NEW REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES

Catholics are as likely as the general population to support in vitro fertilization (IVF) and medical research using embryonic stem cells left over from IVF procedures to name two issues. Both groups believe the issues were either “not a moral issue” or “morally acceptable.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Catholic Support (%)</th>
<th>General Population Support (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Vitro Fertilization</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embryonic stem cell research</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(From Pew, 2013)

RELIGION IN PUBLIC POLICY

More than four out of five Catholic voters (83%) do not feel an obligation to vote the way bishops recommend. 90% do not feel an obligation to vote against candidates who support legal abortion.

Three-quarters of Catholic voters (76%) do not believe Catholic politicians are obligated to vote in the way bishops desire.

70% of Catholic voters disagree with bishops who would withhold Communion from parishioners who support legal abortion.

94% of Catholics favor sexuality education in public schools. Nearly three-quarters (73%) believe government-funded Catholic hospitals should provide condoms for HIV prevention.

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.

SOURCES:

- “American Attitudes on Religious Exemptions: In Theory and Practice,” conducted for the American Civil Liberties Union and Catholics for Choice, October 2012 (a).
- “Catholics and Contraception,” conducted for Catholics for Choice. (b).

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.

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.

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Catholics for Choice is committed to effecting change in political, organizational and cultural environments to secure sexual and reproductive freedom for everyone. For more information, please visit our website, www.CatholicsForChoice.org.

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The Facts Tell the Story: Catholics and Choice

2014 – 2015

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ISBN: 978-1-936421-07-7

HIV & AIDS

78% of Catholics believe that using condoms is good because it helps save lives by preventing the spread of HIV. Nearly two-thirds (64%) believe government-funded Catholic hospitals should provide condoms for HIV prevention.

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.

SEXUALITY EDUCATION

94% of Catholics favor sexuality education in public schools. (From Pew, 2013)
The Facts Tell the Story:

Individually conscience in matters of moral 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.

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

The percentage of married Hispanic Catholic women who use a modern contraceptive method (55%) is similar to that of women with other religious views or no religious views, as well as the population as a whole.

Less than 1% of sexually active Catholic women aged 15-49 use a form of contraception that is banned by the Vatican. (GSS, 2012)

A 2014 poll of almost 1,000 Catholics found that only 8% support the position that abortion should be illegal. (Univision, 2014)

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

• whenever a woman and her doctor decide it is appropriate (50%)
• whenever a pregnancy is due to rape or incest (63%)
• when a woman's health is seriously endangered, and 76% think it should be possible for women to obtain an abortion when a pregnancy is the result of rape. (NSFG, 2009)
• when test results show a fetus has a serious health defect, compared to 71% of the general population (NSFG, 2009)
• whenever a woman and her doctor decide it is appropriate (50%). (Univision, 2014)

A nationwide poll asking Catholics who have the final say on the morality of abortion revealed that few believe authorities other than the Church should support access to legal abortion and contraception.

A study of almost 1,500 women showed that Catholic women have abortions at the same rate as do other women: 1.1% of Catholic women—just as likely (60%) as women from the general population (65%) to believe that abortion is a moral sin. (NSFG, 2009)

A poll of almost 1,000 Catholic women older than 18 showed that 85% of Catholic women have used some form of contraception, the same as women in the general population. (GSS, 2012)

When about 1,000 Catholic women who have ever used modern contraceptive methods were asked if they believe that abortion should be legal, 99% said yes. (NSFG, 2006–2010)

8% of all women who have ever had an abortion (NSFG, 2006–2010) is just as likely as the general population (9%) to have used some form of contraception to prevent another pregnancy. (NSFG, 2006–2010)

Fewer than 1% of sexually active Catholic women use Vatican-approved methods as their primary form of birth control (pill, patch, ring, etc.). (BRS, 2009)

Data from a 2010 survey revealed that 73% of Catholic women have used birth control pills and 89% have used condoms. (CDC, 2013)

The percentage of married Hispanic Catholic women who have ever used a form of contraception that is banned by the Vatican is 78%, compared to 73% for married non-Hispanic Catholic women. (BRS, 2009)

86% of Catholics believe that a religiously affiliated university should not be allowed to deny its employees and students insurance coverage for birth control if the employee or student chooses to use it. (Univision, 2014)

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

50% of Catholics believe that Catholic hospitals and clinics should be allowed to withhold health insurance that is medically necessary to protect a woman’s life. (Univision, 2014)

A 2014 survey of Catholics in the US found that 75% believe that abortion should be allowed in all or some circumstances. (Univision, 2014)