

# Millennials and Reproductive Freedom

June 2018

# Key Findings

- > Asian Americans are the only group where a majority (59%) believe a woman should always have the choice to obtain an abortion. Pluralities of African American (42%), Latinx (37%), and white (44%) Millennials hold this view.
- > Women are generally more likely (46%) to believe that a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice than are men (41%). Approximately 36% of women support limited access to abortion, such as in cases of rape or when it is medically necessary, compared to 41% of men.
- > African American women are 13 points *more* likely to say abortion should always be permitted as a personal choice than African American men. White women are also slightly more likely to view (7 points) abortion as a choice than white men. However, Latinx women are *less* likely to believe that abortion should always be a choice than Latinx men by 9 points.
- > Millennials are generally more in favor of requiring health insurers and government to cover contraception costs than they are employers (though support is still high at over 60%)
- > Both men and women are most in favor of requiring health insurers to cover the costs of contraception, followed by the government and then employers.
- > Requiring that employees are provided paid time off from work to care for family members is an overwhelmingly popular policy proposal among Millennials of all racial and ethnic backgrounds and among both men and women (at least 86% support).

# Survey Overview

The GenForward Survey, founded by Dr. Cathy Cohen at the University of Chicago, is the first of its kind—a nationally representative survey of over 1,750 young adults ages 18-34 conducted bimonthly that pays special attention to the ways race and ethnicity influence how young adults, or Millennials, experience and think about the world.

Given the importance of race and ethnicity for shaping the diverse perspectives and lived experiences of young people, we believe researchers make a mistake when they present data on young adults in a manner that assumes a monolithic Millennial generation and young adult vote.

In this memo, we present an empirical overview of Millennials' views on reproductive justice and freedom, first by race/ethnicity and then by gender, and specifically on attitudes toward abortion, access to contraception, childcare, and paid employment leave. The data presented were collected between May 17<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 and is comprised of 525 African American, 256 Asian American, 502 Latinx, 553 white Millennial respondents.

# I. Abortion Attitudes

# Abortion Attitudes by Race

While pluralities of African American (42%), Latinx (37%), and white (44%) Millennials believe a woman should always have the choice to obtain an abortion, Asian Americans are the only group where a majority (59%) holds this view.

Roughly 31 to 41% of Millennials of all race/ethnic backgrounds believe that access to abortion should be restricted to special circumstances or when there is a clear and established medical need. Relatively few Millennials of any race/ethnicity (less than 13%) believe that abortion should never be permitted.

	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinxs	Whites
By law, abortion should never be permitted	12	5	13	10
The law should permit abortion only in case of rape, incest, or when the woman's life is in danger	20	14	25	24
The law should permit abortion for reasons other than rape, incest, or danger to the woman's life, but only after the need for the abortion has been clearly established	18	17	16	15
By law, a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice	42	59	37	44
Other	6	2	5	5

# Abortion Attitudes by Gender

Views on abortion vary slightly by gender. Women are generally more likely (46%) to believe that a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice than are men (41%). Approximately 36% of women support limited access to abortion, such as in cases of rape or when it is medically necessary, compared to 41% of men.

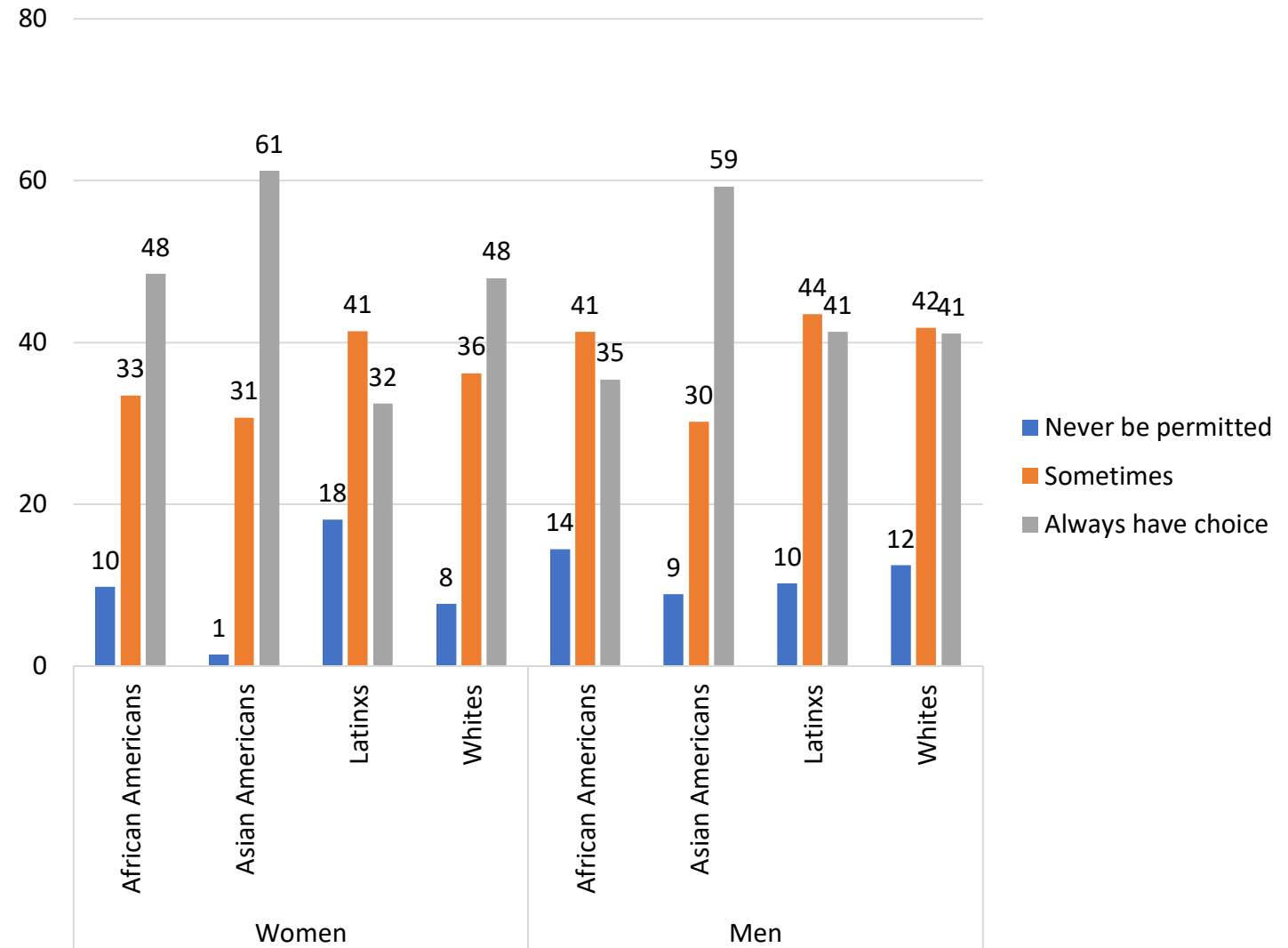
Relatively small percentages of both men (12%) and women (10%) believe that abortion should never be permitted.

	Women	Men
By law, abortion should never be permitted	10	12
The law should permit abortion only in case of rape, incest, or when the woman's life is in danger	24	21
The law should permit abortion for reasons other than rape, incest, or danger to the woman's life, but only after the need for the abortion has been clearly established	12	20
By law, a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice	46	41
Other	6	4

# Abortion Attitudes by Race and Gender

When taking an intersectional approach and examining abortion attitudes by both race and gender, we find some important differences. Among African Americans, for example, women are 13 points more likely to say abortion should always be permitted as a personal choice than African American men. White women (48%) are also slightly more likely to view (7 points) abortion as a choice than white men (41%).

The reverse is true among Latinx Millennials. Latinx women (32%) are less likely to believe that abortion should always be a choice than Latinx men (41%) by 9 points. The plurality of Latinx women (41%) believe that abortion should only be allowed under some circumstances, like rape or a medical emergency.



## **II. The Costs of Contraception**



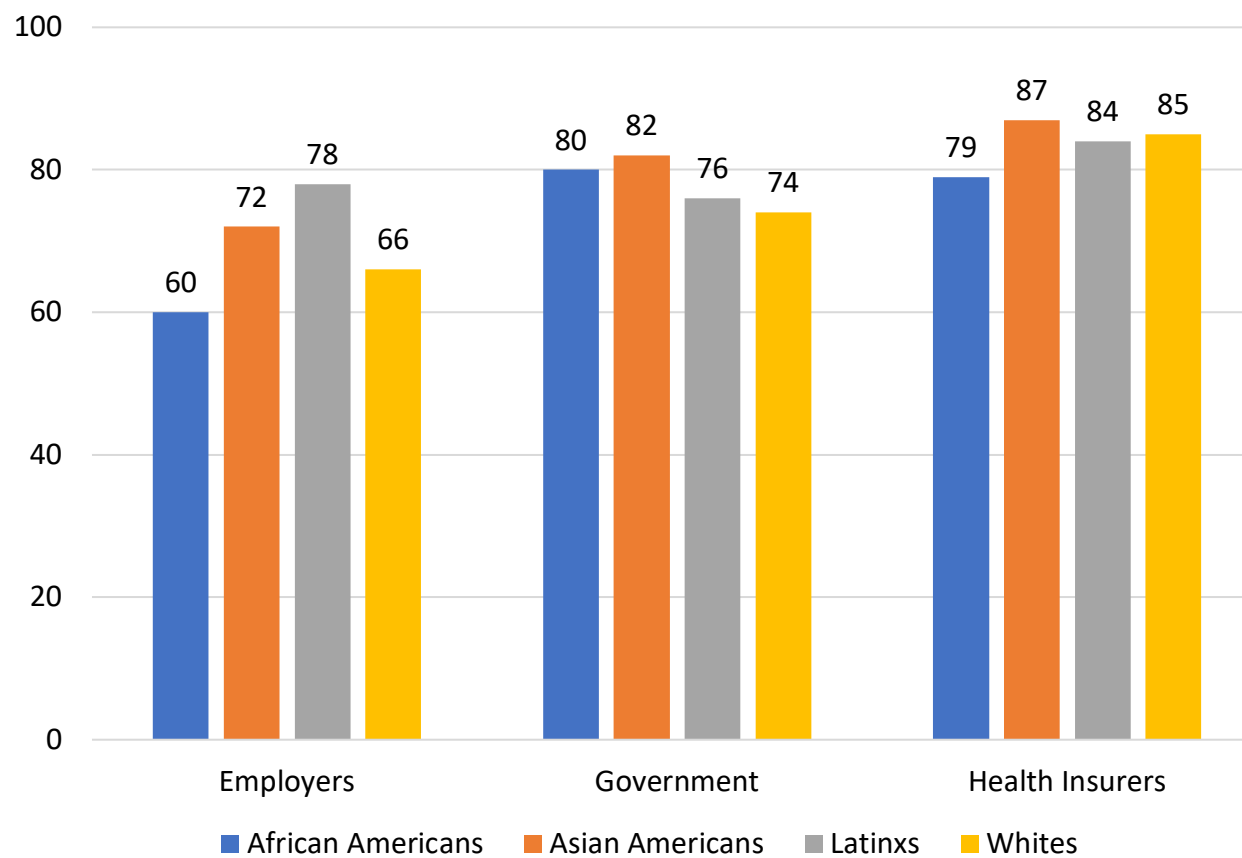
# Access to Contraception by Race

Millennials of all races and ethnicities are overwhelmingly in favor of requiring employers, government, and health insurers to cover the costs of contraception (e.g., birth control pills) for women.

We find that Millennials are generally more in favor of requiring health insurers and government to cover contraception costs than they are employers (though support is still high at over 60%).

This not necessarily the case for Latinx Millennials, who are the only group to express almost equivalent levels of support across all three options.

**Percent in favor of requiring [employers / government / health insurers] to cover the costs of contraception for women, such as birth control pills**



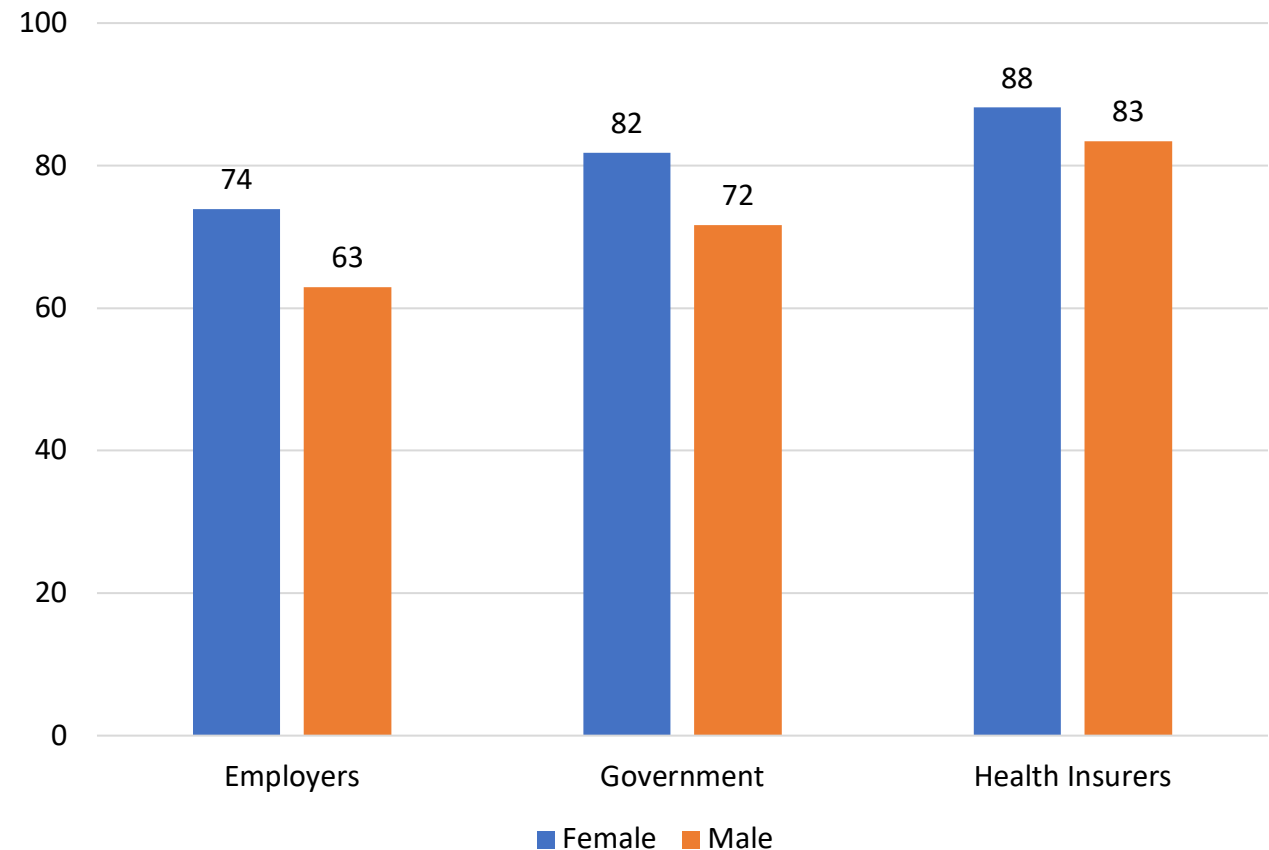
# Access to Contraception by Gender

Women are more in favor of requiring employers, the government, and health insurers to cover the costs of contraception than are men, though substantial percentages of men do support these requirements.

The difference in support between men and women is roughly 10 points when asked about employers and the government but narrows to 5 points when asked about health insurers.

Overall, the both men and women are most in favor of requiring health insurers to cover the costs of contraception, followed by the government and then employers.

**Percent in favor of requiring [employers / government / health insurers] to cover the costs of contraception for women, such as birth control pills**



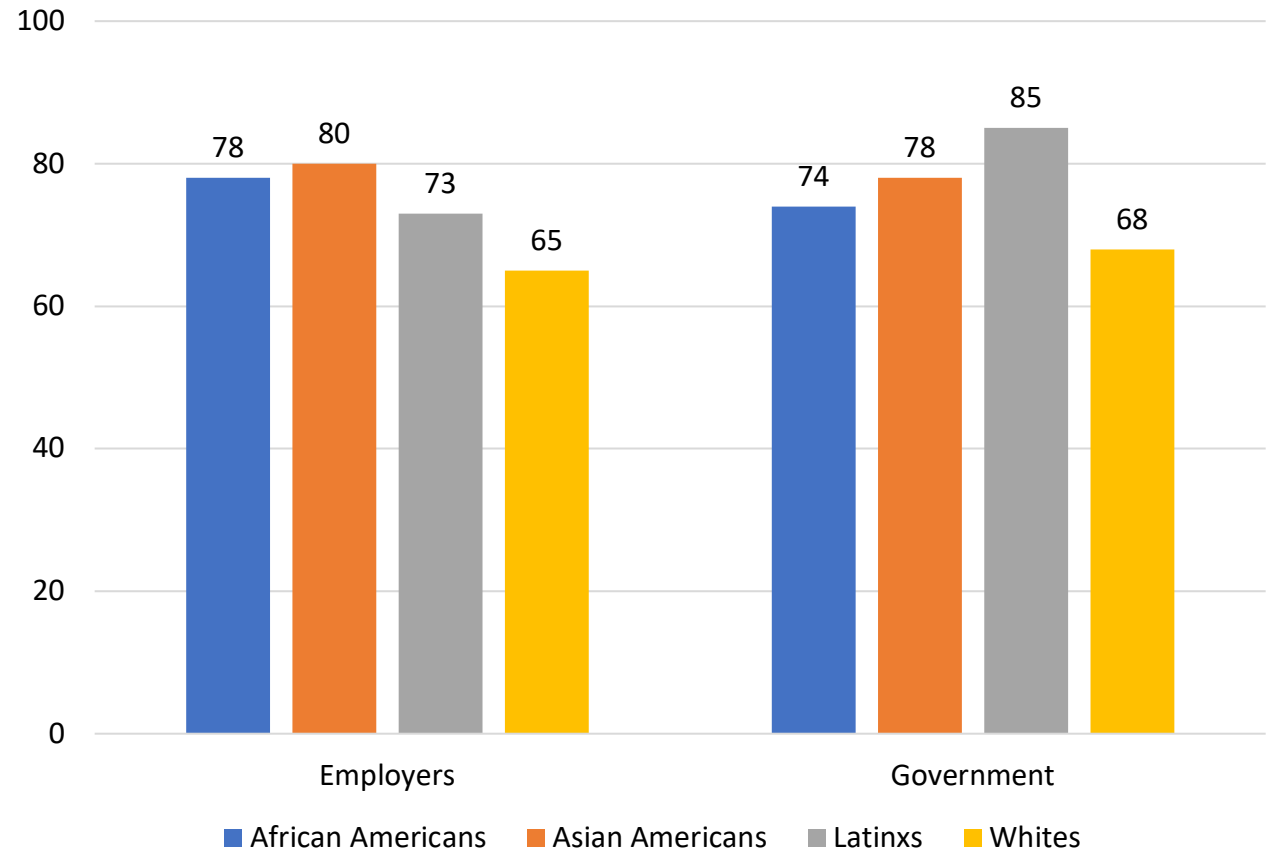
## III. Childcare

# Childcare by Race

Millennials are largely supportive of subsidized childcare costs, though there is variation by race.

White Millennials express lower levels of favorability for requiring employers or the government to cover the costs of quality childcare than African American, Latinx, and Asian American Millennials. Nevertheless, they remain largely supportive (greater than 65%).

**Percent in favor of requiring [employers / government] to cover the costs of quality childcare**



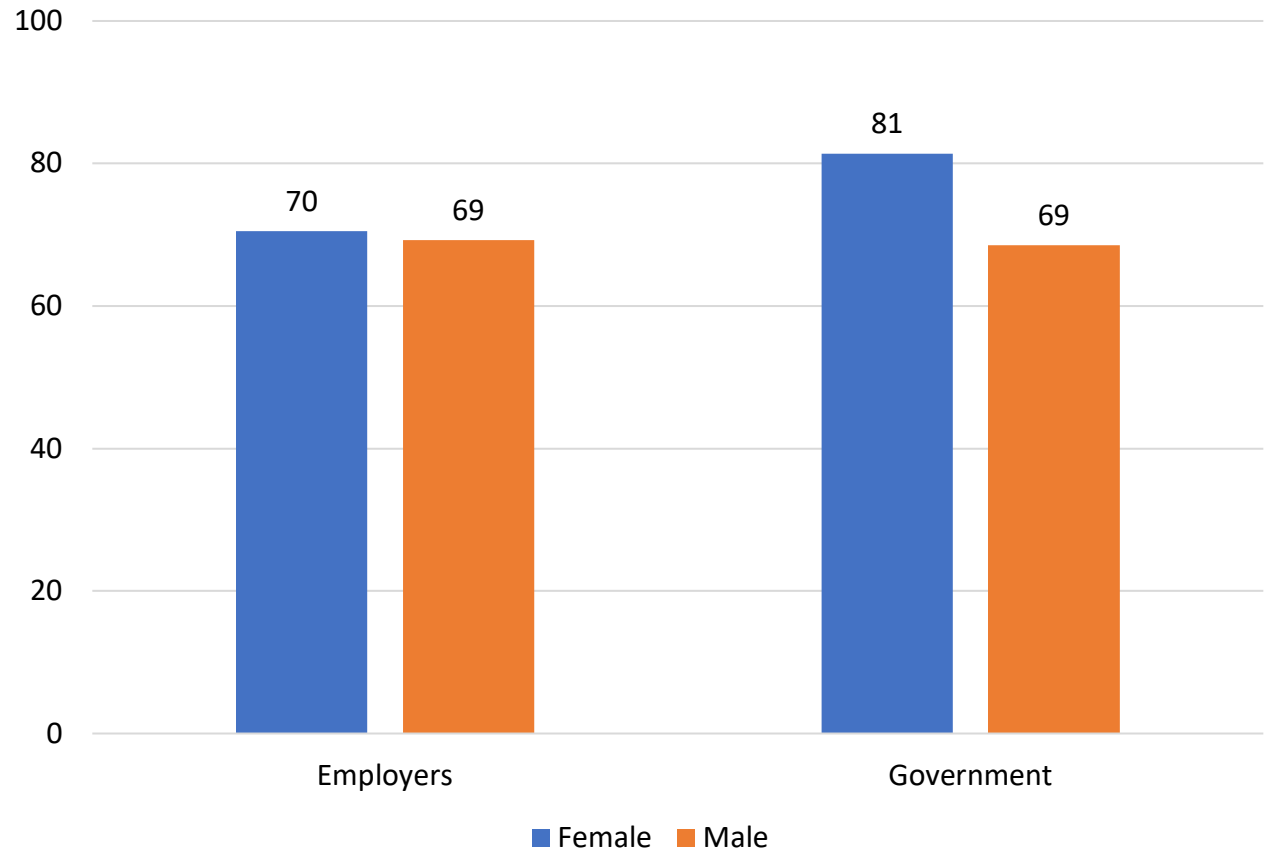
# Childcare by Gender

There is statistically no difference between women and men in the proportion who favor requiring employers to pay for childcare (70% versus 69%).

Women are about 12 points more likely than men to favor requiring the government to cover the costs of childcare. Women also express higher favorability of requiring the government rather than employers to pay for childcare by roughly 11 points.

Men are equally as likely to favor requiring employers as they are to favor requiring the government to cover the costs of childcare (69%).

**Percent in favor of requiring [employers / government] to cover the costs of quality childcare**



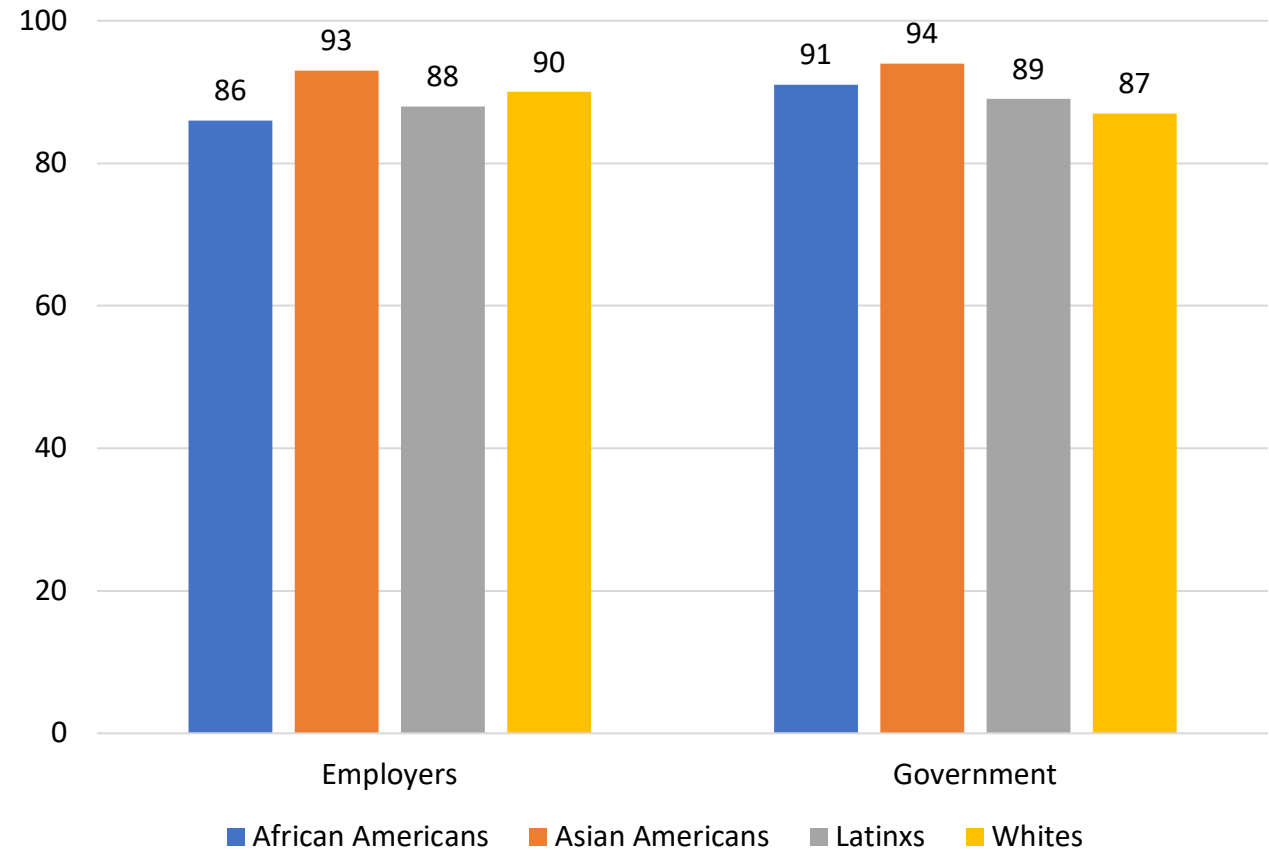
# IV. Employment Leave

# Employment Leave by Race

Requiring that employees are provided paid time off from work to care for family members is an overwhelmingly popular policy proposal among Millennials of all racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Indeed, there is not much meaningful difference in favorability between requiring that employers or that the government pay for workers' family leave.

**Percent in favor of requiring [employers / government] to provide paid time off from work for employees to care for family members, such as a new baby or a sick parent or child**

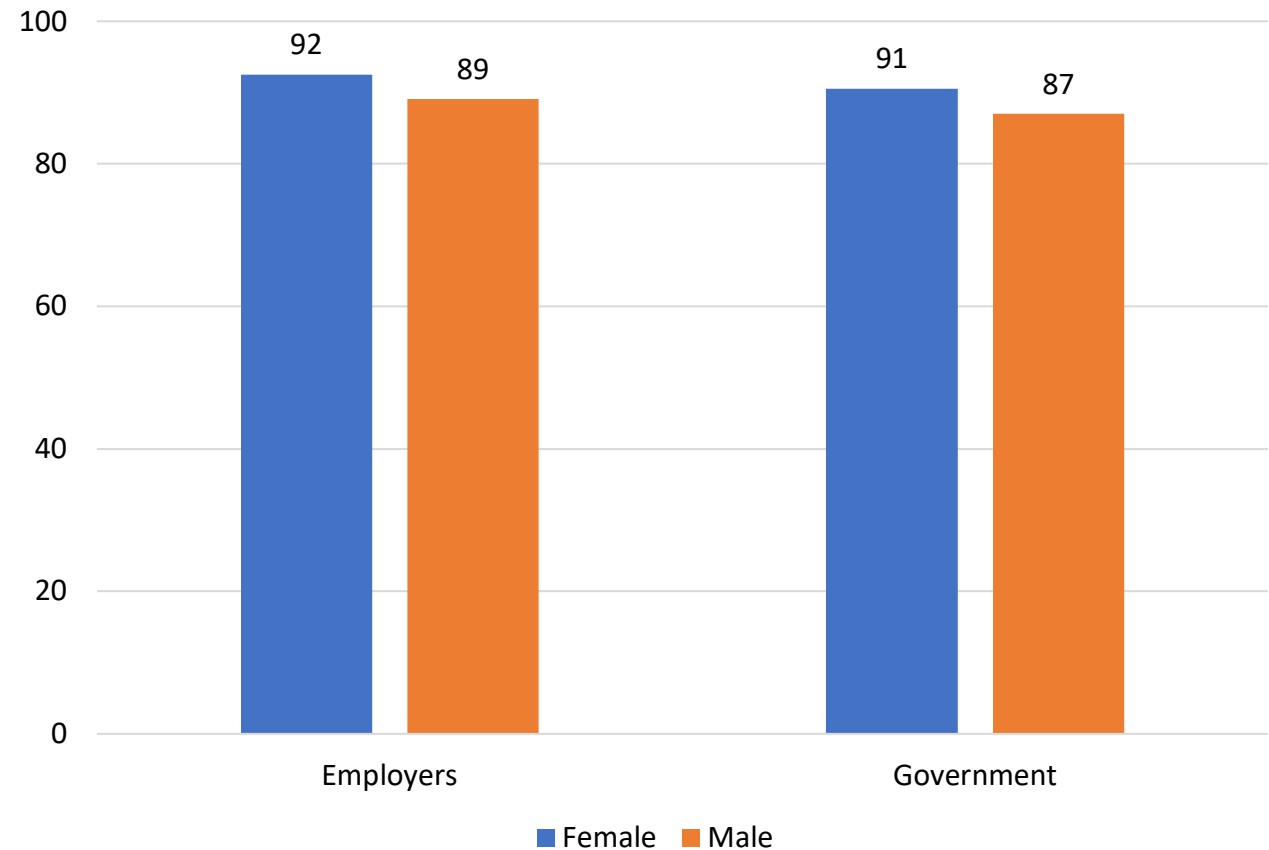


# Employment Leave by Gender

Providing paid family leave is also popular among both Millennial women and men, regardless of whether it is provided by the government or employers.

The percent of women in favor of employers providing paid family leave is 92% along with 91% who are in favor of the government providing paid leave. Among men, the percentages are 89% and 87%, respectively.

**Percent in favor of requiring [employers / government] to provide paid time off from work for employees to care for family members, such as a new baby or a sick parent or child**





# V. Summary Remarks

*Full details including survey methodology are available at  
[www.genforwardsurvey.com](http://www.genforwardsurvey.com)*