



Black Women & Abortion: An Exploration of Attitudes & Experiences

Mercedes Scott MPH, MSIV¹, Sanithia Williams MD², Andrea Jackson MD, MAS²

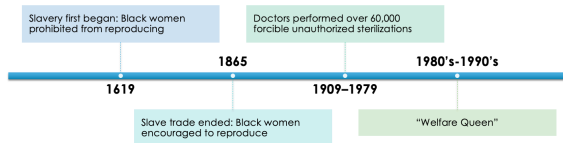
Charles R. Drew University /Prime-LA/David Geffen School Of Medicine at UCLA¹, University of California at San Francisco²



Introduction

- Within in the last 20 years abortion rates have declined in the United States.
- Abortion rates among Black women in the US continue to increase.
- Racial inequities in access to contraception and differences in contraceptive preferences account for these differences in abortion rates.

Background



- For centuries Black women have not had Reproductive Justice
- Stratified reproduction has been embedded throughout history
 - Even today, people against abortions use the Black woman's experience to paint their own narratives & push an anti-abortion agenda
 - The Black woman's voice is missing in these discussions and Black women are deprived of their reproductive autonomy.
- The Reproductive Justice framework empowers women—specifically Black women and other people who are marginalized in society—to have complete control of their reproductive destiny.

Objectives

1. Describe Black women's attitudes and experiences with abortion.
2. Explore how Black women view abortion in the setting of their racial identity.
3. Determine if Black women internalize racialized messages regarding abortion.
4. Deepen our understanding of the Black woman's experience.

Results

Double Bind

Ideal of the "strong Black woman"

Fear of brining a Black child into this world

Quotes

"...the perceptions of Black women in terms of being kind of the nurturers, the caretakers... also the notion that all Black women are always just popping out babies. They're always having babies."

"...And I didn't want to bring children into such a hateful world...Bad things happen to Black boys...I don't regret keeping my son and my daughter, but it's still scary."

Methods

- Qualitative study with semi-structured interviews
- Community based recruitment
- Black females, age: 18-45 , English-speaking, non-pregnant
- 16 participants
- IRB approved-study
- Dedoose software to code the transcripts
- Interactive coding process continued until theoretic sufficiency was reached
- 4 domains related to reproductive decision making along with racial identity & structural/interpersonal racism were used to generate the questions

Discussion & Conclusion

- Race, racism, and a history of coercion influences decision making.
- Black women need access to safe and empowering reproductive health services.
- Black women are fully capable of making sound decisions for themselves and their families, but their agency is often limited by public policy.

1

Support Black women's reproductive decision making

2

Advocate for Black women

3

Center the voices of Black women