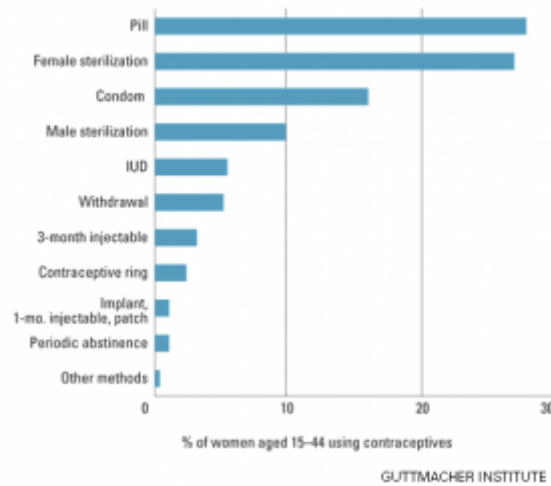


POLL: DO MEN REALIZE BIRTH CONTROL IS RARELY JUST FOR “FEMALE EMPLOYEES”?



Greg Sargent tweeted the results of this CBS/NYT poll, showing that

37% of those polled believe the whole birth control debate is about religious freedom. While Sargent thinks 37% is a small number, given that it means that maybe a quarter of people polled (given that almost 100% of sexually active women have used birth control and most of them have used it because they were sleeping with men) both believe that birth control is a religious issue and have relied on birth control, I find it rather high.

But look at how the questions were asked:

73. Do you think health insurance plans for all employees should have to cover the full cost of birth control for their female employees, or should employers be allowed to opt out of covering that based on religious or moral objections?

	Cover birth control	Allowed to opt out	Depends (vol.)	DK/NA
3/7-11/12	40	51	3	5

74. What about for religiously affiliated employers, such as a hospital or university? Do you think their health insurance plans for all employees should have to cover the full cost of birth control for their female employees, or should they be allowed to opt out of covering that based on religious or moral objections?

	Cover birth control	Allowed to opt out	Depends (vol.)	DK/NA
3/7-11/12	36	57	2	5

76. Do you think the debate on this issue is more about religious freedom or more about women's health and their rights?

	Religious freedom	Women's health/rights	Both (vol.)	DK/NA
3/7-11/12	37	51	6	6

At issue here is not just health insurance providing birth control for female employees. It

is also about providing coverage for vasectomies (which accounts for 10% of birth control use). And providing coverage for the female spouses of male employees most of whom, presumably, are using that birth control because they are sleeping with their spouse.

There's a lot of men having sex without babies that this health coverage enables.

And while I'll grant you that the lack of availability of birth control disproportionately affects women (particularly with imperfect enforcement of child support and still pervasive gender roles about nurturing children), this is also about the ability of couples, together, to choose to have families of a size appropriate to their lifestyle and income.

I get that this is about women's ability to choose autonomy. But it's also about men's ability to fuck and fuck and fuck. Somehow that last bit never gets polled.