

EMORY UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS FIND LAWS THAT RESTRICT ABORTION AFTER 22 WEEKS BURDEN BLACK PEOPLE MOST

Emory RISE researchers examined state-level public health abortion data from 2007 to 2017. They found that state gestational age limits disproportionately affect Black people living in and near states with these restrictions.

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Atlanta, Ga. -- The Supreme Court is preparing to hear *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* - the case challenging Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban - on December 1. There are currently 23 states that prohibit some abortions based on gestational age. New [research](#) from the Emory University Center for Reproductive Health Research in the Southeast (RISE) found Black patients seeking abortion care bear the brunt of abortion restrictions.

"Did the law work? Well, it depends," said Elizabeth Mosley, Ph.D., the study lead and Georgia State University professor. "If we only look at abortions after 22 weeks, which are relatively very rare, then yes, the law eliminated abortions after 22 weeks."

The 22-week gestational age limits had different effects depending on a person's race and ethnicity: "Abortions before 21 weeks significantly increased for Black women, so we think this means Black women and providers are working very hard to ensure they can still have access to abortion within the legal limits," says Mosley.

"Abortion restrictions, like those in Georgia, often are not rooted in evidence or sound public health strategy," said Subasri Narasimhan, Ph.D., study-co-author, and Emory University professor. "If Georgia tries to restrict the procedure as Mississippi has done, it will place the most tremendous burdens on vulnerable people in the state, specifically on Black women."

Dr. Mosley and Dr. Narasimhan are available for comment and interviews.

Media requests can be sent to RISE@emory.edu.