



# Abortion

**Presented by Nina P., Isabella H. and Sophia T. on  
the 30<sup>th</sup> of January**

# Definition

- Medical or surgical termination of a pregnancy
- Before the Fetus is viable outside of the uterus

## abortion

*noun*

UK  /əˈbɔː.ʃən/ US  /əˈbɔːr.ʃən/

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**abortion** *noun* (END OF PREGNANCY)

Add to word list 

**C1** [ C or U ]

**the intentional ending of a pregnancy:**

# Reasons

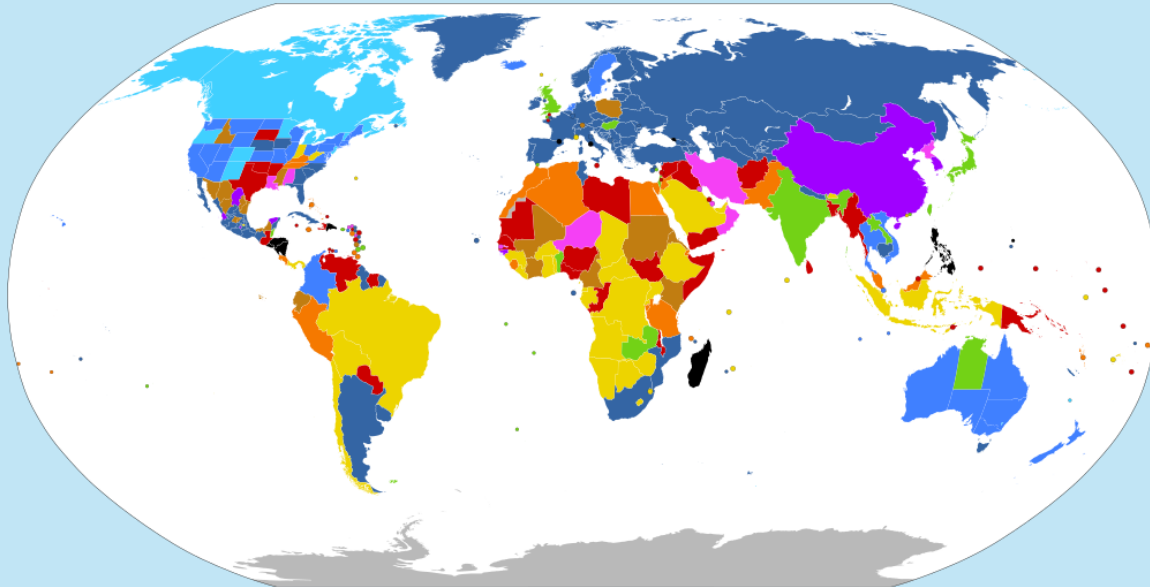
- Violent/ abusive circumstances -> extreme cases : rape, incest, domestic abuse
- Desire to complete education/ focus on career
- Age (e.g. teenage pregnancy)
- Physical/mental health
- Financial aspect- inability to afford a child (lacking economic support)

# Reasons

- Not compatible with personal family planning
- No stable relationship-difficulties of being a single mom (forced to take responsibility alone)
- Societal pressure: e.g. discrimination of people with disabilities;
  - Preference for specific sex, race
  - Population control
  - Disapproval of early/ single motherhood

# **Numbers and facts**

- 73 million abortions worldwide per year
- 29% of all pregnancies end in abortion
- 61% of abortions caused through unintended pregnancies
- 45% of abortions are unsafe
- More than 50% of unsafe abortions take place in Asia
- 3 out of 4 abortions in Latin America and Africa are unsafe



English (en): Map of the legality of abortion by country or territory

- Allowed on request, with no gestational limit.
- Allowed on request, with a gestational limit after the first 17 weeks.
- Allowed on request, with a gestational limit in the first 17 weeks.
- Allowed on request, with an unclear gestational limit.
- Allowed for maternal life, maternal health\*, rape\*, fetal defects\*, failure of contraception\* and socioeconomic factors.
- Prohibited with exceptions for maternal life, maternal health\*, rape, and fetal defects.
- Prohibited with exceptions for maternal life, maternal health\*, and fetal defects.
- Prohibited with exceptions for maternal life\*, maternal health\*, and rape.
- Prohibited with exceptions for maternal life and maternal health.
- Prohibited with exceptions for maternal life.
- Prohibited in any circumstances.
- No information.

• Does not apply to some countries in that category.

# **Safe methods**

- Possible till the 63rd day after the first day of the last period
- In exception even after the 12th week
- two options: surgical and medical method
- A doctor has to be present
- A consultation has to take place at least three days prior



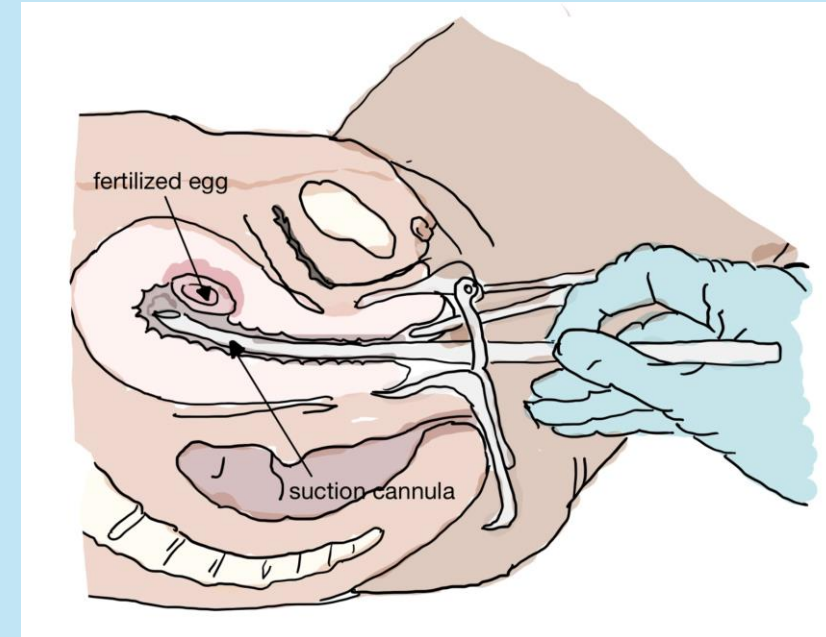
# Medical method

- Active substance: Mifepriston and Misoprostol
- Birth induced medically
- Intake of Mifepriston in the presence of a doctor
  - Possible symptoms: light bleedings, feeling sick, diarrhea
- 36-48h later intake of Prostaglandin
  - Possible symptoms: heavy bleedings, period similar cramps
- After the 22nd week chance of survival
  - Fetocital: administration of a cardiac paralytic injection



# Surgical method („vacuum aspiration“)

- Possible from the 5th to the 14th week
- Outpatient or in a well-equipped clinic
- Anesthesia of the cervix and uterus
- Short anesthesia via vein
- Duration only a few minutes
- Insertion of a thin plastic tube into the uterus
  - Suctioning of uterine mucosa and uterine lining
  - Possible symptoms: period like cramps, light bleeding



# **unsafe methods**

- Usage of contraceptives
- Usage of sharp objects
- Insertion of herbal preparations or foreign bodies
- Jumping from heights to cause blunt trauma
- Places: clinics, chemist shops and homes
- Risks: heavy bleedings, infections, uterine perforation, damage to the genital tract and internal organs, injury, disability, death

# Medical perspective on pregnancy

- Fertilization (Conception): DNA is formed in the zygote, beginning of human biological development, considered biologically alive.
- (-> described as potential human, single cell)
- Embryonic Stage (0–8 weeks): embryo undergoes rapid cell division and differentiation
  - 4-6 weeks: basic body structures and organs begin to form (e.g. heart)

# Medical perspective on pregnancy

- Fetal Stage (8 weeks–birth): continuous growth and development:
  - Viability: Fetus capable of surviving outside the womb with medical intervention, independent existence (around 22–24 weeks gestation)
  - Brain Development: higher neurological functions(third trimester)
- Birth: Medically and legally fully recognized as a human being in with individual rights

# Laws in Germany

- §218(StGB):
  - abortion is illegal except to save the life of the mother
  - Punishable by up to 3 years in prison or a fine
- §218a:
  - 1. Abortion is performed during the first 12 weeks of the pregnancy
  - 2. 4 days after a consultation with a doctor
  - 3. Procedure by a certified doctor

# Laws in Germany

- §219: purpose of consultation -> give the woman a perspective on opportunities when carrying out the pregnancy, to protect unborn life
- New changes 2022:
- Bundestag repealed §219a: "advertising the termination of pregnancy" -> included spreading awareness about different methods and risks of abortion

# What is Roe v. Wade?

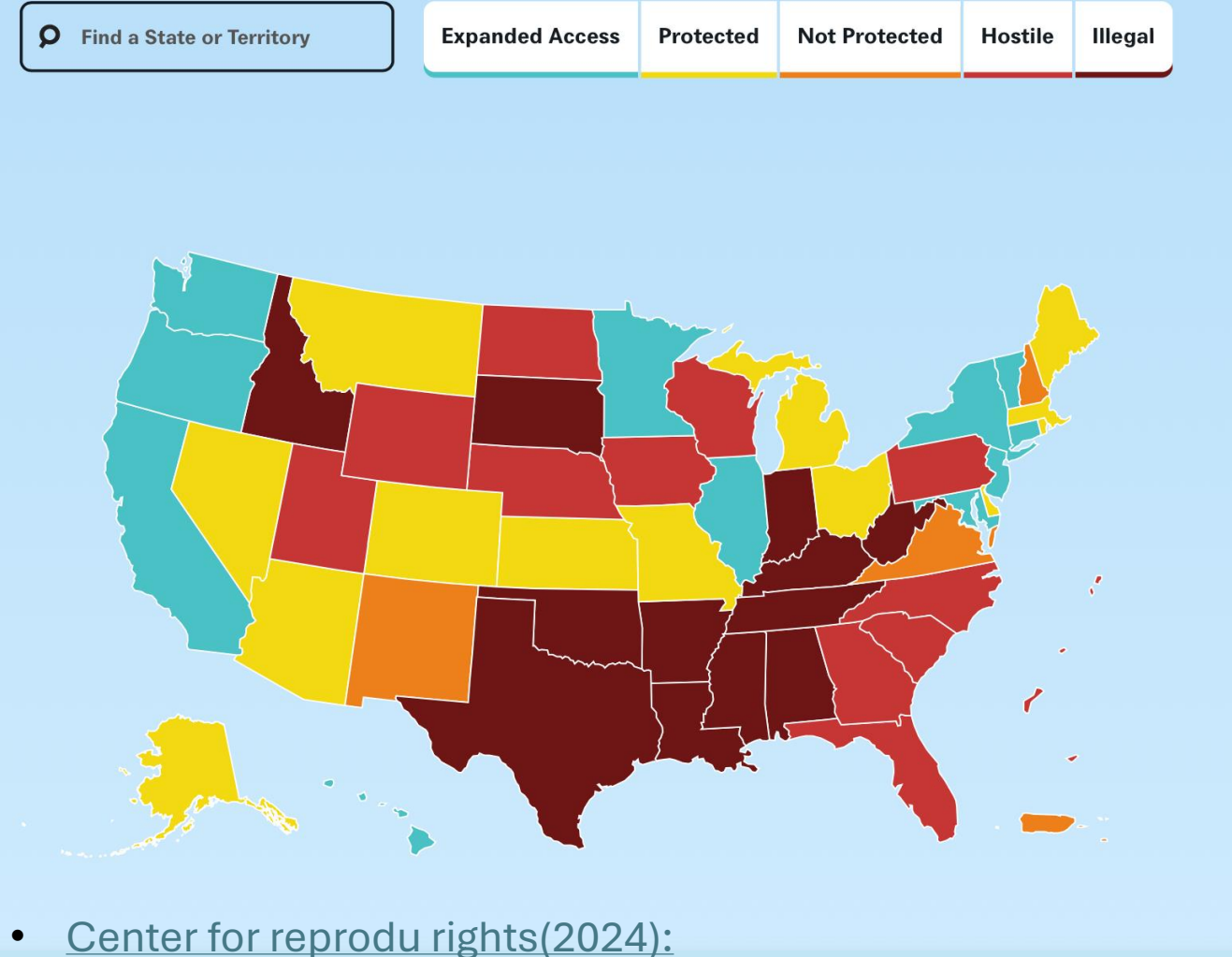
- Jane Roe (fictional name), unmarried and pregnant woman in Texas
- Filed a lawsuit against Texan State (Henry Wade), fighting for abortion rights
- Reasoning: right to liberty (personal freedom) which includes personal privacy (choice over own body)
- Supreme Court decision 1973: legal right to access abortion nationwide
- Striking down Texas abortion ban as unconstitutional



# Supreme Court decision 2022

- Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organisation overturned Roe v. Wade
- Abortion regulations from now on decided by individual states
- Reasoning: constitution doesn't explicitly guarantee right to abortion (14th Amendment)
- First time Supreme Court has taken away a fundamental right

## Current laws in different states



- Center for reprodu rights(2024):
- <https://reproductiverights.org/maps/abortion-laws-by-state/>

# Different bans

- **Trigger bans:** ban abortion entirely
- **Pre-viability gestational bans:** prohibited abortion before **viability**
- **Method bans:** specific methods not allowed (dilation & extraction, dilation & evacuation)
- **Reason bans:** reasons like sex, race, genetic anomaly of the child
- **Self-managed abortions:** some states criminalize: end their pregnancy outside of healthcare system

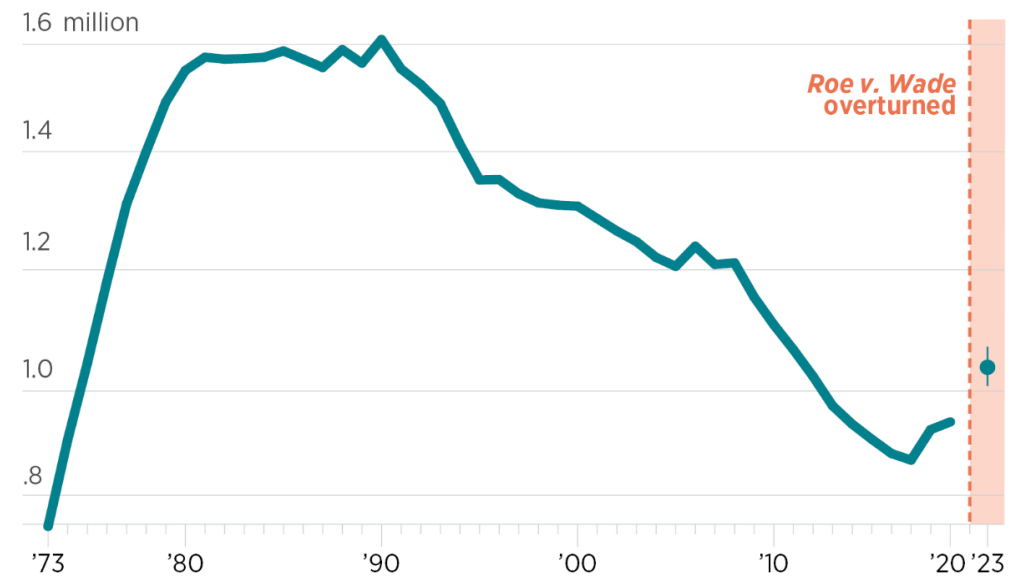
# Consequences of this ban

- Millions of women lost their right to abortion
  - e.g. Georgia: performing dialation and curettage (D&C) felony offence
  - Amber Nicole Thurman (28): desire to terminate twin pregnancy
  - Clinic offered medical abortion
  - Symptoms: heavy bleeding, vomoting blood: acute, severe sepsis
  - Operation delayed by 17 h -> abdominal surgery lead to death
  - many protests

# Consequences of this ban

- Increase of abortions in the US
  - 15.9 per 1000 women (11% increase)
  - Almost all states without total ban
  - Reasons: increased financial support, other states improve protection and access, increased travel access

Estimated number of abortions provided in the formal health care system in the United States, 1973–2023



Notes: 2023 estimate shown with accompanying 90% uncertainty interval. No comprehensive data available for 2021 and 2022. Source: Guttmacher Monthly Abortion Provision Study.

guttmacher.org

# Consequences of this ban

- Further travel to abortion access
  - More and more states pass bans
  - Clinics, abortion funds, logistical support organisations try to create more access
  - Struggle with out of state increase
  - e.g. Illinois -> 26.000 more patients from out of state compared to 2020

# Trumps contradictory positions

- Latest statement: Legalities should be up to the states
- Before: Months of discussing the possibility of federal abortion
- Extremely fast switching opinions on this subject
- Timetable of his views (only some excerpts of his statements)
  - **1999** : „I am very pro choice“
  - **2011**: „I am pro life“ ( drastically changed posture)
  - **2016** : Requires „some sort of punishment for women, who seek abortion“ → votes to overturn Roe v Wade



# Trumps contradictory positions

- **2023:** Trump blames the abortion-discussion for midterm losses
- **2023 :** Vague promise regarding compromise
- **2024:** Considers national abortion ban
- **2024** Most recent decision:  
Accountability depends on the states



# Claims during the election campaign

- Trump's conspiracy theory: During presidential debate claim, that Democrats support abortion „after birth“+ „executing babies“
- Trumps intention: Painting Democrats as radical
  - The term for this is infanticide-> crime
  - Lindsay Davis clarifies there is no state, in which this is supported by Democrats/legal
- Trump avoided an answer to the question, if he would sign a national abortion ban, or veto such a bill
- J.D. Vance (vice president) expressed clearly he would veto
- But: Not yet discussed between Trump and J.D. Vance

# Trumps actions since his inauguration

- He downplays the issue
  - By shutting down government-Website with information about reproductive rights
- **Updates:**
- Trump administration plans to rejoin international anti-abortion pact alongside Saudi-Arabia, Uganda etc
- Reversing Bidens efforts to protect+ expand reproductive care access
- Blocking financial help for organizations,that mention abortion in their consultation

# Contra

- Most pro-lifers believe life begins with conception
  - No society permits humans to intentionally take life without punishment -> abortion is no different
  - Direct defiance of the idea of the sanctity of human life
- Cases of rape/incest: taking drugs after the event -> woman won't get pregnant: rather punish perpetrator than innocent unborn child
- Causes psychological pain and stress for the women

# Contra

- Many, who choose abortion are young women/ minors: don't understand what they are doing-> lifelong regret
- Potential for Exploitation:
  - pressure from family/partners could undermine real choice
  - can be used for gender selection
  - convenience rather than necessity
- Rather give women a life perspective and show all opportunities
- Adoption: child still has a chance to a fulfilled life

# Pro

- Ban leads to illegal unsafe abortions
- Right to life
- Right to highest attainable standard of health
- Right to benefit from scientific progress and its realization
- Right to decide freely and responsibly on the number, spacing, timing of children
- Right to be free from torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment

# Pro

- If forced to give birth kid can feel unwanted and unloved
- Doesn't have caring parents – mental health problems
- It is not a baby yet and depends on the mother – ist not an own person yet



# Law vs. Personal freedom

- Law: government has interest in protecting life and setting regulation on medical procedures
- Personal freedom: abortion as matter of bodily autonomy and privacy, right to make own decision
- Criminalization of abortion => Violation of human right of reproductive freedom

# Personal Statement

- Everyone has the right to decide for themselves
- A ban is a violation of personal freedom
- The baby is not able to survive on its own yet – not an own human being
- Everyone has the right to decide freely and responsibly on the number, spacing, timing of children and the law cannot take the right away
- Impossible to ban abortions, you are only banning the safe ones



Thank you for your  
attention!

## Class Quiz

# Kahoot!

# What is your opinion?

- Questions for the class :
  - In your opinion, when does life begin? ...with the birth? ; ...with the first heart beat? ; ...with the fertilization of the egg?
  - Should abortion be illegal? I'm against/in favor of the ban, because...
  - Is the ban a violation of human rights? Yes it is, because... ; No it isn't, because...

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