

# The Economic Impacts of Restricting Abortion Access

Decades of economic research clearly demonstrates the connections between abortion access and people's economic opportunities.

**Abortion bans, which force people to give birth or travel to obtain abortion care, can be emotionally traumatic, physically dangerous and financially ruinous.** While the majority of people who have an abortion already have one or more children, the most common reason for choosing an abortion is not being able to afford having a child (the federal government estimates the average cost of raising a child is over \$233,000).<sup>1</sup>

WHEN DENIED AN ABORTION, PREGNANT PEOPLE ARE MORE LIKELY TO END UP **LIVING IN POVERTY** MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT TO AFFORD BASIC NECESSITIES.<sup>2</sup>

Research shows that five years after being denied an abortion, pregnant people were more likely than those who received an abortion to be:<sup>3</sup>

- **Raising children alone** without adult family members or a partner
- **Receiving government assistance** like TANF, SNAP and WIC **for longer periods of time**
- **Less likely to be working full-time**, and less likely to be working at all six months after being denied an abortion
- **More likely to be living in poverty** with a higher likelihood of living below the Federal Poverty Limit for longer periods of time

Even if someone who is denied an abortion then places the baby for adoption, they still have a massive labor and delivery hospital bill to contend with, which in Nebraska averages \$8,805.<sup>4</sup>



## ANTI-ABORTION POLICIES HAVE NEGATIVE IMPACTS FOR NEBRASKA BUSINESSES

Abortion access is critical to gender equity in society and the workforce. The overturning of Roe reverses any progress we've made over the past 50 years.<sup>5</sup>

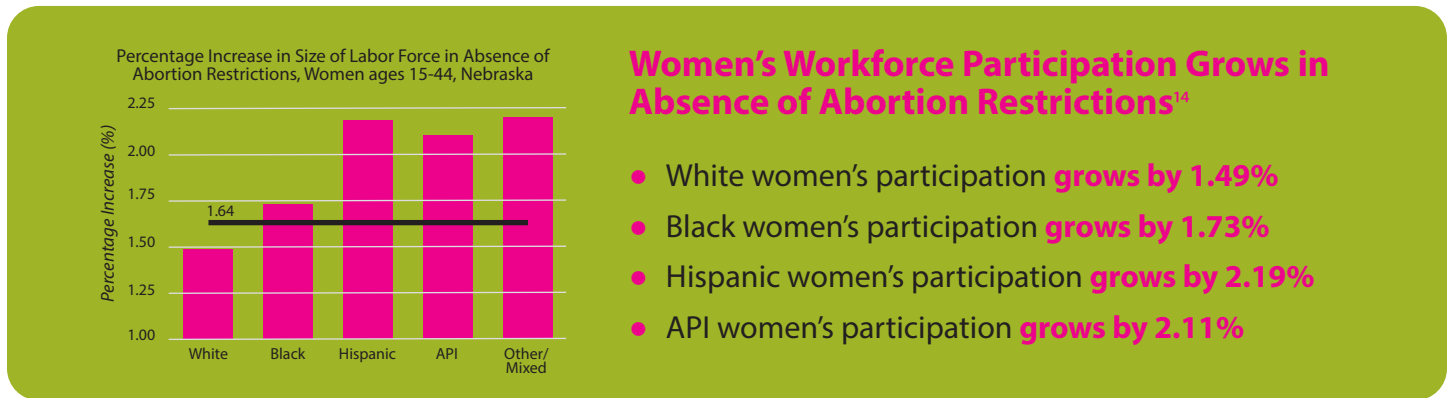
Additionally, the pandemic disproportionately impacted women in the workforce. **A staggering 4.2 million women across the country had to leave the workforce**<sup>6</sup>—a full million more women than men—also **setting women's labor force participation back more than 30 years**. That was because of two key factors. First, unlike previous recessions, this one had layoffs in sectors that were more likely to employ women.<sup>7</sup>

Also, women have had disproportionate caretaking responsibilities while schools, daycares and senior centers were closed.<sup>8</sup> Research suggests that **women's employment will not recover to pre-pandemic levels until 2024**,<sup>9</sup> and even "recovering" to that level means Nebraska women being paid just 78% of what men are paid with an even bigger wage gap for women of color and LGBTQ individuals.

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Advocacy for abortion access and economic security aligns with the Women's Fund values of: **Equity, Bold Impact, Collaboration, Community Voice, Intersectionality and Bodily Autonomy**. To learn more about our mission, vision and values, visit [www.OmahaWomensFund.org](http://www.OmahaWomensFund.org).

Banning abortions and restricting reproductive rights cost an estimated \$105 billion per year nationwide by reducing labor force participation and earning levels, and increasing turnover and time-off from work for pregnant people ages 15-44.<sup>10</sup> In Nebraska, these restrictions will, at minimum, impact 47.4% of the workforce,<sup>11</sup> resulting in a more than \$1 billion loss in economic output per year.<sup>12</sup> Alternatively, ending Nebraska's restrictions on abortions would increase a woman's average wage by \$2,879.<sup>12</sup>



## Women's Workforce Participation Grows in Absence of Abortion Restrictions<sup>14</sup>

- White women's participation grows by 1.49%
- Black women's participation grows by 1.73%
- Hispanic women's participation grows by 2.19%
- API women's participation grows by 2.11%

## ABORTION RESTRICTIONS WILL REDUCE NEBRASKA'S COMPETITIVE EDGE

Nearly 80% of consumers consider reproductive health care and access to contraception and abortion important issues,<sup>15</sup> and 70% of women and 59% of men ages 18-44 would be discouraged from taking a job in a state that restricts access to abortion.<sup>16</sup> If Nebraska wants to attract and retain talent, we should take note that 86% of women also state that controlling if and when to have children is important to their careers.<sup>17</sup>

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## THE GENERATIONAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ABORTION BANS

Access to a full range of reproductive health care, including abortion care, impacts a person's education, earnings and careers as well as the subsequent life outcomes of their children.<sup>18</sup> When abortion care is denied, children the mother already have are shown to experience worse early childhood development compared to children of women who receive an abortion. Children born as the result of an abortion denial are more likely to live below the federal poverty level.<sup>19</sup> Carrying an unwanted pregnancy to term is associated with poorer maternal bonding.<sup>20</sup>

However, these negative impacts can be avoided by expanding abortion access. The legalization of abortions reduced the number of children living in poverty and receiving public assistance.<sup>21</sup> Access to abortion also increased the likelihood that children would attend college.<sup>22</sup>

As the Turnaway Study concluded, **people who receive a wanted abortion are more financially stable, set more ambitious goals, raise children under more stable conditions** and are more likely to have a wanted child later.<sup>23</sup>

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