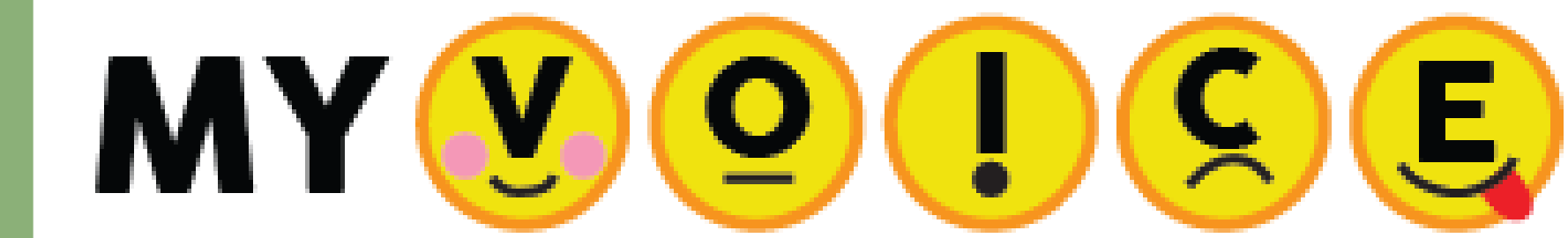


Gathering National Youth Opinions on Abortion through Text Message Surveys



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Background

What is MyVoice?

- MyVoice is an SMS platform that uses text message surveys to gather opinionative data from youth about a wide range of current relevant topics.
- MyVoice sends a 5-question SMS survey weekly to enrolled youth ages 14-24. Over 1000 youth are registered in the program, and 700-800 responses are received per question.
- With the recent overturn by the Supreme Court of Roe v Wade, states can determine individual restrictions to abortion. We want to understand the opinions of national youth on the changing abortion policies

Methods

- MyVoice, a nationwide text message poll of youth, aged 14-24 was used to conduct this study
- Survey questions were iteratively developed by team members to ensure clarity and engagement and sent via text to MyVoice youth after the SCOTUS ruling
- Responses were reviewed to create a codebook that defines response categories
- Responses are fully coded into categories by two people individually
- Differences between coder were resolved by a third individual
- Summary statistics were calculated to allow for inferences about youth opinion on abortion
- Data is disseminated through media, reports, and presentations

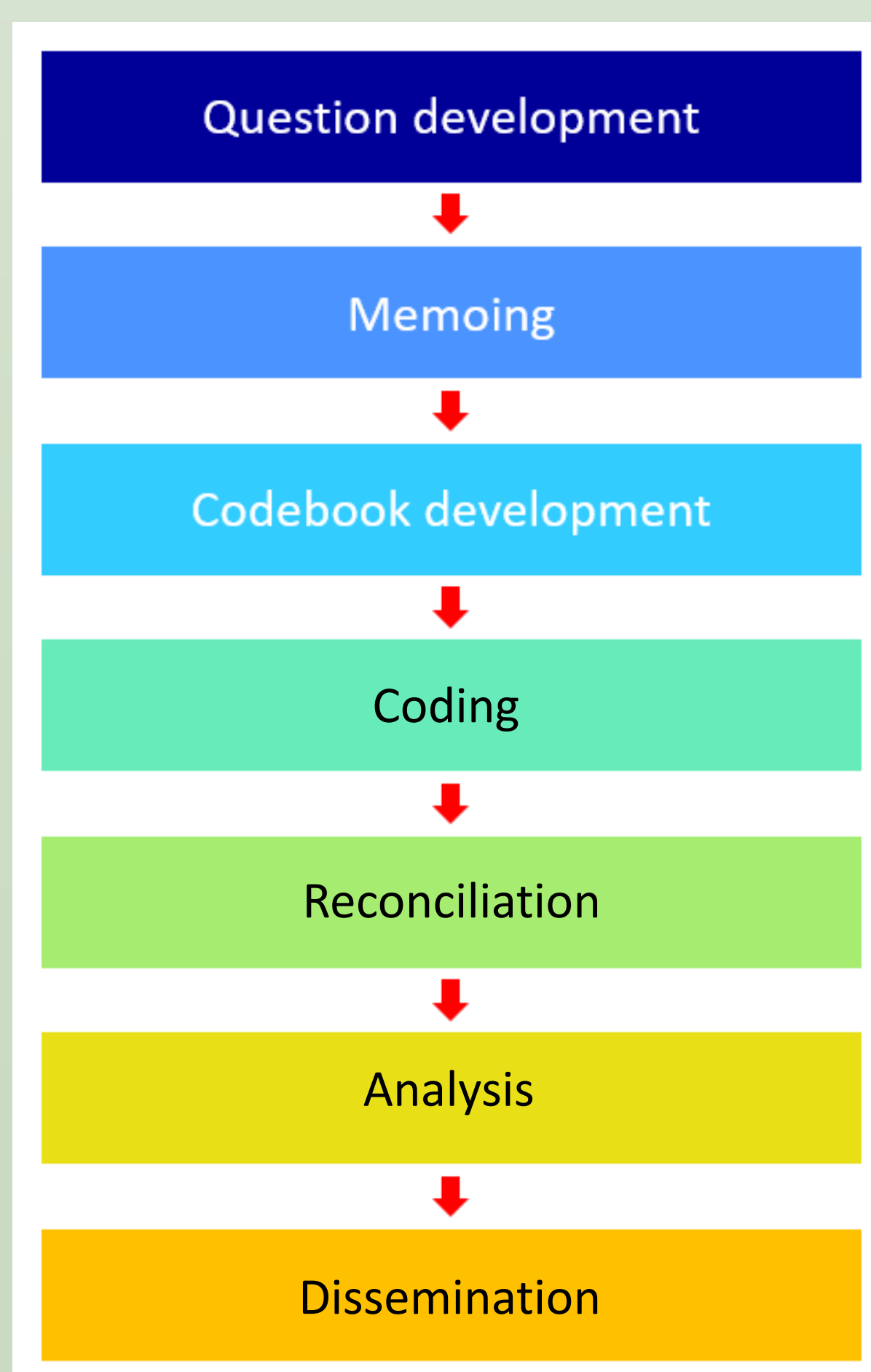


Fig 1. Study methods and data flow

Results

Survey Questions

1. What kind of changes to abortion access have you heard about?
2. How do you think this change impacts young people's decisions about sex?
3. Who in your life would you go to for support if you or a partner needed an abortion?
4. If you or a partner had to travel out of state for an abortion, what would you need to make this possible?
5. If you needed to find information online about getting an abortion, what specific websites or social media accounts would you look at?

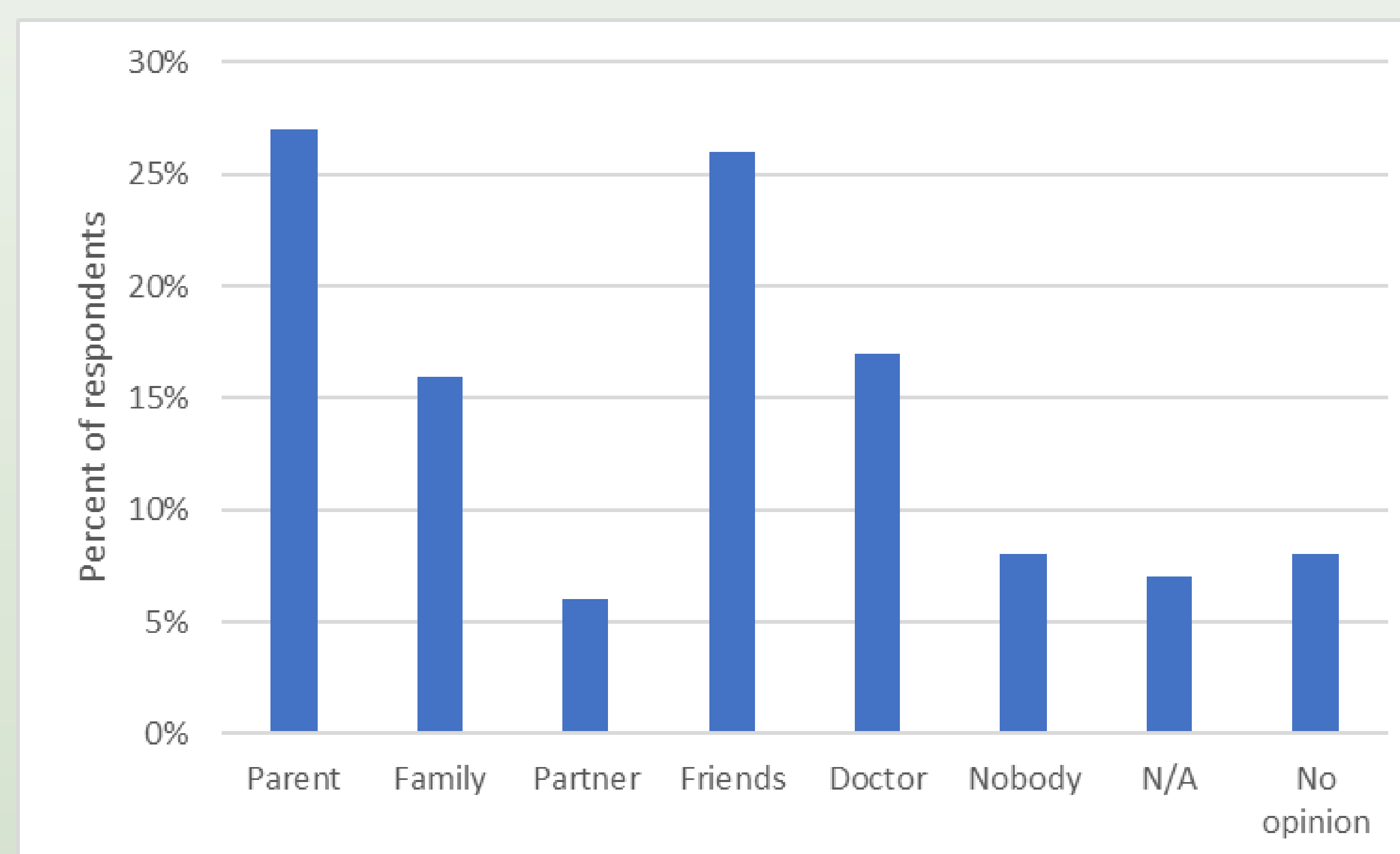


Fig. 2: Youth reported support individuals in the event of an abortion

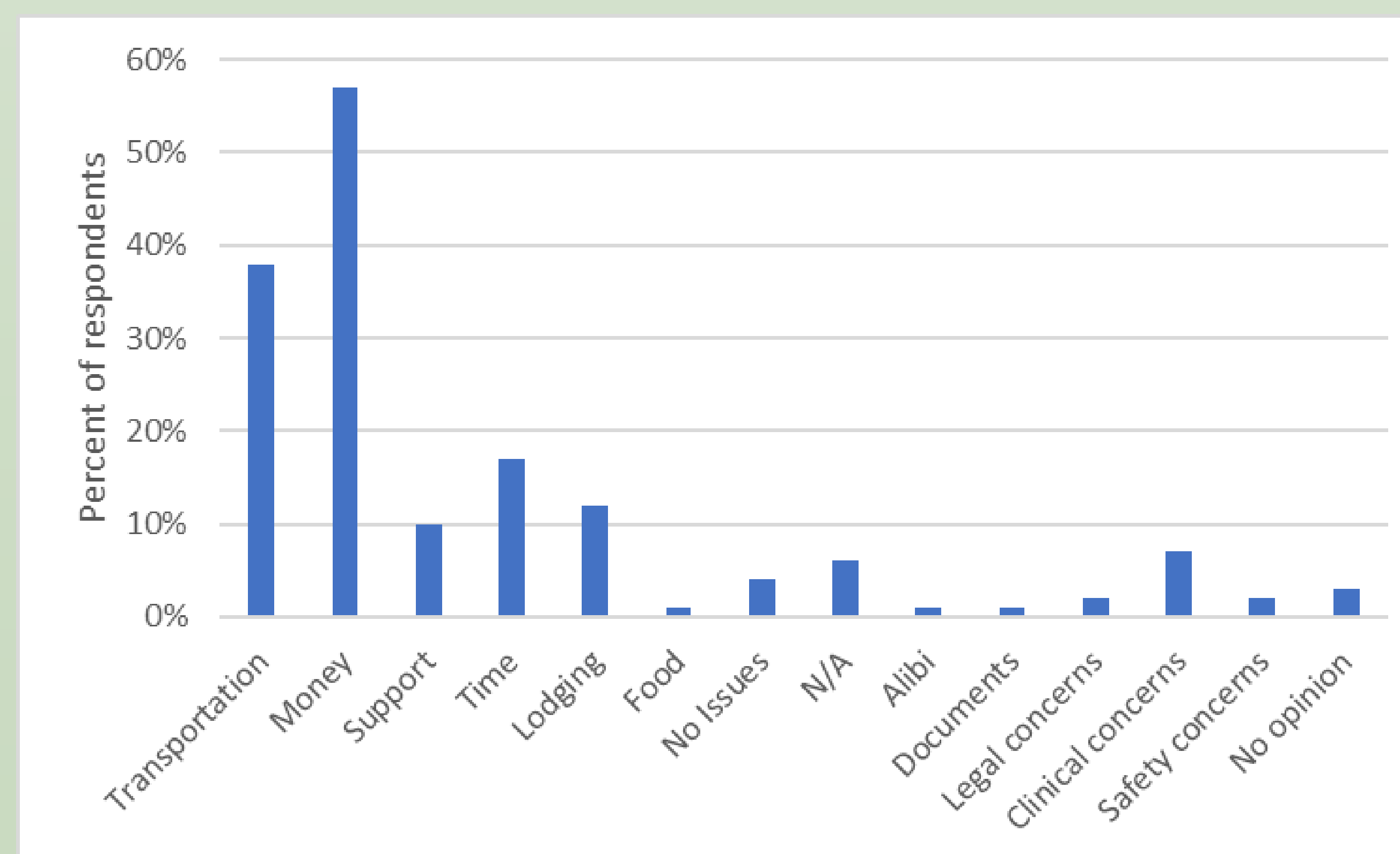


Fig. 3.: Youth reported resources needed to travel out of state for an abortion

Conclusions

1. Young people need information to understand how the state-by-state changes are affecting them.
2. People typically noted more consistent use of contraception after the Supreme Court Ruling
3. Most were able to identify someone to go to for support if they needed an abortion, but doctors were not often mentioned as trusted individuals
4. Most young people mentioned money as a need to travel out of state for an abortion
5. Young people are trusting social media more than reputable sources. The most mentioned internet source for information was Planned Parenthood

Future Directions

- Manuscript development, detailing the results on information seeking as well as resources needed to access abortions, is ongoing
- Youth needs regarding information and access can also be used to inform specific educational efforts at the state level

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References

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