

# Abortion Access, Reproductive Coercion, and Domestic Violence

Steph Black

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# About Me

- B.A. Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; American University
- Writer: Progressive, Ms. Magazine, Lilith, Rewire News Group, etc
- External Comms Manager, jGirls+ Magazine
- Former JWI intern!
- Abortion activist

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# Agenda

- Abortion overview
- Bans and restrictions
- Reproductive coercion
- Intersection of abortion bans and reproductive coercion



# Abortion overview

# What is abortion?

- Spontaneous vs. elective
- Procedural (surgical) vs. medication
- "Late-term" doesn't exist
- Essential health care, WHO
- Common
- Politicized, not political

SisterSong defines Reproductive Justice as the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.

# Reproductive Justice

# Bans vs. Restrictions

Bans: laws that make any abortion illegal in a state

Restrictions: laws that make abortion intentionally inaccessible

# Types of Bans

- Pre-Roe bans
- Trigger bans
- Pre-viability gestational bans
- Method bans
- Reason bans
- Criminalization of self-managed abortion (SMA)
- SB-8 Copycats



# Types of Restrictions


- TRAP laws
- Parental involvement
- Consent laws
- Hyde Amendment

- Statutory protections for abortion
- State constitutional protection

# Protections

# What can I clarify?

Ask in chat  
Unmute and ask  
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# Reproductive abuse and coercion

Reproductive abuse is when a person tries to control someone's reproductive choices in order to control their life.

National Network to  
End Domestic Violence

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It can be a single act, or it can be part of a larger pattern of abusive behaviors.

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It can be a single act, or it can be part of a larger pattern of abusive behaviors.

It can include sexual assault, rape, and other abusive actions concerning a person's sexual and reproductive health.

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End Domestic Violence

# Coercive Behaviors

- Sex-related
- Contraception-related
- Pregnancy-related





IPV advocates can assist with:

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- inspecting birth control pills to make sure they are the correct pills;

# IPV advocates can assist with:

- buying birth control or condoms on their own, instead of allowing a partner to buy it;
- keeping birth control or condoms in a hidden or private location;
- inspecting birth control pills to make sure they are the correct pills;
- inspecting condoms and condom wrappers for signs of tampering, such as holes or tears;

# IPV advocates can assist with:

- buying birth control or condoms on their own, instead of allowing a partner to buy it;
- keeping birth control or condoms in a hidden or private location;
- inspecting birth control pills to make sure they are the correct pills;
- inspecting condoms and condom wrappers for signs of tampering, such as holes or tears;
- switching to a form of birth control that cannot be tampered with, such as an IUD, injection, vasectomy, or other forms a medical professional may recommend;

# What can I clarify?

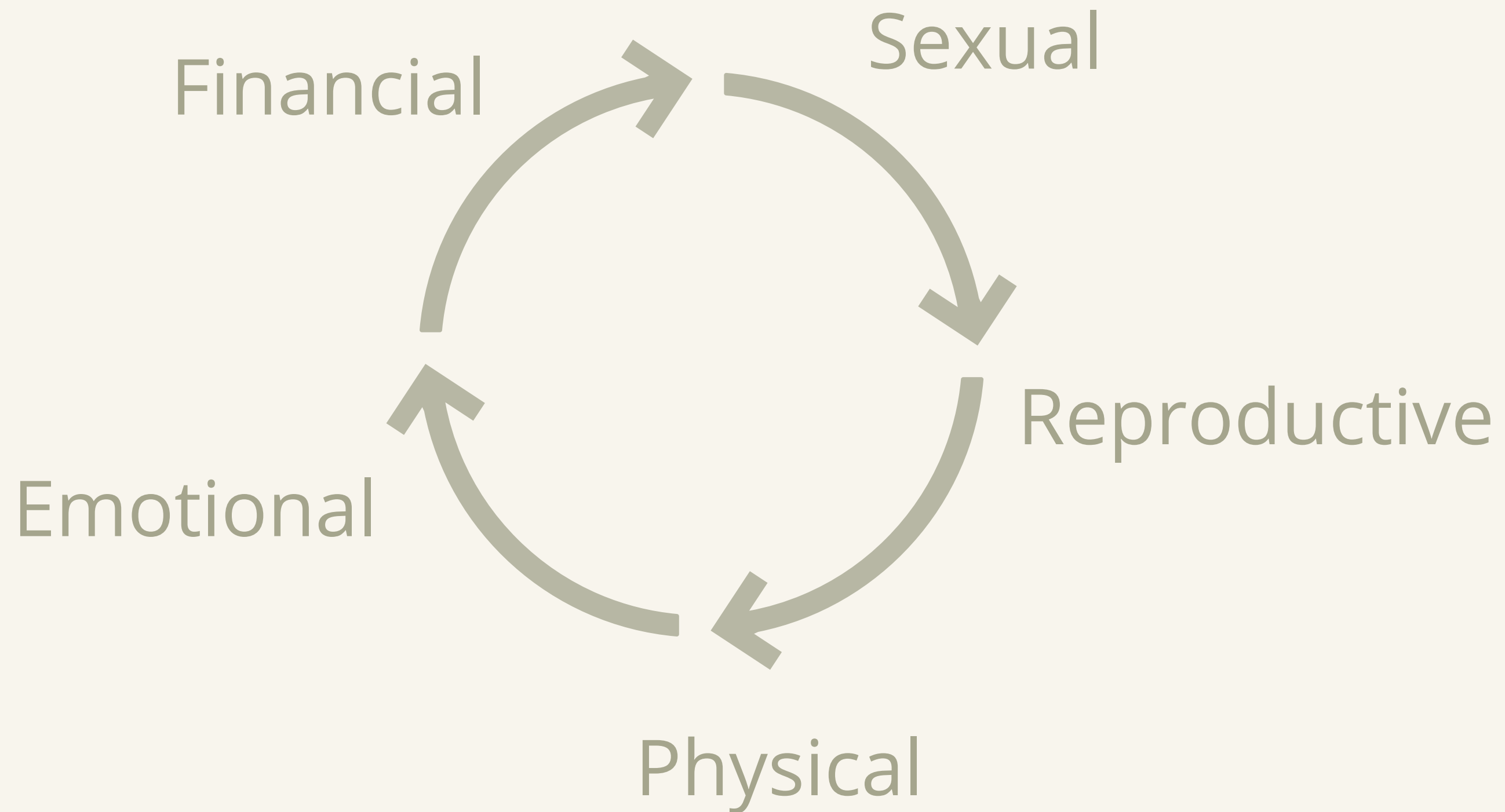
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Abortion  
Bans

Reproductive  
Coercion



# Violence is interconnected



How many pregnant women are abused by a partner each year?

Answer in the chat:

A) 320k

B) 550k

C) 750k

320,000 pregnant women are abused by a partner each year.

320,000 pregnant women are abused by a partner each year.

As a result, they have a 37% higher risk of developing obstetric complications.

How many women have become pregnant due to rape by an intimate partner in her lifetime?

Answer in the chat:

A) 250k

B) 1m

C) 3m

10.3 million women have had a partner who tried to get them pregnant against their will or refused to wear a condom.

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3 million have become pregnant due to rape by an intimate partner in her lifetime.

Of women who were raped by an intimate partner, what percent also experienced a form of reproductive coercion?

Answer in the chat:

A) 15%

B) 30%

C) 70%



Of women who were raped by an intimate partner, 30% also experienced a form of reproductive coercion by the same partner.

Of women who were raped by an intimate partner, 30% also experienced a form of reproductive coercion by the same partner.

Specifically, about 20% reported that their partner had tried to get them pregnant when they did not want to or tried to stop them from using birth control.

True or false:  
The odds of a  
woman  
experiencing IPV  
rise by 10% with  
each pregnancy.

Answer in the chat:

T=True

F=False

10%

How much a woman's odds of experiencing IPV rises with each pregnancy.

What percent of survivors report that their abusive partners limited their childbearing decisions?

Answer in the chat:

A) 20%

B) 34%


C) 50%

34% of survivors report that their abusive partners limited their childbearing decisions.

What percentage of women terminate their pregnancies because they are in an abusive relationship?

Answer in the chat:

- A) Between 6% and 22%
- B) Between 17% and 37%
- C) Between 28% and 51%



Between 6% to 22% of women  
terminate their pregnancies  
because they are in an abusive  
relationship.



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Reproductive autonomy is essential for  
IPV survivors.

Lack of reproductive autonomy further tethers victims to their abusers, making it harder than it already is to leave an abusive relationship.

Abortion bans directly affect the safety, health, and wellbeing of IPV survivors.

It is imperative that IPV advocates  
speak out against abortion bans and  
restrictions.

# Ways for IPV advocates to get involved in repro

- Share your why, as an IPV advocate
- Lobby your elected officials
- Volunteer with local orgs
- Make sure your org supports access to reproductive health
- Learn how to support someone having an abortion
- Learn how to support someone who is not sure what option is best for them

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As you  
leave...

Answer one of these  
questions in the chat:

- What is one thing that surprised you
- What is your "Aha!" moment?
- What will you bring back to your organization?



**THANK  
YOU!**

Please be in touch:



[hi@stephblackstrategies.com](mailto:hi@stephblackstrategies.com)