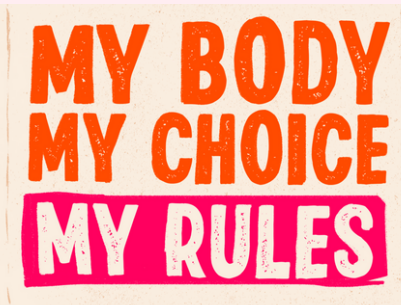




ABORTIONS IN WASHINGTON STATE

A GENERAL OVERVIEW TO EDUCATE WASHINGTON RESIDENTS

Although many Washington residence are pro-choice, there are many Washingtonians who are less educated on the facts and importance of this topic on our community



SIGNIFICANCE

As shown in the fact that there were more than 16,000 cases of abortion in the state of Washington in 2020 alone, abortion is a prevalent topic that influences many women and families. Especially after the overturning of Roe V. Wade, many women across the country fear for their right to choose. While many blue states like Washington still have

open access to abortion, other state's rulings not only have dire impacts on women looking for abortions in the state but also impact neighboring states. After Idaho passed a ban on abortions after 6 weeks and allowed women or family members to sue for tens of thousands of dollars, there was an influx of patients seeking medical assistance over the state border in Washington. This has a major impact on a clinic's ability to serve patients, not to mention the impact on families who have to travel. Although it's easy for one to say that this issue doesn't impact them, especially as a man, it's a critical issue to ensure communities are supported and inclusive.

EQUITY

Abortions are restricted or deemed a crime in almost half the states in the U.S. Those who live in these restricted states may need to travel to get safe, clinic-based care. However, abortion-seeking patients who do not have the resources available to travel, due to the financial and life implications. People without these resources may be more inclined to handle their abortion process themselves, putting them at great safety risk, both medically and as a target from law enforcement.

Additionally, Black and Indigenous women are proven two to four times as likely to die from childbirth as compared to White women because of systemic racism they face in medical care. According to Planned Parenthood, Black women are more likely to die from childbirth than legal abortion procedures.

ACCESS TO ABORTION



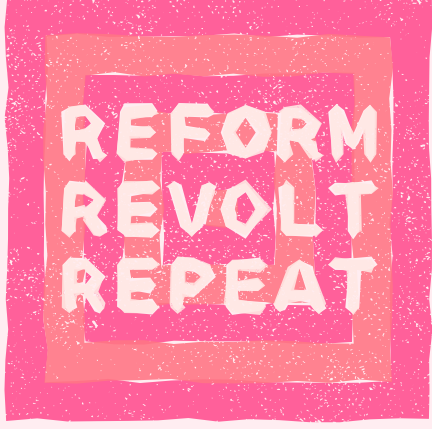
Although it can be more difficult for some to gain access to abortions than others, there's many resources to help. Unlike some other states, Washington doesn't have a waiting period or a need for parental consent.

Some options for financial, mental, or physical support include:

- Planned Parenthood
- National Network of Abortion Fund
 - Northwest Abortion Access Fund
- State funded with health plans with Providence Health
- Public hospitals with maternity care must also have equivalent abortion care options

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **Vote.** Politicians have the most power in regulating and protecting abortion rights so elections have big impacts. This is evident in Texas where a bill was proposed to ban Mifepristone, an abortion pill used by millions.
- **Advocate.** There are many organizations such as the ones mentioned above that citizens can join or fund to support the cause.
- **Have difficult conversations.** Having effective, open discussions with neighbors, friends, and family opens the difficult conversation surrounding abortions and is the best way to make a positive change.



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