Attitudes, Beliefs, and Knowledge about Abortion

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Provide descriptive data from the UCSF Survey of AWHONN membership
Acknowledgements

Dr. Jacqueline Rychnovsky
Dr. Elizabeth Rochin
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Background

- Little is known about what nurses think about abortion (specifically in the United States);
- Much of the literature on nurses and abortion has been designed from the gaze of physicians and hospital administrators;
- California RN survey – 2013 legislative changes;
- New financial support for nurses who work in Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH);
- Query of AWHONN membership.
Methods
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❖ Survey of 30 questions sent to 21,500 of AWHONN members via their distribution list
❖ IRB approval from UCSF #17-23544
❖ Survey opened 12/5/17 and closed 1/12/18
❖ One reminder email went out a week before the survey closed
❖ Similar to survey of 2,500 nurses in California (currently in press - Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Neonatal Nurses)
❖ $5 gift card as token of appreciation
Attitudes and Beliefs About Sexual and Reproductive Health Choices

Section A: Professional Demographics
- Nursing education, professional organizations
- Principal positions, hours work, time spent with people of reproductive age

Section B: Sexual and Reproductive Health Provision
- Comfort with safer sex education, pregnancy options counseling

Section C: Abortion
Results
Survey Response Rate

1,891 completed surveys with 54 incomplete responses.

There were 112 bounced emails.

Response rate: $\frac{1,891}{21,338} = 8.86\%$
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1763</td>
<td>93.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgender</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1891</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race/Ethnicity</td>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>1529</td>
<td>80.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino or Spanish Origin</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African-American</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Native American</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Eastern or North African</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some other race, ethnicity or origin</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Professional Demographics – Where

In what state do you currently reside?

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Puerto Rico
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- ...
Professional Demographics - Education

In what kind of program did you receive your INITIAL, pre-licensure RN education that qualified you for U.S. RN licensure - Selected Choice

- N=574, 30%
- N=152, 8%
- N=835, 44.2%
- N=157, 8.3%
What is your age? (U.S. Census, 19 Categories)
For your principal nursing position, with what patient population do you spend at least 50% of your patient care time?

- No patient care
- Adult
- Geriatric
- Newborn or neonatal
- Pediatric and/or Adolescent
- Multiple age groups (less than 50% time spent with any of the above)

Professional Demographics – Where They Work
Personal Demographics

Religious orientation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religious orientation</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evangelical Protestant</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jehovah’s Witness</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Christian</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Protestant</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historically Black Protestant</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mormon</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unitarian</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atheist</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agnostic</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing in particular</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please answer TRUE or FALSE - I try to carry my religious beliefs through all aspects of my life.
Please answer TRUE or FALSE - My approach to life is based on moral/ethical principles, not on the values of organized religion.
General Questions about Abortion
True or False
Abortion is never morally justified and should still be illegal

True or False
Abortion is never morally justified and should still be illegal
Rate your level of agreement with the following statement: I am personally opposed to abortion but believe abortion care is important - Selected Choice

Rate your level of agreement with the following statement: I am personally opposed to abortion but believe abortion care is important - Selected Choice
Abortion Attitudes Scale
For each of the following statements, indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with it. There are no right or wrong answers to any of these statements, so answer as honestly as you can. - The Supreme Court should strike down legal abortions in the United States
For each of the following statements, indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with it. There are no right or wrong answers to any of these statements, so answer as honestly as you can. - Abortion is a good way of solving an unintended pregnancy
For each of the following statements, indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with it. There are no right or wrong answers to any of these statements, so answer as honestly as you can. - A woman should feel obligated to bear a child she has conceived.
For each of the following statements, indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with it. There are no right or wrong answers to any of these statements, so answer as honestly as you can. - The decision to have an abortion should be the woman's...
For each of the following statements, indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with it. There are no right or wrong answers to any of these statements, so answer as honestly as you can. - Abortion is wrong under any circumstances
For each of the following statements, indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with it. There are no right or wrong answers to any of these statements, so answer as honestly as you can. - A fetus is not a person until it can live outside its mother’s body.
For each of the following statements, indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with it. There are no right or wrong answers to any of these statements, so answer as honestly as you can. - The decision to have an abortion should be the woman's.
For each of the following statements, indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with it. There are no right or wrong answers to any of these statements, so answer as honestly as you can. - Medical insurance plans should provide full coverage for legal abortion.
For each of the following statements, indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with it. There are no right or wrong answers to any of these statements, so answer as honestly as you can. - People should not look down on those who choose to have abortions.
For each of the following statements, indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with it. There are no right or wrong answers to any of these statements, so answer as honestly as you can.

- A pregnant woman not wanting to have a child should be encouraged to have an abortion

Legend:
- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Somewhat Agree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree
For each of the following statements, indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with it. There are no right or wrong answers to any of these statements, so answer as honestly as you can.

- Every conceived child has the right to be born
For each of the following statements, indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with it. There are no right or wrong answers to any of these statements, so answer as honestly as you can. - A fetus should be considered a person at the moment of conception.
Comfort, Knowledge, and Skills
How COMFORTABLE would you feel assisting with these nursing skills and activities associated with abortion care? - Performing preoperative pregnancy testing
How COMFORTABLE would you feel assisting with these nursing skills and activities associated with abortion care? - Performing preoperative ultrasound

- Vary
- Able
- Less
- Not at all
How CONFORTABLE would you feel assisting with these nursing skills and activities associated with abortion care? - Providing women with oral pre-medications

- Vary
- Able
- Less
- Not at all
How COMFORTABLE would you feel assisting with these nursing skills and activities associated with abortion care? - Providing women with IV pre-medications
How COMFORTABLE would you feel assisting with these nursing skills and activities associated with abortion care? - Normal Post-operative clinical care
How COMFORTABLE would you feel assisting with these nursing skills and activities associated with abortion care? - Post-operative care for complications (i.e., bleeding, infection, pain management)

Pie chart showing the comfort levels:
- Blue: Very
- Red: Able
- Green: Less
- Orange: Not at all
Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Give Thanks!

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