



Opinion Research
Strategic Communication

Catholic attitudes toward birth control in five countries: United States, Ireland, Colombia, Kenya, and the Philippines

Conducted for

Catholics for Choice

June 2018

Introduction

2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the Vatican's ban on Catholics using contraceptives, such as birth control pills and condoms. Catholics for Choice asked Belden Russonello Strategists (BRS) to document the opinions of Catholics in five countries on the still current Vatican ban, known as *Humanae Vitae*. From February to May BRS conducted national surveys in the United States, Ireland, Colombia, Kenya, and the Philippines.

We conducted five separate nation-wide surveys in which we asked the same set of questions in each country. The surveys consisted of interviews with:

1,000 Catholics in the US (February 13 to 18th), where Catholics are 24% of the adult population,

1,002 Catholics in Colombia (March 27-April 6), where the Catholic population is 82% of the nation,

676 Catholics in Ireland (April 3-15,) where 78% of the country identifies as Catholic,

924 Catholics in the Philippines (April 7-11), where Catholics are 81% of the adult population, and

593 Catholics in Kenya (from April 28 to May 19), where the Catholic population is 25% of the country.

The US and Colombia surveys were stand-alone, while those in Ireland, the Philippines and Kenya were part of national omnibus surveys in each country.

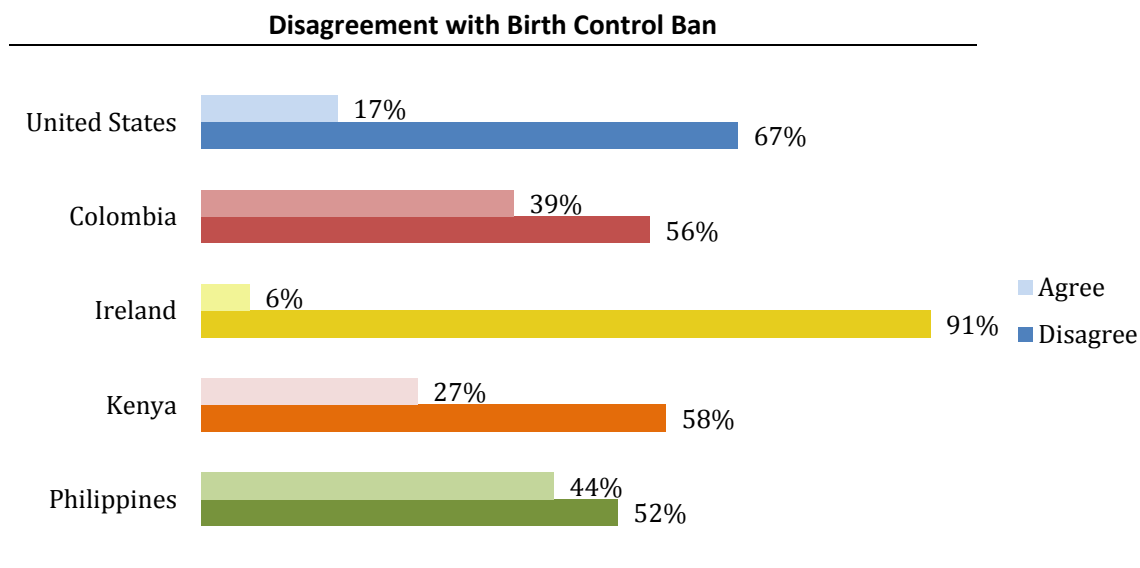
The questions were designed to reveal the level of awareness among Catholics of *Humanae Vitae*, and to what extent Catholics agree with the ban. We also inquired about Catholics' perceptions of the extent of the use of contraceptives, and their opinions on Catholic hospital policies on condoms used for birth control and to prevent AIDS.

Readers can find tables of the survey results for each country in Appendix A, and descriptions of the methodology for each survey are covered in Appendix B.

Findings

Broad disagreement with the Vatican ban on birth control

The results of the BRS surveys indicate that across all five countries, majorities of Catholics disagree with the Vatican ban on contraceptives.



Q. Written 50 years ago, the policy of *Humanae Vitae* stated the Vatican's ban on birth control, such as contraceptive pills and condoms. Do you agree or disagree with the Vatican's ban on birth control?

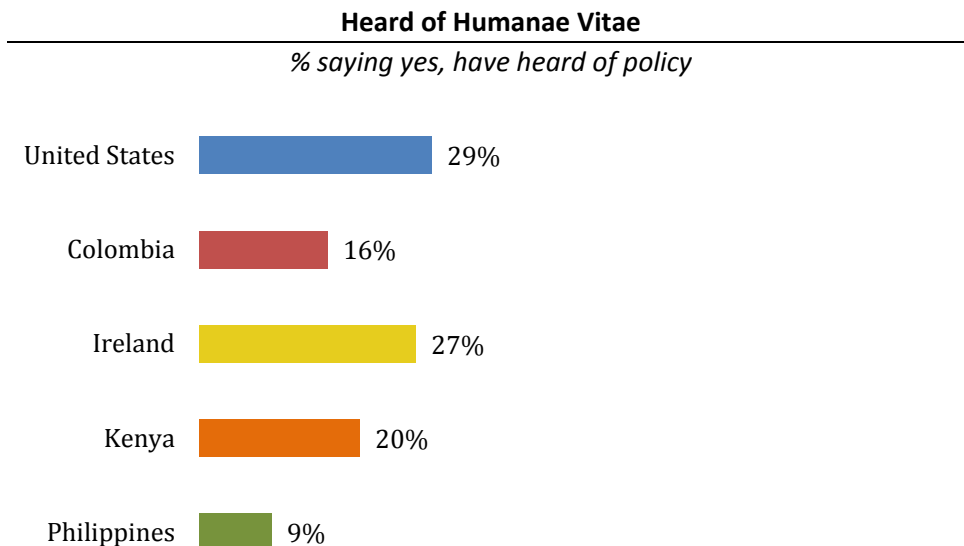
The strongest disagreement with the Vatican ban on artificial birth control among the five countries is found in Ireland, where 91% of Catholics are opposed. Two-thirds (66%) of the Irish electorate recently voted in favor of a national referendum which ends the legal ban on abortion in Ireland.

In our surveys, Catholic opposition to the Vatican ban on artificial birth control reaches two-thirds in the U.S (67%) and simple majorities in Kenya (58%), Colombia (56%) and the Philippines (52%).

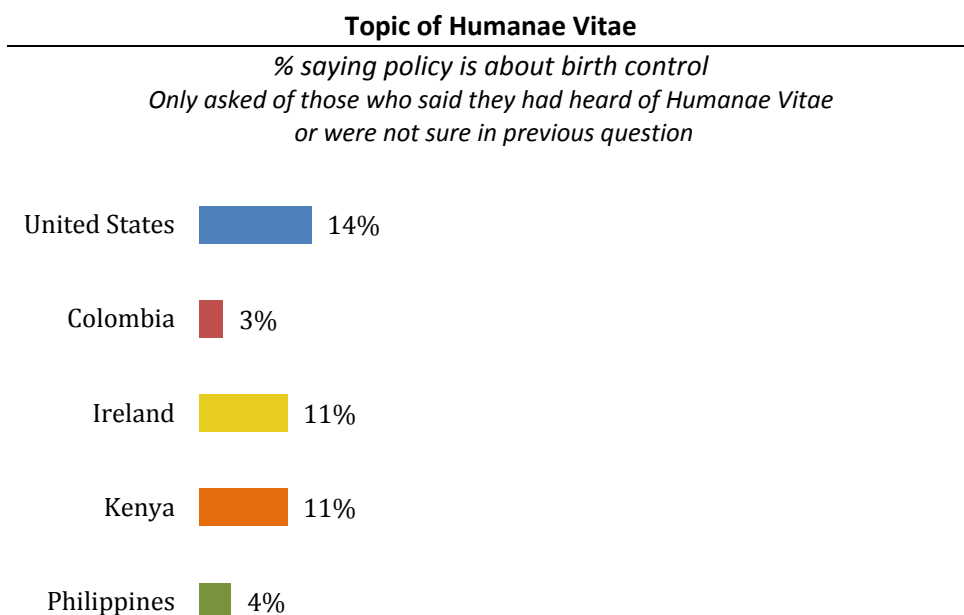
Agreement with the ban is highest in the Philippines, at 44%, followed by 39% in Colombia, 27% in Kenya, 17% in the US, and six percent in Ireland among Catholics.

Catholics largely unaware of Vatican decree

Only a small number of Catholics in all five countries can identify Humane Vitae as the Vatican decree on birth control.



Q. My next few questions have to do with some Catholic Church policies set by the Vatican. Have you ever heard about a policy called Humanae Vitae written by the Pope in 1968?



Q. As far as you know was Humanae Vitae about (ROTATE) {helping the poor, homosexuality, birth control, abortion, immigration,} something else, or are you not sure?

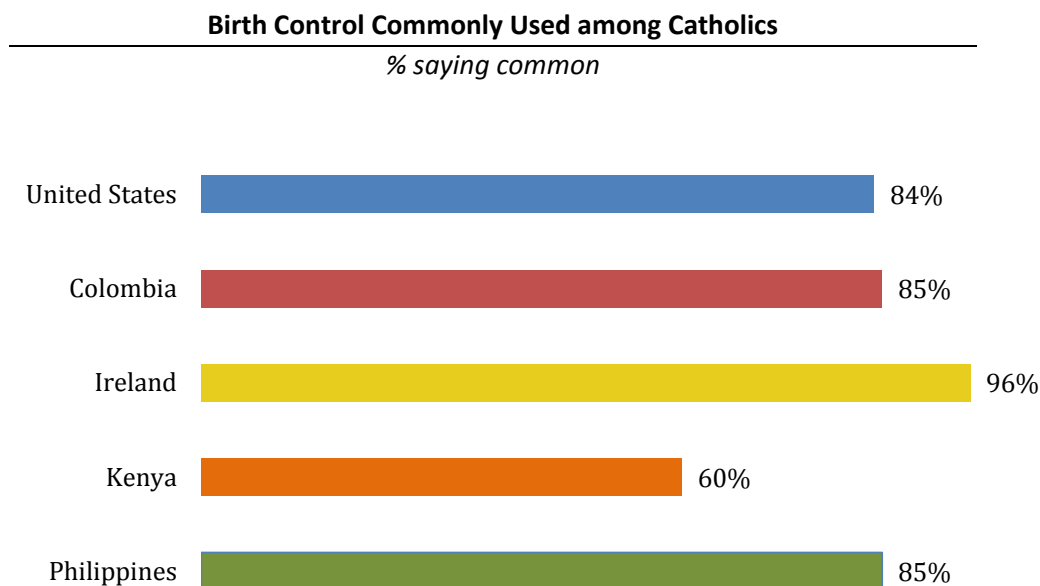
Catholics in the U.S. are the most likely to know about the Humanae Vitae decree, and even among this group fewer than one in three (29%) say they have heard of it and only 14% can identify it as being about birth control.

We found similar levels of awareness of Humanae Vitae among Catholics in Ireland and Kenya, where 27% in Ireland and 20% in Kenya are aware of the decree and 11% in each country say it is about birth control.

The least awareness is in Colombia (16% have heard, three percent identify as about birth control) and the Philippines (nine percent have heard, four percent identify as about birth control).

Widespread acceptance of artificial birth control

Very large majorities of Catholics in all five countries told us they think contraceptives are commonly used among Catholics.

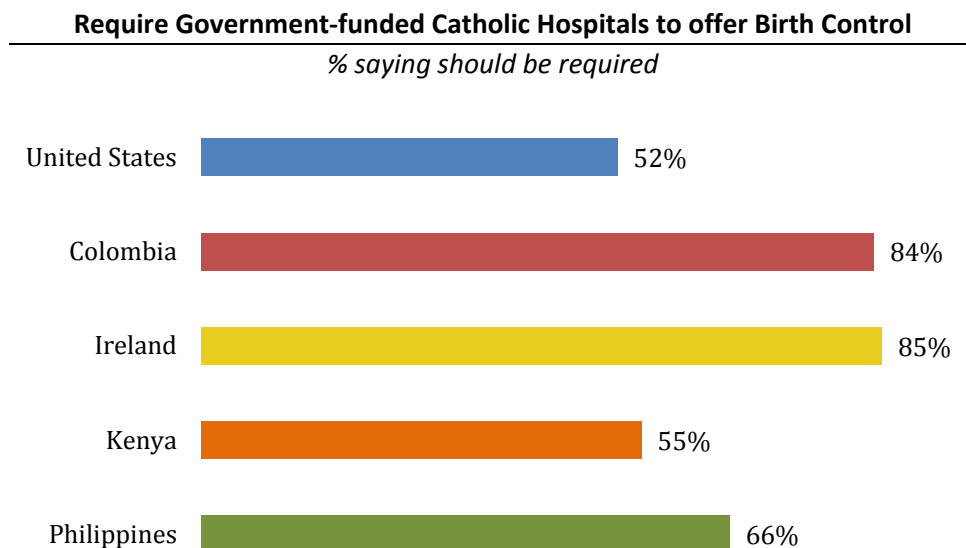


Q. Do you think it is common or uncommon for Catholics nowadays to use birth control such as contraceptive pills and condoms?

Over nine in ten (96%) Catholics in Ireland say it is common for Catholics to use contraceptive pills and condoms. In Colombia and the Philippines this view is held by 85% of Catholics, in the U.S. 84%, and in Kenya 60%.

Most say Catholic hospitals should offer birth control and condoms for AIDS prevention

Majorities of Catholics in all five countries believe that Catholic hospitals should disregard the Vatican ban on artificial birth control and condoms for AIDS prevention.



Q. Do you think Catholic hospitals and clinics that take government funds should or should not be required to offer birth control such as contraceptive pills and condoms to patients? (Ireland: Thinking about hospitals and clinics that are under the patronage or ownership of the Catholic Church and publicly funded, should they offer birth control such as contraceptive pills and condoms to patients, or not?)

52% of American Catholics say Catholic hospitals that take government funds should be required to offer birth control, such as contraceptive pills and condoms; 31% say they should not be required.

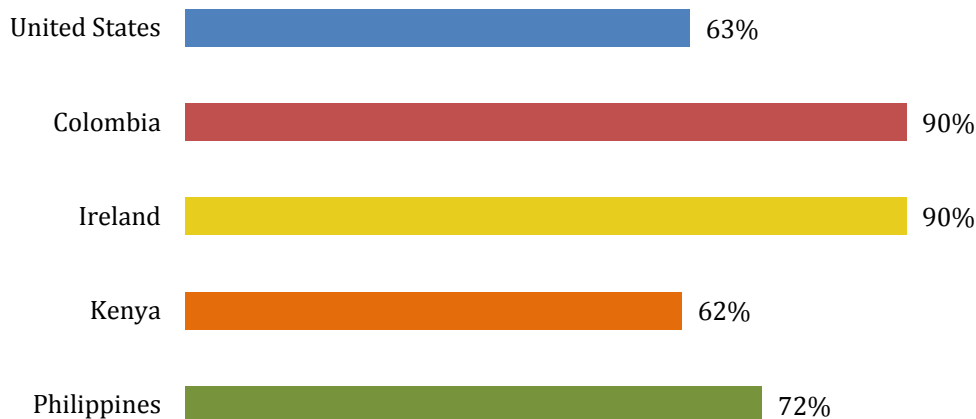
We found higher support for the requirement in Ireland and Colombia, where over eight in ten favor requiring Catholic hospitals to provide contraceptive pills and condoms for birth control. Irish Catholics are 85% to 9% in favor of such a requirement; Colombian Catholics are 84% to 13% in favor.

Two-thirds of Filipino Catholics support the birth control requirement for Catholic hospitals, 66% in favor to 30% opposed, while a smaller majority in Kenya (55% to 28%), like the U.S, supports the requirement.

When the purpose of requiring Catholic hospitals to offer condoms is to prevent AIDS, support for the requirement increases in all five countries, especially in the U.S.

Require Gov't-funded Catholic Hospitals include Condoms to Prevent AIDS

% saying should be required



Q. Do you think Catholic hospitals and clinics that take government funds should or should not be required to include condoms as part of AIDS prevention? (Ireland: Thinking again about hospitals and clinics that are under the patronage or ownership the Catholic Church and publicly funded, should they offer condoms as part of AIDS prevention or not?)

Over six in ten (63%) American Catholics want Catholic hospitals that take government funds to be required to offer condoms to prevent AIDS; 24% say they should not be required. This is 11 points higher than their support for requiring the hospitals to offer condoms for birth control (52%).

In Kenya, 62% of Catholics support the requirement that Catholic offer condoms to prevent AIDS, while 21% oppose. This is a seven-point increase in support from the birth control requirement (55%).

Nine in 10 (90%) Catholics in Colombia and Ireland support the hospital requirement to offer condoms to prevent AIDS, a six-point increase from Colombia's 84% and a five-point increase from Ireland's support for the requirement for birth control (85%).

In the Philippines, seven in ten (72%) of Catholics support requiring Catholic hospitals to offer condoms to prevent AIDS, and a quarter (25%) oppose. This is six percentage points more than support the requirement to offer condoms for birth control (66%).

APPENDIX A: DATA TABLES

Heard of Humanae Vitae

Q. My next few questions have to do with some Catholic Church policies set by the Vatican. Have you ever heard about a policy called Humanae Vitae written by the Pope in 1968?

	Yes, have heard	No, have not	Not sure
United States	29%	48	23
Colombia	16%	80	4
Ireland	27%	69	4
Kenya	20%	63	16
Philippines	9%	69	21

Knowledge of Topic of Humanae Vitae

Q. As far as you know was Humanae Vitae about (ROTATE) {helping the poor, homosexuality, birth control, abortion, immigration,} something else, or are you not sure? ONLY ASKED OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAID THEY HAD HEARD OF HUMANAЕ VITAE OR WERE NOT SURE IN THE PREVIOUS QUESTION.

Percent who say Humanae Vitae is about...

	Helping the poor	Homo-sexuality	Birth control	Abortion	Immigration	Something else	Not sure
United States	4%	1	14	9	2	2	21
Colombia	8%	*	3	2	*	1	4
Ireland	1%	1	11	2	*	1	14
Kenya	3%	*	11	1	--	1	18
Philippines	%	1	4	1	*	*	2

Disagreement with Birth Control Ban

Q. Written 50 years ago, the policy of Humanae Vitae stated the Vatican's ban on birth control, such as contraceptive pills and condoms. Do you agree or disagree with the Vatican's ban on birth control?

	Agree with ban	Disagree with ban	Not sure
United States	17%	67	16
Colombia	39%	56	4
Ireland	6%	91	2
Kenya	27%	58	12
Philippines	44%	52	4

Perception of Use of Contraceptives among Catholics

Q. Do you think it is common or uncommon for Catholics nowadays to use birth control such as contraceptive pills and condoms?

	Common	Uncommon	Not sure
United States	84%	5	11
Colombia	85%	11	3
Ireland	96%	2	2
Kenya	60%	20	15
Philippines	85%	12	3

Requiring Government-funded Catholic Hospitals to offer Birth Control

Q. Do you think Catholic hospitals and clinics that take government funds should or should not be required to offer birth control such as contraceptive pills and condoms to patients? (Ireland: Thinking about hospitals and clinics that are under the patronage or ownership of the Catholic Church and publicly funded, should they offer birth control such as contraceptive pills and condoms to patients, or not?)

	Should be required	Should not be required	Not sure
United States	52%	31	17
Colombia	84%	13	2
Ireland	85%	9	5
Kenya	55%	28	14
Philippines	66%	30	4

Requiring Government-funded Catholic Hospitals to include Condoms to Prevent AIDS

Q. Do you think Catholic hospitals and clinics that take government funds should or should not be required to include condoms as part of AIDS prevention? (Ireland: Thinking again about hospitals and clinics that are under the patronage or ownership the Catholic Church and publicly funded, should they offer condoms as part of AIDS prevention or not?)

	Yes, should be required	No, should not be required	Not sure
United States	63%	24	13
Colombia	90%	8	1
Ireland	90%	6	3
Kenya	62%	21	13
Philippines	72%	25	3

APPENDIX B: Methodology

This report is based on surveys of Catholics, ages 18 and older, in five countries: the United States, Colombia, Ireland, the Philippines, and Kenya. We conducted five separate surveys from February to May in which we asked the same set of questions in each country. We interviewed 1,000 Catholics in the US, 1,002 in Colombia, 676 in Ireland, 924 in the Philippines, and 593 in Kenya. The US and Colombia surveys were stand-alone, while the surveys in Ireland, the Philippines and Kenya were part of national omnibus surveys in each country.

BRS wrote the questionnaire and performed the data analysis and reporting of the findings. We used in-country survey research companies to conduct the field work.

United States

In the US, YouGov compiled 1,000 completed interviews on-line with Catholics across the U.S. between February 13 and 18, 2018. The interviews derived from a YouGov panel, constructed from a sampling frame based on the 2012 American Community Survey. The data were weighted by gender, age, race and education to reflect the correct proportions of Catholics, as reported by the 2014 Pew Religious Landscape Survey. The margin of error for the 1,000 interviews is plus or minus 3.6 percentage points. Catholics make up 24% of the total US population, according to the Pew Research Center.

United States Demographics of Catholics

	Unweighted n	Unweighted %	Weighted %
Total	1,000	100%	100%
Men	431	43%	49%
Women	569	57	51
18-29	159	16%	22%
30-39	168	17	16
40-49	154	15	14
50-64	364	36	34
65+	155	16	15
<High school/High school	358	36%	39%
Some college	324	32	29
College graduate	318	32	32
Northeast	296	30%	25%
Midwest	207	21	21
South	283	28	29
West	214	21	25

(National survey of 1,000 Catholics in the United States from February 13 to 18, 2018 by BRS and YouGov)

Republic of Colombia

In Colombia, the research firm, Centro Nacional de Consultoria S. A, conducted 1,002 interviews with Catholics living in the urban areas of the country's six regions: Bogota, the Atlantic, Pacific, Central, West and Southwest. The interviews were conducted in Spanish by telephone, by experienced, professional interviewers from March 27 to April 6, using a random sample of listed, landline telephone numbers, which reach 70% of Colombian homes. The data have been weighted by gender. The margin of sampling error for this stand-alone survey is plus or minus 3.2%. Catholics are 82% of the Colombian population, as reported by the Pew Research Center.

Colombia Demographics of Catholics

	Unweighted n	Unweighted %	Weighted %
Total	1,002	100%	100%
Men	269	27%	48%
Women	733	73	52
18-29	160	16%	17%
30-39	150	15	16
40-49	191	19	19
50-64	291	29	28
65+	205	20	20
<High school/High school	552	55%	54%
Some college	371	37	38
College graduate	57	6	6

(National survey of 1,002 Catholics in Colombia from March 27 to April 6, 2018, conducted by BRS and Centro Nationale de Consultoria)

Republic of Ireland

In Ireland, BRS used the Ipsos MRBI national omnibus survey to interview 676 Catholics from April 3 to 15th, 2018. The national survey contained 970 Irish residents overall. Interviewing was done by telephone, with professional, experienced interviewers calling both cell phones and landlines. The sample is RDD (random digit, dial) and has a margin of sampling error for 676 Catholics of plus or minus 3.8 percentage points. The data have been weighted in line with the known profile of the population according to the latest Irish CSO (Central Statistics Office) estimates. Catholics comprise 78% of Irish residents, according to the Irish national census.

Ireland Demographics of Catholics

	Unweighted n	Unweighted %	Weighted %
Total	676	100%	100%
Men	333	49%	47%
Women	343	51	53
18-24	46	7%	12%
25-34	91	13	15
35-49	206	30	30
50-64	189	28	23
65+	144	21	20
<High school/High school	255	38%	38%
Some college	25	4	6
College graduate	393	58	56
Dublin	168	25%	25%
Rest of Leinster	176	26	27
Munster	198	29	28
Connaught/Ulster	134	20	20

(National survey of 676 Catholics in Ireland from April 3-15, 2018 by BRS and Ipsos Ireland)

Republic of the Philippines

The 924 completed interviews among Catholics in the Philippines were conducted using face-to-face interviewing, April 7-11. The interviews were conducted in Filipino (Tagalog), Cebuano, Kinaray-a, Waray, Maguindanaon, Hiligayon, Chavacano, Iluko, and Bicol as part of a nation-wide omnibus survey of 1,200 adults administered by Social Weather Stations.

The Philippines was divided into four study areas: National Capital Region (NCR), Balance Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Multi-stage probability sampling was used in the selection of sample spots, and within those clusters respondents were randomly selected.

The data have been weighted by age and region to match the demographics of the current population of the Philippines according to population projections from the National Statistical Office of the Philippines and U.S. Census International Database. The study has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.2 percentage points. The Pew Research center reports that Catholics make up 81% of the population of the Philippines.

Philippines Demographics of Catholics

	Unweighted n	Unweighted %	Weighted %
Total	924	100%	100%
Men	458	50%	50%
Women	466	50	50
18-29	212	23%	23%
30-39	193	21	22
40-49	188	20	20
50-64	221	24	24
65+	110	12	12
None/elementary	232	25%	25%
High school	423	46	46
Post-secondary	269	29	29
NCR	238	26%	14%
Balance Luzon	251	27	47
Visayas	248	27	21
Mindanao	187	20	18

(National survey of 924 Catholics in the Philippines from April 7-11, 2018 by BRS and Social Weather Stations)

Republic of Kenya

In Kenya, BRS used the Ipsos Limited national omnibus survey to interview 593 Catholics from April 28 to May 19, 2018, as part of an overall survey of 2,000 Kenyans. Interviewing was conducted face to face, in urban as well as rural areas, and was administered in English, Swahili, and Somali by experienced, trained professionals. The sample was stratified by region at the province level to be proportionate to the population, and the margin of sampling error for the 593 Catholics is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Catholics are 25% of the overall Kenyan population according to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.

Kenya Demographics of Catholics

	Unweighted n	Unweighted %	Weighted %
Total	593	100%	100%
Men	261	44%	52%
Women	332	56	48
18-24	152	26%	25%
25-35	197	33	26
36-45	126	21	20
46+	118	20	29
Primary of less	226	38%	39%
Some/completed			
Secondary	249	42	42
Post-secondary	116	20	19
Central/Nairobi	143	24%	24%
Nyanza/Western	127	21	22
Coast/Eastern	184	31	31
Rift Valley	139	23	24

(National survey of 593 Catholics in Kenya from April 28-May 19, 2018 by BRS and Ipsos)

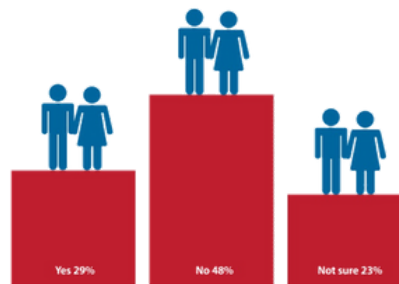
2018 National Survey of Catholics in the United States

N = 1,000 Catholics in the U.S, conducted on-line by YouGov
February 13-18, 2018; margin of error +/-3.6

Q1: What is your religion, if any?



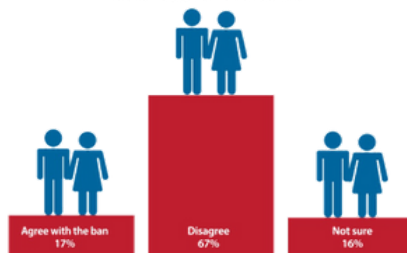
Q2a: Have you ever heard about a policy called *Humanae Vitae* written by the Pope in 1968?



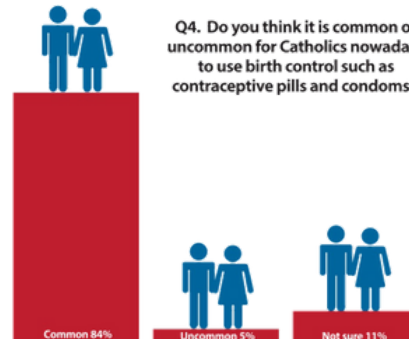
Q2b: (If yes or not sure in Q2A) As far as you know was *Humanae Vitae* about helping the poor, homosexuality, birth control, abortion, immigration, something else, or are you not sure?



Q3: Written 50 years ago, the policy of *Humanae Vitae* stated the Vatican's ban on birth control, such as contraceptive pills and condoms. Do you agree or disagree with the Vatican's ban on birth control?



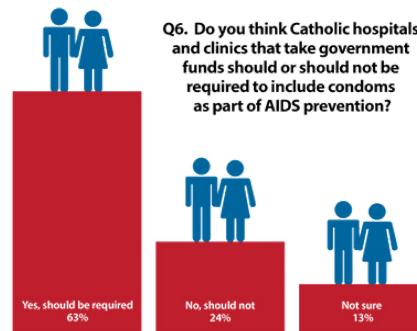
Q4: Do you think it is common or uncommon for Catholics nowadays to use birth control such as contraceptive pills and condoms?



Q5: Do you think Catholic hospitals and clinics that take government funds should or should not be required to offer birth control such as contraceptive pills and condoms to patients?



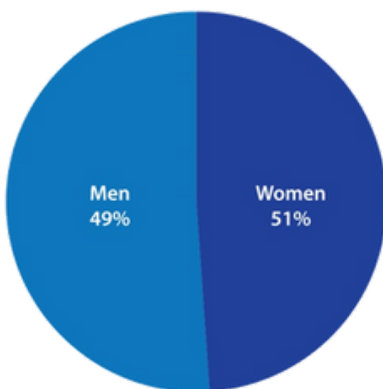
Q6: Do you think Catholic hospitals and clinics that take government funds should or should not be required to include condoms as part of AIDS prevention?



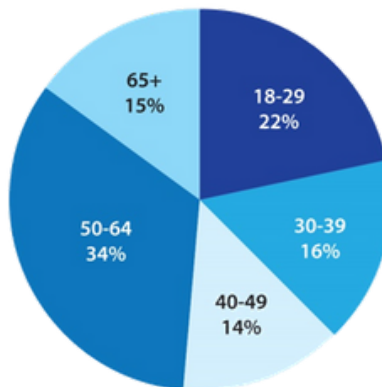
2018 National Survey of Catholics in the United States

N = 1,000 Catholics in the U.S, conducted on-line by YouGov
February 13-18, 2018; margin of error +/-3.6

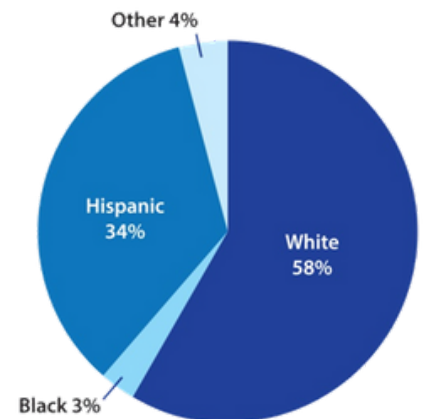
Gender



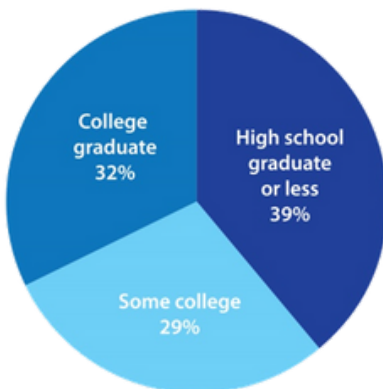
Age



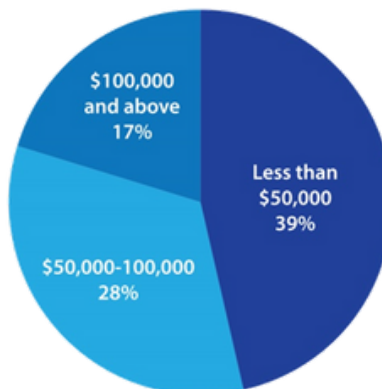
Race/Ethnicity



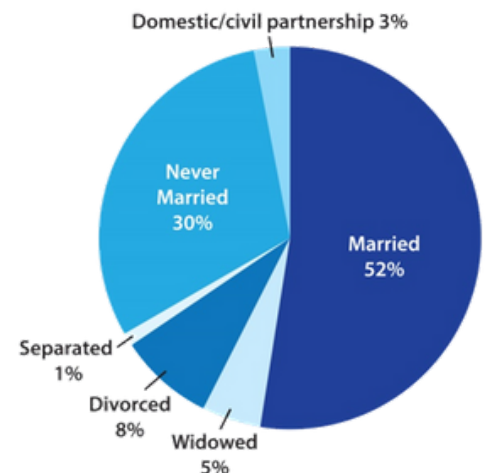
Education



Annual Household Income



Marital Status



CATHOLICS
FOR
CHOICE

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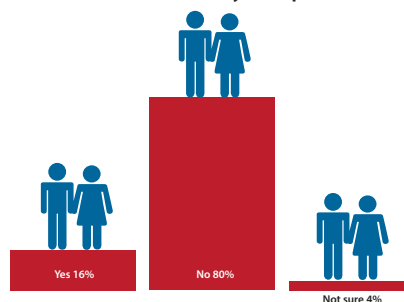
2018 National Survey of Catholics in Colombia

National Survey of 1,002 Catholics in Colombia from March 27 to April 6, 2018,
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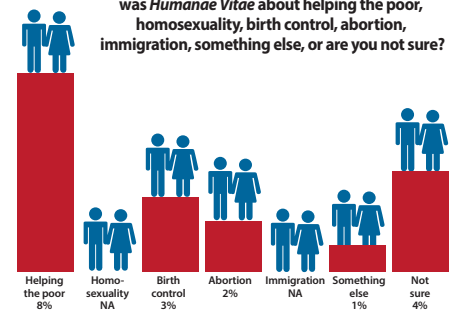
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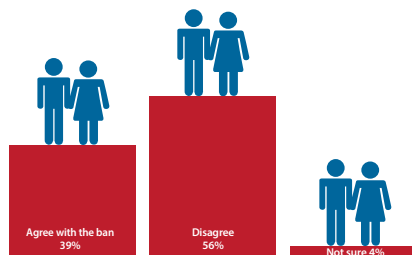
Q2a: Have you ever heard about a policy called *Humanae Vitae* written by the Pope in 1968?



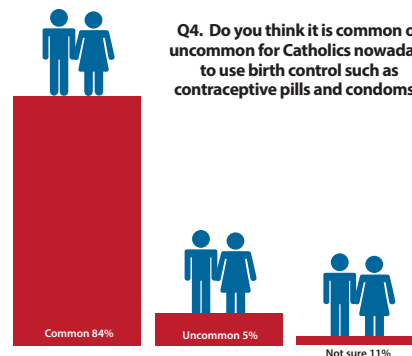
Q2b. (If yes or not sure in Q2A) As far as you know was *Humanae Vitae* about helping the poor, homosexuality, birth control, abortion, immigration, something else, or are you not sure?



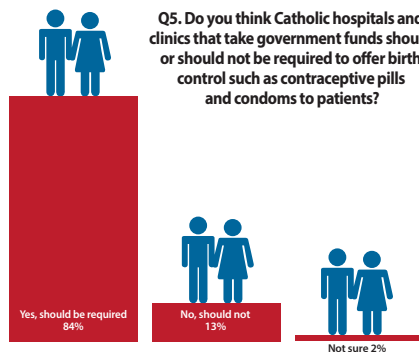
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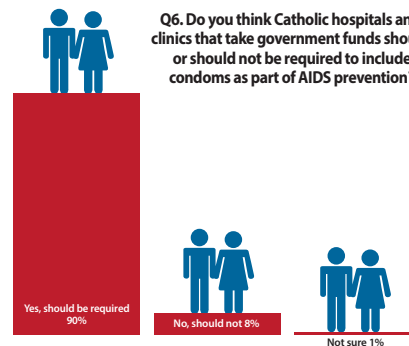
Q4. Do you think it is common or uncommon for Catholics nowadays to use birth control such as contraceptive pills and condoms?



Q5. Do you think Catholic hospitals and clinics that take government funds should or should not be required to offer birth control such as contraceptive pills and condoms to patients?



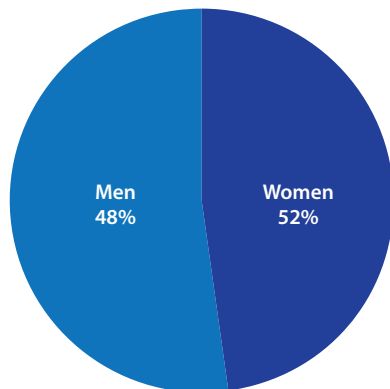
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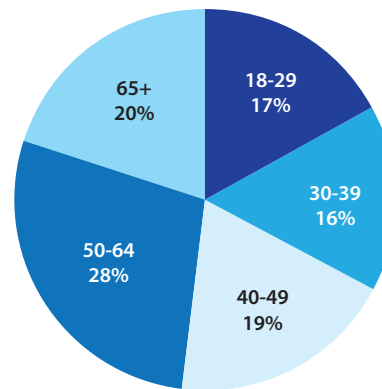
2018 National Survey of Catholics in Colombia

National Survey of 1,002 Catholics in Colombia from March 27 to April 6, 2018,
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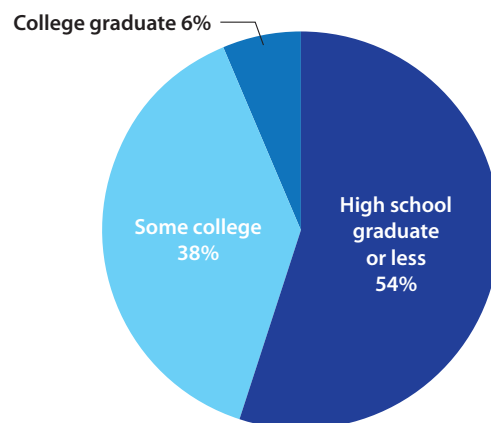
Gender



Age



Education



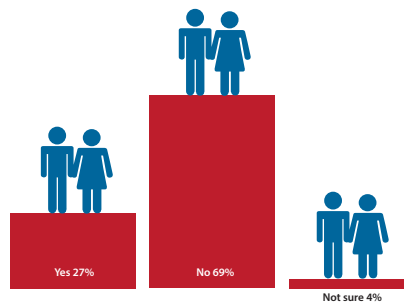
2018 National Survey of Catholics in Ireland

National Survey of 676 Catholics in Ireland from April 3-15, 2018
by BRS and Ipsos Ireland

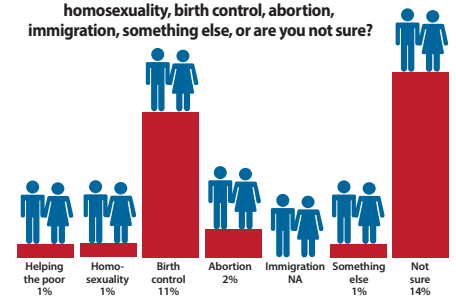
Q1: What is your religion, if any?



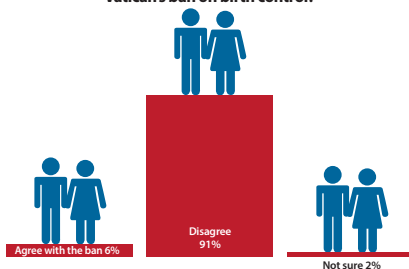
Q2a: Have you ever heard about a policy called *Humanae Vitae* written by the Pope in 1968?



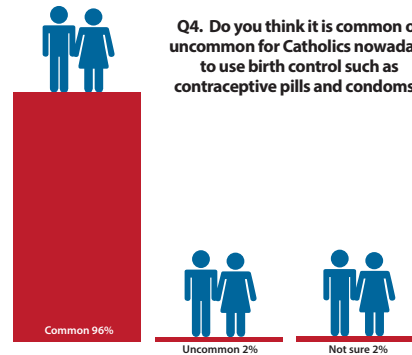
Q2b. (If yes or not sure in Q2A) As far as you know was *Humanae Vitae* about helping the poor, homosexuality, birth control, abortion, immigration, something else, or are you not sure?



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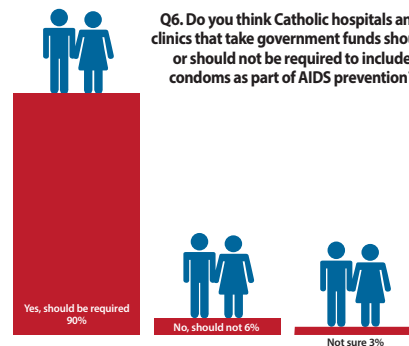
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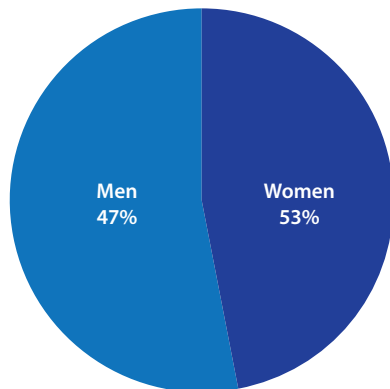
Q6. Do you think Catholic hospitals and clinics that take government funds should or should not be required to include condoms as part of AIDS prevention?



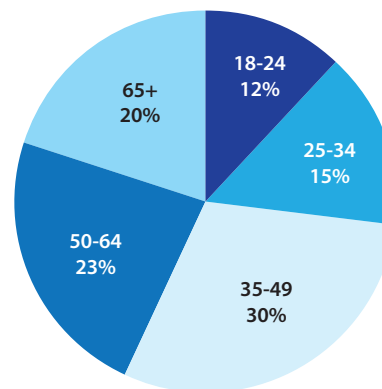
2018 National Survey of Catholics in Ireland

National Survey of 676 Catholics in Ireland from April 3-15, 2018
by BRS and Ipsos Ireland

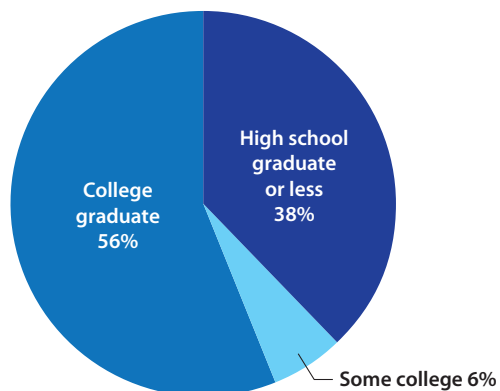
Gender



Age



Education



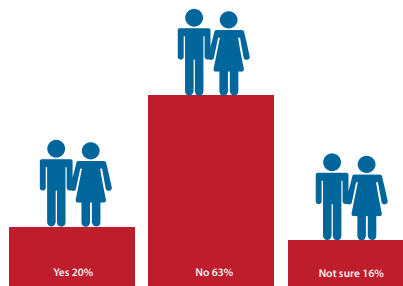
2018 National Survey of Catholics in Kenya

National Survey of 593 Catholics in Kenya from April 28 – May 19, 2018,
by BRS and Ipsos

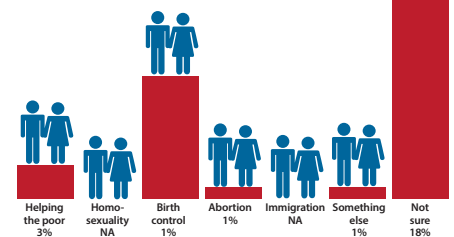
Q1: What is your religion, if any?



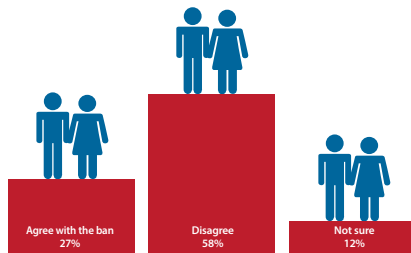
Q2a: Have you ever heard about a policy called *Humanae Vitae* written by the Pope in 1968?



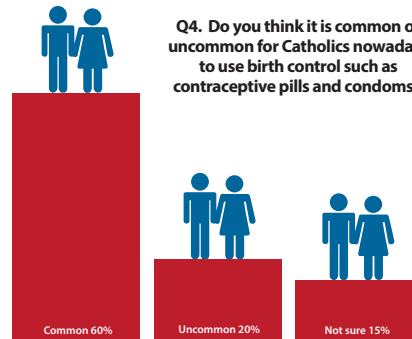
Q2b. (If yes or not sure in Q2A) As far as you know was *Humanae Vitae* about helping the poor, homosexuality, birth control, abortion, immigration, something else, or are you not sure?



Q3. Written 50 years ago, the policy of *Humanae Vitae* stated the Vatican's ban on birth control, such as contraceptive pills and condoms. Do you agree or disagree with the Vatican's ban on birth control?



Q4. Do you think it is common or uncommon for Catholics nowadays to use birth control such as contraceptive pills and condoms?



Q5. Do you think Catholic hospitals and clinics that take government funds should or should not be required to offer birth control such as contraceptive pills and condoms to patients?



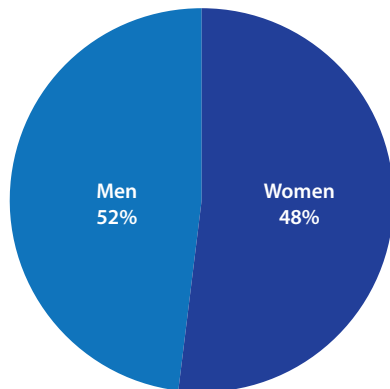
Q6. Do you think Catholic hospitals and clinics that take government funds should or should not be required to include condoms as part of AIDS prevention?



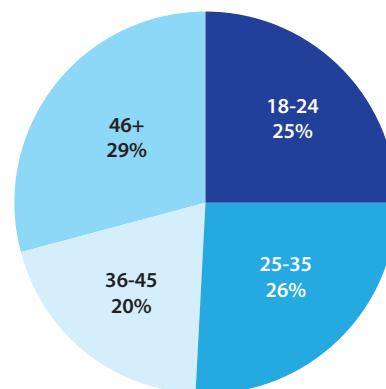
2018 National Survey of Catholics in Kenya

National Survey of 593 Catholics in Kenya from April 28 – May 19, 2018,
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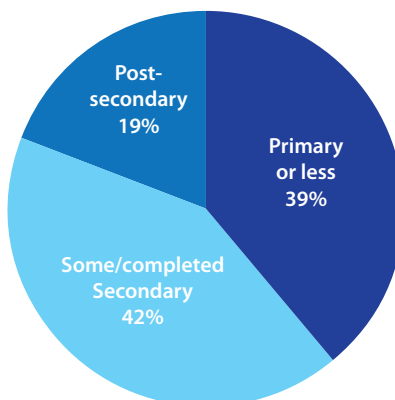
Gender



Age



Education



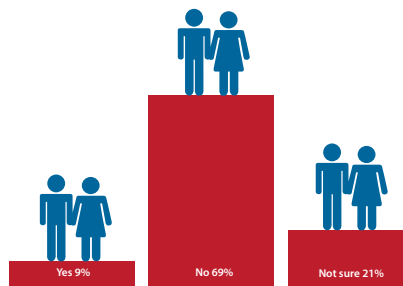
2018 National Survey of Catholics in the Philippines

National Survey of 924 Catholics in the Philippines from April 7-11, 2018,
by BRS and Social Weather Stations

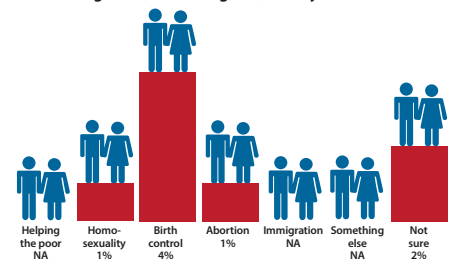
Q1: What is your religion, if any?



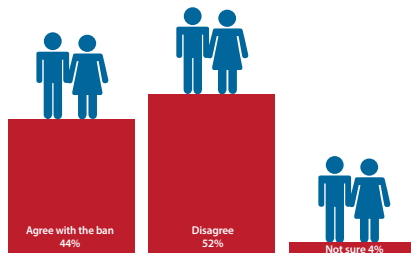
Q2a: Have you ever heard about a policy called *Humanae Vitae* written by the Pope in 1968?



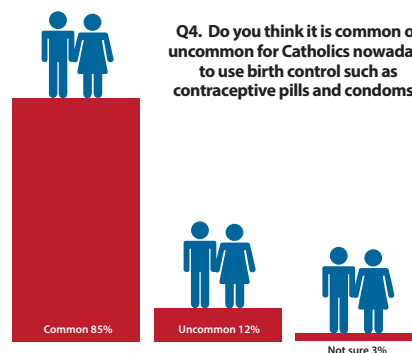
Q2b. (If yes or not sure in Q2A) As far as you know was *Humanae Vitae* about helping the poor, homosexuality, birth control, abortion, immigration, something else, or are you not sure?



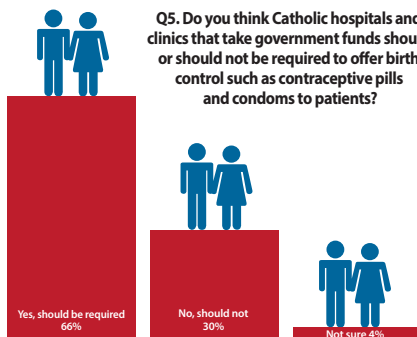
Q3. Written 50 years ago, the policy of *Humanae Vitae* stated the Vatican's ban on birth control, such as contraceptive pills and condoms. Do you agree or disagree with the Vatican's ban on birth control?



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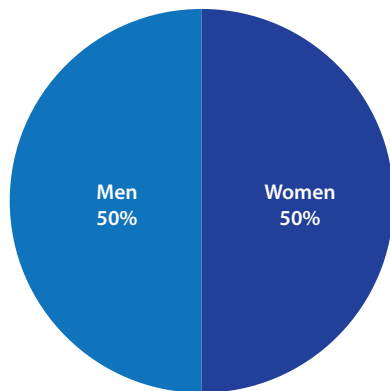
Q6. Do you think Catholic hospitals and clinics that take government funds should or should not be required to include condoms as part of AIDS prevention?



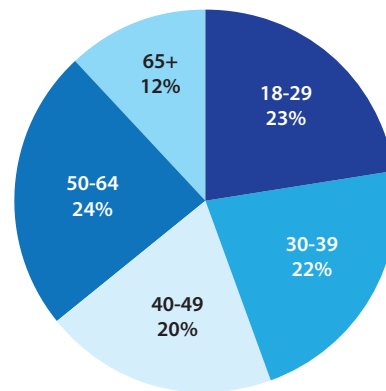
2018 National Survey of Catholics in the Philippines

National Survey of 924 Catholics in the Philippines from April 7-11, 2018,
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Gender



Age



Education

