Examination of Reactions on Social Media to the Overturning of Roe v. Wade and Abortion Bans

University of Connecticut SHARE Summer Research Apprenticeship

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Introduction

Roe v. Wade has had a profound effect on society representing women's rights to reproductive autonomy. In the overturning of Roe v. Wade with the Dobbs v. Jackson's Women's Health Organization decision, the overruling took away an individual's right to choose is no longer protected by the constitution of the United States. The ramifications of this decision will likely cause women to delay prenatal care and/or seek unsafe abortions. The objective of this study was to use nurses' social media posts to examine reactions to the overturning of Roe v. Wade and abortion bans to identify priority nursing interventions to minimize the expansion of the Social Determinants of Health in the patient population.

Citations:
Krippendorff, . (2019). *Content analysis: An introduction to its methodology*. Los Angeles CA: Sage.

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World Health Organization (WHO). Abortion care guideline. Geneva, Switzerland; 2022. https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240039483

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Background

Roe v. Wade has become a representation of women's rights to reproductive autonomy in the United States. In overturning Roe v. Wade, an individual's right to choose or abortion is no longer protected by the Constitution. This will likely increase women delaying prenatal care and/or seeking unsafe abortions. According to the World Health Organization (WHO; 2022), there are an estimated 39,000 women who die each year from unsafe abortions. Nurses will continually be required to provide mental health and social services to women who have lost the ability to make their own health and personal decisions surrounding reproduction. Nurses are taking advantage of the large network of social media allows to talk about the recent court ruling. Analyzing these public responses can help us to better understand nurse's concerns, how nurses can best support women, and additionally learn the influences this decision has on positive patient outcomes, and the ability to practice.

Objectives and Methods

A literature review was conducted through CINAHL, PubMed, and APA PsycInfo for research conducted using social media in health research using keywords "ABORTION", "SOCIAL MEDIA", "NURSE ATTITUDE", "ABORTION PROVIDERS". Social media data was collected via Twitter Bindr Historical Archive Search and ExportComments.com, and coded on Atlas.ti through the Social Determinants of Health. We then used Krippendorff's (2019) approach for qualitative content analysis through categorical distinction on Atlas. ti through the social determinants of health from the Healthy People Report 2030 (figure 1).

The goal of this project is to use nurses' social media posts to examine reactions to the overturning of Roe v. Wade and abortion bans. These publicly available social media posts on nurses' publicly available responses from social media to learn and better understand how nurses can best support women, and their concerns over the delivery of care throughout the nation.

Figure 1.

Study Design

This study used Krippendorf's approach for qualitative content analysis through the categorical distinction of the Healthy People 2030 Social Determinants of Health with randomly selected social media posts from Twitter (now X) and Reddit in Atlas.ti.

Social Determinants of Health	Coding Definition
Healthcare access and quality	Improving health by helping people get timely, high-quality healthcare services, people have access to important health care services.
Education access and quality	Educational opportunities that help individuals do well in all levels of schooling.
Social and community context	Ensuring that people get the social support they need in the places where they are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age. Increase social and community support.
Economic stability	People's abilities to earn steady incomes that allow them to meet their health needs.
Neighborhood and built environment	Ensuring health and safety in the places where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age.

Figure 2

Results and Implications

Our research supports the Social Determinants of Health, "Healthcare Access and Quality" and "Social and Community Context" will be expanded under the overturning of Roe v. Wade and enacted abortion bans.

Nurses need to be informed of the limitations in the State they practice and be required to provide mental health and social services to women who have lost the ability to make their own health and personal decisions regarding reproduction.

Nurses reflect negative sentiments and fear of intensification of the Social Determinants of Health from the overturning of Roe v. Wade. Nurses should prepare to treat women with limited access to prenatal care and/or have sought unsafe abortions, experienced community violence, and have little social welfare support. Nurses should prepare to provide more mental health and social services to women who have lost the ability to make their own health and personal decisions regarding reproduction.
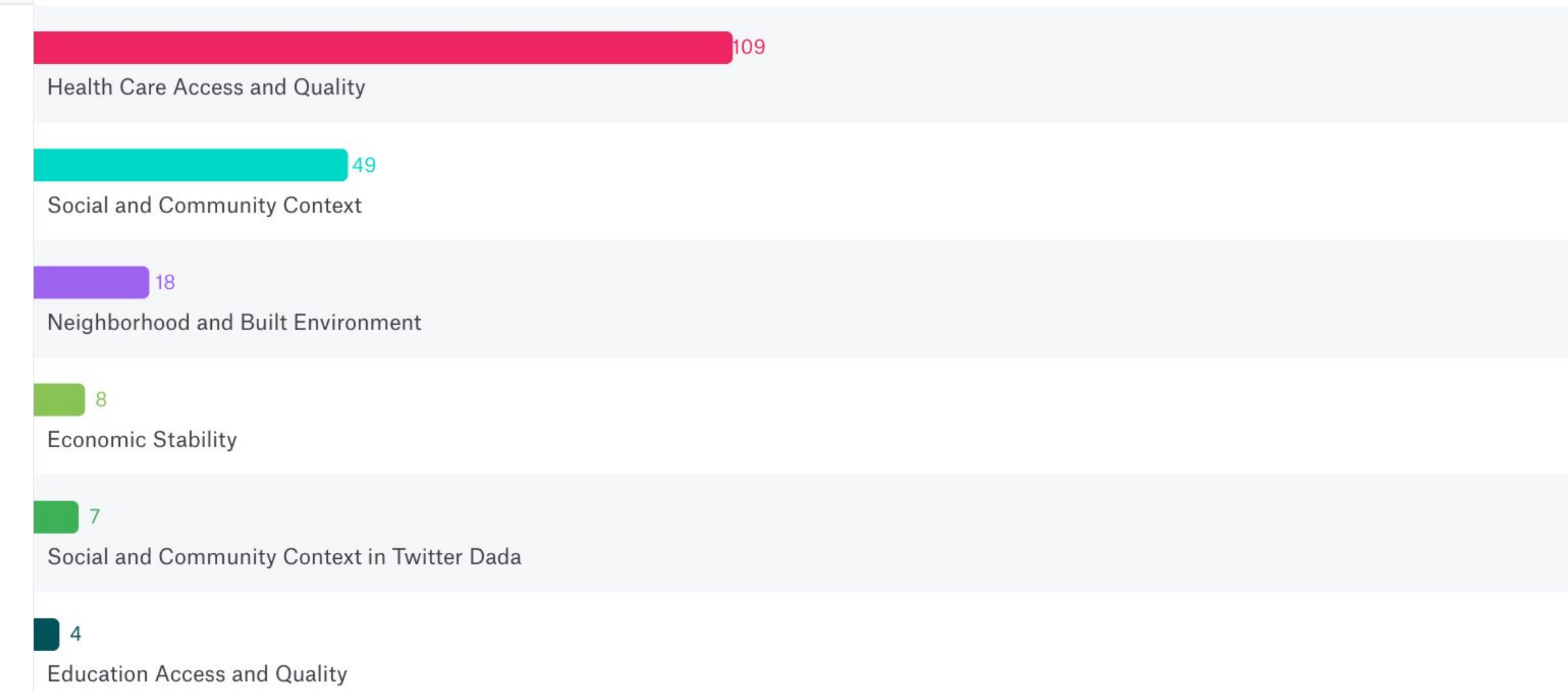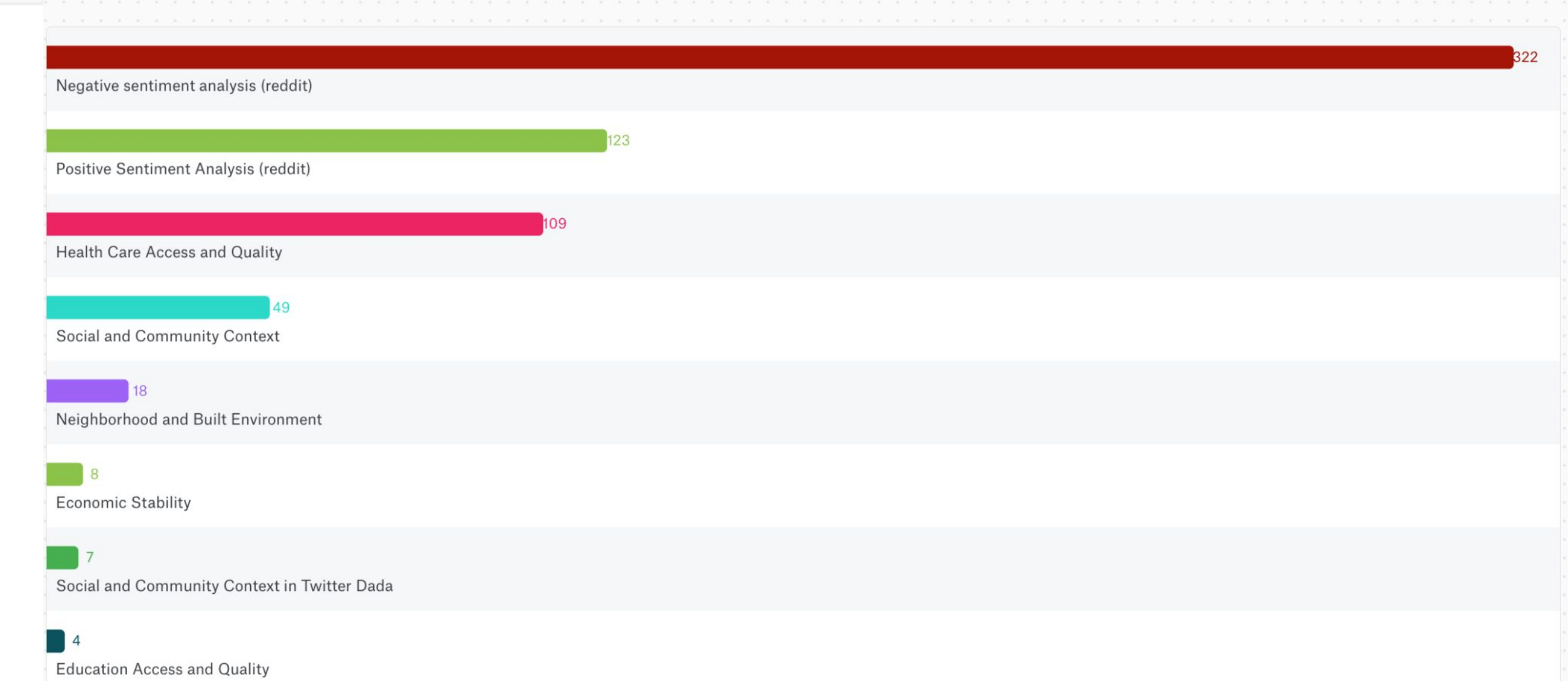

Figure 3

Figure 4