

U.S. Attitudes Towards the Availability of Menstrual Supplies in Public Schools and Public Universities

a nationally representative poll commissioned by
Alliance for Period Supplies

Executive Summary

October 2024



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Executive Summary

Period supplies such as pads and tampons are a necessity for managing a period. Research [published by the Alliance for Period Supplies](#) documents that when people do not have access to period products, they may have to use something other than a period product like toilet paper, paper towels, or a cloth instead. To afford period products, individuals and households may have to make difficult choices about whether to buy period products or to spend money on something else they need like food, housing, clothing, gas, utilities, or healthcare. Without period products, menstruators report having to miss going places like work or school.

Americans have come to expect that public restrooms in public places will be stocked with basic supplies like toilet paper, soap, and paper towels. Period supplies are just as vital for cleanliness and hygiene during menstruation. Students worried about whether they will have enough period products to last an entire school day may be distracted from their learning. Access to period supplies during the school day is important for allowing menstruating students to comfortably manage their period at school.

To better understand the attitudes of U.S. adults towards providing access to period supplies in schools, the Alliance for Period Supplies commissioned a poll of a nationally representative sample of adults living in the U.S. The results show that **the majority of Americans support making menstrual supplies like pads and tampons as freely available as toilet paper and paper towels in the restrooms of public schools and public universities.** When looking at the poll results by respondents' various identities and characteristics, the overall conclusion was the same. Adults in the U.S. want menstrual supplies to be available to students using the bathroom at school.

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Poll Study Sample:

Alliance for Period Supplies partnered with YouGov, an internationally recognized market research group, to survey a nationally representative sample of adults in the United States. YouGov deployed a sampling frame representative of the adults living in the country based on data from multiple sources including: the United States Census' American Community Survey, public voter file records, the Current Population Survey, the National Election Pool exit poll, and the Cooperative Election Study. The final sample of poll respondents included N=1,000 adults matched to the sampling frame on gender, age, race, and education. The margin of error is +/- 3.5. Sampling occurred August 22 - 26, 2024.

Poll Question:

We polled a nationally representative sample of 1,000 Americans with the statement, **“Menstrual supplies, like pads and tampons, should be as freely available as toilet paper and paper towels in restrooms of public schools and public universities.”**

Respondents indicated whether they: strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, strongly disagreed, or had no opinion.

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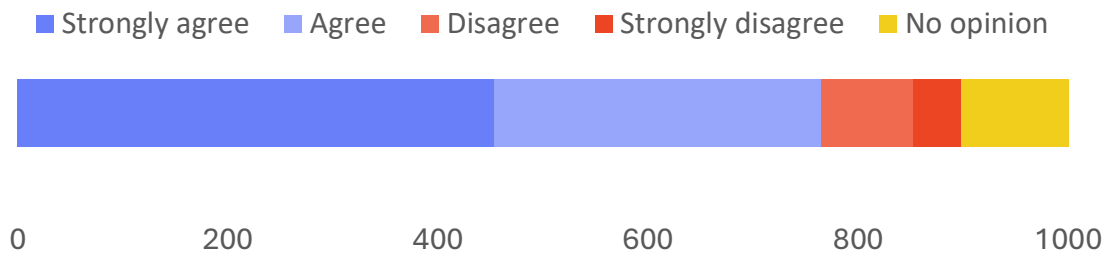
Overall Result:

Most respondents agree that menstrual supplies should be freely available in the restrooms of public schools and universities.

Overall, **77% of Americans support free access to period products in bathrooms in public schools** (46% strongly agree + 31% agree).

Some respondents disagree 8%; strongly disagree, 5%; or have no opinion 10%.

Menstrual supplies, like pads and tampons, should be as freely available as toilet paper and paper towels in restrooms of public schools and public universities. (N=1,000)



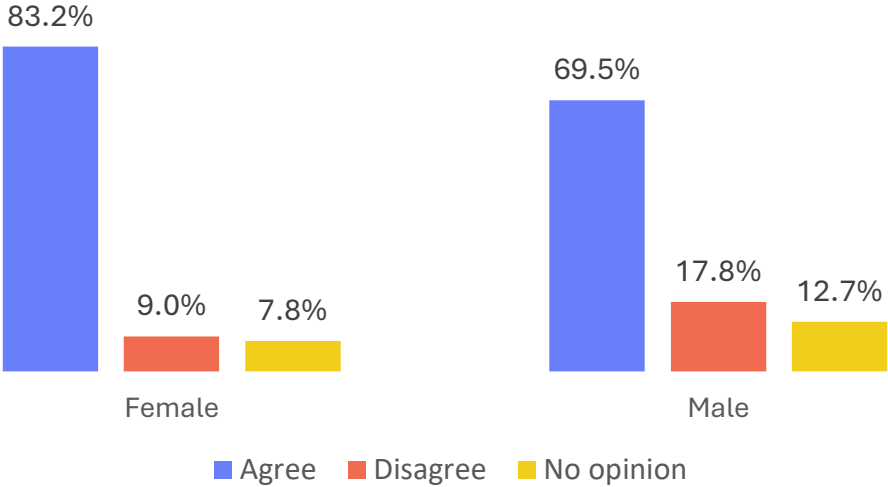
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Respondents by gender

Men and women agree that students should have free access to period products in the bathrooms at their public schools and universities.

Menstrual supplies, like pads and tampons, should be as freely available as toilet paper and paper towels in restrooms of public schools and public universities. (N=1,000)

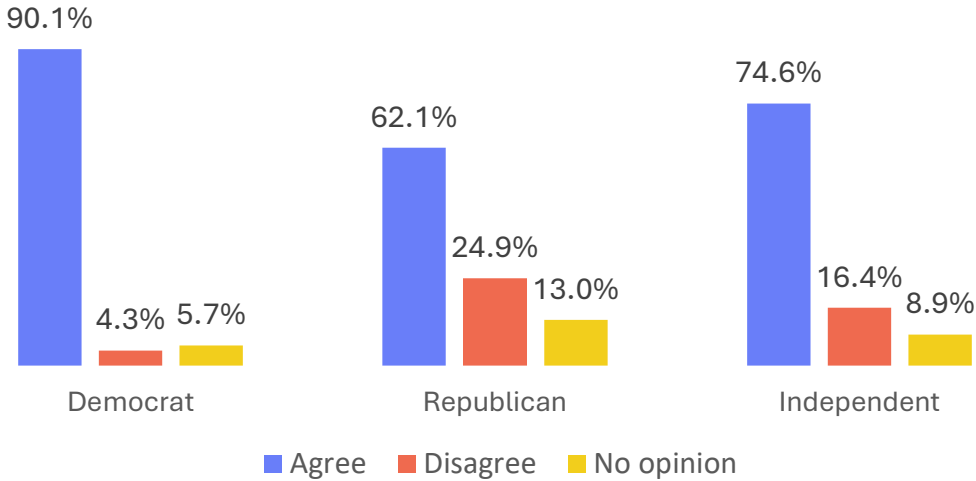


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Respondents by political affiliation

Regardless of political affiliation, most Americans agree that bathrooms in public schools should be stocked with free period products. Respondents who identified as Democrats were more likely to support free period products in public schools.

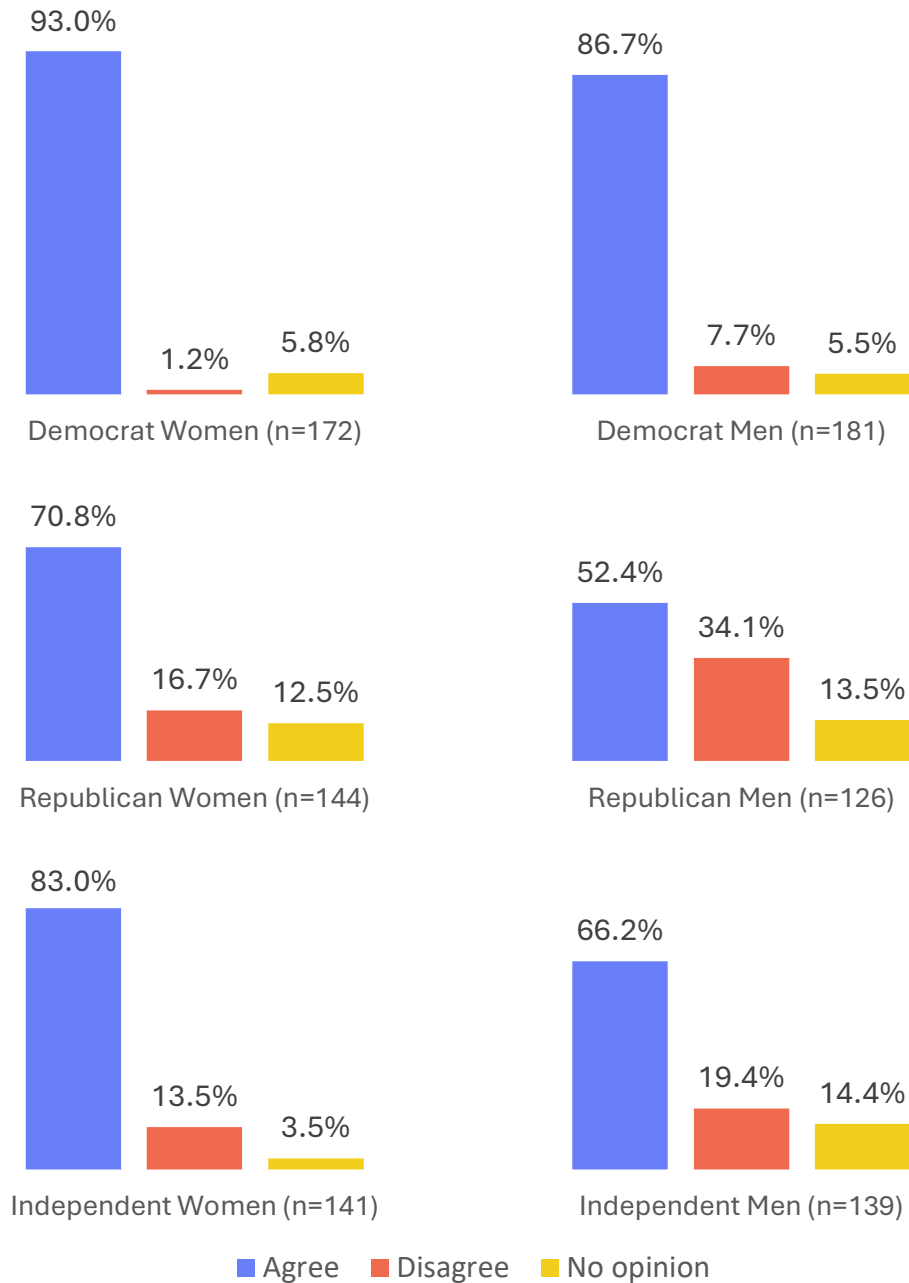
Menstrual supplies, like pads and tampons, should be as freely available as toilet paper and paper towels in restrooms of public schools and public universities. (n=901)



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Female democrats were more likely than any other group to support free access to menstrual supplies in public school bathrooms.

Menstrual supplies, like pads and tampons, should be as freely available as toilet paper and paper towels in restrooms of public schools and public universities. (n=901)



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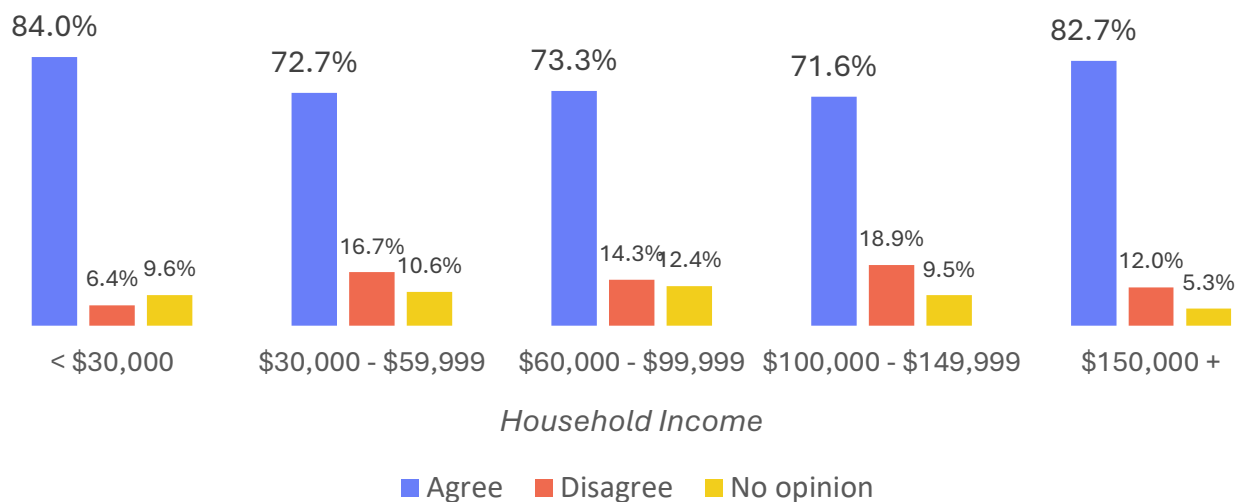
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Respondents by household income

The majority of respondents in all income categories agree that menstrual supplies should be freely available in the bathrooms of public schools and universities. Respondents with the lowest (<\$30,000) and highest income (\$150K and above) categories were most likely to support access to menstrual supplies.

Menstrual supplies, like pads and tampons, should be as freely available as toilet paper and paper towels in restrooms of public schools and public universities. (n=897)



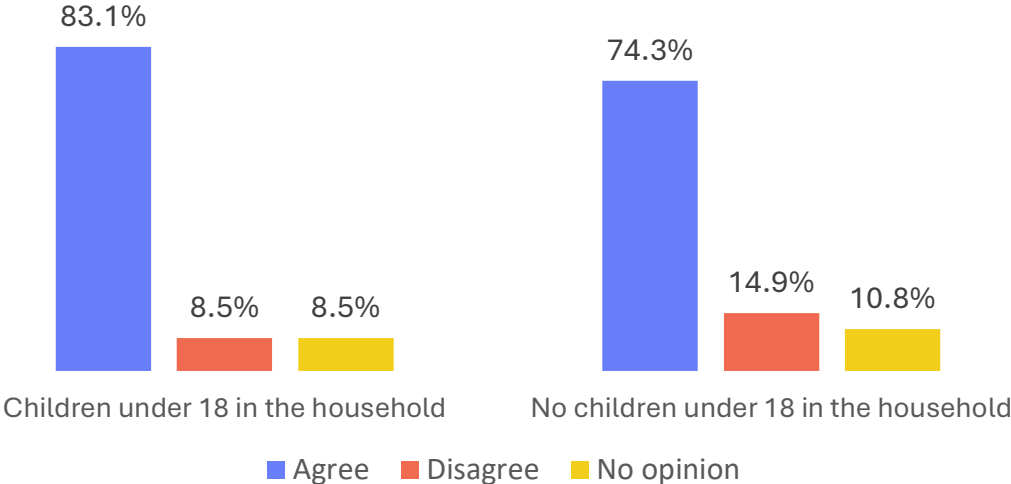
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Respondents by household composition

Parents and people without children agree, public school and university bathrooms should be stocked with free period supplies.

Menstrual supplies, like pads and tampons, should be as freely available as toilet paper and paper towels in restrooms of public schools and public universities. (N=1,000)

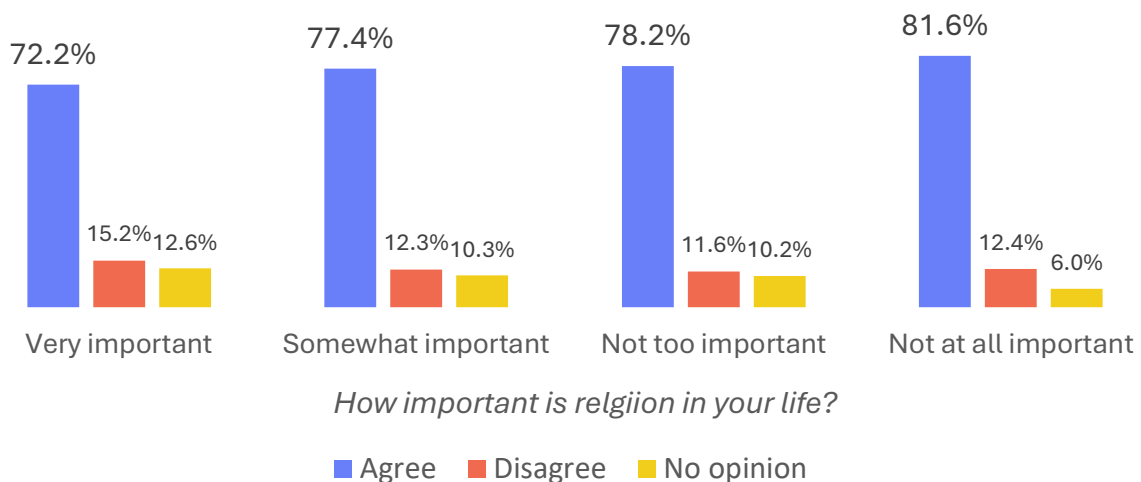


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Respondents by religiosity

No matter how important religion is in their lives, most respondents agree, bathrooms in public schools and universities should provide free access to menstrual supplies. A majority of those citing religion as “very important” in their lives support period supplies in school restrooms (72.2%), and support was even stronger among those who say religion is not important to them at all (81.6%).

Menstrual supplies, like pads and tampons, should be as freely available as toilet paper and paper towels in restrooms of public schools and public universities. (n=999)



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