

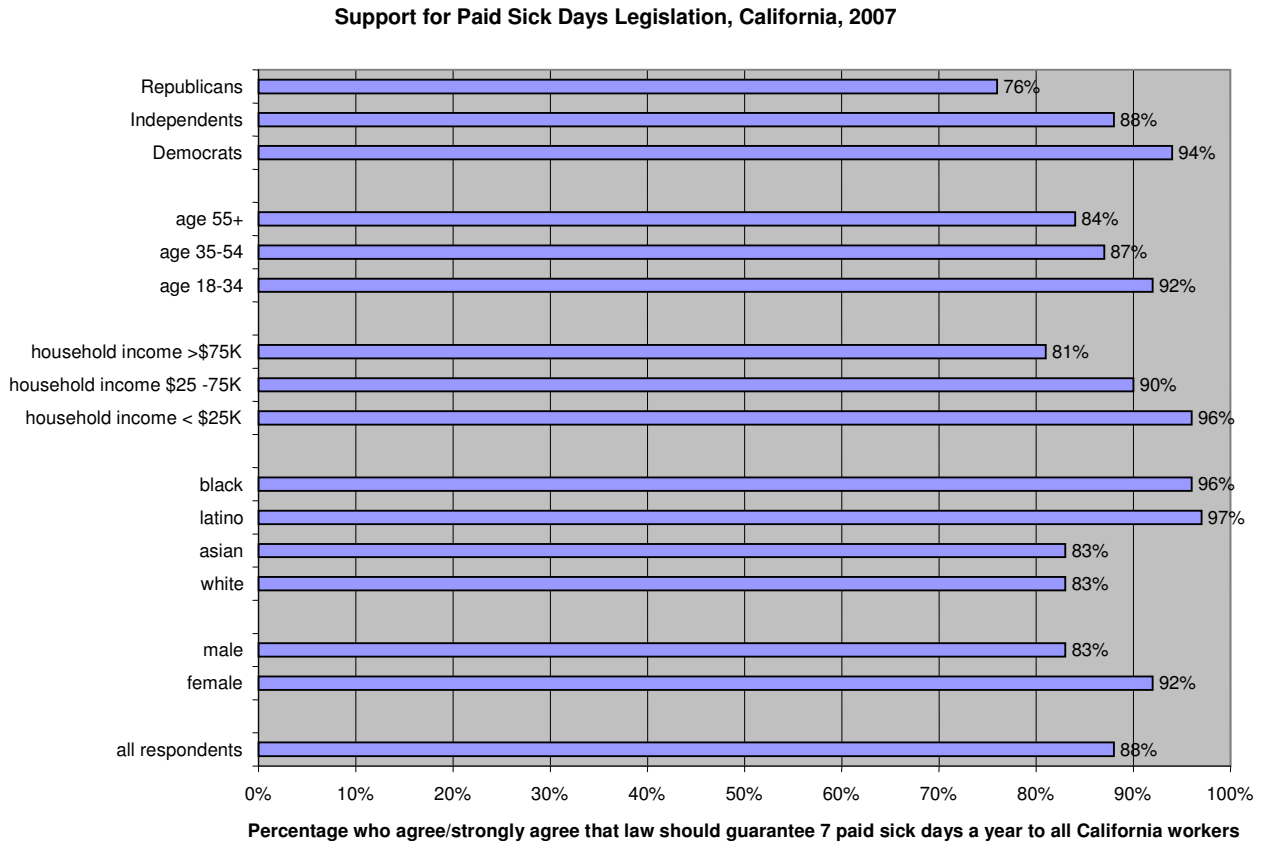
Californians Support Paid Sick Days Law

A majority of Californians surveyed in a 2007 statewide poll by Ruth Milkman at the UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment have expressed strong support for legislation guaranteeing paid sick days to workers.

Support for legislation that would guarantee paid sick days to workers in the state is extensive among all segments of California's population. In a 2007 telephone survey, California adults were asked:

Currently, only about half of all workers are provided with paid sick days. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "There should be a law that guarantees 7 paid sick days a year to all California workers."

A large majority – 88 percent – of respondents indicated that they “agreed” or “agreed strongly” with the statement. There was some variation by subgroup, with Democrats, those aged 18-34, respondents from low-income households, disadvantaged minorities, and women more likely to express agreement. But support for paid sick days legislation was widespread throughout the state's population, with at least 75% of all groups shown expressing support, as can be seen in the chart below.¹



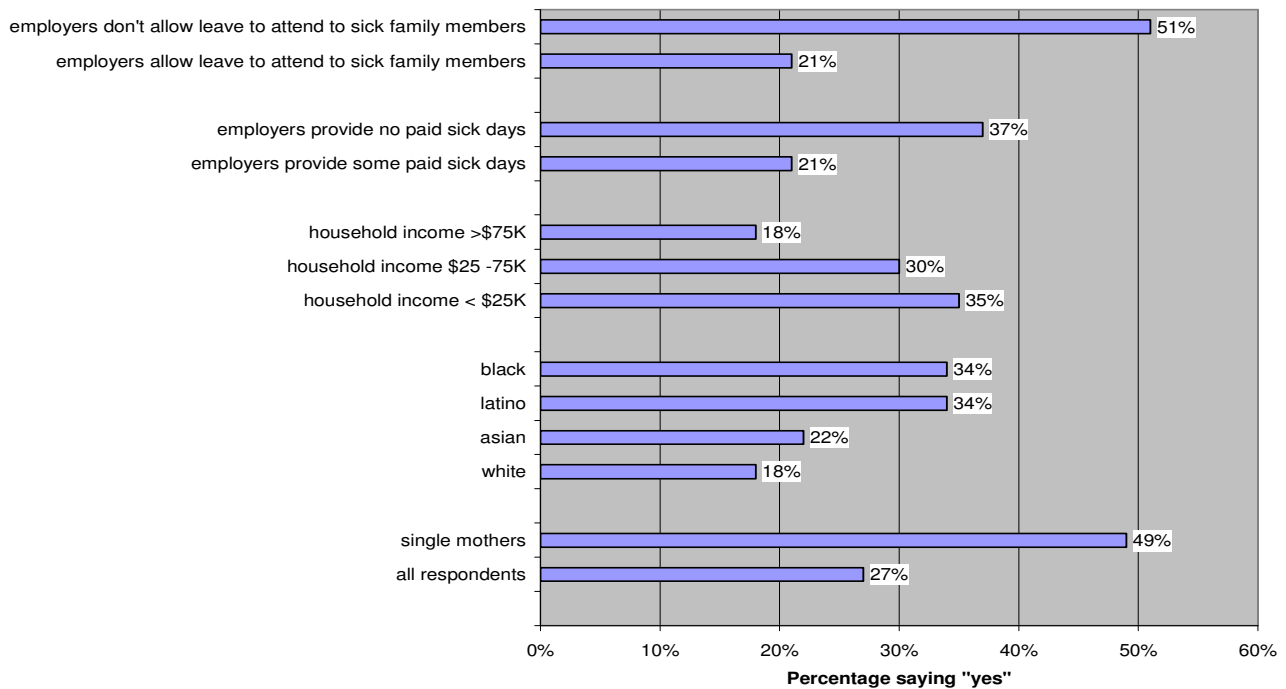
¹ The survey data described here are from a Random Digit Dial residential telephone sample of California adults (in English and Spanish) conducted for the UCLA California Family Leave Research Project between April 30 and Sept. 2, 2007, as part of the 2007 Golden Bear Omnibus Survey administered by the UC Berkeley Survey Research Center. There were 921 completed interviews. Data were weighted to approximate the state's adult population and to control for the number of telephones per household.

The same survey offers evidence of the need for paid sick days, not only so that workers can attend to their own illnesses but also so that they can care for sick children. Among employed respondents with children under 18², more than one-fourth (27%) said “yes” when asked:

In the job you have now, have you ever gone to work even though your children were sick, because your work hours made it impossible for you to stay with them?

Respondents whose employers do not currently allow them to leave work to care for sick family members were more than twice as likely to report going to work while their children were sick as those whose employers do allow this. Similarly, those whose employers do not currently provide any paid sick days were much more likely to report going to work while their children were sick than those whose employers currently provide some paid sick days. Working while children are sick was reported disproportionately by respondents from low-income households, and by disadvantaged minorities. Finally, single mothers were almost twice as likely as respondents generally to report going to work while their children were sick. These results are shown below.

Respondents Who Report Working While Children are Sick, California, 2007



For more information on the survey and media inquiries, please contact **Ruth Milkman** at the UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment at (310) 871-3055 or milkman@soc.ucla.edu.

² 319 of the 921 respondents to the survey described in note 1 were employed and had children under 18.