

Religiosity and Contraception Behaviors Pre- and Post-Dobbs in Ohio

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Introduction

- Dobbs drew attention to the mischaracterization of intrauterine devices (IUDs) and emergency contraception (EC) as abortifacients, particularly among conservative Christian communities. We hypothesized that this attention would lower the use of IUDs/EC among people who report high religiosity.
- We compared the prevalence of current use of IUDs and EC and their association with religiosity among Ohio women pre- and post-Dobbs.

Methods

- The Ohio Survey of Women (SoW) is a state-representative survey of adult women of reproductive age, 18-44 years.
- Two waves: October 2018 - June 2019 (pre-Dobbs) and September 2022 - August 2023 (post-Dobbs)
- Stratified relationships between IUD/EC use in the pre-Dobbs and post-Dobbs waves with logistic regression models.
- Combined logistic regression model to look at the change in association between religiosity and IUD/EC use pre- to post-Dobbs.

Table 1. Associations between Religiosity & IUD/EC Use, pre- and post-Dobbs

	2018-2019 (n = 1360) n (weighted %)				2022-2023 (n = 1200) n (weighted %)			
	No	Yes	p	aOR (95% CI)	No	Yes	p	aOR (95% CI)
Use IUDs and EC								
Religious Service Attendance								
Never	321 (36)	109 (36)	Ref	---	370 (46)	158 (52)	Ref	---
Less than once a week	509 (46)	146 (50)	0.7	1.1 (0.7 - 1.5)	355 (39)	122 (39)	0.5	0.9 (0.6 - 1.3)
Once a week or more	224 (18)	51 (14)	0.6	0.8 (0.5 - 1.2)	157 (15)	28 (10)	0.01	0.5 (0.3 - 0.9)
Religious Importance								
Not important	349 (35)	129 (42)	Ref	---	373 (43)	169 (54)	Ref	---
Somewhat important	378 (36)	102 (34)	0.3	0.8 (0.5 - 1.2)	279 (31)	102 (31)	0.1	0.8 (0.5 - 1.1)
Very important	327 (29)	75 (24)	0.1	0.7 (0.5 - 1.1)	230 (25)	47 (15)	< 0.001	0.5 (0.3 - 0.7)
Religiosity								
Low religiosity	238 (26)	94 (30)	Ref	---	287 (34)	131 (42)	Ref	---
Medium religiosity	621 (59)	171 (57)	0.3	0.8 (0.6 - 1.2)	457 (53)	163 (52)	0.1	0.8 (0.6 - 1.1)
High religiosity	195 (15)	41 (12)	0.1	0.7 (0.4 - 1.1)	138 (13)	24 (6)	< 0.001	0.4 (0.2 - 0.6)

Results

- Compared to pre-Dobbs, more respondents reported religion as “not important” (36.8% vs. 46.1%) and religious service attendance as “never” (35.6% vs. 47.4%) post-Dobbs.
- No significant change in IUD/EC use between time points (22.0% vs 26.0%)
- Table 1: Pre-Dobbs the association between religiosity and IUD/EC use is not significant, post-Dobbs it is.
- Table 2: When compared between time points, the change in association between religiosity and IUD/EC use is not significant.
- Adjusted for race, age, and rurality.

The association between religiosity and IUD or emergency contraceptive use did not change pre- to post-Dobbs.

Discussion

- There is an association between religiosity and the use of IUDs and EC in the post-Dobbs timepoint. However, the magnitude of the association did not change enough to be significant when the association was examined between timepoints.
- Given that IUDs last for up to 10 years, there may be a lag in the ability to detect changes in contraceptive choices.

Limitations

- Measuring religiosity is difficult using surveys. We were limited to the survey items of self-reported service attendance, religious importance and a write-in denomination. These may not fully capture the construct of religiosity or a person’s individual experience.
- The survey may under report IUD or EC use due to the association with abortifacients and abortion-related stigma.
- We did not separate people based on the religion with which they belong. Not all religious impose restrictions on abortion or contraception.

Table 2. Change in Association between Religiosity & IUD/EC Use, pre- to post-Dobbs

	Pre- and post-Dobbs (n = 2560)	
	p-value	aOR (95% CI)
Religious Service Attendance * Survey		
Never	Ref	---
Less than once a week	0.5	0.8 (0.5 - 1.4)
Once a week or more	0.4	0.7 (0.4 - 1.4)
Religious Importance * Survey		
Not important	Ref	---
Somewhat important	1.0	1.0 (0.6 - 1.7)
Very important	0.2	0.7 (0.4 - 1.3)
Religiosity * Survey		
Low religiosity	Ref	---
Medium religiosity	1.0	1.0 (0.6 - 1.7)
High religiosity	0.2	0.6 (0.3 - 1.3)

Future Directions

- Examine the use of IUD/EC among people who identify as Christian, as other religious groups, or as not religious.

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