

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Hart Research Associates
DATE: June 20, 2012
RE: Findings From Recent National Survey On Coverage for Prescription Birth Control

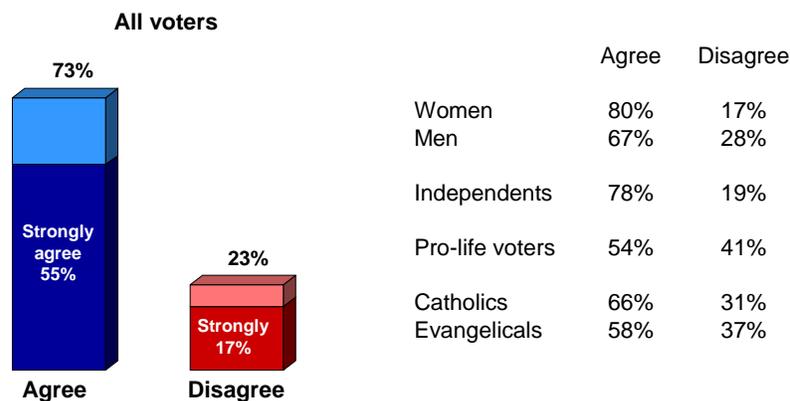
Key Findings

Voters overwhelmingly agree that people should have affordable access to prescription birth control and cost should not be a barrier to using the most effective form of birth control.

- Nearly three in four (73%) voters agree and more than half (55%) strongly agree that we should do everything we can to make sure that people who want to use prescription birth control have affordable access to it and that cost is not an obstacle. Fewer than one in four (23%) voters disagree with this policy goal.
- While specific audiences are especially supportive of this policy approach—including women (80% agree), independents (78%), and younger voters age 18 to 34 (84% agree)—a broad consensus emerges around this core goal. Even a majority of pro-life voters (54% agree), Catholics (66% agree), and Evangelical Protestants (58% agree) embrace this policy aim.

Voters overwhelmingly support affordable access to prescription birth control without cost as an obstacle.

We should do everything we can to make sure that people who want to use prescription birth control have affordable access to it, and that cost is not an obstacle that prevents someone from using the most effective form of birth control.

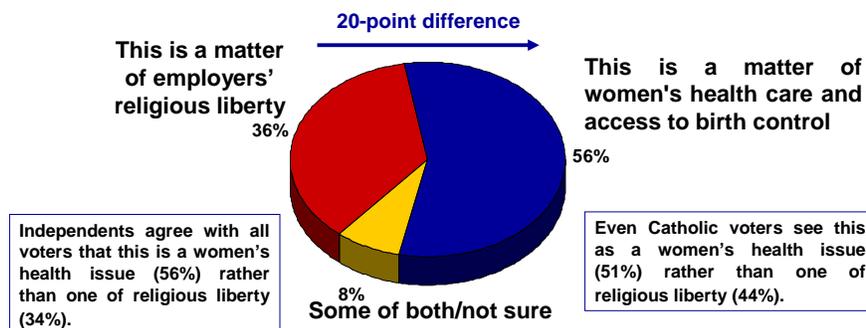


When it comes to employers providing full coverage for prescription birth control, American voters see this issue as a matter of women's health care and access to birth control and reject efforts by some groups to frame this as a religious liberty issue.

- By a 20-point margin, voters are more likely to say that this issue is a matter of women's health care and access to birth control (56%) than a matter of employer's religious liberty (36%) when it comes to whether religiously affiliated employers should be required to provide coverage for prescription birth control.
- Independents' views mirror those of voters overall, with 56% saying that this is a matter of women's health care and access to birth control rather than one of religious liberty (34%).
- Even Catholics are more likely to see this issue as a matter of women's health care (51%) than one of religious liberty (44%).

Voters see this as a women's health care issue, not a religious liberty issue.

Under this new system, churches and houses of worship are exempt from providing coverage for prescription birth control, meaning they do not have to do so if they have religious objections. But there has been recent controversy over whether religiously affiliated employers, such as Catholic universities and hospitals, should be required to provide coverage for prescription birth control as preventive health care. Which statement comes closer to your point of view?



On behalf of the National Women's Law Center and Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Hart Research Associates conducted a nationwide telephone survey among 1,007 registered, likely voters from June 6 to June 9, 2012. These interviews assessed voters' views about legislation requiring religiously affiliated employers to provide coverage for prescription birth control. The survey's margin of error is ± 3.1 percentage points for the full sample, and higher among subgroups. This memo reports the survey's key findings.