

and must include equitable access to contraception, sex ed, STI prevention/care, alternative birth options, adequate prenatal and pregnancy care, domestic violence assistance, liveable wages, & safe and healthy living conditions.

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE = RACIAL JUSTICE

-black women are 3-4x more likely to die in childbirth than white women
-80% of deaths caused by septic abortions in NYC in the 1960s involved black & Puerto Rican women

-in 2014 3/4 of those seeking abortions qualified as low-income. Black & brown patients accounted for more than half of all abortions

that choice. additional barriers to making groups more frequently than necessary abortion for some economic conditions that longstanding social and it did not address the individuals right to choose, ruling affirmed an surprise. While the 1973 Made in 2022 comes as no decision to overturn Roe v. Given that legacy, the

the criminalization of abortion therefore contributed to a long legacy of removing bodily autonomy and as a means of control and forced assimilation.

Abortion & Autonomy in the U.S.

TW: Discussion of racism and descriptions of violence toward enslaved and indigenous people

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- donate to your local abortion fund!
- train to become an abortion doula to support people who get abortions!
- donate to Indigenous Women Rising abortion fund and the Sister Song Reproductive Justice Coalition!
- Don't stop at the right to choose! Fight for holistic reproductive justice!
- Print & share this zine with others! Email brooks.jill196@gmail.com for a PDF version.

Unfold for more resources!

Lobbying to ban abortion accomplished dual goals of criminalizing w. midwifery & reserving the bodies of child-bearing people for the monetary gain of white male doctors.
By 1910 abortion was a criminal procedure in every state in the country.
During a time of increased immigration, forced birth kept the white population high.
Black and indigenous people had already experienced enslavement, child theft, forced sterilization and boarding schools (to name a few), leading to the destruction of priceless inter-generational cultural knowledge.



In 1847 the American Medical Association formed and became the authority on 'proper' medical practices. Women and black people were barred from membership. Reproductive healthcare became professionalized: Forceps, and surgeries replaced midwifery methods. Many such technologies were developed through non-consensual experiments done on enslaved black women without anesthesia.
AMA doctors saw a lucrative field & hoped to monopolize it.
They fiercely attached practices used by female reproductive healthcare workers - focusing in particular on black midwives.

ABORTION HAS ALWAYS BEEN A NORMAL PART OF REPRODUCTIVE CARE.

Any gender is capable of becoming pregnant and having an abortion.

Abortion was originally legal and commonplace everywhere in the U.S. up until 'quickening' - the point at which the pregnant person feels the fetus move (usually around 4-5 months).

Herbal abortifacients like tansy plucked from kitchen gardens were used to restore menstruation. Reproductive healthcare was the realm of midwives.

Over 1/2 of all midwives were black women



Enslaved women shared ancestral medical knowledge with one another. Abortion was sometimes used as a form of protest, to deny their enslavers the economic gains a child would provide.

Abortion was also widely practiced among indigenous people. Blackfeet people "viewed reproductive health and bodily autonomy as part of our relationship with the sacred realm" (Beck & Lapier).

Abortion regulations were developed in part to decrease autonomy of black & indigenous people.