

# ATTITUDES TOWARD REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH POLICY AMONG RURAL NEW MEXICANS

## PURPOSE OF RESEARCH

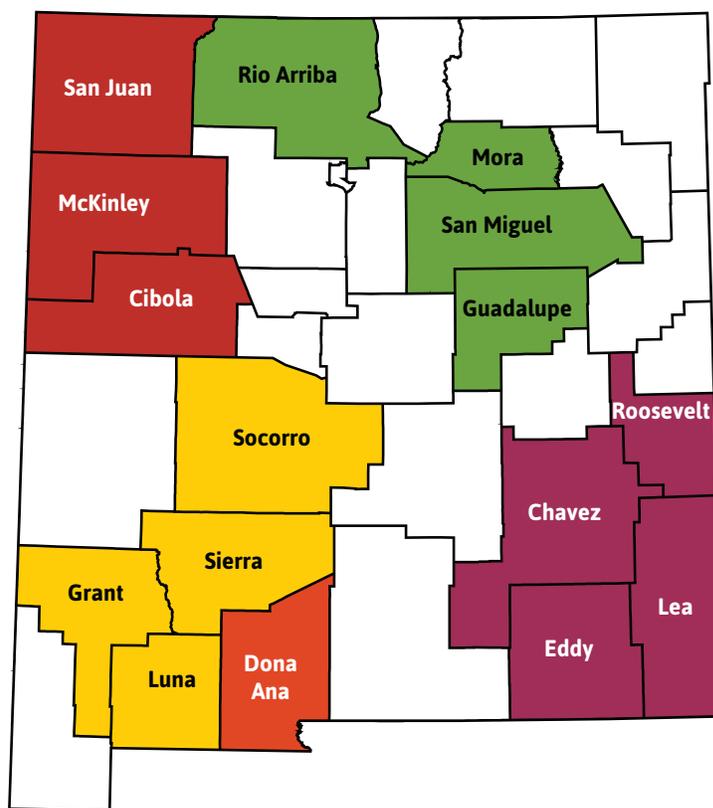
For far too long, our rural and frontier communities have been ignored by movements for reproductive health and rights in New Mexico and across the country. Often, rural families are deemed “too conservative and/or too Catholic” to engage. As a result, we perpetuate a culture of assumptions and foregone conclusions about what rural communities believe. In reality, 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 all of our families with dignity and respect.

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

In January 2017, we conducted a mixed mode (landline/cell/web) survey of over 1,700 New Mexican adults who live in rural counties, with no fewer than 300 interviews for each region of the state. Focus groups conducted by Strong Families New Mexico and Young Women United in Española and Anthony, New Mexico, informed the survey.

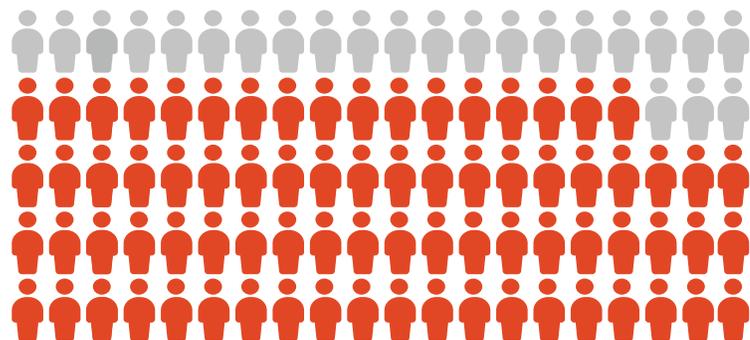
The map to the right illustrates rural regions of the state that collectively represent nearly a quarter of New Mexico’s population and were the focus of our survey sample.

Results show very high support for women and families to have access to reproductive health-care, including the belief that women and all families should be able to make their own decisions without politicians interfering.

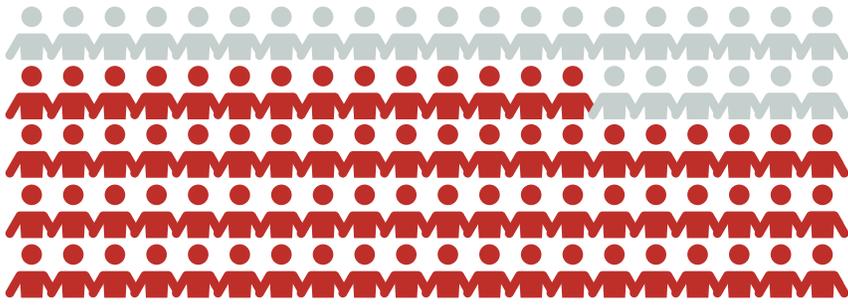


## KEY FINDINGS: ATTITUDES ON ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN RURAL NEW MEXICO

Below are some of the most important findings from analyses of the survey data.

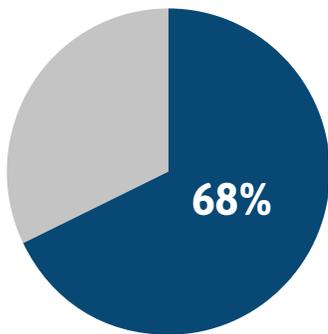
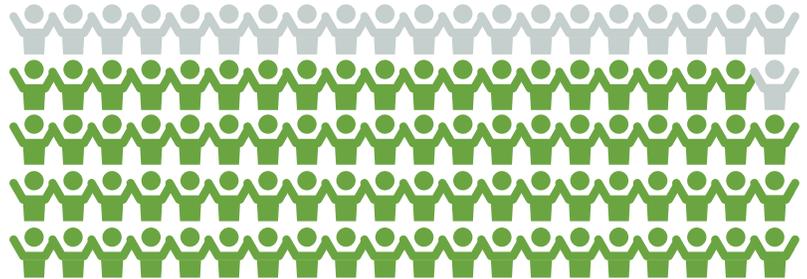


■ **77%** of rural New Mexicans surveyed agree that “I can hold my own moral views on abortion and still trust a woman and her family to make this decision for themselves,” including 79% of Catholics, 72% of Christians, and even 58%—a majority—of evangelical Christians.

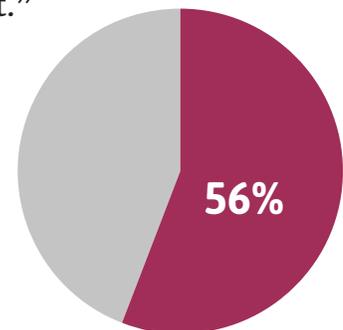


■ **74%** of rural New Mexicans surveyed agree that “personal decisions about abortion need to remain with New Mexican women, their families, and their medical providers,” including 69% of Republicans, 82% of Democrats, and 64% of independents.

■ **79%** of rural New Mexicans surveyed agree with the following statement: “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.”



■ **68%** of rural New Mexicans surveyed agree with the following statement: “If someone I care about has made the decision to have an abortion, I want them to have support.”



■ **56%** of rural New Mexicans surveyed believe that New Mexicans need access to reproductive healthcare, including abortion, across our rural state.

### WHAT LEGISLATORS CAN DO

Based on our findings, it is clear that rural New Mexicans support comprehensive reproductive healthcare access. From this support, legislators can build increased access for all with the following actions:

- Speak publicly about the need to increase access to all forms of reproductive healthcare, including access to abortion.
- Support your community to uplift organizations and individuals seeking increased access

to reproductive healthcare, including abortion.

- Support legislation that brings affordable and quality reproductive healthcare to all New Mexican families.
- Support legislation that allows reproductive health decisions to be made by women, their families and their medical providers.
- Reject legislation that limits women and their families in making their own reproductive health decisions.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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