

BIRTH CONTROL FUNDING AND ABORTION POLICY

The most recent national survey from Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind asked Americans about certain proposals related to abortion, birth control and insurance. The survey finds that a majority of respondents reject the idea that ultrasounds should be mandatory for women seeking abortions, and believe laws against abortion must contain exceptions for women who have been the victim of rape, however, opinion is divided over insurance mandates for birth control.

Abortion policy

A particularly controversial issue to emerge recently is the idea that there is no need for rape exceptions to abortion laws, as women's bodies prevent pregnancy in the case of rape. Although this view has not been part of American law since the 19th century, it retains some support in the electorate. Overall, 17 percent say exceptions to rape laws aren't needed, while 73 percent support keeping some exceptions. Eighty-five percent of liberals say that exceptions are needed, compared to 63 percent of conservatives.

In response to legislation in some states that require women to have and view an ultrasound prior to an abortion, 72 percent of respondents say they should be optional, with 23 percent endorsing the practice as a requirement.

"The ultrasound mandate and rape exceptions are policies that have been raised by Republican candidates in the recent past. These numbers suggest that anyone who talks about abortion in conjunction with these policies is unlikely to win over too many voters," said Krista Jenkins, director of PublicMind and professor of political science.

Across both of these questions, demographic differences can be seen in the areas of partisanship, ideology and religiosity. For example, Republicans and conservatives are less likely to believe that exceptions are needed to abortion laws for rape as compared to Democrats and independents, and are the least likely to believe ultrasounds should be a choice. Fifty-six percent of Republicans and 54 percent of conservatives say choice should prevail, compared with 72 percent of independents, 81 percent of moderates, 84 percent of Democrats, and 86 percent of liberals. The trend is the same on the question of mandatory ultrasounds.

Religious service attendance also factors into how respondents view these issues. A quarter of those (23%) who attend religious services weekly or more believe rape exceptions are unnecessary, compared with 16 percent who attend monthly, 15 percent who rarely attend, and six percent who never

go to a church, mosque or synagogue. Responses on the mandatory ultrasounds question also suggest religiosity goes hand-in-hand with a belief women should be required to have and view the image prior to a termination.

Insurance mandates

The public is more divided on the issue of birth control funding and insurance. Forty-eight percent of respondents say employers should be required to cover birth control as a part of women's healthcare, compared with 44 percent who believe it should be up to the employer to choose whether or not to provide coverage.

While the overall figures are fairly close, liberals and conservatives are sharply divided on the issue. Seventy-six percent of liberals say that employers should cover birth control, compared to only 27 percent of conservatives. On the other side, 66 percent of conservatives say that employers shouldn't be required to cover birth control. Religion plays a role as well: 56 percent of Americans who attend religious services weekly or more often don't think that employers should have to cover birth control, compared to just 31 percent who never go to church.

The Fairleigh Dickinson University poll of 1002 aged 18 and older who reside in the United States was conducted by telephone with both landline and cell phones from December 9 through December 15, 2013, and has a margin of error of +/-3.1 percentage points.

Methodology, questions, and tables on the web at: <http://publicmind.fdu.edu>

Radio actualities at 201.692.2846

For more information, please call 201.692.7032

Methodology

The most recent survey by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind was conducted by telephone from December 9 through December 15, 2013 using a randomly selected sample of 1002 individuals aged 18 and older who reside in the United States. One can be 95 percent confident that the error attributable to sampling has a range of +/- 3.1 percentage points. The margin of error for subgroups is larger and varies by the size of that subgroup. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling error. This kind of error, which cannot be measured, arises from a number of factors including, but not limited to, non-response (eligible individuals refusing to be interviewed), question wording, the order in which questions are asked, and variations among interviewers.

PublicMind interviews are conducted by Opinion America of Cedar Knolls, NJ, with professionally trained interviewers using a CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) system. Random selection is achieved by computerized random-digit dialing. This technique gives every person with a landline phone number (including those with unlisted numbers) an equal chance of being selected.

Landline households are supplemented with a separate, randomly selected sample of cell-phone respondents interviewed in the same time frame. The total combined sample is mathematically weighted to match known demographics of age, race and gender.

Tables

Some say...[Rotate]...laws against abortion do not need exceptions for rape because the body has a way of preventing pregnancy during a rape. Others say abortion laws need exceptions because women can get pregnant as the result of a rape. Which comes closer to your view?

| | | PID | | | Gender | | Race | | Age | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|--------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| | All | Dem | Ind | Rep | Male | Female | White | Nonwhite | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-59 | 60+ |
| Exceptions are not needed | 17% | 15 | 20 | 17 | 15 | 19 | 14 | 24 | 23 | 18 | 14 | 15 |
| Exceptions are needed | 73% | 79 | 73 | 67 | 75 | 71 | 75 | 67 | 70 | 68 | 78 | 74 |
| Neither/both (vol) | 4% | 1 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 4 |
| DK/Ref (vol) | 7% | 5 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 8 |

Some say...[Rotate]...laws against abortion do not need exceptions for rape because the body has a way of preventing pregnancy during a rape. Others say abortion laws need exceptions because women can get pregnant as the result of a rape. Which comes closer to your view?

| | Ideology | | | Religious service attendance | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|-----|------|------------------------------|---------|--------|-------|
| | Lib | Mod | Cons | Once a week or more | Monthly | Rarely | Never |
| Exceptions are not needed | 11 | 14 | 24 | 23 | 16 | 15 | 6 |
| Exceptions are needed | 85 | 79 | 63 | 62 | 73 | 80 | 87 |
| Neither/both (vol) | 1 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| DK/Ref (vol) | 3 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 3 | 5 |

Some say...[Rotate]...women seeking an abortion must be required to have and view an ultrasound. Others say whether to have and view an ultrasound should be a decision that's left a woman and her doctor. Which comes closer to your view?

| | | PID | | | Gender | | Race | | Age | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|--------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| | All | Dem | Ind | Rep | Male | Female | White | Nonwhite | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-59 | 60+ |
| Ultrasounds should be mandatory | 23% | 13 | 23 | 37 | 21 | 24 | 24 | 22 | 16 | 32 | 22 | 22 |
| Ultrasounds should be a choice | 72% | 84 | 72 | 56 | 72 | 71 | 70 | 75 | 81 | 61 | 74 | 72 |
| Neither/both (vol) | 3% | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| DK/Ref (vol) | 4% | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |

Some say...[Rotate]...women seeking an abortion must be required to have and view an ultrasound. Others say whether to have and view an ultrasound should be a decision that's left a woman and her doctor. Which comes closer to your view?

| | Ideology | | | Religious service attendance | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----|------|------------------------------|---------|--------|-------|
| | Lib | Mod | Cons | Once a week or more | Monthly | Rarely | Never |
| Ultrasounds should be mandatory | 11 | 16 | 37 | 38 | 22 | 13 | 7 |
| Ultrasounds should be a choice | 86 | 81 | 54 | 57 | 70 | 82 | 87 |
| Neither/both (vol) | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| DK/Ref (vol) | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 |

Some say...[Rotate]...employers must be required to cover birth control because it is an important part of women's health care. Others say employers should not be required to cover all forms of birth control if the company opposes it. Which comes closer to your view?

| | | PID | | | Gender | | Race | | Age | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|--------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| | All | Dem | Ind | Rep | Male | Female | White | Nonwhite | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-59 | 60+ |
| Employers should be required | 48% | 73 | 44 | 21 | 42 | 54 | 44 | 59 | 55 | 46 | 52 | 39 |
| Employers should not be required | 44% | 21 | 50 | 71 | 49 | 40 | 49 | 33 | 36 | 45 | 42 | 54 |
| Neither/both (vol) | 4% | 3 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| DK/Ref (vol) | 4% | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 4 |

Some say...[Rotate]...employers must be required to cover birth control because it is an important part of women's health care. Others say employers should not be required to cover all forms of birth control if the company opposes it. Which comes closer to your view?

| | Ideology | | | Religious service attendance | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|-----|------|------------------------------|---------|--------|-------|
| | Lib | Mod | Cons | Once a week or more | Monthly | Rarely | Never |
| Employers should be required | 76 | 55 | 27 | 36 | 50 | 59 | 56 |
| Employers should not be required | 19 | 37 | 66 | 56 | 42 | 38 | 31 |
| Neither/both (vol) | 2 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| DK/Ref (vol) | 4 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 7 |

Exact Question Wording and Order

US1 through US5 released December 18, 2013

M1 held for forthcoming release

Now changing topics. I'd like to get your opinion on birth control policy...

BC1 Some say ...ROTATE...employers must be required to cover birth control because it is an important part of women's health care. Others say employers should not be required to cover all forms of birth control if the company opposes it. Which comes closer to your view?

- 1 Employers must be required to cover birth control
- 2 Employers should NOT be required to cover all forms of birth control
- 8 Neither/both (vol)
- 9 DK/Refused (vol)

BC2 Some say...ROTATE...women seeking an abortion must be required to have and view an ultrasound. Others say whether to have and view an ultrasound should be a decision that's left to a woman and her doctor. Which comes closer to your view?

- 1 Ultrasounds should be mandatory
- 2 The decision to have an ultrasound should be left to a woman and her doctor
- 8 Neither/both (vol)
- 9 DK/Refused (vol)

BC3 Some say...ROTATE... that laws against abortion do not need exceptions for rape because the body has a way of preventing pregnancy during a rape. Others say abortion laws need exceptions because women can get pregnant as the result of a rape. Which comes closer to your view?

- 1 Exceptions are not needed
- 2 Exceptions are needed
- 3 Neither (vol)
- 8 DK/Refused (vol)

Sample characteristics

Gender

| | |
|--------|----|
| Male | 49 |
| Female | 51 |

Age

| | |
|---------|----|
| 18-29 | 22 |
| 30-44 | 26 |
| 45-59 | 28 |
| 60+ | 24 |
| Refused | 2 |

Race/Ethnicity

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| White | 70 |
| Black/African-American | 12 |
| Latino or Hispanic | 12 |
| Asian | 2 |
| Other/refused | 4 |

Party identification*

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Democrat/Lean Democrat | 42 |
| Independent/DK/refused | 24 |
| Republican/Lean Republican | 34 |

(Party identification question was part of a question order experiment)