

Background

- Birth control has often been a topic that revolves around key decisions and conversations regarding a person’s journey with contraceptives.¹
- However, there are still barriers preventing access to birth control, ranging from stigmas, misconceptions, unsuccessful access, and socioeconomic status.²⁻⁴
- These can pose a great threat to the public and women’s health, which is why it is important to make knowledge about contraceptives available.⁵
- There is a considerable lack of research regarding collegiates and their barriers to accessing birth control.

Objectives

To determine students’ perspectives about birth control and the barriers that most likely affect college students' access to birth control.

Methods

- The survey was taken via Google Forms between April 25, 2021-May 13, 2021.
- 80 participants were recruited from BSPH emails, Facebook, and Instagram.
- Survey consisted of multiple-choice and fill-ins.

Results

Table 1. Participant Characteristics (N=80)

Year in College	
1st year/Freshman	12.5%
2nd year/Sophomore	11.2%
3rd year/Junior	25%
4th year/Senior	47.5%
5th year	3.7%
Age	
<18 years old	0%
18-21 years old	62.5%
22-24 years old	35%
25-28 years old	2.5%
>28 years old	0%
Gender	
Female	65%
Male	30%
Non-Binary	5%
Hispanic Ethnicity	
	48.8%
Race	
Black/African American	3.1%
White	20%
Native American/Alaska Native	3.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	56.9%
Prefer not to Answer	24.6%

98.8% believed that the University should “inform students about locations on campus that provides sexual health resources such as birth control”.

Figure 1. Beliefs in the Importance of Insurance Coverage by Gender

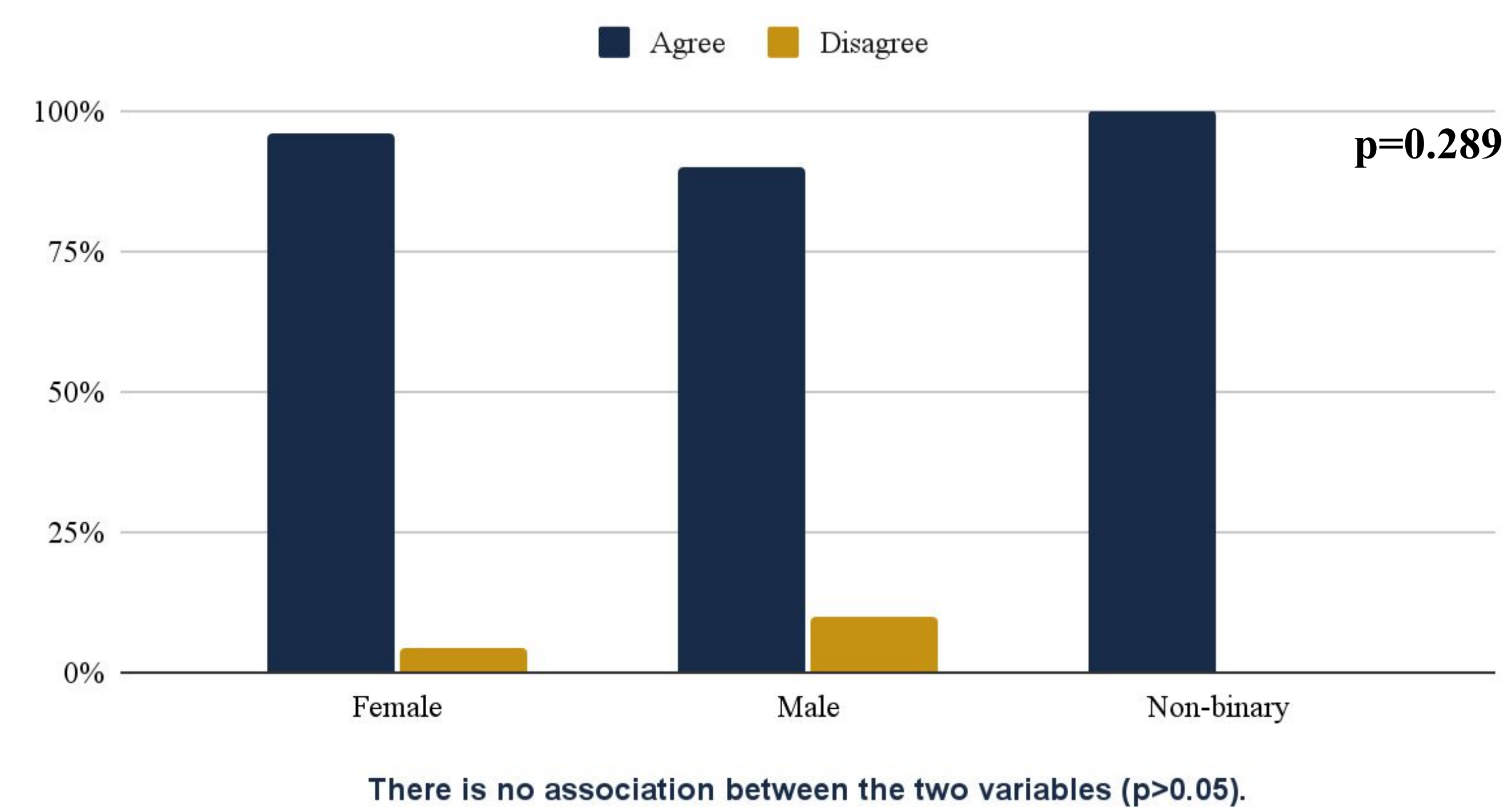


Figure 2. Belief in Importance of Insurance Coverage by Year in School

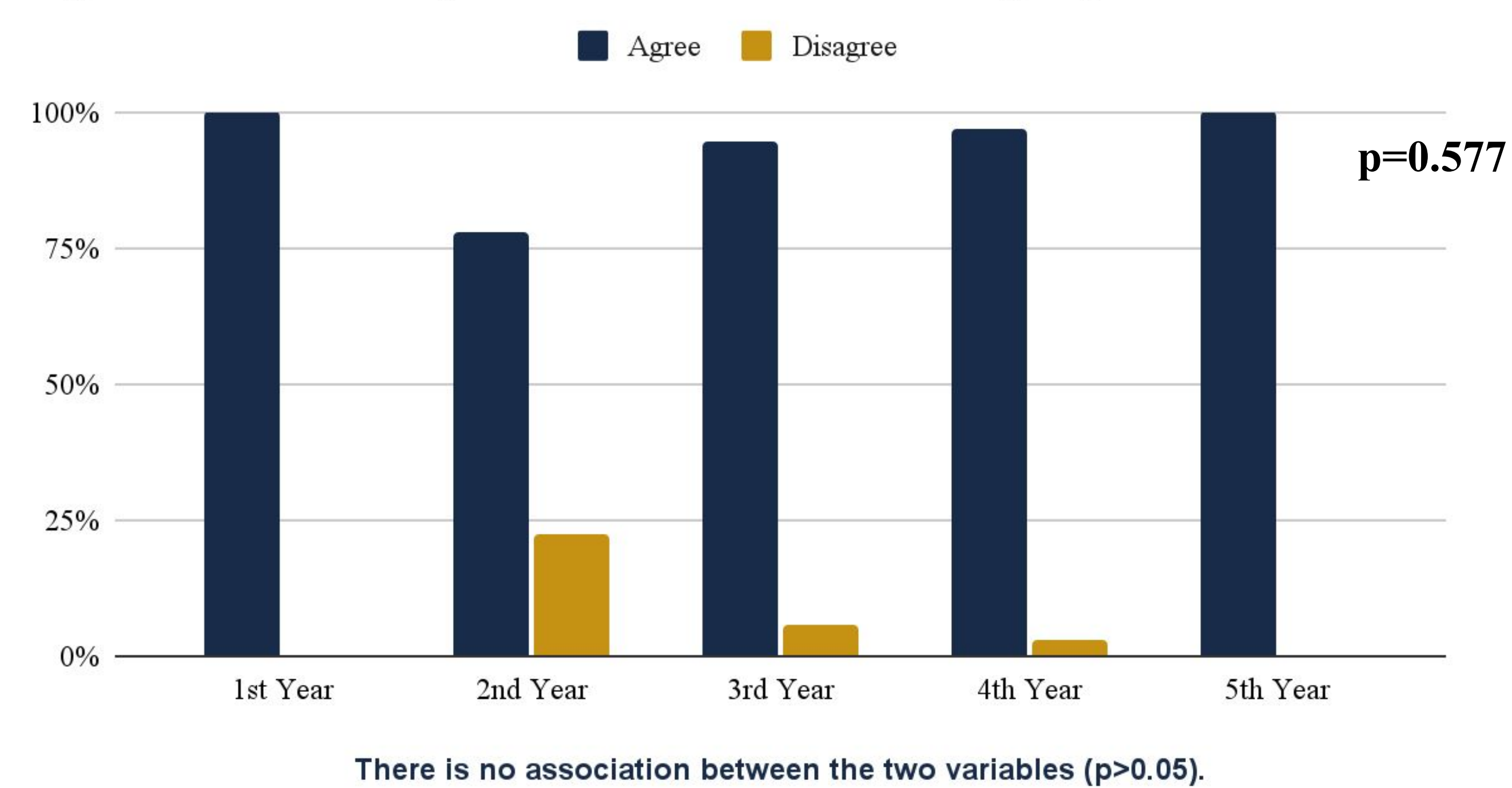
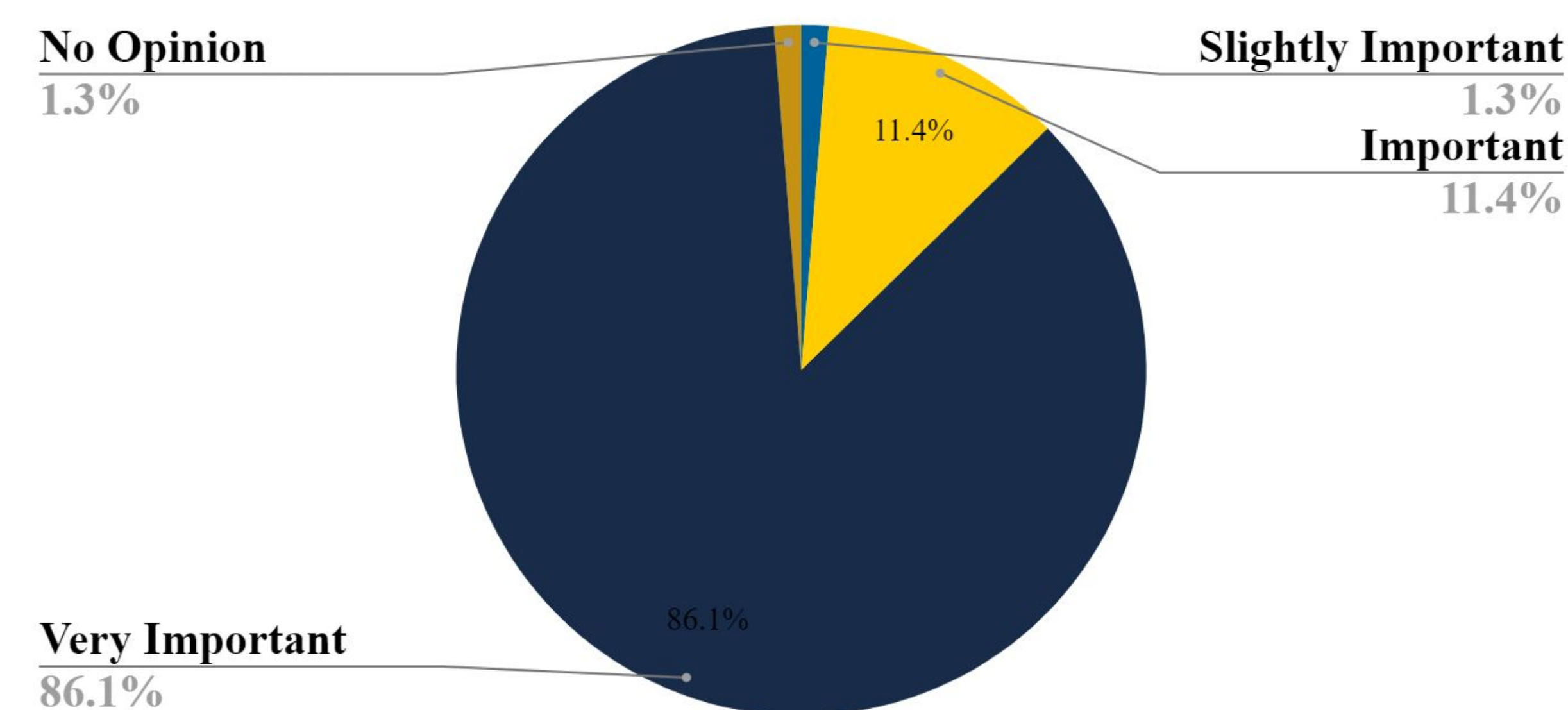


Figure 3. Importance of Birth Control Use



88.8% believed that the health insurance is the factor that affects student’s inability to access a doctor or a pharmacy.

Conclusions

Participants acknowledge the importance of birth control use and agree that lack of student health insurance coverage most likely affects students' inability to go to a doctor/pharmacy for birth control options.

Policy Implications

Campuses should inform students about locations on campus that provide sexual health resources and on-campus pharmacy that provides affordable birth control options.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Dr. Sally A. D. Romero, Rita Hedro, and Ricardo Flores for supporting us throughout our research process. We would also like to thank all our survey participants.

References

1. Zojonc, S., & Lavoie, B. (2011). Addressing Misconceptions about Birth Control: Case Studies Immersing Students in the Facts & Real-Life Decisions. *The American Biology Teacher*, 73(6), 353–356. <https://doi.org/10.1525/abt.2011.73.6.9>
2. Grindlay, K., & Grossman, D. (2015). Prescription Birth Control Access Among U.S. Women at Risk of Unintended Pregnancy. *Journal of Women’s Health*, 25(3), 249–254. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jwh.2015.5312>
3. Schenker, J. G., & Rabenou, V. (1993). Contraception: Traditional and religious attitudes. *European Journal of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Biology*, 49(1–2), 15–18. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0028-2243\(93\)90102-i](https://doi.org/10.1016/0028-2243(93)90102-i)
4. Leeman, L. (2007). Medical barriers to effective contraception. *Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinics of North America*, 34(1), 19–29, vii. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ogc.2007.01.003>
5. Binette, A., Howatt, K., Waddington, A., & Reid, R. L. (2017). Ten Challenges in Contraception. *Journal of Women’s Health* (2002), 26(1), 44–49. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jwh.2016.5854>