

# **Latina/o Voters' Views and Experiences Around Reproductive Health**

Results from a National Survey of Latina/o Voters

*October 4, 2018*

## **Introduction**

The National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health commissioned PerryUndem to conduct a national survey that explores Latina/o voters' views and experiences toward reproductive health care. The survey finds that Latina/o voters mirror the electorate overall – large majorities consider birth control part of preventive health care, support access to affordable birth control, and do not think of birth control as a religious issue. Cost and access to birth control has been a recent issue for many Latina women voters of reproductive age. As other research has shown, majorities of Latina/o voters support abortion rights and access. Respondents say they would support a loved one who had an abortion and half can imagine a scenario in which abortion would be the right decision for themselves or a partner.

The survey was conducted August 7 through September 4, 2018 among n = 1,043 Latina/o registered voters, using NORC's AmeriSpeak panel at the University of Chicago. The survey was administered in English and Spanish. The margin of sampling error is  $\pm 4.9$  percentage points.

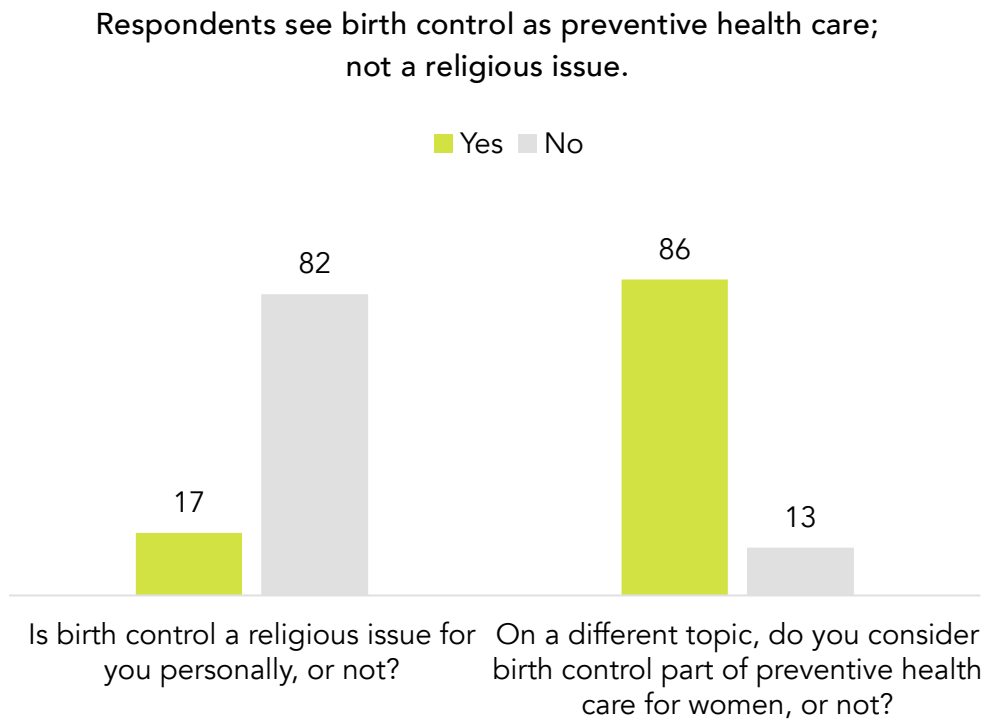
## Key Findings.

Following are key findings from the survey:

- The vast majority of Latina/o voters (82%) does not see birth control through a religious lens, including 76% of Catholic respondents. Rather, most Latina/o voters (86%) consider birth control part of preventive health care for women.
- Eight in ten Latina women (77%) say having access to affordable birth control has been important in their own lives.
- Four in ten Latina/o voters under age 45 (41%) have gone without the birth control method they wanted in the past two years because of access issues.
- One in three Latina women of reproductive age (33%) says they could only afford \$10 or less if they needed to pay for birth control today.
- Latina/o voters are more likely than the electorate overall to say they support laws requiring health insurance plans to cover birth control without a co-pay (78% of Latina/o voters v. 66% of all voters, from a March 2017 PerryUndem survey).
- Three in four Latina/o voters (78%) support access to over-the-counter birth control pills if the Food and Drug Administration said it was safe and effective.
- One in three respondents (37%) says the political environment around immigration and race is having a negative impact on their health or wellbeing.
- One in four respondents (24%) says they have a close family member or friend who has put off getting health care because of fear around immigration issues, and one in five (19%) says the same about reproductive health care.
- As we have seen in the past, majorities of Latina/o voters support abortion rights and access, including 73% who say it is important that the next Supreme Court justice rule to uphold women's access to safe, legal abortion.
- Support for abortion access is not just a policy position for many Latina/o voters. More than half can imagine a situation in which abortion could be the right choice for them or their partner, including six in ten (62%) Latina/o voters ages 18 to 29 and 53% of Catholic respondents.
- Nearly nine in ten respondents (87%) say they would give support to a loved one who had an abortion.

## Detailed Findings.

**Latina/o voters see birth control as part of preventive health care and unrelated to their religious beliefs.** The vast majority of survey respondents do not see birth control through a religious lens (82%). Rather, most respondents (86%) consider birth control a part of preventive health care for women. Nearly all respondents (90%) support women having access to affordable birth control.



Majorities across demographic groups, including Republicans (78%) and Catholic voters (76%), say birth control is not a religious issue for them personally. (See table on the following page.)

	Birth control is <u>not</u> a religious issue personally	Birth control is part of preventive health care	Support access to affordable birth control	Birth control is <u>not</u> a controversial issue
All Latina/o voters	82	86	90	66
Men	79	80	88	64
Women	84	91	92	69
18 to 29	83	86	92	64
30 to 44	86	92	92	78
45 to 59	77	86	90	65
60+	81	73	83	52
18 to 44 men	81	86	91	67
45+ men	78	73	84	59
18 to 44 women	88	93	93	75
45+ women	79	89	91	60
HS or less	81	85	87	67
Some college	84	86	95	67
College+	81	89	94	63
<\$20K	81	83	89	60
\$20K-\$40K	87	90	94	70
\$40K-\$60K	72	83	88	55
\$60K-\$100K	81	84	88	72
\$100K+	90	87	93	80
Republican	78	84	88	63
Independent	82	89	88	67
Democrat	83	84	93	67
Considers self religious	76	84	89	64
Not religious	94	90	94	71
Catholic	76	81	86	58
Northeast	82	84	86	64
Midwest	93	86	92	65
South	82	84	92	66
West	79	88	89	68
California	85	88	87	66
Florida	80	84	96	65
Texas	84	83	88	67

**Three in four Latina/o voters (71%) – and 77% of Latina women – say having access to affordable birth control has been important in their own lives.** Nearly half of respondents (46%) calls access to birth control “very” important to themselves or their partners. Older men and Republicans are among the least likely to say access to affordable birth control has been important in their own lives.

More specifically, more than six in ten Latina/o voters (62%) say access to birth control impacts the timing and spacing of children in their families. Latina women are more likely than Latino men to say birth control has an effect on the timing and spacing of children in their own family (71% v. 53%).

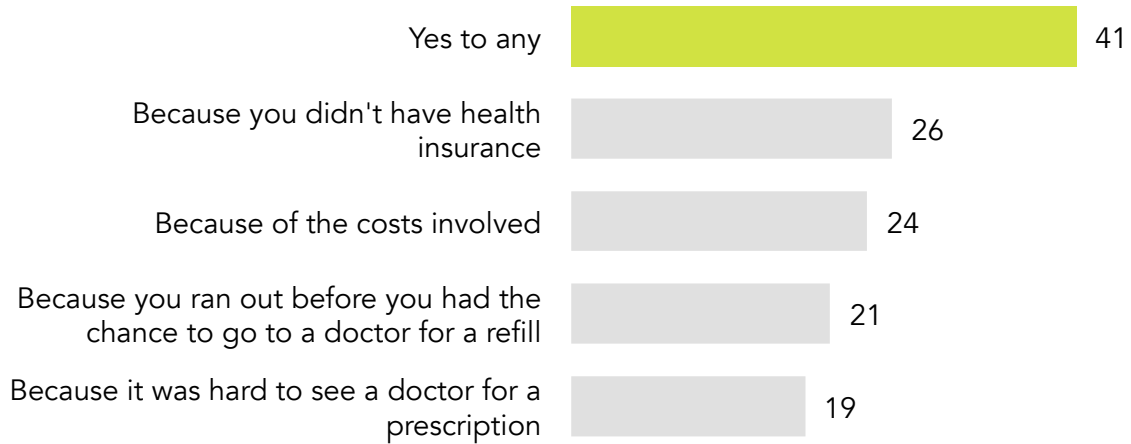
Majorities of Catholic and religious voters say birth control has been important in their lives. (See table on the following page.)

	Has been important in own life	Has effect on timing and spacing of children in my family
All Latina/o voters	71	62
Men	64	53
Women	77	71
18 to 29	72	53
30 to 44	76	64
45 to 59	70	64
60+	59	71
18 to 44 men	69	47
45+ men	57	60
18 to 44 women	79	70
45+ women	75	74
HS or less	69	61
Some college	72	63
College+	74	65
<\$20K	73	62
\$20K-\$40K	72	62
\$40K-\$60K	71	68
\$60K-\$100K	65	53
\$100K+	75	71
Republican	59	58
Independent	72	59
Democrat	73	66
Considers self religious	70	63
Not religious	72	61
Catholic	66	66
Northeast	63	71
Midwest	72	57
South	73	65
West	71	57
California	75	54
Florida	80	69
Texas	66	61

**Many Latina/o voters struggle with access to affordable birth control.** Four in ten Latina/o voters under age 45 (41%) say they have gone without the birth control method they wanted in the past two years because of access issues.

In the past two years, have you or a partner ever gone without the birth control method you wanted for any amount of time...

*(Latina/o voters age 18 to 44, n = 578)*



Forty-four percent of Latina women say they have gone without their preferred method in the past two years because of one of the following access issues:

- Did not have health insurance (29%);
- Costs involved (26%);
- Ran out before they had time to get to a doctor for a refill (25%); and
- It was hard to see a doctor for a prescription (22%).

**One in three Latina women of reproductive age (33%) says they could only afford \$10 or less if they needed to pay for birth control today.**

	\$0	\$1-\$10	\$11-\$20	\$21 or more
Women <45	17	16	29	32
Women 45+	9	33	23	20
<b>Among women &lt;45:</b>				
<\$30K	25	17	24	28
\$30K+	8	15	34	36
<College	18	15	29	30
College+	8	19	27	46
Married	14	15	34	37
Unmarried	19	17	26	36

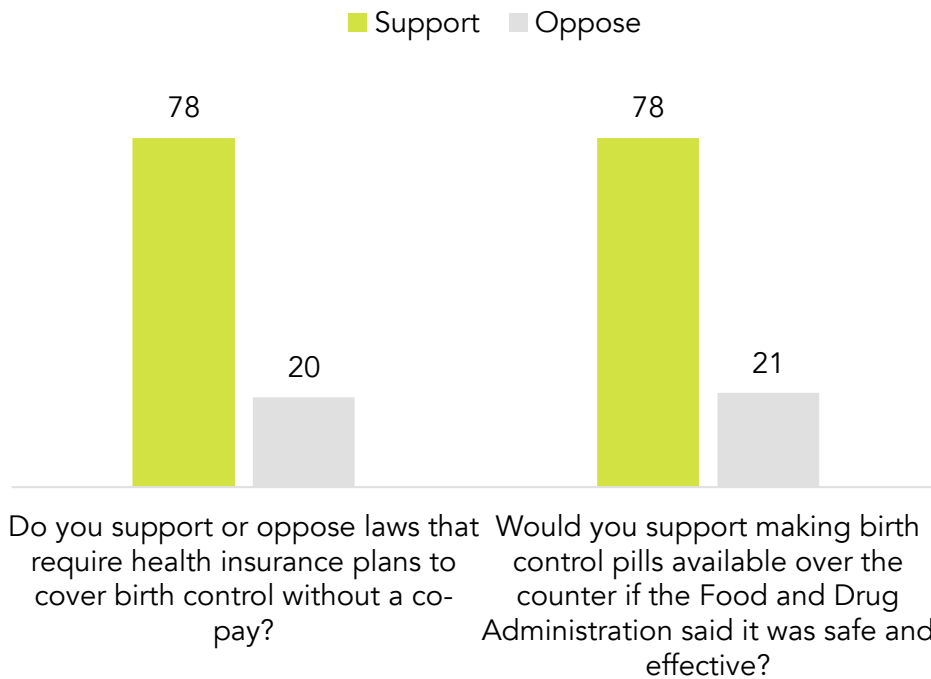


**Latina/o voters support policies that increase access to affordable birth control.**

Support is widespread with three in four Latina/o voters (78%) supporting policies that would allow women to access birth control without a co-pay, and if approved by the FDA, without a prescription. Latina/o voters are more likely than the electorate overall to say they support laws requiring health insurance plans to cover birth control without a co-pay (78% of Latina/o voters v. 66% of all voters, from a March 2017 PerryUndem survey).

**Majorities support policies that increase access.**

*(Latina/o voters age 18 to 44, n = 578)*



Majorities across demographic groups express support for these policies. (See table on the following page.)

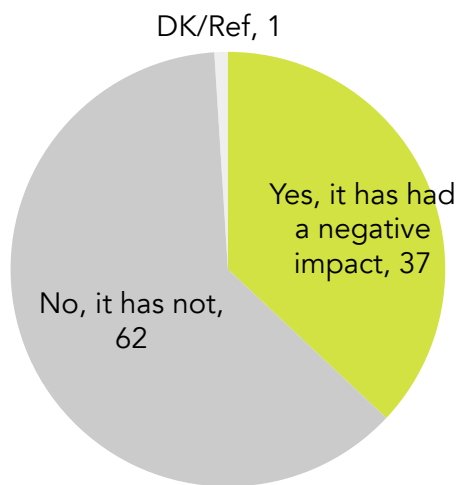
	Support birth control without a co-pay	Support OTC birth control if FDA approved
All Latina/o voters	78	78
Men	75	77
Women	81	79
18 to 29	79	80
30 to 44	81	78
45 to 59	80	74
60+	69	83
HS or less	76	74
Some college	80	83
College+	84	86
<\$20K	79	71
\$20K-\$40K	77	80
\$40K-\$60K	87	83
\$60K-\$100K	70	76
\$100K+	80	86
Republican	70	76
Independents	77	79
Democrat	82	79
Considers self religious	78	78
Not religious	80	80
Catholic	77	77
Northeast	81	82
Midwest	80	82
South	79	81
West	76	74
California	82	79
Florida	88	82
Texas	69	78

**Access to pharmacies may be an issue for some.** Six in ten respondents (58%) say it is “very easy” for them to get to a pharmacy in a typical day; 32% say somewhat easy. One in ten respondents (10%) says getting to a pharmacy would be hard. Those most likely to say getting to a pharmacy would be hard or only “somewhat” easy include Latina/o voters earning less than \$20,000 a year (52%), residents of the Midwest (51%), and respondents who chose to take the survey in Spanish (51%).

**In addition to personal benefits of birth control, majorities of respondents perceive a connection between access to affordable birth control and the health of their communities.** Six in ten Latina/o voters (62%) believe that access to affordable birth control impacts the health of their communities, including 74% of Latina women over 45.

**One in three respondents say the political environment around immigration and race is having a negative impact on their health or wellbeing.** Those most likely to report being affected include Democrats (47%), Catholics (45%), and Californians (45%). (See table on the following page.)

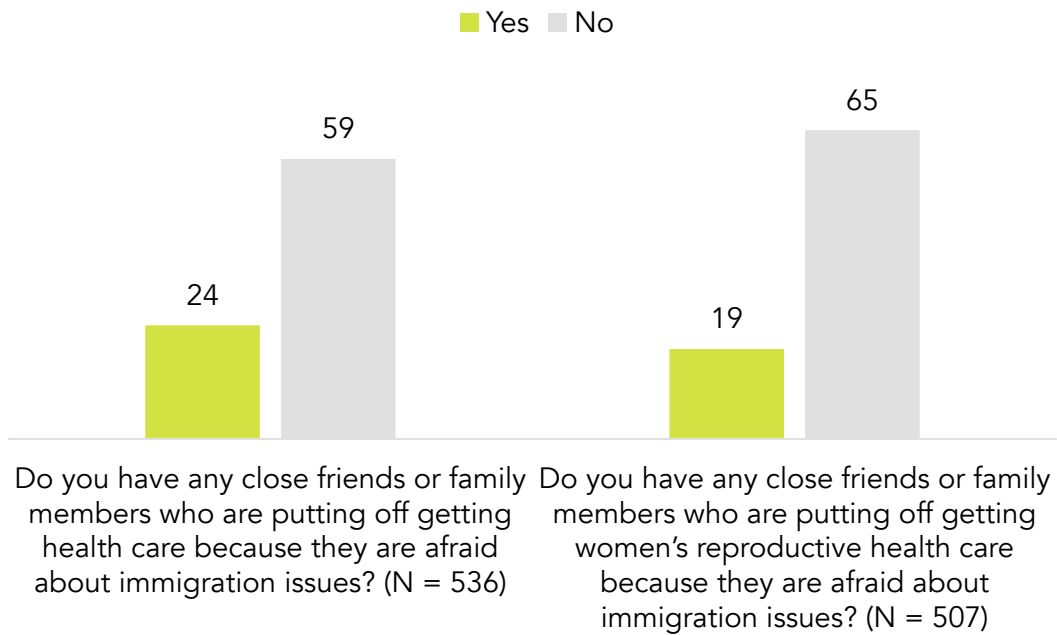
Has the current political situation had a negative impact on your health or well-being, or not?



	Yes, it has had a negative impact	No, it has not
All Latina/o voters	37	62
Men	39	61
Women	35	64
18 to 29	36	63
30 to 44	40	60
45 to 59	38	61
60+	32	68
HS or less	35	64
Some college	39	60
College+	39	60
<\$20K	38	61
\$20K-\$40K	39	61
\$40K-\$60K	42	56
\$60K-\$100K	35	65
\$100K+	22	78
Republican	24	75
Independents	30	69
Democrat	47	53
Considers self religious	40	60
Not religious	32	68
Catholic	45	55
Northeast	42	56
Midwest	45	55
South	30	69
West	40	60
California	45	55
Florida	33	65
Texas	25	75

**One in four respondents says they have a close family member or friend who has put off getting health care because of fear around immigration issues.** One in five says they know someone putting off women’s reproductive health care because of fears around immigration issues.

One in five respondents has a close loved one putting off reproductive health care because of immigration fears.



**As we have seen in the past, majorities of Latina/o voters support abortion rights and access.** Majorities of voters:

- Think it is important that a new Supreme Court justice rule to uphold women's access to safe, legal abortion (73%);
- Do not want to see the *Roe v. Wade* decision overturned (67%);
- Would support a friend or family member who had an abortion (87%); and
- Can imagine a situation in which an abortion could be the right choice for them or a partner (54%).

Majorities across demographic groups, including Republicans and Catholics, support abortion rights and access. (See table on the following page.)

	Do not want Roe overturned	Important that justice uphold access	Would give support to loved one	Can imagine right choice for me / partner
All Latina/o voters	67	73	87	54
Men	68	70	90	58
Women	66	78	85	50
18 to 29	76	77	89	62
30 to 44	68	77	88	51
45 to 59	58	71	88	49
60+	63	66	82	51
HS or less	62	69	84	50
Some college	76	82	92	55
College+	71	78	94	66
<\$20K	59	71	76	47
\$20K-\$40K	71	81	89	58
\$40K-\$60K	58	74	89	50
\$60K-\$100K	73	65	91	58
\$100K+	80	79	99	53
Republican	55	67	89	47
Independents	64	66	84	51
Democrat	73	82	90	58
Considers self religious	61	72	88	50
Not religious	81	80	88	62
Catholic	62	70	85	53
Northeast	64	81	83	55
Midwest	77	92	98	59
South	64	72	89	53
West	69	69	85	53
California	69	65	83	49
Florida	72	71	94	59
Texas	55	74	82	45

**Attitudinally, respondents are much more likely to agree than disagree with statements around reproductive health care rights and access.** For example, more than four in five Latina/o voters agree that women should be able to get birth control regardless of the beliefs of their bosses. Large majorities also believe that women are entitled to pregnancy related care, including abortion and that abortion should remain legal, even if church leaders oppose it. (See table on the following page.)



% Agree	A woman should be able to get birth control through her health insurance, even if her boss disagrees with the idea of birth control	Whether she has private or government funded coverage, every woman should have coverage for the full range of pregnancy-related care	Even though some church leaders take a position against abortion, I believe it should remain legal
All Latina/o voters	86	81	74
Men	85	77	80
Women	87	84	70
18 to 29	85	84	82
30 to 44	88	79	73
45 to 59	93	83	70
60+	75	73	72
HS or less	84	81	71
Some college	91	85	82
College+	88	72	77
<\$20K	85	81	71
\$20K-\$40K	85	84	71
\$40K-\$60K	89	77	79
\$60K-\$100K	85	76	78
\$100K+	93	85	79
Republican	78	69	61
Independents	82	78	73
Democrat	92	86	80
Considers self religious	88	78	73
Not religious	85	87	80
Catholic	86	77	75
Northeast	84	81	76
Midwest	90	91	88
South	88	79	71
West	84	80	75
California	85	83	73
Florida	90	85	78
Texas	85	72	64

**Many reject “pro-choice” and “pro-life” labels.** One in four Latina/o voters identifies as “pro-life” (25%) and one-quarter as “pro-choice” (28%). But nearly half (46%) does not align themselves with either label.

	“Pro-choice”	“Pro-life”	Neither / Not sure
All Latina/o voters	28	25	46
Men	31	26	43
Women	25	24	50
18 to 29	36	19	44
30 to 44	29	27	43
45 to 59	18	27	53
60+	27	29	44
HS or less	22	27	51
Some college	35	19	45
College+	39	28	33
<\$20K	22	26	52
\$20K-\$40K	29	20	49
\$40K-\$60K	28	30	41
\$60K-\$100K	26	25	48
\$100K+	46	30	24
Republican	33	35	32
Independents	21	25	53
Democrat	32	23	45
Considers self religious	19	32	49
Not religious	45	12	42
Catholic	21	30	50
Northeast	25	21	53
Midwest	32	19	49
South	27	24	47
West	29	29	41
California	25	23	51
Florida	24	23	49
Texas	30	21	49

**Majorities across demographics say they would give a close friend or family member support if she had an abortion.** Eighty-seven percent of Latina/o respondents say they would support a loved one who had an abortion, including 50% who say they would offer “a lot” of support.

	Would give “a lot” of support	Would give at least a little support
All Latina/o voters	50	87
Men	51	90
Women	49	85
18 to 29	45	89
30 to 44	55	88
45 to 59	50	88
60+	48	82
HS or less	41	84
Some college	61	92
College+	66	94
<\$20K	45	76
\$20K-\$40K	53	89
\$40K-\$60K	43	89
\$60K-\$100K	54	91
\$100K+	61	99
Republican	49	89
Independent	44	84
Democrat	55	90
Considers self religious	48	88
Not religious	56	88
Catholic	45	85
Northeast	44	83
Midwest	60	98
South	51	89
West	49	85
California	49	83
Florida	53	94
Texas	46	82