

Views on Women’s Reproductive Health

Findings from a Georgia 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 Georgia 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 Georgia 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 Georgia 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 = 511 Black adults, including 82 percent who are registered voters, in Georgia from September 28 to October 31, 2016. The survey was administered by telephone by SSRS. The margin of sampling error for results is ± 5.7 percentage points. See a more detailed methodology at the end of this report.

¹ NEO Philanthropy is the fiscal sponsor for NBWRJA.

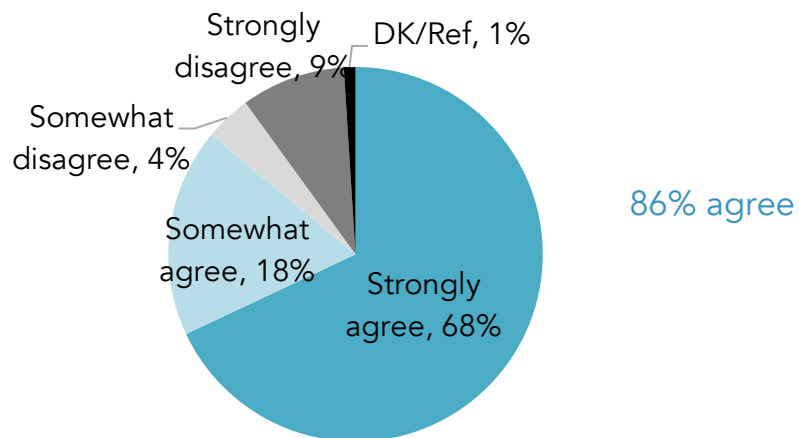
II. Key Findings

- A large majority of Black adults in Georgia (86 percent) agrees each woman should have the right to make her own decision on abortion, even if they may disagree with her reason. Similarly, 83 percent agree we should trust Black women to make personal decisions that are best for themselves and their families.
- More than half (68 percent) do not want the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade* including 64 percent of those who self-identify as very religious.
- Nearly all Black adults in Georgia (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 (94 percent), affordable (83 percent), respectful of a woman's decision (78 percent), and in their community (77 percent).
- Close to two-thirds (64 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 Georgia, religious beliefs do not interfere with their views toward abortion. Seven in ten (69 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 58 percent saying would give "a lot of" support.
- A large majority of respondents (85 percent) considers birth control part of basic women's health care coverage. Similarly, (83 percent) agree every woman should have access to the full range of pregnancy care including abortion. A large majority (90 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 (92 percent), pregnancy options including abortion (85 percent), gender identity (68 percent), and sexual orientation (67 percent).
- Eight in ten (81 percent) would take their own teenager to get birth control if they needed it; 57 percent say they would definitely take them.

III. Detailed Findings

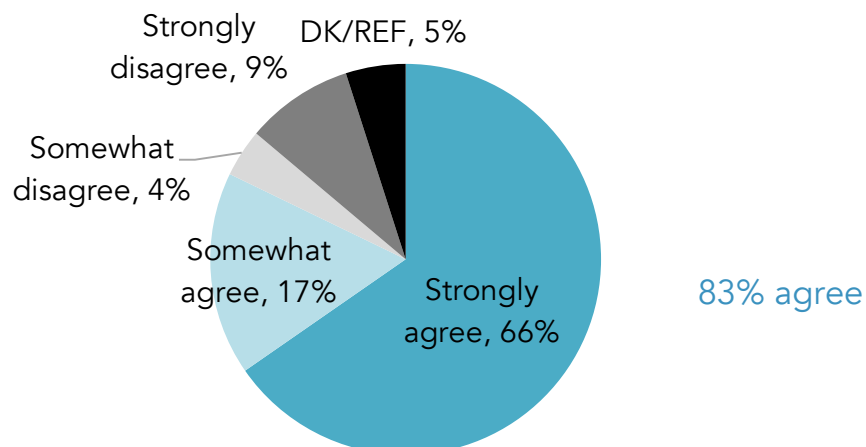
A large majority of Black adults in Georgia hold firm views in support of a woman’s right to abortion. More than eight in ten (86 percent) respondents agree with the statement: “Each woman should have the right to make her own decision on abortion, even if I may disagree with her reasons.” (See Figure 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 (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	86	83
Men	87	84
Women	85	81
18-49 years old	90	82
50-64	84	86
65 +	75	78
High school or less	82	80
Some college	88	84
College +	91	86
<\$30K HH income	79	81
\$30K-75K	91	84
\$75K +	95	87
Married or living w/ partner	88	87
Widowed/divorced/separated	86	82
Never married	84	75
Liberal	89	91
Moderate	92	87
Conservative	82	72
Religious service weekly or more	84	82
At least once a month	85	82
Less often/never	90	85
Registered to vote	89	84
Atlanta	92	88
Northern GA	86	85
Central GA	89	83
Southern GA	77	77

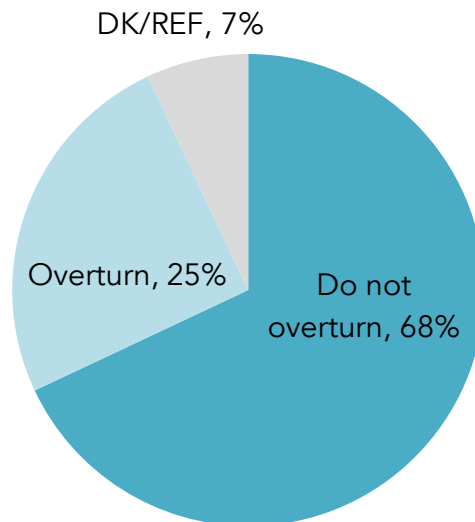
Table 1a: Do you agree or disagree... (% Agree) [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	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	84	82
Men (<i>n</i> =93)	85	87
Women	84	79
50 + years old	78	82
Some college or less	80	80
College +	92	87
<\$50K HH income	82	81
\$50K +	91	87

General Views on the Right to Abortion

A large majority of Black adults in Georgia do not want to see *Roe v. Wade* overturned. More than two-thirds (68 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	68	25
Men	71	23
Women	66	27
18-49 years old	71	23
50-64	63	30
65 +	68	26
High school or less	60	34
Some college	68	24
College +	83	13
<\$30K HH income	55	37
\$30K-75K	74	20
\$75K +	85	14
Married or living w/ partner	72	24
Widowed/divorced/separated	63	31
Never married	66	25
Liberal	83	15
Moderate	73	21
Conservative	47	44
Religious service weekly or more	64	31
At least once a month	67	28
Less often/never	73	19
Registered to vote	72	23
Atlanta	77	21
Northern GA	73	21
Central GA	57	34
Southern GA	58	31

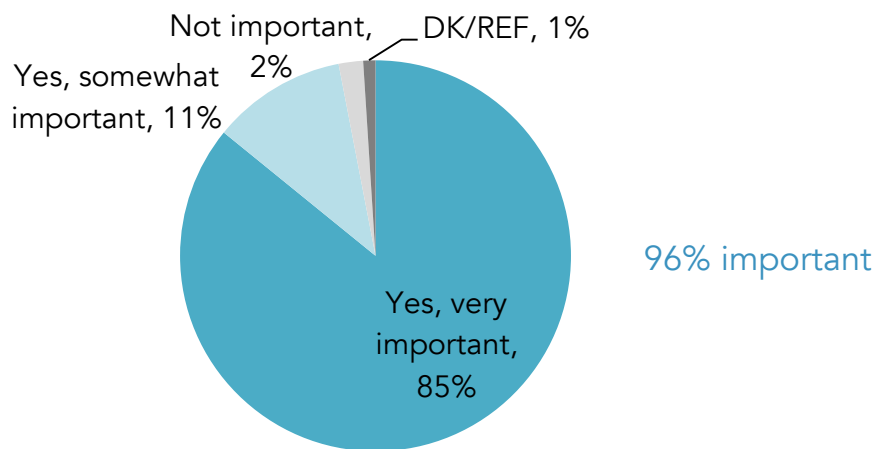
Table 2a: Would you like to see the Supreme Court overturn its *Roe v. Wade* decision, or not? [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Do not overturn	Overturn
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	64	31
Men (<i>n</i> =93)	66	32
Women	62	30
50 + years old	62	32
Some college or less	57	36
College +	80	19
<\$50K HH income	52	42
\$50K +	80	16

Views about Abortion Care and Access

An overwhelming majority of Black adults in Georgia (96 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 (96 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?

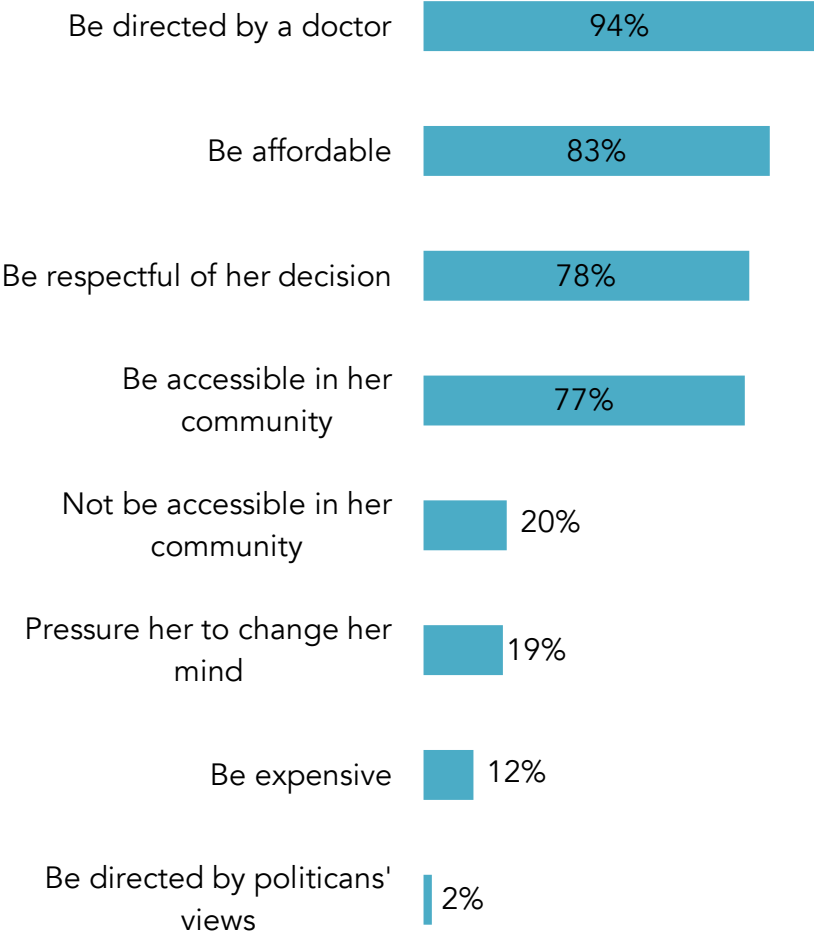
	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Total	85	11	2
Men	82	13	3
Women	88	8	2
18-49 years old	89	7	3
50-64	84	13	1
65 +	77	18	4
High school or less	84	10	3
Some college	90	10	1
College +	86	10	3
<\$30K HH income	85	9	4
\$30K-75K	89	8	1
\$75K +	86	13	1
Married or living w/ partner	88	10	1
Widowed/divorced/separated	84	12	3
Never married	84	8	4
Liberal	96	3	1
Moderate	86	14	0
Conservative	77	16	5
Religious service weekly or more	86	11	2
At least once a month	85	12	2
Less often/never	89	6	2
Registered to vote	87	10	3
Atlanta	87	12	1
Northern GA	88	11	1
Central GA	85	13	1
Southern GA	82	9	5

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	86	11	2
Men (n=93)	79	17	2
Women	90	8	3
50 + years old	81	15	2
Some college or less	85	14	1
College +	88	6	5
<\$50K HH income	85	13	2
\$50K +	89	8	3

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

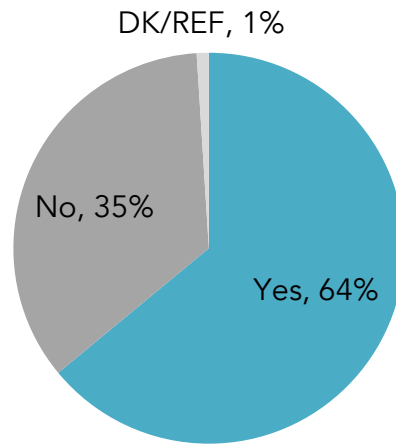
Figure 5: Let’s say a woman has decided to have an abortion. Would you want the care to...
(% Yes)



Views toward Politicians' Positions on Abortion

Black adults in Georgia are paying attention to political candidate's views on abortion. More than six in ten (64 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 most 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	64	35
Men	66	32
Women	63	36
18-49 years old	65	34
50-64	64	34
65 +	63	37
High school or less	60	38
Some college	67	33
College +	70	29
<\$30K HH income	65	33
\$30K-75K	64	36
\$75K+	79	20
Married or living w/ partner	76	24
Widowed/divorced/ separated	59	40
Never married	49	48
Liberal	69	30
Moderate	65	35
Conservative	65	32
Religious service weekly or more	68	31
At least once a month	67	32
Less often/never	60	38
Registered to vote	69	30
Atlanta	75	25
Northern GA	58	40
Central GA	58	42
Southern GA	61	36

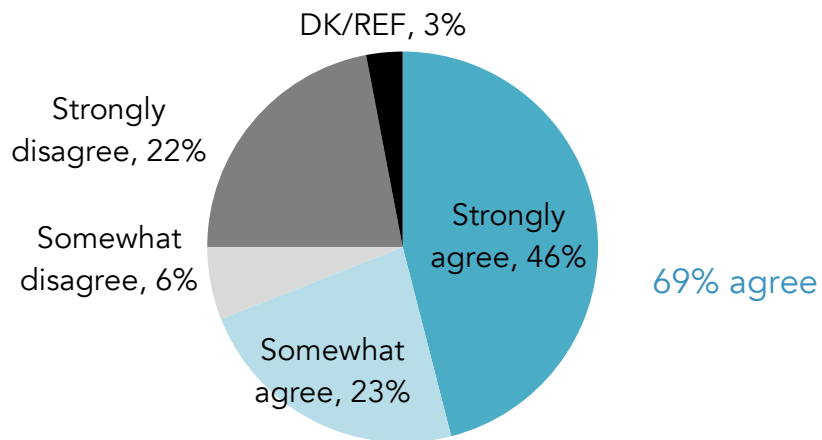
**Table 4a: In general, do you tend to pay attention to a political candidate's views on a woman's right to get an abortion?
[Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]**

	Yes	No
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	68	32
Men (<i>n</i> =93)	70	29
Women	67	34
50 + years old	66	34
Some college or less	63	37
College +	77	21
<\$50K HH income	65	35
\$50K +	77	22

Abortion in Their Personal Lives

Seven in ten Black adults in Georgia (69 percent) believe abortion should remain legal, even though some church leaders take a position against it. Almost half (46 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 (69 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.

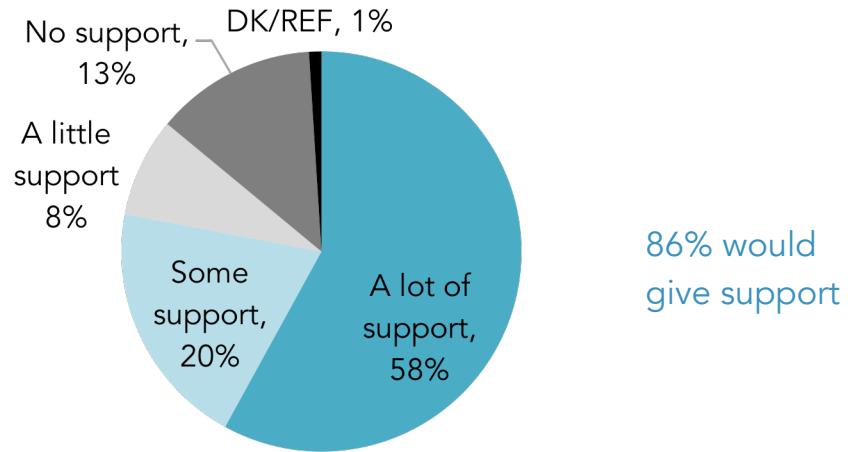
	Agree	Disagree
Total	69	28
Men	74	24
Women	66	32
18-49 years old	73	24
50-64	67	30
65 +	62	38
High school or less	58	38
Some college	78	21
College +	78	20
<\$30K HH income	66	30
\$30K-75K	72	28
\$75K +	86	14
Married or living w/ partner	72	28
Widowed/divorced/separated	64	33
Never married	68	25
Liberal	82	16
Moderate	79	20
Conservative	49	48
Religious service weekly or more	62	37
At least once a month	65	34
Less often/never	79	16
Registered to vote	72	26
Atlanta	80	20
Northern GA	76	23
Central GA	58	38
Southern GA	61	34

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	62	37
Men (<i>n</i> =93)	64	36
Women	60	38
50 + years old	60	38
Some college or less	57	42
College +	72	28
<\$50K HH income	57	42
\$50K +	77	23

More than eight in ten Black adults in Georgia would support a loved one who had an abortion. Eighty-six percent would offer support to a friend or family member, with 58 percent saying they would give her “a lot” of support. (See Figure 8.)

Figure 8: If a close friend or family member told you she had an abortion, would you:



Majorities across demographic groups would give a friend or family member support. (See Tables 6 and 6a.)

Table 6: If a close friend of family member told you she had an abortion, would you give her:

	Would give support	"A lot" of support
Total	86	58
Men	90	58
Women	82	57
18-49 years old	90	61
50-64	81	54
65 +	78	51
High school or less	81	50
Some college	88	57
College +	93	72
<\$30K HH income	78	56
\$30K-75K	92	63
\$75K +	94	64
Married or living w/ partner	89	62
Widowed/divorced/separated	80	55
Never married	86	51
Liberal	90	66
Moderate	89	62
Conservative	79	48
Religious service weekly or more	87	59
At least once a month	87	60
Less often/never	86	55
Registered to vote	87	62
Atlanta	87	59
Northern GA	92	62
Central GA	85	58
Southern GA	76	52

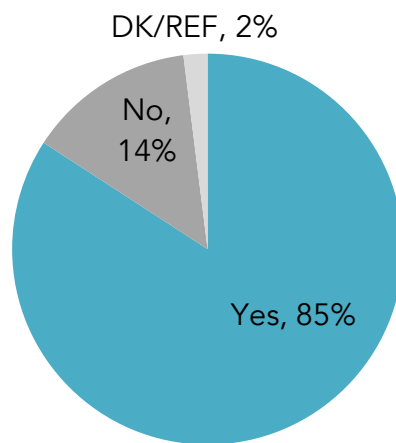
Table 6a: If a close friend or family member told you she had an abortion, would you give her: [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Would give support	"A lot" of support
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	87	59
Men (<i>n</i> =93)	92	58
Women	84	59
50 + years old	80	52
Some college or less	84	51
College +	94	77
<\$50K HH income	86	56
\$50K +	94	70

Views about Birth Control and Access

A large majority of Black adults in Georgia (85 percent) consider birth control a basic part of women’s health care coverage. About one in seven (14 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	85	14
Men	80	18
Women	88	11
18-49 years old	87	12
50-64	83	16
65 +	79	17
High school or less	83	16
Some college	82	17
College +	89	9
<\$30K HH income	87	13
\$30K-75K	89	11
\$75K +	88	11
Married or living w/ partner	85	14
Widowed/divorced/separated	87	12
Never married	81	17
Liberal	90	9
Moderate	88	10
Conservative	77	20
Religious service weekly or more	82	17
At least once a month	84	15
Less often/never	86	12
Registered to vote	87	12
Atlanta	90	9
Northern GA	90	8
Central GA	85	14
Southern GA	79	19

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	82	17
Men (n=93)	77	22
Women	85	14
50 + years old	78	20
Some college or less	77	21
College +	93	7
<\$50K HH income	88	12
\$50K +	86	13

A large majority of Black adults in Georgia (83 percent) believe all women should have coverage for the full range of pregnancy-related care, including abortion. Two-thirds (65 percent) strongly agree with this idea; 13 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.

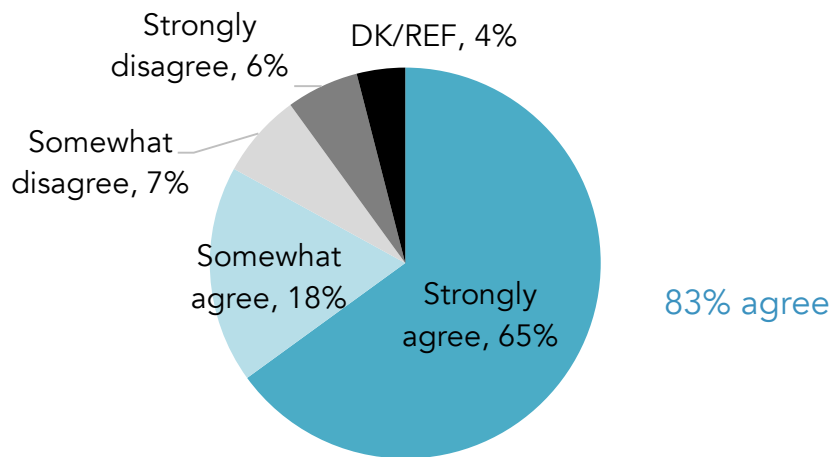
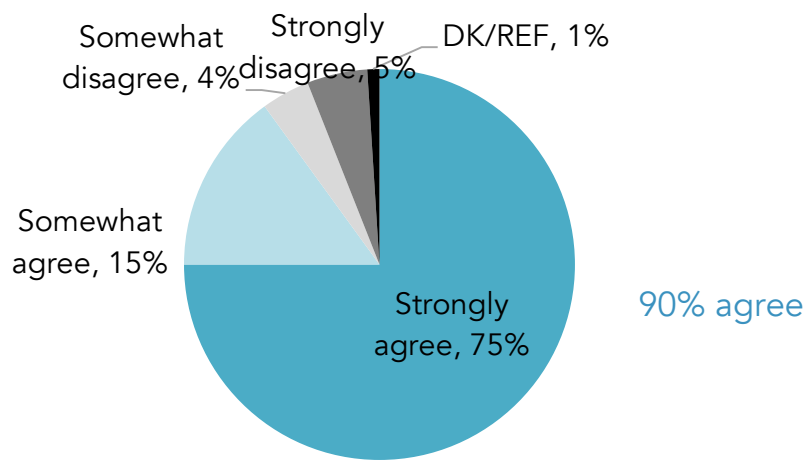


Figure 11: A woman should be able to get birth control through her health insurance even if her boss disagrees with the idea of birth control.



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	83	90
Men	85	89
Women	83	90
18-49 years old	85	92
50-64	82	87
65 +	83	86
High school or less	84	85
Some college	90	91
College +	80	95
<\$30K HH income	83	82
\$30K-75K	90	96
\$75K +	82	95
Married or living w/ partner	85	92
Widowed/divorced/separated	83	90
Never married	85	85
Liberal	90	96
Moderate	86	90
Conservative	79	86
Religious service weekly or more	86	88
At least once a month	85	88
Less often/never	84	92
Registered to vote	85	91
Atlanta	84	98
Northern GA	92	95
Central GA	88	86
Southern GA	76	80

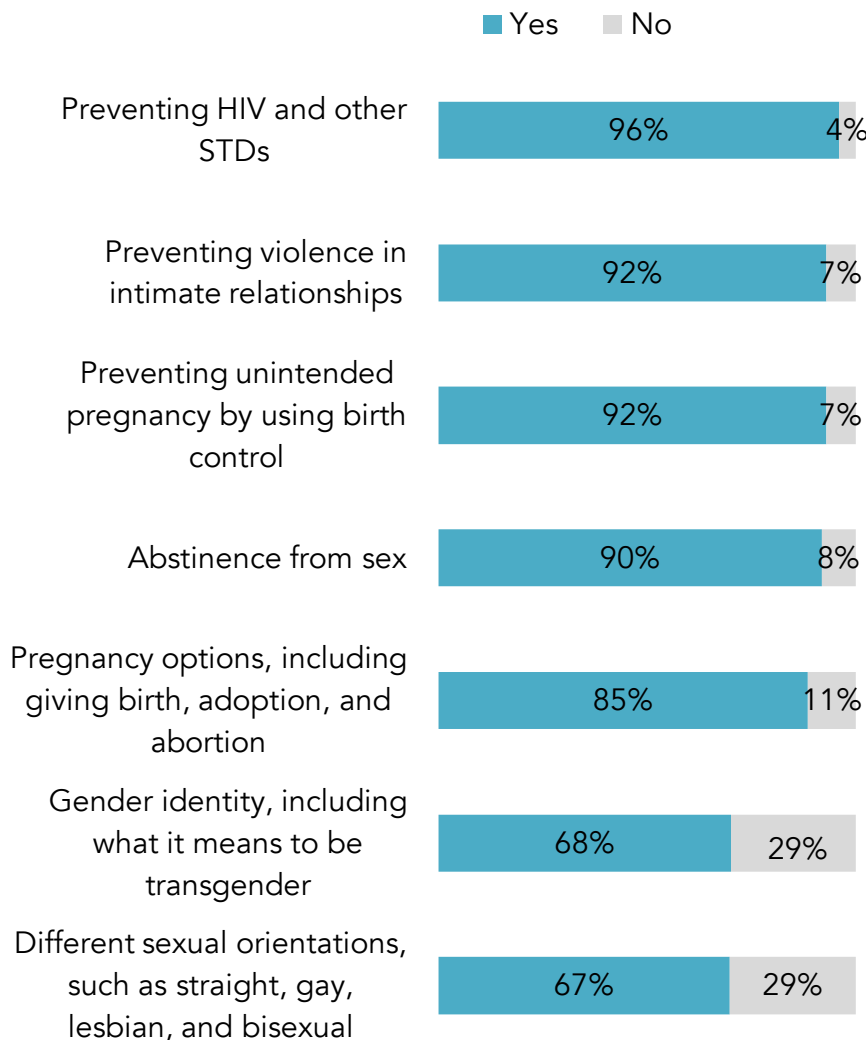
Table 8a: Do you agree or disagree... (% Agree) [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	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	86	88
Men (n=93)	88	88
Women	85	88
50 + years old	82	83
Some college or less	90	84
College +	78	96
<\$50K HH income	91	84
\$50K +	86	98

Views toward Sex Education

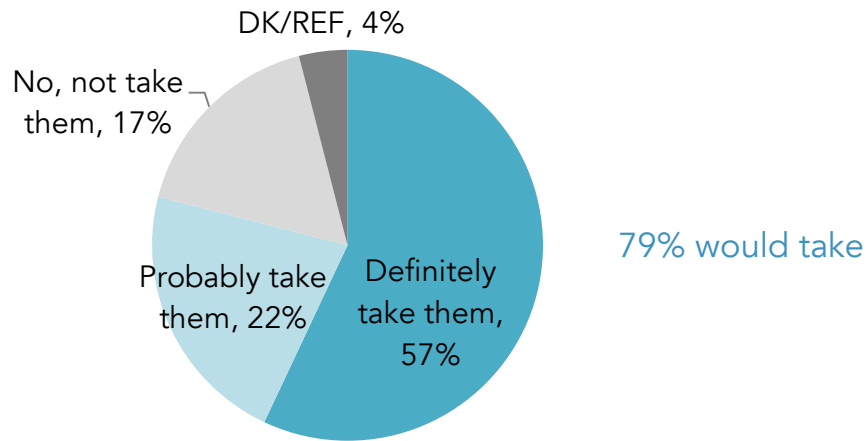
Majorities of Black adults in Georgia want comprehensive sex education. Nearly all want sex education programs to cover preventing HIV and STDs (96 percent), intimate partner violence (92 percent), and preventing unintended pregnancy by using birth control (92 percent). Large majorities also want topics included such as abstinence (90 percent), pregnancy options including giving birth, adoption and abortion (85 percent), gender identity (68 percent), and sexual orientation (67 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 (79 percent) would take their teenager to get birth control if they needed it. Fifty-seven 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?



Those who have household incomes of less than \$30,00 are the most 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	57	22	17
Men	48	30	17
Women	65	16	17
18-49 years old	58	24	14
50-64	58	21	18
65 +	51	20	26
High school or less	56	22	17
Some college	60	23	15
College +	57	23	18
<\$30K HH income	66	19	13
\$30K-75K	52	29	18
\$75K +	56	25	16
Married or living w/ partner	60	18	18
Widowed/divorced/separated	56	28	12
Never married	53	25	18
Liberal	60	30	8
Moderate	56	25	15
Conservative	56	13	28
Religious service weekly or more	53	22	21
At least once a month	55	23	18
Less often/never	62	22	14
Registered to vote	60	22	15
Atlanta	63	18	13
Northern GA	51	32	15
Central GA	67	14	17
Southern GA	49	22	22

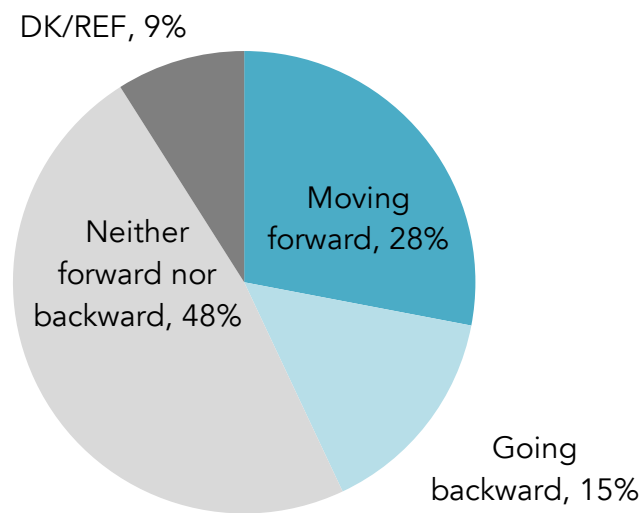
Table 9a: If you had children, do you think you would definitely take your own teenagers to get birth control if they needed it, probably take them, or would you not take them? [Among those who attend religious services weekly or more]

	Definitely take them	Probably take them	No, not take them
Total who attend religious services weekly or more	53	22	21
Men (n=93)	45	30	20
Women	59	17	21
50 + years old	52	20	26
Some college or less	53	22	22
College +	57	23	19
<\$50K HH income	53	29	18
\$50K +	58	20	22

Views on Issues Related to Women’s Rights

More than a quarter of respondents feel elected officials in their state are moving forward on issues related to women’s rights. A majority says elected officials are not moving forward or moving backward. (See Figure 14.)

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



Conservative Black adults in Georgia and those 65 and older are more likely to say elected officials are moving forward 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	28	15	48
Men	31	17	42
Women	26	14	52
18-49 years old	21	18	51
50-64	31	15	46
65 +	45	9	37
High school or less	40	14	34
Some college	22	20	52
College +	17	13	64
<\$30K HH income	37	17	37
\$30K-\$75K	29	14	50
\$75K +	13	18	62
Married or living w/ partner	29	16	49
Widowed/divorced/ separated	31	15	45
Never married	23	16	48
Liberal	24	24	46
Moderate	19	13	62
Conservative	43	9	38
Religious service weekly or more	32	13	45
At least once a month	32	15	44
Less often/never	21	17	53
Registered to vote	30	16	46
Atlanta	24	16	57
Northern GA	28	16	46
Central GA	29	15	49
Southern GA	32	18	37

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	32	14	45
Men (n=93)	33	14	41
Women	32	13	47
50 + years old	38	10	42
Some college or less	38	13	40
College +	21	15	57
<\$50K HH income	44	15	34
\$50K +	22	10	58

Detailed Methods

The telephone study collected data from a sample of $n = 511$ Black adult Georgia residents. All phone interviews were done through the CATI system. The study included landline ($n=211$) 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 ± 5.7 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 Georgia. 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 Georgia. 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.