

A current ethical issue related to not only Nursing but within the health field as a whole is Abortion. Abortion is a controversial topic pertaining to a woman's constitutional right to intentionally terminate a pregnancy under any circumstance. Despite there being some stipulations put in place by conservatives, this proclamation was issued by the Supreme Court on January 22, 1973, by a 7-2 decision during the Roe v. Wade trial. This decision was made because a state law was created in attempt to ban abortions with the only exception being if the fetus put the mother's life at risk (*Beneficence/Non-Maleficence*) while the mother was impregnated with said fetus. This topic recently has been resurrected to be overturned by privileged old Caucasian traditionalist men, who not only have no knowledge of what it is like to be a biological woman but feel that it is their right to dictate a woman's rights with the introduction of the "Pro-Life" Movement. This not only affects the *Reproductive Autonomy* of a woman, but a *Woman's Autonomy* overall. It also raises concerns involving Women's Rights, Women's Health, and plethora of other constitutions women have been granted. This affects the field of health by making it difficult for healthcare workers to respect one's *Autonomy*, being that it now is deemed illegal in certain states to seek medical assistance when it comes to an abortion. This also makes following the principle of *Justice*, impossible being that women aren't privileged to receive the same unpolluted healthcare as their male counterparts. Government involvement, in this case, can and probably has put women more at risk being that this opens the conversation to women seeking out alternative routes, if abortions, and ultimately their rights are being confiscated. Being that this ban restricts a women's access to abortions, will only promote women to either do it themselves or possibly finding help from unreliable or un reputable resources. According to the Washington Post, "Since the decision, 3.4% of women ages 15 to 49 reported self-managing abortions, up from 2.4% in the year before" and "Studies found that self-

managed abortions increased by about 26,000 after the decision to ban abortions” (Caroline Kitchener, 2024). This also violates HIPAA to a degree by pushing for women to be denied abortion services after a certain timeframe of pregnancy. This information should only be discussed and decided upon between the Primary Care Physician and the woman seeking medical attention for said abortion, it shouldn't be relied to external sources or third parties for permission, and definitely not to government officials.

Kitchener, C., & Kirkpatrick, N. (2024, March 25). *Abortions Outside Medical System Increased Sharply after Roe fell, study finds*. The Washington Post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2024/03/25/abortions-outside-medical-system-increased-sharply-after-roe-fell/>

