

Views on Women’s Reproductive Health

Findings from an Ohio 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 Ohio 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 Ohio 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 Ohio 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 = 503 registered Black adults, including 96 percent who are registered voters, in Ohio from September 28 to October 31, 2016. The survey was administered by telephone by SSRS. The margin of sampling error for results is ± 6.6 percentage points. See a more detailed methodology at the end of this report.

¹ NEO Philanthropy is the fiscal sponsor for NBWRJA.

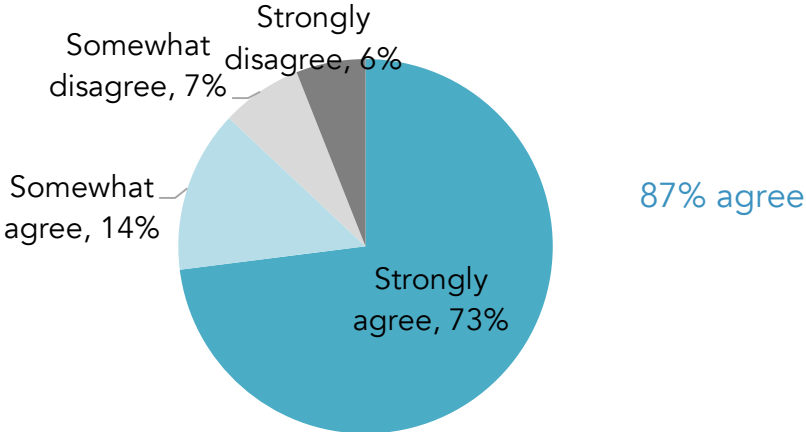
II. Key Findings

- A large majority of Black adults in Ohio (87 percent) agrees each woman should have the right to make her own decision on abortion, even if they may disagree with her reason. Similarly, 86 percent agree we should trust Black women to make personal decisions that are best for themselves and their families.
- An overwhelming majority (73 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 Ohio (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 (98 percent), affordable (89 percent), in their community (85 percent), and respectful of a woman's decision (81 percent).
- More than seven in ten (71 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 Ohio, religious beliefs do not interfere with their views toward abortion. More than three-quarters (78 percent) agree abortion should remain legal even if church leaders take a stance against abortion.
- In their personal lives, the vast majority (90 percent) would support a loved one who had an abortion, with 61 percent saying would give "a lot of" support.
- A large majority of respondents (91 percent) considers birth control part of basic women's health care coverage. A large majority (86 percent) agrees every woman should have access to the full range of pregnancy care including abortion. Similarly, 91 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 (94 percent), pregnancy options including abortion (87 percent), sexual orientation (78 percent), and gender identity (76 percent).
- More than eight in ten (88 percent) would take their own teenager to get birth control if they needed it; 64 percent say they would definitely take them.

III. Detailed Findings

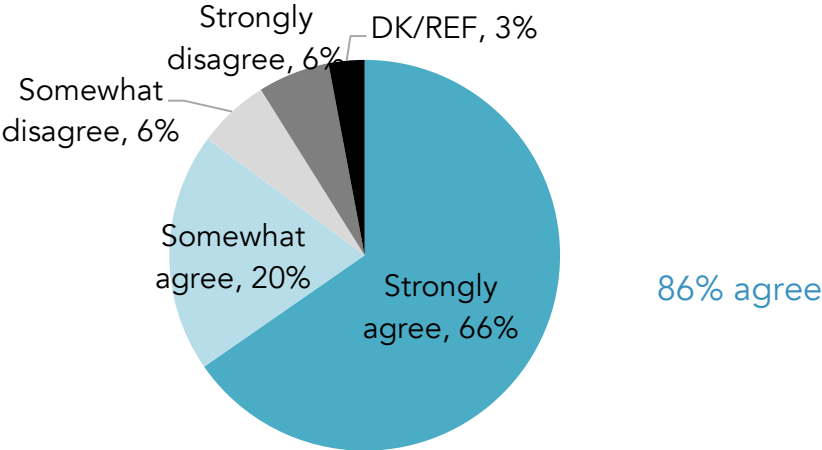
A large majority of Black adults in Ohio hold firm views in support of a woman’s right to abortion. More than eight in ten (87 percent) respondents agree with the statement: “Each woman should have the right to make her own decision on abortion, even if I may disagree with her reasons.” (See Figure 1.)

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 (66 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	87	86
Men	86	85
Women	88	86
18-49 years old	84	83
50-64	94	90
65 +	84	85
High school or less	87	82
Some college	89	90
College +	83	85
<\$30K HH income	86	78
\$30K-75K	86	93
\$75K + (n=86)	87	83
Married or living w/ partner	89	87
Widowed/divorced/separated	87	84
Never married	82	85
Liberal	93	87
Moderate	87	91
Conservative	84	78
Religious service weekly or more	82	78
At least once a month	85	81
Less often/never	90	92
Registered to vote	87	86
Cleveland	91	88
Northeast OH (n=96)	84	84
Southwest OH	88	82
West/South/Central OH	86	84

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

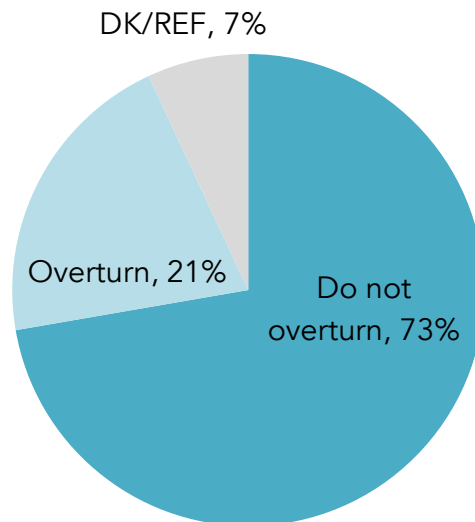
	A woman should have a right to make her own decision, even if I disagree with reasons.	We should trust Black women to make decisions that are best for themselves and their families.
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	82	78
Women	83	80
50 + years old	87	81
Some college or less	85	78
College + (n=88)	76	79
<\$50K HH income	84	75

General Views on the Right to Abortion

A large majority of Black adults in Ohio do not want to see *Roe v. Wade* overturned.

Nearly three-quarters (73 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
Total	73	21
Men	75	19
Women	72	22
18-49 years old	69	26
50-64	79	15
65 +	75	17
High school or less	71	20
Some college	75	19
College +	76	22
<\$30K HH income	68	24
\$30K-75K	76	18
\$75K + (n=86)	79	20
Married or living w/ partner	78	16
Widowed/divorced/separated	73	24
Never married	68	24
Liberal	79	15
Moderate	77	20
Conservative	66	28
Religious service weekly or more	66	28
At least once a month	69	25
Less often/never	80	13
Registered to vote	74	20
Cleveland	72	16
Northeast OH (n=96)	75	19
Southwest OH	72	24
West/South/Central OH	74	22

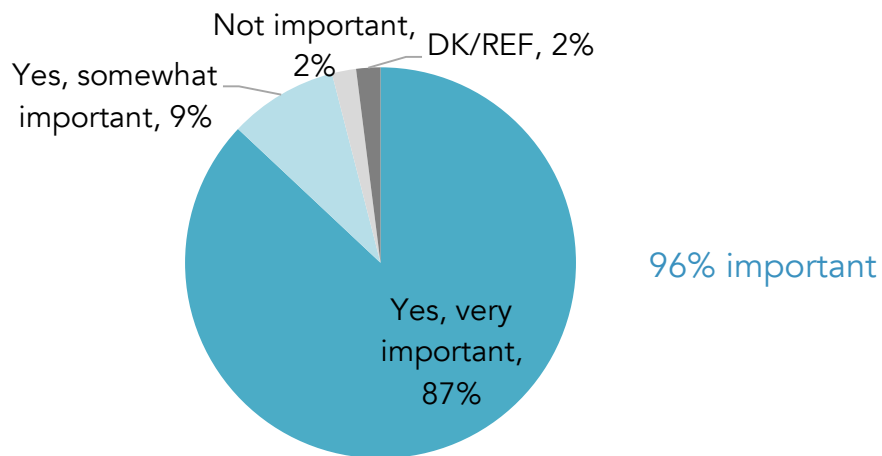
Table 2a: Would you like to see the Supreme Court overturn its *Roe v. Wade* decision, or not? [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Do not overturn	Overturn
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	66	28
Women	66	27
50 + years old	71	20
Some college or less	68	24
College + (n=88)	63	36
<\$50K HH income	64	29

Views about Abortion Care and Access

An overwhelming majority of Black adults in Ohio (96 percent) feels a woman's ability to control whether or when she has children is an important part of her financial stability. Eighty-four 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 (97 percent) and men (94 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?

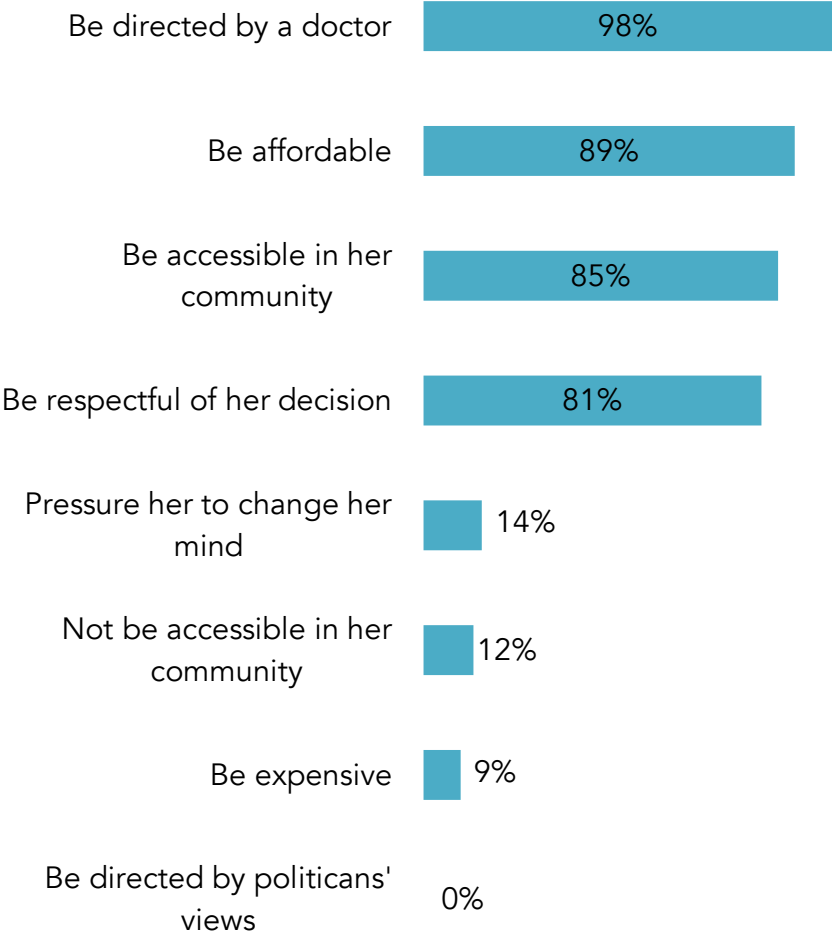
	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Total	87	9	2
Men	86	8	4
Women	87	10	1
18-49 years old	89	10	1
50-64	90	3	4
65 +	77	15	3
High school or less	82	11	4
Some college	88	9	2
College +	91	6	1
<\$30K HH income	86	11	2
\$30K-75K	83	10	5
\$75K + (n=86)	89	6	0
Married or living w/ partner	86	9	4
Widowed/divorced/separated	89	8	0
Never married	87	11	2
Liberal	86	11	1
Moderate	83	12	4
Conservative	91	4	2
Religious service weekly or more	83	9	4
At least once a month	86	8	3
Less often/never	88	11	1
Registered to vote	87	9	3
Cleveland	80	16	2
Northeast OH (n=96)	84	12	2
Southwest OH	89	6	3
West/South/Central OH	89	6	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	83	10	4
Women	83	11	1
50 + years old	78	9	6
Some college or less	79	11	5
College + (n=88)	89	7	1
<\$50K HH income	84	7	5

When we ask questions about how women access and experience abortion care — large majorities of Black adults in Ohio want it to be directed by a doctor, affordable, accessible, and respectful of her decision. None wants this care to be directed by politicians' views. (See Figure 5.)

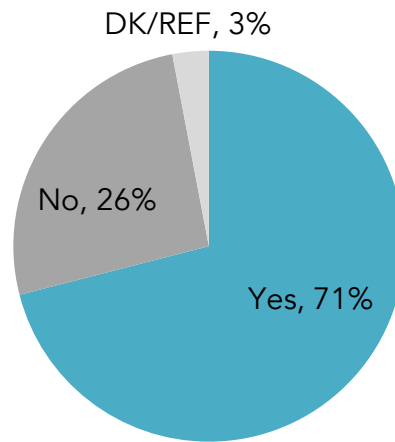
*Figure 5: Let's say a woman has decided to have an abortion. Would you want the care to...
(% Yes)*



Views toward Politicians' Positions on Abortion

Black adults in Ohio are paying attention to political candidate's views on abortion. Seven in ten (71 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	71	26
Men	71	26
Women	71	27
18-49 years old	70	27
50-64	73	25
65 +	69	27
High school or less	65	30
Some college	73	25
College +	78	22
<\$30K HH income	63	33
\$30K-75K	74	25
\$75K + (n=86)	86	14
Married or living w/ partner	70	29
Widowed/divorced/separated	73	17
Never married	69	31
Liberal	81	19
Moderate	69	30
Conservative	65	28
Religious service weekly or more	69	25
At least once a month	71	24
Less often/never	69	30
Registered to vote	72	25
Cleveland	67	31
Northeast OH (n=96)	61	36
Southwest OH	80	20
West/South/Central OH	77	20

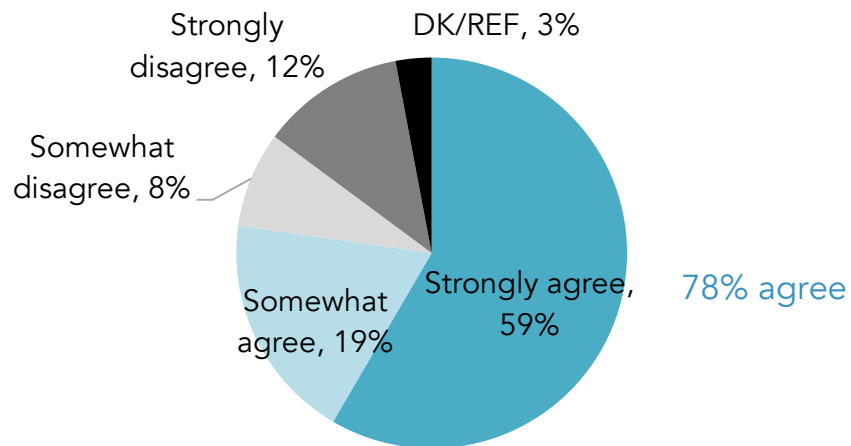
Table 4a: In general, do you tend to pay attention to a political candidate's views on a woman's right to get an abortion? [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Yes	No
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	69	25
Women	69	26
50 + years old	65	30
Some college or less	65	26
College + (n=88)	79	21
<\$50K HH income	65	26

Abortion in Their Personal Lives

More than three in four Black adults in Ohio (78 percent) believe abortion should remain legal, even though some church leaders take a position against it. Close to six in ten (59 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 (71 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.

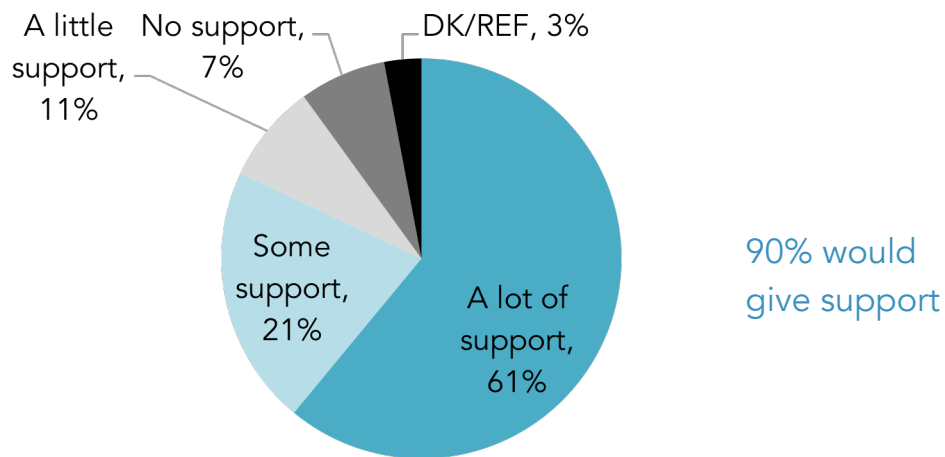
	Agree	Disagree
Total	78	20
Men	78	19
Women	77	20
18-49 years old	73	24
50-64	83	14
65 +	79	18
High school or less	77	20
Some college	83	14
College +	74	25
<\$30K HH income	73	25
\$30K-75K	81	15
\$75K + (n=86)	79	20
Married or living w/ partner	80	17
Widowed/divorced/separated	78	20
Never married	74	24
Liberal	86	14
Moderate	76	17
Conservative	71	28
Religious service weekly or more	67	30
At least once a month	71	25
Less often/never	88	11
Registered to vote	78	19
Cleveland	80	17
Northeast OH (n=96)	73	21
Southwest OH	76	23
West/South/Central OH	77	21

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
Women	71	17
50 + years old	75	21
Some college or less	70	25
College + (<i>n</i> =88)	61	39
<\$50K HH income	61	35

Nine in ten Black adults in Ohio would support a loved one who had an abortion. Ninety percent would offer support to a friend or family member, with 61 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	90	61
Men	92	55
Women	89	67
18-49 years old	91	57
50-64	92	68
65 +	85	62
High school or less	86	54
Some college	94	67
College +	93	68
<\$30K HH income	87	62
\$30K-75K	96	63
\$75K + (n=86)	90	62
Married or living w/ partner	91	63
Widowed/divorced/separated	87	66
Never married	93	57
Liberal	92	71
Moderate	93	60
Conservative	82	47
Religious service weekly or more	85	57
At least once a month	86	60
Less often/never	96	63
Registered to vote	90	62
Cleveland	93	69
Northeast OH (n=96)	89	55
Southwest OH	88	61
West/South/Central OH	89	61

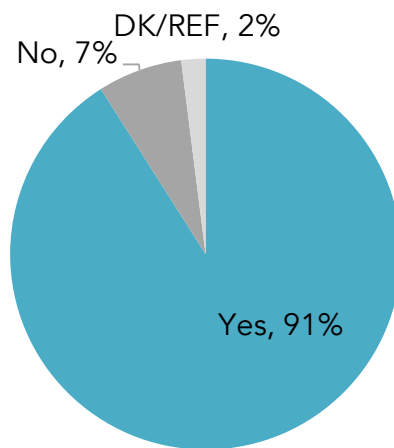
Table 6a: If a close friend or family member told you she had an abortion, would you give her: [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Would give support	"A lot" of support
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	85	57
Women	87	59
50 + years old	85	59
Some college or less	82	54
College + (n=88)	90	62
<\$50K HH income	83	56

Views about Birth Control and Access

A large majority of Black adults in Ohio (91 percent) consider birth control a basic part of women's health care coverage. Less than one in ten (7 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	91	7
Men	87	9
Women	94	6
18-49 years old	89	8
50-64	94	6
65 +	90	8
High school or less	91	6
Some college	89	10
College +	92	6
<\$30K HH income	92	6
\$30K-75K	90	9
\$75K + (n=86)	87	10
Married or living w/ partner	91	7
Widowed/divorced/separated	93	3
Never married	88	12
Liberal	96	4
Moderate	87	12
Conservative	86	8
Religious service weekly or more	86	10
At least once a month	88	9
Less often/never	94	5
Registered to vote	90	7
Cleveland	96	3
Northeast OH (n=96)	92	4
Southwest OH	86	13
West/South/Central OH	89	9

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	86	10
Women	92	8
50 + years old	90	9
Some college or less	85	11
College + (n=88)	90	7
<\$50K HH income	85	10

A large majority of Black adults in Ohio (86 percent) believe all women should have coverage for the full range of pregnancy-related care, including abortion. Two-thirds of respondents (66 percent) strongly agree with this idea; 12 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.

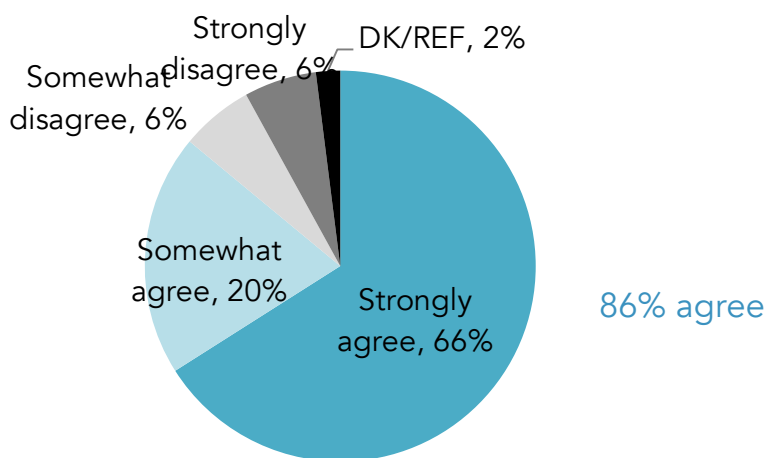
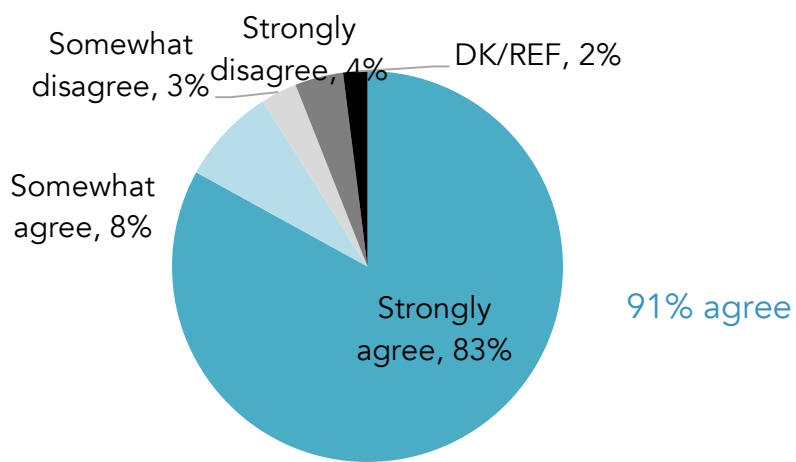


Figure 11: A woman should be able to get birth control through her health insurance even if her boss disagrees with the idea of birth control.



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	86	91
Men	88	90
Women	85	93
18-49 years old	83	92
50-64	91	96
65 +	87	84
High school or less	93	91
Some college	84	96
College +	79	88
<\$30K HH income	89	92
\$30K-75K	90	93
\$75K + (n=86)	72	85
Married or living w/ partner	81	88
Widowed/divorced/separated	87	93
Never married	94	94
Liberal	96	94
Moderate	83	91
Conservative	76	91
Religious service weekly or more	79	90
At least once a month	81	90
Less often/never	94	94
Registered to vote	86	91
Cleveland	89	95
Northeast OH (n=96)	85	90
Southwest OH	85	90
West/South/Central OH	84	90

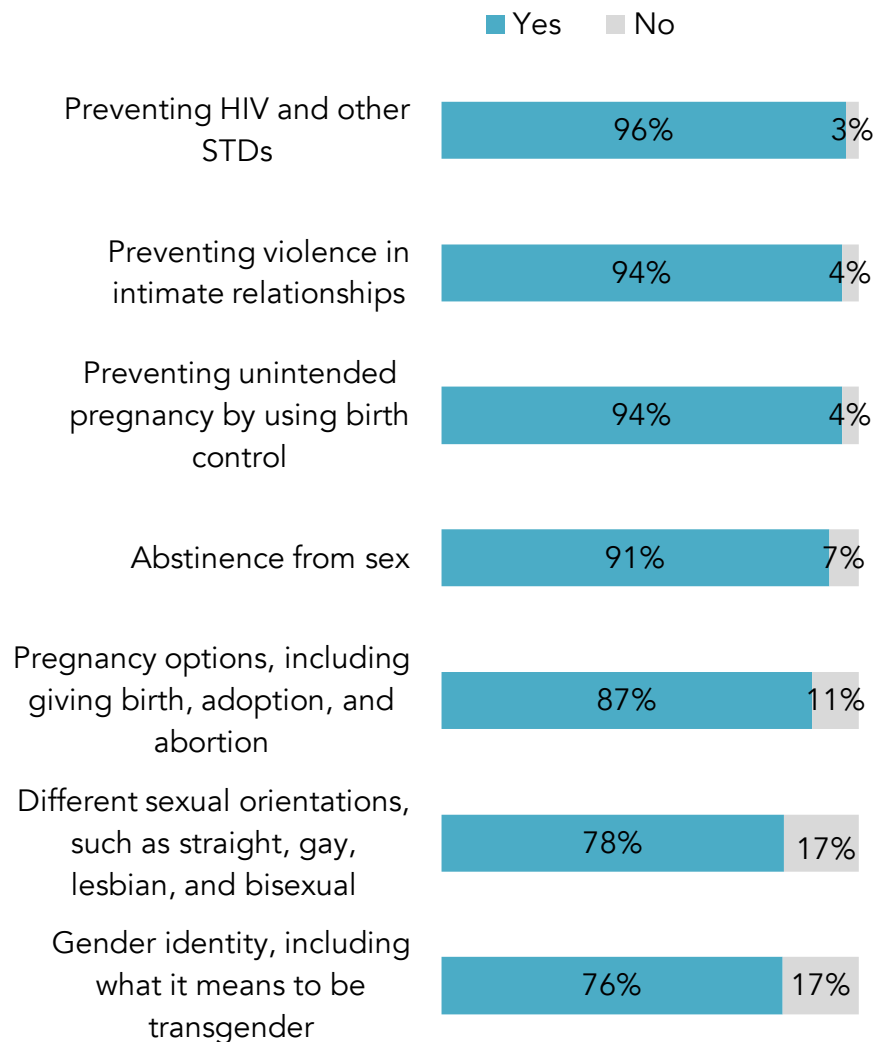
Table 8a: Do you agree or disagree... (% Agree) [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	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	79	90
Women	80	92
50 + years old	86	88
Some college or less	83	91
College + (<i>n</i> =88)	70	87
<\$50K HH income	85	90

Views toward Sex Education

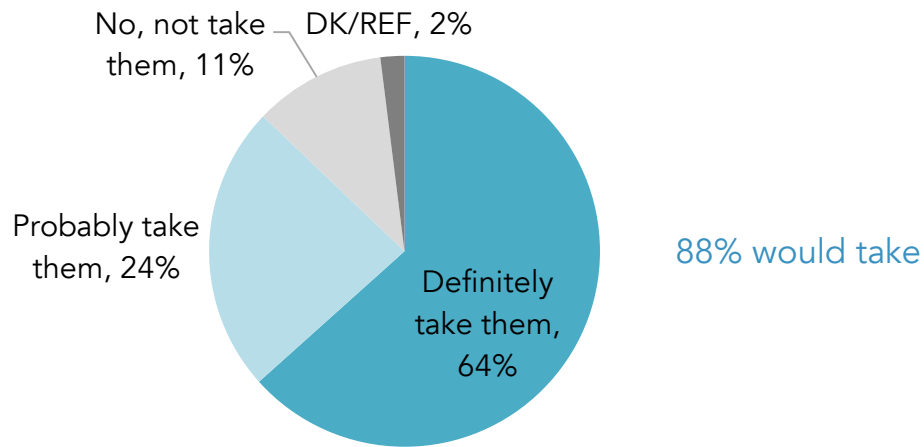
Majorities of Black adults in Ohio want comprehensive sex education. Nearly all want sex education programs to cover preventing HIV and STDs (96 percent), intimate partner violence (94 percent), and preventing unintended pregnancy by using birth control (94 percent). Large majorities also want topics included such as abstinence (91 percent), pregnancy options including giving birth, adoption and abortion (87 percent), sexual orientation (78 percent), and gender identity (76 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 (88 percent) would take their teenager to get birth control if they needed it. Sixty-four percent say they would definitely take them. About one in ten (11 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?



Majorities across demographic segments 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	64	24	11
Men	62	26	11
Women	66	21	10
18-49 years old	63	27	9
50-64	72	19	8
65 +	57	21	17
High school or less	70	20	8
Some college	59	30	10
College +	61	21	16
<\$30K HH income	65	24	9
\$30K-75K	63	22	14
\$75K + (n=86)	59	32	8
Married or living w/ partner	67	20	11
Widowed/divorced/separated	71	14	13
Never married	53	39	8
Liberal	68	23	8
Moderate	64	22	13
Conservative	60	26	13
Religious service weekly or more	57	23	17
At least once a month	60	24	14
Less often/never	71	23	5
Registered to vote	64	24	11
Cleveland	68	18	8
Northeast OH (n=96)	64	24	11
Southwest OH	60	27	12
West/South/Central OH	62	26	12

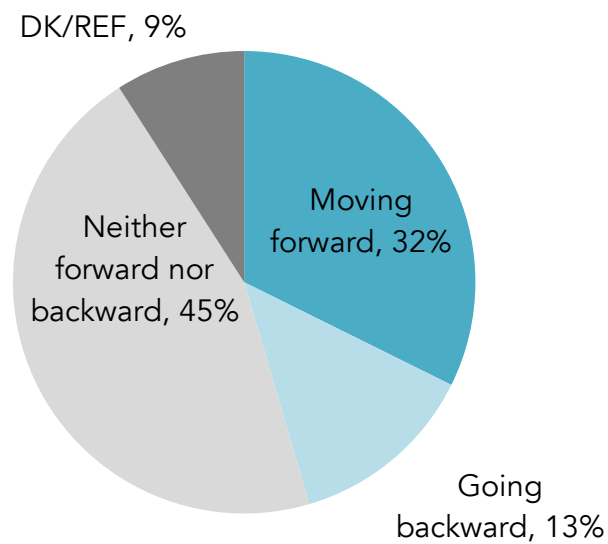
Table 9a: If you had children, do you think you would definitely take your own teenagers to get birth control if they needed it, probably take them, or would you not take them? [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Definitely take them	Probably take them	No, not take them
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	57	23	17
Women	54	25	17
50 + years old	59	19	18
Some college or less	57	24	15
College + (<i>n</i> =88)	57	22	21
<\$50K HH income	63	21	14

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. More than half says elected officials are not moving forward or moving backward. (See Figure 14.)

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



Women are most likely to say elected officials are stagnant 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	32	13	45
Men	39	18	33
Women	27	9	55
18-49 years old	25	13	52
50-64	38	13	43
65 +	38	15	35
High school or less	38	10	36
Some college	32	15	47
College +	23	16	57
<\$30K HH income	39	9	39
\$30K-\$75K	27	16	51
\$75K + (n=86)	26	16	54
Married or living w/ partner	30	17	48
Widowed/divorced/ separated	41	7	40
Never married	27	11	47
Liberal	34	13	45
Moderate	28	14	52
Conservative	38	15	33
Religious service weekly or more	30	11	48
At least once a month	31	12	49
Less often/never	35	15	41
Registered to vote	33	13	45
Cleveland	34	12	40
Northeast OH (n=96)	36	11	41
Southwest OH	28	14	50
West/South/Central OH	30	15	47

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	30	11	47
Women	26	7	57
50 + years old	38	11	41
Some college or less	35	9	39
College + (n=88)	23	14	62
<\$50K HH income	34	7	41

Detailed Methods

The telephone study collected data from a sample of $n = 503$ Black adult Ohio residents. All phone interviews were done through the CATI system. The study included landline ($n=308$) and cell ($n=195$) completes.

The field period for the study was September 28 through October 31, 2016. The margin of sampling error for results is ± 6.6 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 Ohio. 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 Ohio. 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.