



Women, Children, & Sustainability

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Support from the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center (UROC)



California State University
MONTEREY BAY

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:

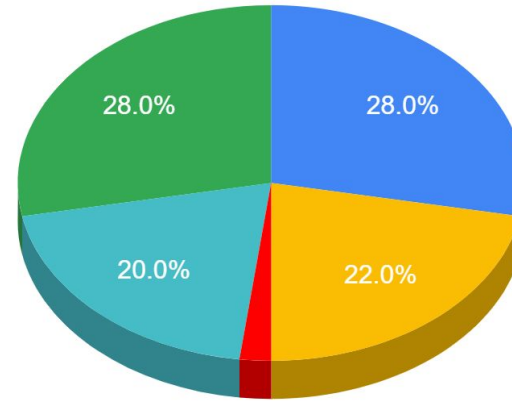
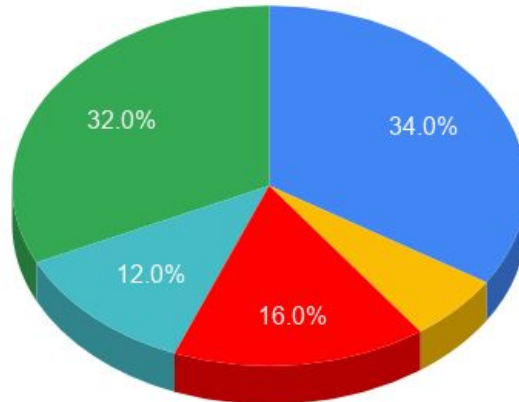
How does climate change and global sustainability influence women's beliefs, feelings, and concerns about their participation in raising children?





How did I collect my data?

- White, Caucasian, or European
- Asian, Asian-American
- Mexican, Mexican-American
- Hispanic, Latino/a, Chicano/a
- 2 or more race/ethnicities



- 18-23 years old
- 24-29 years old
- 30-35 years old
- 36-44 years old
- 45+ years old

- Survey
- n = 50
- 26% of survey respondents were from the Pajaro Valley

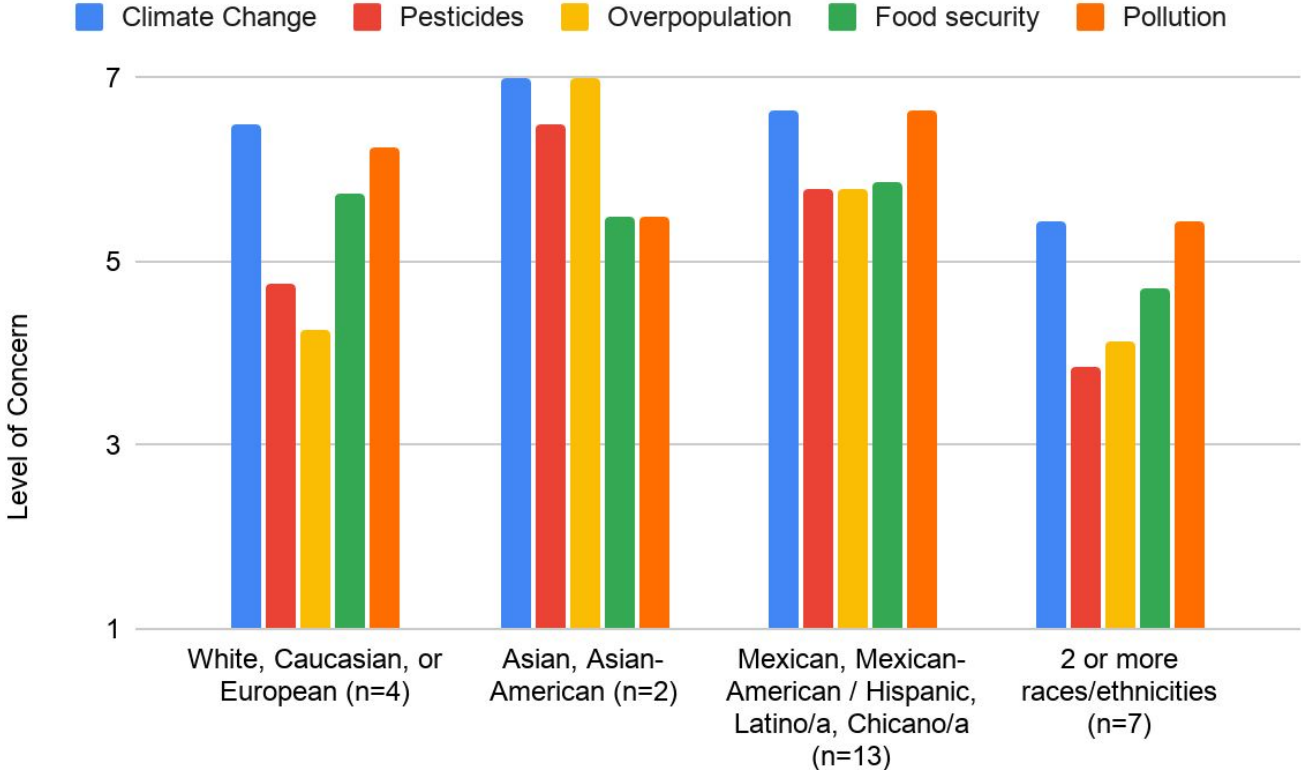


What are women's initial thoughts on giving birth to a child?

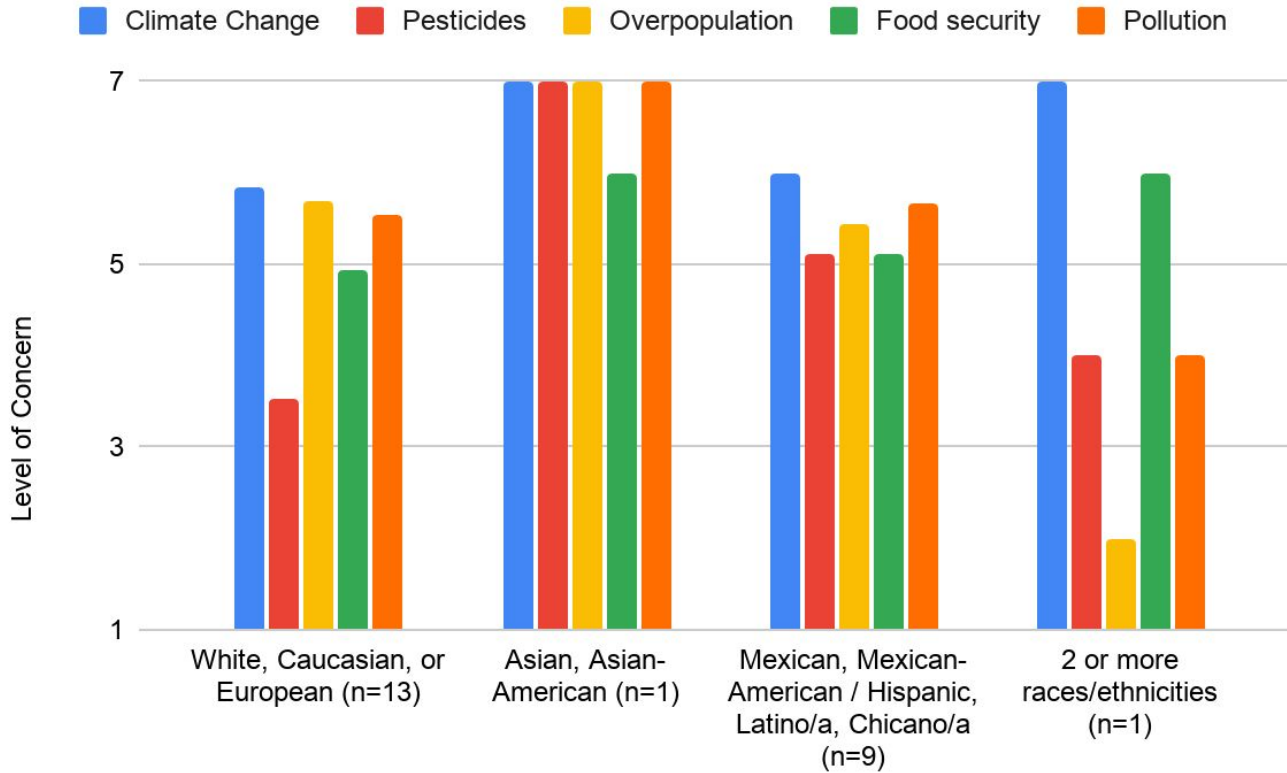
"I'm not ready to have children yet...This world is hard to live in, politically, financially, and environmentally." (18-23 female)

"...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



Environmental & Health Concerns, ages 36-45+





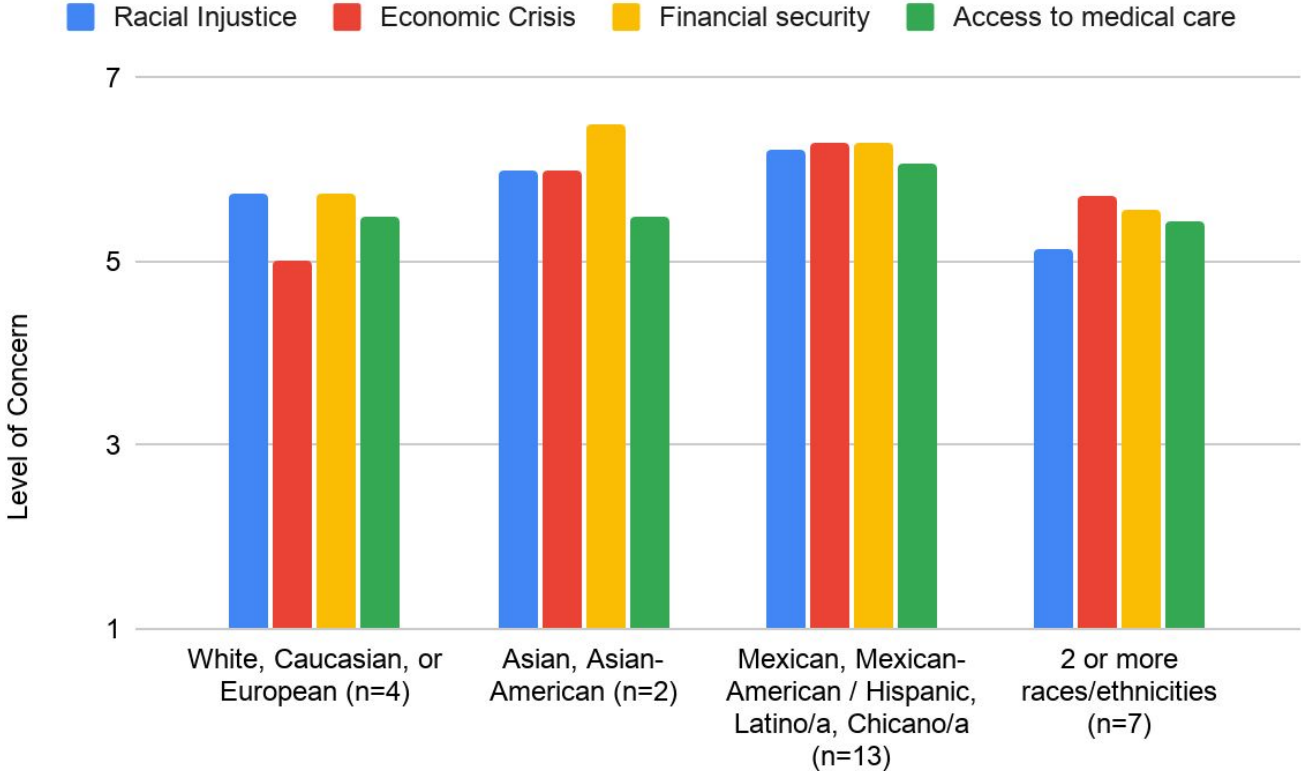
Finding?

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

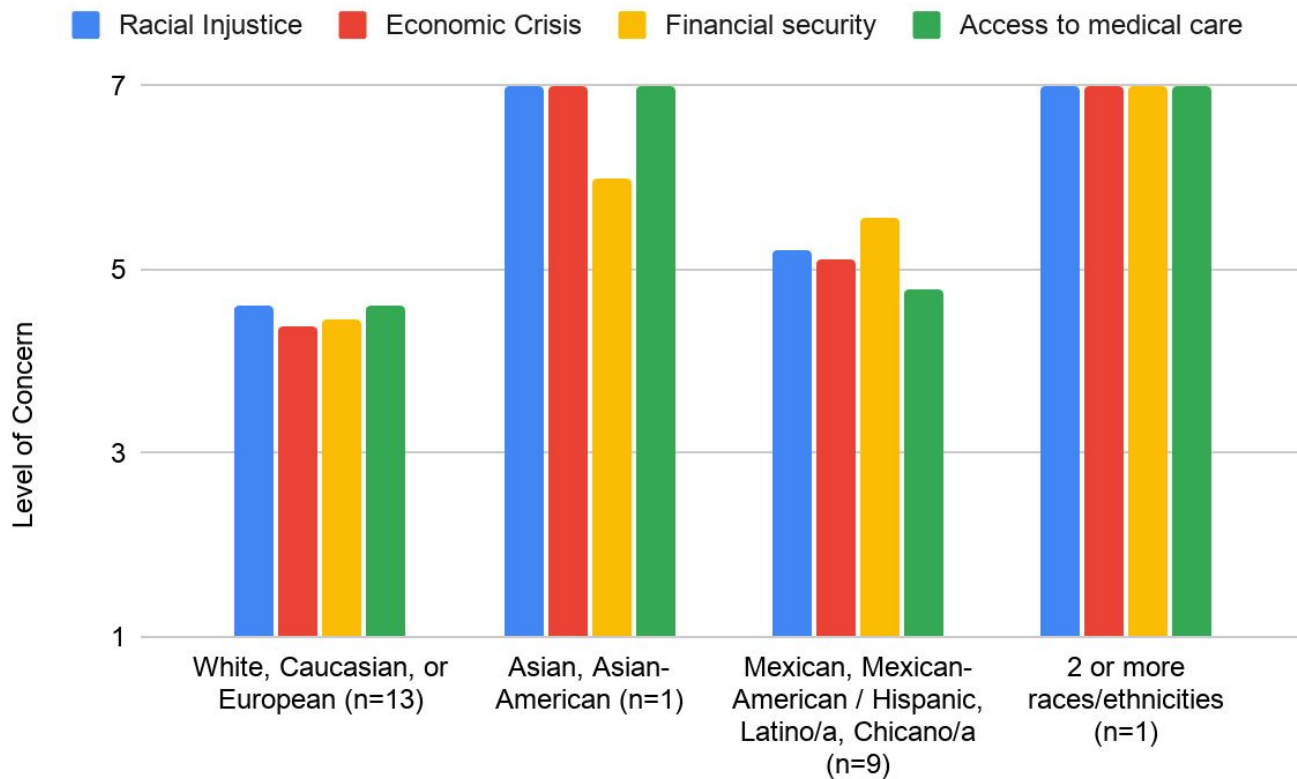
“Sea-level rise will make many cities uninhabitable.” (45+ female; White, Caucasian, or European)

“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



Social & Economic Concerns, ages 36-45+



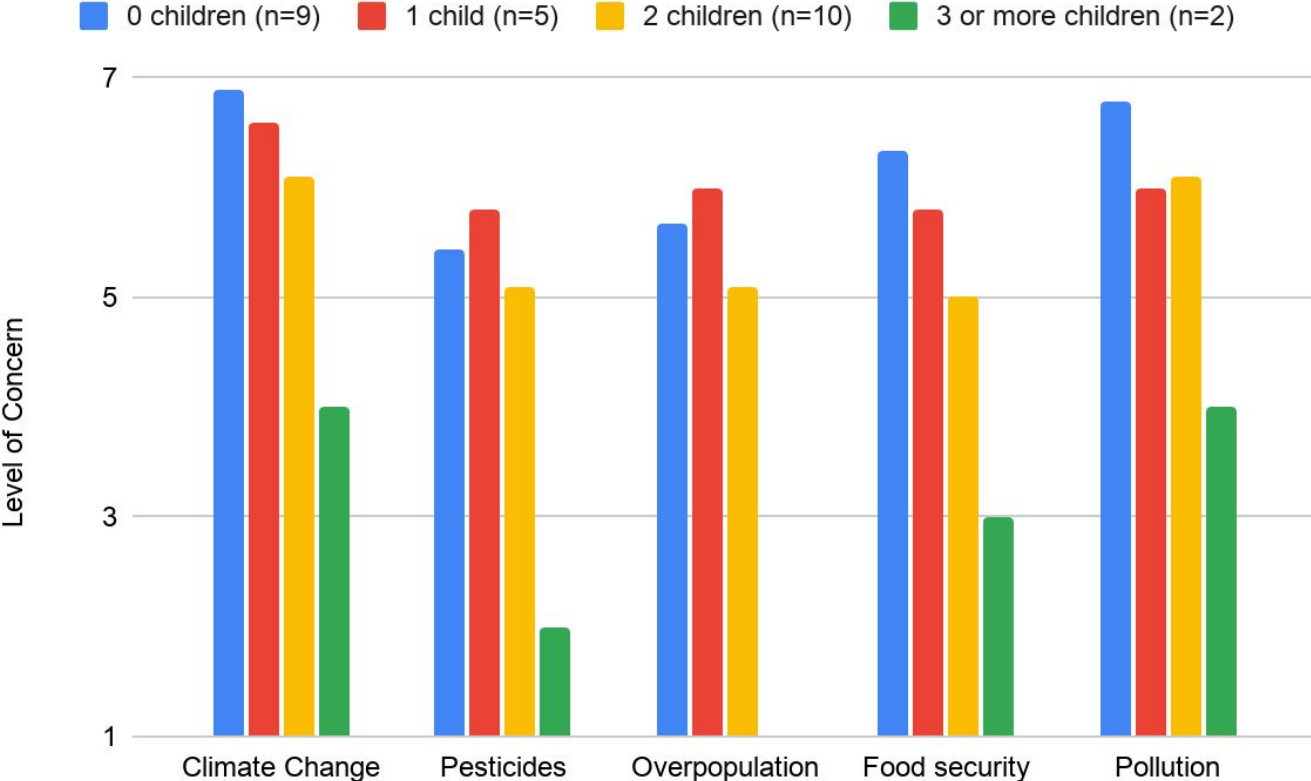


Finding?

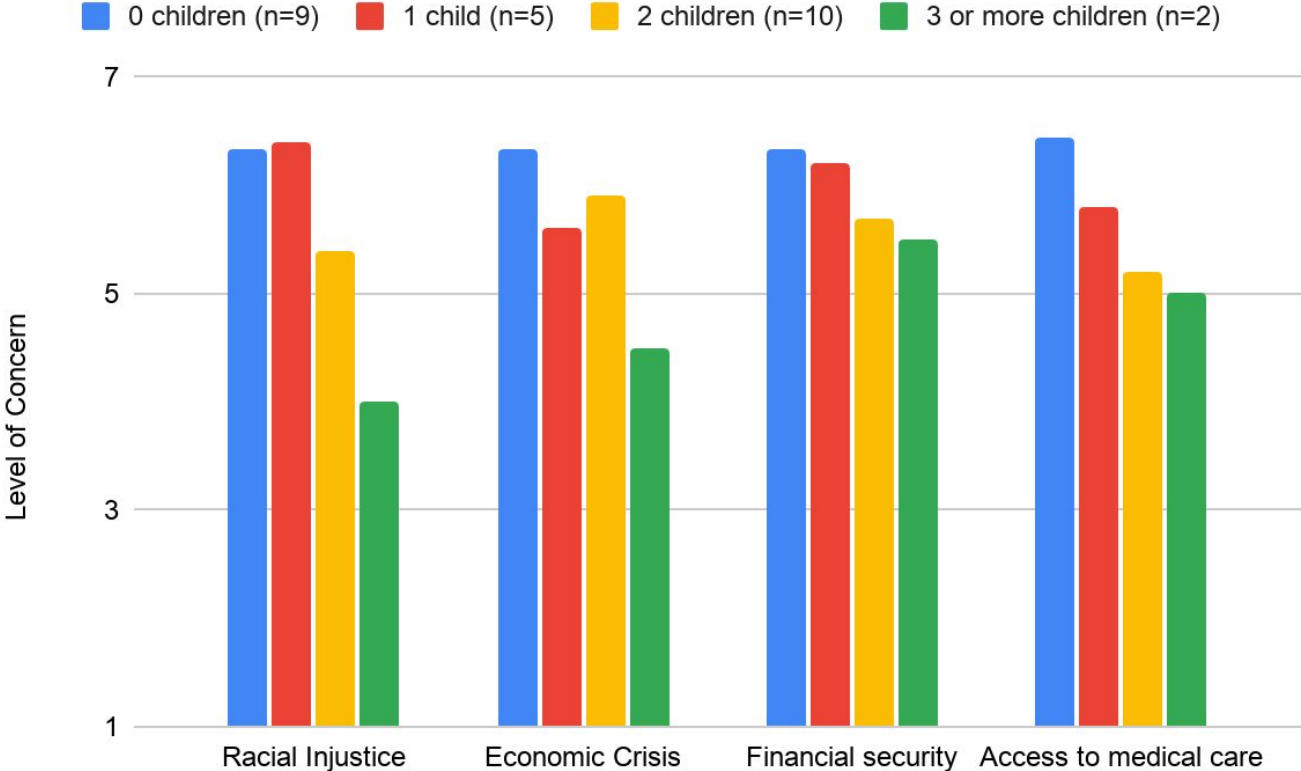
- All racial/ethnic groups, age group 18-35, were highly concerned about social and economic issues (5 out of 7 or higher)
- Some of the 36-45+ were less concerned
- 18-35 age group of Mexican, Mexican-American / Hispanic, Latino/a, Chicano/a rated higher for all social & economic concerns

“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



Social & Economic Concerns, ages 18-35





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



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