



Introduction

In 2021, a law known as Senate bill 8 criminalized the act of abortion in Texas. Unlike other abortion bans, SB 8 permits any person who is not an employee of the state to file a lawsuit against those who receive an abortion and those who aide in the process. Abortions after the 6th week of pregnancy, are prohibited. Although, many people are not aware they are pregnant until after their 6th week term. The exceptions are narrow and limited to circumstantial health reasons, cases of rape and incest are not included. Those involved in the process of aiding in an abortion face a \$10,000 fine, if successful. People of color, low income people, transgender people, and undocumented immigrants are among the vulnerable groups.

Objectives

- This research aims to broaden the lens on the complexities of reproductive policies through which people view abortion.
- To understand social, political, and health implications for vulnerable groups such as people of color, low-income groups, people who are immigrants, and transgender people through theoretical frameworks.

Materials and Methods

Through theoretical deconstruction, I use Critical Race theory and Feminist theory frameworks to critically understand the disproportionate impact of reproductive rights policies such as senate bill 8 on people that have been historically marginalized. A second method used was participatory action research, which included discussion with my colleagues who are directly impacted by SB8. I used a collaborative research method with my peers from the University of Houston to analyze present and past issues concerning legislations that have affected different minorities. The methodology includes the literature review as an examination of previous research to identify patterns and empirical findings in regards to policies on abortion and medical statistics.

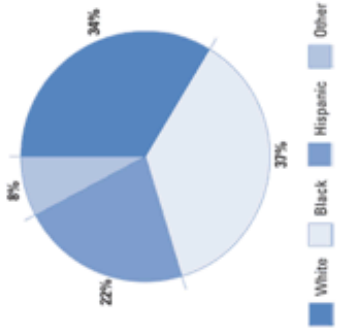
Senate Bill 8

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Findings

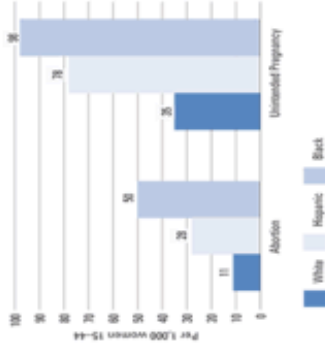
- Most abortions in the United States are obtained by minority women.
- Other includes Asians, pacific islanders, Native-Americans, and those of mixed race.
- Patterns of abortion rates mirror unintended pregnancy seen in the same groups.
- In Texas, black Americans are the largest minority in the state, with blacks of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin making up less than 12% of the population.

(Cohen, 2008)



Findings (cont.)

- Research shows unintended pregnancies were higher among African American and Hispanic women.
- Unintended pregnancies are a result of limited access to health care and increasingly concentrated in low-income women.
- Women of color as well as those who are young, unmarried or poor have a lower level of contraceptive protection than their counterparts.



Discussion

- SB8 will increase these racial disparities due to the limitations it places on access to reproductive health care.
- Access to clinically necessary procedures has been a significant issue for minorities.
- Geographic access to services is a factor for some women; however, for many, it is more a matter of being able to afford the more effective—usually more expensive—prescription methods
- Cultural background affects the type of health care and resources that are available for low-income groups.

Summary and Conclusions

- Reproductive limitations have disproportionately affected lower income women and immigrants due to the driving distance to clinics located outside of Texas and not having the financial stability to access support or resources (i.e. transportation and medical fees).
- The social stigma surrounding the LGBT community and abortion has blocked integral research from being conducted.
- People of color are more likely to have a suit filed against them than a non-person of color.
- Thousands of women have lost constitutionally protected access to abortion granted by Roe v. Wade and the future for individual rights continues to be threatened by restrictive legislations.

Future Work

Possible research could further include the LGBTQIA+ population. Studies concerning reproductive rights should be inclusive of all people with the ability to bear children, regardless of their gender or sexual orientation. Future research could include more studies on people who are immigrants.

References

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Research through Inclusive Opportunities

