

# Views on Women's Reproductive Health

## Findings from a North Carolina 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)<sup>1</sup> commissioned PerryUndem Research/Communication to conduct a survey of Black adults in North Carolina 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 North Carolina 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 North Carolina 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  $n = 502$  Black adults, including 90 percent who are registered voters, in North Carolina from September 28 to October 31, 2016. The survey was administered by telephone by SSRS. The margin of sampling error for results is  $\pm 6.2$  percentage points. See a more detailed methodology at the end of this report.

---

<sup>1</sup> NEO Philanthropy is the fiscal sponsor for NBWRJA.

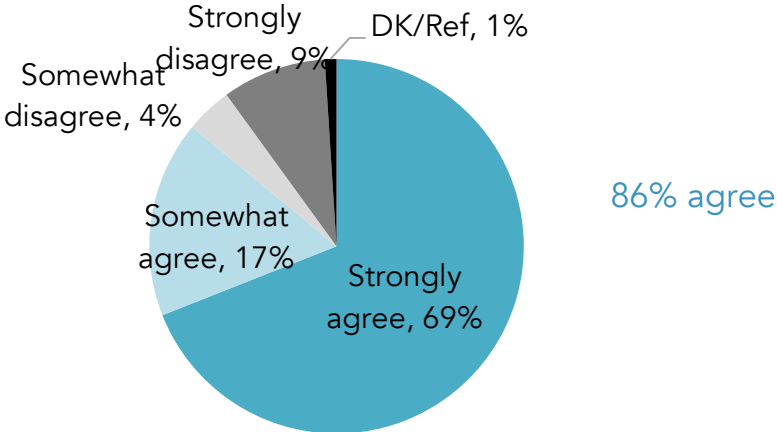
## II. Key Findings

- A large majority of Black adults in North Carolina (86 percent) agrees each woman should have the right to make her own decision on abortion, even if they may disagree with her reason. Similarly, 83 percent agree we should trust Black women to make personal decisions that are best for themselves and their families.
- More than half (69 percent) do not want the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade* including 62 percent of those who self-identify as very religious.
- Nearly all Black adults in North Carolina (96 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 (97 percent), in their community (89 percent), affordable (87 percent), and respectful of a woman's decision (80 percent).
- Two-thirds (67 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 North Carolina, religious beliefs do not interfere with their views toward abortion. Close to three-quarters (72 percent) agree abortion should remain legal even if church leaders take a stance against abortion.
- In their personal lives, the vast majority (85 percent) would support a loved one who had an abortion, with 59 percent saying would give "a lot of" support.
- A large majority of respondents (89 percent) considers birth control part of basic women's health care coverage. Nearly all (90 percent) agree every woman should have access to the full range of pregnancy care including abortion. Similarly, 94 percent agree 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 (87 percent), gender identity (71 percent), and sexual orientation (70 percent).
- More than eight in ten (84 percent) would take their own teenager to get birth control if they needed it; 59 percent say they would definitely take them.

### III. Detailed Findings

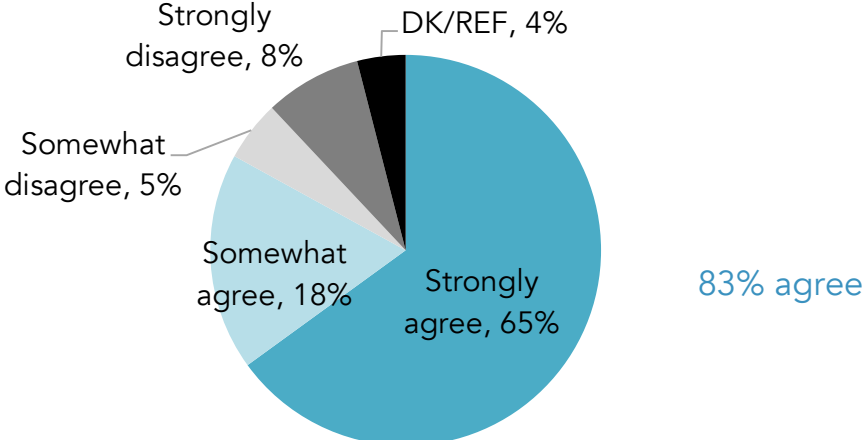
**A large majority of Black adults in North Carolina hold firm views in support of a woman’s right to abortion.** More than eight in ten (86 percent) respondents agree with the statement: “Each woman should have the right to make her own decision on abortion, even if I may disagree with her reasons.” (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.



**More than eight in ten feel we should trust Black women to make the decisions best for them.** Two-thirds (65 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)**

	<b>A woman should have a right to make her own decision, even if I disagree with reasons.</b>	<b>We should trust Black women to make decisions that are best for themselves and their families.</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>83</b>
Men	83	83
Women	89	83
18-49 years old	88	84
50-64	86	83
65 +	83	80
High school or less	83	78
Some college	86	84
College +	93	90
<\$50K HH income	83	82
\$50K +	94	89
Married or living w/ partner	81	83
Widowed/divorced/separated	91	79
Never married	92	90
Liberal	93	90
Moderate	88	89
Conservative	76	68
Religious service weekly or more	85	79
At least once a month	86	81
Less often/never	86	88
Registered to vote	86	83
Charlotte/Raleigh	88	80
Inner coastal plain	87	87
Central/west	83	84

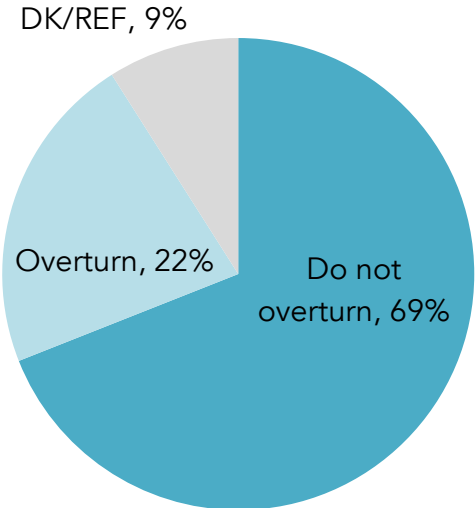
**Table 1a: Do you agree or disagree... (% Agree) [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]**

	<b>A woman should have a right to make her own decision, even if I disagree with reasons.</b>	<b>We should trust Black women to make decisions that are best for themselves and their families.</b>
<b>Total who attend religious services weekly or more</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>80</b>
Men	83	77
Women	87	81
<b>50 + years old</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>79</b>
Some college or less	83	76
College + (n=99)	91	87
<b>&lt;\$50K HH income</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>79</b>

# General Views on the Right to Abortion

A large majority of Black adults in North Carolina do not want to see *Roe v. Wade* overturned. Seven in ten (69 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?



Majorities across all demographic groups do 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>22</b>
Men	67	20
Women	70	25
18-49 years old	76	15
50-64	65	30
65 +	57	30
High school or less	56	31
Some college	70	22
College +	87	11
<\$50K HH income	67	25
\$50K +	84	14
Married or living w/ partner	70	23
Widowed/divorced/separated	69	27
Never married	65	17
Liberal	79	15
Moderate	72	18
Conservative	53	39
Religious service weekly or more	29	62
At least once a month	65	26
Less often/never	77	13
Registered to vote	69	22
Charlotte/Raleigh	70	19
Inner coastal plain	69	23
Central/west	68	24

**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]**

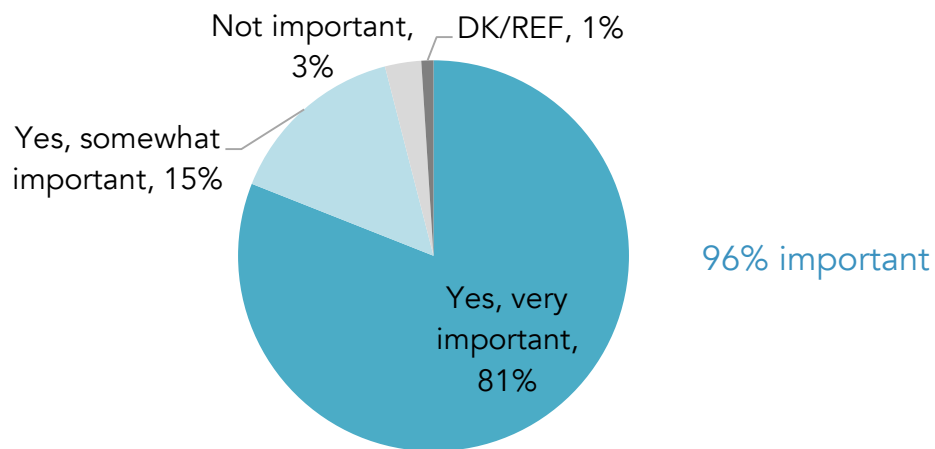
	Do not overturn	Overturn
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	62	29
Men	61	28
Women	62	31
50 + years old	56	34
Some college or less	53	35
College +(n=99)	81	17
<\$50K HH income	59	33



## Views about Abortion Care and Access

An overwhelming majority of Black adults in North Carolina (96 percent) feels a woman's ability to control whether or when she has children is an important part of her financial stability. Eighty-one 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 (96 percent) and men (96 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?**

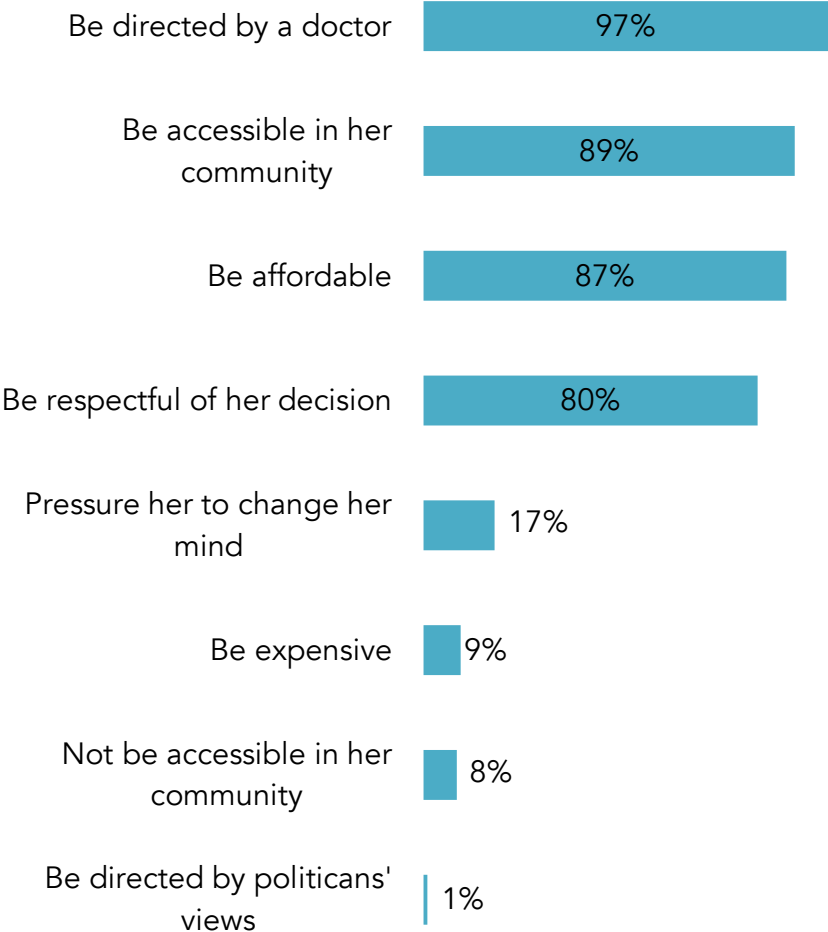
	<b>Very important</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not important</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>
Men	80	16	3
Women	82	14	3
18-49 years old	86	13	0
50-64	79	14	6
65 +	72	21	4
High school or less	78	16	4
Some college	83	13	3
College +	84	16	0
<\$50K HH income	79	16	4
\$50K +	85	15	0
Married or living w/ partner	78	17	3
Widowed/divorced/separated	83	13	2
Never married	85	12	0
Liberal	85	12	2
Moderate	80	16	3
Conservative	78	18	3
Religious service weekly or more	81	16	2
At least once a month	81	15	2
Less often/never	81	15	3
Registered to vote	81	15	3
Charlotte/Raleigh	79	19	1
Inner coastal plain	75	20	3
Central/west	87	8	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	81	16	2
Men	78	19	2
Women	84	13	1
50 + years old	77	18	3
Some college or less	79	17	3
College + (n=99)	87	13	0
<\$50K HH income	79	18	3

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

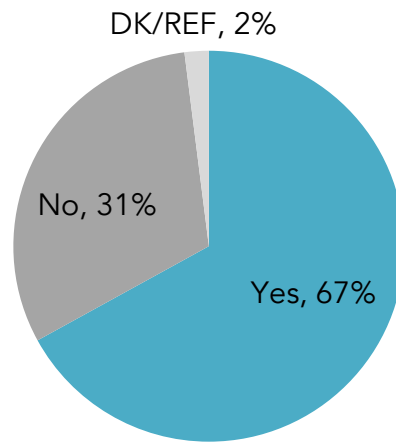
*Figure 5: Let's say a woman has decided to have an abortion. Would you want the care to...  
(% Yes)*



## Views toward Politicians' Positions on Abortion

**Black adults in North Carolina are paying attention to political candidate's views on abortion.** Two-thirds (67 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>31</b>
Men	65	33
Women	69	28
18-49 years old	67	32
50-64	72	27
65 +	61	33
High school or less	61	37
Some college	72	27
College +	72	26
<\$50K HH income	64	34
\$50K +	85	15
Married or living w/ partner	73	26
Widowed/divorced/separated	64	35
Never married	57	39
Liberal	75	21
Moderate	64	35
Conservative	67	32
Religious service weekly or more	67	30
At least once a month	69	28
Less often/never	63	36
Registered to vote	69	29
Charlotte/Raleigh	69	29
Inner coastal plain	71	27
Central/west	64	34

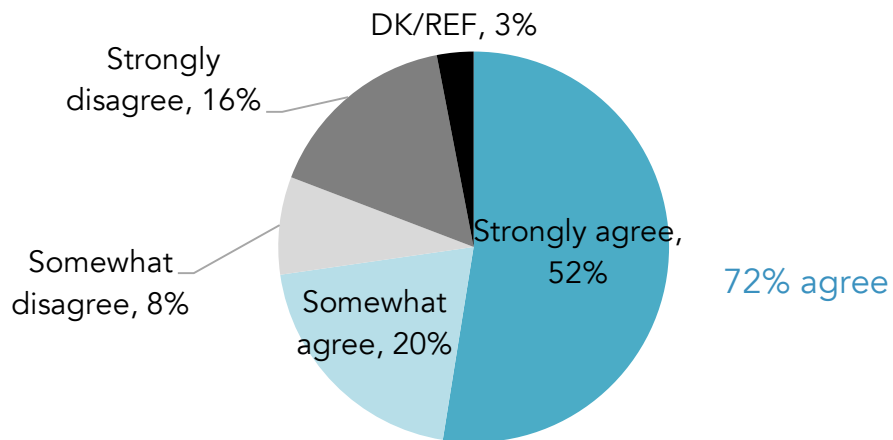
**Table 4a: In general, do you tend to pay attention to a political candidate's views on a woman's right to get an abortion?  
[Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]**

	Yes	No
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	67	30
Men	66	32
Women	68	29
50 + years old	67	30
Some college or less	66	32
College + (n=99)	70	27
<\$50K HH income	62	36

## Abortion in Their Personal Lives

Three in four Black adults in North Carolina (72 percent) believe abortion should remain legal, even though some church leaders take a position against it. More than half (52 percent) strongly believes 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 (68 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.**



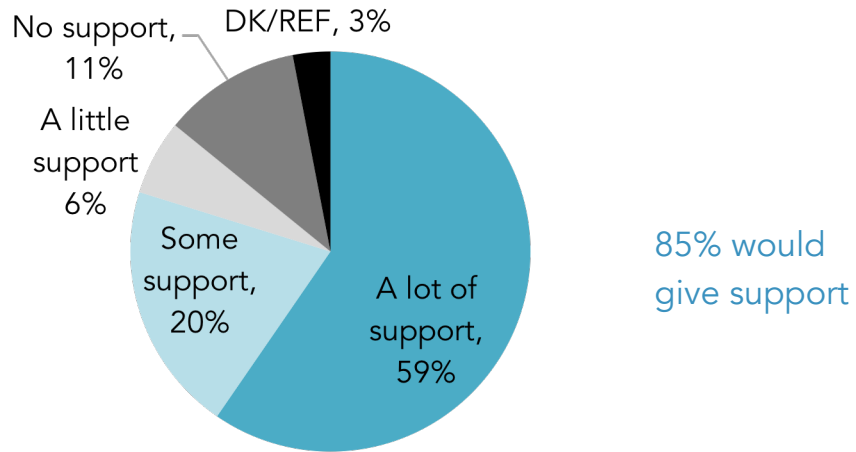
	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>24</b>
Men	69	26
Women	76	23
18-49 years old	78	18
50-64	73	25
65 +	61	36
High school or less	63	33
Some college	74	23
College +	86	12
<\$50K HH income	72	27
\$50K +	89	10
Married or living w/ partner	71	27
Widowed/divorced/separated	74	25
Never married	75	17
Liberal	82	16
Moderate	80	19
Conservative	59	36
Religious service weekly or more	67	30
At least once a month	68	29
Less often/never	84	13
Registered to vote	74	23
Charlotte/Raleigh	72	20
Inner coastal plain	71	28
Central/west	73	25

**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	67	30
Men	61	34
Women	71	28
50 + years old	63	34
Some college or less	60	37
College + (n=99)	82	17
<\$50K HH income	65	35

**More than eight in ten Black adults in North Carolina would support a loved one who had an abortion.** Eighty-five percent would offer support to a friend or family member, with 59 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 of family member told you she had an abortion, would you give her:**

	<b>Would give support</b>	<b>"A lot" of support</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>59</b>
Men	88	57
Women	84	60
18-49 years old	91	65
50-64	88	59
65 +	70	45
High school or less	76	45
Some college	92	62
College +	93	76
<\$50K HH income	85	56
\$50K +	94	69
Married or living w/ partner	85	58
Widowed/divorced/separated	79	51
Never married	93	69
Liberal	93	72
Moderate	86	54
Conservative	76	48
Religious service weekly or more	85	54
At least once a month	84	54
Less often/never	89	70
Registered to vote	85	59
Charlotte/Raleigh	85	61
Inner coastal plain	85	61
Central/west	86	55

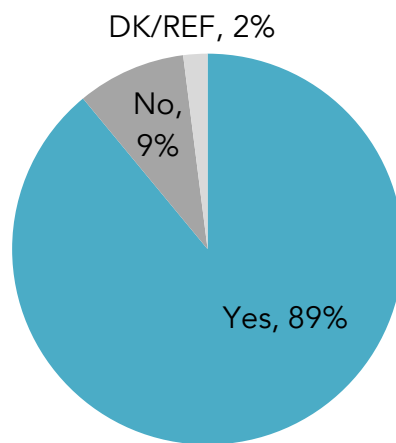
**Table 6a: If a close friend or family member told you she had an abortion, would you give her: [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]**

	Would give support	"A lot" of support
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	85	54
Men	87	54
Women	83	54
50 + years old	79	51
Some college or less	83	47
College + (n=99)	89	71
<\$50K HH income	87	54

## Views about Birth Control and Access

A large majority of Black adults in North Carolina (89 percent) consider birth control a basic part of women's health care coverage. About one in ten (9 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?**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>9</b>
Men	88	11
Women	89	7
18-49 years old	90	10
50-64	88	10
65 +	88	6
High school or less	86	9
Some college	90	9
College +	92	8
<\$50K HH income	88	10
\$50K +	89	10
Married or living w/ partner	86	12
Widowed/divorced/separated	88	8
Never married	96	2
Liberal	95	1
Moderate	87	12
Conservative	83	16
Religious service weekly or more	90	7
At least once a month	90	7
Less often/never	86	13
Registered to vote	88	10
Charlotte/Raleigh	84	13
Inner coastal plain	90	7
Central/west	91	7

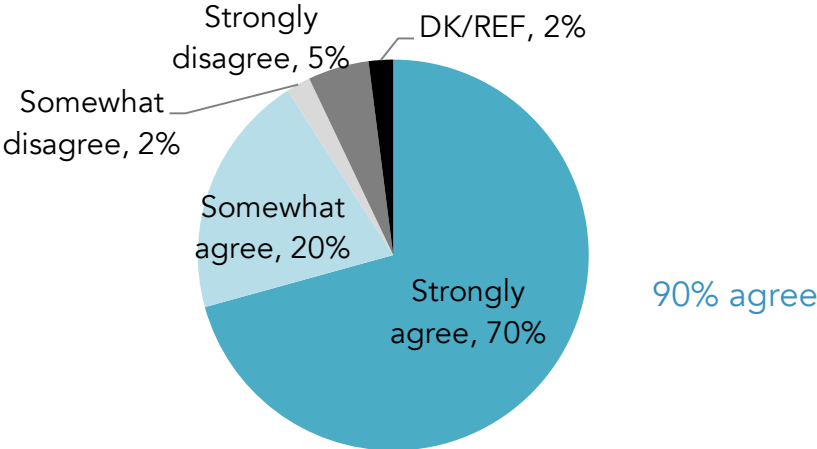
**Table 7a: Do you consider birth control part of basic women’s health care coverage, or not? [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]**

	Yes	No
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	90	7
Men	91	7
Women	89	7
50 + years old	90	5
Some college or less	90	6
College + (n=99)	90	10
<\$50K HH income	90	7

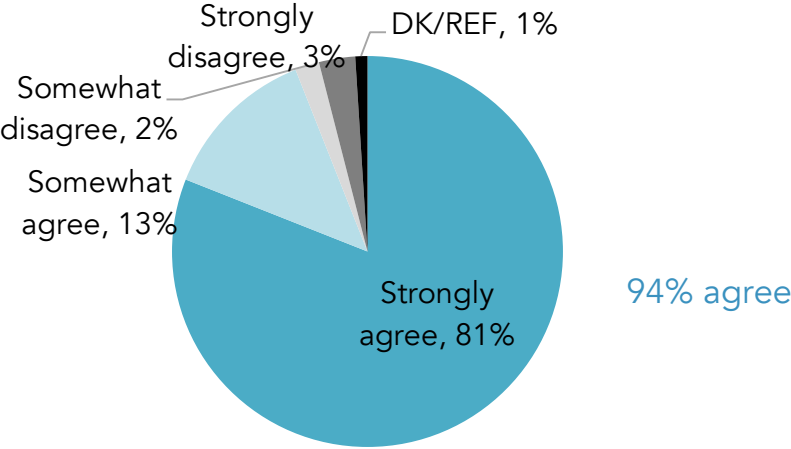


**Nearly all Black adults in North Carolina (90 percent) believe all women should have coverage for the full range of pregnancy-related care, including abortion.** Seven in ten (70 percent) strongly agree with this idea; seven percent disagree. (See Figure 10.) Similarly, 94 percent agree women should 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)**

	<b>Whether private or government funded health coverage, every woman should have the full range of pregnancy-related care, including prenatal care and abortion.</b>	<b>A woman should be able to get birth control through her health insurance, even if her boss disagrees with the idea of birth control.</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>94</b>
Men	91	93
Women	90	95
18-49 years old	93	97
50-64	90	91
65 +	86	90
High school or less	89	94
Some college	92	93
College +	92	96
<\$50K HH income	92	94
\$50K +	94	97
Married or living w/ partner	90	93
Widowed/divorced/separated	92	92
Never married	88	98
Liberal	92	98
Moderate	92	93
Conservative	90	92
Religious service weekly or more	88	95
At least once a month	89	94
Less often/never	95	94
Registered to vote	90	95
Charlotte/Raleigh	93	98
Inner coastal plain	89	91
Central/west	89	95

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

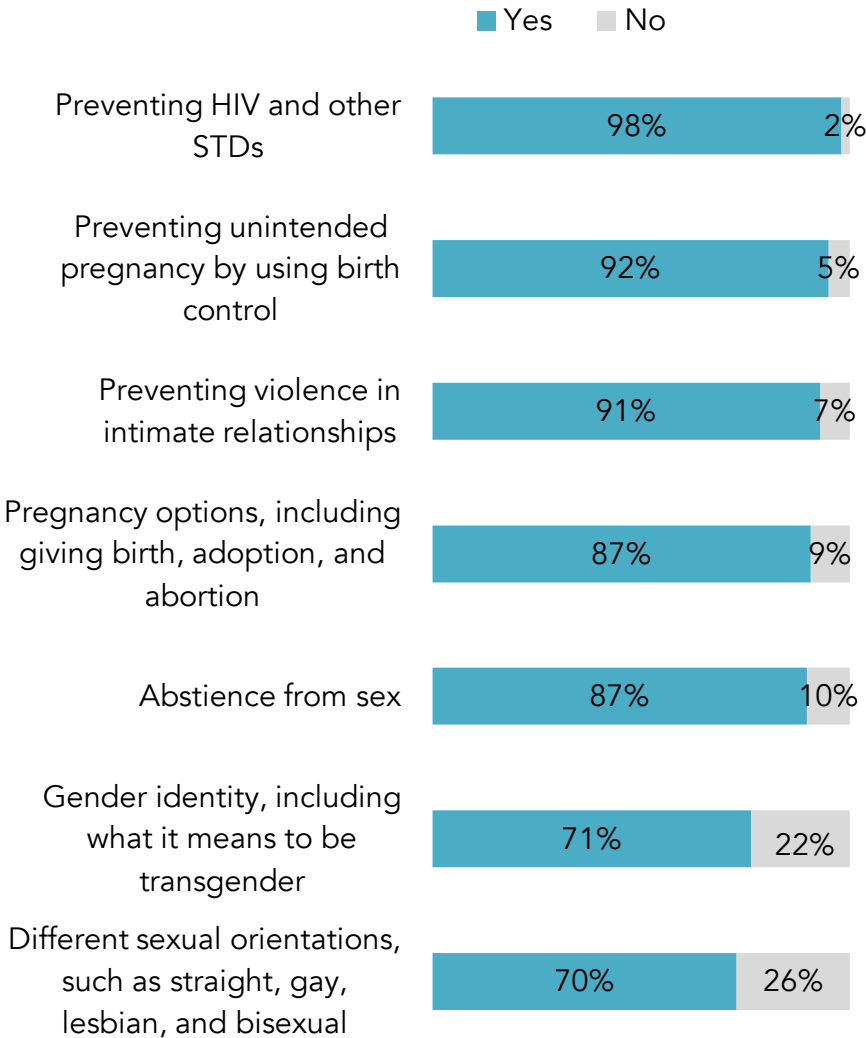
	Whether private or government funded health coverage, every woman should have the full range of pregnancy-related care, including prenatal care and abortion.	A woman should be able to get birth control through her health insurance, even if her boss disagrees with the idea of birth control.
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	89	95
Men	89	95
Women	88	96
50 + years old	88	92
Some college or less	87	94
College + (n=99)	94	98
<\$50K HH income	90	96

# Views toward Sex Education

## Majorities of Black adults in North Carolina want comprehensive sex education.

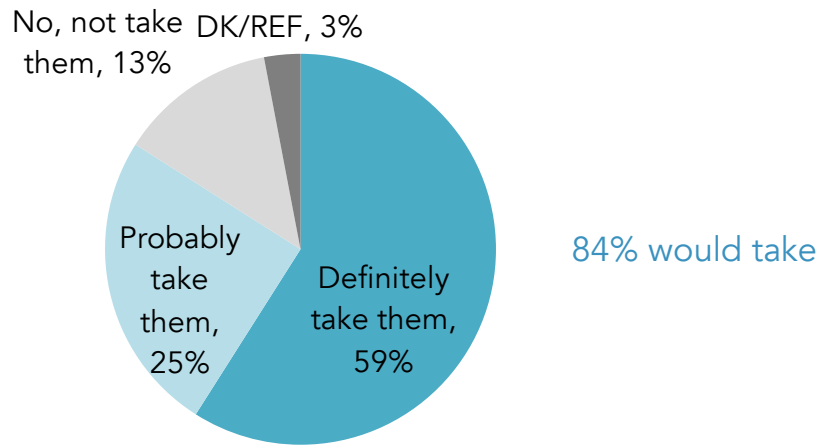
Nearly all want sex education programs to cover preventing HIV and STDs (98 percent), preventing unintended pregnancy by using birth control (92 percent), and intimate partner violence (91 percent). Large majorities also want topics included such as pregnancy options including giving birth, adoption and abortion (87 percent), abstinence (87 percent), gender identity (71 percent), and sexual orientation (70 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 (84 percent) would take their teenager to get birth control if they needed it.** Fifty-nine percent say they would definitely take them. About one in eight (13 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 groups 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>13</b>
Men	55	28	14
Women	62	23	13
18-49 years old	58	27	13
50-64	64	22	10
65 +	53	25	18
High school or less	59	23	13
Some college	59	26	12
College +	58	26	15
<\$50K HH income	58	27	13
\$50K +	62	25	12
Married or living w/ partner	57	24	15
Widowed/divorced/separated	59	25	12
Never married	62	25	11
Liberal	64	26	9
Moderate	58	29	11
Conservative	49	25	23
Religious service weekly or more	58	24	16
At least once a month	58	26	15
Less often/never	60	24	10
Registered to vote	58	26	14
Charlotte/Raleigh	56	29	14
Inner coastal plain	61	20	14
Central/west	55	28	13

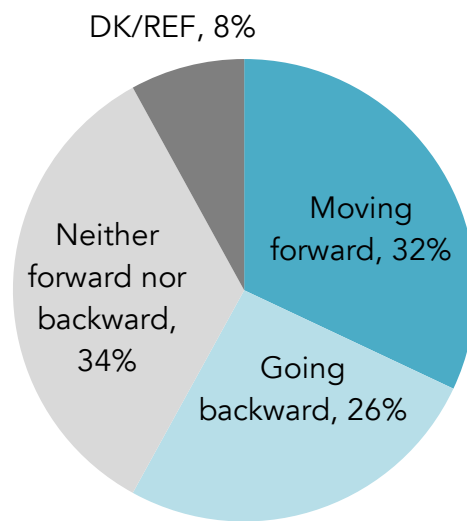
**Table 9a: If you had children, do you think you would definitely take your own teenagers to get birth control if they needed it, probably take them, or would you not take them? [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]**

	<b>Definitely take them</b>	<b>Probably take them</b>	<b>No, not take them</b>
<b>Total who attend religious services weekly or more</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>17</b>
Men	53	25	21
Women	61	23	13
<b>50 + years old</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>
Some college or less	57	24	17
College + ( <i>n</i> =99)	60	23	16
<b>&lt;\$50K HH income</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>

## Views on Issues Related to Women’s Rights

**About one-third of respondents 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 over \$50,000 are more 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?**

	<b>Moving forward</b>	<b>Going backward</b>	<b>Neither forward backward</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>34</b>
Men	37	25	26
Women	28	26	40
18-49 years old	33	27	31
50-64	28	27	40
65 +	38	22	33
High school or less	45	13	32
Some college	26	27	37
College +	22	41	34
<\$50K HH income	38	18	39
\$50K +	19	47	28
Married or living w/ partner	27	33	34
Widowed/divorced/ separated	35	23	32
Never married	42	12	33
Liberal	27	34	31
Moderate	31	25	37
Conservative	39	16	38
Religious service weekly or more	32	26	33
At least once a month	34	26	33
Less often/never	30	26	36
Registered to vote	33	25	34
Charlotte/Raleigh	25	33	32
Inner coastal plain	38	20	34
Central/west	32	23	38

**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]**

	<b>Moving forward</b>	<b>Going backward</b>	<b>Neither forward backward</b>
<b>Total who attend religious services weekly or more</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>34</b>
Men	40	24	24
Women	25	27	41
50 + years old	32	24	36
Some college or less	36	21	33
College + (n=99)	23	37	35
<\$50K HH income	41	19	36

## Detailed Methods

The telephone study collected data from a sample of  $n = 502$  Black adult North Carolina residents. All phone interviews were done through the CATI system. The study included landline ( $n=270$ ) and cell ( $n=232$ ) completes.

The field period for the study was September 28 through October 31, 2016. The margin of sampling error for results is  $\pm 6.2$  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 North Carolina. 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 North Carolina. 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.