

# SMITH JOHNSON

## R E S E A R C H

NYC Plan B Policy Survey  
(9/29/2012 Version 3 FINAL)

### Methods:

Field Dates:	• October 2-3, 2012
Sample Size:	• 600 completed interviews in NYC
Oversample/Quota	• 400 under age 55 • 200 over age 55
Sampling Error:	• Less than +/- 4.9% (400 weighted sample)
Unit of Analysis:	• Households
Population:	• Voters in New York City
Propensity	• All

I'm going to ask you several questions about a controversial public policy in New York City. We want you to take your time and clearly understand the questions. If at any time during the survey you would like me to repeat a question, just ask.

### • Awareness •

1a. Prior to this interview were you aware of a prescription drug known as Plan B?

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Yes	42.1	48.0
No	57.1	51.0
Undecided	.8	1.0

1b. Prior to this interview were you aware of a prescription drug known as the morning after pill?

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Yes	78.8	84.5
No	20.7	15.6
Undecided	.4	0.0

1c. Have you read, seen or heard anything about the New York City Department of Education launching a pilot program involving the dispensing of Plan B, sometimes called the morning after pill?

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Yes	57.8	59.5
No	41.6	40.0
Undecided	.6	.5

• Opinion of Plan B •

Plan B is a chemical hormonal drug given by prescription to women. The drug is usually effective in preventing pregnancy when taken within 72 hours after sexual intercourse. It is often referred to as the morning-after-pill. The drug is not intended as a long-term contraceptive. It does not prevent AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases. Side effects include vomiting, fatigue, and headaches.

2a. Do you favor or oppose making this prescription drug available through city sponsored women's health clinics?

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Favor	53.6	62.6
Oppose	32.8	27.8
Undecided	13.6	9.5

2b. Plan B is available over the counter for women 17 and older, and New York City currently provides Plan B by prescription to women under 17 years through these public health clinics. How should Plan B be paid for? Do you favor making Plan B available to women entirely at taxpayer expense, partially at taxpayer expense or should women pay for Plan B themselves?

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Entirely at taxpayer expense	15.0	16.7
Partially at taxpayer expense	24.1	25.1
Pay for Plan B themselves	48.9	49.6
Undecided	12.0	8.6

• Favor or Oppose Plan B in Public High Schools •

3a. The New York City Department of Education launched a pilot Plan B program in a limited number of public high schools. School nurses dispense Plan B pills to teenage girls who request the pills. Teenage girls under the age of 17 attending the pilot schools qualify for the program. We will get into the specifics of the program in a minute, but as a general concept, do you believe the New York City Department of Education should or should not be dispensing Plan B to high school students?

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Should	41.00	41.9
Should not	52.6	53.1
Undecided	6.4	5.0

3b. The New York City Department of Education has explained that the purpose of the program is to curb the number of unwanted pregnancies among high school students. Unwanted pregnancy is a major cause of high school drop-out. Having heard this information; do you believe the New York City Department of Education should or should not be dispensing Plan B to high school students?

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Should	44.2	46.5
Should not	51.7	49.0
Undecided	4.1	4.5

• Informed Consent •

4a. Current Department of Education policy is to not inform a female student's parents before or after dispensing the drug. Nor does the Department of Education secure written consent from a parent or guardian. Some people agree with this policy, believing that it allows for greater participation in the program. Others disagree with this policy, believing that it interferes with the rights and responsibilities of parents. What about you? Do you agree or disagree with the Department of Education's Plan B policy?

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Agree	41.6	43.9
Disagree	53.7	51.5
Undecided	4.8	4.5

4b. The New York City Department of Education has explained that parents are allowed to opt out of the program by returning a form to the school district that prohibits school nurses from dispensing Plan B prescription drugs to their particular child. Having heard this information; do you agree or disagree with the Department of Education's Plan B policy?

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Agree	52.6	58.4
Disagree	40.7	38.3
Undecided	6.7	3.3

• Opt Out Provision •

5. The school district could manage the parent opt-out provision in one of two ways. The Department of Education could have an activeopt-in provision in which the school requires prior written parent permission before school nurses could dispense the Plan B drug. Or the Department of Education could continue the current passive opt-out policy in which parents may opt-out but their prior parental permission is not required. How about you? Do you favor the current passiveopt-out policy where parent permission isn't required, an alternative activeopt-in policy where permission is required, or are you opposed to public schools dispensing of Plan B drugs to students regardless of the opt-out policy?

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Passive opt-out/Prior parent permission not required	26.4	30.4
Active opt-in/Prior parent permission is required	33.1	32.4
Opposed regardless	34.2	34.4
Undecided	6.3	2.8

• Abortion •

6. Some of those who object to the district's Plan B policy do so claiming that the Plan B drug is a form of abortion. The Department of Education claims that Plan B is not a form of abortion because the drug prevents ovulation rather than preventing a fertilized egg from attaching to the uterine wall. What do you think? Is Plan B a form of abortion or not?

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Abortion	25.0	23.7
Not abortion	61.6	65.5
Undecided	13.4	10.7

• Abstinence •

7. Now I'm going to read you some questions about abstinence education. For each of the following statements please tell me if you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose abstinence education if you knew ...

CATEGORIES FOR CODING:

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Undecided

7a. If you knew that abstinence education helps students understand how to develop healthy relationships.

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Strongly support	56.9	61.5
Somewhat support	18.5	19.7
Somewhat oppose	4.6	5.6
Strongly oppose	14.2	11.9
Undecided	5.7	1.3

7b. If you knew that studies show that students who complete an abstinence education program are no less likely to use a condom than their peers, if they do become sexually active.

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Strongly support	36.9	35.1
Somewhat support	24.0	24.9
Somewhat oppose	7.5	9.2
Strongly oppose	18.7	24.1
Undecided	12.9	6.7

7c. If you knew that studies show that students who complete an Abstinence Education program are more likely to delay sex than their peers.

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Strongly support	48.5	53.0
Somewhat support	23.8	22.5
Somewhat oppose	6.9	5.6
Strongly oppose	12.6	15.2
Undecided	8.3	3.8

7d. If you knew that abstinence education discusses how activities such as illicit drugs, underage drinking, and teen sex could make it more difficult for them to reach their goals.

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Strongly support	48.2	53.3
Somewhat support	21.0	20.4
Somewhat oppose	4.7	5.1
Strongly oppose	18.4	17.3
Undecided	7.7	3.8

7e. If you knew that abstinence education helps teens understand the causes, symptoms and best way to avoid contracting a Sexually Transmitted Disease.

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Strongly support	56.6	63.3
Somewhat support	19.4	16.8
Somewhat oppose	5.4	4.3
Strongly oppose	11.5	12.8
Undecided	7.2	2.8

7f. If you knew that abstinence education teaches facts about contraception but always promotes delaying sex as the best choice.

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Strongly support	48.8	52.6
Somewhat support	21.7	23.4
Somewhat oppose	9.4	6.5
Strongly oppose	15.2	15.4
Undecided	4.9	2.0

• Rating the School District •

8. Leaving the issue of sex education, how would you rate the performance of the New York City Public Schools? Please rate the schools as excellent, good, fair, or poor in the following four areas:

CATEGORIES FOR CODING:

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair Poor
- Undecided

8a. The academic education students receive.

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Excellent	6.1	3.4
Good	25.8	31.3
Fair	30.5	31.6
Poor	22.1	21.0
Undecided	15.5	12.7

8b. The ability of the school district to retain and graduate students.

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Excellent	4.6	3.6
Good	22.0	23.4
Fair	38.2	42.2
Poor	19.7	19
Undecided	15.4	11.8

8c. The ability of the school district to take care of student social needs such as nutrition.

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Excellent	5.4	5.9
Good	27.3	24.0
Fair	35.0	36.1
Poor	19.3	23.8
Undecided	13.0	10.2

8d. The ability of the school district to instill important core values such as honesty, integrity, and hard work.

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Excellent	7.9	5.4
Good	24.0	23.2
Fair	30.4	33.9
Poor	24.3	29.6
Undecided	13.4	7.9

• Demographics •

9a. Do you consider yourself liberal, somewhat liberal, somewhat conservative, or conservative?

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Liberal	27.8	27.8
Somewhat liberal	23.0	24.0
Middle-of-the-road	5.4	5.9
Somewhat conservative	20.9	22.6
Conservative	23.0	19.7

9b. Thinking about how you vote, do you usually vote mainly Republican, mainly Democrat, or about the same for each party?

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Mainly Republican	14.2	15.3
Switch voter	26.3	28.1
Mainly Democrat	59.5	56.7

9c. Which of the following best describes you: I have children under the age of 18 living at home, I have had children living at home in the past, I have never had children living at home.

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Children under the age of 18	28.0	53.9
Had children	43.9	14.7
Never had children	26.9	30.9
Undecided	1.2	.5

9d. Would you describe yourself as pro-choice or pro-life on the issue of abortion?

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Pro-choice	62.0	65.8
Pro-life	30.5	29.2
Undecided	7.5	5.0

9e. Please stop me when I read the age group that contains your age...

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
18-34	4.7	16.8
35-44	10.8	28.5
45-54	18.3	54.8
55-64	24.2	---
65-74	21.2	---
75+	20.8	---



9f. With which ethnic group do you identify: Asian, African American or Black, Hispanic or Latino, Caucasian, or other?

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Asian	3.5	5.4
African American	21.0	18.0
Hispanic/Latino	8.6	9.9
Caucasian	55.5	53.8
Other	11.4	12.9

9g. On the topic of religion, would you describe yourself as a religious person who regularly attends religious services, somewhat religious, spiritual but not a member of a typical faith, or not religious?

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Religious, regularly attends services	36.2	35.3
Somewhat religious	27.2	27.9
Spiritual	14.0	15.5
Not religious	20.1	20.5
Undecided	2.4	.8

9h. Sex by voice cues

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Male	47.4	47.0
Female	52.8	53.0

9i. Borough

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Bronx	12.6	10.0
Manhattan	27.6	21.8
Queens	13.2	12.5
Brooklyn	31.6	40.5
Staten Island	15.0	15.3

9j. Phone Type

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Land line	88.8	91.4
Cell	11.3	8.6

9k. Home Owner

	Citywide Weighted Total %	Under Age 54 %
Home owner	64.5	59.0
Renter	35.5	41.0