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Claim that Most Abortion Clinics Are Located in Black Neighborhoods Is False

Key finding

Fewer than one in 10 abortion clinics are located in predominantly African-American neighborhoods, or those in which the majority of residents are black.

Background

Antiabortion activists often claim that most abortion clinics are located in predominantly black neighborhoods. However, this claim—offered as supposed proof that abortion providers “target” African-American women—is never documented.

Analysis

Using the results of its most recent [census of all known abortion providers in the United States](#), Guttmacher examined the racial and ethnic makeup of neighborhoods in which abortion clinics were located in 2008, the most recent year for which these data are available. (Abortion clinics are defined as providers of 400 or more abortions annually.) Neighborhood characteristics are based on information for each U.S. zip code from the 2000 decennial population census.

Among abortion clinics in 2008:

- 63% were located in neighborhoods where one-half or more of the residents were non-Hispanic white;
- 12% were located in neighborhoods where one-half or more of the residents were Hispanic;
- 9% were located in neighborhoods where one-half or more of the residents were black;
- 1% were located in neighborhoods where one-half or more of the residents were “non-Hispanic other”; and
- 15% were located in neighborhoods where no single racial or ethnic group accounted for one-half or more of residents.

These statistics definitively refute the assertion that most abortion clinics are located in predominantly African-American neighborhoods.

For further context

Abortion and Women of Color: The Bigger Picture

<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/gpr/11/3/gpr110302.html>

Health Disparities: More Context for Higher Unintended Pregnancy and Abortion Rates
Among Women of Color

<http://www.guttmacher.org/media/inthenews/2009/06/11/index.html>