

## Finley Baba, MPH

### Project Manager



Finley Baba is a Project Manager involved in ANSIRH's body of work around expanding access to medication abortion through methods of alternative provision including pharmacy dispensing. Finley has been at ANSIRH since 2016 and has expertise in data management and survey design and programming. She has an international background and is also involved in research around abortion policy and health professionals' attitudes and willingness to provide abortion in Chile. Finley is passionate about reproductive health equity and how people access healthcare and

abortion services especially in restrictive policy settings. She is committed to work around diversity, equity, and inclusion and is part of ANSIRH's DEI strategy group. Ms. Baba studied Public Health and Latin American Studies at Tulane University and received her MPH from Tulane in 2015.

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### Research projects and studies

**Abortion Prenatal Study (Louisiana and Maryland).** A multi-site mixed methods study examining the effects of multiple simultaneous restrictions on abortion care on women's experiences.

**Medical and Midwifery Faculty and Students' Support for Abortion in Chile.** In 2017, abortion in Chile was decriminalized. Now women can legally access abortion in cases of rape, lethal fetal anomaly, and to preserve a woman's life. This study is assessing whether future women's health professionals in Chile welcome or are prepared for this legal change. A better understanding of their attitudes about and willingness to provide abortion is critical to identifying reproductive health training needs and the barriers that would need to be overcome if abortion were liberalized in Chile.

**Health and Reproductive Choices (HeR Choices).** A relatively large number of women not seeking pregnancy engage in unprotected sex or use less effective contraceptive methods even when more effective methods are made available at no cost in a confidential setting. This study seeks to explore the reasons why young women choose not to adopt the more effective contraceptive methods that providers, policymakers and funders hope (and often assume) they desire.

**Desire to Avoid Pregnancy (DAP) scale.** The Desire to Avoid Pregnancy (DAP) scale is a psychometrically validated measure of a person's preferences about a future pregnancy and childbearing.

**Novel Abortion Provision Models.** Medication abortion is a simple, safe, and effective abortion method that makes up about one in four abortion procedures taking place in the United States. The nature of medication abortion gives it the potential to be accessible outside of the traditional healthcare setting – meaning women would have more control and autonomy over their abortion experience. However, abortion access is restricted in the US, including how medication abortion pills can be dispensed.

**Methods of Alternative Provision (MAP) Study.** The MAP Study aims to better understand demand and interest in three hypothetical new provision models for medication abortion access: 1) obtaining abortion pills on prescription in advance from a provider in case of an unintended pregnancy; 2) ordering abortion pills online; and 3) purchasing medication abortion pills in a drug store or grocery without prescription.

**Pharmacy Dispensing of Medication Abortion.** Pharmacists play an important role in the provision of reproductive health care, including prescribing hormonal contraception and emergency contraception in some states. But pharmacists have limited involvement in abortion care, primarily due to the FDA's dispensing restrictions on mifepristone. There is increasing interest in removing the dispensing restrictions on mifepristone in the United States, which would enable pharmacists to dispense the drug directly to patients with a prescription from their clinician. We are conducting a study, under an Investigational New Drug (IND) application to the FDA, examining the effectiveness and acceptability of pharmacist dispensing of medication abortion.

### Recent publications

- July 2020. Abortion Pill "Reversal": Where's the Evidence? (July 2020)  
...Request pdf
- May 2020. Medical and midwifery students' views on the use of conscientious objection in abortion care, following legal reform in Chile: A cross-sectional study (*BMC Medical Ethics*, May 2020)  
...Request pdf
- March 2020. Medical and midwifery student attitudes toward moral acceptability and legality of abortion, following decriminalization of abortion in Chile (*Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare*, March 2020)  
...Request pdf
- October 2019. Future health providers' willingness to provide abortion services following decriminalisation of abortion in Chile: a cross-sectional survey (*BMJ Open*, October 2019)  
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