

Abortion Access, Reproductive Coercion, and Domestic Violence

Steph Black



The slide features a dark olive green header with a white diamond-shaped graphic. The main content area is a light beige color. On the left, the words 'About Me' are written in a large, dark, sans-serif font. Below this, the email address 'hi@stephblackstrategies.com' is displayed in a smaller font. On the right side, there is a bulleted list of five items. At the bottom right corner, there is a small, faint copyright notice: '©Steph Black Strategies LLC'.

About Me

hi@stephblackstrategies.com

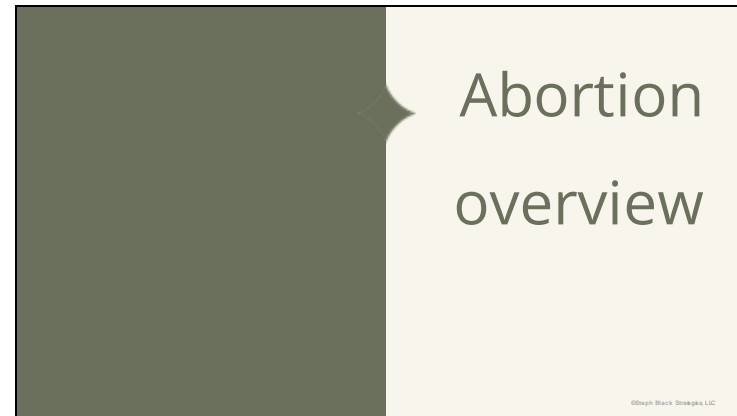
- B.A. Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; American University
- Writer: Progressive, Ms. Magazine, Lilith, Rewire News Group, etc
- External Comms Manager, jGirls+ Magazine
- Former JWI intern!
- Abortion activist

©Steph Black Strategies LLC

Coming from the abortion side of things, not the IPV side, though I have written about domestic violence and interned/volunteered in IPV-related orgs (JWI, CSAJ, campus orgs)

Agenda

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



Establish a communal foundation but will move somewhat quickly. Slides WILL be available with speaker notes.

Want us all to be on the same page, rampant misinformation abounds

What is abortion?

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

©2019 West Group LLC

Spontaneous abortion is also called a miscarriage, an elective abortion is the deliberate termination of a pregnancy.

A procedural abortion is also called a surgical abortion, though it is not really surgery, and doesn't require being put all the way under anesthesia (often optional). Medication abortions are done either with mifepristone and misoprostol or just misoprostol. Very effective, and safe. Mife given at clinic and miso taken at home. SMA: sourced outside of the medical setting (more on that later)

No such thing as a "late-term abortion" There are abortions that happen later in pregnancy but there is no procedure called this.

Listed as one of the essential healthcare services. 73 million induced abortions take place worldwide each year.

Very common! One in four women has had abortions in the US, not including trans/nonbinary folks. Six out of 10 (61%) of all unintended pregnancies, and 3 out of 10 (29%) of all pregnancies, end in induced abortion, according to WHO

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

This is the definition by SisterSong, a collective of Black women. Organizations that do RJ are lead by people of color, and work from the grassroots, in the community with other orgs. This is the framework in which I work and I believe anyone doing abortion work should use this framework as well.

Note: we don't encourage abortions! We encourage people to make the best decisions for themselves, referrals and support if continuing with pregnancy

Bans vs. Restrictions

Bans: laws that make any abortion illegal in a state
Restrictions: laws that make abortion intentionally inaccessible

©2019 West Strategies LLC

The following definitions are from Center for Reproductive Rights

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

Pre-Roe bans

Most states repealed abortion bans in effect as of 1973 once Roe made them unenforceable. However, some states and territories never repealed their pre-Roe abortion bans. Now that the Supreme Court has overturned Roe, these states could try and revive these bans.

Trigger bans

Abortion bans passed since Roe was decided that are intended to ban abortion entirely if the Supreme Court limited or overturned Roe or if a federal Constitutional amendment prohibited abortion.

Pre-viability gestational bans

Laws that prohibit abortion before viability; 24 or so weeks, these laws were unconstitutional

under Roe.

Method bans

Laws that prohibit a specific method of abortion care, most commonly dilation and extraction (D&X) procedures and dilation and evacuation (D&E) procedures.

Reason bans

Laws that prohibit abortion if sought or potentially sought for a particular reason. These bans name sex, race, and genetic anomaly as prohibited reasons.

Criminalization of self-managed abortion (SMA)

Some states criminalize people who self-manage their abortion, i.e., end their pregnancies outside of a health care setting.

SB-8 Copycats

Laws that are modeled after Texas SB 8, the vigilante law that took effect in September 2021.

These laws ban abortion at an early gestational age and are enforced through private rights of action, which authorizes members of the public to sue abortion providers and people who help others access abortion care. An abuser can sue their victim, turn in their partner.

Jail, legal debt.

Types of Restrictions

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

©2019 West Group, LLC

TRAP laws

Targeted regulation of abortion providers laws single out physicians who provide abortion care and impose various legal requirements that are more burdensome than those imposed on physicians who provide comparable types of care. These laws do not increase patient safety. Regulation of locations where abortion is provided and/or facility specifications, provider qualifications, and reporting requirements. Compliance is often costly and can require unnecessary facility modifications.

Parental involvement

Laws that require providers or clinics to notify parents or legal guardians of young people seeking abortion prior to an abortion (parental notification) or document parents' or legal guardians' consent to a young person's abortion


(parental consent). In order to be constitutional, parental involvement laws must include a process whereby a judge can approve a petition without parental involvement. Judicial bypass

Consent laws

Laws that require pregnant people to receive biased and often inaccurate counseling or an ultrasound prior to receiving abortion care, and, in some instances, to wait a specified amount of time between the counseling and/or ultrasound and the abortion care. These laws serve no medical purpose but, instead, seek to dissuade pregnant people from exercising bodily autonomy.

Hyde Amendment

In 1976, Rep. Henry Hyde (R-IL) successfully introduced a budget rider, known as the Hyde Amendment, that prohibits federal funding for abortion. Congress has renewed the Hyde Amendment every year since its introduction.

- 
- Statutory protections for abortion
 - State constitutional protection

Protections

Statutory protections for abortion

Laws passed by states that protect the right to abortion.

State constitutional protection


A declaration from the state's highest court affirming that the state constitution protects the right to abortion, separately and apart from the existence of any federal constitutional right.

What can I clarify?

Ask in chat

Unmute and ask

Email me hi@stephblackstrategies.com



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

Like any form of abuse, this is about power and control over another person.

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

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

National Network to
End Domestic Violence

Like any form of abuse, this is about power and control over another person.

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

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.

National Network to
End Domestic Violence

Like any form of abuse, this is about power and control over another person.

Coercive Behaviors

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

Sexually-coercive behaviors,

pressures or forces a sexual partner to have sex when s/he doesn't want to have sex;

threatens to end a relationship if a person doesn't have sex;

forces a sexual partner to not use birth control, including a condom, contraceptive pills, or other available options;

intentionally exposes a sexual partner to a sexually-transmitted infection (STI);

retaliates against a sexual partner when told about a positive (STI) result.

Contraception sabotage

hides, withholds, or destroys a sexual partner's birth control pills;

replaces or tampers with a sexual partner's birth control pills without the partner's knowledge or consent;

breaks or pokes holes in a condom on purpose;

removes a condom during sex without telling his/her sexual partner; (stealthing)

refuses to withdraw during sex, even if s/he previous agreed to do so;

pulls out a sexual partner's vaginal contraceptive ring;

tears off a sexual partner's contraceptive patch.

Pregnancy-related pressure,

get pregnant when s/he doesn't want to be pregnant;

continue a pregnancy when s/he wants an abortion;

end a pregnancy s/he wants to continue.

IPV advocates can assist with:

IPV advocates can assist with:

- buying birth control or condoms on their own, instead of allowing a partner to buy it;

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;

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;

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;

©2019 West Bridges LLC

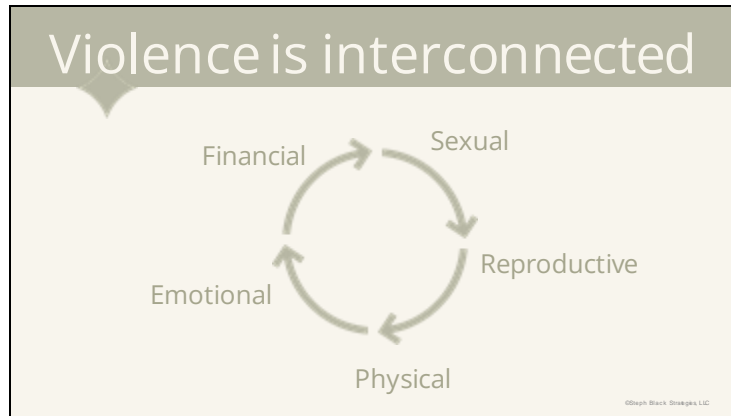
What can I clarify?

Ask in chat
Unmute and ask
Email me hi@stephblackstrategies.com

Abortion
Bans

Reproductive
Coercion

© 2019 West Group, LLC



All violence is interconnected. One form of violence can feed into another.

For example, unplanned pregnancies increase the risk for violence, and violence increases the risk for unplanned pregnancies.

<https://sanctuaryforfamilies.org/abortion-domestic-violence/>

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.¹⁶

Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2442136/>

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.

©2019 West Group, LLC

Pregnancy is not always consensual.

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

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

©2014 West Group LLC

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/understanding-RRP-inUS.html>

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

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.

©2014 CDC/RTI/University of North Carolina

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/understanding-RRP-inUS.html>

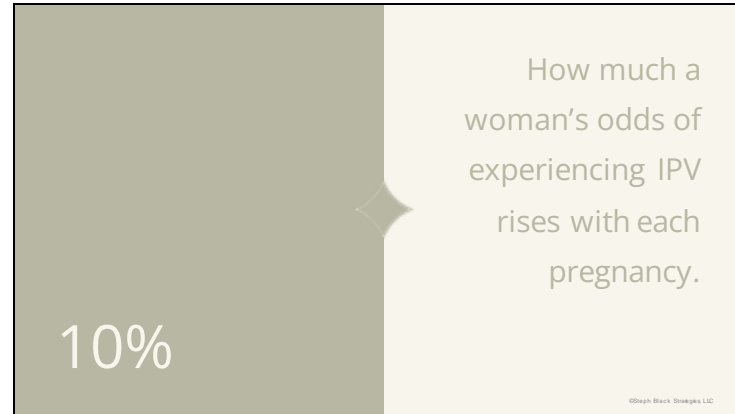
True or false:

The odds of a woman experiencing IPV rise by 10% with each pregnancy.

Answer in the chat:

T=True

F=False



Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Partners

http://www.ncdsv.org/images/WCSAP_Connections-Reproductive-Justice_Summer2013.pdf

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.

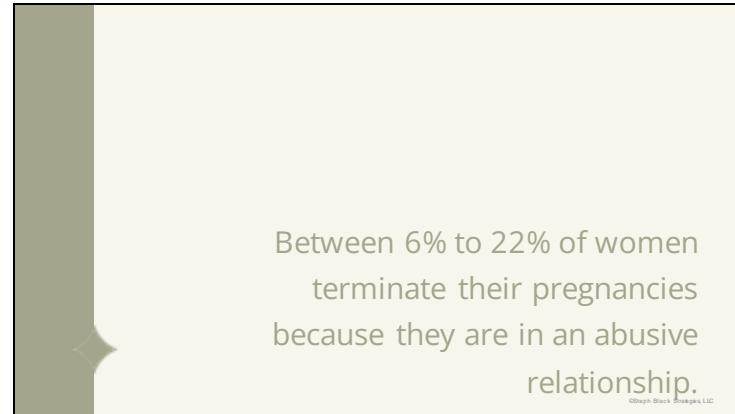
BMC Med

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4182793/>

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%



Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4182793/>

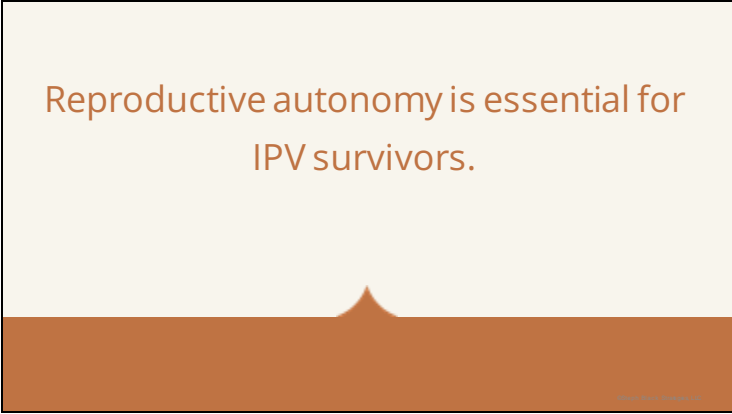
What can I clarify?

Ask in chat

Unmute and ask

Email me hi@stephblackstrategies.com

©2023 Steph Black Strategies LLC

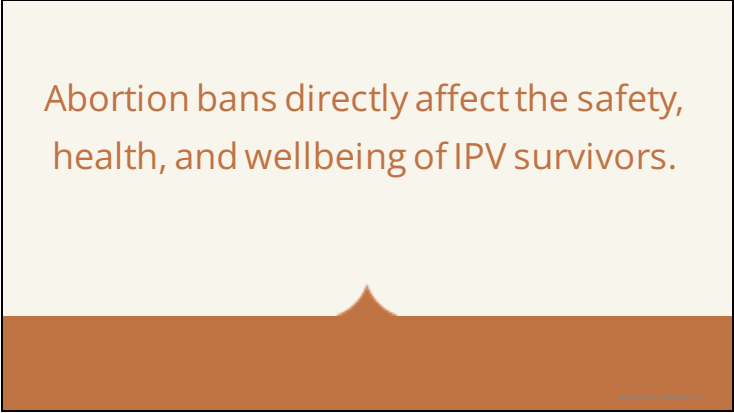


Reproductive autonomy is essential for
IPV survivors.

If that rape, for example, results in pregnancy, a victim may stay with their abuser if they are the only means of financial support for the child.

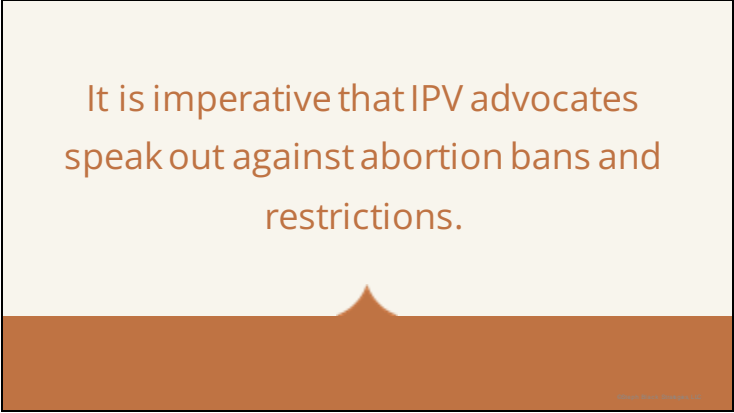
Lack of reproductive autonomy further tethers victims to their abusers, making it harder than it already is to leave an abusive relationship.

If that rape, for example, results in pregnancy, a victim may stay with their abuser if they are the only means of financial support for the child.



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

If that rape, for example, results in pregnancy, a victim may stay with their abuser if they are the only means of financial support for the child.



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

If that rape, for example, results in pregnancy, a victim may stay with their abuser if they are the only means of financial support for the child.

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

©2019 West Strategies LLC

Write an op-ed, submit commentary and testimony

I'm sure many of us here already do, but lobby for repro, not just IPV

Talklines:

all-options.org

exhaleprovoice.org

Abortion funds:

<https://abortionfunds.org/>

Practical support:

<https://apiaryps.org/>

Local indie clinics:

<https://abortioncarenetwork.org/abortion-care-providers/>

Do you have a working relationship with your local abortion fund? Do you refer to local clinics for contraception?

Abortion support:

<https://womenshealthclinic.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Helping-Someone-Who-Is-Having-an-Abortion.pdf>

Pregnancy Options Workshop:

<https://www.all-options.org/trainings-tools/pregnancy-options-workshops/>

What can I clarify?

Ask in chat
Unmute and ask
Email me hi@stephblackstrategies.com

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?

©2019 Work Strategies LLC

Coming from the abortion side of things, not the IPV side, though I have written about domestic violence and interned/volunteered in IPV-related orgs (JWI, CSAJ, campus orgs)

**THANK
YOU!**

Please be in touch:



hi@stephblackstrategies.com

©Steph Black Strategies LLC