

Views on Women’s Reproductive Health

Findings from a Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania 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 Black adults, including 87 percent who are registered voters, in Pennsylvania from September 28 to October 31, 2016. The survey was administered by telephone by SSRS. The margin of sampling error for results is ± 6.3 percentage points. See a more detailed methodology at the end of this report.

¹ NEO Philanthropy is the fiscal sponsor for NBWRJA.

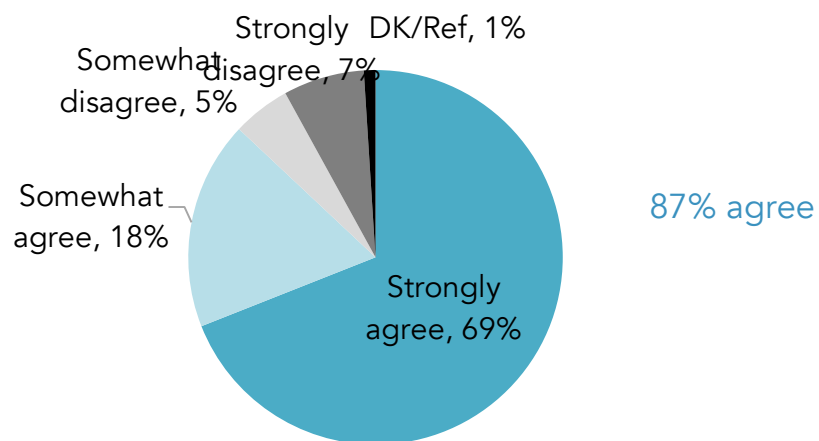
II. Key Findings

- A large majority of Black adults in Pennsylvania (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, 81 percent agree we should trust Black women to make personal decisions that are best for themselves and their families.
- An overwhelming majority (71 percent) do not want the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade* including 67 percent of those who self-identify as very religious.
- Nearly all Black adults in Pennsylvania (94 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 (96 percent), affordable (88 percent), in their community (83 percent), and respectful of a woman's decision (78 percent).
- 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 Pennsylvania, religious beliefs do not interfere with their views toward abortion. Three-quarters (76 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 62 percent saying would give "a lot of" support.
- A large majority of respondents (90 percent) considers birth control part of basic women's health care coverage. Nine in ten (90 percent) agree every woman should have access to the full range of pregnancy care including abortion. Similarly, 90 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 (93 percent), pregnancy options including abortion (87 percent), sexual orientation (79 percent), and gender identity (73 percent).
- Eight in ten (83 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

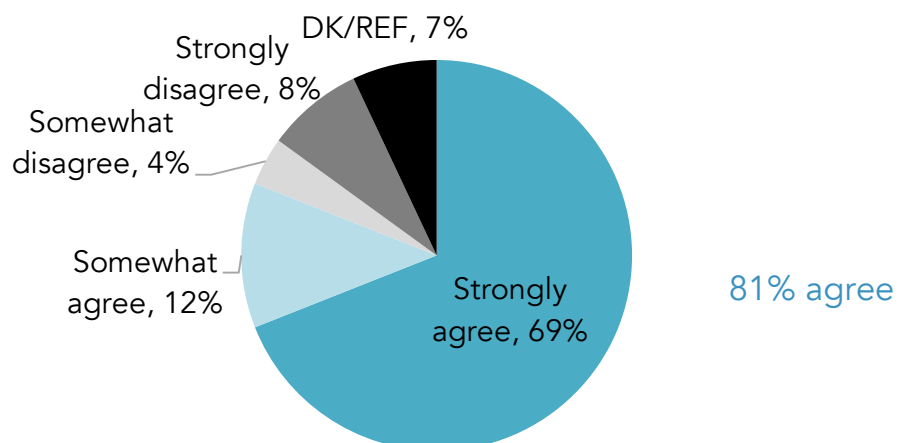
A large majority of Black adults in Pennsylvania hold firm views in support of a woman’s right to abortion. More than eight in ten (87 percent) respondents agree with the statement: “Each woman should have the right to make her own decision on abortion, even if I may disagree with her reasons.” (See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



Eight in ten feel we should trust Black women to make the decisions best for them. Close to seven in ten (69 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	81
Men	82	76
Women	91	84
18-49 years old	86	81
50-64	90	85
65 +	86	74
High school or less	82	76
Some college	90	77
College +	92	91
<\$30K HH income	86	74
\$30K-75K	82	84
\$75K + (n=83)	98	90
Married or living w/ partner	86	77
Widowed/divorced/separated	87	82
Never married	89	87
Liberal	92	86
Moderate	88	83
Conservative	81	73
Religious service weekly or more	86	75
At least once a month	87	81
Less often/never	85	81
Registered to vote	87	81
Philadelphia	86	81
Lehigh Valley (n=91)	88	89
Central/West PA	88	77

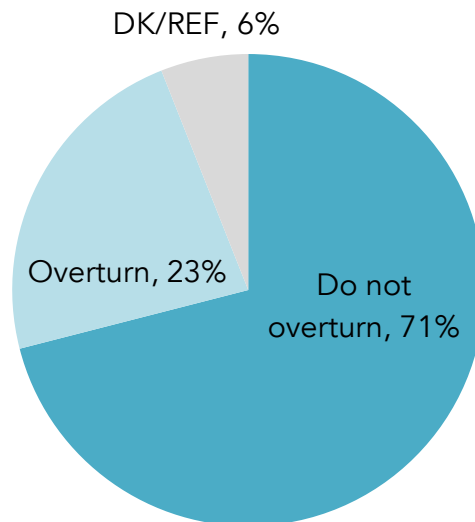
Table 1a: Do you agree or disagree... (% Agree) [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	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	86	75
Women	90	78
50 + years old	87	80
Some college or less	83	73
<\$50K HH income	85	73

General Views on the Right to Abortion

A large majority of Black adults in Pennsylvania do not want to see *Roe v. Wade* overturned. Seven in ten (71 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	71	23
Men	71	25
Women	72	21
18-49 years old	71	23
50-64	73	21
65 +	70	25
High school or less	62	30
Some college	75	21
College +	86	12
<\$30K HH income	62	30
\$30K-75K	77	19
\$75K + (n=83)	88	9
Married or living w/ partner	73	24
Widowed/divorced/separated	72	18
Never married	67	25
Liberal	81	14
Moderate	79	16
Conservative	58	37
Religious service weekly or more	67	29
At least once a month	71	25
Less often/never	73	18
Registered to vote	73	23
Philadelphia	71	22
Lehigh Valley (n=91)	74	20
Central/West PA	68	32

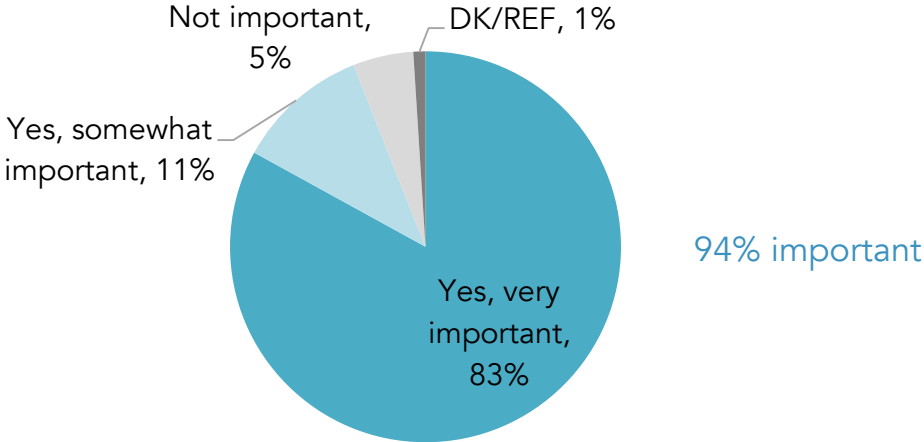
Table 2a: Would you like to see the Supreme Court overturn its *Roe v. Wade* decision, or not? [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Do not overturn	Overturn
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	67	29
Women	71	24
50 + years old	68	27
Some college or less	63	32
<\$50K HH income	61	34

Views about Abortion Care and Access

An overwhelming majority of Black adults in Pennsylvania (94 percent) feels a woman’s ability to control whether or when she has children is an important part of her financial stability. Eighty-three 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 (93 percent) and men (95 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?

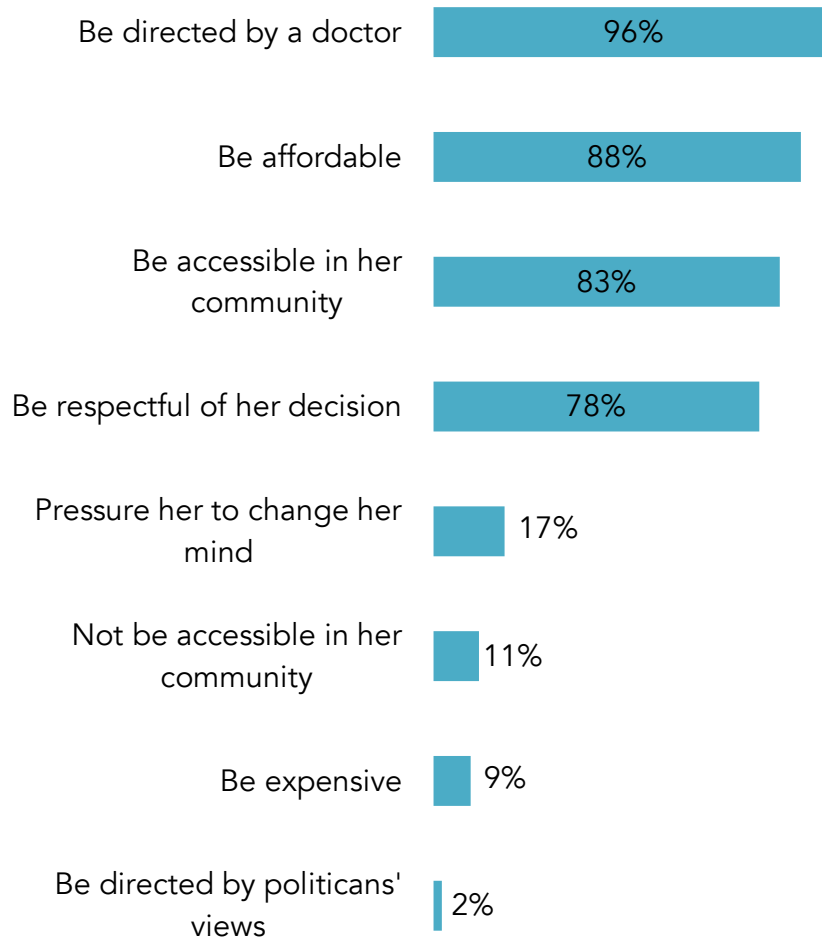
	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Total	83	11	5
Men	84	11	5
Women	82	11	6
18-49 years old	82	11	6
50-64	84	11	4
65 +	82	11	6
High school or less	80	14	6
Some college	87	8	4
College +	87	9	3
<\$30K HH income	78	14	7
\$30K-75K	87	9	3
\$75K + (n=83)	87	12	1
Married or living w/ partner	85	9	6
Widowed/divorced/separated	81	12	6
Never married	82	16	0
Liberal	91	8	0
Moderate	83	14	2
Conservative	78	10	11
Religious service weekly or more	85	9	5
Attends religious services regularly	85	10	4
Less often/never	80	13	6
Registered to vote	82	11	5
Philadelphia	86	11	3
Lehigh Valley (n=91)	91	8	1
Central/West PA	75	13	11

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	85	10	5
Women	81	13	4
50 + years old	84	10	5
Some college or less	83	11	6
<\$50K HH income	81	11	8

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

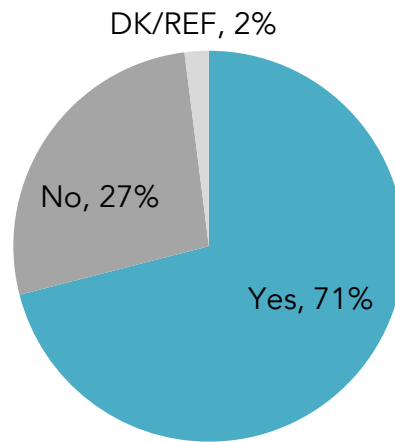
*Figure 5: Let's say a woman has decided to have an abortion. Would you want the care to...
(% Yes)*



Views toward Politicians' Positions on Abortion

Black adults in Pennsylvania 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	27
Men	68	31
Women	74	25
18-49 years old	65	35
50-64	78	21
65 +	76	21
High school or less	66	32
Some college	76	22
College +	74	26
<\$30K HH income	64	34
\$30K-75K	66	32
\$75K + (n=83)	87	12
Married or living w/ partner	78	21
Widowed/divorced/separated	66	30
Never married	56	43
Liberal	75	22
Moderate	70	30
Conservative	73	25
Religious service weekly or more	74	25
Attends religious services regularly	71	28
Less often/never	70	28
Registered to vote	72	26
Philadelphia	73	25
Lehigh Valley (n=91)	79	20
Central/West PA	63	35

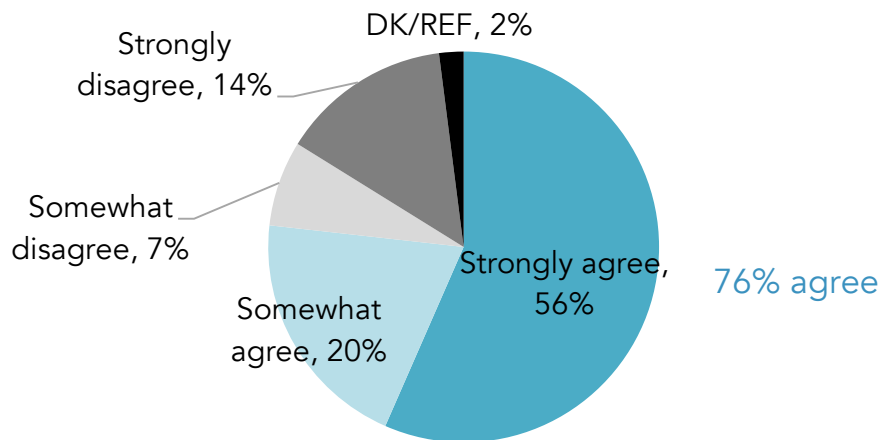
Table 4a: In general, do you tend to pay attention to a political candidate’s views on a woman’s right to get an abortion? [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Yes	No
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	74	25
Women	74	25
50 + years old	74	26
Some college or less	74	24
<\$50K HH income	67	33

Abortion in Their Personal Lives

Three in four Black adults in Pennsylvania (76 percent) believe abortion should remain legal, even though some church leaders take a position against it. More than half (56 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 (70 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.

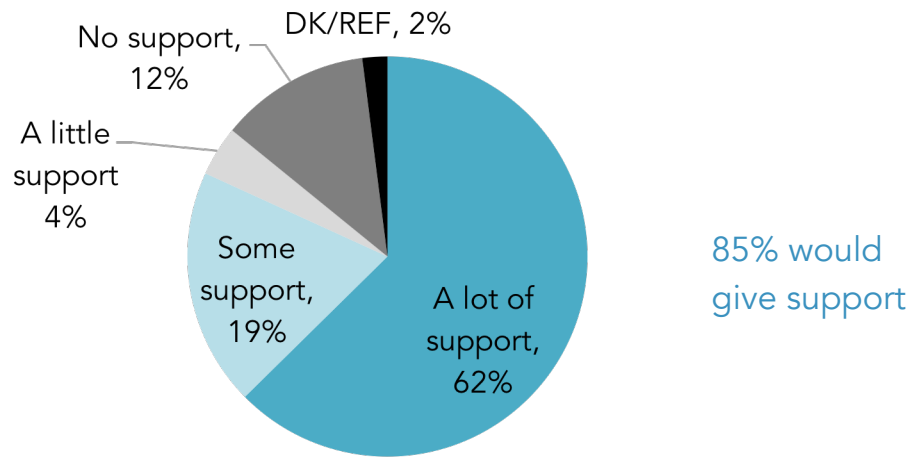
	Agree	Disagree
Total	76	21
Men	75	23
Women	77	21
18-49 years old	77	21
50-64	80	19
65 +	69	26
High school or less	70	26
Some college	74	24
College +	87	13
<\$30K HH income	71	27
\$30K-75K	80	19
\$75K + (n=83)	91	9
Married or living w/ partner	74	24
Widowed/divorced/separated	74	23
Never married	81	16
Liberal	84	13
Moderate	82	17
Conservative	60	39
Religious service weekly or more	68	29
Attends religious services regularly	70	28
Less often/never	86	12
Registered to vote	75	23
Philadelphia	79	19
Lehigh Valley (n=91)	75	24
Central/West PA	72	24

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	68	29
Women	70	29
50 + years old	71	28
Some college or less	64	32
<\$50K HH income	68	29

More than eight in ten Black adults in Pennsylvania would support a loved one who had an abortion. Eighty-five percent would offer support to a friend or family member, with 62 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	85	62
Men	88	65
Women	83	59
18-49 years old	86	63
50-64	88	66
65 +	80	56
High school or less	80	52
Some college	90	66
College +	90	74
<\$30K HH income	82	55
\$30K-75K	88	65
\$75K + (n=83)	96	85
Married or living w/ partner	87	65
Widowed/divorced/separated	85	52
Never married	80	62
Liberal	94	74
Moderate	87	62
Conservative	76	49
Religious service weekly or more	86	65
Attends religious services regularly	86	64
Less often/never	85	57
Registered to vote	86	63
Philadelphia	86	60
Lehigh Valley (n=91)	83	62
Central/West PA	86	65

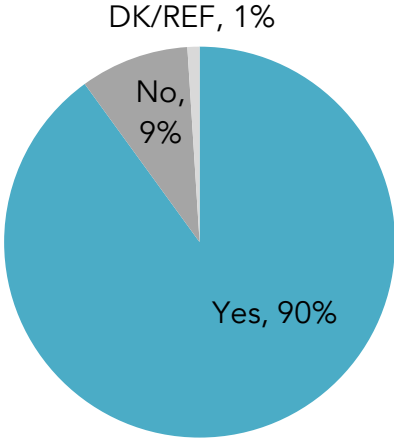
Table 6a: If a close friend or family member told you she had an abortion, would you give her: [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Would give support	"A lot" of support
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	86	65
Women	80	56
50 + years old	82	60
Some college or less	84	62
<\$50K HH income	83	58

Views about Birth Control and Access

A large majority of Black adults in Pennsylvania (90 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?

	Yes	No
Total	90	9
Men	90	9
Women	91	9
18-49 years old	91	8
50-64	85	13
65 +	95	5
High school or less	91	8
Some college	90	8
College +	90	10
<\$30K HH income	90	9
\$30K-75K	91	9
\$75K + (n=83)	89	13
Married or living w/ partner	88	11
Widowed/divorced/separated	94	6
Never married	93	7
Liberal	98	2
Moderate	90	10
Conservative	81	16
Religious service weekly or more	89	11
At least once a month	88	10
Less often/never	93	7
Registered to vote	89	9
Philadelphia	91	8
Lehigh Valley (n=91)	85	11
Central/West PA	91	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	89	11
Women	89	11
50 + years old	89	11
Some college or less	91	9
<\$50K HH income	90	10

Nearly all Black adults in Pennsylvania (90 percent) believe all women should have coverage for the full range of pregnancy-related care, including abortion. Nearly three-quarters (73 percent) strongly agree with this idea; nine percent disagree. (See Figure 10.) Similarly, 90 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.

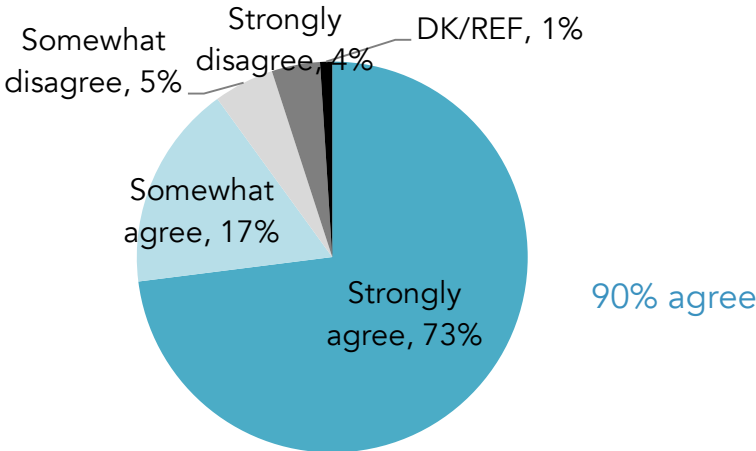
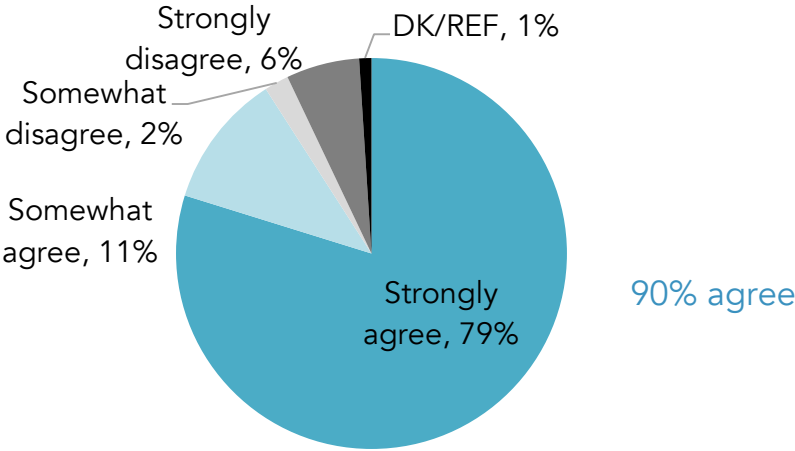


Figure 11: A woman should be able to get birth control through her health insurance even if her boss disagrees with the idea of birth control.



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	90	90
Men	90	89
Women	90	92
18-49 years old	90	92
50-64	89	87
65 +	94	93
High school or less	91	88
Some college	93	90
College +	85	94
<\$30K HH income	95	88
\$30K-75K	88	93
\$75K + (n=83)	86	91
Married or living w/ partner	88	91
Widowed/divorced/separated	92	85
Never married	93	94
Liberal	97	97
Moderate	91	90
Conservative	83	83
Religious service weekly or more	89	92
At least once a month	88	91
Less often/never	93	90
Registered to vote	89	91
Philadelphia	92	94
Lehigh Valley (n=91)	82	84
Central/West PA	91	89

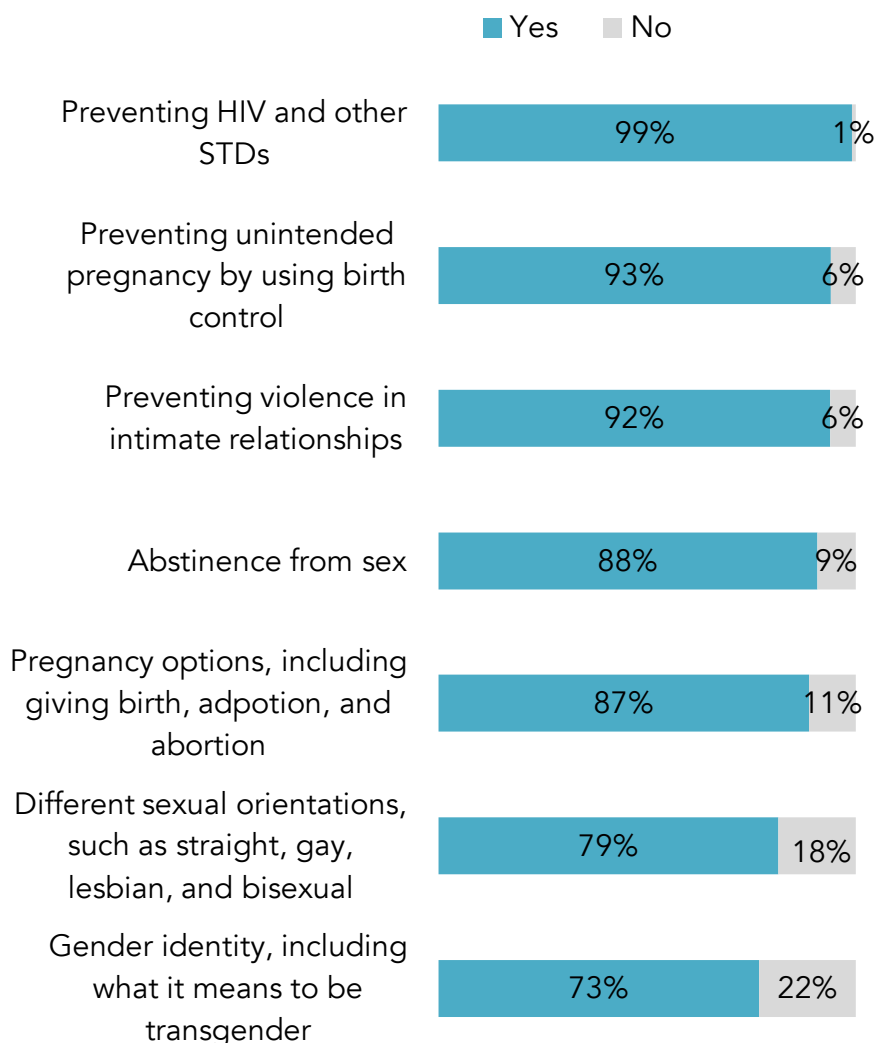
Table 8a: Do you agree or disagree... (% Agree) [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	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	93
Women	89	93
50 + years old	90	92
Some college or less	92	94
<\$50K HH income	95	96

Views toward Sex Education

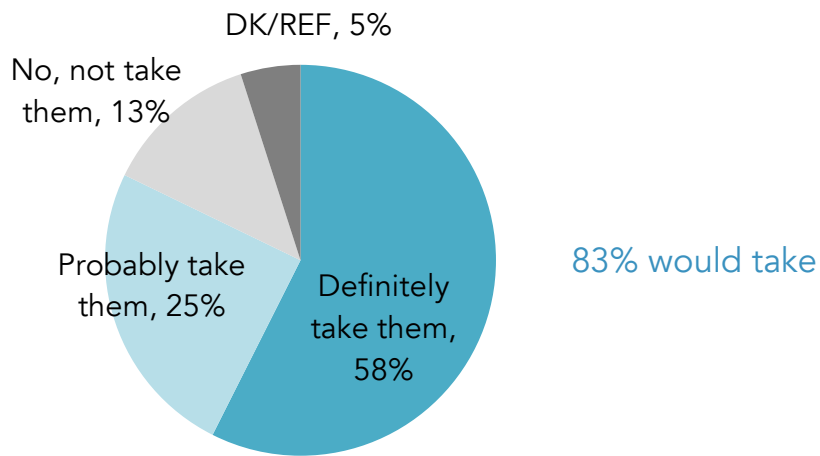
Majorities of Black adults in Pennsylvania want comprehensive sex education. Nearly all want sex education programs to cover preventing HIV and STDs (99 percent), preventing unintended pregnancy by using birth control (93 percent), and intimate partner violence (92 percent). Large majorities also want topics included such as abstinence (88 percent), pregnancy options including giving birth, adoption and abortion (87 percent), sexual orientation (79 percent), and gender identity (73 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 (83 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 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?



Majorities across demographic groups are likely to 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	25	13
Men	50	28	16
Women	64	23	10
18-49 years old	61	26	10
50-64	57	24	17
65 +	51	27	15
High school or less	58	26	14
Some college	49	32	11
College +	62	20	14
<\$30K HH income	54	29	14
\$30K-75K	63	24	11
\$75K + (n=83)	58	24	16
Married or living w/ partner	54	25	16
Widowed/divorced/separated	59	23	14
Never married	61	31	6
Liberal	60	28	7
Moderate	61	27	10
Conservative	45	24	26
Religious service weekly or more	51	25	19
At least once a month	51	26	19
Less often/never	66	26	4
Registered to vote	57	26	13
Philadelphia	59	26	11
Lehigh Valley (n=91)	61	19	20
Central/West PA	52	29	13

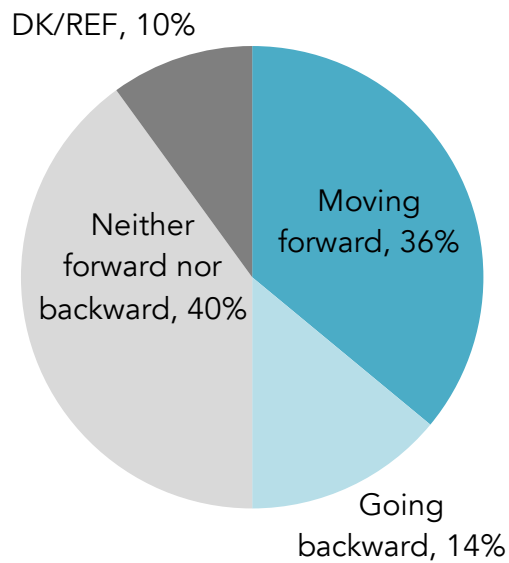
Table 9a: If you had children, do you think you would definitely take your own teenagers to get birth control if they needed it, probably take them, or would you not take them? [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Definitely take them	Probably take them	No, not take them
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	51	25	19
Women	56	24	16
50 + years old	46	28	20
Some college or less	49	28	18
<\$50K HH income	52	27	16

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. About 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:



Those with a college degree and household incomes of \$75,000 or more 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?

	Moving forward	Going backward	Neither forward backward
Total	36	14	40
Men	43	11	36
Women	29	16	44
18-49 years old	31	13	42
50-64	39	17	39
65 +	40	12	39
High school or less	45	8	36
Some college	28	8	53
College +	28	27	39
<\$30K HH income	47	7	39
\$30K-\$75K	26	14	50
\$75K + (n=83)	31	29	39
Married or living w/ partner	41	15	38
Widowed/divorced/ separated	27	15	46
Never married	32	8	44
Liberal	30	21	40
Moderate	30	13	48
Conservative	50	4	36
Religious service weekly or more	44	9	38
At least once a month	40	10	39
Less often/never	30	18	45
Registered to vote	39	12	41
Philadelphia	31	12	46
Lehigh Valley (n=91)	47	14	33
Central/West PA	37	17	35

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	44	9	38
Women	32	12	45
50 + years old	48	8	38
Some college or less	46	5	39
<\$50K HH income	53	6	34

Detailed Methods

The telephone study collected data from a sample of $n = 503$ Black adult Pennsylvania residents. All phone interviews were done through the CATI system. The study included landline ($n=266$) and cell ($n=237$) completes.

The field period for the study was September 28 through October 31, 2016. The margin of sampling error for results is ± 6.3 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 Pennsylvania. 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 Pennsylvania. 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.