

PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

- **(Harris Interactive, Sept. 2010)** 91% believe that “every woman on the planet deserves access to quality maternal and reproductive health care.” This includes 98% of Democrats, 84% of Republicans, 90% of Independents and 94% of people living in the Northeast, 90% of people living in the South, 90% of people living in the West, 89% of people living in the Midwest, and 87% of men.
- **(Hart, May 2010)** 89% favor “health care services, including access to basic health care and family planning services” as a way to achieve progress and overcome barriers of discrimination against women and girls.
- **(World Public Opinion, May 2009)** 68% of Americans, including 58% of Republicans, 58% of Independents, and 79% of Democrats, favor programs for “helping poor countries provide family planning and reproductive health services to their citizens” (27% favor strongly, 41% favor somewhat). 31% oppose these programs (20% oppose somewhat, 11% oppose strongly).
- **(Hart/ViaNovo, March-May 2009)** 75% of Americans, including 83% of Democrats, 69% of Independents, and 69% of Republicans, believe focusing on reproductive health and family planning is absolutely essential or very important (25% fairly important).
- **(Catholics for Choice, Aug. 2008)** 45% of Catholics polled “support the US providing funding for voluntary family planning in developing countries.”
- **(Harris, 2005)** 66% of Catholics support the “funding of international birth control programs.”
- **(Lake Research, Feb. 2004)** 76% favor “the U.S. providing funding in developing countries for family planning services.”
- **(RAND, 2003)** 69% “support US funding for voluntary family planning programs in developing countries.”
- **(RAND, 1998)** 80% of Americans, including 72% of conservatives, “support U.S. funding of family-planning programs in developing countries” (45% strongly). Half support direct U.S. funding of voluntary and safe abortion services overseas; one-third more support family planning funding but not abortion services.

PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION

- **(Public Religion Research Institute, February 2012)** 40% of voters would be less likely to support a member of Congress who votes to defund family-planning programs. Just 22% would be more likely to support such a lawmaker.
- **(Public Religion Research Institute, February 2012)** A majority (55%) of Americans agree that “employers should be required to provide their employees with health care plans that cover contraception and birth control at no cost.”
- **(Public Policy Polling, February 2012)** 58% of voters, including 56% of independents, say they oppose Republicans in Congress trying to take away the birth control benefit that saves women hundreds of dollars a year
- **(Lake Research, May 2011)** 84% of Americans, including 93% of Democrats, 88% of Independents, and 73% of Republicans, believe “family planning services, including birth control and contraception, are important to basic preventative health care.”
- **(Hart/Breglio, May 2011)** 89% of American voters say they “may have an opinion on abortion that differs from others, but we can all find common ground on providing access to contraception”.
- **(NFPRHA, July, 2009)** 88% of voters “support women’s access to contraception,” including four in five Republicans and 8 in 10 self-identified “pro-lifers.” 60% of voters, including 62% of Catholic voters, think that “improving access to contraception is a better way to reduce the number of abortions in the U.S. than enacting more restrictive abortion laws.”
- **(National Women’s Law Center, July 2007)** 75% strongly favor “making it easier for women at all income levels to obtain contraceptives.”
- **(Harris, June 2002)** 71% favor “aid for birth control in poor countries to help reduce population growth.”

PUBLIC OPINION ON THE GLOBAL GAG RULE

- **(Lake Research, Nov. 2010)** 57% of likely voters, including 61% of Independents, favor “keeping the policy as it is now” (with the Gag Rule repealed) so that “US funding can go to any family planning organization.” Only 36% favored “banning funding from family planning organizations that also provide abortion services, counseling or information with their own funding.”
- **(Lake Research, Nov. 2010)** 52% of Republicans agree that current law already bans US funding of abortion internationally and it is “unnecessary” to “ban US funding for family planning organizations that use separate sources of money to offer abortion services, counseling and information to women.”
- **(PSRA/Newsweek, Feb. 2001)** Half of Americans (50%) disapprove of Bush’s executive order blocking all US funding to overseas family planning groups that offer abortion counseling. (42% approve)
- **(LA Times, March 2001)** 46% disapprove of Bush’s “executive order to block federal government grants to international family planning groups that pay for abortions or provide abortion counseling in third world countries.” (45% approve)

- **(Greenberg/Public Opinion Strategies, Dec. 2001)** 53% oppose the "proposal ...[of] withholding foreign aid from any foreign government or organization that spends part of its money on family planning programs." (41% supported this)
- **(Gallup, Feb. 2009)** 35% of Americans approve of Obama "allowing U.S. funding for overseas family planning organizations that provide abortions." *N.B. The Gallup question misled respondents by suggesting that lifting the gag rule allows U.S. funding of abortions overseas, which is contrary to existing U.S. law that ensures funding goes only to family planning.*

PUBLIC PRIORITIES FOR US FOREIGN AID

- **(World Public Opinion, May 2009)** 64% say "the US should make efforts to improve health for people in developing countries." 78% favor programs for "improving the health of mothers and children in poor countries"; only 23% were opposed. 75% agree that "global health programs express Americans' key values--compassion, generosity, and a desire to share knowledge that betters people's lives."
- **(Kaiser, May 2009)** 81% say "providing access to family planning services" is important for the U.S. to spend money on to improve health for people in developing countries. Within global health, people prioritize "improving access to clean water(61%), increasing childhood vaccinations (61%), and reducing hunger and malnutrition (60%), expanding training and supply of medical professionals(48%), preventing and treating HIV/AIDS (45%), improving access to prenatal care (43%), building and improving health care facilities (40%), preventing and treating Malaria (39%) and Tuberculosis (38 %), providing access to family planning services (35%), treating heart disease and other chronic diseases as a top priority (28 %)."
- **(World Public Opinion, May 2009)** Percent in favor of U.S. government support for the following types of programs: research on diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis (80%), programs to reduce death from chronic diseases like cancer (79%), work of the World Health Organization (79%), improving the health of mothers and children in poor countries (77%), helping poor countries provide family planning (68%), strengthening the overall health systems (65%), and international programs to reduce tobacco in poor countries (50%).
- **(Belden, Russonello and Stewart, Feb. 2000)** When asked to rate how high a priority family planning should be in U.S. aid programs on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 the lowest priority and 10 a top priority), "making birth control available to people in other countries so they can choose the number of children they have" scored a mean rating of 6.9, with 39% rating it at 10.

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