



## OPINION POLL ON THE MEXICO CITY REFORMS WHICH DECRIMANILIZE ABORTION UP TO 12 WEEKS OF GESTATION

**April 23, 2008  
RESULTS SUMMARY**

### **Background:**

From April 5-14th, the demographics firm Ipsos-Bimsa was contracted by Population Council, Mexico to complete a survey on the opinions and perspectives of Mexico City residents on the new law. This survey, completed almost a year after the passage of a law which decriminalizes abortion up to 12 weeks in Mexico City, shows changes in knowledge and opinion compared with the results of a similar survey carried out in May 2007.

### **Methodology:**

This probabilistic and random survey involved individual, in-home interviews with women and men, aged 14 years and older, in Mexico City with a sample size of 1,010 interviews. The study has a margin of error of +/- 2.33 percentage points with 95% confidence.

## **Summary of Results**

### **Participant Characteristics:**

- Average age: 37 years (mean 35, range 14-91)
- 55% women, 45% men
- 56% were married or lived with a partner, 34% were single
- Participants by political affiliation: 54% no party, 23% PRD (Party for a Democratic Revolution), 11% PAN (National Action Party), 9% PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party)
- 26% of participants reported knowing a women who has had an abortion and 7% reported knowing a woman who has had a legal abortion in Mexico City since the law was approved

### **Current knowledge of the Mexico City Law:**

- 82% knew about the passage of the law which decriminalizes abortion in Mexico City
- The majority of women found out about the law via television (77%) or radio (9%)

### **Opinions about the Mexico City Law:**

- 63% of respondents approved of the new law, 26% were against it, and 10% had no opinion
  - ✓ *In the May 2007 survey, 43% were against the law, and 11% had no opinion.*
- The majority of participants approved of the portions of the new law on prevention of unwanted pregnancies and sexual education programs (87%) and of implementation of programs to improve access to contraceptive methods, reproductive health services and emergency contraception, and promote condom use (85%)
- 71% of participants approved of the conscientious objection clause, 17% were against it, and 10% had no opinion



### Opinions about the impact of the Mexico City Law:

- 66% thought that the new law was an advance for Mexican society, 26% thought that it was a step backwards
- 66% believed that the new law prevents clandestine and unsafe abortion, 30% did not
- 77% thought that the law especially benefits poor women, 19% did not
- 69% of participants thought that the Mexico City Law should be extended to all Mexican states (20% disagreed, and 9% had no opinion)
- 69% believed that women who live outside Mexico City should be able to come to Mexico City to get legal abortions, 23% did not

### Who should have the final decision about whether or not to terminate a pregnancy?

- 46% of participants believed that the woman should have the final decision about whether or not to terminate an unwanted pregnancy
- 34% believed that the woman and her partner should decide together about whether or not to terminate an unwanted pregnancy
- More than half of the sample (59%) thought that legislators should consider women's right to decide when they vote on abortion laws
  - ✓ 24% believed that they should consider society in general, 4% thought they should consider personal religious beliefs, 4% scientific evidence, and 5% the position of their party
- 55% thought that minors should have the right to have a legal abortion in Mexico City, 35% disagreed, and 7% had no opinion
- If a minor (under 18 years of age) wants to have a legal abortion, almost half of participants agreed that the minor should have the final decision
  - ✓ 29% thought that it should be the mother, 10% a doctor, 6% the father, and 4% another adult

### Should the Supreme Court reverse or uphold this law?

- The majority of participants (65%) thought that the Supreme Court should uphold the Mexico City Law, 20% said it should be reversed, and 12% had no opinion