

Abortion Rights Debate

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Background

- Abortion is defined as the process of terminating human pregnancy
- Two types of abortions surgical (56%) and medication (44%)
- Medication can be used up until 10 weeks
- A little less than a million abortions happen in the US each year (930,160 in 2020)
- 93% of abortions occur in the first trimester or before 12 weeks

What is the problem

- Many politicians throughout history that don't agree with abortion have been on a mission to restrict abortion access for people across the globe
- The two sides of this debate are called "pro-life" and "pro-choice"
- The argument that pro lifers make is that it is morally wrong to terminate a pregnancy because they consider the fetus a life
- The "pro-choice" side argues that it comes down to bodily autonomy of the person who got pregnant and it should be their right to chose
- Llegally restricting abortion access has shown to endanger women
- Common misconception about both sides

History of the abortion debate

- Before 1973 abortion was strictly restricted by law
- Despite abortions being illegal millions of “back alley” abortions still occurred
- In 1973 the supreme court case Roe v. Wade recognized a woman’s right to abortion across the country
- After abortion was legalized the total number of deaths due to abortions drastically declined
- On June 24th Roe v. Wade was overturned and is now not considered a constitutional right
- This made abortion completely illegal in 11 states

Causes

- Unwanted pregnancy due to lack of access to birth control, not knowing how to properly use birth control, lack of sex education
- Health and medical reasons
- Not being financially stable enough to have a child or not being in the proper situation to raise a child
- Being in an unsafe or unsupportive relationship with the partner that got them pregnant
- Rape or incest related pregnancies

What is being done

- Many politicians and lawmakers think the right thing to do is put many restrictions and bans they can on abortions in their state
- 95 - 10 initiative promoted by Democrats for Life
- Planned Parenthood services

What could effectively reduce abortion rates

- The method of making abortion less necessary versus less available has shown to work more effectively in the past
- Ways to make abortion less necessary is better sexual health and education in schools, cheaper and more widely available birth control, insurance coverage of and public funding for family planning services, programs that curb domestic violence and sexual abuse
- Providing means to raise a child/ assistance for mothers
- Improving the foster care system
- Differentiate the stigma of “pro-choice” equals pro abortion

Sources:

<https://respectcaregivers.org/abortion-statistics/>

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