



Survey Says

New Polling from The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

Deciding if, when, and under what circumstances to get pregnant (or cause a pregnancy) matters. A lot. The ability to **plan, prevent, and space pregnancies** is directly linked to numerous benefits to women, men, children, and society, including more educational and economic opportunities and healthier babies. New public opinion polling presented here underscores the continued **deep and wide support** for birth control. Birth control controversial? Hardly.

The Importance of Birth Control

Support for birth control is broad and deep and almost everyone uses it. In fact, 99% of American women who have ever had sex have used contraception at some point in their lives. That the use of birth control is so universal speaks to its centrality in the lives of women and men. **73%** of survey respondents **age 18-34** and **60%** of survey respondents **age 35-44** say that **birth control is important to them**. **87%** of survey respondents believe that the decision of “if, when, and under what circumstances to get pregnant,” is “absolutely” or “one of the **most important decisions**” a person can make.

42%: Percentage who agree it is the **most important** decision one can make.

Republicans	39%
Democrats	41%
Non-Hispanic White	38%
Non-Hispanic Black	45%
Hispanic	55%

45%: Percentage who agree it is **one of the most important** decisions one can make.

Republicans	48%
Democrats	46%
Non-Hispanic White	50%
Non-Hispanic Black	44%
Hispanic	30%

Fully **73%** of survey respondents say that birth control is important. **95%** say that eating properly is important; **94%** say staying in shape is important; **86%** say that cell phones are important; and **52%** say that daily coffee is important.

More People Would Use Birth Control If...

Close to half of all pregnancies are unplanned according to women themselves. What might help improve more careful and consistent use of birth control? **More than 7 in 10** survey respondents believe more people would use birth control if they knew more about their options, were more comfortable talking about it, had easier access to the full range of contraceptive methods, and if other people talked about it more openly.

74%: Say that more people would use birth control if they knew about the many birth control **methods** available.

Republicans	66%
Democrats	83%
Non-Hispanic White	74%
Non-Hispanic Black	73%
Hispanic	80%

74%: Say that more people would use birth control if they were more comfortable **talking openly** about it.

Republicans	60%
Democrats	82%
Non-Hispanic White	72%
Non-Hispanic Black	76%
Hispanic	81%

77%: Say that more people would use birth control if they had **easier access** to the full range of birth control methods.

Republicans	67%
Democrats	84%
Non-Hispanic White	77%
Non-Hispanic Black	73%
Hispanic	81%

74%: Say that more people would use birth control if other people talked about it more **positively**.

Republicans	61%
Democrats	84%
Non-Hispanic White	69%
Non-Hispanic Black	82%
Hispanic	83%

Birth Control and Policy

Reading headlines might lead one to believe that birth control is controversial. The data presented here clearly shows that far from being controversial, birth control has wide, deep, and bipartisan support.

81%: Percentage who agree that those who oppose abortion should **strongly support** birth control.

Republicans	74%
Democrats	86%
Non-Hispanic White	81%
Non-Hispanic Black	77%
Hispanic	86%

81%: Percentage who agree birth control is a **basic part** of women's health care.

Republicans	70%
Democrats	90%
Non-Hispanic White	82%
Non-Hispanic Black	75%
Hispanic	85%

86%: Percentage who support policies that make it easier for those **18 and older** to get the full range of birth control methods; 76% support policies that make it easier for teens.

	Easier for those 18+	Easier for teens
Republicans	76%	59%
Democrats	95%	88%
Non-Hispanic White	83%	74%
Non-Hispanic Black	87%	79%
Hispanic	93%	87%

94%: Percentage who agree that for those who want to avoid getting pregnant or causing a pregnancy, using birth control is taking personal responsibility.

Republicans	93%
Democrats	98%
Non-Hispanic White	93%
Non-Hispanic Black	97%
Hispanic	98%

Access to Birth Control

[New research](#) from The National Campaign shows that nearly 20 million American women eligible for publicly funded contraception live in contraceptive deserts. Survey respondents are almost evenly split on whether they think that women in their community have access to the full range of contraceptive methods. **81%** say if they knew that **not everyone in the U.S. had access** to the full range of birth control methods, they would support efforts or advocate for **full access**.

45%: Percentage who agree that **everyone in their community** has access to the full range of birth control methods.

	Agree	Disagree
Republicans	55%	38%
Democrats	33%	60%
Non-Hispanic White	45%	48%
Non-Hispanic Black	37%	55%
Hispanic	50%	45%

31%: Percentage who agree that **everyone in the U.S.** has access to the full range of birth control methods.

	Agree	Disagree
Republicans	42%	51%
Democrats	22%	74%
Non-Hispanic White	27%	67%
Non-Hispanic Black	31%	65%
Hispanic	47%	49%

The data presented here are drawn from a national telephone survey conducted for The National Campaign by SSRS, an independent research company. Telephone interviews were conducted from September 28-October 2, 2016 among a nationally representative sample of 1,019 respondent age 18 and older. The margin of error for total respondents is +/- 3.1% at the 95% confidence level.