

Proposals Received and Grants Funded 2007-2017

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Overview

Since 2007, the SFP Research Fund¹ has provided grants to Investigators to conduct rigorous research on critical family planning issues. This report shows how our grantmaking has evolved over the last 11 years.

TOP TAKEAWAYS

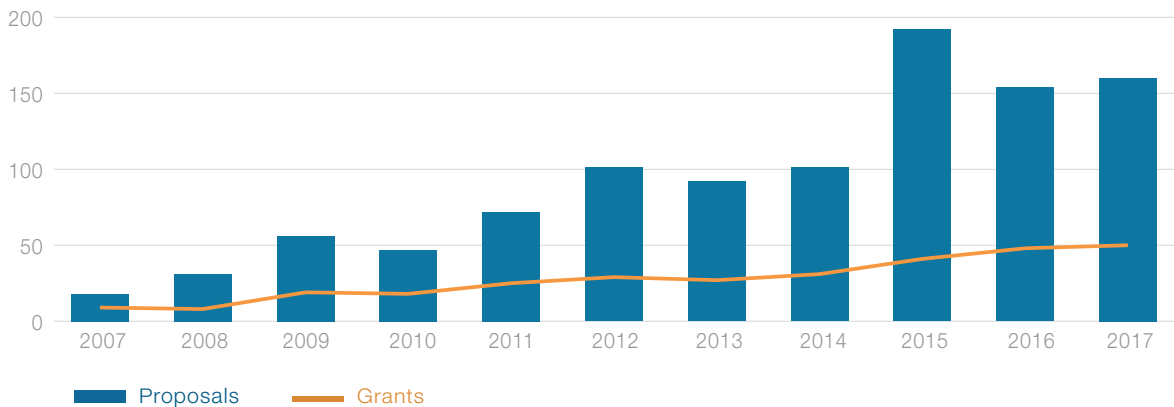
- Our grantmaking has grown over the last 11 years, from 9 grants in 2007 to 50 grants in 2017.
- On average, we accept approximately 30% of proposals. In 2017, we accepted 31% of proposals.
- The number of proposals and grants focused on answering social science questions has steadily increased since 2007. The number of proposals and grants focused on answering clinical science questions has steadily decreased.
- While more grants have been awarded to research focused on contraception, more grant dollars have gone towards research focused on abortion.
- US-focused research makes up the bulk of proposals and grants.
- Less than a half of grants focus on underserved populations, the most common populations being people with disabilities or health conditions, adolescents, and people living in specific geographic areas.
- Overall, MDs make up the largest group of individuals applying for and receiving grants. However, in 2017, for the first time ever, individuals with doctorate degrees made up the largest group of grant recipients.

¹ Our grant program was administered through the Society of Family Planning (SFP) from 2007-2010. Starting in 2011, it was administered through the SFP Research Fund.

Proposals and grants, overall

Between 2007-2017, we received 1,024 proposals and awarded 305 grants, an overall acceptance rate of 30%. In 2017, we received 160 proposals and awarded 50 grants, an acceptance rate of 31%. Since 2007, the number of proposals and grants has steadily increased (see Figure 1).

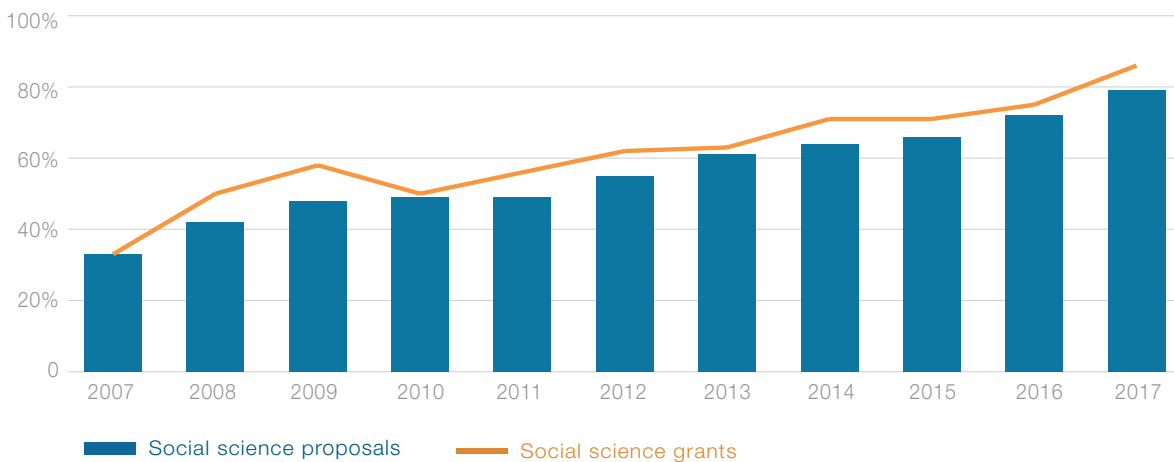
FIGURE 1. Number of proposals and grants, by year



Proposals and grants, by clinical or social science

Research focused on answering clinical and social science questions has historically made up, and continues to make up, the bulk of proposals and grants.² Since 2007, the percentage of proposals focused on social science questions has steadily increased, from 33% in 2007 to 79% in 2017 (see Figure 2). Likewise, the percentage of social science grants has also increased, from 33% in 2007 to 86% in 2017.

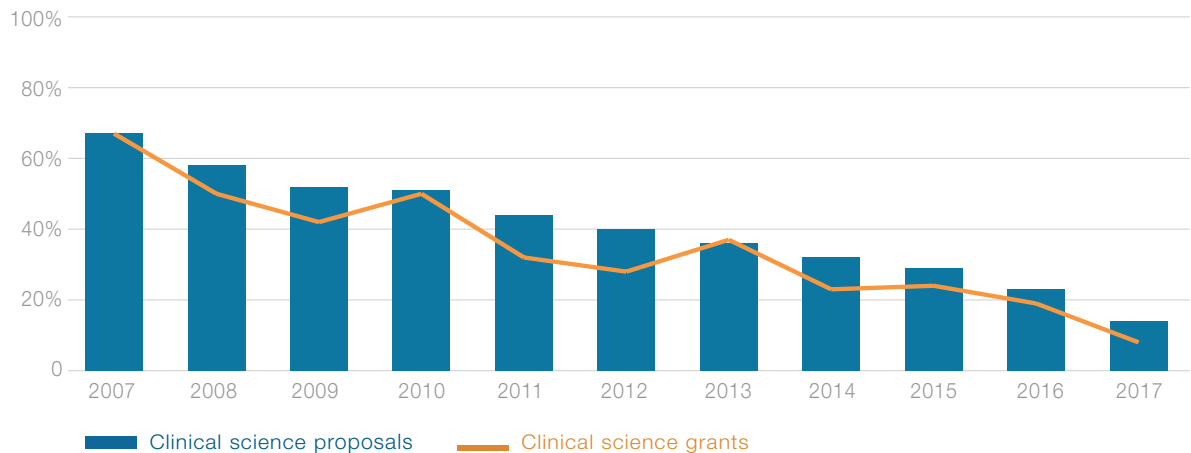
FIGURE 2. Percent of proposals and grants focused on social science questions, by year



² 4% of proposals and 5% of grants focused on other types of questions (e.g., education/training, mentorship).

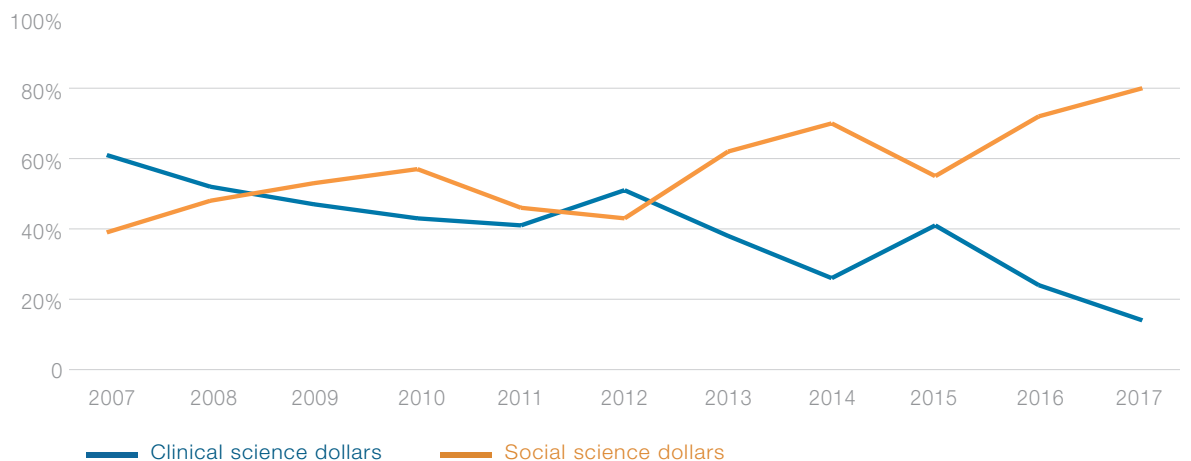
We have seen the opposite trend in proposals and grants focused on answering clinical science questions. The percentage of clinical science proposals fell from 67% in 2007 to 14% in 2017, and the percentage of clinical science grants fell from 67% in 2007 to 8% in 2017 (see Figure 3).

FIGURE 3. Percent of proposals and grants focused on clinical science questions, by year



Between 2007-2017, 34% of grant dollars went towards research focused on answering clinical science questions and 61% of grant dollars went towards research focused on answering social science questions.³ In 2017, 14% of grant dollars went towards clinical science grants and 80% went towards social science grants (see Figure 4).⁴

FIGURE 4. Proportion of grant dollars awarded to clinical and social science research, by year



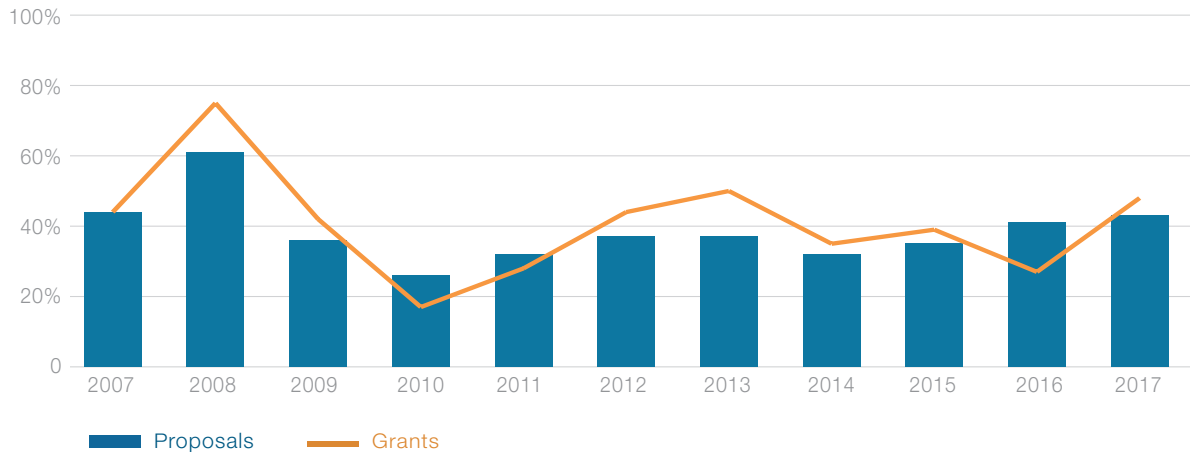
³ The remaining 4% of grant dollars went towards research focused on other types of questions.

⁴ The remaining 6% of grant dollars went towards research focused on other types of questions.

Proposals and grants, by topic

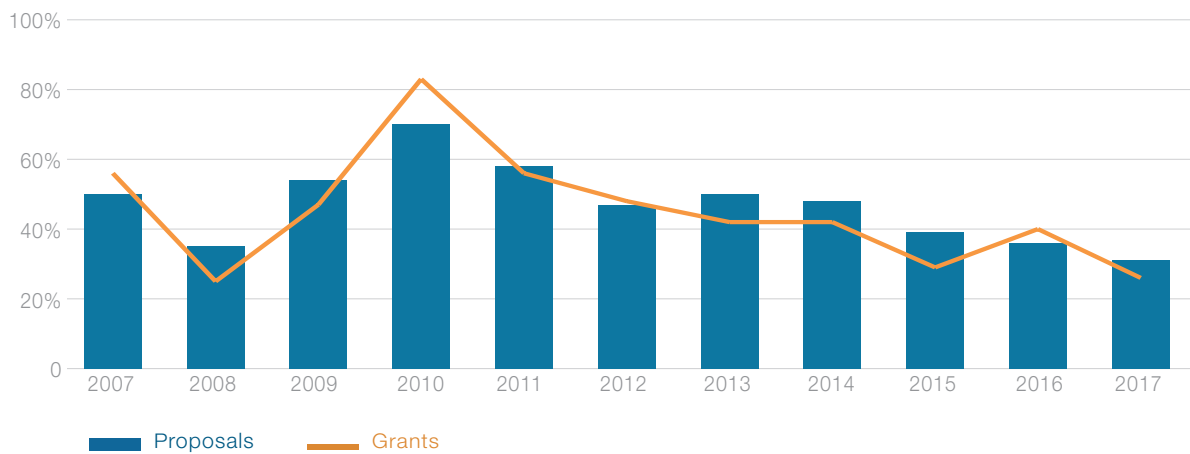
Research on abortion and contraception has historically made up, and continues to make up, the bulk of proposals and grants.⁵ Abortion-focused research makes up an average of 38% of all proposals and grants, and has stayed fairly steady over time (see Figure 5). In 2017, 43% of proposals and 48% of grants focused on abortion.

FIGURE 5. Percent of proposals and grants focused on abortion, by year



Contraception-focused research makes up an average of 44% of all proposals and 41% of all grants. Between 2010-2017, there was a decline in the percentage of contraception-focused proposals and grants (see Figure 6). In 2017, 31% of proposals and 26% of grants focused on contraception.

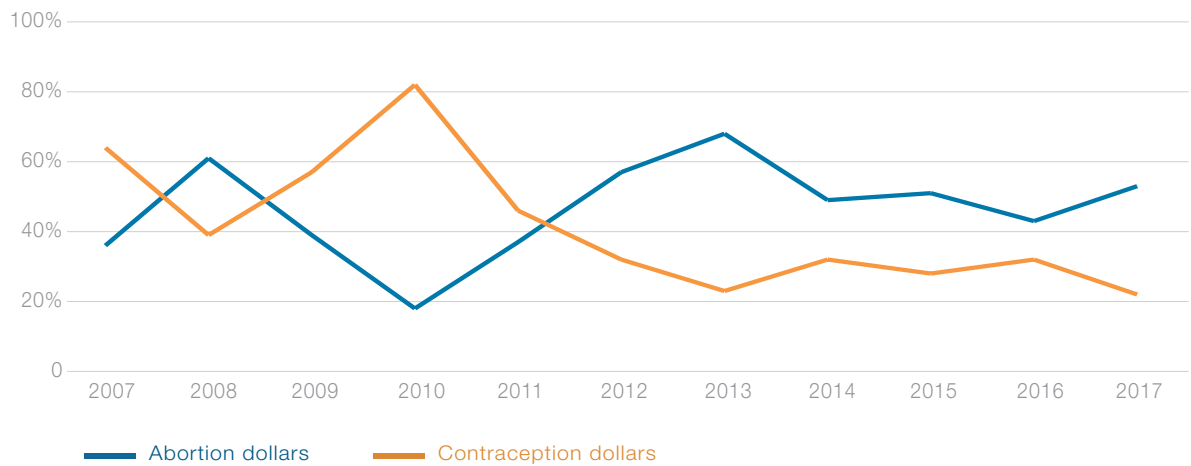
FIGURE 6. Percent of proposals and grants focused on contraception, by year



⁵ 19% of proposals and 20% of grants focus on other sexual and reproductive health topics.

Between 2007-2017, 48% of grant dollars went towards abortion-focused research and 35% went towards contraception-focused research.⁶ Since 2012, more grant dollars have gone towards abortion-focused research (see Figure 7). In 2017, 53% of grant dollars went towards abortion-focused research and 22% went towards contraception-focused research.

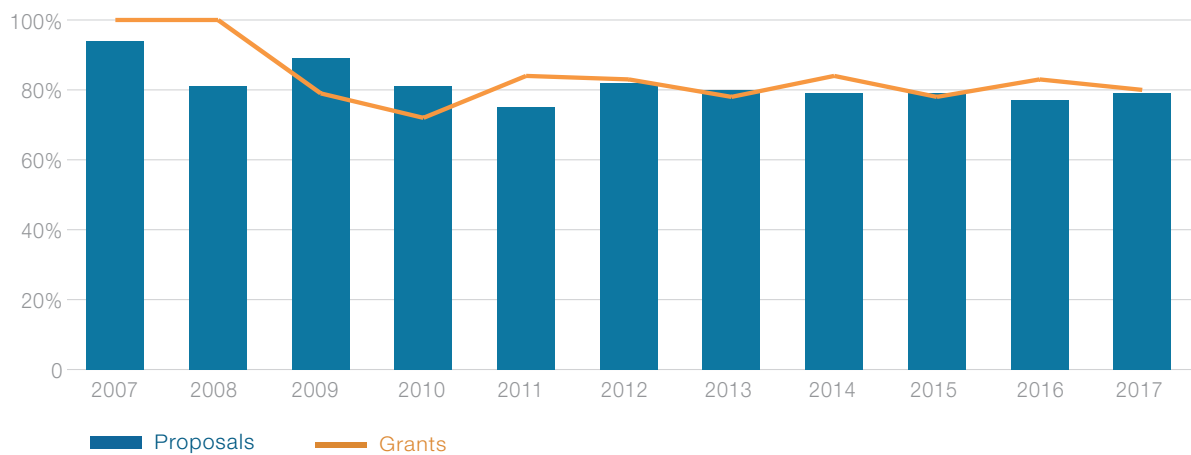
FIGURE 7. Percent of grant dollars awarded to abortion and contraception research, by year



Proposals and grants, by geographic focus

US-focused work makes up an average of 80% of all proposals and 82% of all grants. The percentage of proposals and grants focused in the United States has stayed fairly steady over the last 11 years (see Figure 8). In 2017, 78% of proposals and 80% of grants were focused in the United States.

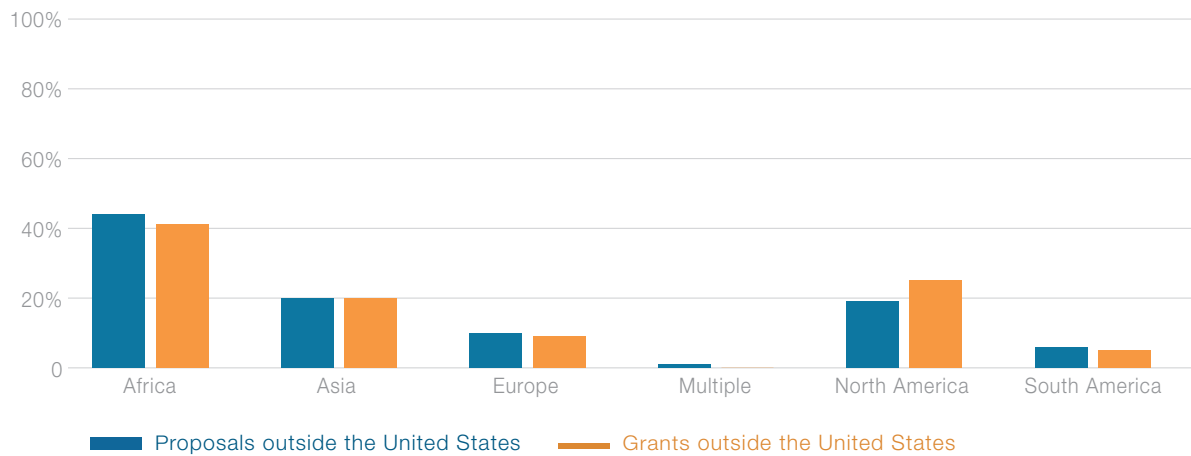
FIGURE 8. Percent of proposals and grants focused in the United States, by year



⁶The remaining 17% of grant dollars went towards research on other sexual and reproductive health topics.

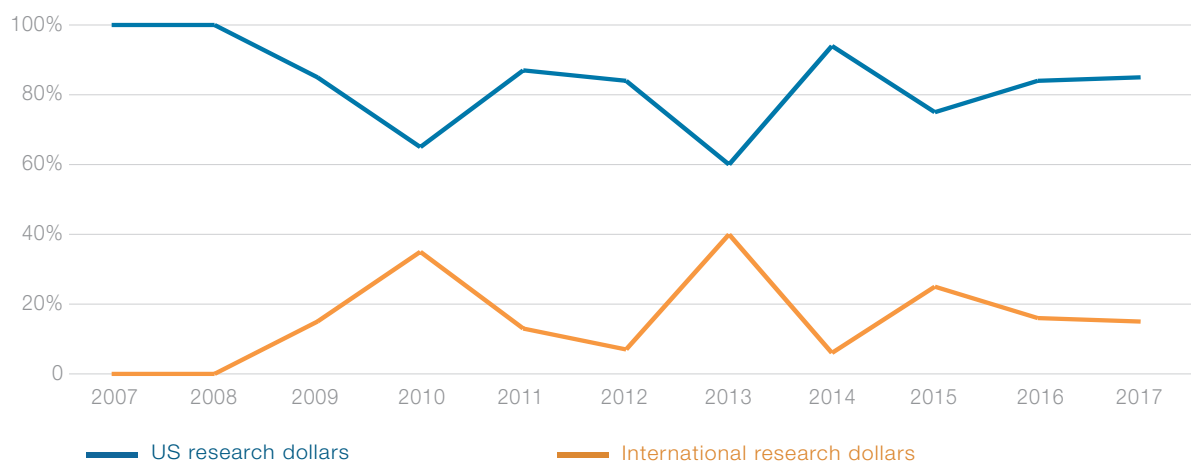
Research outside the United States makes up an average of 20% of all proposals and 18% of all grants. The majority of these proposals and grants focus on populations in Africa (44% and 41%, respectively) (see Figure 9).

FIGURE 9. Percent of proposals and grants focused outside the United States, by continent



Between 2007-2017, 82% of grant dollars went towards research focused in the United States and 17% went towards research in other countries.⁷ In 2017, 85% of grant dollars went towards US-focused research and 15% went towards research in other countries (see Figure 10).

FIGURE 10. Percent of grant dollars awarded to research in the United States and other countries, by year

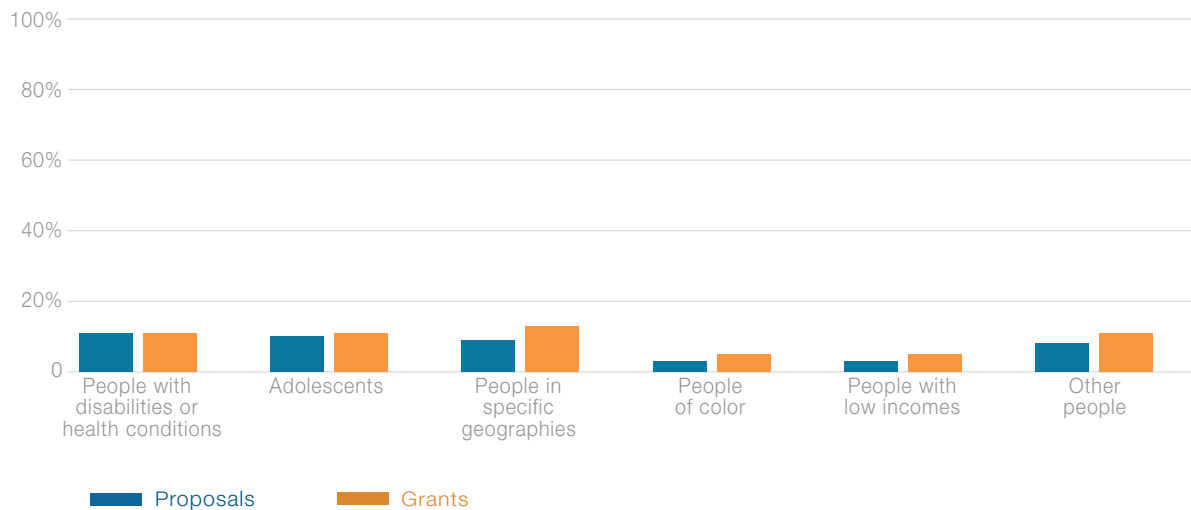


⁷ The remaining 1% of grant dollars went towards grants focused in the United States and other countries.

Proposals and grants, by underserved population

Among all proposals and grants focused in the United States, 36% of proposals and 44% of grants focus on underserved populations,⁸ the most common populations being people with disabilities or health conditions, adolescents, and people living in specific geographies (see Figure 11). Very few grants and proposals focus on other underserved populations, such as people of color and people with low incomes.

FIGURE 11. Percent of US proposals and grants focused on underserved populations



Proposals and grants, by individuals

Overall, 491 individuals have submitted one or more proposals to the SFP Research Fund, and 205 have received one or more grants. In 2017, 143 individuals submitted one or more proposals and 50 individuals received grants (no individual received more than one grant). Among 2017 applicants, 65 submitted a proposal for the first time.

We have one piece of sociodemographic data about individuals applying for and receiving grants: their highest degree. Overall, MDs make up the largest group of applicants and grantees (see Table 1, next page).⁹ However, in 2017, for the first time ever, individuals with a doctorate degree (e.g., PhD, PsyD) made up the largest group of grantees.

⁸ Underserved populations were identified based on a list from the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy and modified to fit our focus on family planning: National Committee For Responsive Philanthropy. Philanthropic Landscape 2016. Available from www.ncrp.org/publication/pennies-for-progress.

⁹ A small number of individuals are counted twice in the table as their highest degree changed over time.

TABLE 1. Individuals applying for and receiving grants, by highest degree

Highest degree	Applicants 2007-2017	Grantees 2007-2017	Applicants 2017	Grantees 2017
MD	249 (50%)	100 (48%)	56 (39%)	17 (34%)
Doctorate	109 (22%)	52 (25%)	44 (31%)	18 (36%)
Dual MD & Doctorate	10 (2%)	6 (3%)	4 (3%)	1 (2%)
Masters	65 (13%)	26 (12%)	21 (15%)	7 (14%)
Bachelors	40 (8%)	20 (10%)	12 (8%)	6 (12%)
Nursing	4 (1%)	2 (1%)	1 (1%)	1 (2%)
JD	3 (1%)	1 (0%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
Unknown	20 (4%)	2 (1%)	4 (3%)	0 (0%)

Closing

The SFP Research Fund is honored to support a growing field of Investigators conducting rigorous research on critical topics in the field of family planning. Based on this review of internal grant-management data, we are unable to explore the factors driving changes in proposals. We are unsure if proposals have changed in response to signals from the SFP Research Fund or other funders, the interests of Investigators, the needs of the field, or other dynamics. Patterns in grants largely mirror proposal patterns.

We look forward to continuing to learn and make changes to our grantmaking alongside the Investigators we support.