

2018 NLIRH & PERRYUNDEM

Latina/o Voters' Views & Experiences Around Reproductive Health Care



Introduction

Since 2014, the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH) has been working with nonpartisan polling and research firm PerryUndem Research/Communication to conduct a national survey that explores Latina/o voters' views and experiences toward reproductive health care. For us, these polls are an important step in depicting an accurate representation of the opinions, experiences, barriers and realities that Latinas/os, our families and communities face on a daily basis.

Historically, Latinas/os have often been inaccurately labeled and left out of polling data. Additionally, most past and current mainstream opinion research does not include large enough samples of Latinas/os to provide an accurate account of their beliefs and opinions. At a time of unprecedented attacks against basic reproductive health care, emerging out of a vicious battle over a Supreme Court nominee with reported cases of sexual assault against him, and with the impending midterm elections upon us, this poll seeks to shine a light into Latinas/os voters' attitudes, needs and barriers to accessing these essential services.

The results herein confirm what our daily work in these communities has taught us over the years: Basic reproductive health care, including contraception and abortion, is vital to Latinas' ability to create better outcomes for their future and that of their families. Denial of these services will be a highly detrimental barrier to care for a community that already has little access to health services.

Reproductive Justice will be attained when all people have the economic, social, and political power and means to make decisions about their bodies, sexuality, health, and family, with dignity and self-determination.



Press Release

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2018

The National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health Releases National Latina/o Voter Poll on Contraception and Abortion



WASHINGTON, DC — New polling released today found that the vast majority of Latina/o voters (86%) consider birth control part of preventive health care for women. In contrast, (82%) does not see birth control through a religious lens, including 76% of Catholic respondents. The national poll, which surveyed 1,043 Latina/o registered voters, was conducted by PerryUndem and commissioned by the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH). Among its key findings is the fact that 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. The poll also underscores that a large majority of Latina/o voters want the new Supreme Court justice to uphold access to safe, legal abortion in the United States. In addition, the poll also finds that 81% of Latina/o voters agree that whether she has private or government funded health coverage, every woman should have coverage for full range of pregnancy related care, including abortion.

“The poll comes at a time of unprecedented attacks against contraception, abortion access, and other essential reproductive health care,” said Jessica González-Rojas, executive director for the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health. “The results clearly show where Latina/o voters stand on these issues, reaffirming what we already know about our community’s beliefs and needs for affordable birth control. Latinas are the most uninsured group in the country, and immigrant Latinas face even more challenges to accessing care, like language and geographical barriers.”

“The extra costs associated with getting a birth control prescription, including paying out-of-pocket for a doctor’s visit if you don’t have insurance, forces many Latinas and their families to decide between contraception or putting food on the table. Affordable birth control without a co-pay helps Latinas decide when and whether to become a parent and gives them the ability to plan for their future with dignity and self-determination. NLIRH will keep fighting until all people are guaranteed full and accurate information about their health care options, access to abortion services and to all effective methods of birth control, allowing them to choose the method that is best for them.” González-Rojas concluded.

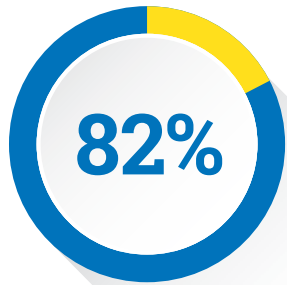


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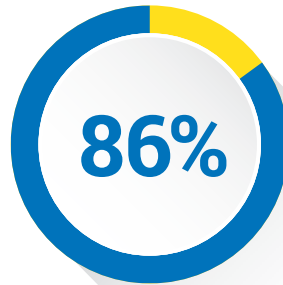
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Poll Findings

Key Findings on Birth Control



OF LATINA/O VOTERS
do not see birth control
through a religious lens



OF LATINA/O VOTERS consider
birth control part of preventive
health care for women

Latina/o voters consider birth control preventive health care

- 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.

Latina/o voters support access to over-the-counter birth control and insurance coverage for birth control

- Three in four Latina/o respondents support access to over-the-counter birth control pills if the Food and Drug Administration said it was safe and effective.
- 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. [67% of all voters, from a March 2017 PerryUndem survey](#)).



THREE IN FOUR Latina/o respondents support access to over-the-counter birth control pills if the Food and Drug Administration said it was safe and effective

Poll Findings

Key Findings on Abortion

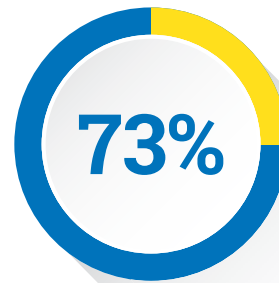
Latina/o voters support *Roe v. Wade* and insurance coverage for abortion

- 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.
- 81% of Latina/o voters agree that whether she has private or government funded health coverage, every woman should have coverage for full range of pregnancy related care, including abortion.

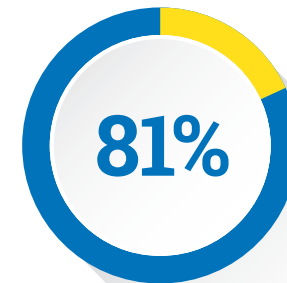
Latina/o voters have compassionate views towards those who have abortions

- Nearly nine in ten respondents (87%) say they would give support to a loved one who had an abortion.

The poll memo and top lines, as well as the Spanish and English questionnaires, can be found at [this link](#).



OF LATINA/O VOTERS say it is important that the new Supreme Court justice rule to uphold women's access to safe, legal abortion



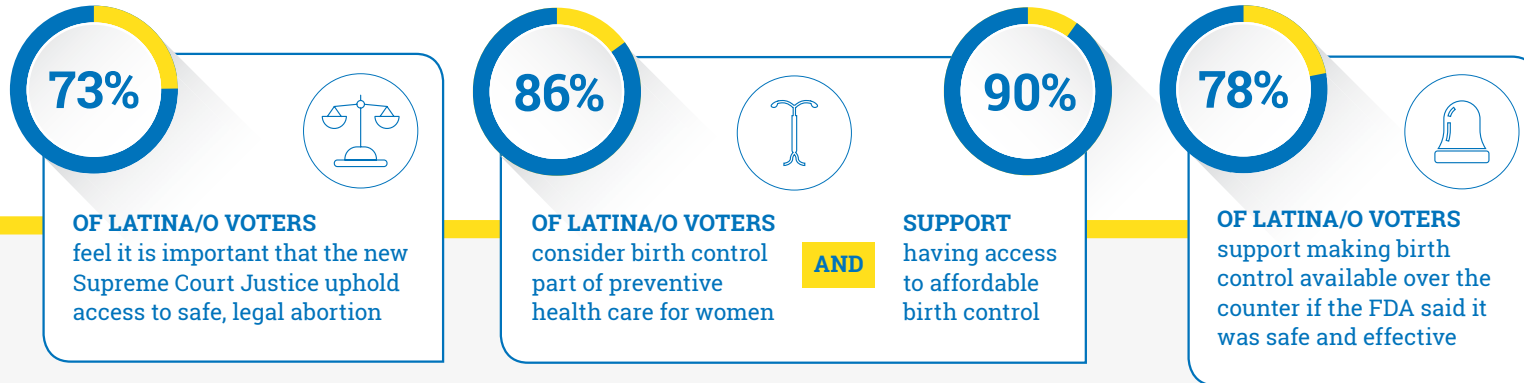
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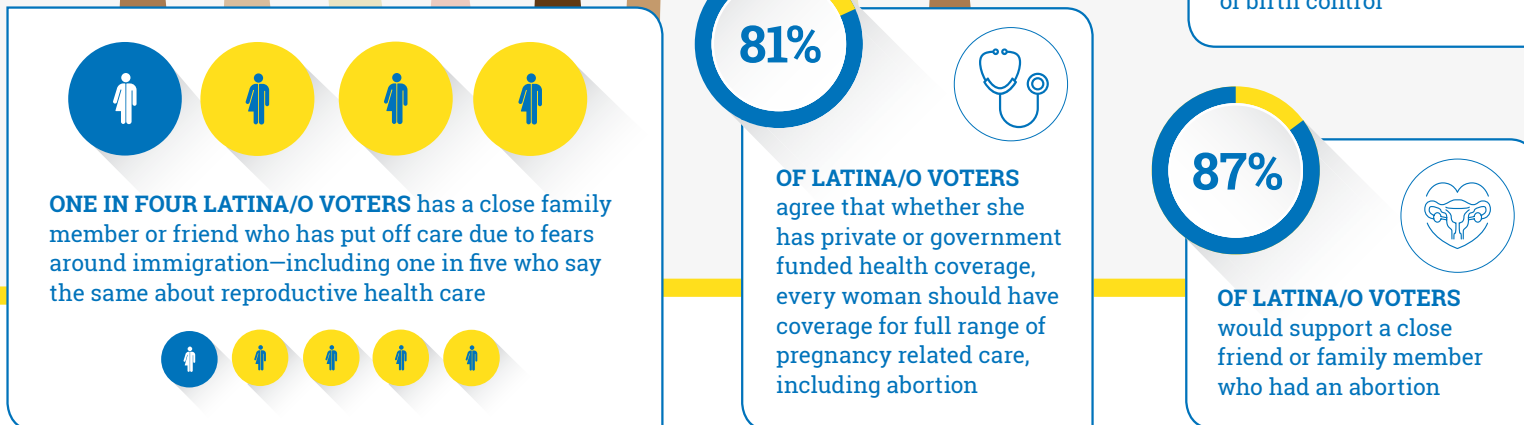
NEARLY NINE IN TEN respondents (87%) say they would give support to a loved one who had an abortion

Methodology: 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 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 + 4.9 percentage points.

Key Findings At-A-Glance

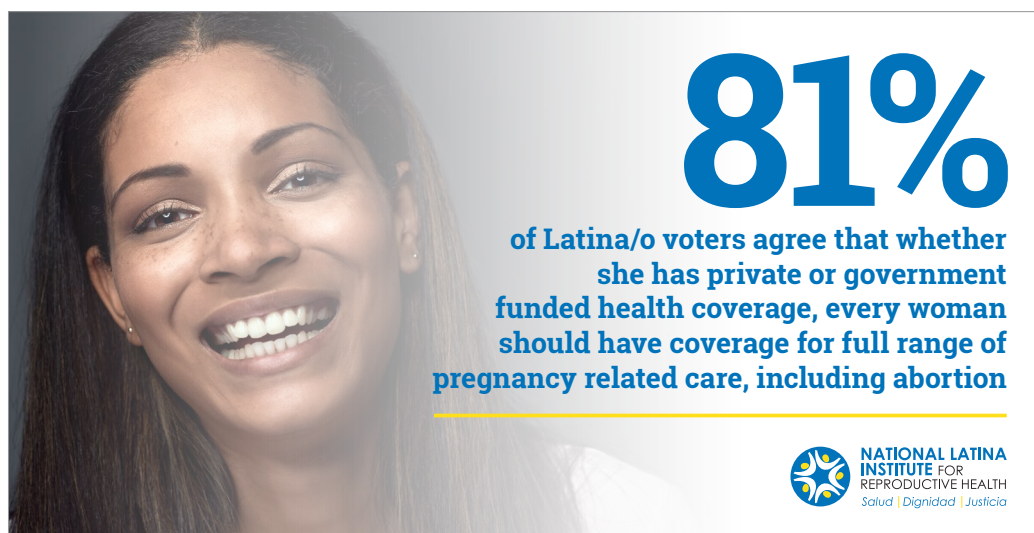


National Latina/o Voters Statistics



Campaign Assets

Social Media Graphics



Organization Background

About the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health



The National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH) is the only national reproductive justice organization dedicated to advancing health, dignity, and justice for 28 million Latinas, their families, and communities in the United States. NLIRH was founded in 1994, the same year as the founding of the reproductive justice (RJ) movement. Since then, the organization has grown to meet the evolving needs of an increasingly diverse and powerful Latina population. NLIRH uses policy change, culture shift, relationship building, and leadership development to advance a reproductive justice agenda informed by the priorities and experiences of activists on the ground. We focus on three critical and interconnected areas: abortion access and affordability; sexual and reproductive health equity; and immigrant women's health and rights. Simultaneously, NLIRH seeks to build the power of Latinas throughout the country through community organizing, civic engagement, and training and leadership development. Through our multi-pronged approach, NLIRH is able to create change on a multitude of societal levels, including the personal, local, national, and cultural, and has made a real difference in the lives of Latinas and immigrant women around the country.

The work of NLIRH focuses on three main program areas:

- Abortion Access and Affordability
- Sexual and Reproductive Health Equity
- Immigrant Women's Health and Rights



Spokespeople Bios



Jessica González-Rojas
Executive Director

Jessica González-Rojas is the Executive Director at the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH). She has been a leader in progressive movements for two decades, successfully forging connections between reproductive health, gender, immigration, LGBTQ liberation, labor and Latino civil rights, breaking down barriers between movements and building a strong Latina grassroots presence. She is an authentic voice for Latinas and a regular presence in national media outlets. She is a frequent contributor to The Hill, El Diario/La Prensa, MSNBC, the Daily Beast and Huffington Post on pressing reproductive health issues in the Latina community, and has appeared on National Public Radio, MSNBC's Melissa Harris-Perry Show, MSNBC's All In with Chris Hayes, the Bill Moyers Show, the Boston Globe, the New York Times and Fox News Latino.



Ann Marie Benitez
Senior Director of Government Relations

Ann Marie Benitez is the Senior Director of Government Relations at the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, where she oversees all the government relations and policy advocacy work relating to issues of reproductive health, rights and justice for Latinas and immigrant women. Ann Marie brings with her nearly two decades of work experience in the policy and political arena on issues such as emergency contraception, sexual education, teen pregnancy, health care reform, prenatal care, health equity, abortion access, and immigration. Ann Marie has experience as a bilingual spokesperson on abortion access and affordability, immigrant women's health and rights, and health equity issues. She has appeared in local and national outlets such as CNN, NBC News, NBC Latino, Fox News, Rewire, and Dallas Morning News.



Maria Elena Perez
Deputy Director

Maria Elena Perez is the Deputy Director at the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health and an experienced national bilingual spokesperson on reproductive justice issues appearing in local and national outlets such as CNN, Bustle, Univision, and Telemundo. Maria Elena is an accomplished leader with nearly 15 years of experience in social and reproductive justice movements working at the intersections of direct service, leadership development, policy, organizing, and advocacy. She has a track record of success in senior leadership and most recently served as the Chief Program Officer at the National Institute for Reproductive Health (NIRH), where she was responsible for leading NIRH's state and local policy initiatives.

For interview availability, please contact Elianne Ramos elianner.pa@gmail.com | (646) 932-7752

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Contact

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