Privacy in the Latinx Community

By: Sabina, Melina, and Phoebe

What is Privacy for the Latinx Community?

- “I have noticed many [from] those countries always talking on WhatsApp because it is a place that feels safer to talk about the situation, what they are going through, without feeling monitored by the government.”
- “This ability to have freer conversations on some platforms created closer connections between immigrants and those who remained in their countries of origin, especially when the home country had an authoritarian government.”

Citation: How Social Media Affordances Mediate the Digital Diaspora: Latinx Perspectives

ACLU-DE and WhatsApp Privacy

ACLU: "The ACLU believes that every person has a right to privacy and actively works to expand that
right, increase the control individuals have over their personal information, and ensure civil liberties are enhanced rather than compromised by technological innovation."

WhatsApp: "Your privacy is our priority. With end-to-end encryption, you can be sure that your personal messages stay between you and who you send them to."

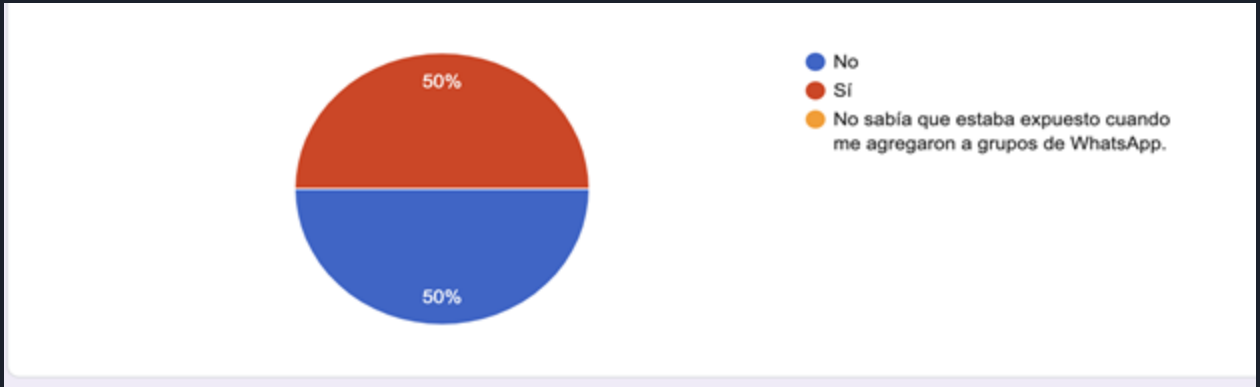
Digital Privacy

“For an individual, digital privacy is about the ability to shape one's own online identity and decide when, how and where to share parts of that identity with people, companies or other selected entities. The freedom to create and curate a digital portrait that reflects personal preference” - Privacy in the Digital Age.

- But what if the Latinx community does not feel in total control of their privacy?

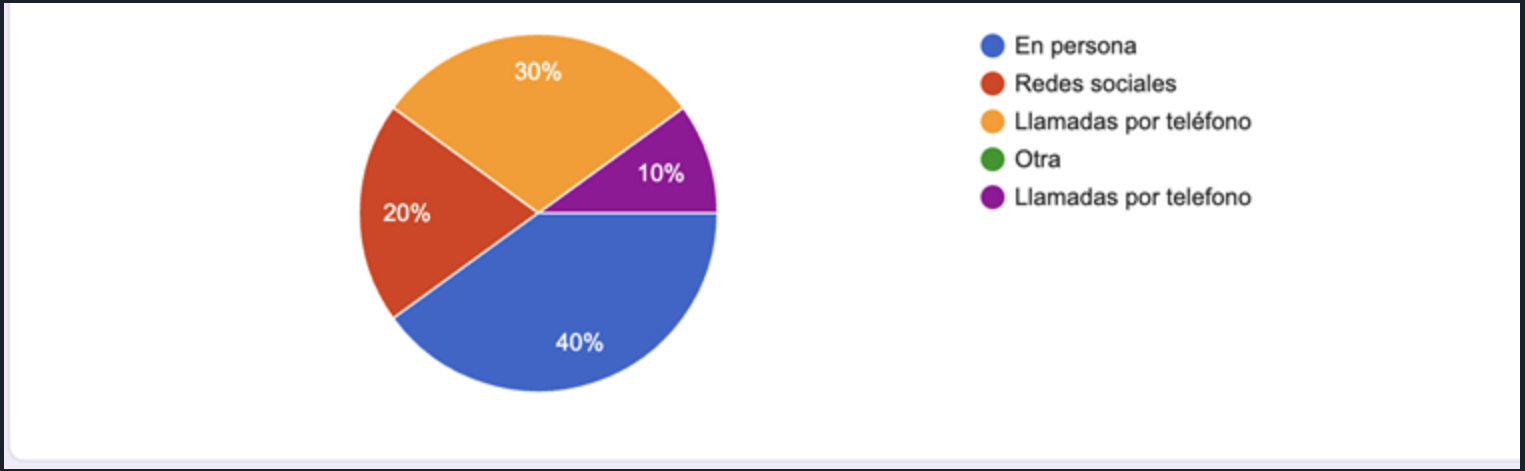
Survey Results- was done in Spanish

Question #1: Are you aware that your name and phone number are public to everyone in the group?



Survey Results

Question #2: What is the best mode of communication?



40% choose phone calls as best way of communication

Survey Results

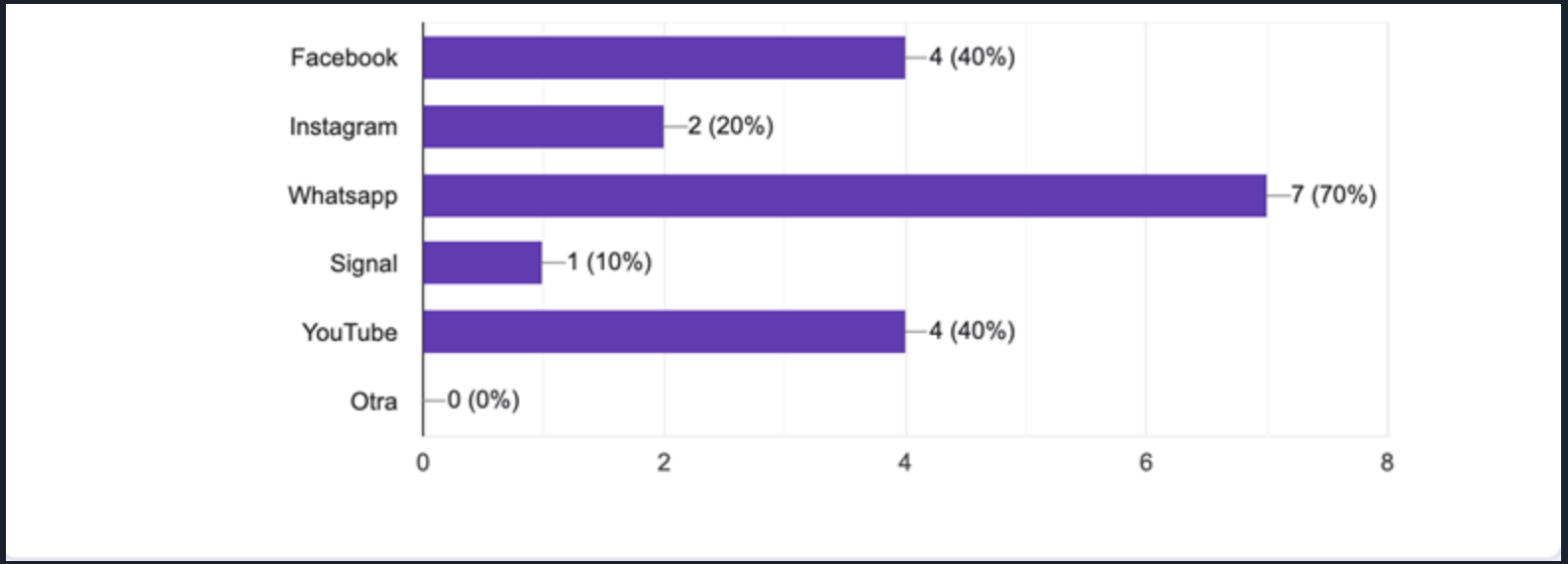
Question #3: What do you like about WhatsApp? What do you dislike about it?

- “WhatsApp es una aplicación de mensajería y llamadas gratuitas en todo el mundo.”
- “Comunicarse con la familia”
- “Que es gratis y sin comerciales. No me gusta estar expuesta a un rastreo de textos y llamadas.”
- “Que puede comunicarse con la familia tan fácilmente y es muy práctico.”
- “Secrecy.”
- “Es muy simple y fácil.”

Overall, the Latinx community likes that the app is free, you can make phone calls without a cost, and you can communicate long distance with family members.

Survey Results

Question #4: Do you have social media app preference?



Survey Results

Question #5: Do you know how to use the privacy settings on WhatsApp? Yes or no? Why?

- “No”
- “No es un poco deficil”
- “Muy complicado”
- “Si”
- “Si, es muy importante”

Survey Results

Question #6: What does digital privacy mean to you?

- “La privacidad digital online es el derecho a de cada usuario de internet a controlar y proteger sus datos personales.” (Online digital privacy is the right of every internet user to control and protect their personal data.)
- “Seguridad.”
- “No se que es.”
- “Tener privacidad.”
- “Mentalidad positiva y paz.”
- “Uno tiene el control, sobre sus datos personales.”

Survey Results

Question #7:

“Is there any topics related to communication that you would like to share with us that we have not included in this survey?”

- “No”
- “Me gustaria saber mas de technologia”

Privacy Results + Concerns

Overall our survey demonstrated that the Latinx community does know the basics of the use of WhatsApp and other social media platforms.

While some understand how to utilize privacy settings, others find it confusing. Rather than forcing an app on them, they should be shown more about the settings and how they can protect their privacy across all platforms.

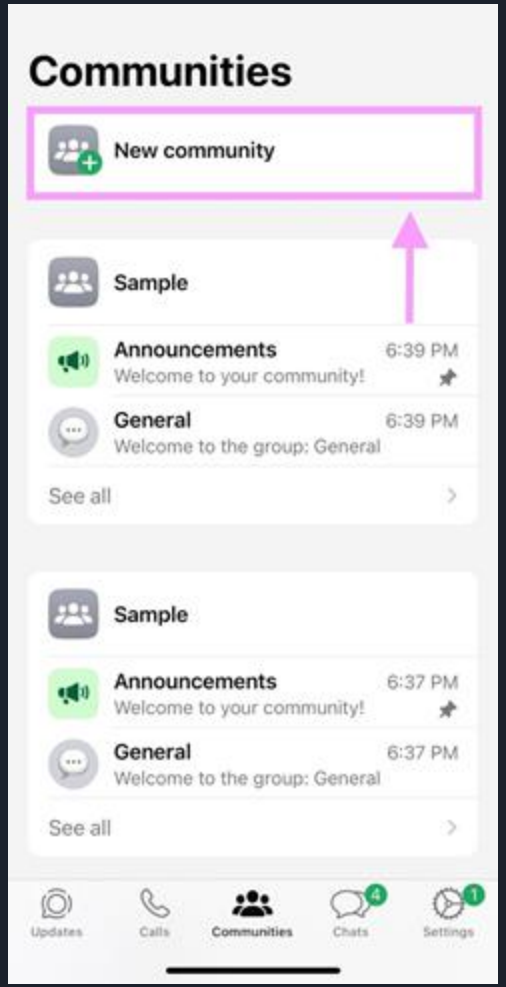
Communities VS Groups In WhatsApp

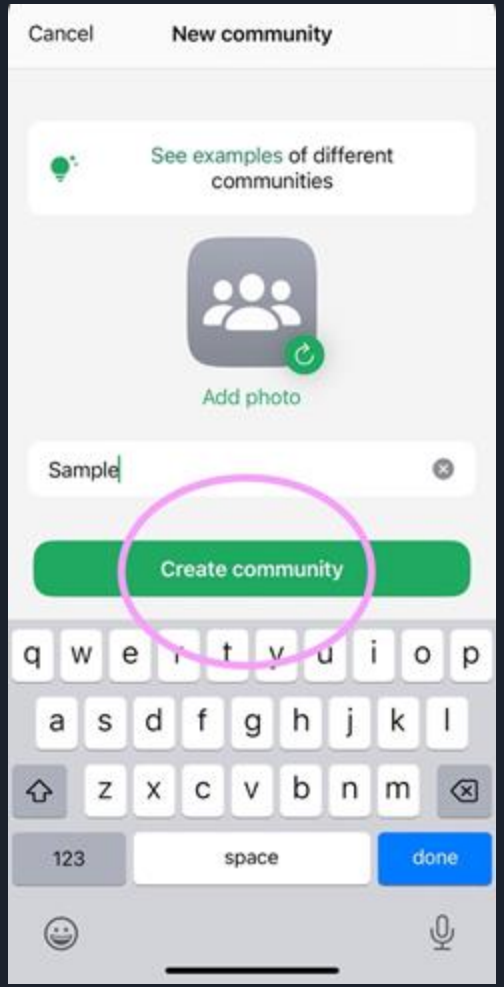
Communities: In a WhatsApp community, admins can create groups and add/invite who they want to their community.

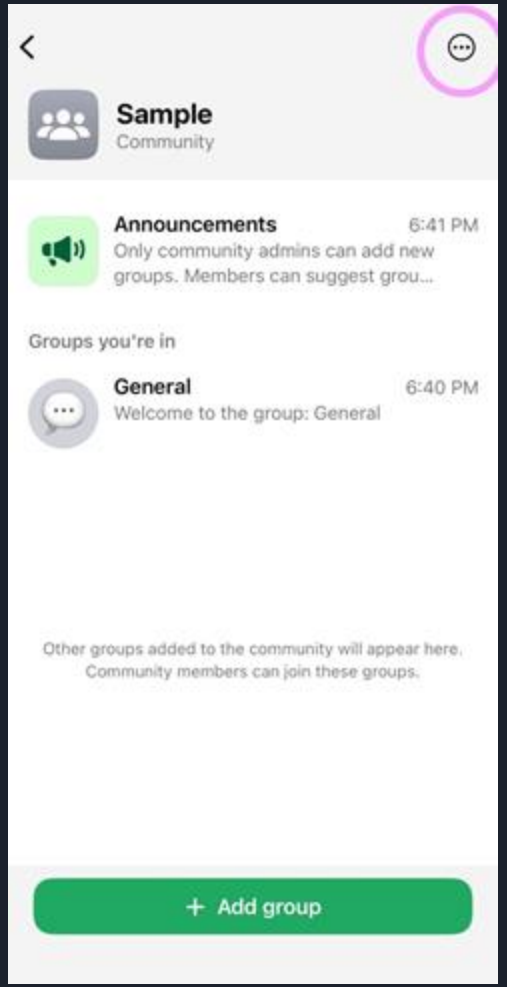
- Admins can send community announcements, where only they can send messages to all members within the community.
- Under announcements, it doesn't allow the members to text back or respond. Their names/numbers are not shown. If they need to reach out to anyone under the same group, they would have to go under "group."

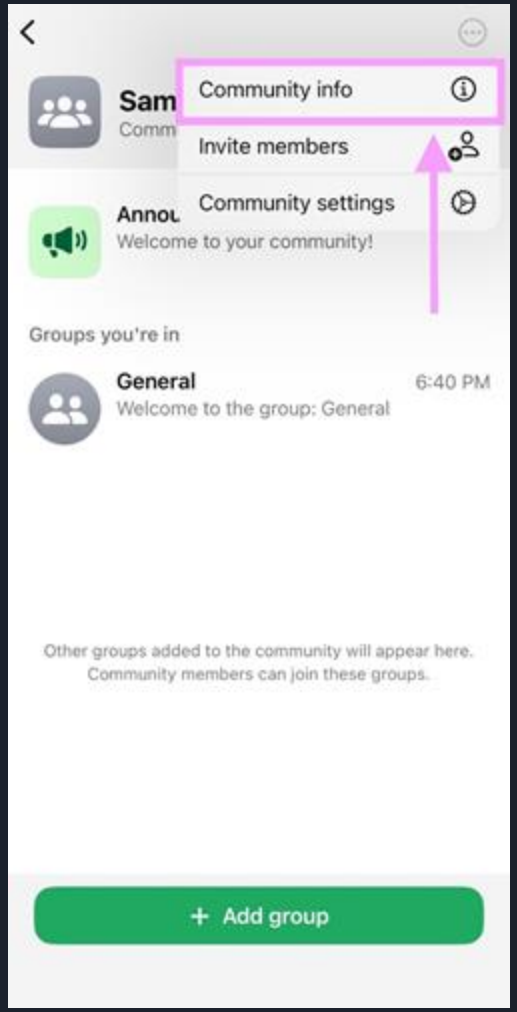
Groups: In a WhatsApp group, anyone can be added. Numbers and names are exposed. and numbers are exposed, including names.

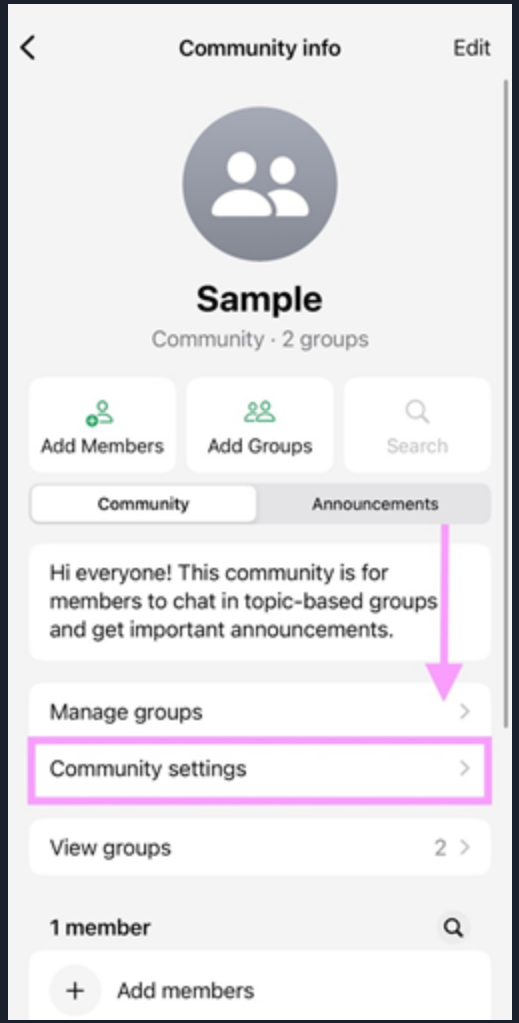
How to Use the “Community” Feature on WhatsApp

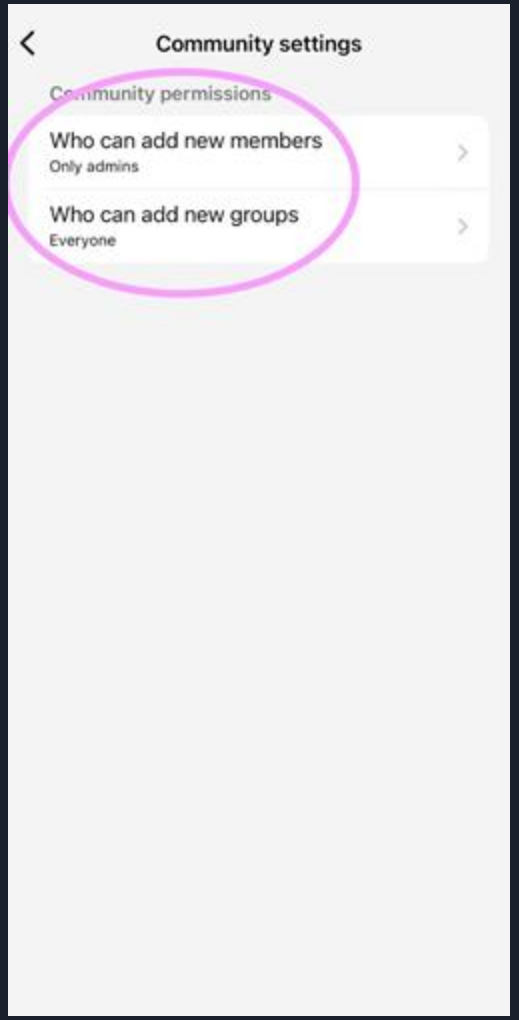

Communities
New community
Sample
Announcements
6:39 PM
Welcome to your community!
General
6:39 PM
Welcome to the group: General
See all
Sample
Announcements
6:37 PM
Welcome to your community!
General
6:37 PM
Welcome to the group: General
See all
Updates
Calls
Communities
Chats
Settings

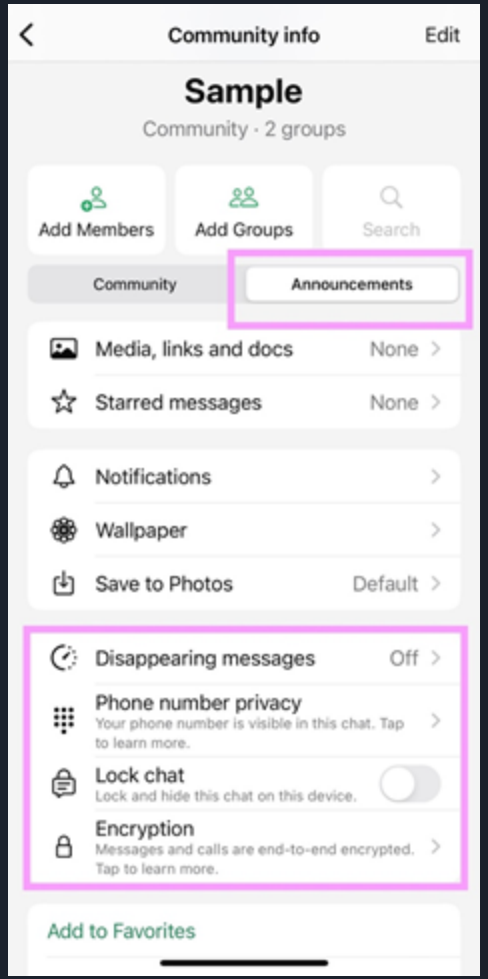

Cancel
New community
See examples of different communities
Add photo
Sample
Create community
123
space
done


Sample
Community
Announcements
6:41 PM
Only community admins can add new groups. Members can suggest grou...
Groups you're in
General
6:40 PM
Welcome to the group: General
Other groups added to the community will appear here. Community members can join these groups.
Add group


Community info
Invite members
Community settings
Welcome to your community!
Groups you're in
General
6:40 PM
Welcome to the group: General
Other groups added to the community will appear here.
Community members can join these groups.
+ Add group


Community info
Edit
Sample
Community · 2 groups
Add Members
Add Groups
Search
Community
Announcements
Hi everyone! This community is for members to chat in topic-based groups and get important announcements.
Manage groups
Community settings
View groups
2
1 member
Add members


Community settings
Community permissions
Who can add new members
Only admins
Who can add new groups
Everyone


Community info
Edit
Sample
Community · 2 groups
Add Members
Add Groups
Search
Community
Announcements
Media, links and docs
None
Starred messages
None
Notifications
Wallpaper
Save to Photos
Default
Disappearing messages
Off
Phone number privacy
Your phone number is visible in this chat. Tap to learn more.
Lock chat
Lock and hide this chat on this device.
Encryption
Messages and calls are end-to-end encrypted. Tap to learn more.
Add to Favorites

Suggestions

- Video format to teach people how to make their profiles/contacts private
- A survey asking ACLU Latinx community about Whatsapp privacy
- Teach the Latinx community about privacy and settings
- Teach the difference between **authentic content** and **scam information**
- **DON'T ASSUME WHAT THEY KNOW AND DON'T KNOW**, what they want and don't want
    - Let them have a voice.

Citations

- Millikin, Sara. 2022. "Young Latinx Adults' Experiences with Social Media and Family Connectedness." Order No. 29162574, Capella University. https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/young-latinx-adults-experiences-with-social-media/docview/2658840545/se-2.
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- Oltmann, Shannon M., and Fatima Espinoza-Vasquez. "How Social Media Affordances Mediate the Digital Diaspora: Latinx Perspectives." *The International Journal of Information, Diversity, & Inclusion* 8, no. 2 (2024): 7–28. https://www.jstor.org/stable/48786445.
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