# Where the Public Stands on Religious Liberty vs. Nondiscrimination 

Two-thirds say employers should provide birth control in insurance plans, but public is split over same-sex wedding services and use of public bathrooms by transgender people

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# Where the Public Stands on Religious Liberty vs. Nondiscrimination 

Two-thirds say employers should provide birth control in insurance plans, but public is split over same-sex wedding services and use of public bathrooms by transgender people

The U.S. public expresses a clear consensus on the contentious question of whether employers who have religious objections to contraception should be required to provide it in health insurance plans for their employees. Fully two-thirds of American adults say such businesses should be required to cover birth control as part of their employees' insurance plans, according to a new Pew Research Center survey, while just three-in-ten say businesses should be allowed to refuse to cover contraception for religious reasons.

The survey of more than 4,500
U.S. adults explores recent controversies that have pitted claims of religious liberty and

Broad consensus on contraception coverage, but public more divided over wedding services for same-sex couples, bathrooms for transgender people
If you had to choose, which comes closest to your view?
Employers who have a religious objection to the use of birth control should be ...

Businesses that provide wedding services should be ...


... required to provide it in health insurance plans for their employees just as other employers are required to do

Transgender people should be ...
... required to use the public restrooms of the gender they were born into

... allowed to use the public restrooms of the gender with which they currently identify

[^0]traditional morality against civil rights and nondiscrimination policies. And it finds that Americans are more closely divided on two other hotly debated questions: whether businesses should be able to refuse service to same-sex couples, and whether transgender people should be required to use particular restrooms.

About half of U.S. adults (49\%) say businesses that provide wedding services, such as catering or flowers, should be required to provide those services to same-sex couples as they would for any other couple. But a nearly equal share (48\%) say businesses should be able to refuse services to same-sex couples if the business owner has religious objections to homosexuality.

And in the debate over bathroom use by transgender people, roughly half of Americans (51\%) say transgender people should be allowed to use public restrooms of the gender with which they currently identify, while nearly as many ( $46 \%$ ) say transgender individuals should be required to use restrooms of the gender they were born into. ${ }^{1}$

[^1]The U.S. public appears polarized on these debates, just as it is on many other aspects of American politics. One of the goals of the survey was to see how many Americans feel torn because they can understand where both sides are coming from on these issues. The short answer is: not many.

Before being asked to state which position is closest to their own, respondents were asked how much, if at all, they sympathize with the arguments on either side of an issue. (For full question wording, see topline.)

## Relatively few sympathize with both sides of contraception, same-sex wedding and bathroom debates

Before being asked to choose a position, respondents were asked how much, if at all, they sympathize with the arguments on either side. \% who sympathize a lot/some with ...

... only those who say businesses should be required to provide wedding services to same-sex couples
$\operatorname{lin}^{1} \quad| || || || || || || | 18| || || || || || || | \mid$

Note: Figures may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 16-Sept. 12, 2016.
"Where the Public Stands on Religious Liberty vs. Nondiscrimination"

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Relatively few took the opportunity to express at least some sympathy for both sides. For example, just over a third of U.S. adults sympathize only with those who say businesses that provide wedding services should be required to provide them to same-sex couples as they would to any other customers, and $31 \%$ sympathize only with those who say businesses should be able to refuse
services to same-sex couples if the business owner has a religious objection. Just $18 \%$ say they have at least some sympathy for both sides, while an additional $15 \%$ sympathize with neither side.

Similarly, three-in-ten Americans sympathize only with those who say transgender people should be allowed to use public restrooms of the gender with which they identify, and a similar share sympathize only with those who say transgender people should be required to use public restrooms of the gender they were born into. Again, $18 \%$ say they can see where both sides are coming from.

These are among the main findings of a new Pew Research Center survey of 4,538 adults conducted between Aug. 16 and Sept. 12, 2016. The survey was administered online and by mail among a nationally representative sample. For more details, see the methodology.

The widespread support for requiring employers to cover birth control in health insurance plans may reflect, in part, the fact that very few Americans think that using contraception is morally objectionable. More than nine-in-ten adults think using birth control is either morally acceptable (36\%) or not a moral issue at all ( $57 \%$ ); just $4 \%$ say using contraception is morally wrong.

Americans are much more conflicted, however, about the morality of homosexual behavior. While most say homosexual behavior is either morally acceptable ( $17 \%$ ) or not a moral issue (45\%), about a third of U.S. adults (35\%) believe it is morally wrong. And among those who say homosexual behavior is morally wrong, a large majority (76\%) also say businesses that provide wedding services should be able to refuse to serve same-sex couples if the business owner has religious objections.

> Most Americans who think homosexuality is morally wrong say businesses should be able to refuse services to same-sex couples

Among those who say homosexual behavior is ...
$\left.\begin{array}{lcc}\text { \% who say businesses that } \\ \text { provide wedding services such as } \\ \text { catering or flowers should be ... }\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c}\text { Morally } \\ \text { wrong } \\ \text { Required to provide those }\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c}\text { Morally } \\ \text { acceptable/ } \\ \text { not a moral } \\ \text { issue } \\ \%\end{array}\right]$

Note: Figures may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 16-Sept. 12, 2016.
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## Sidebar: A note on question wording

Advocates have often framed the issues covered in this report as matters of religious liberty or traditional morality on the one hand, or as matters of discrimination or civil rights on the other. The question wording in this survey did not adopt either of these approaches. Rather, respondents were given three different scenarios, posing two possible sides of each issue. Respondents were asked how much they might sympathize with either side, providing an opportunity to express some ambivalence about these complex issues. Then, respondents were asked which of the two sides comes closest to their own view.

For example, on the issue of whether businesses that provide wedding services should be able to refuse to provide them to same-sex couples if the business owner has religious objections to homosexuality, respondents were presented with the vignette below, followed by three questions on the matter (see topline questionnaire for exact question wording, including randomizations of phrases and question order).

As you may know, same-sex marriage is now legal in all 50 states. Some argue that businesses that provide wedding-related services, such as catering or flowers, should be able to refuse to provide those services to same-sex couples if the business owner has religious objections to homosexuality. Others argue that businesses that provide wedding-related services should be required to provide those services to same-sex couples just as they would to all other customers. We're interested in your views about this situation.

Question 1: How much, if at all, do you sympathize with those who say businesses should be able to refuse to provide services to same-sex couples if the business owner has religious objections to homosexuality? A lot, some, not much or not at all?

Question 2: How much, if at all, do you sympathize with those who say businesses should be required to provide services to same-sex couples just as they would to all other customers? A lot, some, not much or not at all?

Question 3: And if you had to choose, which comes closest to your view? Businesses that provide wedding services, such as catering or flowers should be: able to refuse to provide those services to same-sex couples if the business owner has religious objections to homosexuality, OR required to provide those services to same-sex couples just as they would to all other customers?

## Religious and political differences

When it comes to views about employer-provided birth control, services for same-sex weddings and use of public restrooms by transgender people, there are large differences between some religious groups. White evangelical Protestants tend to say businesses that provide wedding services should be allowed to turn away same-sex couples and that transgender people should be required to use the public restroom of the gender they were born into. And roughly half of white evangelical Protestants say employers should be allowed to refuse to provide birth control in health insurance plans for their employees. Most religiously unaffiliated Americans (i.e., those who identify as atheists or agnostics or describe their religion as "nothing in particular") and Jews take the opposite views on these three issues. Black Protestants and Catholics tend to be closely divided on these questions - with the exception of employer-provided contraception coverage. Majorities in each group believe employers should be required to provide contraception in health care plans for their employees.

Differing opinions by religious affiliation and partisanship

|  | Employers who have a religious objection to the use of birth control should be $\qquad$ to provide it in health insurance plans for employees |  | Businesses that provide wedding services should be$\qquad$ to provide those services to same-sex couples |  | Transgender people should be ... |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Required | Able to refuse | Required | Able to refuse | $\begin{gathered} \text { which they } \\ \text { currently identify } \end{gathered}$ | restrooms of birth gender |
|  | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% |
| Total | 67 | 30 | 49 | 48 | 51 | 46 |
| Protestant | 58 | 39 | 36 | 61 | 38 | 57 |
| White evangelical | 44 | 53 | 22 | 77 | 27 | 69 |
| White mainline | 71 | 27 | 42 | 58 | 51 | 46 |
| Black Protestant | 70 | 23 | 46 | 48 | 47 | 47 |
| Catholic | 65 | 32 | 54 | 43 | 47 | 50 |
| Jewish | 78 | 22 | 64 | 35 | 73 | 24 |
| Unaffiliated | 83 | 15 | 65 | 33 | 70 | 28 |
| Republican/lean Rep. | 47 | 51 | 27 | 71 | 30 | 67 |
| Democrat/lean Dem. | 84 | 14 | 67 | 30 | 68 | 29 |

Note: Those who did not give an answer are not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 16-Sept. 12, 2016.
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There also are sharp partisan divides on these questions. While more than eight-in-ten Americans who identify with or lean toward the Democratic Party say employers should be required to provide contraception coverage in health insurance plans for employees, Republicans and those who lean toward the GOP are more evenly divided, with $51 \%$ saying employers who have religious objections to the use of birth control should be able to refuse to provide it. And while two-thirds of Democrats say businesses that provide wedding services should be required to serve same-sex couples and that transgender people should be allowed to use public restrooms that match their gender identity, majorities of Republicans take the opposite views on these issues.

## Most Americans know someone who is gay or lesbian, fewer know someone who is transgender

A large majority of Americans (87\%) say they personally know someone who is gay or lesbian. A much smaller share - only three-in-ten personally know someone who is transgender. ${ }^{2}$

Much like the general public overall, Americans who personally know someone who is gay are closely divided over whether wedding-related businesses should be required to provide services to same-sex couples. Those who do not know anyone who is gay are somewhat more likely to say businesses should be able to refuse services to same-sex couples if the business owner has religious objections.

Knowing someone who is transgender is closely linked with views on the use of public restrooms. Most people who personally know someone who is transgender say that transgender people should be allowed to use public restrooms that match their current gender identity ( $60 \%$ ). Americans who do not know any transgender people, by contrast, are more evenly divided as to whether transgender people should be allowed to use the restrooms of their gender identity ( $47 \%$ ) or required to use the restrooms of their birth gender (50\%).
Knowing someone who is transgender
associated with support for using
restroom that matches gender identity
Know someone
who is gay or
lesbian

$\%$ | Do not know |
| :---: |
| someone who is |
| gay or lesbian |
| $\%$ |


|  | Know someone <br> who is <br> transgender | Do not know <br> someone who is <br> transgender |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Transgender people <br> should be ... | $\%$ | $\%$ |
| Allowed to use public <br> restrooms of gender they <br> currently identify with | 60 | 47 |
| Required to use public <br> restrooms of gender they <br> were born into | 38 | 50 |
| No answer | $\underline{2}$ | $\underline{2}$ |
|  | 100 | 100 |

Note: Figures may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding.
Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 16-Sept. 12, 2016.
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[^2]Some of the survey's other key findings include:

- One-in-five U.S. adults say their views on homosexuality have changed over the past few years, and most say they have become more accepting. Among the most common reasons given for changing viewpoints are having a friend or family member who is gay or lesbian and coming to the belief that people are free to live their lives however they choose.
- Women are more likely than men to say employers should be required to cover birth control in the health care plans they offer employees ( $72 \%$ vs. $62 \%$ ). Women are also more likely than men to say that wedding-related businesses should be required to serve same-sex couples despite religious objections ( $54 \%$ vs. $44 \%$ ) and that transgender people should be able to use restrooms that match the gender with which they identify ( $55 \%$ vs. $45 \%$ ).
- U.S. adults under age 30 differ from older Americans in their views regarding bathroom use by transgender people: Two-thirds of those ages 18 to 29 say transgender people should be allowed to use public restrooms matching their current gender identity, while Americans over 30 are much more divided. Young adults also are more likely than their elders to say employers should be required to provide contraception coverage in health care plans and that businesses should be required to provide services to same-sex couples.


## 1. Most say birth control should be covered by employers, regardless of religious objections

While most Americans say employers should be required to provide birth control coverage in employee health insurance plans - even if business owners have religious objections - views on this matter vary considerably by religious participation and affiliation.

Americans who report attending religious services on a weekly basis are closely divided over whether employers who have religious objections to the use of birth control should be required to provide it in health insurance plans for their employees (49\%) or whether they should be able to refuse to provide it (46\%). Among those who attend religious services less often, three-quarters say employers should be required to provide contraception coverage.

There are large differences by frequency of church attendance within religious groups as well. Roughly six-in-ten white evangelical Protestants who say they attend church weekly (62\%) say employers should be able to refuse to provide birth control, while only a third say employers should be required to provide it. But among white evangelicals who report attending religious services less often, opinion on this question is more closely divided. There are also

Regular church attenders closely divided over whether employers should be required to provide birth control coverage in health insurance plans

If you had to choose, which comes closest to your view? Employers who have religious objections to the use of birth control should be ...


| Attend less often | $\mathbf{7 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 4}$ |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| White evangelical | 57 | 42 |  |
| White mainline | 75 | 24 | 2 |
| Black Protestant | 76 | 20 | 4 |
| Catholic | 72 | 27 |  |
| Unaffiliated | 83 | 16 |  |

Note: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic. The survey included too few interviews with Jewish respondents to be able to subdivide them by frequency of religious service attendance. Figures may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 16-Sept. 12, 2016.
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differences among Catholics: While Catholics who attend Mass weekly are split in their views on this question, most Catholics who attend Mass less often (72\%) think contraception coverage should be required.

Across a variety of demographic categories, majorities of Americans say employers should be required to provide birth control in employee health insurance plans, even if the employer has religious objections to the use of birth control. An even larger majority of women (72\%) than men (62\%) hold this view. And U.S. adults under age 30 are more likely than older Americans to say employers should be required to cover contraception, though majorities in all age groups agree.

When asked how much, if at all, they may sympathize with either viewpoint, more Americans express sympathy for one side or the other than say that they can see both sides of the matter.
Black Protestants are the only major religious group with as many people who say they sympathize with both sides (38\%) as say they sympathize

Most Americans say employers should be required to provide birth control in health insurance plans

If you had to choose, which comes closest to your view? Employers who have religious objections to the use of birth control should be ...

| Total | ... required to provide birth control coverage | ... able to refuse to provide birth control coverage |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 67\% | 30\% | 3\% |
| Men | 62 | 36 |  |
| Women | 72 | 25 | 4 |
| White | 67 | 32 |  |
| Black | 72 | 22 | 6 |
| Hispanic | 68 | 27 | 5 |
| Ages 18-29 | 75 | 23 | 2 |
| 30-49 | 69 | 30 | 2 |
| 50-64 | 65 | 32 | 3 |
| 65+ | 59 | 36 | 4 |

Note: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 16-Sept. 12, 2016.
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either only with those who think birth control coverage should be required ( $28 \%$ ) or with those who say employers should be able to refuse contraception coverage (8\%).

Among Americans who favor requiring employers to provide birth control, only one-in-five say they can also sympathize with the opinion that employers with religious objections should be able
to refuse to provide it. And among those who think employers should be able to refuse contraception coverage, roughly a quarter ( $27 \%$ ) say they can also sympathize with the opposite perspective.

## Plurality of Americans sympathize only with those who say employers should be

 required to provide birth control in health insurance plans|  | Sympathize only with view that employers should be required to provide birth control in health insurance plans | Sympathize a lot/some with BOTH sides | Sympathize only with view that employers should be able to refuse to provide birth control in health insurance plans for religious reasons | Sympathize with neither view |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \% | \% | \% | \% |
| Total | 40 | 22 | 17 | $21=100$ |
| Protestant | 31 | 29 | 22 | 18 |
| White evangelical | 25 | 27 | 32 | 16 |
| White mainline | 47 | 21 | 16 | 16 |
| Black Protestant | 28 | 38 | 8 | 26 |
| Catholic | 33 | 25 | 16 | 26 |
| Jewish | 66 | 5 | 14 | 14 |
| Unaffiliated | 59 | 13 | 8 | 20 |
| Attend religious services weekly or more | 26 | 29 | 28 | 18 |
| Attend less often | 46 | 20 | 12 | 22 |
| Men | 35 | 22 | 21 | 22 |
| Women | 45 | 23 | 13 | 19 |
| White | 44 | 19 | 19 | 17 |
| Black | 32 | 32 | 10 | 27 |
| Hispanic | 36 | 25 | 12 | 27 |
| Ages 18-29 | 49 | 20 | 11 | 21 |
| 30-49 | 44 | 19 | 16 | 21 |
| 50-64 | 32 | 27 | 20 | 21 |
| 65+ | 37 | 25 | 20 | 18 |
| Republican/lean Rep. | 26 | 25 | 31 | 17 |
| Democrat/lean Dem. | 54 | 19 | 6 | 21 |
| Among those who say employers should be ... |  |  |  |  |
| Required to provide birth control | 57 | 20 | 3 | 20 |
| Able to refuse to provide birth control | 5 | 27 | 49 | 18 |
| Note: Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 16-Sept. 12, 2016. <br> "Where the Public Stands on Religious Liberty vs. Nondiscrimination" |  |  |  |  |

## 2. Americans divided over whether wedding-related businesses should be required to serve same-sex couples

As a whole, Americans are closely divided over whether businesses that provide wedding services, such as catering or flowers, should be required to provide those services to same-sex couples as they would to any other customer (49\%), or whether they should be able to refuse those services to same-sex couples if the business owner has religious objections to homosexuality (48\%). But there is more of a consensus on this issue among Americans who report attending religious services on a weekly basis. Nearly two-thirds of frequent attenders (63\%) favor allowing weddingrelated businesses to turn away same-sex couples for religious reasons, including $88 \%$ of churchgoing white evangelicals and $62 \%$ of churchgoing white mainline Protestants.

By comparison, those who attend religious services less often lean in the other direction, with $56 \%$ saying businesses should be required to serve same-sex couples, even if the business Catholics (59\%) who attend religious services infrequently hold this view. Most white evangelicals
and white mainline Protestants who attend religious services less than weekly oppose requiring wedding-related businesses to serve same-sex customers.

The survey also finds that more women than men favor requiring wedding-related businesses to provide service to same-sex couples. This view is also more common among young adults than among older people. Six-inten adults under age 30 say businesses should be required to serve same-sex couples, while adults over 30 are more closely divided.

## Women, young adults among most supportive of requiring wedding-related businesses to serve same-sex couples

If you had to choose, which comes closest to your view? Business owners with religious objections to homosexuality should be $\qquad$ to same-sex couples

|  | Required to provide services | Able to refuse services |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 49\% | 48\% | 3\% |
| Men | 44 | 54 | 2 |
| Women | 54 | 42 | 3 |
| White | 45 | 53 |  |
| Black | 53 | 43 | 5 |
| Hispanic | 59 | 36 | 5 |
| Ages 18-29 | 59 | 39 | 2 |
| 30-49 | 50 | 49 |  |
| 50-64 | 46 | 50 | 4 |
| 65+ | 42 | 54 | 5 |

Note: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 16-Sept. 12, 2016.
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Few people express sympathy for both points of view in the debate over religious freedom vs. nondiscrimination when it comes to businesses providing services for same-sex weddings. Indeed, two-thirds of adults say they sympathize "a lot" or "some" with only one side or the other ( $36 \%$ with the view that businesses should be required to serve same-sex couples, $31 \%$ with the view that they should be able to refuse service for religious reasons), while just $18 \%$ express sympathy for both points of view. This pattern - few people expressing sympathy for both of these opposing perspectives - is evident across every major religious and demographic group analyzed in the survey.

## On question of whether wedding-related businesses must serve same-sex couples, relatively few sympathize with both sides

|  | Sympathize only with view that businesses should be required to serve same-sex couples | Sympathize a lot/some with BOTH sides | Sympathize only with view that businesses should be able to refuse service to same-sex couples for religious reasons | Sympathize with neither view |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \% | \% | \% | \% |
| Total | 36 | 18 | 31 | $15=100$ |
| Protestant | 23 | 18 | 42 | 16 |
| White evangelical | 15 | 14 | 59 | 12 |
| White mainline | 35 | 17 | 36 | 13 |
| Black Protestant | 27 | 19 | 27 | 26 |
| Catholic | 34 | 26 | 22 | 18 |
| Jewish | 55 | 15 | 22 | 8 |
| Unaffiliated | 54 | 14 | 19 | 13 |
| Attend religious services weekly or more | 21 | 19 | 44 | 15 |
| Attend less often | 42 | 18 | 25 | 15 |
| Men | 33 | 17 | 35 | 15 |
| Women | 38 | 20 | 27 | 16 |
| White | 37 | 16 | 35 | 12 |
| Black | 32 | 20 | 23 | 25 |
| Hispanic | 35 | 23 | 19 | 23 |
| Ages 18-29 | 45 | 17 | 22 | 17 |
| 30-49 | 39 | 17 | 31 | 14 |
| 50-64 | 28 | 21 | 34 | 17 |
| 65+ | 32 | 19 | 36 | 13 |
| Republican/lean Rep. | 17 | 19 | 52 | 13 |
| Democrat/lean Dem. | 52 | 17 | 15 | 16 |
| Among those who say wedding related businesses should be ... |  |  |  |  |
| Required to serve same-sex couples | 65 | 16 | 2 | 17 |
| Able to refuse service for religious reasons | 8 | 21 | 61 | 11 |

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## 3. Public split over bathroom use by transgender people

Americans overall are closely divided on the question of which public restrooms transgender individuals should be using. But similar to the other issues addressed in the survey, those who attend religious services on a regular basis lean somewhat more strongly toward the conservative position - in this case, that transgender people should be required to use public restrooms for the gender they were born into. Six-in-ten of those who attend religious services weekly take this stance, while a similar share of those who attend church less frequently say transgender people should be allowed to use the restrooms matching the gender with which they identify. ${ }^{3}$

Three-quarters of churchgoing white evangelicals (76\%) say transgender people should be required to use the restroom of the gender they were born into, along with $60 \%$ of Massattending Catholics and $55 \%$ of black Protestants who attend church regularly. Roughly half of

## Six-in-ten regular churchgoers say transgender people should be required to use public restrooms of gender they were born into

If you had to choose, which comes closest to your view? Transgender people should be ...

|  | ... allowed to use the public restrooms of gender with which they currently identify |  | to oom to | No answer |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Attend rellgious services weekly or more | 34\% |  | 60\% | 6\% |
| White evangelical | 17 |  | 76 | 7 |
| White mainline | 53 |  | 39 | 8 |
| Black Protestant | 36 |  | 55 | 9 |
| Catholic | 38 |  | 60 | 2 |
| Attend less often | 57 |  | 40 | 2 |
| White evangelical | 38 |  | 60 | 2 |
| White mainline | 50 |  | 48 | 2 |
| Black Protestant | 57 |  | 39 | 5 |
| Catholic | 51 |  | 45 | 4 |
| Unaffiliated | 70 |  | 28 |  |

Note: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic. Figures may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding. The survey included too few interviews with Jewish respondents to be able to subdivide them by frequency of religious service attendance.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 16-Sept. 12, 2016.
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[^4]churchgoing white mainline Protestants (53\%) take the more liberal position.

Compared with those who attend religious services at least once a week, those who go less often especially religious "nones" - are more inclined to say transgender people should be allowed to use the restroom that matches their gender identity. However, six-in-ten white evangelicals who do not attend church regularly still take the opposite view, saying that transgender people should have to use the restroom matching the gender they were assigned at birth.

The survey finds strong indications that the youngest generation of U.S. adults has a different perspective on bathroom use by transgender people. Two-thirds of adults under 30 say transgender people should be free to use restrooms that match their gender identity. Adults in their 30s and 40s are evenly split on this question, while the prevailing opinion among adults over 50 is that transgender adults should use restrooms corresponding to their birth gender.

The survey also shows that women are somewhat more likely than men to say transgender people should be allowed to use the restroom that matches their gender identity.

## Most young adults favor allowing transgender people to use restrooms of their current gender identity

If you had to choose, which comes closest to your view? Transgender people should be ...


Note: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 16-Sept. 12, 2016.
"Where the Public Stands on Religious Liberty vs. Nondiscrimination"
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Relatively few Americans say they sympathize with both points of view on the question of public bathroom use by transgender people. Instead, most people express sympathy with only one side of this issue, including $32 \%$ who say they sympathize "a lot" or "some" only with those who argue that transgender people should have to use the bathroom corresponding to their birth gender, and $30 \%$ who sympathize only with the opposite viewpoint (that transgender people should be allowed to use restrooms corresponding to their gender identity). About one-in-five adults (18\%) say they sympathize at least "some" with both perspectives, while another $19 \%$ express sympathy with neither side in the debate.

This pattern is seen among all religious, political and demographic groups analyzed in the survey. Some groups tend to favor one side (e.g., evangelicals tend to sympathize only with the view that transgender people should use the bathrooms matching their birth gender) or the other (e.g., about half of Jews and religious "nones" sympathize only with the view that transgender people should be able to use the restrooms that match their gender identity). But relatively few people in any group express sympathy with both sides in the debate.

And neither side has much claim to tolerance of the opposing point of view. Just $23 \%$ of those who generally think transgender people should be able to use the restrooms of their current gender identity also sympathize with the view of those who express the opposite opinion, and just $13 \%$ of those who would require transgender people to use the bathrooms of their birth gender sympathize with both sides.

## Relatively few sympathize with both sides in debate over use of bathrooms by transgender people

|  | Sympathize only with view that transgender people should be allowed to use restrooms of gender with which they currently identify | Sympathize a lot/some with BOTH sides | Sympathize only with view that transgender people should be required to use restrooms of birth gender | Sympathize with neither view |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \% | \% | \% | \% |
| Total | 30 | 18 | 32 | $19=100$ |
| Protestant | 19 | 18 | 41 | 22 |
| White evangelical | 14 | 12 | 52 | 22 |
| White mainline | 28 | 19 | 36 | 17 |
| Black Protestant | 21 | 20 | 31 | 28 |
| Catholic | 22 | 23 | 33 | 22 |
| Jewish | 51 | 10 | 30 | 9 |
| Unaffiliated | 52 | 15 | 18 | 15 |
| Attend religious services weekly or more | 14 | 20 | 44 | 22 |
| Attend less often | 37 | 17 | 28 | 18 |
| Men | 26 | 17 | 36 | 20 |
| Women | 34 | 19 | 28 | 18 |
| White | 33 | 15 | 34 | 18 |
| Black | 23 | 25 | 26 | 25 |
| Hispanic | 26 | 26 | 32 | 16 |
| Ages 18-29 | 41 | 19 | 21 | 19 |
| 30-49 | 30 | 18 | 35 | 17 |
| 50-64 | 25 | 19 | 35 | 22 |
| 65+ | 25 | 17 | 37 | 20 |
| Republican/lean Rep. | 12 | 16 | 49 | 23 |
| Democrat/lean Dem. | 46 | 20 | 19 | 16 |
| Among those who say transgender people should be ... |  |  |  |  |
| Allowed to use public restrooms of gender identity | 58 | 23 | 4 | 16 |
| Required to use public restrooms of birth gender | 2 | 13 | 65 | 21 |

[^5]PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Sidebar: Defining 'transgender’

In this study, Pew Research Center for the first time asked Americans about their views on whether transgender people should be allowed to use the public restrooms of the gender with which they currently identify, or required to use the public restrooms corresponding to the gender they were born into. To be sure respondents knew what was meant by the term "transgender," the text of the question included an example defining the term. (The survey was administered to a nationally representative sample online and by mail.) Half of respondents were randomly assigned questions mentioning "transgender individuals - such as people who now identify and live as females but were born male." The other half received the opposite example; they were asked about "transgender individuals - such as people who now identify and live as males but were born female."

Did the example respondents received affect their responses? Not really. Those asked about the male-tofemale example were about as likely as those who received the female-to-male example to say they sympathize at least "some" with the view that transgender people should be allowed to use public restrooms corresponding to their gender identity (49\% and $48 \%$, respectively). And roughly half of respondents in each scenario say that if forced to choose, they would allow transgender people to use public restrooms of the gender with which they currently identify (51\% in the male-to-female scenario, $50 \%$ in the female-to-male scenario).

This suggests that people's attitudes about transgender rights have little to do with whether a transgender person identifies and lives as female but was born male, or vice versa. Instead, Americans' opinions are tied to other factors highlighted in the report, such as religious affiliation, frequency of religious service attendance and other demographic factors.

## How defining 'transgender’ can affect responses

Among those given the ...

| How much, if at all, do you sympathize with those who say transgender people should be ... | Male to female example | Female to male example |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Allowed to use the public restrooms of the gender with which they currently identify? | \% | \% |
| NET a lot/some | 49 | 48 |
| A lot | 26 | 24 |
| Some | 23 | 23 |
| NET not much/not at all | 49 | 51 |
| Not much | 18 | 18 |
| Not at all | 31 | 33 |
| No answer | $\underline{2}$ | 1 |
|  | 100 | 100 |
| Required to use the public restrooms of the gender they were born into? |  |  |
| NET a lot/some | 49 | 52 |
| A lot | 28 | 32 |
| Some | 21 | 20 |
| NET not much/not at all | 49 | 46 |
| Not much | 19 | 18 |
| Not at all | 30 | 28 |
| No answer | $\underline{2}$ | $\underline{2}$ |
|  | 100 | 100 |
| And if you had to choose, which comes closest to your view? Transgender people should be ... |  |  |
| Allowed to use public restrooms of gender with which they currently identify | 51 | 50 |
| Required to use public restrooms of gender they were born into | 45 | 47 |
| No answer | 4 | $\underline{3}$ |
|  | 100 | 100 |
| N | 2,354 | 2,184 |

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 16-Sept. 12, 2016.
"Where the Public Stands on Religious Liberty vs.
Nondiscrimination"
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## 4. Very few Americans see contraception as morally wrong

While a plurality of Americans say they think having an abortion is morally wrong and a substantial minority say the same about homosexual behavior, very few people - just $4 \%$ of all U.S. adults - think contraception is immoral.

Even when it comes to Catholics who attend Mass weekly, just $13 \%$ say contraception is morally wrong, while $45 \%$ say it is morally acceptable and $42 \%$ say it is not a moral issue. (The Roman Catholic Church teaches that use of artificial contraception is sinful.)

When it comes to abortion and homosexuality, certain religious groups and those who attend religious services frequently are especially likely to see these things as morally wrong. For example, large majorities of churchgoing white evangelical Protestants (89\%) and Catholics who attend Mass weekly ( $83 \%$ ) say abortion is immoral. A similar share of churchgoing evangelicals (86\%) see homosexual behavior as morally wrong, although fewer Mass-attending Catholics (50\%) take this position.

Overall, however, while many Americans express moral reservations about abortion, about half express the view that abortion is either morally acceptable (19\%) or not a moral issue (34\%). The view that abortion is morally acceptable is especially common among religious "nones."

About six-in-ten U.S. adults say homosexual behavior is either morally acceptable (17\%) or not a moral issue (45\%); most religious "nones" (62\%) say it is not a moral issue.

## Three-quarters of evangelical Protestants say having an abortion is morally wrong

\% of U.S. adults who say each issue is morally wrong, morally acceptable or not a moral issue

|  | Using contraceptives |  |  | Having an abortion |  |  | Homosexual behavior |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Morally wrong | Morally acceptable | Not a moral issue | Morally wrong | Morally acceptable | Not a moral issue | Morally wrong | Morally acceptable | Not a moral issue |
|  | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% |
| Total | 4 | 36 | 57 | 44 | 19 | 34 | 35 | 17 | 45 |
| Protestant | 4 | 37 | 56 | 54 | 14 | 28 | 51 | 12 | 33 |
| White evangelical | 3 | 40 | 55 | 76 | 7 | 13 | 72 | 4 | 22 |
| White mainline | 1 | 39 | 59 | 33 | 20 | 45 | 27 | 22 | 51 |
| Black Protestant | 6 | 27 | 66 | 46 | 14 | 40 | 49 | 7 | 42 |
| Catholic | 8 | 41 | 48 | 51 | 16 | 31 | 32 | 16 | 48 |
| Unaffiliated | 2 | 34 | 65 | 23 | 30 | 45 | 10 | 26 | 62 |
| Attend religious services ... |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Weekly or more | 9 | 38 | 50 | 71 | 8 | 17 | 63 | 8 | 25 |
| White evangelical | 5 | 42 | 51 | 89 | 2 | 7 | 86 | 3 | 10 |
| White mainline | 1 | 28 | 71 | 41 | 11 | 46 | 41 | 7 | 50 |
| Catholic | 13 | 45 | 42 | 83 | 4 | 12 | 50 | 5 | 44 |
| Less often | 3 | 36 | 60 | 33 | 23 | 41 | 24 | 20 | 53 |
| White evangelical | 1 | 40 | 59 | 60 | 14 | 22 | 54 | 6 | 38 |
| White mainline | 1 | 41 | 57 | 31 | 22 | 45 | 24 | 26 | 51 |
| Catholic | 6 | 39 | 51 | 38 | 21 | 39 | 24 | 21 | 50 |
| Unaffiliated | 2 | 34 | 65 | 23 | 30 | 44 | 10 | 26 | 62 |
| Men | 6 | 36 | 58 | 45 | 20 | 33 | 38 | 17 | 44 |
| Women | 3 | 36 | 57 | 43 | 18 | 35 | 31 | 17 | 46 |
| White | 2 | 39 | 58 | 45 | 21 | 33 | 34 | 19 | 46 |
| Black | 5 | 27 | 66 | 41 | 13 | 45 | 43 | 8 | 48 |
| Hispanic | 10 | 37 | 47 | 43 | 19 | 33 | 32 | 18 | 44 |
| Ages 18-29 | 6 | 35 | 59 | 37 | 27 | 36 | 27 | 25 | 48 |
| 30-49 | 3 | 37 | 58 | 46 | 17 | 35 | 32 | 17 | 50 |
| 50-64 | 5 | 34 | 57 | 46 | 15 | 33 | 39 | 13 | 42 |
| 65+ | 3 | 38 | 55 | 45 | 20 | 31 | 43 | 13 | 39 |
| Republican/lean Rep. | 4 | 38 | 58 | 62 | 11 | 25 | 52 | 11 | 36 |
| Democrat/lean Dem. | 5 | 36 | 57 | 29 | 27 | 41 | 22 | 23 | 52 |

[^6]PEW RESEARCH CENTER

People who know someone who is gay are much more inclined than those who do not to say that homosexual behavior is morally acceptable ( $19 \%$ vs. $3 \%$ ). However, even among those who do not know anyone who is gay, those who say homosexual behavior is morally wrong (46\%) are outnumbered by those who either say it is morally acceptable (3\%) or not a moral issue (50\%).

## Nearly half of those who don't know someone who is gay say homosexual behavior is morally wrong

Among those who ...

| Know someone |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| who is gay or |  |
| lesbian (87\% of | Do not know <br> someone who is <br> gay or lesbian |
| U.S. adults) | (11\% of U.S. adults) |


| \% who say <br> homosexual <br> behavior is ... | $\%$ | $\%$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Morally wrong | 33 | 46 |
| Morally acceptable | 19 | 3 |
| Not a moral issue | 45 | 50 |
| No answer | $\underline{3}$ | $\underline{1}$ |
|  | 100 | 100 |

Note: Figures may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 16-Sept. 12, 2016.
"Where the Public Stands on Religious Liberty vs.
Nondiscrimination"
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## 5. Vast majority of Americans know someone who is gay, fewer know someone who is transgender

Nearly nine-in-ten U.S. adults (87\%) say they know someone who is gay or lesbian. Far fewer (30\%) say they know someone who is transgender.

Across most religious and demographic groups, knowing someone who is gay is quite common, with vast majorities of all groups saying they know someone who is gay.

There is somewhat more variation when it comes to knowing someone who is transgender. Nearly four-in-ten religious "nones" (38\%) say they know someone who is transgender, while only about a quarter of Catholics (27\%) and white mainline Protestants (27\%) and one-infive white evangelical Protestants say the same.

Americans ages 65 and older are much less likely than younger adults to say they know someone who is transgender. Only $16 \%$ of those in the 65 -and-older cohort know a transgender person, compared with at least twice as many of those in each younger age group.

## Fewer older adults know someone who is transgender

\% of U.S. adults who ...

|  | Know someone who is gay or lesbian | Know someone who is transgender |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \% | \% |
| Total | 87 | 30 |
| Protestant | 86 | 26 |
| White evangelical | 85 | 20 |
| White mainline | 89 | 27 |
| Black Protestant | 78 | 28 |
| Catholic | 83 | 27 |
| Jewish | 95 | 36 |
| Unaffiliated | 93 | 38 |
| Attend religious services ... |  |  |
| Weekly or more | 84 | 26 |
| Less often | 88 | 32 |
| Men | 85 | 27 |
| Women | 89 | 33 |
| White | 89 | 28 |
| Black | 80 | 31 |
| Hispanic | 84 | 34 |
| Ages 18-29 | 87 | 37 |
| 30-49 | 92 | 32 |
| 50-64 | 86 | 32 |
| 65+ | 80 | 16 |

[^7]About one-in-five Americans (18\%) say their views on homosexuality have changed over the past few years, with most of these ( $15 \%$ of all adults) saying their views have become more accepting. Roughly eight-in-ten U.S. adults (79\%) say their views toward homosexuality have not changed recently.

Those who have become more accepting of homosexuality in recent years give a variety of reasons for their change of heart. Some of the most common responses include those who say they now believe people should be free to live their lives in whichever way they choose (2\%). In the words of one respondent: "Each person should be allowed to live their own life without me or any other person interfering."

Another common response is having a friend or family member who is gay (2\%). Others say that they have generally become more accepting and open-minded toward people who are gay (2\%). And some say that they have become more accepting of homosexuality as societal views toward homosexuality have changed (1\%).

## One-in-five say their views on homosexuality have changed in recent years

\% of U.S. adults who say their views on homosexuality have ...

|  | $\%$ |
| :--- | :---: |
| Changed | $\mathbf{1 8}$ |
| More accepting | 15 |
| Less accepting | 3 |
| No answer | $<1$ |
| Stayed the same | $\mathbf{7 9}$ |
| No answer | $\underline{\mathbf{3}}$ |
|  | $\mathbf{1 0 0}$ |

Note: Figures may not add to $100 \%$ or to subtotals due to rounding.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 16-Sept. 12, 2016.
"Where the Public Stands on Religious
Liberty vs. Nondiscrimination"
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Among those who say they have become less accepting of homosexuality in recent years, the most common type of answer involves religious beliefs. For example, one respondent stated: "I believe God created man and woman, and homosexuality is a learned behavior."

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## Methodology

The American Trends Panel (ATP), created by the Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults living in households. Respondents who selfidentify as internet users and who provided an email address participate in the panel via monthly self-administered web surveys, and those who do not use the internet or decline to provide an email address participate via the mail. The panel is being managed by Abt SRBI.

Data in this report are drawn from the August wave of the panel, conducted Aug. 16 to Sept. 12, 2016, among 4,538 respondents ( 4,195 by web and 343 by mail). The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 4,538 respondents is plus or minus 2.4 percentage points.

Members of the American Trends Panel were recruited from two large, national landline and cellphone random-digit dial (RDD) surveys conducted in English and Spanish. At the end of each survey, respondents were invited to join the panel. The first group of panelists was recruited from the 2014 Political Polarization and Typology Survey, conducted Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014. Of the 10,013 adults interviewed, 9,809 were invited to take part in the panel and a total of 5,338 agreed to participate. ${ }^{4}$ The second group of panelists was recruited from the 2015 Survey on Government, conducted Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015. Of the 6,004 adults interviewed, all were invited to join the panel, and 2,976 agreed to participate. ${ }^{5}$

Participating panelists provided either a mailing address or an email address to which a welcome packet, a monetary incentive and future survey invitations could be sent. Panelists also receive a small monetary incentive after participating in each wave of the survey.

The ATP data were weighted in a multistep process that begins with a base weight incorporating the respondents' original survey selection probability and the fact that in 2014 some panelists were subsampled for invitation to the panel. Next, an adjustment was made for the fact that the propensity to join the panel and remain an active panelist varied across different groups in the sample. The final step in the weighting uses an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and region to parameters from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2014 American Community Survey. Population density is weighted to match the 2010 U.S. Decennial Census. Telephone service is weighted to estimates of telephone coverage for 2016 that were

[^8]projected from the July-December 2015 National Health Interview Survey. Volunteerism is weighted to match the 2013 Current Population Survey Volunteer Supplement. It also adjusts for party affiliation using an average of the three most recent Pew Research Center general public telephone surveys. Internet access is adjusted using a measure from the 2015 Survey on Government. Frequency of internet use is weighted to an estimate of daily internet use projected to 2016 from the 2013 Current Population Survey Computer and Internet Use Supplement. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish, but the Hispanic sample in the American Trends Panel is predominantly native born and English speaking.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the $95 \%$ level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Survey conducted Aug. 16-Sept. 12, 2016

| Group | Unweighted sample size | Plus or minus ... |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total sample | 4,538 | 2.4 percentage points |
| Protestant | 2,087 | 3.5 percentage points |
| White evangelical | 872 | 5.4 percentage points |
| White mainline | 712 | 6.0 percentage points |
| Black Protestant | 278 | 9.6 percentage points |
| Catholic | 817 | 5.6 percentage points |
| Jewish | 148 | 13.2 percentage points |
| Unaffiliated | 1,128 | 4.8 percentage points |
| Attend religious services weekly or more | 1,512 | 4.1 percentage points |
| White evangelical | 572 | 6.7 percentage points |
| White mainline | 188 | 11.7 percentage points |
| Black Protestant | 163 | 12.6 percentage points |
| Catholic | 308 | 9.2 percentage points |
| Attend religious services less often | 3,025 | 2.9 percentage points |
| White evangelical | 299 | 9.3 percentage points |
| White mainline | 524 | 7.0 percentage points |
| Black Protestant | 115 | 15.0 percentage points |
| Catholic | 509 | 7.1 percentage points |
| Unaffiliated | 1,109 | 4.8 percentage points |
| Republican/lean Rep. | 2,027 | 3.6 percentage points |
| Democrat/lean Dem. | 2,373 | 3.3 percentage points |
| Men | 2,218 | 3.4 percentage points |
| Women | 2,320 | 3.3 percentage points |
| White, non-Hispanic | 3,485 | 2.7 percentage points |
| Black, non-Hispanic | 383 | 8.2 percentage points |
| Hispanic | 350 | 8.6 percentage points |
| Ages 18-29 | 532 | 7.0 percentage points |
| 30-49 | 1,254 | 4.5 percentage points |
| 50-64 | 1,436 | 4.2 percentage points |
| 65+ | 1,312 | 4.4 percentage points |

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

The web component of the August wave had a response rate of $81 \%$ ( 4,195 responses among 5,150 web-based individuals in the panel); the mail component had a response rate of $76 \%$ ( 343 responses among 454 non-web individuals in the panel). Taking account of the combined, weighted response rate for the recruitment surveys (10.0\%) and attrition from panel members who were removed at their request or for inactivity, the cumulative response rate for the August ATP wave is $2.9 \%{ }^{6}$
(C) Pew Research Center, 2016

[^9]
# 2016 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL WAVE 20 August FINAL TOPLINE <br> August 16 - September 12, 2016 TOTAL N=4,538 <br> WEB RESPONDENTS $\mathbf{N}=4,195$ <br> MAIL RESPONDENTS $\mathbf{N}=343^{7}$ 

## OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

Next, we'd like to get your opinions about some stories that have been in the news in recent years.

## [RANDOMIZE VIGNETTE 1, 2, 3A/3B ORDER]

## ASK ALL:

## VIGNETTE 1: SERVICES FOR SAME-SEX WEDDINGS

As you may know, same-sex marriage is now legal in all 50 states. Some argue that businesses that provide wedding-related services, such as catering or flowers, [RANDOMIZE STATEMENTS;
STATEMENT 1: should be able to refuse to provide those services to same-sex couples if the business owner has religious objections to homosexuality / STATEMENT 2: should be required to provide those services to same-sex couples just as they would to all other customers]. Others argue that businesses that provide wedding-related services [OPPOSITE STATEMENT (STATEMENT 2 / STATEMENT 1)]. We're interested in your views about this situation.

RANDOMIZE SSMSERV1/SSMSERV2 IN SAME ORDER AS STATEMENTS 1/2 ABOVE

## ASK ALL:

SSMSERV1 How much, if at all, do you sympathize with those who say businesses should be able to refuse to provide services to same-sex couples if the business owner has religious objections to homosexuality?

Aug 16-
Sept 12
$\underline{2016}$
29 A lot
20 Some
16 Not much
33 Not at all
2 No answer

[^10]
## RANDOMIZE SSMSERV1/SSMSERV2 IN SAME ORDER AS STATEMENTS 1/2 ABOVE

## ASK ALL:

SSMSERV2 How much, if at all, do you sympathize with those who say businesses should be required to provide services to same-sex couples just as they would to all other customers?

Aug 16-
Sept 12
$\underline{2016}$
32 A lot

22 Some
18 Not much
27 Not at all
1 No answer

## ASK ALL:

SSMSERV3 And if you had to choose, which comes closest to your view? Businesses that provide wedding services, such as catering or flowers should be... [DISPLAY ORDER OF RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 IN SAME ORDER AS SSMSERV1/SSMSERV2]

Aug 16-
Sept 12
$\underline{2016}$
ABLE TO REFUSE to provide those services to same-sex couples if the business owner has religious objections to homosexuality
49
3 REQUIRED TO PROVIDE those services to same-sex couples just as they would to all other customers
No answer

## [RANDOMIZE VIGNETTE 1, 2, 3A/3B ORDER]

## ASK ALL:

VIGNETTE 2: BIRTH CONTROL COVERAGE IN EMPLOYER-PROVIDED HEALTH INSURANCE
As you may know, the Affordable Care Act requires that many employer-provided health insurance plans cover the cost of a wide variety of birth control options. Some argue that employers who have a religious objection to the use of birth control should be [RANDOMIZE STATEMENTS; STATEMENT 1: able to refuse to provide it in health insurance plans for their employees / STATEMENT 2: required to provide it in health insurance plans for their employees, just as other employers are required to do]. Others argue that employers who have a religious objection to the use of birth control should be [OPPOSITE STATEMENT (STATEMENT 2 / STATEMENT 1)]. We're interested in your views about this situation.

## RANDOMIZE BIRTHCON1/BIRTHCON2 IN SAME ORDER AS STATEMENTS 1/2 ABOVE

## ASK ALL:

BIRTHCON1 How much, if at all, do you sympathize with those who say employers who have a religious objection to the use of birth control should be able to refuse to provide it in health insurance plans for their employees?

Aug 16-
Sept 12
$\underline{2016}$
20 A lot 19 Some 18 Not much 41 Not at all 2 No answer

RANDOMIZE BIRTHCON1/BIRTHCON2 IN SAME ORDER AS STATEMENTS 1/2 ABOVE

## ASK ALL:

BIRTHCON2 How much, if at all, do you sympathize with those who say that employers who have a religious objection to the use of birth control should be required to provide it in health insurance plans for their employees, just as other employers are required to do?

Aug 16-
Sept 12
$\underline{2016}$
40 A lot
23 Some
15 Not much
20 Not at all
2 No answer

## ASK ALL:

BIRTHCON3 And if you had to choose, which comes closest to your view? Employers who have a religious objection to the use of birth control should be... [DISPLAY ORDER OF RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 IN SAME ORDER AS BIRTHCON1/BIRTHCON2]

Aug 16-
Sept 12
$\underline{2016}$
30
ABLE TO REFUSE to provide it in health insurance plans for their employees
67

3 REQUIRED TO PROVIDE it in health insurance plans for their employees, just as other employers are required to do No answer

## [RANDOMIZE VIGNETTE 1, 2, 3A/3B ORDER]

DISPLAY VIGNETTE 3A TO RANDOM HALF OF SAMPLE, VIGNETTE 3B TO OTHER HALF OF SAMPLE:

## VIGNETTE 3A: TRANSGENDER RESTROOM USE (MALE-TO-FEMALE EXAMPLE)

As you may know, recent stories in the news have highlighted a debate over the use of public restrooms by transgender individuals - such as people who now identify and live as females but were born male. Some argue that transgender people should be [RANDOMIZE STATEMENTS; STATEMENT 1: allowed to use the public restrooms of the gender with which they currently identify / STATEMENT 2: required to use the public restrooms of the gender they were born into]. Others argue that transgender people should be [OPPOSITE STATEMENT (STATEMENT 2 / STATEMENT 1)]. We're interested in your views about this situation.

VIGNETTE 3B: TRANSGENDER RESTROOM USE (FEMALE-TO-MALE EXAMPLE)
As you may know, recent stories in the news have highlighted a debate over the use of public restrooms by transgender individuals - such as people who now identify and live as males but were born female. Some argue that transgender people should be [RANDOMIZE STATEMENTS; STATEMENT 1: allowed to use the public restrooms of the gender with which they currently identify / STATEMENT 2: required to use the public restrooms of the gender they were born into]. Others argue that transgender people should be [OPPOSITE STATEMENT (STATEMENT 2 / STATEMENT 1)]. We're interested in your views about this situation. ${ }^{8}$

## RANDOMIZE TRANSREST1/ TRANSREST2 IN SAME ORDER AS STATEMENTS 1/2 ABOVE ASK ALL:

TRANSREST1 How much, if at all, do you sympathize with those who say transgender people should be allowed to use the public restrooms of the gender with which they currently identify?

Aug 16-
Sept 12
$\underline{2016}$
25 A lot

23 Some
18 Not much
32 Not at all
2 No answer

[^11]
## RANDOMIZE TRANSREST1/ TRANSREST2 IN SAME ORDER AS STATEMENTS 1/2 ABOVE <br> ASK ALL:

TRANSREST2 How much, if at all, do you sympathize with those who say transgender people should be required to use the public restrooms of the gender they were born into?

Aug 16-
Sept 12
$\underline{2016}$
30 A lot
20 Some
19 Not much
29 Not at all
2 No answer

## ASK ALL:

TRANSREST3 And if you had to choose, which comes closest to your view? Transgender people should be... [DISPLAY ORDER OF RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 IN SAME ORDER AS TRANSREST1/ TRANSREST2]

Aug 16-
Sept 12
$\underline{2016}$
51 Allowed to use the public restrooms of the gender with which they currently identify
46 Required to use the public restrooms of the gender they were born into 3 No answer

## ASK ALL:

KNOWGL Do you personally know anyone who is gay or lesbian, or not?
Aug 16-
Sept 12
$\underline{2016}$
87 Yes, I know someone who is gay or lesbian
11 No, I do not
1 No answer

ASK ALL:
KNOWTRANS Do you personally know anyone who is transgender, or not?
Aug 16-
Sept 12
$\underline{2016}$
30 Yes, I know someone who is transgender
68 No, I do not
2 No answer

ASK ALL IN FORM 2 [ $\mathbf{N}=\mathbf{2 , 2 8 3}$ ]:
On a different subject...
MORALISSUE Do you personally believe that each of the following is [RANDOMIZE: morally acceptable, morally wrong,] or is it not a moral issue?
[RANDOMIZE LIST] [RANDOMIZE "morally acceptable" AND "morally wrong" IN SAME ORDER AS STEM]

|  | Morally <br> acceptable | Morally <br> wrong | Not a <br> moral | $\underline{\text { issue }}$ | No answer |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a.F2Using contraceptives <br> Aug 16-Sept 12, 2016 | 36 | 4 | 57 | 2 |  |
| b.F2Having an abortion | 19 | 44 | 34 | 3 |  |
| c.F2Aug 16-Sept 12, 2016 <br> Homosexual behavior <br> Aug 16-Sept 12, 2016 | 17 | 35 | 45 | 3 |  |

## ASK ALL IN FORM 1:

VIEWHOMOSEXF1 $\begin{aligned} & \text { Over the past few years, have your views on homosexuality [RANDOMIZE: } \\ & \text { changed/stayed the same] or have they [changed/stayed the same]? } \\ & \text { [RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS TO MATCH STEM] }\end{aligned}$
ASK IF FORM=1 AND VIEWS HAVE CHANGED (VIEWHOMOSEXF1=1):
VIEWHOMOSEXF1 And have you become... [RANDOMIZE "more accepting of homosexuality"
AND "less accepting of homosexuality"]
BASED ON TOTAL IN FORM 1 [ $\mathbf{N}=\mathbf{2 , 2 5 5 ]}$

| Aug 16- |  |
| :---: | :--- |
| Sept 12 |  |
| $\frac{2016}{18}$ | Changed |
| 15 | More accepting of homosexuality |
| 3 | Less accepting of homosexuality |
| $<1$ | No answer |
| 79 | Stayed the same |
| 3 | No answer |

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ASK IF FORM=1 AND VIEWHOMOSEX2F1=1,2)
VIEWHOMOSEX3F1 And just in your own words, what is the main reason that you have become [IF
VIEWHOMOSEX2=1, INSERT: more accepting of homosexuality?; IF
VIEWHOMOSEX2=2, INSERT: less accepting of homosexuality?] [OPEN
END]?
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## BASED ON TOTAL IN FORM 1 [ $\mathbf{N}=\mathbf{2 , 2 5 5}$ ]

NOTE: RESULTS MAY NOT SUM TO 100\% OR TO SUBTOTALS INDICATED BECAUSE MULTIPLE RESPONSES WERE PERMITTED

| Aug 16- <br> Sept 12 |  |
| :---: | :---: |
|  |  |
| 15 | NET More accepting of homosexuality |
| 2 | People are free to live their lives however they choose/not my place to judge |
| 2 | Have friends or family who are LGBT/respondent is LGBT |
| 2 | More exposure to LGBT community/knowledge of LGBT issues |
| 2 | Have become more open minded and understanding and accepting |
| 1 | Believe in equal rights for everybody |
| 1 | Less of a social stigma/society has become more accepting |
| 1 | Homosexuality is not a choice |
| <1 | Religious beliefs have changed |
| <1 | Matured |
| 1 | Other/unclear |
| 3 | No answer |
| 3 | NET Less accepting of homosexuality |
| 1 | My religious beliefs/the Bible/God |
| 1 | Don't agree with the lifestyle/don't believe in equal rights |
| <1 | Homosexuality is immoral |
| 1 | Other/unclear |
| 1 | No answer |
| <1 | No answer about how views on homosexuality have changed |
| 79 | Views on homosexuality have stayed the same |
| 3 | No answer if views on homosexuality have changed |


[^0]:    Note: Figures may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding.
    Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 16-Sept. 12, 2016. "Where the Public Stands on Religious Liberty vs. Nondiscrimination"
    PEW RESEARCH CENTER

[^1]:    ${ }^{1}$ There are many different terms associated with transgender identity and gender identity more broadly, and this terminology continues to change over time and is also dependent on personal preference and identification. In designing this survey and writing this report, in order to prevent confusion among respondents and improve the accuracy of results, Pew Research Center sought to use terms that the general public, including those who are not well-versed in this topic, would understand, even if those might not be the terms preferred by those in the transgender community.

[^2]:    2 The latest estimate indicates that $0.6 \%$ of U.S. adults, or about 1.4 million people, identify as transgender.

[^3]:    Note: Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 16-Sept. 12, 2016.
    "Where the Public Stands on Religious Liberty vs. Nondiscrimination"

[^4]:    ${ }^{3}$ There are many different terms associated with transgender identity and gender identity more broadly, and this terminology continues to change over time and is also dependent on personal preference and identification. In designing this survey and writing this report, in order to prevent confusion among respondents and improve the accuracy of results, Pew Research Center sought to use terms that the general public, including those who are not well-versed in this topic, would understand, even if those might not be the terms preferred by those in the transgender community.

[^5]:    Note: Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100\% due to rounding.
    Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 16-Sept. 12, 2016.
    "Where the Public Stands on Religious Liberty vs. Nondiscrimination"

[^6]:    Note: Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Don't know/refused responses not shown
    Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 16-Sept. 12, 2016.
    "Where the Public Stands on Religious Liberty vs. Nondiscrimination"

[^7]:    Note: Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.
    Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 16-Sept. 12, 2016.
    "Where the Public Stands on Religious Liberty vs.
    Nondiscrimination"
    PEW RESEARCH CENTER

[^8]:    ${ }^{4}$ When data collection for the 2014 Political Polarization and Typology Survey began, non-internet users were subsampled at a rate of $25 \%$, but a decision was made shortly thereafter to invite all non-internet users to join. In total, $83 \%$ of non-internet users were invited to join the panel.
    ${ }^{5}$ Respondents to the 2014 Political Polarization and Typology Survey who indicated that they are internet users but refused to provide an email address were initially permitted to participate in the American Trends Panel by mail, but were no longer permitted to join the panel after Feb. 6, 2014. Internet users from the 2015 Survey on Government who refused to provide an email address were not permitted to join the panel.

[^9]:    ${ }^{6}$ Approximately once per year, panelists who have not participated in multiple consecutive waves are removed from the panel. These cases are counted in the denominator of cumulative response rates.

[^10]:    ${ }^{7}$ Question wording in this topline is that from the web version of the survey. Question wording and format was adapted for the paper questionnaire delivered by mail; this questionnaire is available on request. All questions asked in both modes unless noted.

[^11]:    ${ }^{8}$ Responses to vignette 3A and vignette 3B have been combined after analysis shows there are no significant differences in responses to TRANSREST1-TRANSREST3 resulting from different question wording.

