ATTITUDES TOWARDS REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE AMONG ADULTS LIVING IN RURAL NEW MEXICO
Principal Investigators: Young Women United and Strong Families New Mexico

Survey Development and Research: Young Women United, Strong Families NM, ACLU-NM, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, Progress Now NM, Latino Decisions

Data Compilation and Analysis: Young Women United, Latino Decisions
Purpose: For far too long, our rural and frontier communities have been ignored by movements for reproductive health and rights in New Mexico and across the country. Often, rural families are deemed "too conservative and/or too Catholic" to engage. As a result, assumptions and conclusions are made about what rural communities believe.

Young Women United and Strong Families New Mexico, know our New Mexican communities hold complex and respectful values. This project was designed to demonstrate the impact that is possible when we hear directly from rural communities and meet our families with dignity and respect.
Partners contracted with Latino Decisions to conduct a mixed mode (landline/cell/web) survey of over 1,700 New Mexican adults who live in rural counties. This study focused on learning from rural New Mexicans, as they are often overlooked in discussions relating to reproductive healthcare or assumed to be conservative and anti-abortion and/or other reproductive health services.

**Summary:** A mixed mode (Landline/Cell/Web) survey of over 1,700 New Mexican adults who live in rural counties show very high support to allow women and mothers to have access to reproductive health care, including believing that women and families should be able to make their own decisions without politicians interfering. This study was specifically focused on New Mexicans who live in rural counties of the state given the lack of knowledge of this often overlooked population and perception that they are conservative in their views regarding reproductive health care.
KEY FINDINGS

- RESEARCH DESIGN AS INNOVATIVE
- RURAL NEW MEXICANS EXPERIENCE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACROSS A SPECTRUM. SHAPED BY THEIR IDENTITIES.
- RURAL COMMUNITIES ARE WITH US.
- RURAL COMMUNITIES OF FAITH ARE WITH US.
METHODOLOGY OF STUDY

- Focus groups were designed and facilitated by Young Women United and Strong Families New Mexico and held in Espanola, NM and Anthony, NM in 2016. Focus groups informed the 2017 survey.

- This survey was conducted in January 2017. The survey resulted in 1,728 completed interviews with adults who live in rural counties in New Mexico, with no less than 300 interviews for each region of the state. It included 967 interviews conducted by telephone via both landlines and cell phones and 771 interviews over the web.

- Respondents answered in English or Spanish at their discretion.
**Northwest** = San Juan, McKinley, Cibola Counties

**North** = Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Mora, Guadalupe Counties

**Southeast** = Eddy, Lea, Roosevelt, Chavez Counties

**Southwest** = Luna, Sierra, Grant, Socorro Counties

**South** = Dona Ana County, excluding the city of Las Cruces
LIVED EXPERIENCES OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE
Thinking about accessing the reproductive healthcare that you and your family have needed, what are primary obstacles that have prevented you in the past or may prevent you in the future from accessing that care?

- Cost of accessing reproductive healthcare: 25%
- Transportation issues: 12%
- Information about where to go: 12%
Many people in New Mexico experience miscarriage and still births. Have you or a partner of yours had similar experiences?
Unfortunately many women here in New Mexico have experienced sexual violence at some point in their life. What about you, have you ever been the victim of sexual assault or violence?

- **Asian**: 32% yes
- **Hispanic**: 31% yes
- **Native American**: 46% yes
- **White**: 34% yes
- **Black**: 49% yes
- **Total**: 32% yes
Unfortunately many women here in New Mexico have experienced sexual violence at some point in their life. What about you, have you ever been the victim of sexual assault or violence?

Ages 18-29

Ages 65+

Ages 30-49

Ages 50-64
UNFORTUNATELY MANY WOMEN HERE IN NEW MEXICO HAVE EXPERIENCED SEXUAL VIOLENCE AT SOME POINT IN THEIR LIFE. WHAT ABOUT YOU, HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THE VICTIM OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OR VIOLENCE?

AGES 18-29

48% yes
52% no

AGES 30-49

40% yes
57% no

AGES 50-64

28% yes
71% no

AGES 65+

20% yes
79% no
Unfortunately many women here in New Mexico have experienced sexual violence at some point in their life. What about you, have you ever been the victim of sexual assault or violence?

**Ages 18-29**
52% no

**Ages 30-49**
57% no

**Ages 50-64**
71% no

**Ages 65+**
79% no
DO YOU THINK PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY HAVE ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE?

- < $40K annual income: 63% said yes
- $40K-80K annual income: 69% said yes
- $80K+ annual income: 78% said yes
It is estimated that 94% of New Mexico counties do not have an abortion clinic. Given this information, would you say abortion care is accessible or not accessible enough to residents in the state.
HAVE YOU EVER ACCESSED ABORTION CARE YOURSELF?

INCOME

- < $40K annual income: 13%
- $40-80K annual income: 26%
- $80K+ annual income: 30%

EDUCATION

- Less than HS: 8%
- HS/GED: 9%
- Some college: 17%
- College grad: 27%
ATTITUDES & BELIEFS REGARDING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE
The image shows a bar chart indicating the factors that shape people's views about whether people should be able to get an abortion. The factors listed are:

- Community Leaders/Elders: 6%
- Elected Officials: 6%
- Other: 6%
- Media: 9%
- Healthcare Providers/Doctors: 12%
- Partner: 13%
- Don’t Know: 13%
- Friends: 15%
- Church/Bible/God: 24%
- Myself/No Others: 25%
- Family: 25%

The chart visually represents the percentage of people who believe in each factor's influence on their views.
DO YOU HAVE A SPIRITUAL OR RELIGIOUS PRACTICE?

WHAT SPIRITUALITY OR RELIGION DO YOU PRACTICE?

- Catholic: 36%
- Christian: 31%
- Evangelical Christian: 4%
- Protestant: 7%
- Jewish: 1%
- Mormon: 2%
- Muslim: 2%
- Traditional Practices: 1%
- Other: 9%
- Don’t Know: 3%
PLEASE INDICATE HOW MUCH YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE: PERSONAL DECISIONS ABOUT ABORTION NEED TO REMAIN WITH NEW MEXICAN WOMEN, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THEIR MEDICAL PROVIDERS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Agree</th>
<th>Total Disagree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>74%</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>69%</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<td>64%</td>
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<tr>
<th>Party</th>
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<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>69%</td>
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<td>Democrat</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>64%</td>
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PLEASE INDICATE HOW MUCH YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE: IF SOMEONE I CARE ABOUT HAS MADE THE DECISION TO HAVE AN ABORTION, I WANT THEM TO HAVE SUPPORT.

Total Disagree
19%

Total Agree
68%
PLEASE INDICATE HOW MUCH YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE: I CAN HOLD MY OWN MORAL VIEWS ABOUT ABORTION AND STILL TRUST A WOMAN AND HER FAMILY TO MAKE THIS DECISION FOR THEMSELVES.

Total Agree: 79%
Total Disagree: 15%

Total Republican: 71%
Republican: 18%

Total Democrat: 84%
Democrat: 9%

Total Independent: 60%
Independent: 23%
Please indicate how much you agree or disagree: I can hold my own moral views about abortion and still trust a woman and her family to make this decision for themselves.

**Total Agree**
- Catholic: 79%
- Christian: 72%
- Evangelical: 58%

**Total Disagree**
- Catholic: 13%
- Christian: 16%
- Evangelical: 32%
PLEASE INDICATE HOW MUCH YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE: NEW MEXICANS NEED ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE, INCLUDING ABORTION, ACROSS OUR RURAL STATE

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH ABORTION

67% agree

NO PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH ABORTION

44% agree

TOTAL

56% agree

56% of respondents believe that New Mexicans need access to reproductive healthcare, including abortion, across our rural state.
PLEASE INDICATE HOW MUCH YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE: WHETHER DUE TO THE LOSS OF A PREGNANCY, ABORTION CARE OR PRENATAL CARE, WOMEN DESERVE TO BE SUPPORTED AND RESPECTED AND NOT SHAMED WHEN SEEKING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE.
KEY FINDINGS

- Research design as innovative.
- Rural New Mexicans experience reproductive health across a spectrum, shaped by their identities.
- Rural communities are with us.
- Rural communities of faith are with us.