

The Effects of Abortion Policies in the United States

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Abstract:

This Article analyzes the complexity of the Roe V Wade abortion band regarding its impact on women of different social classes and races. Along with its effect on women's health and the development of children. In addition to its effects on hospitals and health workers and Doctor patient relations.

Introduction:

On June 24, 2022, via a Supreme Court Case, Dobbs V Jackson Women's Health Organization, abortion was no longer generally protected in the United States. This decision overturned the landmark case Roe V Wade (1973). Following this decision, several states enacted and continue to enact various abortion bans and restrictions. The Guttmacher Institute put together a map (Figure 1) of the United States that shows which states are most restrictive to most protective of abortion. The effects of restrictive abortion policies are far-reaching and intersect with issues of race, class, gender, age, healthcare facilities, and participants. In this Literature Review, we aim to analyze those components to create a comprehensive understanding of the effects of restrictive abortion policies.

Figure 1: Map of the United States color coded by state's positions on abortion.



Note: This map was created based upon data as recent at March 13, 2024

Race:

Through our findings, it's been shown that race plays a role in the impact of the abortion ban or lift of Roe V Wade on women. Women of color are disproportionately affected by the abortion ban. One major reason for this may be due to lack of resources. Black and Hispanic women have a 61% rate of using contraception, while White women have a 69% rate. This difference can be due to a lack of areas in black and Hispanic neighborhoods that sell contraceptives. Leaving some women of color with limited access to comprehensive contraception options. A study in 2019 showed that black women 38 percent likely to get an abortion. While white women are 33 percent likely to get an abortion. In addition to that, women of color do not hold the same relationship with healthcare systems as white women do. Due to a history of systemic abuse, through various inhuman experimentations and treatments towards them from healthcare professionals.

Women of color are less likely to have savings readily available for abortion. As 53% of black women and 47% of Hispanic women 18 and over can not cover emergency expenses for over 400 dollars compared to only 27% of white women experiencing the same issue. These women often have to rely on credit cards to cover these expenses. Women of color are also less likely to own a motor vehicle. Which makes the new reality of traveling to different states to receive an abortion a

difficult task. Black women from ages 18-49 are over 3 times more likely to live in households that don't have a vehicle than white women.

Class:

Class is an important factor in the affects on women since the abortion ban. Women of different social classes were not affected by the abortion ban the same way. As when abortion was banned in certain states where women of the working class lived. It would be quite the difficulty for them to actually get one. As it now requires them to go out of state. And possibly take some time off from work and other amenities. Both a flexibility and money working class women generally do not have on hand regularly. While women of higher social classes are able to afford this expense. In addition to that Medicaid and other public Health insurance are less likely to cover abortions that private owned insurance.

Women of the working class are more likely to be in need of abortions than women of higher social class. Yet are less likely to have the same rate of access to an abortion as their richer counterparts. In addition to that medicaid, public health insurance for low income people. Only covers 41% of pregnancy. And the prospects of child care beyond that don't leave too many options. As 24.3 single mothers are living in a state of poverty crisis and childless women are 8.2 times

more likely to be given a promotion than women with children. Showing that getting an abortion for low income or working class women can be financially stressing and unrealistic. But these women who end up having an unwanted baby, are even more of a financial crisis than before.

Conclusion:

Abortion bans are a complex and controversial topic. They can have significant implications for healthcare systems and access to reproductive care. The impact of these bans on doctors, patients, and society as a whole is a matter of ongoing debate. It's important to consider various perspectives and engage in thoughtful discussions to better understand the complexities surrounding this issue.