

The Impact of Abortion on the Black Community
Fast Facts & Background Sheet

Background:

- Even the most rudimentary understanding of embryology makes it clear that the abortion debate is not a question of when human life begins, but rather, when human life warrants legal protection.
- In 1973, the Supreme Court handed down the *Roe v. Wade* decision, legalizing abortion nationwide.
- Margaret Sanger, founder of the American birth control movement and Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), was a leading spokesperson and activist in promoting control of the birth rate among blacks and others she considered undesirable. She co-authored a report, “Birth Control and the Negro” and gave a speech to the Ku Klux Klan. In 2021, PPFA acknowledged that Sanger “caused irreparable damage to the health and lives of generations of Black people.”

Fast Facts:

- Black women have the highest abortion ratio in the country, with 429 abortions per 1,000 live births.
- In 2022, black women accounted for 77.3 percent of abortions in Mississippi; in Georgia, 67.6 percent; in Washington, D.C., 56.6 percent; in Tennessee, 55.3 percent; in Michigan, 54.2 percent.
- According to an analysis of abortions performed in July and August 2022, after *Dobbs* was decided, about 11,000 fewer women had abortions, a decrease nationally from 14 per 1,000 women to 13 per 1,000 women in August, reversing an increase trend since 2017. Another analysis of the first six months of 2023 found that about 32,000 lives were saved by state life protection laws.

Current Landscape:

- On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court overturned *Roe* in their *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* decision, returning the issue to state and federal legislative authority.
 - In 2022 and 2023, seven state referenda favored broad abortion access, enshrining it in California, Michigan, and Vermont constitutions. Proposed pro-life amendments in Kentucky and Montana failed. In 2024, Arizona, Missouri, and Montana inserted a right to abortion in state constitutions. That same year, pro-abortion measures were defeated in Florida, Nebraska, and South Dakota.
 - Increasingly, abortion proponents have shifted their focus to making abortion pills more widely available. Not just in pharmacies, but even by mail. In 2023, the FDA changed regulation to allow patients to obtain the drug mifepristone, without an in-person visit. However, several states have placed limitations on who can prescribe the drug and under what conditions.
 - In Congress, pro-life gains include the House’s passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill, blocking Medicaid funding to large abortion providers and banning Federal payments for a health insurance plan that covers elective abortion.
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- Thus far in his second term, President Trump has:
 - Issued an executive order directing all federal agencies to comply with Hyde Amendment policy that blocks taxpayer funding for abortion,
 - Reinstated the Global Protect Life policy,
 - Rejoined the Geneva Consensus Declaration to protect sovereign nations from international pressure to strip away pro-life protections and allow abortion on demand,
 - Issued a Born-Alive Statement of Administration Policy,
 - Withdrew from the pro-abortion World Health Organization,
 - Took down a Department of Health and Human Services website the Biden administration created to promote abortion, and
 - His Secretary of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., has called for “a complete review” of new data to accurately reflect the adverse effects of the abortion drug mifepristone. Secretary Kennedy will submit his recommendations to President Trump upon completion of that review.
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