

Views on Women's Reproductive Health Findings from a Texas 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 (NBWRJA¹) commissioned PerryUndem Research/Communication to conduct a survey of Black adults in Texas 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 Texas 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 Texas 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 = 507 Black adults, including 83 percent who are registered voters, in Texas from September 28 to October 31, 2016. The survey was administered by telephone by SSRS. The margin of sampling error for results is \pm 6.3 percentage points. See a more detailed methodology at the end of this report.

¹ NEO Philanthropy is the fiscal sponsor for NBWRJA.

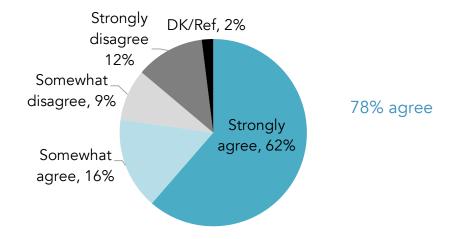
II. Key Findings

- A large majority of Black adults in Texas (78 percent) agrees each woman should have the right to make her own decision on abortion, even if they may disagree with her reason. Similarly, 79 percent agree we should trust Black women to make personal decisions that are best for themselves and their families.
- More than half (64 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 Texas (95 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 (95 percent), affordable (87 percent), in their community (81 percent), and respectful of a woman's decision (77 percent).
- Two-thirds (66 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 Texas, religious beliefs do not interfere with their views toward abortion. Two-thirds (65 percent) agree abortion should remain legal even if church leaders take a stance against abortion.
- In their personal lives, the vast majority (82 percent) would support a loved one who had an abortion, with 52 percent saying would give "a lot of" support.
- A large majority of respondents (86 percent) considers birth control part of basic women's health care coverage. Similarly, 86 percent agree every woman should have access to the full range of pregnancy care including abortion. A large majority (88 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 (90 percent), pregnancy options including abortion (81 percent), sexual orientation (64 percent), and gender identity (64 percent).
- Eight in ten (82 percent) would take their own teenager to get birth control if they needed it; 62 percent say they would definitely take them.

III. Detailed Findings

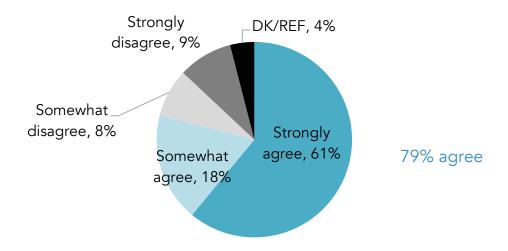
A large majority of Black adults in Texas hold firm views in support of a woman's right to abortion. More than eight in ten (78 percent) respondents agree with the statement: "Each woman should have the right to make her own decision on abortion, even if I may disagree with her reasons." (See Figure 1.)

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



Nearly eight in ten feel we should trust Black women to make the decisions best for them. Six in ten (61 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 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	78	79
Men	73	76
Women	82	83
18-49 years old	75	79
50-64	85	81
65 +	77	79
High school or less	70	74
Some college	80	80
College +	88	86
<\$30K HH income	71	79
\$30K-75K	81	80
\$75K +	89	89
Married or living w/ partner	78	80
Widowed/divorced/separated	80	72
Never married	77	84
Liberal	93	88
Moderate	79	78
Conservative	65	76
Religious service weekly or more	74	80
At least once a month	77	82
Less often/never	79	73
Registered to vote	78	82
Dallas County (n=97)	79	81
North TX	67	78
Houston/West TX	87	83
South-Central/West TX (n=98)	81	74

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	74	80
Men	65	76
Women	81	82
18-49 years old (n=81)	73	82
50 +	76	77
Some college or less	68	75
College +	90	90
<\$50K HH income	64	77
\$50K +	91	88

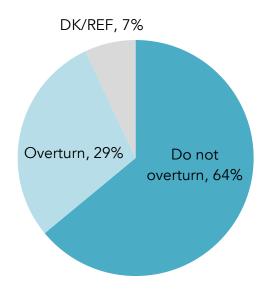
General Views on the Right to Abortion

A large majority of Black adults in Texas do not want to see *Roe v. Wade* overturned. Close to two-thirds (64 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 most demographic groups do not want to overturn Roe. The exceptions are those with a high school education or less, conservative views, and who live in households with incomes of less than \$30,000. (See Tables 2 and 2a.)

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

	Do not	
	overturn	Overturn
Total	64	29
Men	63	31
Women	65	27
18-49 years old	69	26
50-64	62	30
65 +	51	36
High school or less	44	48
Some college	76	17
College +	82	12
<\$30K HH income	45	50
\$30K-75K	77	15
\$75K +	87	11
Married or living w/ partner	66	26
Widowed/divorced/separated	58	32
Never married	65	33
Liberal	76	18
Moderate	77	21
Conservative	44	51
Religious service weekly or more	62	32
At least once a month	61	33
Less often/never	70	22
Registered to vote	66	26
Dallas County (n=97)	71	27
North TX	65	32
Houston/West TX	57	33
South-Central/West TX (n=98)	69	21

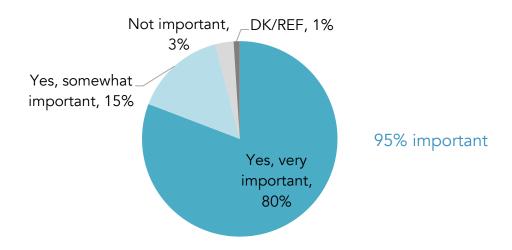
Table 2a: Would you like to see the Supreme Court overturn its *Roe v. Wade* decision, or not? [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Do not	
	overturn	Overturn
Total who attend religious services	62	32
weekly or more		
Men	61	34
Women	63	30
18-49 years old (n=81)	69	28
50 +	56	36
Some college or less	55	39
College +	79	16
<\$50K HH income	52	44
\$50K +	79	16

Views about Abortion Care and Access

An overwhelming majority of Black adults in Texas (95 percent) feels a woman's ability to control whether or when she has children is an important part of her financial stability. Eighty 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 (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?

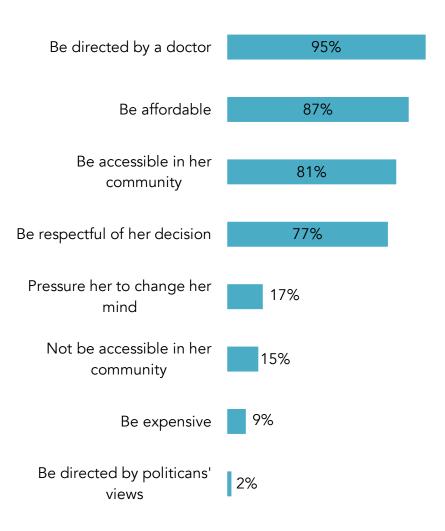
	Very	Somewhat	Not
	important	important	important
Total	80	15	3
Men	82	13	5
Women	79	18	2
18-49 years old	81	16	2
50-64	84	13	3
65 +	73	16	8
High school or less	74	17	6
Some college	82	17	0
College +	88	10	2
<\$30K HH income	78	15	7
\$30K-75K	83	16	1
\$75K +	85	14	1
Married or living w/ partner	84	13	2
Widowed/divorced/separated	75	19	5
Never married	76	18	3
Liberal	82	15	2
Moderate	84	14	0
Conservative	76	17	7
Religious service weekly or more	79	16	4
At least once a month	79	16	3
Less often/never	83	14	3
Registered to vote	81	16	2
Dallas County (n=97)	75	19	5
North TX	84	14	2
Houston/West TX	81	14	2
South-Central/West TX (n=98)	81	16	1

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	76	15	8
Women	81	17	1
18-49 years old (n=81)	82	16	2
50 +	77	16	5
Some college or less	77	18	4
College +	84	12	3
<\$50K HH income	79	15	5
\$50K +	83	17	1

When we ask questions about how women access and experience abortion care — large majorities of Black adults in Texas want it to be directed by a doctor, affordable, accessible, and respectful of her decision. Just two 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)

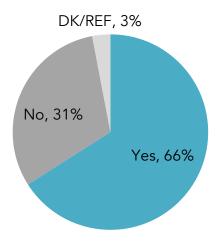


Views toward Politicians' Positions on Abortion

Black adults in Texas are paying attention to political candidate's views on abortion.

Two-thirds (66 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 segments are paying attention to political candidates' views on a woman's right to 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	66	31
Men	66	31
Women	66	31
18-49 years old	66	33
50-64	70	27
65 +	61	31
High school or less	61	33
Some college	70	29
College +	69	30
<\$30K HH income	69	24
\$30K-75K	67	33
\$75K +	73	25
Married or living w/ partner	65	32
Widowed/divorced/separated	71	25
Never married	65	33
Liberal	78	20
Moderate	67	32
Conservative	60	34
Religious service weekly or more	64	32
At least once a month	64	32
Less often/never	70	29
Registered to vote	65	32
Dallas County (n=97)	58	40
North TX	68	29
Houston/West TX	69	26
South-Central/West TX (n=98)	68	32

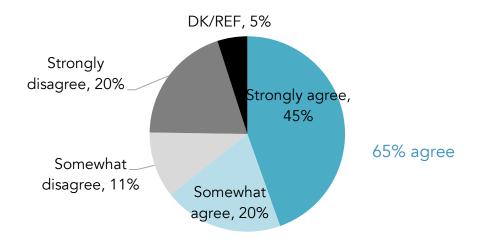
Table 4a: In general, do you tend to pay attention to a political candidate's views on a woman's right to get an abortion? [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Yes	No
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	64	32
Men	59	36
Women	68	29
18-49 years old (n=81)	59	38
50 +	69	27
Some college or less	60	35
College +	74	25
<\$50K HH income	65	29
\$50K +	66	32

Abortion in Their Personal Lives

Two-thirds of Black adults in Texas (65 percent) believe abortion should remain legal, even though some church leaders take a position against it. Forty-five 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 at least once a month (62 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	65	31
Men	66	27
Women	64	34
18-49 years old	62	33
50-64	74	23
65 +	60	35
High school or less	47	50
Some college	75	19
College +	81	14
<\$30K HH income	55	44
\$30K-75K	67	28
\$75K +	81	11
Married or living w/ partner	65	30
Widowed/divorced/separated	63	31
Never married	66	33
Liberal	81	16
Moderate	67	31
Conservative	52	45
Religious service weekly or more	61	34
At least once a month	62	33
Less often/never	71	27
Registered to vote	66	29
Dallas County (n=97)	66	29
North TX	66	31
Houston/West TX	62	32
South-Central/West TX (n=98)	68	28

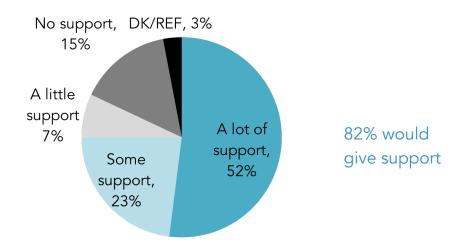
Table 5a: Even though some church leaders take a position against abortion, when it comes to the law, I believe it should remain legal. [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Agree	Disagree
Total who attend religious services	61	34
weekly or more		
Men	62	30
Women	60	37
18-49 years old (n=81)	57	37
50 +	64	32
Some college or less	52	42
College +	81	16
<\$50K HH income	51	47
\$50K +	72	21

Eight in ten Black adults in Texas would support a loved one who had an abortion.

Eighty-two percent would offer support to a friend or family member, with 52 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	"A lot" of
	support	support
Total	82	52
Men	85	52
Women	79	52
18-49 years old	82	48
50-64	91	69
65 +	68	43
High school or less	73	44
Some college	87	51
College +	91	67
<\$30K HH income	84	50
\$30K-75K	80	58
\$75K +	90	62
Married or living w/ partner	83	56
Widowed/divorced/separated	77	55
Never married	84	43
Liberal	84	67
Moderate	85	58
Conservative	78	36
Religious service weekly or more	82	52
At least once a month	84	55
Less often/never	77	49
Registered to vote	83	53
Dallas County (n=97)	78	50
North TX	85	57
Houston/West TX	83	50
South-Central/West TX (n=98)	81	48

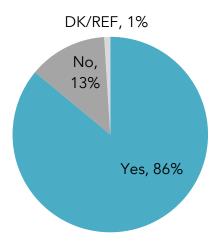
Table 6a: If a close friend or family member told you she had an abortion, would you give her: [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Would give	"A lot" of
	support	support
Total who attend religious services	82	52
weekly or more		
Men	86	53
Women	78	51
18-49 years old (n=81)	84	48
50 +	79	57
Some college or less	78	46
College +	91	65
<\$50K HH income	79	46
\$50K +	94	69

Views about Birth Control and Access

A large majority of Black adults in Texas (86 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	86	13
Men	78	20
Women	92	7
18-49 years old	83	15
50-64	92	8
65 +	83	15
High school or less	83	16
Some college	82	15
College +	93	7
<\$30K HH income	86	13
\$30K-75K	91	9
\$75K +	86	10
Married or living w/ partner	86	13
Widowed/divorced/separated	81	18
Never married	88	12
Liberal	93	7
Moderate	87	13
Conservative	78	22
Religious service weekly or more	87	11
At least once a month	87	11
Less often/never	81	19
Registered to vote	86	13
Dallas County (n=97)	89	11
North TX	81	19
Houston/West TX	85	12
South-Central/West TX (n=98)	92	8

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	87	12
Men	80	16
Women	91	9
18-49 years old (n=81)	86	11
50 +	87	12
Some college or less	82	15
College +	98	3
<\$50K HH income	89	11
\$50K +	89	7

A large majority of Black adults in Texas (86 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; 13 percent disagree. (See Figure 10.) Similarly, 88 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.

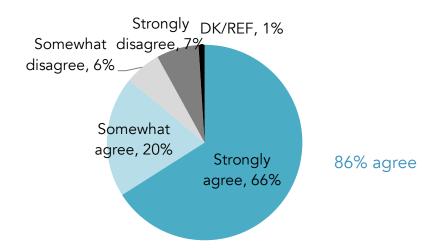
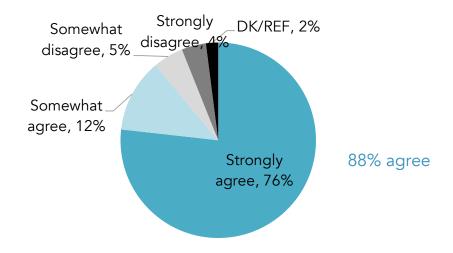


Figure 11: A woman should be able to get birth control through her health insurance even if her boss disagrees with the idea of birth control.



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.

	care and abortion.	control.
Total	86	88
Men	84	83
Women	87	93
18-49 years old	82	87
50-64	93	92
65 +	86	87
High school or less	88	80
Some college	85	93
College +	83	96
<\$30K HH income	86	93
\$30K-75K	86	93
\$75K +	92	96
Married or living w/ partner	87	86
Widowed/divorced/separated	93	89
Never married	78	92
Liberal	92	95
Moderate	85	90
Conservative	81	83
Religious service weekly or	87	89
more		
At least once a month	87	88
Less often/never	83	88
Registered to vote	88	88
Dallas County (n=97)	76	91
North TX	94	81
Houston/West TX	84	93
South-Central/West TX	89	91
(n=98)		

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.

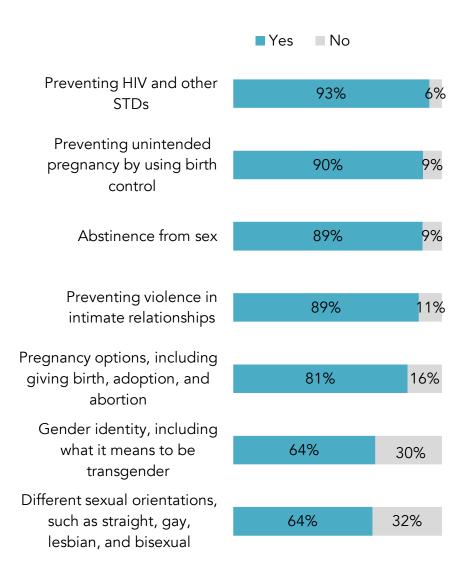
A woman should be able to get birth control through her health insurance, even if her boss disagrees with the idea of birth control.

7 89	
8 79	
8 95	
6 87	
9 90	
8 85	
6 96	
5 94	
3 96	
	8 79 8 95 6 87 9 90 8 85 6 96 5 94

Views toward Sex Education

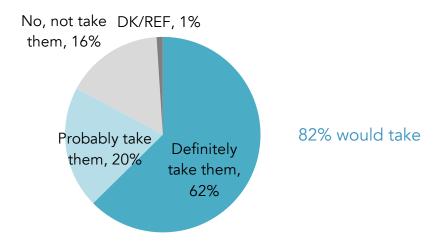
Majorities of Black adults in Texas want comprehensive sex education. Nearly all want sex education programs to cover preventing HIV and STDs (93 percent), and preventing unintended pregnancy by using birth control (90 percent), intimate partner violence (89 percent), and abstinence (89 percent). Majorities also want topics included such as pregnancy options including giving birth, adoption and abortion (81 percent), sexual orientation (64 percent), and gender identity (64 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 (82 percent) would take their teenager to get birth control if they needed it. Sixty-two percent say they would definitely take them. About one in six (16 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?



Those who have household incomes of less than \$30,00 are the more 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?

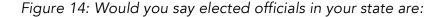
	Definitely	Probably	No, not take
	take them	take them	them
Total	62	20	16
Men	59	23	16
Women	65	17	16
18-49 years old	58	24	17
50-64	76	13	9
65 +	54	18	23
High school or less	67	18	14
Some college	62	20	17
College +	56	24	18
<\$30K HH income	70	16	12
\$30K-75K	54	26	20
\$75K +	59	24	15
Married or living w/ partner	61	18	20
Widowed/divorced/separated	64	22	10
Never married	63	25	12
Liberal	72	20	7
Moderate	60	21	18
Conservative	56	23	19
Religious service weekly or	62	17	19
more			
At least once a month	63	18	18
Less often/never	62	27	11
Registered to vote	62	20	17
Dallas County (n=97)	61	25	13
North TX	61	18	21
Houston/West TX	67	18	12
South-Central/West TX (n=98)	57	24	17

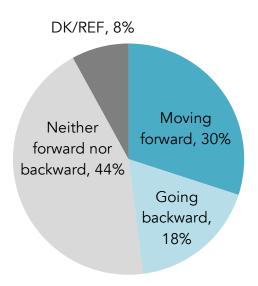
Table 9a: If you had children, do you think you would definitely take your own teenagers to get birth control if they needed it, probably take them, or would you not take them? [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Definitely take them	Probably take them	No, not take them
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	62	17	19
Men	62	20	15
Women	63	14	22
18-49 years old (n=81)	58	17	23
50 +	66	16	15
Some college or less	67	14	17
College +	50	24	24
<\$50K HH income	64	16	17
\$50K +	57	21	19

Views on Issues Related to Women's Rights

Three in ten respondents feel elected officials in their state are moving forward on issues related to women's rights. About two-thirds (62 percent) say elected officials are not moving forward or moving backward. (See Figure 14.)





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

	Moving	Going	Neither forward
_	forward	backward	backward
Total	30	18	44
Men	31	16	43
Women	28	20	45
18-49 years old	27	17	49
50-64	33	24	41
65 +	35	14	36
High school or less	47	11	37
Some college	17	13	60
College +	19	37	38
<\$30K HH income	39	10	43
\$30K-\$75K	22	20	48
\$75K +	14	31	52
Married or living w/	29	22	41
partner			
Widowed/divorced/	32	14	49
separated			
Never married	31	14	47
Liberal	25	33	40
Moderate	24	17	53
Conservative	40	8	47
Religious service weekly	31	19	42
or more			
At least once a month	32	20	40
Less often/never	25	16	53
Registered to vote	31	19	42
Dallas County (n=97)	31	20	47
North TX	32	12	45
Houston/West TX	31	23	39
South-Central/West TX (n=98)	25	18	49

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]

			Neither
	Moving	Going	forward
	forward	backward	backward
Total who attend	31	19	42
religious services			
weekly or more			
Men	28	22	39
Women	32	17	44
18-49 years old (n=81)	28	17	43
50 +	34	21	40
Some college or less	37	13	42
College +	16	34	41
<\$50K HH income	34	14	44
\$50K +	21	27	45

Detailed Methods

The telephone study collected data from a sample of n = 507 Black adult Texas residents. All phone interviews were done through the CATI system. The study included landline (n=207) and cell (n=300) completes.

The field period for the study was September 28 through October 31, 2016. The margin of sampling error for results is \pm 6.1 percentage points.

In order to obtain the number of interviews needed in a timely manner, SSRS used prescreened 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 Texas. 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 Texas. 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.