

**Kaiser Family Foundation National Survey on  
Insurance Coverage of Contraceptives**

**Questionnaire and Toplines  
June 19, 1998**

Princeton Survey Research Associates  
for the Kaiser Family Foundation

N = 1,015 adults 18 and older

Margin of error: ±3% for results based on the full sample

Dates of interviewing: May 22-26, 1998

- Q1. Are you, yourself, now covered by any health insurance? By this I mean health insurance provided by your employer, insurance you purchased yourself, or insurance from the government, such as Medicare or (IF CALIFORNIA: Medi-Cal | ELSE: Medicaid). (IF YES, FOLLOW WITH:) Is that private insurance, Medicare, or (IF CALIFORNIA: Medi-Cal | ELSE: Medicaid)? (IF NECESSARY: Which is your primary insurance?)

	Total	Women	Men	Women 18-44	Men 18-44
Yes, private insurance	64	64	64	70	70
Yes, Medicare	15	15	15	2	2
Yes, Medicaid/ Medi-Cal	4	7	2	7	2
No, not insured	16	14	18	20	24
Don't know/ Refused	1	1	1	0	1

- Q2. There are six birth control methods that require a doctor's prescription: birth control pills, IUDs (intrauterine devices), Norplant implants, diaphragms, cervical caps, and the shot Depo-Provera. To the best of your knowledge, do you think all, most, some, or very few health insurance plans cover these six birth control methods? (IF NECESSARY: How many plans cover ALL SIX methods?)

	Total	Women	Men	Women 18-44	Men 18-44
All	6	6	5	9	4
Most	10	12	8	16	10
Some	22	22	22	28	28
Very few	31	28	34	30	35
None (VOL.)	*	0	1	0	1
Don't know/Refused	31	31	31	17	22

Q3. How familiar are you with the bill introduced in Congress that would require health insurance plans to cover these six birth control methods as part of their prescription coverage? Very familiar, somewhat familiar, not too familiar, or haven't you heard of this bill? (IF NECESSARY: The six methods are birth control pills, IUDs (intrauterine devices), Norplant implants, diaphragms, cervical caps, and the shot Depo-Provera.)

	Total	Women	Men	Women 18-44	Men 18-44
Very familiar	2	1	2	1	1
Somewhat familiar	13	12	14	13	12
Not too familiar	22	23	21	23	19
Haven't heard of bill	62	62	61	63	67
Don't know/Refused	1	1	2	0	1

Q4. (IF VERY FAMILIAR WITH BILL: As you know, this | ELSE: The birth control) bill before Congress would require any health insurance plan with prescription coverage to pay for these six birth control methods just like any other prescription. Do you strongly support this legislation, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose it? (IF NECESSARY: The six methods are birth control pills, IUDs (intrauterine devices), Norplant implants, diaphragms, cervical caps, and the shot Depo-Provera.)

	Total	Women	Men	Women 18-44	Men 18-44
Strongly support	45	54	34	67	32
Somewhat support	30	27	34	21	43
Somewhat oppose	8	6	11	5	10
Strongly oppose	8	5	11	4	7
Don't know/Refused	9	8	10	3	8

Q5. If health insurance plans are required to cover birth control as part of their prescription coverage, do you think all six birth control methods available by prescription should be covered by the bill, or not? (IF NECESSARY: The six methods are birth control pills, IUDs (intrauterine devices), Norplant implants, diaphragms, cervical caps, and the shot Depo-Provera.)

	Total	Women	Men	Women 18-44	Men 18-44
Yes	71	75	66	83	72
No	18	15	21	10	18
Don't know/Refused	11	10	12	6	10

Based on those who don't think all methods should be covered (N = 281)

Q6. a. Do you think birth control pills should be covered, or not?

	Total	Women	Men	Women 18-44	Men 18-44
Yes	48	61	38	78	44
No	41	31	48	14	46
Don't know/Refused	11	7	14	8	10

b. Do you think IUDs (intrauterine devices) should be covered, or not?

	Total	Women	Men	Women 18-44	Men 18-44
Yes	22	24	21	29	25
No	54	51	56	50	51
Don't know/Refused	24	25	23	20	24

c. Do you think birth control implants such as Norplant should be covered, or not?

	Total	Women	Men	Women 18-44	Men 18-44
Yes	19	22	17	31	23
No	56	56	55	40	55
Don't know/Refused	25	22	27	29	22

d. Do you think birth control shots such as Depo-Provera should be covered, or not?

	Total	Women	Men	Women 18-44	Men 18-44
Yes	27	35	20	51	31
No	48	44	52	37	47
Don't know/Refused	25	21	28	12	22

- Q7. a. Some people say that if health insurance plans are required to cover prescription birth control, there would be fewer unplanned pregnancies. Hearing this, do you strongly support the birth control legislation before Congress, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose it?

	Total	Women	Men	Women 18-44	Men 18-44
Strongly support	50	60	39	70	42
Somewhat support	27	23	31	19	34
Somewhat oppose	6	4	8	4	8
Strongly oppose	9	6	13	3	12
Don't know/Refused	8	7	8	4	4

(RESPONDENTS WERE ASKED ONE OF THE TWO QUESTIONS BELOW:)

*Form 1 (N = 510)*

- b. Some people say that if health insurance plans are required to cover prescription birth control, the average cost individuals pay for health insurance could increase by \$1 to \$5 per month. Hearing this, do you strongly support the birth control legislation before Congress, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose it?

	Total	Women	Men	Women 18-44	Men 18-44
Strongly support	43	48	36	61	38
Somewhat support	30	30	30	26	38
Somewhat oppose	8	6	10	7	9
Strongly oppose	12	9	15	4	11
Don't know/Refused	7	7	8	2	4

*Form 2 (N = 505)*

- b. Some people say that if health insurance plans are required to cover prescription birth control, the average cost individuals pay for health insurance could increase by \$15 to \$20 per month. Hearing this, do you strongly support the birth control legislation before Congress, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose it?

	Total	Women	Men	Women 18-44	Men 18-44
Strongly support	30	39	21	48	19
Somewhat support	29	26	33	25	35
Somewhat oppose	13	9	17	10	18
Strongly oppose	19	18	20	12	21
Don't know/Refused	9	9	9	4	7

- Q8. To the best of your knowledge, does the health insurance plan you personally have cover (READ RESPONSE CATEGORIES) of the six birth control methods available by prescription? Again, those six methods are birth control pills, IUDs (intrauterine devices), Norplant implants, diaphragms, cervical caps, and the shot Depo-Provera.

*Based on those who have health insurance (N = 875)*

	Total	Women	Men	Women 18-44	Men 18-44
All	8	12	4	17	6
Most	6	5	7	8	9
Some, that is one or two	18	19	16	29	18
None	25	21	30	19	29
Plan doesn't cover prescriptions (VOL.)	1	1	*	0	*
Don't know/Refused	42	42	42	26	37

- Q9. Have you or a spouse or partner EVER had to make a choice between birth control that was covered by your health insurance plan versus birth control that wasn't covered?

	Total	Women	Men	Women 18-44	Men 18-44
Yes	9	10	7	15	9
No	87	87	87	82	86
Not applicable (VOL.)	1	1	2	1	2
Don't know/Refused	3	1	4	1	3

- Q10. If you had to make a choice between a birth control method that was covered by your health insurance plan versus one that wasn't covered, how important would cost be to your decision? Very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

	Total	Women	Men	Women 18-44	Men 18-44
Very important	32	38	25	40	24
Somewhat important	30	30	30	34	35
Not too important	10	7	13	7	13
Not at all important	21	17	26	16	25
Not applicable (VOL.)	2	2	2	1	*
Don't know/Refused	5	5	5	1	3

Q11. As you may know, a new pill called Viagra can treat impotence in men. Do you think that health insurance plans should be required to cover this pill as part of their prescription coverage, or not?

	Total	Women	Men	Women 18-44	Men 18-44
Yes	49	51	47	55	51
No	40	38	42	37	42
Don't know/Refused	11	10	11	9	7

Q12. What is your religious preference? Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Mormon, or an orthodox church such as the Greek or Russian Orthodox Church?

	Total	Women	Men	Women 18-44	Men 18-44
Protestant (Baptist, Christian, Episcopal, Jehovah's Witness, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, etc.)	57	63	51	57	47
Roman Catholic	24	22	26	23	26
Jewish	2	2	2	1	2
Mormon (includes Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)	1	2	1	2	1
Orthodox (Greek or Russian)	1	1	1	1	2
Hindu/Buddhist	1	1	1	1	1
Islam/Muslim (VOL.)	*	*	1	0	1
Non-denominational (VOL.)	4	3	4	4	6
Other religion	*	*	1	1	1
No religion/Atheist (VOL.)	7	5	9	9	10
Don't know/Refused	3	1	3	2	2