

THE VOICES AND EXPERIENCES OF BLACK WOMEN IN ALABAMA

ON REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, HEALTH AND RIGHTS ISSUES

NOVEMBER 2020



Moderator



Carles' Anderson

Reproductive Policy Fellow
SisterReach

Presenter



Marcela Howell

President & CEO

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

Methods



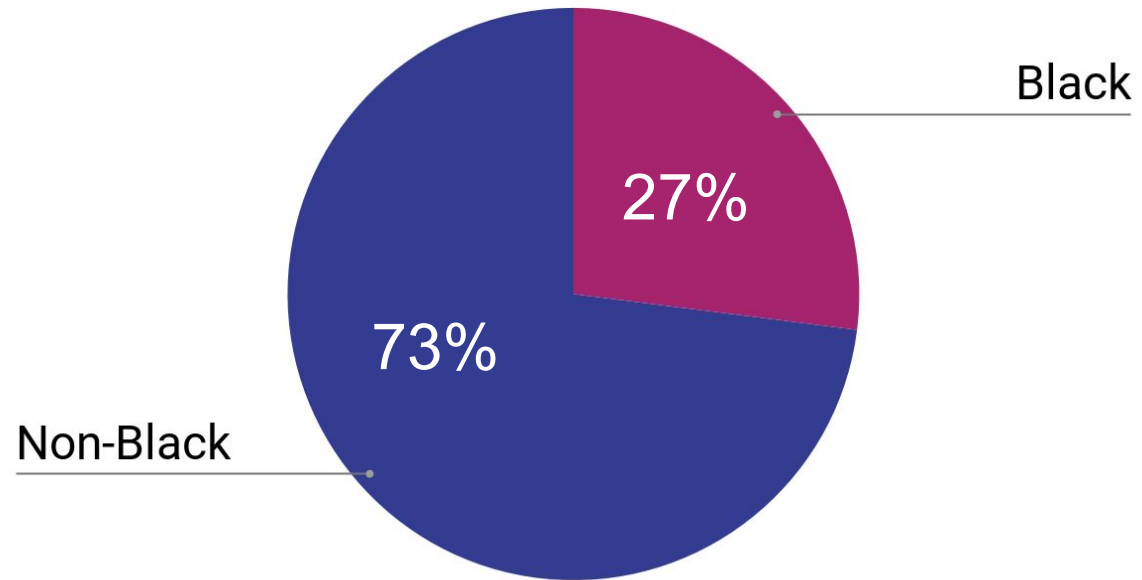
Methods

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

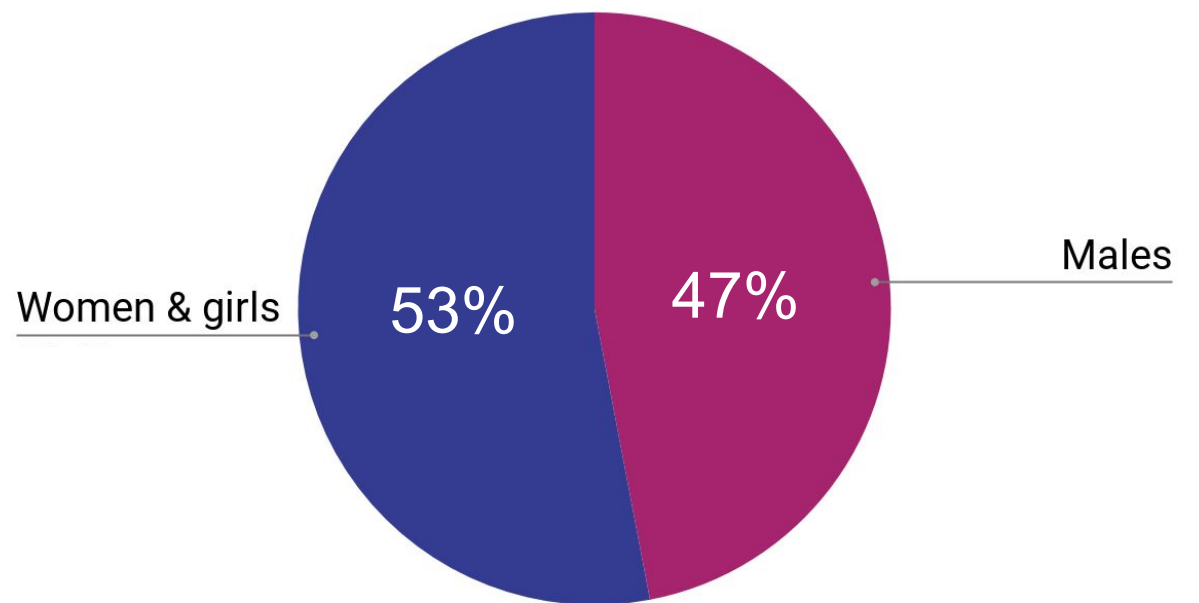


Alabama

Alabama's Population



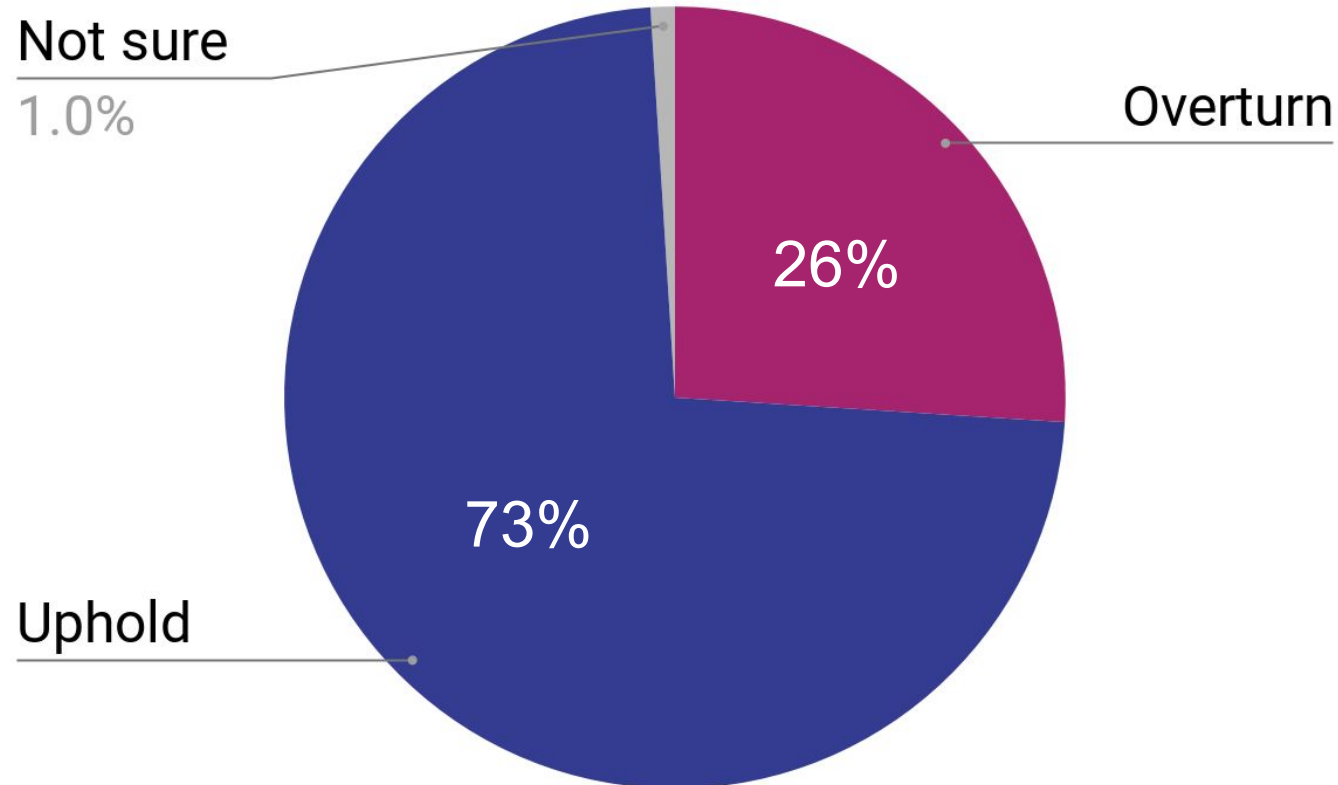
Black Population



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?



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

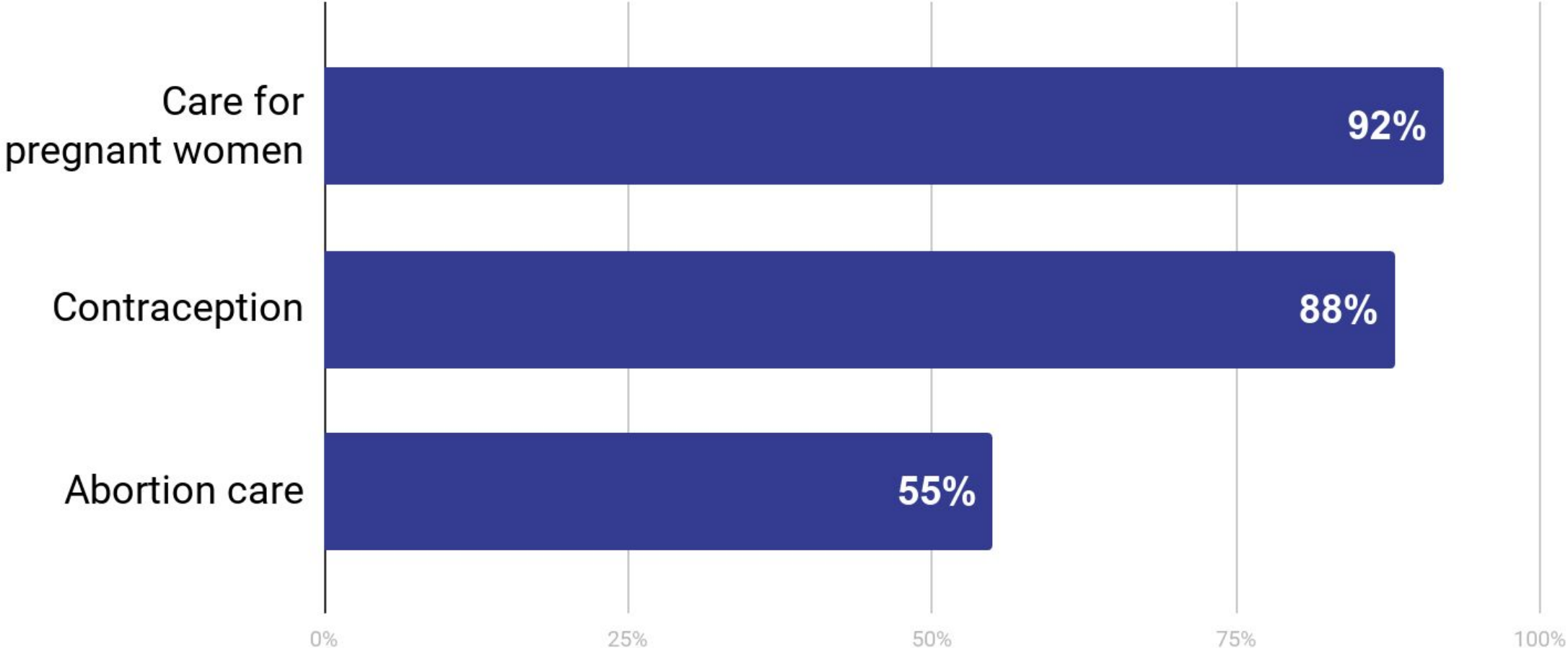
90

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:



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%

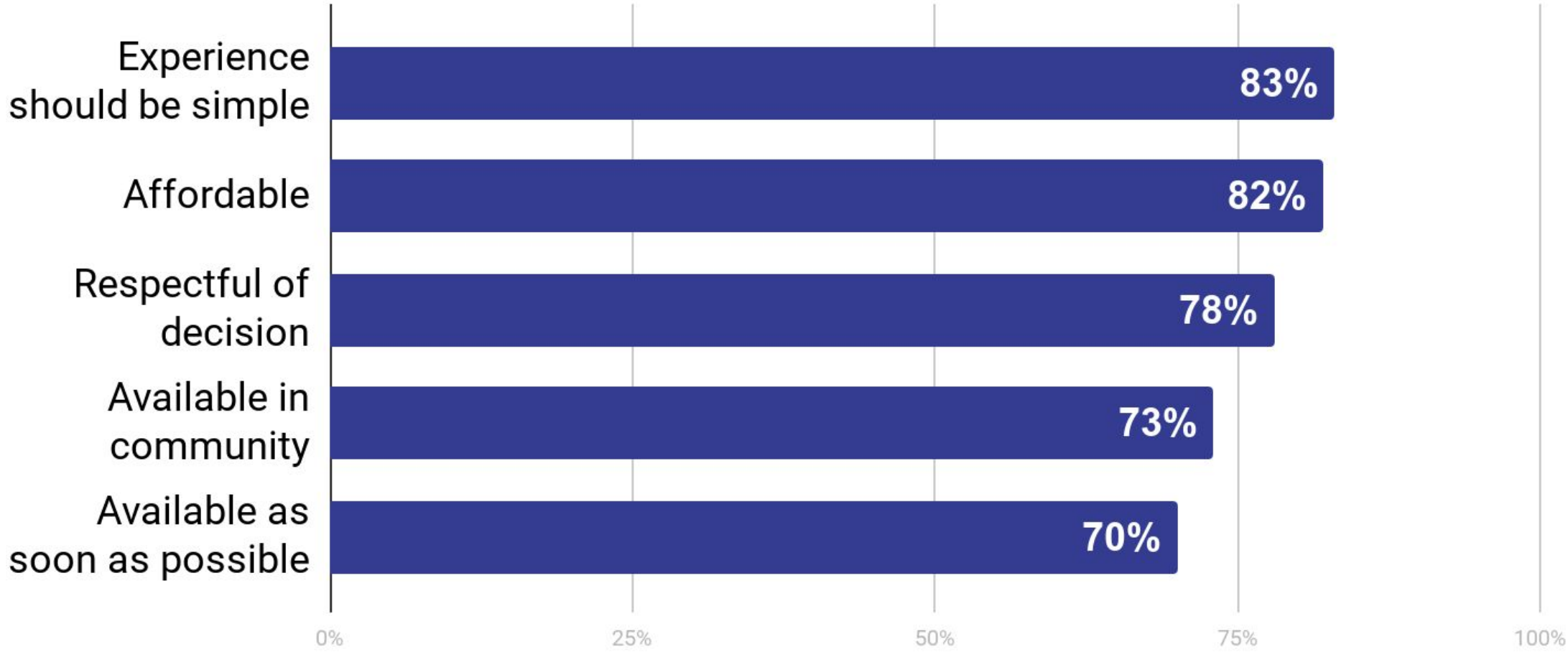
Black women say over-policing factored into decision about having child

51%

Younger women (18-34) say over-policing factored into decision about having child



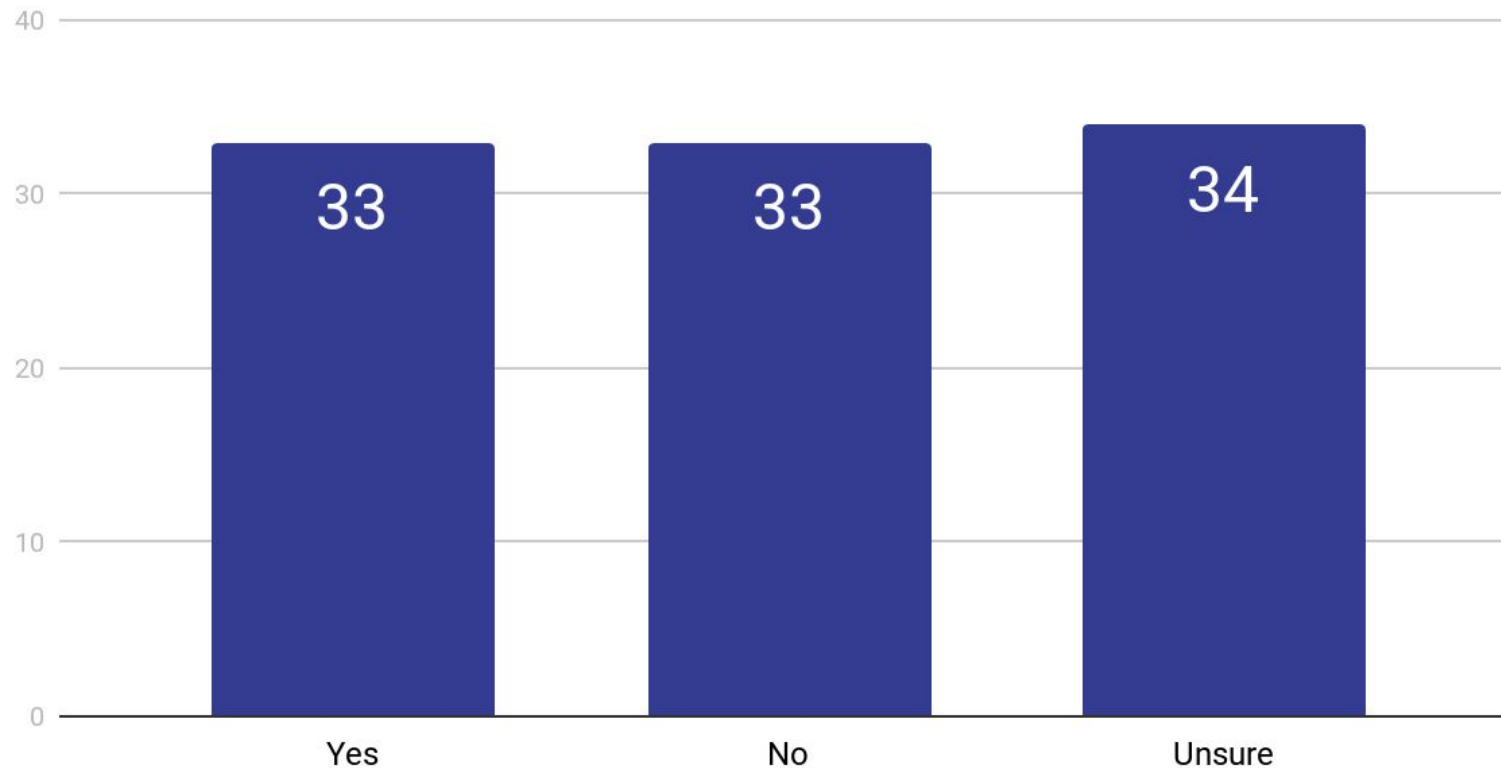
Overwhelming support for people seeking abortion:



Abortion Rights

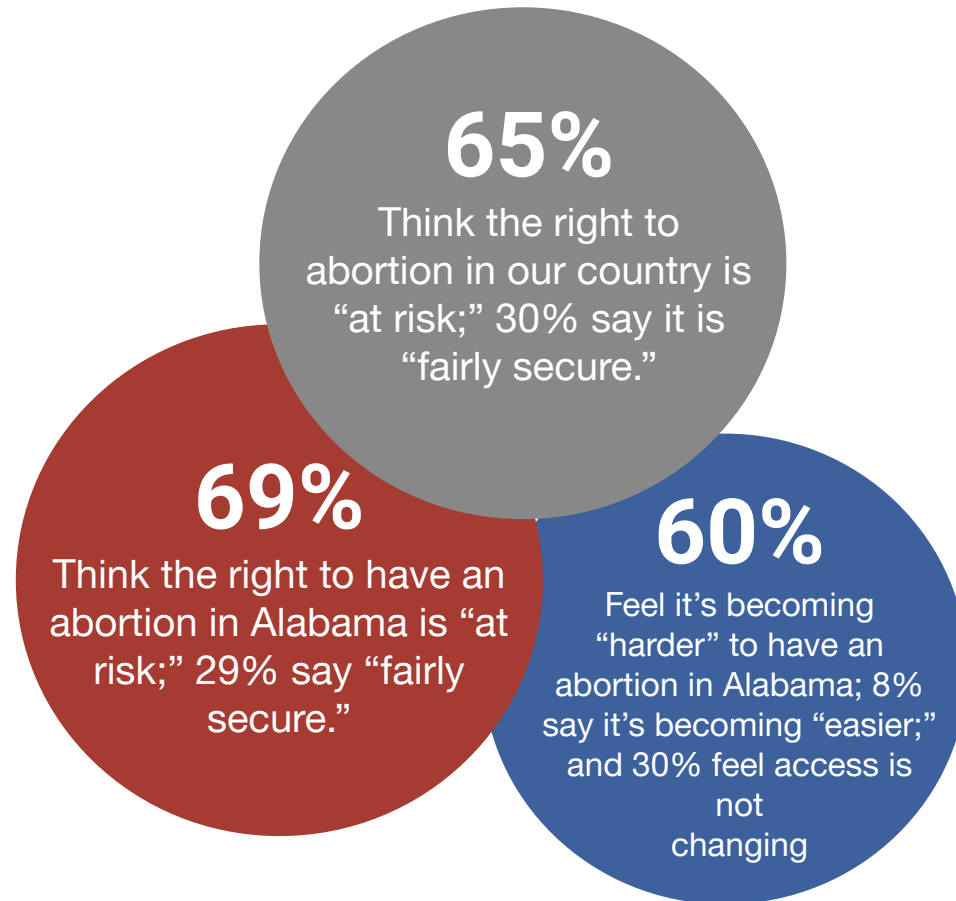
Many are unsure about the legal status of abortion.

Right now, is abortion legal in Alabama?



Abortion Rights

Majorities see all rights at risk.



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

Executive Director
Yellowhammer Fund

Panelist



Rodreisha Russaw

Executive Director

The Ordinary People Society (T.O.P.S.)

Panelist



Monica Edwards

Federal Policy Manager

URGE

Q&A

