

Reproductive Health Issues

National Survey of Republicans and Independents

Conducted for National Women's Law Center and YWCA USA

October 2008

Agenda

- Methodology
- Summary of Key Findings
- Contraception
- Comprehensive Sex Education
- Pharmacy Refusal
- Abortion

Methodology

- National telephone survey of 1,000 Republican and Independent voters
 - Field dates: September 30-October 8, 2008
 - Margin of error: ± 3.1 percentage points
- Sample Breakdown
 - Republicans (n=558, ± 4.3 percentage points)
 - Strong (76%) / Weak (24%)
 - Pro-life (55%), pro-choice (19%), in between (24%)
 - Independents (n=442, ± 4.6 percentage points)
 - Ind. Republicans (35%) / Independents (65%)
 - Pro-life (39%), pro-choice (33%), in between (27%)

Summary of Key Findings

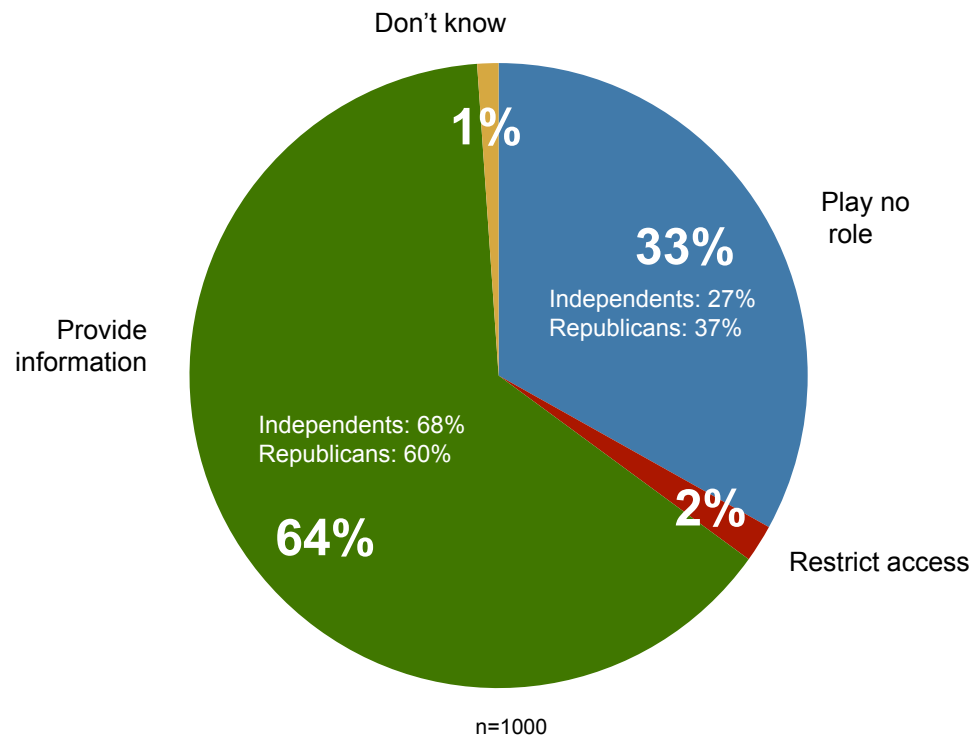
- Republicans, and to an even greater degree, Independents, support a range of legislative proposals to make contraception more affordable and accessible.
- Republicans and Independents also indicate strong support for specific comprehensive sex education programs, particularly compared to abstinence-only programs.
- Support for selected reproductive health care goals and priorities extends to more conservative “strong” Republicans in addition to moderate Republicans and Independents.
- What opposition does exist is not monolithic and tends to split into two different camps, their relative size depending on the issue:
 - “Passive” opponents who simply do not want government involvement; they tend to be older men.
 - “Active” opponents who advocate to restrict access; they tend to be ideological conservatives.

Contraception

Role of Government: Contraception

- The majority of Republicans and Independents see a role for the government in informing and educating the public on contraception.
- Those who identify themselves as pro-life favor the government providing information on contraception by 58%-37%.

Please tell me which of the following best describes your opinion regarding the role the government should have in dealing with the issue of contraception.

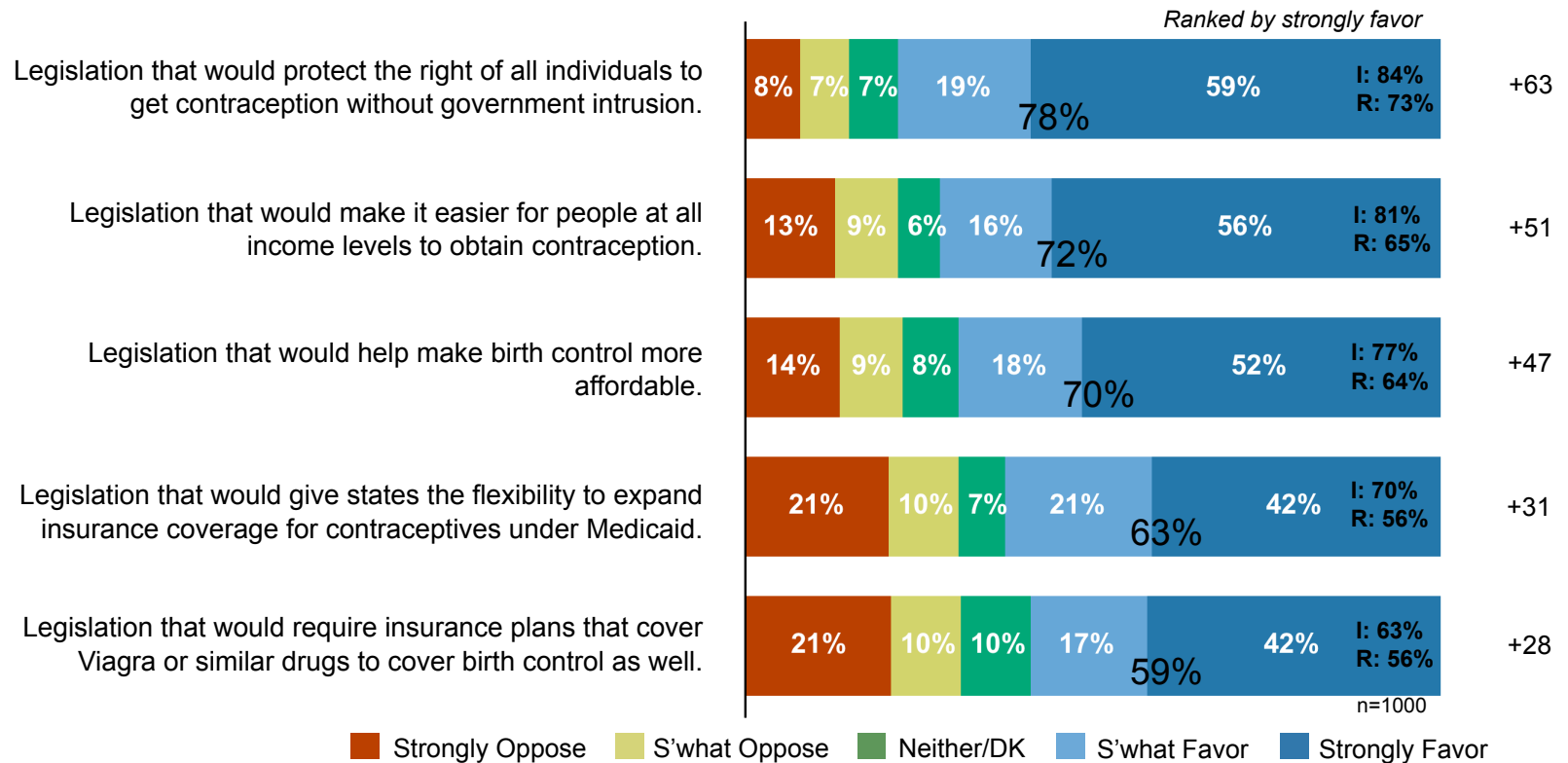


Contraceptive-Related Legislation

- Strong support exists for more affordable and available contraception.
- More than 60% of fundamentalist/evangelical protestants favor each of the top 3 proposals tested.

Please tell me whether you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose each of the following.

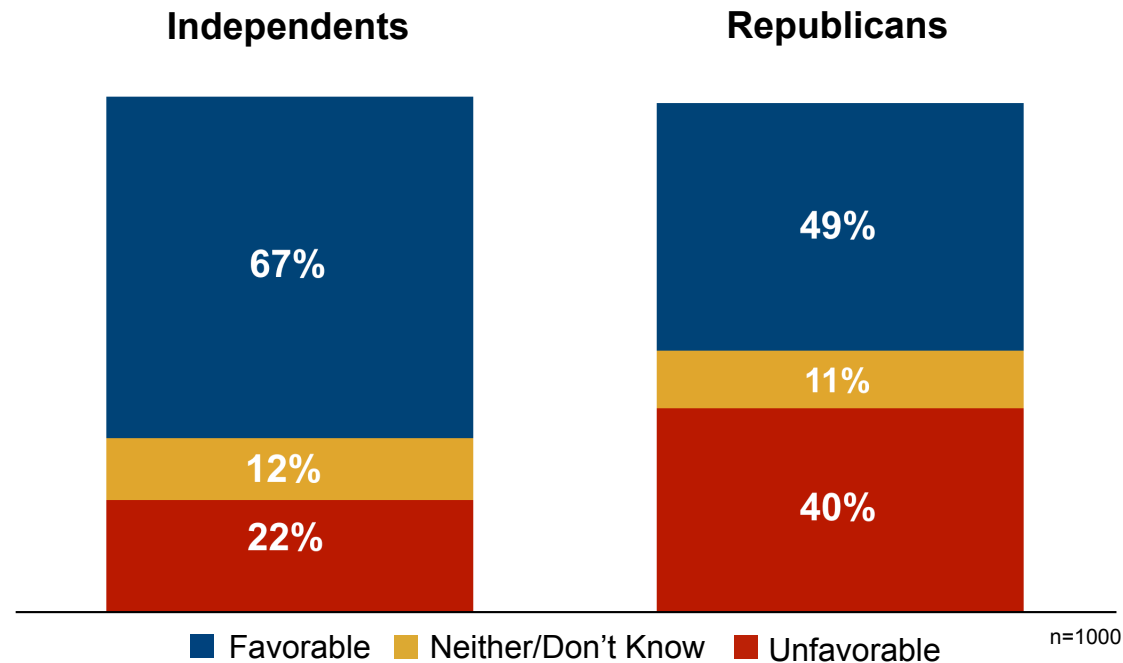
Net Favor



EC General Perceptions

- Overall, a 57% majority of the Republican/Independent sample has a favorable opinion of emergency contraception.
- Favorable ratings of emergency contraception are highest among pro-choice voters (87%), 18-34 year olds (72%) and singles (71%).

As you may know, emergency contraception, or the “morning after pill,” is an FDA-approved form of contraception that prevents pregnancy the same way regular birth control pills do, mainly by prohibiting ovulation. Do you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable opinion of emergency contraception?

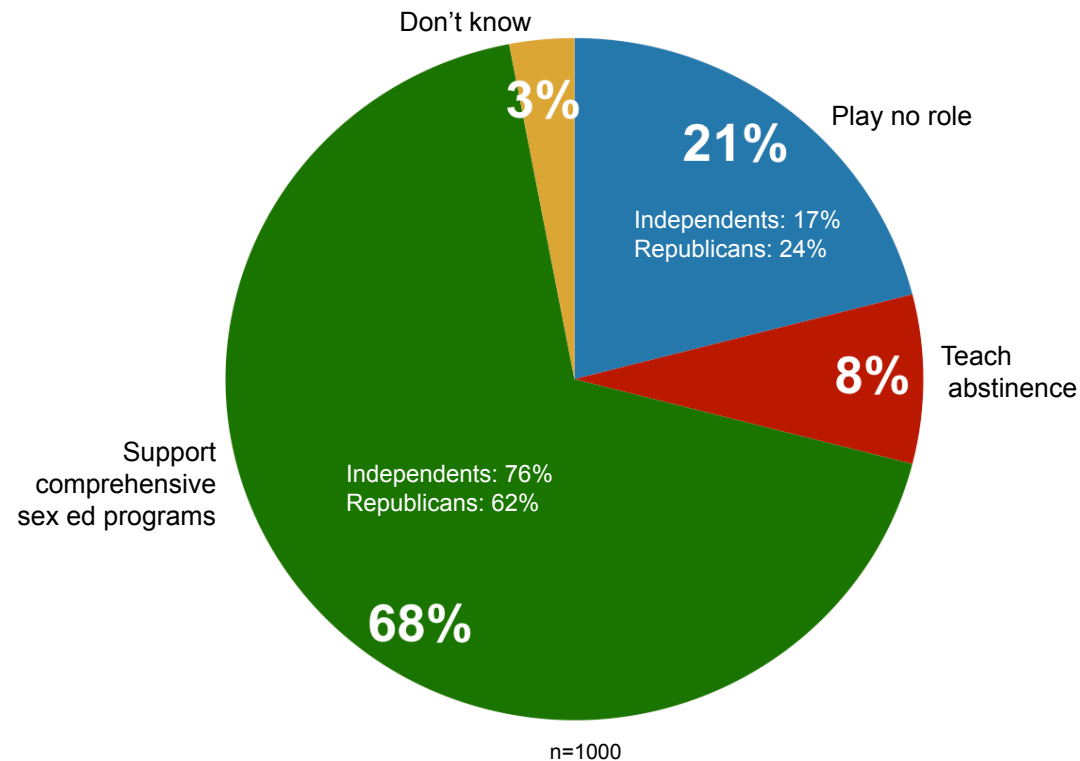


Comprehensive Sex Education

Role of Government: Sex Education

- Large majorities of both Republicans and Independents prefer government support for comprehensive sex education over no government role at all or teaching only abstinence.

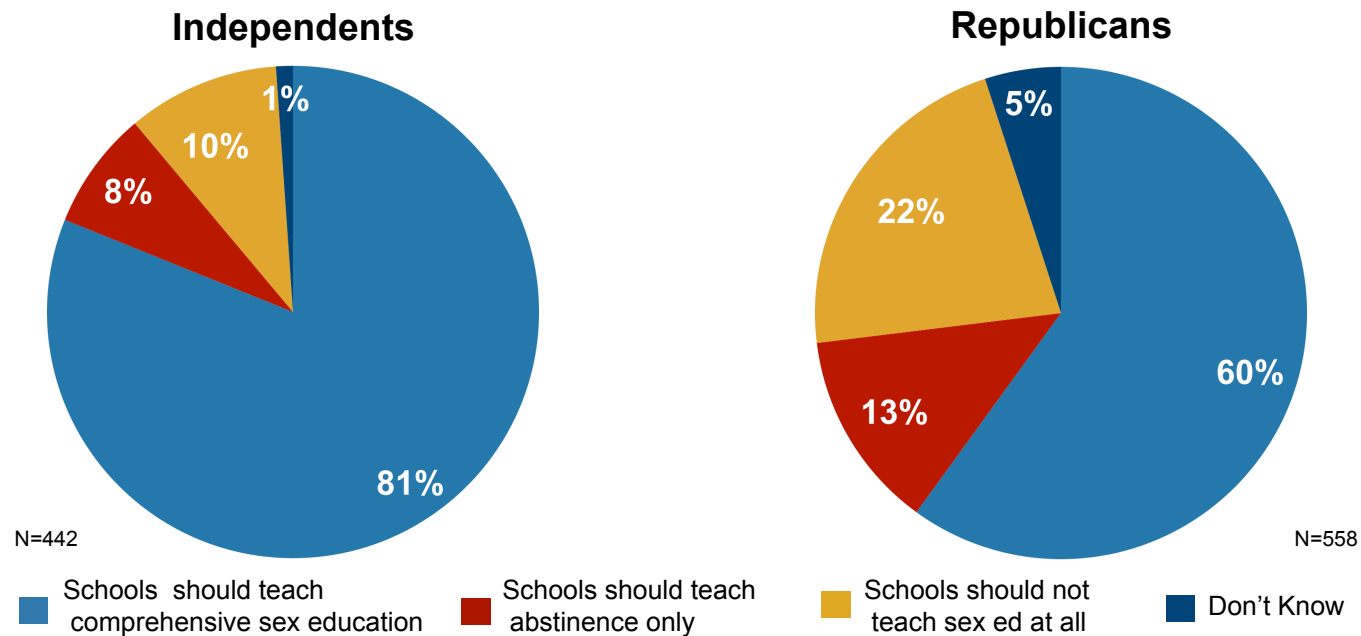
Please tell me which of the following best describes your opinion regarding the role the government should have in dealing with the issue of sex education.



Public Schools and Sex Education

- Overall, 81% of Independents and 60% of Republicans support comprehensive sex education.
- “Strong” Republicans prefer comprehensive sex education over abstinence-only by a 56%-14% margin.

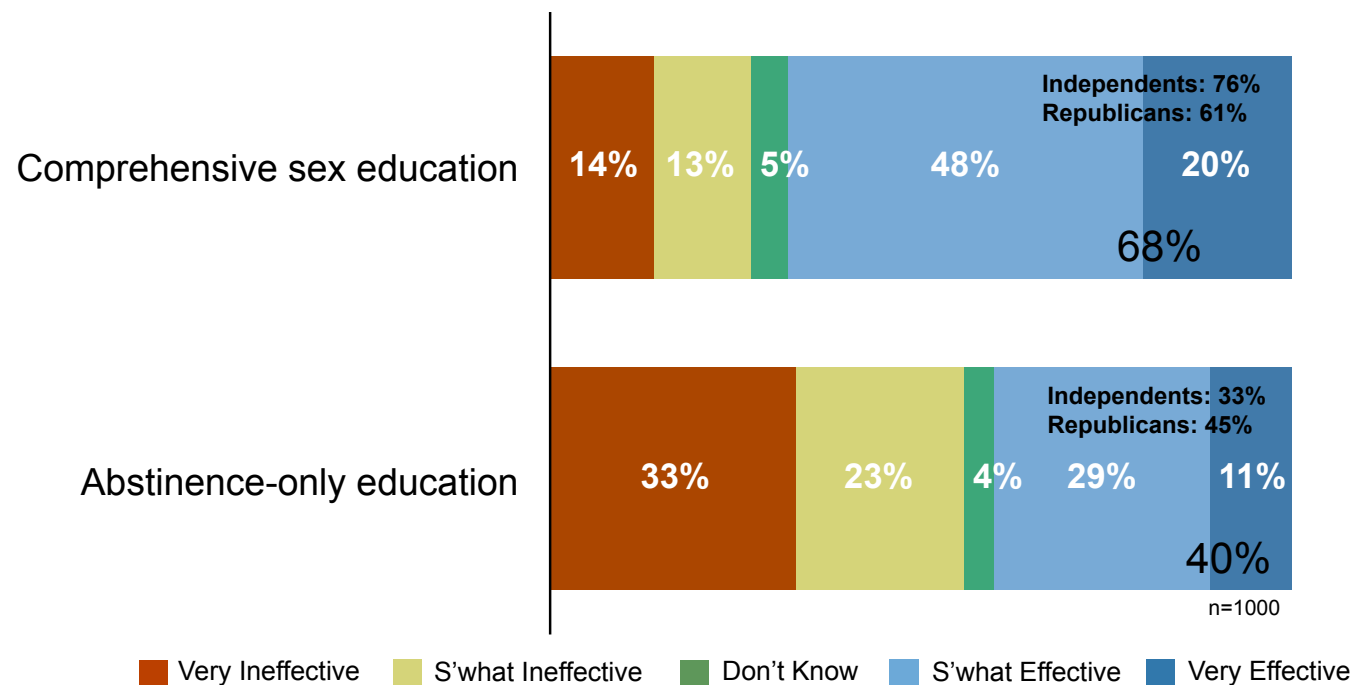
Which of the following do you think public schools in the United States should do when it come to sex education – schools should teach comprehensive sex education, schools should teach abstinence only, or schools should NOT teach sex education at all?



Perceived Effectiveness of Sex Education

- Three-quarters of Independents (76%) and 61% of Republicans think comprehensive sex education is effective.
- Nearly two-thirds of Independents and the majority of Republicans think abstinence-only education is ineffective.

Please rate how effective you think each is in reducing the number of unintended pregnancies.

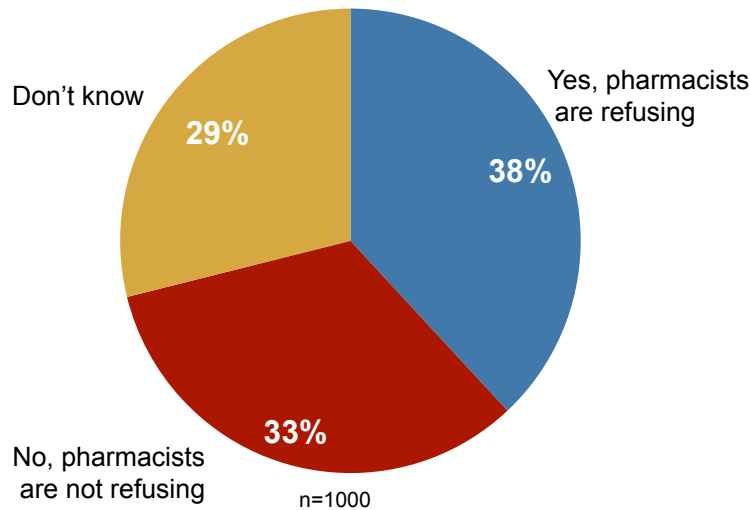


Pharmacy Refusal

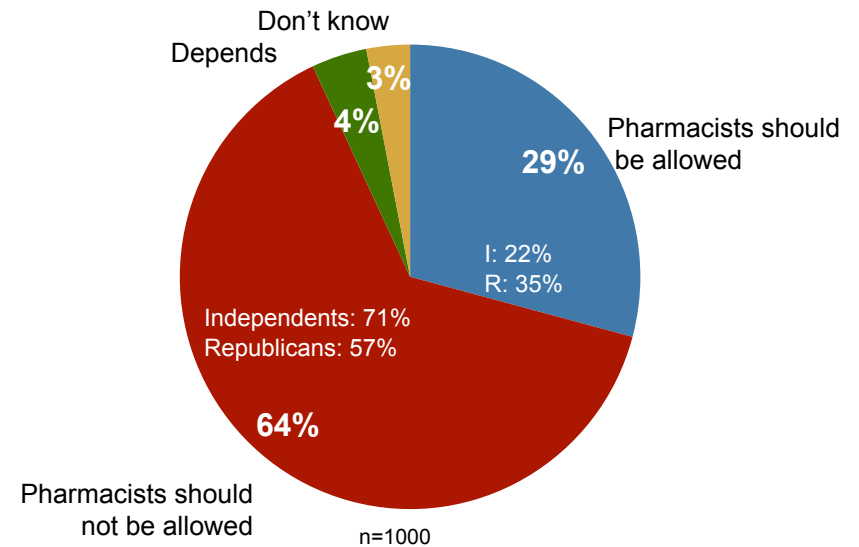
Pharmacist Refusal

- Majorities of Republicans and Independents oppose pharmacist refusals.

From what you know or what you have heard, are some pharmacists refusing to fill doctors' prescriptions for contraception because they have moral or religious objections, or have you not heard much or anything about this issue?



Do you think pharmacists should be allowed to refuse to fill doctors' prescriptions for contraception because they have moral or religious objections, or should they not be allowed to do so?

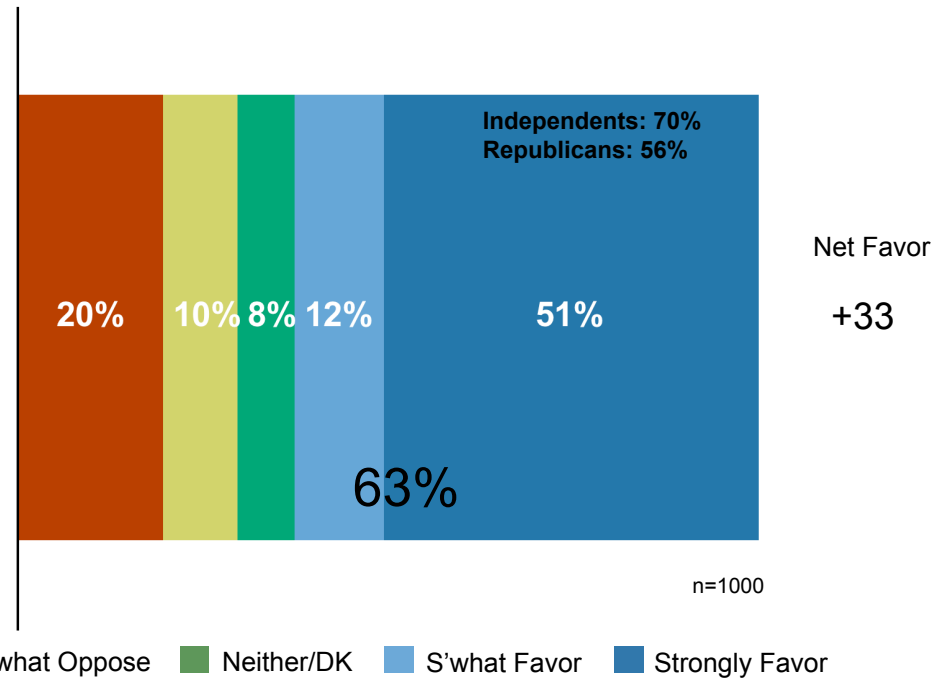


Pharmacy Refusal Legislation

- A 63% majority favors legislation on pharmacy refusals, including a 51% majority who *strongly* favor such legislation.
- “Strong” Republicans favor such legislation by a 55%-36% margin.

Please tell me whether you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the following.

Legislation that requires pharmacies to ensure that patients can get contraception at their pharmacy of choice, even if a particular pharmacist has a moral objection to contraceptives and refuses to provide it.

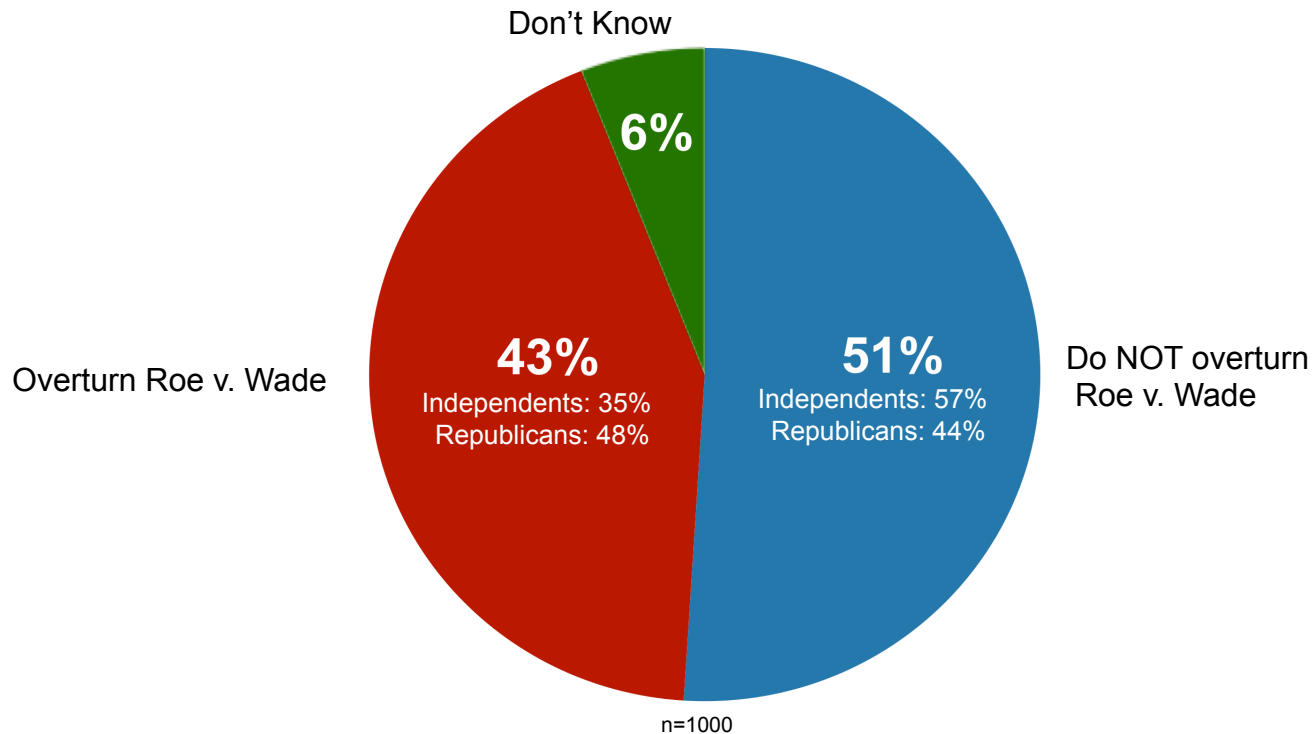


Abortion

Roe v. Wade

- Overall, our Republican/Independent sample opposes overturning Roe versus Wade by 51%-43%.
- Even 44% of Republicans oppose overturning Roe v. Wade.

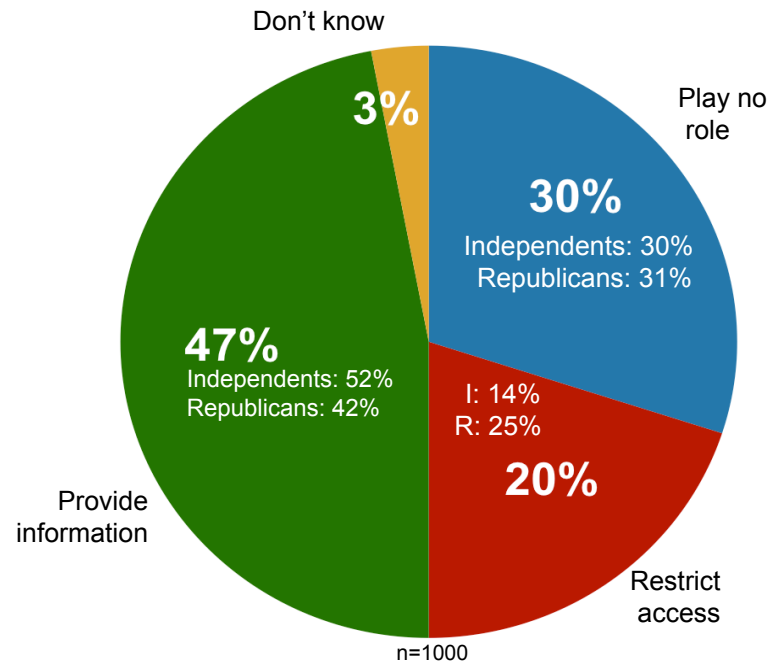
*The Supreme Court's 1973 Roe versus Wade decision established a woman's constitutional right to have an abortion and limited the circumstances under which government could restrict this right.
Would you like to see the Supreme Court overturn its Roe versus Wade decision or not?*



Role of Government on Abortion

- On the issue of abortion, 30% think the government should play no role, while 47% think the government should provide information to inform responsible choices.
- Only one-quarter of Republicans and 14% of Independents want the government to restrict access to abortion.

Please tell me which of the following best describes your opinion regarding the role the government should have in dealing with the issue of abortion...



Partisan Efforts on Abortion

- Independents are more concerned that Republicans will go too far in denying a woman's access to abortion than Democrats will go too far in promoting a woman's access to abortion.

Which of the following concerns you more (ROTATE: that Democrats will go too far in promoting a woman's access to abortion or that Republicans will go too far in denying a woman's access to abortion)?

