



# REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

## AN INTERSECTIONAL FACT SHEET

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### **INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE CAN HAVE CATASTROPHIC ECONOMIC AND HEALTH IMPACTS ON SURVIVORS AND THEIR FAMILIES:**

- According to a 2018 study, the estimated cost of intimate partner violence is \$103,767 per female survivor and \$23,414 per male survivor when adding up costs of medical expenses, loss in productivity, criminal justice actions, and more.<sup>1</sup>
- Survivors of intimate partner violence frequently face barriers to employment and educational opportunities because of their abusive partner which leads to further economic insecurity.<sup>2</sup>
- Intimate partner violence increases the risk of unplanned pregnancy, pregnancy complications, and poor birth outcomes which can lead to greater healthcare costs.<sup>3,4</sup> Additionally, abuse often either starts or intensifies during pregnancy.<sup>5</sup>
- 25% of callers to an intimate partner violence hotline reported prior reproductive coercion, including pressure to get or stay pregnant and birth control sabotage, which can increase economic dependence on an abusive partner.<sup>6</sup>

### **THESE IMPACTS ARE ONLY COMPOUNDED BY ANY LIMITATIONS TO ABORTION ACCESS:**

- Studies show that being denied an abortion can have a negative financial impact such as lowered credit score, increased debt, and negative public financial records such as eviction or bankruptcy.<sup>7</sup>
- The Institute for Women's Policy Research estimates that state-level abortion restrictions cost \$105 billion per year as they reduce labor force participation and earning levels while increasing employee turnover and time off.<sup>8</sup>
- The Turnaway Study, a study comparing those who were turned away for an abortion and those who were able to obtain an abortion, found women denied an abortion and forced to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term were four times more likely to live below the federal poverty level.<sup>9</sup>
- Women turned away from getting an abortion are more likely to stay in contact with an abusive partner, and raise the child alone.<sup>10</sup>



## **MANY PEOPLE SEEKING ABORTIONS OR EXPERIENCING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE FACE ECONOMIC INSECURITY:**

- In a survey of intimate partner violence survivors, 73% stated they stayed with an abusive partner longer or returned to an abusive partner because of financial insecurity.<sup>11</sup>
- According to the Turnaway Study, the most common reason the participants sought an abortion was they couldn't financially afford to have another child.<sup>12</sup> One in five participants stated that having another child would interfere with education and job opportunities.<sup>13</sup>
- According to the Guttmacher Institute, 49% of people seeking abortions are low-income and 55% are experiencing a disruptive life event such as losing a job or behind on rent payments.<sup>14</sup>

## **HISTORICALLY MARGINALIZED AND EXPLOITED COMMUNITIES ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED:**

- National Partnership for Women and Families found that, post-Dobbs, 26 states are certain or likely to ban abortion, which would impact 36 million women of reproductive age including 12.6 million women who are economically insecure, 6.5 million Latinas, and 5.8 million Black women.<sup>15</sup>
- Studies estimate that laws restricting abortion access (TRAP laws) have a significant reduction in Black women's college completion and future income levels.<sup>16</sup>
- According to the U.S. Office of Minority Health, the Hispanic/Latino population has the highest uninsured rates of any racial or ethnic group living in the United States,<sup>17</sup> adding additional economic stress on a population that is disproportionately low-income.<sup>18</sup>
- While abortion remains legal in many states, it is more difficult for low-income pregnant people to access those necessary healthcare services due to the expense of travel, securing child care, and inability to take time off work.<sup>19</sup> Black women experience higher rates of intimate partner violence than women overall with more than 40% of Black women experiencing IPV versus 31.5% of women overall.<sup>20</sup>
- LGBTQIA+ communities experiences higher rates of both poverty<sup>21</sup> and intimate partner violence,<sup>22</sup> while also facing additional barriers to comprehensive reproductive health care.<sup>23</sup>

## **ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES, LIKE ABORTION AND CONTRACEPTIVES, HAS A POSITIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SECURITY, AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Access to contraceptives has been linked to higher participation in the U.S. labor force among women which lead to a reduction in the gender wage gap and increased opportunity.<sup>24</sup>
- A study by the Institute for Women's Policy Research estimates if all state-level abortion restrictions were eliminated, 505,000 more women ages 15-44 would be in the labor force earning \$3.0 billion annually and employed women ages 15-44 would earn \$101.8 billion more in income.<sup>25</sup>

**Access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare services is crucial for the health, safety, and economic security of intimate partner violence survivors. For more information visit [www.futureswithoutviolence.org](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org).**

