

Maria Paula Ramos

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Racial Disparity in Abortions

Introduction: What is the reason abortions are so high in racial minorities? Abortion racial disparities began due to the number of abortion rates that showed up within specific racial groups. Abortion rates in minority groups more specifically in African-Americans and Hispanics are almost five times higher than for white women. Not only this but researchers have found that there are more women health centers around where minority groups live than anywhere else. But, do we actually believe that race is the only factor that contributes to these statistics? Realistically there are other factors that cause the rate of abortions in minority women to be higher than others. The main reason is due to their low income these women do not have the necessary means to care for a child or even to prevent a pregnancy. This would mean that if better resources were presented to low income minority women it could lower abortion rates.

Citation I : RK, Jones, and Jerman J. "Abortion Rates by Race and Ethnicity." *Guttmacher Institute*, 23 Oct. 2017, www.guttmacher.org/infographic/2017/abortion-rates-race-and-ethnicity.

Summary : As shown on the image a graph that shows abortion rates in different races of women, but it is based upon the lack of access to health insurance and healthcare which ties into the low income aspect of minority women. Most likely those women who have low income don't have access to health insurance or at least good health care. You are able to see the drastic numbers of black and hispanic women having abortions compared to the other races mentioned. This could mean that the lack of resources that low income women have does affect their decision on whether or not they choose to have an abortion and currently the option they are choosing is to go through with an abortion.

Reflection: When I first saw this graph it was kind of an eye opener because it is one thing to read about a problematic issue but it's another thing to see the statistics presented in a graph where you can see the differences in numbers. Being that I identify as a hispanic female this

hits very close to home and saddens me because healthcare is something that I feel should be a basic human right. No one deserves to not have the choice to seek medical help when needed. This graph should also be presented to those who disagree with the idea of women having abortions because maybe they can see that some women don't have the ability to go through with having a child because they might not be able to properly and safely care for it which is why they resort to an abortion in the first place. Also something that became a thought when looking at this graph was this statistic was taken in 2014, being that it is now almost 8 years later and so many occurrences have happened that have affected the economy. I would be really interested in seeing how the numbers have changed.

Quote: <https://www.guttmacher.org/infographic/2017/abortion-rates-race-and-ethnicity>

Citation II: Dutton, Zoe. "Abortion's Racial Gap." *The Atlantic*, Atlantic Media Company, 22 Sept. 2014, www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2014/09/abortions-racial-gap/380251/.

Summary: Dutton emphasized that money is often a decisive factor. Regardless of the race low income women still are most likely to have an unintended pregnancy and abortion. Yet they are putting a higher emphasis on minority groups because they have lower income than their white counterparts, because stereotypically African Americans are the ones who are on the lower income side. All this controversy is developed due to the low income state that these minority groups are in. If they can't afford contraceptives and are unable to afford the expenses of having a child, they resort to abortions. Yet, this problem has gotten way more serious than it already is because although abortions have been legal for more than 40 years in the United States, now that President Trump has power, women who are low income won't have the choice to have an abortion because there will soon be illegal.

Reflection: This particular article spoke volumes to me due to the fact that the number of abortions comes down to finance. And I truly believe that those who are pro-life are aware of this, they most likely believe that women are just being selfish by making the choice of having an abortion. Maybe if they knew this they will be willing to financially help those who want to have an abortion or even help them support a child if they don't want to follow through with an abortion. But this is like thinking we live in a perfect world.

Quote: “The median wealth of white households is 18 times that of Hispanic households and 20 times that of black households, according to the Pew Research Center, but across the board, low-income women have a higher rate of unintended pregnancy and abortion regardless of race. They are less likely to have health insurance or consistent access to healthcare, and therefore birth control, according to a study by the Kaiser Family Foundation”

Citation 3: Cohen, Ronnie. “Denial of Abortion Leads to Economic Hardship for Low-Income Women.” *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 18 Jan. 2018, www.reuters.com/article/us-health-abortion-hardship-idUSKBN1F731Z.

Summary: Helping low income women with these resources can lower and even prevent abortions, because it will let women know that if they do decide to have a child that child will have a doctor to go to if it ever gets sick. Even during the pregnancy every woman has several doctor visits to make sure everything is normal and the baby and the mother are healthy. These resources are the reassurance women need to make their decision when finding out they are pregnant.

Reflection: Abortions should not be shamed upon just because the mother didn't have help from society in general. This idea of providing help can minimize abortions as a whole, especially in those who don't have the means. Personally this would make me feel more at ease knowing that this will be an option not only for me but for my peers. If everyone just stops thinking women who have abortions are the worst and rather support them and give them a chance to see that having a baby won't be such a bad idea. Things will change.

Quote: “Making abortion more accessible and affordable - for example, by requiring Medicaid and all government and private insurance plans to cover abortion - could help women better take care of the children they already have and have children when they are ready to do so”

Conclusion: As a result of the lack of support and resources minority women who don't have the means necessary to afford prevention let alone a child resort to abortions. Abortions are not only unsafe for women themselves and their health but unborn children are suffering in the mist because these women didn't have the support to make the right choice. But with education and

assistance from a discrimination, racist, sexist free government these women wont have to go this route. Readers need to take away that women are not at fault for choosing to have abortions, yes they should have a say in what they want when it comes to their body but unwanted pregnancy can be prevented if society wasn't so stereotypical and cause women to play the odds.