Catholics for Choice shapes and advances sexual and reproductive ethics that are based on justice, reflect a commitment to women’s well-being and respect and affirm the moral capacity of women and men to make decisions about their lives.

Jon O’Brien, President
Sara Morello, Executive Vice President

**Board of Directors**
Susan Wysocki, Chair
Sheila Briggs
Patricia Carbine
Barbara DeConcini
Susan Farrell
Cheryl Francisconi
Ofelia Garcia
Eileen Moran
Marysa Navarro-Aranguren
Rosemary Radford Ruether, Emerita

Catholics for Choice
1436 U Street NW, Suite 301
Washington, DC 20009

www.CatholicsForChoice.org
cfc@CatholicsForChoice.org
T: (202) 986-6093
F: (202) 332-7995

The Facts Tell the Story: Catholics and Choice
© Catholics for Choice, 2011. All rights reserved.

Printed on recycled paper
Individual conscience in matters of moral decision-making is at the core of the Catholic tradition. The public policy views of Catholics reflect this tradition. Today, the overwhelming majority of Catholics in the United States support access to legal abortion, contraception and comprehensive sexuality education as well as the separation of church and state.
Individual conscience in matters of moral decision-making is at the core of the Catholic tradition. The public policy views of Catholics reflect this tradition. Today, the overwhelming majority of Catholics in the United States support access to legal abortion, contraception and comprehensive sexuality education as well as the separation of church and state.
Sexually active Catholic women older than 18 are just as likely (98%) to have used some form of contraception banned by the Vatican as women in the general population (99%). Among sexually active Hispanic Catholic women, 96% have used a contraceptive method banned by the Vatican. (NSFG, 2008)

Even among those who attend church once a week or more, 83% of sexually active Catholic women use a form of contraception that is banned by the Vatican. (NSFG, 2008)

69% of Catholic women have used birth control pills and 88% have used condoms. (NSFG, 2008)

Catholics (55%) are as likely as the general population (57%) to believe that 14- to 16-year-olds should be able to access contraception, even if their parents do not approve. (GSS, 2008)

When Catholic voters considered healthcare reform in 2009, more than six in ten (63%) supported health insurance coverage—whether it is private or government insurance—for contraception, such as birth control pills. (RIS, 2008)

The percentage of married Hispanic Catholic women who use a modern contraceptive method (90%) is the same as that of married non-Hispanic Catholic women (88%). (NSFG, 2008)

The percentage of sexually active Catholic women aged 15-44 who have ever used modern contraceptive methods is similar to that of women with other religious views or no religious views as well as the population as a whole.

Fewer than 2% of sexually active Catholic women use Vatican-approved methods as their primary form of family planning. (NSFG, 2008)

87% Catholic
90% Protestant
76% Other
90% No Religion
88% TOTAL
(NSFG, 2008)

A study of almost 9,500 women showed that Catholic women have abortions at the same rate as do other women: 28% of women who had an abortion self-identified as Catholic, while 27% of all women of reproductive age identified as such. (Guttmacher, 2010)

A poll of almost 3,000 adults found that the views of Catholics on abortion are consistent with those of the rest of the population.

Legal in All Cases
Legal in Most or Some Cases
Not Legal
Unsure
Catholic Respondents
16% 17%
59% 63%
21% 15%
4% 5%
All Respondents
(Pew, 2008)

When Catholic voters were asked about healthcare reform, half or more support health insurance coverage—whether it is private or government insurance—for abortion:

• when a pregnancy poses a threat to the life of a woman (64%)
• when a pregnancy is due to rape or incest (76%)
• when a pregnancy poses long-term health risks for a woman (73%)
• when test results show a fetus has a severe, abnormal condition (66%)
• whenever a woman and her doctor decide it is appropriate (50%)

(NSFG, 2008)

86% of Catholics approve of abortion when a woman’s health is seriously endangered, and 78% think it should be possible for a woman to obtain an abortion when a pregnancy is the result of rape. (GSS, 2008)

A poll of almost 1,000 Catholics found that only 14% agree with the Vatican’s position that abortion should be illegal. (BRS, 2009)

A poll of almost 3,000 adults found that the views of Catholics on abortion are consistent with those of the rest of the population.
Sexually active Catholic women older than 18 are just as likely (98%) to have used some form of contraception banned by the Vatican as women in the general population (99%). Among sexually active Hispanic Catholic women, 96% have used a contraceptive method banned by the Vatican. (NSFG, 2008)

Even among those who attend church once a week or more, 83% of sexually active Catholic women use a form of contraception that is banned by the Vatican. (NSFG, 2008)

69% of Catholic women have used birth control pills and 88% have used condoms. (NSFG, 2008)

The percentage of married Hispanic Catholic women who use a modern contraceptive method (90%) is the same as that of married non-Hispanic Catholic women (88%). (NSFG, 2008)

The percentage of sexually active Catholic women aged 15-44 who have ever used modern contraceptive methods is similar to that of women with other religious views or no religious views as well as the population as a whole.

Fewer than 2% of sexually active Catholic women use Vatican-approved methods as their primary form of family planning. (NSFG, 2008)

When Catholic voters considered healthcare reform in 2009, more than six in ten (63%) supported health insurance coverage—whether it is private or government insurance—for contraception, such as birth control pills. (NSFG, 2008)

87% Catholic
90% Protestant
76% Other
90% No Religion
88% TOTAL

When Catholic voters were asked about healthcare reform, half or more support health insurance coverage—whether it is private or government insurance—for abortion:
  • when a pregnancy poses a threat to the life of a woman (94%)
  • when a pregnancy is due to rape or incest (76%)
  • when a pregnancy poses long-term health risks for a woman (73%)
  • when test results show a fetus has a severe, abnormal condition (66%)
  • whenever a woman and her doctor decide it is appropriate (50%)

A poll of almost 1,000 Catholics found that only 14% agree with the Vatican’s position that abortion should be illegal. (BRS, 2009)

A poll of almost 3,000 adults found that the views of Catholics on abortion are consistent with those of the rest of the population.

When Catholic voters considered healthcare reform, half or more support health insurance coverage—whether it is private or government insurance—for abortion:
  • when a pregnancy poses a threat to the life of a woman (94%)
  • when a pregnancy is due to rape or incest (76%)
  • when a pregnancy poses long-term health risks for a woman (73%)
  • when test results show a fetus has a severe, abnormal condition (66%)
  • whenever a woman and her doctor decide it is appropriate (50%)

A study of almost 9,500 women showed that Catholic women have abortions at the same rate as do other women: 25% of women who had an abortion self-identified as Catholic, while 27% of all women of reproductive age identified as such.

(Catholic, Other, No Religion, TOTAL)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abortion should be:</th>
<th>Catholic Respondents</th>
<th>All Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal in All Cases</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal in Most or Some Cases</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Legal</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Catholic, Other, No Religion, TOTAL)

(Pew, 2008)
Sexually active Catholic women older than 18 are just as likely (98%) to have used some form of contraception banned by the Vatican as women in the general population (99%). Among sexually active Hispanic Catholic women, 96% have used a contraceptive method banned by the Vatican. (NSFG, 2008)

Even among those who attend church once a week or more, 83% of sexually active Catholic women use a form of contraception that is banned by the Vatican. (NSFG, 2008)

69% of Catholic women have used birth control pills and 88% have used condoms. (NSFG, 2008)

The percentage of married Hispanic Catholic women who use a modern contraceptive method (90%) is the same as that of married non-Hispanic Catholic women (88%). (NSFG, 2008)

The percentage of sexually active Catholic women aged 15-44 who have ever used modern contraceptive methods is similar to that of women with other religious views or no religious views as well as the population as a whole.

Fewer than 2% of sexually active Catholic women use Vatican-approved methods as their primary form of family planning. (NSFG, 2008)

86% of Catholics approve of abortion when a woman's health is seriously endangered, and 78% think it should be possible for a woman to obtain an abortion when a pregnancy is the result of rape. (GSS, 2008)

A poll of almost 1,000 Catholics found that only 14% agree with the Vatican's position that abortion should be illegal. (BRS, 2009)

When Catholic voters were asked about healthcare reform, half or more support health insurance coverage—whether it is private or government insurance—for abortion:

- when a pregnancy poses a threat to the life of a woman (64%)
- when a pregnancy is due to rape or incest (76%)
- when a pregnancy poses long-term health risks for a woman (73%)
- when test results show a fetus has a severe, abnormal condition (66%)
- whenever a woman and her doctor decide it is appropriate (50%) (BRS, 2009)

A study of almost 9,500 women showed that Catholic women have abortions at the same rate as do other women: 28% of women who had an abortion self-identified as Catholic, while 27% of all women of reproductive age identified as such. (Guttmacher, 2010)

When Catholic voters considered healthcare reform in 2009, more than six in ten (63%) supported health insurance coverage—whether it is private or government insurance—for contraception, such as birth control pills. (BRS, 2008)

The percentage of married Hispanic Catholic women who use a modern contraceptive method (90%) is the same as that of married non-Hispanic Catholic women (88%). (NSFG, 2008)

69% of Catholic women have used birth control pills and 88% have used condoms. (NSFG, 2008)

Catholics (55%) are as likely as the general population (57%) to believe that 14- to 16-year-olds should be able to access contraception, even if their parents do not approve. (GSS, 2008)

A poll of almost 1,000 Catholics found that only 14% agree with the Vatican’s position that abortion should be illegal. (BRS, 2009)

When Catholic voters were asked about healthcare reform, half or more support health insurance coverage—whether it is private or government insurance—for abortion:

- when a pregnancy poses a threat to the life of a woman (64%)
- when a pregnancy is due to rape or incest (76%)
- when a pregnancy poses long-term health risks for a woman (73%)
- when test results show a fetus has a severe, abnormal condition (66%)
- whenever a woman and her doctor decide it is appropriate (50%) (BRS, 2009)

A study of almost 9,500 women showed that Catholic women have abortions at the same rate as do other women: 28% of women who had an abortion self-identified as Catholic, while 27% of all women of reproductive age identified as such. (Guttmacher, 2010)
CONTRACEPTION

Sexually active Catholic women older than 18 are just as likely (98%) to have used some form of contraception banned by the Vatican as women in the general population (99%). Among sexually active Hispanic Catholic women, 96% have used a contraceptive method banned by the Vatican. (NSFG, 2008)

Even among those who attend church once a week or more, 83% of sexually active Catholic women use a form of contraception that is banned by the Vatican. (NSFG, 2008)

69% of Catholic women have used birth control pills and 88% have used condoms. (NSFG, 2008)

When Catholic voters considered healthcare reform in 2009, more than six in ten (63%) supported health insurance coverage—whether it is private or government insurance—for contraception, such as birth control pills. (BRS, 2008)

The percentage of married Hispanic Catholic women who use a modern contraceptive method (90%) is the same as that of married non-Hispanic Catholic women (88%). (NSFG, 2008)

The percentage of sexually active Catholic women aged 15-44 who have ever used modern contraceptive methods is similar to that of women with other religious views or no religious views as well as the population as a whole.

Fewer than 2% of sexually active Catholic women use Vatican-approved methods as their primary form of family planning. (NSFG, 2008)

87% Catholic

90% Protestant

76% Other

90% No Religion

88% TOTAL

When Catholic voters were asked about healthcare reform, half or more support health insurance coverage—whether it is private or government insurance—for abortion:

• when a pregnancy poses a threat to the life of a woman (84%)
• when a pregnancy is due to rape or incest (76%)
• when a pregnancy poses long-term health risks for a woman (73%)
• when test results show a fetus has a severe, abnormal condition (66%)
• whenever a woman and her doctor decide it is appropriate (50%)

A study of almost 1,000 Catholics found that only 14% agree with the Vatican’s position that abortion should be illegal. (BRS, 2008)

A poll of almost 1,000 Catholics found that only 16% approve of abortion when a woman’s health is seriously endangered, and 78% think it should be possible for a woman to obtain an abortion when a pregnancy is the result of rape. (BRS, 2008)

86% of Catholics approve of abortion when a woman’s health is seriously endangered, and 78% think it should be possible for a woman to obtain an abortion when a pregnancy is the result of rape. (BRS, 2008)

A poll of almost 3,000 adults found that the views of Catholics on abortion are consistent with those of the rest of the population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legal in All Cases</th>
<th>Catholic Respondents</th>
<th>All Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal in Most or Some Cases</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Legal</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Abortion should be: Catholic Respondents All Respondents)

ABORTION

Catholics (55%) are as likely as the general population (57%) to believe that 14- to 16-year-olds should be able to access contraception, even if their parents do not approve. (GSS, 2008)

When Catholic voters were asked about healthcare reform, half or more support health insurance coverage—whether it is private or government insurance—for abortion:

• when a pregnancy poses a threat to the life of a woman (84%)
• when a pregnancy is due to rape or incest (76%)
• when a pregnancy poses long-term health risks for a woman (73%)
• when test results show a fetus has a severe, abnormal condition (66%)
• whenever a woman and her doctor decide it is appropriate (50%)

A poll of almost 3,000 adults found that the views of Catholics on abortion are consistent with those of the rest of the population.
95% of Catholics favor sexuality education in public schools. (GSS, 2008)

56% of Catholics think that birth control information should be available to 14- to 16-year-olds—even if their parents don’t approve. (GSS, 2008)

79% of Catholics believe that using condoms is prolife because it helps save lives by preventing the spread of HIV and nearly three-quarters (73%) believe government-funded Catholic hospitals should provide condoms for HIV prevention. (HRS, 2007)

When Catholic voters considered healthcare reform in 2009, more than half (51%) supported health insurance coverage—whether it is private or government insurance—for condoms to prevent the spread of HIV. (HRS, 2009)

79% of Catholics believe that using condoms is prolife because it helps save lives by preventing the spread of HIV and nearly three-quarters (73%) believe government-funded Catholic hospitals should provide condoms for HIV prevention. (HRS, 2007)

Only 6% of Catholics think that the views of the US bishops are “very important” in deciding how to vote and 63% of Catholic voters believe they do not have a religious obligation to vote against candidates who support legal abortion. (HRS, 2008)

SOURCES:

General Social Survey, www.norc.uchicago.edu/GSS+Website


Catholics for Choice produces a wide range of publications on Catholic healthcare, Catholic public opinion, conservative Catholic organizations and the rights of Catholics in the church. For a full list of CFC’s publications, please visit our website, www.CatholicsForChoice.org.
95% of Catholics favor sexuality education in public schools. (GSS, 2008)

56% of Catholics think that birth control information should be available to 14- to 16-year-olds—even if their parents don’t approve. (GSS, 2008)

**SEX & SEXUALITY**

79% of Catholics believe that using condoms is prolife because it helps save lives by preventing the spread of HIV and nearly three-quarters (73%) believe government-funded Catholic hospitals should provide condoms for HIV prevention. (HIV/AIDS, 2007)

When Catholic voters considered healthcare reform in 2009, more than half (51%) supported health insurance coverage—whether it is private or government insurance—for condoms to prevent the spread of HIV. (HIV/AIDS, 2009)

**NEW REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES**

Catholics are as likely as people with different religious beliefs to support medical research using embryonic stem cells left over from in-vitro fertilization procedures. (New Reproductive Health Technologies, 2011)

69% Catholic
74% Protestant
66% Other
72% TOTAL

(Source: Harris Interactive, 2010)

**RELIGION IN PUBLIC POLICY**

Only 5% of Catholics believe that the views of the US bishops are “very important” in deciding how to vote and 63% of Catholic voters believe they do not have a religious obligation to vote against candidates who support legal abortion. (Religion in Public Policy, 2008)

**SOURCES:**


- General Social Survey, www.norc.uchicago.edu/GSS+Website


Catholics for Choice produces a wide range of publications on Catholic healthcare, Catholic public opinion, conservative Catholic organizations and the rights of Catholics in the church. For a full list of CFC’s publications, please visit our website, www.CatholicsForChoice.org.
95% of Catholics favor sexuality education in public schools. (GSS, 2008)

56% of Catholics think that birth control information should be available to 14- to 16-year-olds—even if their parents don’t approve. (GSS, 2008)

79% of Catholics believe that using condoms is prolife because it helps save lives by preventing the spread of HIV and nearly three-quarters (73%) believe government-funded Catholic hospitals should provide condoms for HIV prevention. (IRS, 2007)

When Catholic voters considered healthcare reform in 2009, more than half (51%) supported health insurance coverage—whether it is private or government insurance—for condoms to prevent the spread of HIV. (IRS, 2009)

Catholics are as likely as people with different religious beliefs to support medical research using embryonic stem cells left over from in-vitro fertilization procedures.

Only 8% of Catholics believe that the views of the US bishops are “very important” in deciding how to vote and 69% of Catholic voters believe they do not have a religious obligation to vote against candidates who support legal abortion. (IRS, 2008)

SOURCES:


Catholics for Choice produces a wide range of publications on Catholic healthcare, Catholic public opinion, conservative Catholic organizations and the rights of Catholics in the church. For a full list of CFC’s publications, please visit our website, www.CatholicsForChoice.org.
95% of Catholics favor sexuality education in public schools. (GSS, 2008)

56% of Catholics think that birth control information should be available to 14- to 16-year-olds—even if their parents don’t approve. (GSS, 2008)

79% of Catholics believe that using condoms is prolife because it helps save lives by preventing the spread of HIV and nearly three-quarters (73%) believe government-funded Catholic hospitals should provide condoms for HIV prevention. (BRS, 2007)

When Catholic voters considered healthcare reform in 2009, more than half (51%) supported health insurance coverage—whether it is private or government insurance—for condoms to prevent the spread of HIV. (BRS, 2009)

69% of Catholics believe that the views of the US bishops are “very important” in deciding how to vote and 64% of Catholic voters believe they do not have a religious obligation to vote against candidates who support legal abortion. (BRS, 2008)

Sources:
- General Social Survey, www.norc.uchicago.edu/GSS+Website

Catholics for Choice produces a wide range of publications on Catholic healthcare, Catholic public opinion, conservative Catholic organizations and the rights of Catholics in the church. For a full list of CFC’s publications, please visit our website, www.CatholicsForChoice.org.
Catholics for Choice shapes and advances sexual and reproductive ethics that are based on justice, reflect a commitment to women's well-being and respect and affirm the moral capacity of women and men to make decisions about their lives.

Jon O'Brien, President
Sara Morello, Executive Vice President

Board of Directors
Susan Wysocki, Chair
Sheila Briggs
Patricia Carbine
Barbara DeConcini
Susan Farrell
Cheryl Francisconi
Ofelia Garcia
Eileen Moran
Marysa Navarro-Aranguren
Rosemary Radford Ruether, Emerita

CATHOLICS FOR CHOICE
1436 U Street NW, Suite 301
Washington, DC 20009

www.CatholicsForChoice.org
cfc@CatholicsForChoice.org
T: (202) 986-6093
F: (202) 332-7995

The Facts Tell the Story: Catholics and Choice
© Catholics for Choice, 2011. All rights reserved.