

# CENTERING BLACK VOICES

## A qualitative exploration of the ideal abortion experience



What could make the abortion-seeking process **easier or better** for Black communities?

### BACKGROUND

Black people face disproportionate barriers to abortion access, but **we rarely ask what they want** from abortion care.

Persistent policy threats can limit our ability to set **aspirational goals** for abortion care.

### METHODS

BoPPs is a **mixed-methods study**. For the qualitative portion, we interviewed 15 Black abortion seekers and 15 abortion facilitators who support them (e.g., providers, facility workers, doulas, abortion fund workers).

We analyzed the interview data using the **Sort and Sift, Think and Shift** approach to systematically and iteratively identify and label key ideas.

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## WHEN ENVISIONING THE IDEAL ABORTION EXPERIENCE, PARTICIPANTS IMAGINED:

A **general acceptance of the right to access abortion**, including laws and regulations, healthcare systems, and public advocacy and education that facilitate abortion access

- ★ Abortion is legal and free
- ★ Accessible in primary care settings
- ★ Time off work is common and accepted
- ★ Accurate information is valued and widely shared

“If I had a magic wand, it would be definitely **abortion needs to be part of routine care**...An abortion should be as routine...as a root canal, but then...some people can't afford root canals either in this country. So, it should be part of your primary care. Physician should be able to write you a little script, and you go and you get an abortion. And then also the economic standing of Black people. Minimum wage is tied to abortion access. Stable and safe housing is tied to abortion access. Reliable transportation is tied to abortion access. All of these things.”

abortion being supported in social systems

abortion care being safe, respectful, and meeting patients' needs

the abortion seeker being physically and emotionally supported

Abortion seekers **feel cared for and supported** throughout their abortion experience

- ★ Companionship for travel and decision affirmation
- ★ Doula support available
- ★ Help with logistics: food, caregiving, resource navigation
- ★ Support for broader needs (immigration, IPV, substance use)

Care is designed to **ensure patients' highest standards** of health and well-being

- ★ Clean, protestor-free facilities with parking
- ★ Quick intake and convenient follow-up
- ★ Care is private and non-coercive
- ★ Facility policies align with patient needs
- ★ Pain expectations are set, and pain is well-managed

### CONCLUSION

This analysis identified **concrete opportunities to improve abortion care**—for Black people and for all communities.

Our team used these **findings to inform a national abortion preference survey** for Black people capable of pregnancy that is currently in the field.

Using **this roadmap**, we must strive to meet these ideal care standards to provide care that honors preferences and respects dignity.