

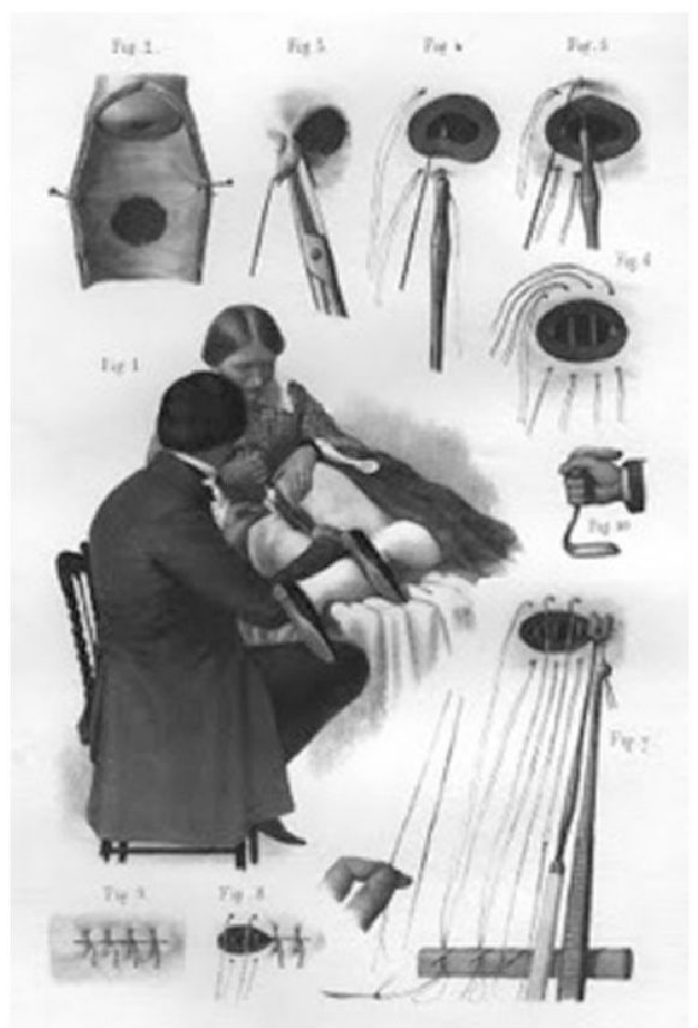
Black Women and Reproductive Injustice



Reproductive Experimenting During Slavery


Primary Document Analysis





A painting of Dr. James Marion Sims, by American artist Robert Thom from the 1950s

Sims repairing a vesicovaginal fistula with silver wire sutures, 1870



Claim: Today, Black women nationally are at risk for unplanned pregnancy as they use less effective forms of birth control. **This is an issue that is directly linked to the medical community's history of racist treatment of Black people and their reproductive rights.** This racism continues today.

Racist Reproductive History

- ▶ Present day legacy of medical mistrust
 - [Medical Distrust Data](#)
- ▶ Racist idea that Black women should not reproduce in order to decrease the Black population
- ▶ Many women of color were thus targeted by encroachments on reproductive rights
 - Mississippi Appendectomies
 - Norplant


Table 32. Number and percentage of people receiving public assistance, by sex, race/ethnicity, and age group: Selected years, 1980 through 2009

Age group and year	Total		Percent receiving public assistance							
	Number receiving public assistance (in thousands)	Percent receiving public assistance	Sex		Race/ethnicity					
			Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander	American Indian/ Alaska Native	
All persons										
1980	10,300	4.6	4.0	5.1	3.1	12.5	7.8	—	—	
1985	10,800	4.6	4.2	4.9	3.0	12.4	7.3	—	—	
1990	25,190	10.1	9.2	11.0	6.4	27.2	17.2	12.8	24.3	
1995	27,250	10.3	9.4	11.2	6.0	26.5	18.9	12.6	24.1	
2000	18,600	6.7	6.1	7.2	4.3	15.5	10.0	7.5	12.9	
2001	17,610	6.2	5.7	6.8	4.1	14.4	8.6	7.6	14.1	
2002	17,460	6.1	5.7	6.5	4.1	13.6	8.7	5.8	13.2	
2003	18,580	6.4	6.0	6.8	4.4	14.6	8.9	5.9	15.8	
2004	18,560	6.4	6.0	6.7	4.5	14.3	8.1	5.4	15.4	
2005	18,110	6.2	5.7	6.6	4.2	14.0	7.8	5.8	13.2	
2006	17,100	5.8	5.2	6.3	4.1	12.5	7.2	5.3	14.4	
2007	17,210	5.8	5.4	6.1	4.1	12.8	7.0	5.2	11.4	
2008	19,540	6.5	6.1	6.9	4.5	14.0	8.4	5.5	12.8	
2009	19,670	6.5	6.1	6.8	4.4	13.5	8.7	5.9	16.1	



Black Women are 3x as more likely than White Women to experience an unintended pregnancy.

As of 2002, 15% of Black Women at risk of unintended pregnancy were not practicing contraception.



Women of Color are less likely to use a long acting reversible contraceptive (LARC) than their white female counterparts.

Why do these disparities exist?

- ▷ Research study on discrimination and contraception
 - Correlation between LARC use and discrimination
- ▷ Perceived pressure due to Medical Distrust
- ▷ Difficult situation to solve



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