

The Turnaway Study Lecture Series

Additional Discussion Questions

The Turnaway Study lecture series is designed to be engaging and interactive. We welcome feedback and suggestions from learners to help deepen community learning. If you have any discussion questions you would like to share, please email our course director Jasmine Powell at jasmine.powell@ucsf.edu.

Introduction to the Turnaway Lecture Series

Lecture 1: Understanding the context and methods of the Turnaway Study

Lecture 2: Why do women have (later) abortions

Lecture 3: Effects of Abortion on Women's Mental Health

Lecture 4: The Emotions Women Experience After having an Abortion in the United States

1. This research showed that, even among women who expressed the emotion of regret, still 90% felt the abortion was the right decision for them. Do you think there is a difference between feeling negative emotions and feeling a decision was not the right one? How so?
2. This research showed that 95% or more of women felt having the abortion was the right decision for them, both immediately and over 5 years. Do you think ability to get an abortion should be restricted by law because some people don't feel a decision they made is the right one? Why or why not?
3. This research showed differences in the emotions women felt about having an unwanted pregnancy vs. emotions felt about actually having an abortion. Why does the difference between these two things matter?

Lecture 5: Physical Health Five Years After Receiving or Being Denied an Abortion

Lecture 6: Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use Subsequent to Receiving vs Being Denied Abortion

Lecture 7: Socioeconomic Outcomes of Women Who Received vs Are Denied Abortions in the US

Lecture 8: The Effect of Receiving versus Being Denied a Wanted Abortion on Educational Attainment

1. The researchers used the question, "How do you think your life will be different a year from now?" to assess one-year life aspirations. What are the advantages and disadvantages to asking in this way? If you were designing the study, what other questions would you ask to measure participants' long-term goals?
2. The researchers found that individuals who received their wanted abortion were more likely to have positive life plans. Why do you think they found this? What factors may have influenced their visions for the future?

Lecture 9: Does Having an Abortion Enable Women to Achieve Their Life Plans

Lecture 10: Adoption and the Turnaway Study

Lecture 11: Attitudes toward Abortion after Receiving or Being Denied a Wanted Abortion

1. The study finds that attitudes on morality and legality of abortion are not always in accordance; some women say abortion is morally wrong yet, do not want to make it illegal. For some Americans, the same is true for other topics as well: e.g., same-sex marriage, physician-assisted suicide for terminally ill patients. What do these topics have in common and how do they differ? What is an appropriate role for government when legislating about these complex topics?

Lecture 12: The Economic Consequences of Being Denied an Abortion

Lecture 13: The Effect of Abortion Receipt or Denial on Women's Existing & Subsequent Children

Lecture 14: Intended Pregnancy and Intimate Relationships after Receiving vs. Being Denied a Wanted Abortion