

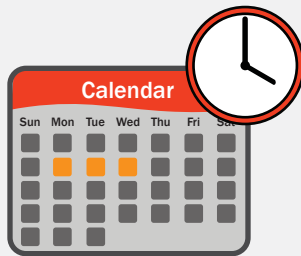
BARRIERS TO ABORTION ON TV

We identified 89 TV plot lines from 2005 to 2015 that featured characters who considered abortion; 55% of the plot lines had a character that actually obtained one. Obstacles to abortion access were depicted in 42% of these plot lines, but these challenges most often easily overcome. Only 4% of characters faced barriers to abortion access that were insurmountable. By far, the most commonly depicted barrier was illegality.

Challenges that real American women currently face - both personal and legal - are largely absent from television.

MOST COMMON BARRIERS TO ABORTION ON AMERICAN TV

Legal Restrictions



Waiting Periods



Parental Consent

Logistical Challenges



Cost



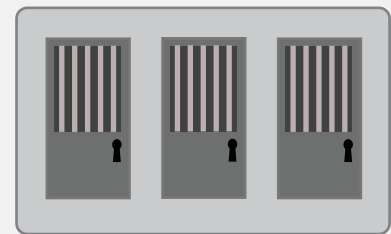
Distance

Social Barriers



Stigma

Other Barriers



Incarceration

WHAT WAS MISSING FROM TV PLOT LINES?

The absence and misrepresentation of working class and low-income women on TV neglects to tell powerful stories of the specific and daunting challenges to access that women face amid economic struggle and legal restrictions.

Abortion is very common but a lack of knowledge about the procedure and the women who seek abortion persists. By focusing on only a few of the many challenges women face, and by neglecting to represent more diverse populations (including those that are most impacted by abortion restrict), TV perpetuates myths that privileged women represent the majority of women seeking abortion and that abortion is easily attainable.

Gretchen Sisson and Katrina Kimport. 2017. "Depicting abortion access on American Television, 2005 - 2015." *Feminism & Psychology*. ePub ahead of print.

For more information visit: www.abortiononscreen.com



www.ansirh.org