

# SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC AND SERVICE USE CHARACTERISTICS OF ABORTION FUND CASES FROM SIX SOUTHEASTERN U.S. STATES

## BACKGROUND

In the U.S. Southeast, abortion funds are a critical resource for those facing barriers to accessing abortion, but few studies have characterized people seeking abortion fund support. In this study co-led by RISE and ARC-Southeast, researchers analyzed caller requests for abortion fund support from 2017-2019 to describe callers' characteristics, including type of abortion care sought and how far callers traveled for care.

"One of the best things [about this study] is showing what community collaboration and community-based research looks like when people are working as co-conspirators. **This was not an extractive process and this work felt like it was values aligned and mutually beneficial to Emory RISE and ARC-Southeast.** The end goal is not just create this academic publication, but to actually use the information we've gathered to **create the cultural shifts in regards to abortion access in the Southeast.**"



- Oriaku Njoku, ARC-Southeast co-founder and executive director

## RESULTS

### Characteristics of abortion fund callers



**81%** Non-Hispanic Black or African American



**55%** Christian



**84%** 18-34 years of age



**77%** Have one or more children

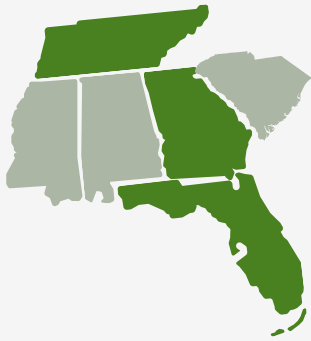


**87%** Publicly insured or uninsured

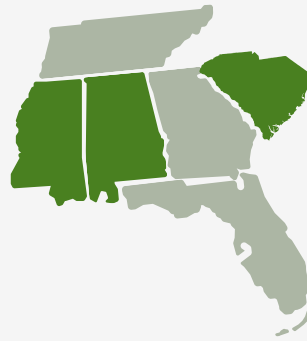


**70%** Completed high school degree or some college

## Distance from nearest abortion clinic



The **majority** of cases in **Florida (73%), Georgia (54%), and Tennessee (64%)** accessed clinics **within 25 miles** of their zip code of residence.



The **minority** of cases in **Alabama (26%), Mississippi (33%) and South Carolina (14%)** accessed clinics **within 25 miles** of their zip code of residence.

We...need the **full expansion of reproductive health care across the board**. We know the states that we work in that have the **most barriers to abortion care also have the most barriers to reproductive health care in general**. And we clearly see that through the **high rates of maternal mortality rates across the South**.



-- Quita Tinsley Peterson, ARC-Southeast

## PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- In the Southeast, callers are from communities disproportionately burdened by restrictive laws.
- Abortion funds help to mitigate common barriers to abortion care in states with restrictive abortion laws.
- Reproductive health advocates, funding organizations, and policymakers benefit from understanding the demographic and service use characteristics of people who seek abortion care in restrictive states.

## Citation

Rice WS, Labgold K, Peterson QT, Higdon M, Njoku O. **Sociodemographic and Service Use Characteristics of Abortion Fund Cases from Six States in the U.S. Southeast**. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 2021; 18(7):3813. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18073813>



Access Reproductive Care in the Southeast is based in Atlanta, Georgia and provides logistical and financial support for people living in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee who need help accessing reproductive health care.



The Center for Reproductive Health Research in the Southeast (RISE) is a research center housed at Emory University Rollins School of Public Health. Our mission is to improve reproductive health and equity of people in the U.S. Southeast through transdisciplinary research that informs social, systems, and policy change.