

Views on Women's Reproductive Health

Findings from a Florida 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 Florida 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 Florida 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 Florida 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 = 500 Black adults, including 82 percent who are registered voters, in Florida from September 28 to October 31, 2016. The survey was administered by telephone by SSRS. The margin of sampling error for results is ± 5.6 percentage points. See a more detailed methodology at the end of this report.

¹ NEO Philanthropy is the fiscal sponsor for NBWRJA.

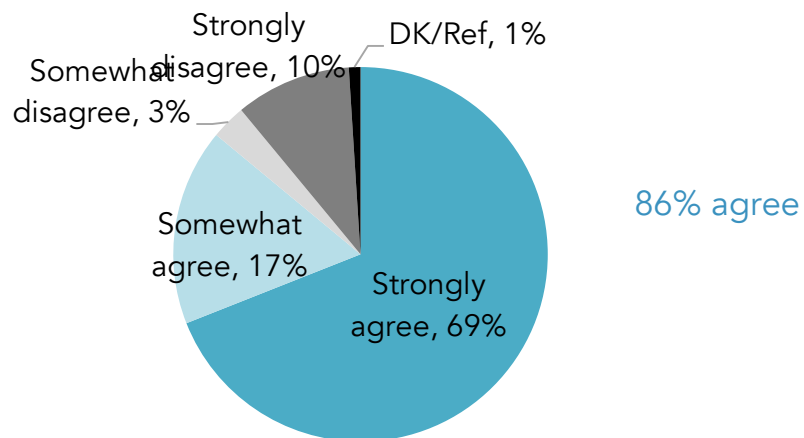
II. Key Findings

- A large majority of Black adults in Florida (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, 84 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 67 percent of those who self-identify as very religious.
- Nearly all Black adults in Florida (97 percent) believe a woman's ability to control whether or when she has children is an important part of financial stability for herself and her family.
- When it comes to access to abortion care, majorities want care to be directed by a doctor (93 percent), affordable (87 percent), in their community (83 percent), and respectful of a woman's decision (83 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 Florida, religious beliefs do not interfere with their views toward abortion. Nearly three-quarters (74 percent) agree abortion should remain legal even if church leaders take a stance against abortion.
- In their personal lives, the vast majority (86 percent) would support a loved one who had an abortion, with 59 percent saying would give "a lot of" support.
- A majority of respondents (80 percent) considers birth control part of basic women's health care coverage. A large majority (90 percent) agrees a woman should be able to get birth control even if her boss disagrees. Similarly, (87 percent) agree every woman should have access to the full range of pregnancy care including abortion.
- Majorities of Black adults also want comprehensive sex education in schools, including topics such as birth control (92 percent), pregnancy options including abortion (82 percent), gender identity (69 percent), and sexual orientation (68 percent).
- Eight in ten (80 percent) would take their own teenager to get birth control if they needed it; 56 percent say they would definitely take them.

III. Detailed Findings

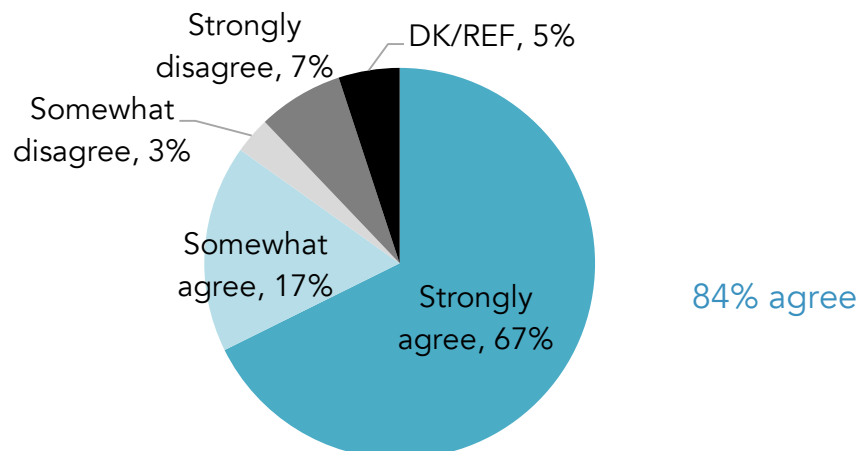
A large majority of Black adults in Florida hold firm views in support of a woman's right to abortion. More than eight in ten (86 percent) respondents agree with the statement: "Each woman should have the right to make her own decision on abortion, even if I may disagree with her reasons." (See Figure 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 (67 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	86	84
Men	84	82
Women	88	87
18-49 years old	88	84
50-64	87	87
65 +	80	83
High school or less	80	76
Some college	91	93
College +	88	88
<\$30K HH income	80	83
\$30K-75K	90	88
\$75K +	91	92
Married or living w/ partner	89	86
Widowed/divorced/separated	80	81
Never married	85	86
Liberal	89	92
Moderate	92	92
Conservative	79	76
Religious service weekly or more	79	82
At least once a month	80	83
Less often/never	95	89
Registered to vote	87	88
Panhandle/Northeast	84	86
Northeast	84	87
Central-West	89	86
Southeast	85	82

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	79	81
Men (<i>n</i> =90)	72	75
Women	84	87
50 + years old	81	84
Some college or less	78	82
<\$50K HH income	80	82
\$50K + (<i>n</i>=87)	81	84

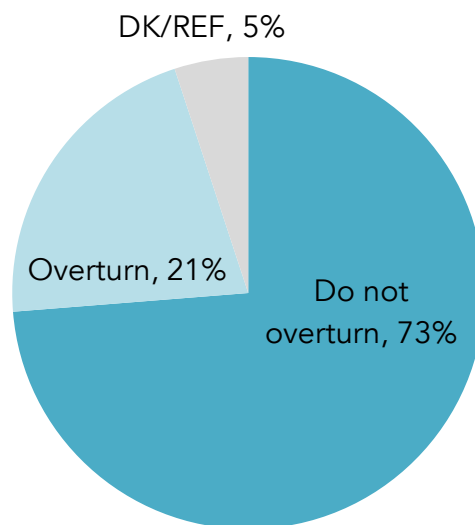
General Views on the Right to Abortion

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

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	76	20
Women	72	23
18-49 years old	78	20
50-64	74	20
65 +	65	26
High school or less	63	30
Some college	78	16
College +	83	16
<\$30K HH income	68	24
\$30K-75K	74	24
\$75K +	91	9
Married or living w/ partner	76	17
Widowed/divorced/separated	71	26
Never married	72	25
Liberal	80	17
Moderate	80	18
Conservative	60	31
Religious service weekly or more	67	26
At least once a month	70	24
Less often/never	79	18
Registered to vote	76	19
Panhandle/Northeast	71	21
Northeast	67	23
Central-West	80	16
Southeast	71	26

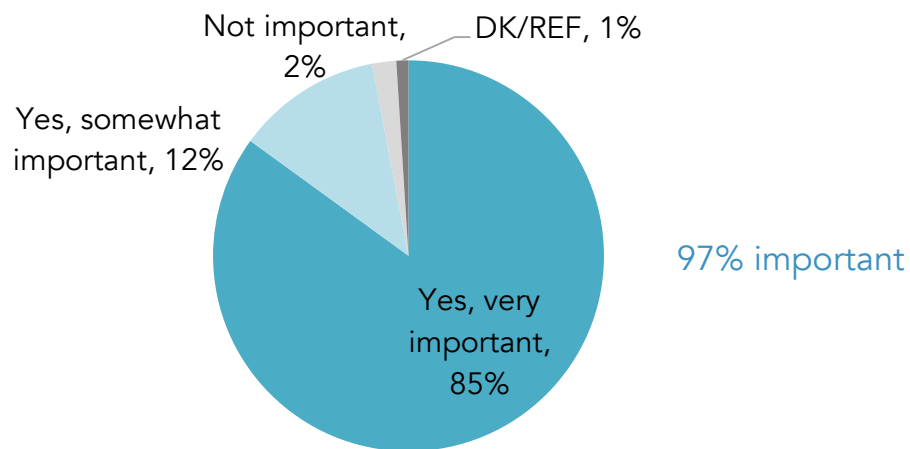
Table 2a: Would you like to see the Supreme Court overturn its *Roe v. Wade* decision, or not? [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Do not overturn	Overturn
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	67	26
Men (<i>n</i> =90)	71	23
Women	65	28
50 + years old	64	26
Some college or less	65	27
<\$50K HH income	67	25
\$50K + (<i>n</i> =87)	74	23

Views about Abortion Care and Access

An overwhelming majority of Black adults in Florida (97 percent) feels a woman's ability to control whether or when she has children is an important part of her financial stability. Eighty-five 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 (98 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?

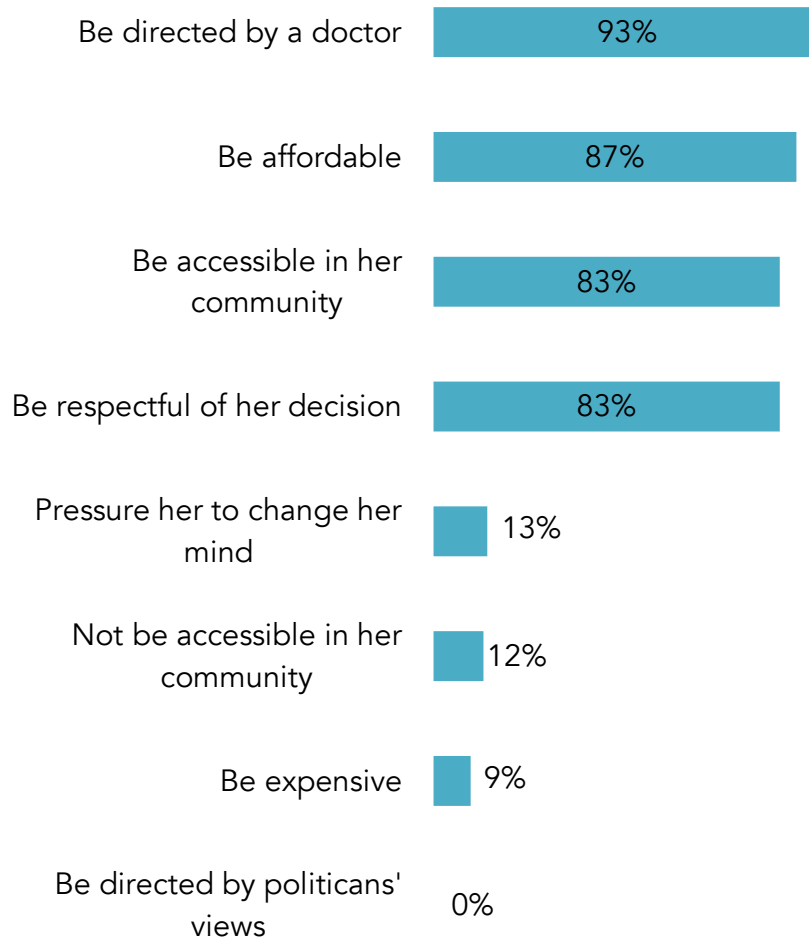
	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Total	85	12	2
Men	84	12	3
Women	86	12	1
18-49 years old	86	12	1
50-64	87	7	4
65 +	82	15	3
High school or less	81	14	5
Some college	91	8	0
College +	87	11	1
<\$30K HH income	83	12	3
\$30K-75K	92	8	0
\$75K +	85	11	3
Married or living w/ partner	88	10	2
Widowed/divorced/separated	85	12	2
Never married	84	12	4
Liberal	89	8	3
Moderate	87	12	2
Conservative	84	14	2
Religious service weekly or more	83	13	3
At least once a month	83	13	3
Less often/never	91	8	1
Registered to vote	86	11	3
Panhandle/Northeast	85	13	1
Northeast	85	14	1
Central-West	90	6	4
Southeast	82	14	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	13	3
Men (n=90)	81	14	4
Women	84	12	3
50 + years old	80	13	5
Some college or less	84	11	4
<\$50K HH income	85	9	5
\$50K + (n=87)	80	20	0

When we ask questions about how women access and experience abortion care — large majorities of Black adults in Florida 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)*

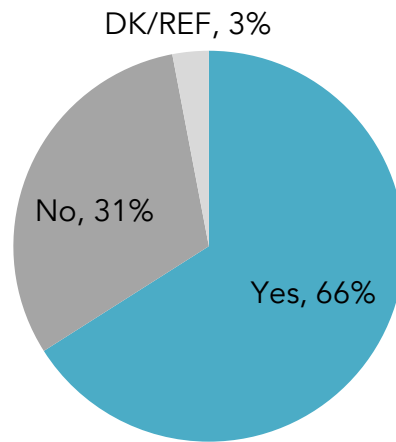


Views toward Politicians' Positions on Abortion

Black adults in Florida 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 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	66	31
Men	66	30
Women	67	31
18-49 years old	67	33
50-64	68	27
65 +	64	31
High school or less	61	35
Some college	66	31
College +	75	24
<\$30K HH income	59	37
\$30K-75K	70	29
\$75K +	84	16
Married or living w/ partner	72	25
Widowed/divorced/separated	62	36
Never married	59	40
Liberal	73	26
Moderate	70	30
Conservative	65	33
Religious service weekly or more	65	31
At least once a month	67	30
Less often/never	66	33
Registered to vote	71	26
Panhandle/Northeast	62	35
Northeast	59	39
Central-West	68	27
Southeast	69	29

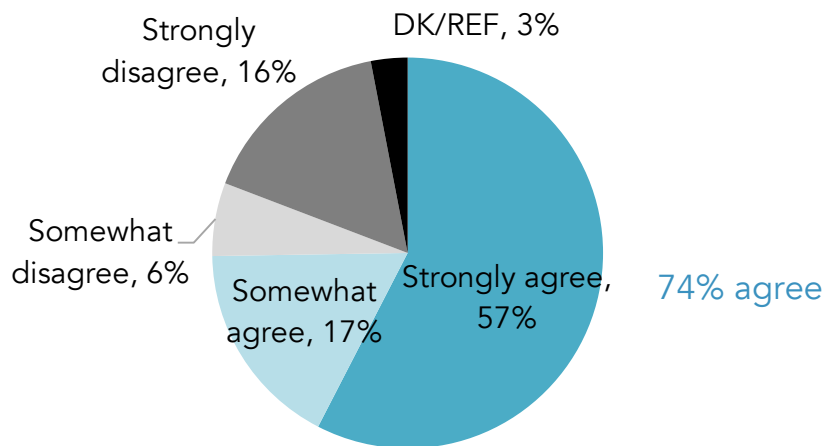
Table 4a: In general, do you tend to pay attention to a political candidate's views on a woman's right to get an abortion? [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Yes	No
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	65	31
Men (n=90)	69	24
Women	63	35
50 + years old	66	27
Some college or less	63	32
<\$50K HH income	62	33
\$50K + (n=87)	76	21

Abortion in Their Personal Lives

Three in four Black adults in Florida (74 percent) believe abortion should remain legal, even though some church leaders take a position against it. More than half (57 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 (67 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.

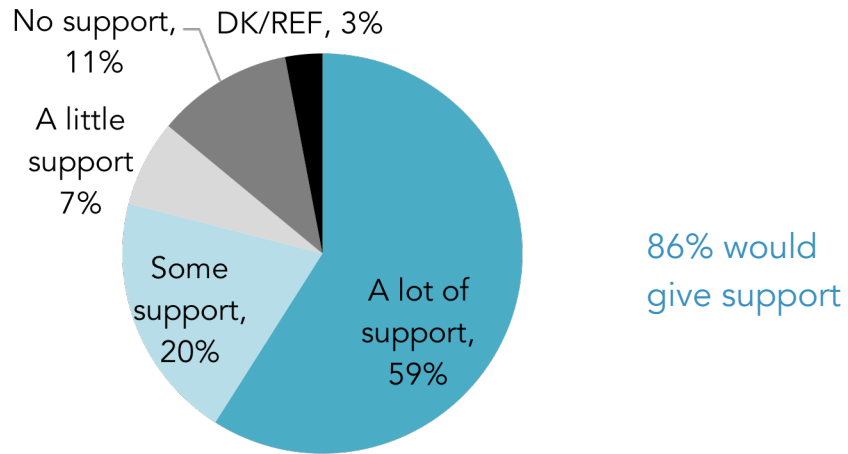
	Agree	Disagree
Total	74	23
Men	76	21
Women	72	24
18-49 years old	79	18
50-64	74	24
65 +	65	30
High school or less	65	31
Some college	79	17
College +	86	13
<\$30K HH income	67	29
\$30K-75K	78	20
\$75K +	89	11
Married or living w/ partner	75	20
Widowed/divorced/separated	66	31
Never married	81	19
Liberal	85	15
Moderate	81	18
Conservative	67	27
Religious service weekly or more	65	29
At least once a month	67	28
Less often/never	87	13
Registered to vote	78	20
Panhandle/Northeast	70	26
Northeast	69	26
Central-West	78	16
Southeast	76	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	65	29
Men (<i>n</i> =90)	65	29
Women	66	29
50 + years old	65	29
Some college or less	60	33
<\$50K HH income	62	34
\$50k + (<i>n</i> =87)	77	19

A large majority of Black adults in Florida would support a loved one who had an abortion. Eighty-six 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 or family member told you she had an abortion, would you give her:

	Would give support	"A lot" of support
Total	86	59
Men	86	51
Women	86	67
18-49 years old	89	59
50-64	88	65
65 +	80	54
High school or less	81	48
Some college	91	64
College +	88	72
<\$30K HH income	82	54
\$30K-75K	89	65
\$75K +	95	70
Married or living w/ partner	88	60
Widowed/divorced/separated	83	57
Never married	86	63
Liberal	92	76
Moderate	87	62
Conservative	85	47
Religious service weekly or more	82	55
At least once a month	85	57
Less often/never	90	64
Registered to vote	88	63
Panhandle/Northeast	85	58
Northeast	89	56
Central-West	92	62
Southeast	83	59

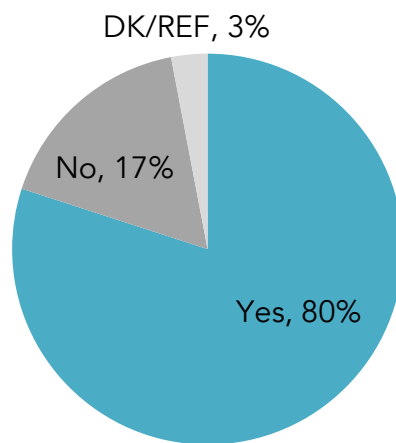
Table 6a: If a close friend or family member told you she had an abortion, would you give her: [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Would give support	"A lot" of support
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	82	55
Men (<i>n</i> =90)	79	48
Women	85	60
50 + years old	84	60
Some college or less	82	52
<\$50K HH income	83	54
\$50K + (<i>n</i>=87)	81	62

Views about Birth Control and Access

A majority of Black adults in Florida (80 percent) consider birth control a basic part of women's health care coverage. About one in six (17 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	80	17
Men	74	25
Women	87	9
18-49 years old	78	20
50-64	88	10
65 +	79	18
High school or less	74	24
Some college	85	12
College +	87	12
<\$30K HH income	79	18
\$30K-75K	86	12
\$75K	85	14
Married or living w/ partner	81	18
Widowed/divorced/separated	88	9
Never married	76	20
Liberal	91	6
Moderate	84	15
Conservative	77	21
Religious service weekly or more	79	18
At least once a month	81	17
Less often/never	81	17
Registered to vote	85	13
Panhandle/Northeast	82	17
Northeast	83	16
Central-West	77	19
Southeast	80	18

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	79	18
Men (<i>n</i> =90)	72	26
Women	85	13
50 + years old	82	15
Some college or less	78	19
<\$50K HH income	83	14
\$50K + (<i>n</i>=87)	83	17

A large majority of Black adults in Florida (87 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; 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.

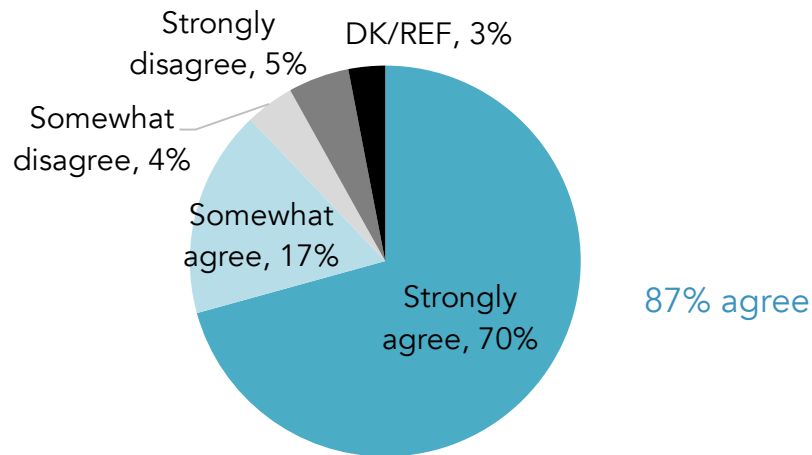
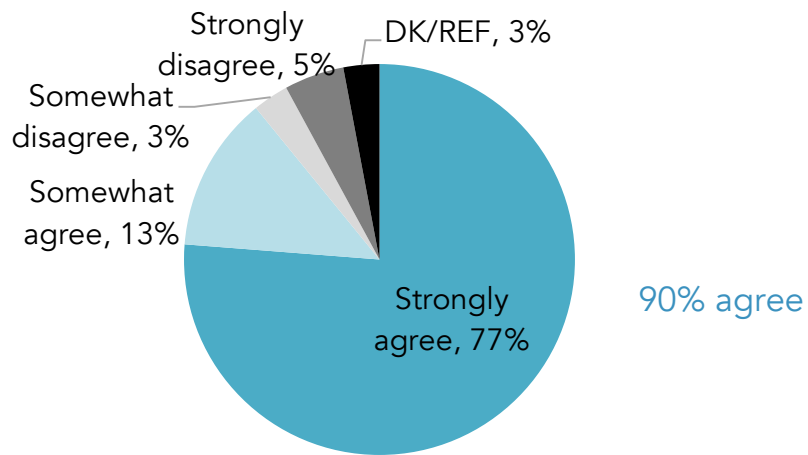


Figure 11: A woman should be able to get birth control through her health insurance even if her boss disagrees with the idea of birth control.



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	87	90
Men	87	87
Women	88	93
18-49 years old	88	93
50-64	87	90
65 +	87	85
High school or less	84	86
Some college	94	94
College +	86	91
<\$30K HH income	85	88
\$30K-75K	88	97
\$75K +	92	85
Married or living w/ partner	86	89
Widowed/divorced/separated	91	89
Never married	88	92
Liberal	95	94
Moderate	85	96
Conservative	90	86
Religious service weekly or more	82	86
At least once a month	85	87
Less often/never	93	94
Registered to vote	87	90
Panhandle/Northeast	89	91
Northeast	89	92
Central-West	89	88
Southeast	85	89

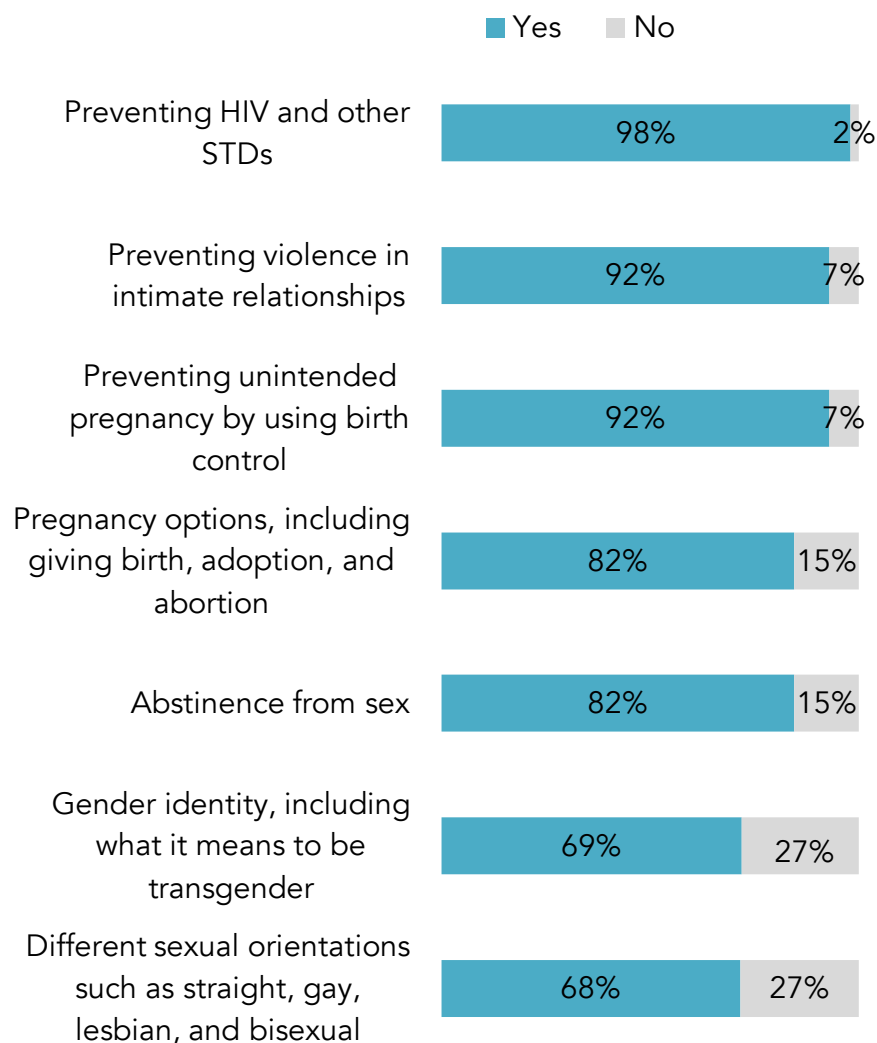
Table 8a: Do you agree or disagree... (% Agree) [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	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	82	86
Men (<i>n</i> =90)	80	82
Women	82	89
50 + years old	85	86
Some college or less	82	86
<\$50K HH income	79	88
\$50K + (<i>n</i> =87)	90	83

Views toward Sex Education

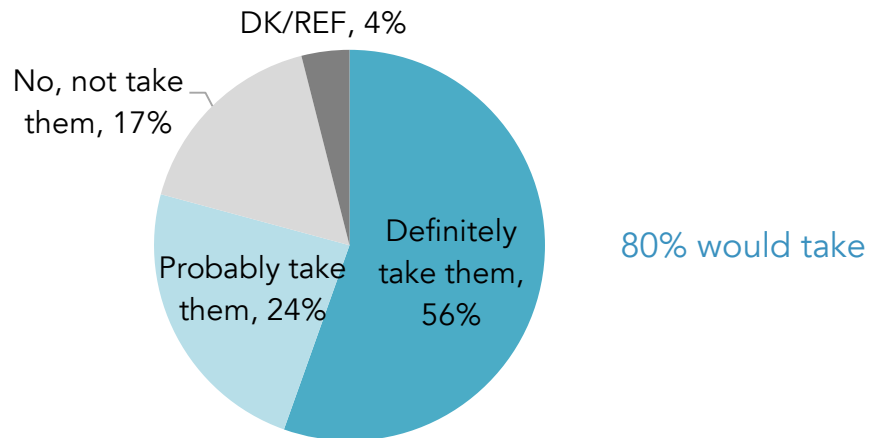
Majorities of Black adults in Florida want comprehensive sex education. Nearly all want sex education programs to cover preventing HIV and STDs (98 percent), intimate partner violence (92 percent), and preventing unintended pregnancy by using birth control (92 percent). Large majorities also want topics included such as pregnancy options including giving birth, adoption and abortion (82 percent), abstinence (82 percent), gender identity (69 percent), and sexual orientation (68 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 (80 percent) would take their teenager to get birth control if they needed it. Fifty-six percent say they would definitely take them. About one in six (17 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 say they would 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	56	24	17
Men	48	27	19
Women	64	21	15
18-49 years old	57	24	16
50-64	60	22	16
65 +	50	25	19
High school or less	58	21	17
Some college	56	27	14
College +	54	24	20
<\$30K HH income	55	23	17
\$30K-75K	58	24	17
\$75K +	61	23	14
Married or living w/ partner	53	27	16
Widowed/divorced/separated	66	17	15
Never married	54	25	17
Liberal	65	22	12
Moderate	58	25	15
Conservative	47	25	21
Religious service weekly or more	51	22	24
At least once a month	53	23	21
Less often/never	61	25	10
Registered to vote	59	25	14
Panhandle/Northeast	56	19	19
Northeast	51	19	24
Central-West	48	34	13
Southeast	59	22	17

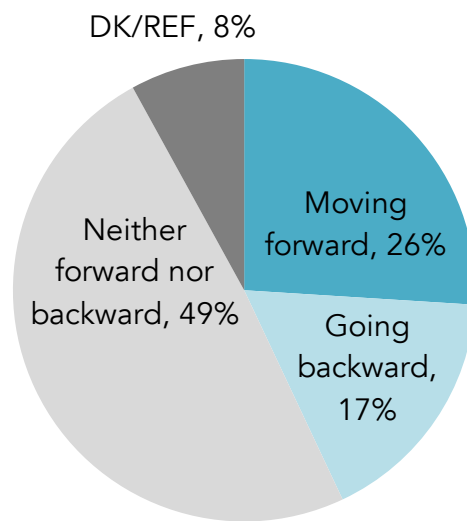
Table 9a: If you had children, do you think you would definitely take your own teenagers to get birth control if they needed it, probably take them, or would you not take them? [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Definitely take them	Probably take them	No, not take them
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	50	22	24
Men (<i>n</i> =90)	41	22	30
Women	57	22	20
50 + years old	49	24	24
Some college or less	53	20	23
<\$50K HH income	57	20	20
\$50K + (<i>n</i>=87)	43	25	30

Views on Issues Related to Women’s Rights

One-quarter of respondents feel elected officials in their state are moving forward on issues related to women’s rights. A large 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:



Black adults in Florida who have a household income of \$75,000 or more are most likely to say elected officials are going backward on issues related to women’s rights. (See Tables 10 and 10a.)

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

	Moving forward	Going backward	Neither forward backward
Total	26	17	49
Men	31	16	45
Women	22	18	53
18-49 years old	24	14	53
50-64	27	16	51
65 +	29	23	37
High school or less	33	14	44
Some college	22	17	53
College +	20	21	48
<\$30K HH income	26	12	52
\$30K-\$75K	30	15	49
\$75K +	17	25	52
Married or living w/ partner	25	18	49
Widowed/divorced/ separated	29	16	46
Never married	24	15	55
Liberal	29	23	40
Moderate	19	18	61
Conservative	35	11	48
Religious service weekly or more	27	19	46
At least once a month	29	16	46
Less often/never	21	16	54
Registered to vote	28	19	47
Panhandle/Northeast	25	17	54
Northeast	29	15	54
Central-West	23	14	52
Southeast	31	18	41

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	27	19	46
Men (<i>n</i> =90)	33	18	40
Women	24	20	50
50 + years old	28	20	45
Some college or less	30	18	44
<\$50K HH income	29	15	50
\$50K + (<i>n</i> =87)	24	26	46

Detailed Methods

The telephone study collected data from a sample of $n = 500$ Black adult Florida residents. All phone interviews were done through the CATI system. The study included landline ($n=203$) and cell ($n=297$) completes.

The field period for the study was September 28 through October 31, 2016. The margin of sampling error for results is ± 5.6 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 Florida. 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 Florida. 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.