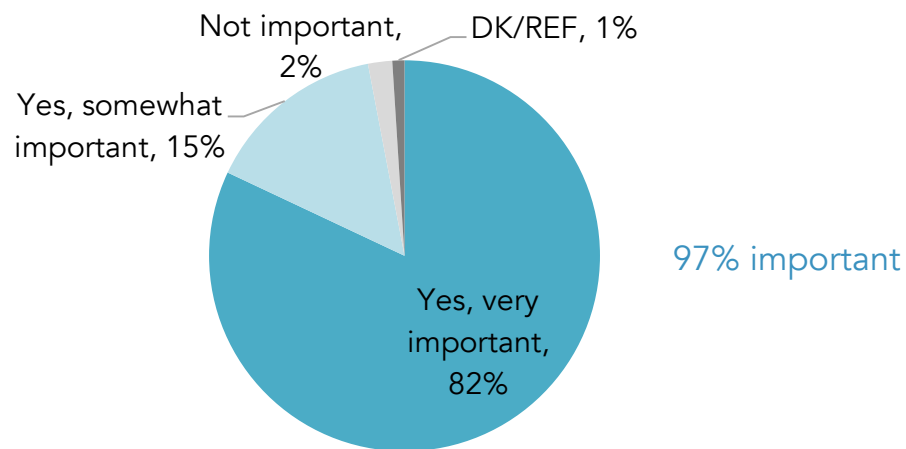
Table 2a: Would you like to see the Supreme Court overturn its *Roe v. Wade* decision, or not? [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Do not overturn	Overturn
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	66	26
Men (<i>n</i> =95)	75	24
Women	62	27
50 + years old	64	23
Some college or less	63	29
College +	76	15
<\$50K HH income	65	29
\$50K + (<i>n</i> =95)	68	27

Views about Abortion Care and Access

An overwhelming majority of Black adults in Louisiana (97 percent) feels a woman's ability to control whether or when she has children is an important part of her financial stability. Eighty-two percent say this is very important. (See Figure 4.)

Figure 4: Do you think a woman's ability to control whether or when she has children is an important part of financial stability for herself and her family?



Majorities of women (95 percent) and men (98 percent) both agree a woman's ability to control whether or when she can have children is an important part of financial stability. (See Tables 3 and 3a.)

Table 3: Do you think a woman’s ability to control whether or when she has children is an important part of financial stability for herself and her family?

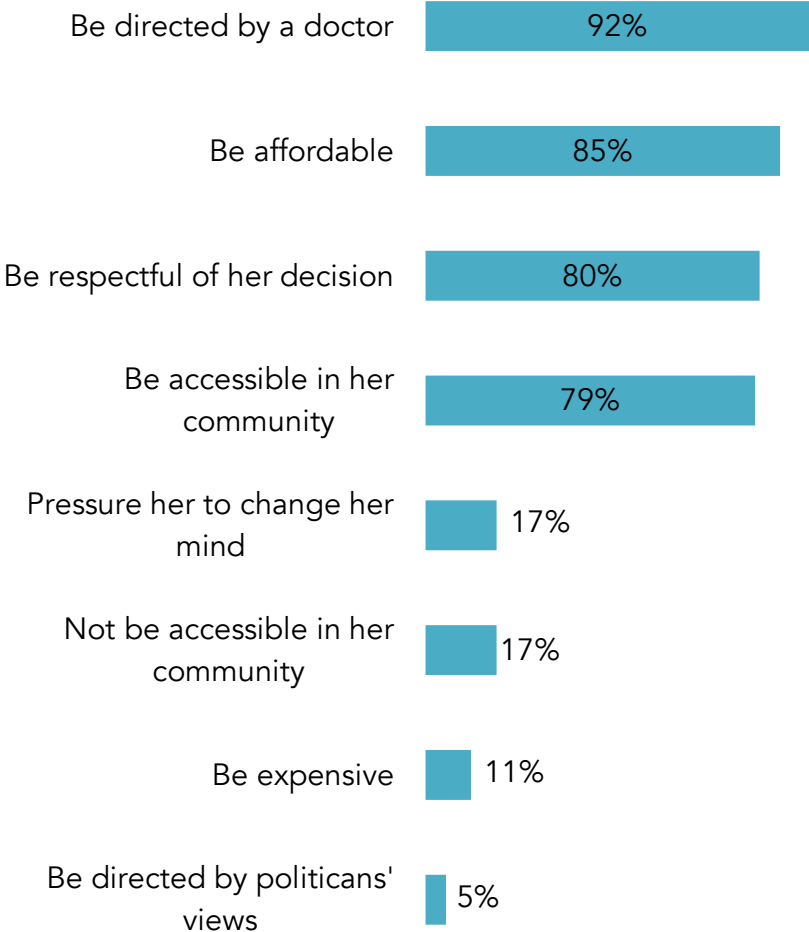
	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Total	82	15	2
Men	85	13	1
Women	80	15	3
18-49 years old	85	12	1
50-64	78	19	2
65 +	80	13	4
High school or less	81	15	3
Some college (n=88)	84	11	1
College +	82	16	2
<\$30K HH income	83	14	1
\$30K-75K	83	17	0
\$75K + (n=98)	85	13	2
Married or living w/ partner	85	13	1
Widowed/divorced/separated	73	18	4
Never married	84	13	2
Liberal	84	15	1
Moderate	82	16	3
Conservative	84	12	1
Religious service weekly or more	79	16	4
At least once a month	81	15	3
Less often/never	86	14	0
Registered to vote	82	14	2
New Orleans area	82	16	2
North LA	88	11	1
Acadiana/FL parishes	77	18	3

Table 3a: Do you think a woman’s ability to control whether or when she has children is an important part of financial stability for herself and her family? [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	79	16	4
Men (n=95)	82	14	2
Women	78	17	5
50 + years old	79	16	4
Some college or less	79	16	4
College +	81	16	3
<\$50K HH income	83	15	2
\$50K + (n=95)	77	21	2

When we ask questions about how women access and experience abortion care — large majorities of Black adults in Louisiana want it to be directed by a doctor, affordable, accessible, and respectful of her decision. Just five percent want this care to be directed by politicians’ views. (See Figure 5.)

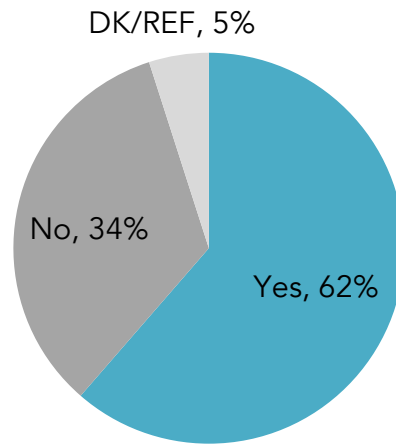
*Figure 5: Let’s say a woman has decided to have an abortion. Would you want the care to...
(% Yes)*



Views toward Politicians' Positions on Abortion

Black adults in Louisiana are paying attention to political candidate's views on abortion. More than six in ten (62 percent) say they pay attention to a candidate's views on abortion. (See Figure 6.)

Figure 6: In general, do you tend to pay attention to a political candidate's views on a woman's right to get an abortion?



Majorities across demographic groups are paying attention to a political candidate's views on a woman's right to get an abortion. (See Tables 4 and 4a.)

Table 4: In general, do you tend to pay attention to a political candidate's views on a woman's right to get an abortion?

	Yes	No
Total	62	34
Men	62	36
Women	62	31
18-49 years old	66	31
50-64	56	36
65 +	60	36
High school or less	56	37
Some college (n=88)	64	34
College +	73	26
<\$30K HH income	57	38
\$30K-75K	77	20
\$75K + (n=98)	68	30
Married or living w/ partner	62	35
Widowed/divorced/separated	62	31
Never married	62	32
Liberal	74	23
Moderate	67	30
Conservative	52	41
Religious service weekly or more	55	40
At least once a month	60	36
Less often/never	71	24
Registered to vote	63	33
New Orleans area	71	21
North LA	59	37
Acadiana/FL parishes	58	41

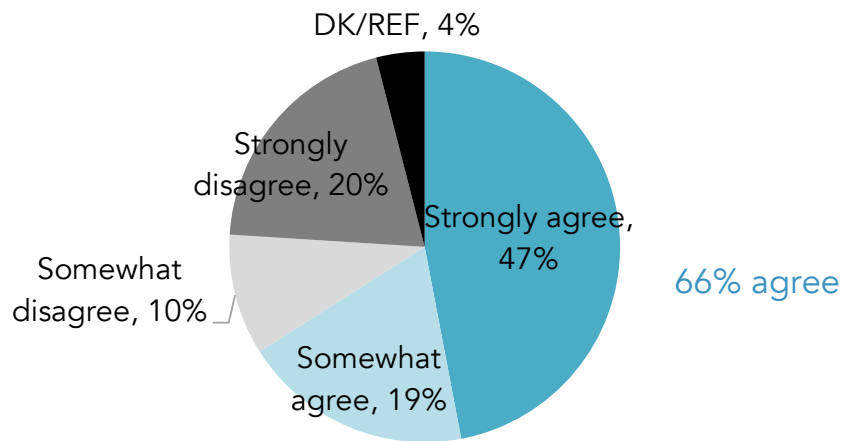
**Table 4a: In general, do you tend to pay attention to a political candidate's views on a woman's right to get an abortion?
[Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]**

	Yes	No
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	55	40
Men (n=95)	49	50
Women	59	34
50 + years old	58	35
Some college or less	54	41
College +	60	37
<\$50K HH income	54	39
\$50K + (n=95)	62	38

Abortion in Their Personal Lives

Two-thirds of Black adults in Louisiana (66 percent) believe abortion should remain legal, even though some church leaders take a position against it. Close to half (47 percent) strongly believe this. (See Figure 7.)

Figure 7: Even though some church leaders take a position against abortion, when it comes to the law, I believe it should remain legal.



Majorities across all demographic groups agree with this sentiment including those who attend religious services regularly (64 percent). (See Tables 5 and 5a.)

Table 5: Even though some church leaders take a position against abortion, when it comes to the law, I believe it should remain legal.

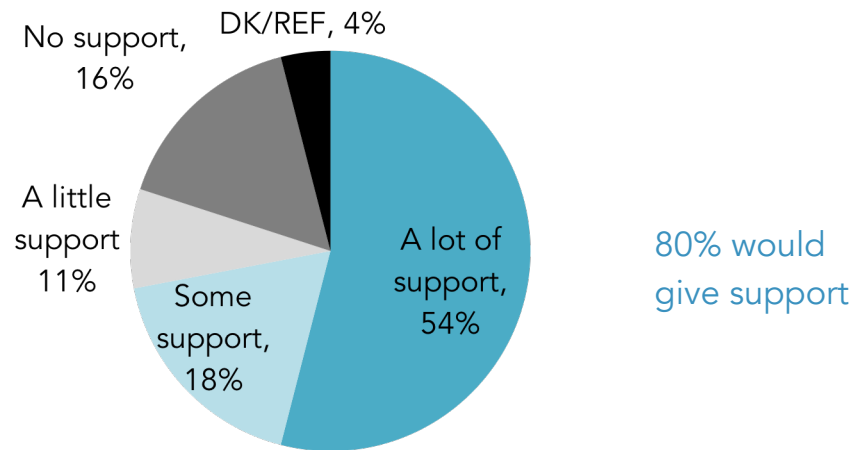
	Agree	Disagree
Total	66	30
Men	74	24
Women	60	35
18-49 years old	70	26
50-64	61	34
65 +	65	34
High school or less	57	39
Some college (n=88)	71	24
College +	81	16
<\$30K HH income	53	43
\$30K-75K	85	14
\$75K + (n=98)	81	19
Married or living w/ partner	68	31
Widowed/divorced/separated	58	34
Never married	70	25
Liberal	79	20
Moderate	73	25
Conservative	54	36
Religious service weekly or more	63	36
At least once a month	64	34
Less often/never	71	22
Registered to vote	67	30
New Orleans area	81	18
North LA	61	36
Acadiana/FL parishes	62	33

Table 5a: Even though some church leaders take a position against abortion, when it comes to the law, I believe it should remain legal. [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Agree	Disagree
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	63	36
Men (n=95)	74	25
Women	56	43
50 + years old	59	39
Some college or less	59	40
College +	74	23
<\$50K HH income	53	47
\$50K + (n=95)	78	22

Eight in ten Black adults in Louisiana would support a loved one who had an abortion. Eighty percent would offer support to a friend or family member, with 54 percent saying they would give her “a lot” of support. (See Figure 8.)

Figure 8: If a close friend or family member told you she had an abortion, would you:



Majorities across demographic groups would give a friend or family member support. (See Tables 6 and 6a.)

Table 6: If a close friend or family member told you she had an abortion, would you give her:

	Would give support	"A lot" of support
Total	80	54
Men	87	60
Women	74	49
18-49 years old	84	54
50-64	82	62
65 +	67	44
High school or less	77	45
Some college (n=88)	80	64
College +	86	63
<\$30K HH income	77	44
\$30K-75K	91	65
\$75K + (n=98)	84	72
Married or living w/ partner	82	58
Widowed/divorced/separated	73	49
Never married	83	52
Liberal	90	67
Moderate	80	56
Conservative	74	43
Religious service weekly or more	74	52
At least once a month	77	52
Less often/never	89	58
Registered to vote	80	55
New Orleans area	90	71
North LA	77	44
Acadiana/FL parishes	78	54

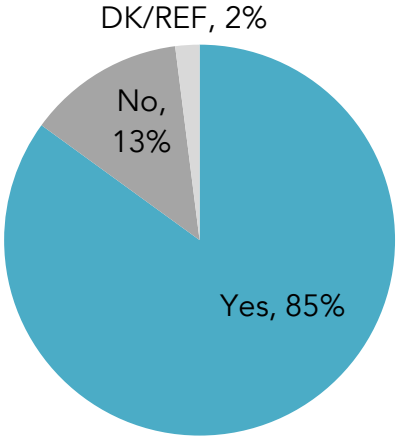
Table 6a: If a close friend or family member told you she had an abortion, would you give her: [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Would give support	"A lot" of support
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	74	52
Men (n=95)	77	56
Women	73	49
50 + years old	72	50
Some college or less	72	48
College +	83	64
<\$50K HH income	71	42
\$50K + (n=95)	83	70

Views about Birth Control and Access

A large majority of Black adults in Louisiana (85 percent) consider birth control a basic part of women’s health care coverage. About one in eight (13 percent) does not consider it a basic part of women’s health care coverage. (See Figure 9.)

Figure 9: Do you consider birth control part of basic women’s health care coverage, or not?



Large majorities across demographic groups view birth control as part of basic women’s health coverage. (See Tables 7 and 7a.)

Table 7: Do you consider birth control part of basic women’s health care coverage, or not?

	Yes	No
Total	85	13
Men	82	15
Women	87	11
18-49 years old	86	14
50-64	83	13
65 +	84	11
High school or less	80	16
Some college (<i>n=88</i>)	88	12
College +	92	8
<\$30K HH income	86	12
\$30K-75K	85	15
\$75K + (<i>n=98</i>)	81	18
Married or living w/ partner	85	13
Widowed/divorced/separated	83	14
Never married	87	12
Liberal	85	11
Moderate	88	12
Conservative	83	14
Religious service weekly or more	81	16
At least once a month	84	13
Less often/never	85	14
Registered to vote	85	13
New Orleans area	88	11
North LA	84	12
Acadiana/FL parishes	82	16

Table 7a: Do you consider birth control part of basic women’s health care coverage, or not? [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Yes	No
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	81	16
Men (n=95)	76	19
Women	85	14
50 + years old	83	12
Some college or less	79	16
College +	86	14
<\$50K HH income	81	15
\$50K + (n=95)	78	22

A large majority of Black adults in Louisiana (84 percent) believe all women should have coverage for the full range of pregnancy-related care, including abortion. Two-thirds (66 percent) strongly agree with this idea; 14 percent disagree. (See Figure 10.) Similarly, 91 percent agree women should get birth control through their health insurance even if their boss disagrees with the idea of birth control. (See Figure 11.)

Figure 10: Whether she has private or government funded health coverage, every woman should have coverage for the full range of pregnancy-related care, including prenatal care and abortion.

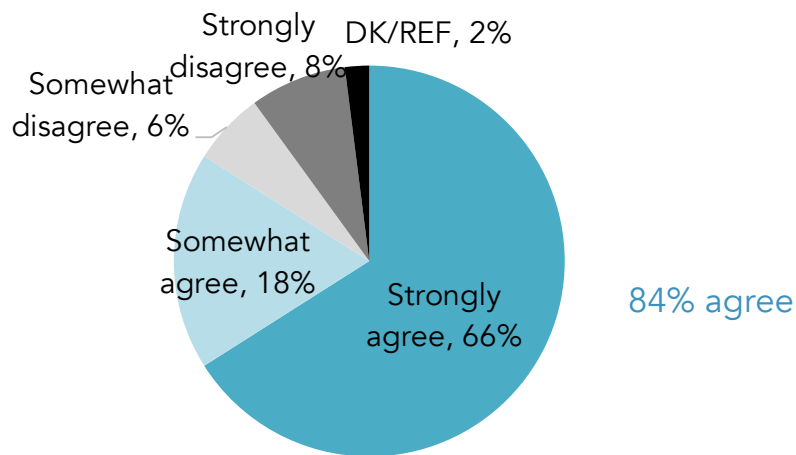
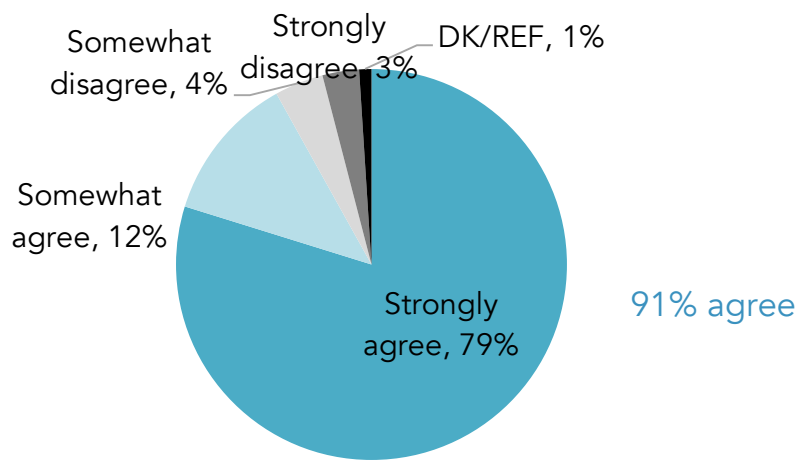


Figure 11: A woman should be able to get birth control through her health insurance even if her boss disagrees with the idea of birth control.



Majorities across all demographic groups agree women should have coverage for the full range of pregnancy-related care including prenatal care and abortion and access to birth control regardless of employers' positions. (See Tables 8 and 8a.)

Table 8: Do you agree or disagree... (% Agree)

	Whether private or government funded health coverage, every woman should have the full range of pregnancy-related care, including prenatal care and abortion.	A woman should be able to get birth control through her health insurance, even if her boss disagrees with the idea of birth control.
Total	84	91
Men	82	90
Women	86	91
18-49 years old	88	91
50-64	81	96
65 +	79	84
High school or less	80	86
Some college (n=88)	87	95
College +	90	96
<\$30K HH income	79	90
\$30K-75K	92	97
\$75K + (n=98)	88	90
Married or living w/ partner	82	92
Widowed/divorced/separated	80	87
Never married	93	92
Liberal	86	96
Moderate	85	93
Conservative	82	85
Religious service weekly or more	83	87
At least once a month	81	88
Less often/never	90	95
Registered to vote	85	90
New Orleans area	85	90
North LA	86	93
Acadiana/FL parishes	81	90

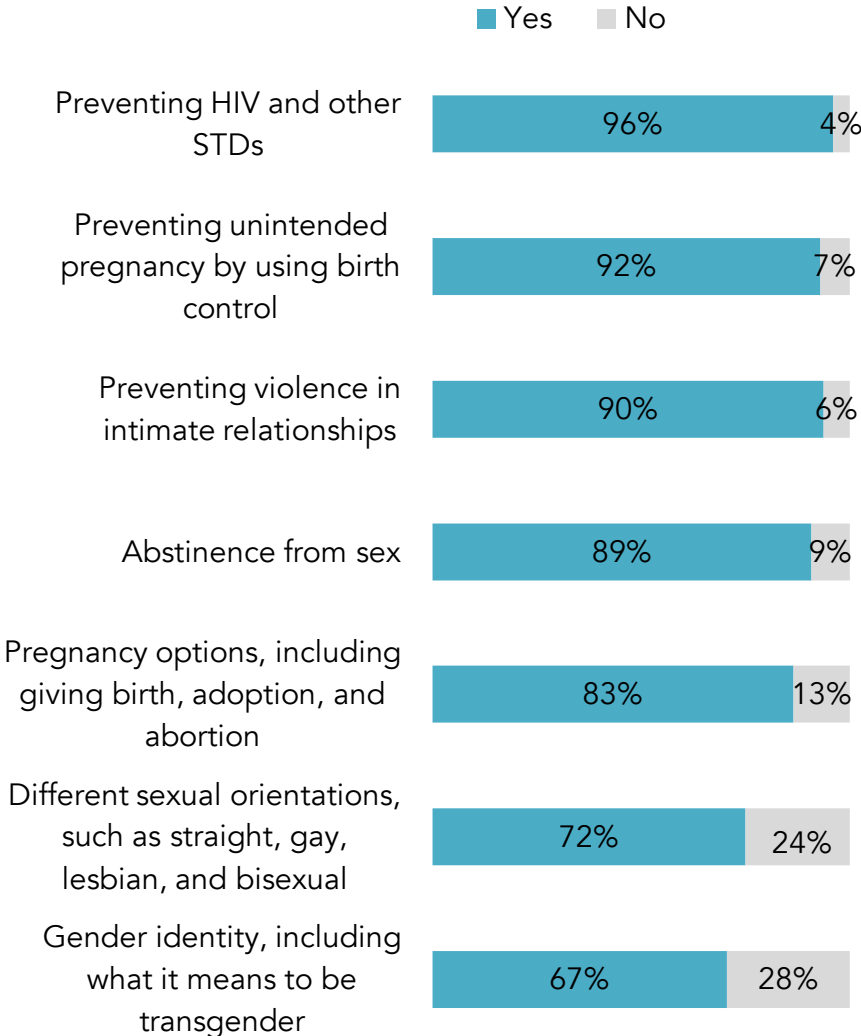
Table 8a: Do you agree or disagree... (% Agree) [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Whether private or government funded health coverage, every woman should have the full range of pregnancy-related care, including prenatal care and abortion.	A woman should be able to get birth control through her health insurance, even if her boss disagrees with the idea of birth control.
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	83	87
Men (<i>n</i> =95)	82	83
Women	84	89
50 + years old	76	89
Some college or less	81	85
College +	89	94
<\$50K HH income	80	86
\$50K + (<i>n</i> =95)	88	88

Views toward Sex Education

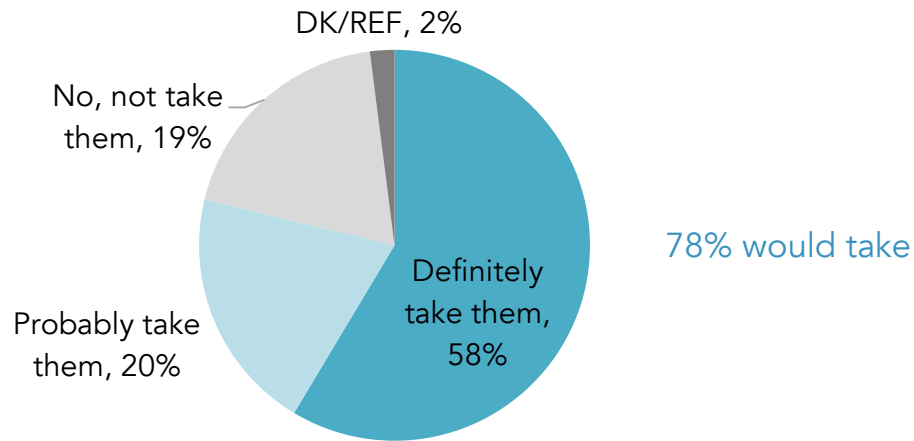
Majorities of Black adults in Louisiana want comprehensive sex education. Nearly all want sex education programs to cover preventing HIV and STDs (96 percent), preventing unintended pregnancy by using birth control (92 percent), and intimate partner violence (90 percent). Large majorities also want topics included such as abstinence (89 percent), pregnancy options including giving birth, adoption and abortion (83 percent), sexual orientation (72 percent), and gender identity (67 percent). (See Figure 12.)

Figure 12: Switching gears, I have a few questions about sex education programs in high schools. Do you think a sex education program should cover...



A majority of respondents (78 percent) would take their teenager to get birth control if they needed it. Fifty-eight percent say they would definitely take them. About one in five (19 percent) say they would not take them. (See Figure 13.)

Figure 13: If you had children, do you think you would definitely take your own teenagers to get birth control if they needed it, probably take them, or would you not take them?



A plurality across demographic segments say they are likely to definitely take their teenagers to get birth control. (See Tables 9 and 9a.)

Table 9: If you had children, do you think you would definitely take your own teenagers to get birth control if they needed it, probably take them, or would you not take them?

	Definitely take them	Probably take them	No, not take them
Total	58	20	19
Men	55	19	23
Women	60	21	17
18-49 years old	57	21	19
50-64	63	18	17
65 +	52	20	24
High school or less	62	14	21
Some college (n=88)	57	19	19
College +	49	34	16
<\$30K HH income	63	15	18
\$30K-75K	56	21	22
\$75K + (n=98)	43	32	24
Married or living w/ partner	57	18	24
Widowed/divorced/separated	55	21	16
Never married	62	22	14
Liberal	63	19	17
Moderate	47	34	19
Conservative	63	11	21
Religious service weekly or more	51	21	26
At least once a month	53	21	24
Less often/never	68	19	11
Registered to vote	58	20	20
New Orleans area	56	17	25
North LA	58	18	22
Acadiana/FL parishes	61	19	16

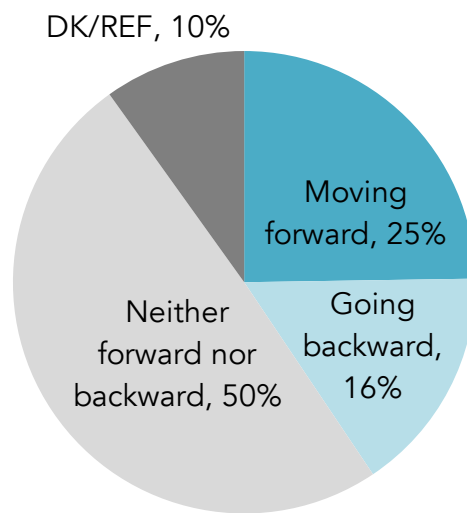
Table 9a: If you had children, do you think you would definitely take your own teenagers to get birth control if they needed it, probably take them, or would you not take them? [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Definitely take them	Probably take them	No, not take them
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	51	21	27
Men (<i>n</i> =95)	44	17	36
Women	55	24	20
50 + years old	52	21	25
Some college or less	53	17	28
College +	45	31	22
<\$50K HH income	59	17	23
\$50K + (<i>n</i>=95)	35	29	35

Views on Issues Related to Women’s Rights

One-quarter of respondents (25 percent) feel elected officials in their state are moving forward on issues related to women’s rights. A majority says elected officials are not moving forward or moving backward. (See Figure 14.)

Figure 14: Would you say elected officials in your state are:



Those with household incomes of \$30,000 to \$75,000 are most likely to say elected officials are going backward on issues related to women’s rights. (See Tables 10 and 10a.)

Table 10: Would you say elected officials in your state are [_____] on issues related to women’s rights?

	Moving forward	Going backward	Neither forward backward
Total	25	16	50
Men	27	12	49
Women	22	19	51
18-49 years old	15	16	57
50-64	31	18	45
65 +	39	13	39
High school or less	29	14	43
Some college (n=88)	22	16	54
College +	18	19	60
<\$30K HH income	29	16	44
\$30K-\$75K	25	23	45
\$75K + (n=98)	17	14	68
Married or living w/ partner	22	16	53
Widowed/divorced/ separated	34	17	46
Never married	21	15	48
Liberal	25	16	50
Moderate	18	15	64
Conservative (n=98)	31	16	41
Religious service weekly or more	23	16	49
At least once a month	25	17	48
Less often/never	24	14	54
Registered to vote	26	14	51
New Orleans area	20	21	48
North LA	26	14	45
Acadiana/FL parishes	25	15	56

Table 10a: Would you say elected officials in your state are [_____] on issues related to women’s rights? [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Moving forward	Going backward	Neither forward backward
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	23	16	49
Men (n=95)	28	14	40
Women	20	17	54
50 + years old	31	15	46
Some college or less	25	16	43
College +	17	14	65
<\$50K HH income	28	16	40
\$50K + (n=95)	16	21	58

Detailed Methods

The telephone study collected data from a sample of $n = 504$ Black adult Louisiana residents. All phone interviews were done through the CATI system. The study included landline ($n=277$) and cell ($n=227$) completes.

The field period for the study was September 28 through October 31, 2016. The margin of sampling error for results is ± 6.5 percentage points.

In order to obtain the number of interviews needed in a timely manner, SSRS used pre-screened sample from its omnibus survey, which is a national, weekly dual-frame bilingual telephone survey designed to meet standards of quality associated with custom research studies. For this study, SSRS utilized pre-screened sample that had been identified as non-Hispanic African American in a previous omnibus survey. In addition, SSRS obtained listed and non-listed sample from low and high African American incidence areas in Louisiana. The listed sample consisted of households that were identified as African American using propriety logic by Ethnic Technologies, a company that provides multicultural marketing data, ethnic identification software and ethnic data appending services. The non-listed sample consisted of RDD based sample that utilized Marketing Systems Group's Genesys system to target areas with high density African American coverage.

The data from this project were weighted to reflect representative estimates of the adult African American population in Louisiana. The survey data were also weighted to adjust for the fact that not all survey respondents were selected with the same probabilities, and account for systematic nonresponse along known population parameters.