Women, Children, & Sustainability

Monica Urias
Mentor: Victoria Derr, Dept. Applied Environmental Science
Support from the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center (UROC)
About me

- Pronouns: She/her/hers/ella
- Major: Environmental Science, Technology, & Policy
- Academic level: Sophomore
What is my research? How was it developed?

Question of Interest:

How does climate change and global sustainability influence women's beliefs, feelings, and concerns about their participation in raising children?
How did I collect my data?

- Survey
- \( n = 50 \)
- 26% of survey respondents were from the Pajaro Valley
What are women’s initial thoughts on giving birth to a child?

“I’m not ready to have children yet...This world is hard to live in, politically, financially, and environmentally." (18-23 female)

“...es una responsabilidad muy grande y las condiciones sociales, económicas y climáticas no son las más favorables.” (45+ female)
Environmental & Health Concerns, ages 18-35

- Climate Change
- Pesticides
- Overpopulation
- Food security
- Pollution

**Level of Concern**

- White, Caucasian, or European (n=4)
- Asian, Asian-American (n=2)
- Mexican, Mexican-American / Hispanic, Latino/a, Chicano/a (n=13)
- 2 or more races/ethnicities (n=7)
Finding?

- Climate change, pollution, and pesticides were the top concerns across all categories
- Overall, the 18-35 age group was more concerned

“Sea-level rise will make many cities uninhabitable.” (45+ female; White, Caucasian, or European)
“I am afraid my children won't have the resources needed to survive. I am afraid the climate change, natural disasters, pandemics will be at an all time high.” (24-29 female; Hispanic, Latino/a, Chicano/a)
Social & Economic Concerns, ages 18-35

- Racial Injustice
- Economic Crisis
- Financial security
- Access to medical care

Level of Concern

- White, Caucasian, or European (n=4)
- Asian, Asian-American (n=2)
- Mexican, Mexican-American / Hispanic, Latino/a, Chicano/a (n=13)
- 2 or more races/ethnicities (n=7)
Social & Economic Concerns, ages 36-45+

- Racial Injustice
- Economic Crisis
- Financial security
- Access to medical care

Level of Concern

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Racial Injustice</th>
<th>Economic Crisis</th>
<th>Financial security</th>
<th>Access to medical care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White, Caucasian, or European (n=13)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian, Asian-American (n=1)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican, Mexican-American / Hispanic, Chicano/a (n=9)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or more races/ethnicities (n=1)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Finding?

- All racial/ethnic groups, age group 18-35, were highly concerned about social and economic issues (5 out of 7 or higher)
- Some of the 36-45+ were less concerned
- 18-35 age group of Mexican, Mexican-American / Hispanic, Latino/a, Chicano/a rated higher for all social & economic concerns

“I worry about the control the government will exert on the medical choices of our citizens. I worry about pollution and toxic chemicals overloading my baby’s system.” (24-29 female; Hispanic, Latino/a, Chicano/a)
Environmental & Health Concerns, ages 18-35

- Climate Change
- Pesticides
- Overpopulation
- Food security
- Pollution

Levels of concern for different family sizes:

- 0 children (n=9)
- 1 child (n=5)
- 2 children (n=10)
- 3 or more children (n=2)
Social & Economic Concerns, ages 18-35

- Racial Injustice
- Economic Crisis
- Financial security
- Access to medical care

Levels of Concern:
- 0 children (n=9)
- 1 child (n=5)
- 2 children (n=10)
- 3 or more children (n=2)
Summary

- Those who said 0 or 1 children had the highest mean concerns across all categories (5 out of 7 or higher).
- Those who said 2 children had high concerns about all issues.
- Those who said 3 or more had lower concerns overall.

“I'm not ready to have children yet...This world is hard to live in, politically, financially, and environmentally.” (18-23 female; 2 children)

“...es una responsabilidad muy grande y las condiciones sociales, económicas y climáticas no son las más favorables.” (45+ female; 0 niños)

“My hopes are that families will not be hurt and that children will not be left with divorced parents. My fears are the opposite.” (18-23 female; 3 or more children)
Future Research

Further research:

- How family care roles affect these views
- Extending to a broader population
  - Women under 18
  - Other regions
  - Large sample

Contact:

Monica Urias mourias@csumb.edu
Victoria Derr vderr@csumb.edu