THE VOICES AND EXPERIENCES OF BLACK WOMEN IN ALABAMA

ON REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, HEALTH AND RIGHTS ISSUES

NOVEMBER 2020
Moderator

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Presenter

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In Our Own Voice: National Black Women’s Reproductive Justice Agenda
Methods
Methods

- 500 Black women (Ages 18+ in each state)
- 70% voters
Abortion Rights

A majority of respondents do not want to see *Roe v. Wade* overturned.

In 1973, the Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision established a woman’s constitutional right to have an abortion. Would you like to see the Supreme Court overturn its *Roe v. Wade* decision, or not?

- **Uphold**: 73%
- **Overturn**: 26%
- **Not sure**: 1.0%
Financial Security

Impact financial security:

- Nearly all (95%) say control over childbearing is important for financial security
Financial Security
Alabama

31% Black families in poverty

76% Black families in poverty headed by single women

83% Black women with H.S. diploma or more education
Financial Security
Alabama

57¢
Black women’s wage gap

$862,920
Black women’s lifetime losses because of the wage gap

90
Age when a Black woman’s wages catch up to white man’s when he retires at 65
Black women with children

73% of respondents have children
Should be part of basic health care:

- Care for pregnant women: 92%
- Contraception: 88%
- Abortion care: 55%
Parenthood Factors
Alabama

Respondents who based decision to parent on:

- Access to living-wage jobs: 62%
- Racism: 57%
- Affordable health care: 54%
- Childcare access: 54%
- Affordable housing: 52%
- Food security: 50%
- Over-policing: 39%
Racism Impacts Health
Alabama

48% Say racism has negative effect on mental/emotional health

34% Say racism has negative impact on physical health

59% Younger Black women (18-34) reporting mental/emotional effects of racism
Over-policing Alabama

39%
Black women say over-policing factored into decision about having child

51%
Younger women (18-34) say over-policing factored into decision about having child
Overwhelming support for people seeking abortion:

- Experience should be simple: 83%
- Affordable: 82%
- Respectful of decision: 78%
- Available in community: 73%
- Available as soon as possible: 70%
Abortion Rights
Many are unsure about the legal status of abortion.

Right now, is abortion legal in Alabama?

- Yes: 33
- No: 33
- Unsure: 34
Abortion Rights

Majorities see all rights at risk.

- **65%** think the right to abortion in our country is “at risk;” 30% say it is “fairly secure.”
- **69%** think the right to have an abortion in Alabama is “at risk;” 29% say “fairly secure.”
- **60%** feel it’s becoming “harder” to have an abortion in Alabama; 8% say it’s becoming “easier;” and 30% feel access is not changing.
Support for Abortion

Black women make abortion decisions — not lawmakers

- Woman/person involved decides how/when to access abortion
- More likely to support candidates who support abortion rights

63%

59%
Support for Abortion

Black women reject abortion stigma

- 60% say it’s not a religious issue for them
- 80% say it can be a responsible choice
- 83% reject shame
Panel Discussion
Panel Discussion
Moderator

Carles’ Anderson
Reproductive Policy Fellow
SisterReach
Panelist

Cherisse Scott
Founder & CEO
SisterReach
Panel Discussion
Panelists
Panelist

Laurie Bertram Roberts
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Panelist

Rodreisha Russaw
Executive Director
The Ordinary People Society (T.O.P.S.)
Panelist

Monica Edwards
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URGE