

Connections

Annual Report
2023

Dear Friends



Dear Friends,

2023 was a year of deep connection around a powerful shared purpose: to reduce barriers to abortion by building an equitable health system that cares for pregnant people with dignity and respect.

Provide's work extends across five systems of care that are crucial access points for people of reproductive age: substance use, domestic and sexual violence, HIV, family planning, and primary care. To us, connecting the dots across these systems of care is not just a strategy; it's our core philosophy. We build connections at the convergence of stigma and pregnancy, guided by the understanding that every person has the power to play a role in affirming the autonomy of all people to make decisions about their bodies.

In the first full year without Roe, the shifting legal landscape presented the expected challenges, yet Provide's mission has not wavered. We are heartened by the many ways folks are working to fill access gaps through innovative online resources, expanded telehealth options, practical support organizations, and community networks that have organized outside of the formal healthcare system. Our focus remains on reaching the providers serving marginalized communities where abortion bans intersect with other systemic barriers that keep folks disenfranchised. In 2023, we:

- Trained **327** health and social service workers via **20** trainings on abortion referrals, stigma, provider tools, and more.
- Trained **189** sites across **44** states.

The project of transforming healthcare requires more than just dismantling barriers—it demands building supportive structures in their place, rooted in abundance and collaboration. With your support, we are weaving powerful connections around our shared humanity, leveraging both our values and deep systems expertise to foster a more inclusive and affirming network of providers and advocates. Our approach emphasizes that abortion access is an intersectional issue because pregnant people live intersectional lives. From economic security to racial justice, gender equity, LGBTQ+ rights, disability, geography, and immigration status, we cannot talk about abortion alone without talking about the range of issues that impact folks' circumstances and relationships to healthcare.

In this year's annual report, we highlight stories of connection and meaningful impact, recognizing that the work of liberation touches every single one of us. As you read through, I hope you recognize the instrumental role your support plays in facilitating Provide's deep collaboration with partners who share our commitment to challenging stigma and cultivating networks of interconnected care.

In solidarity,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Fatimah'.

Fatimah Gifford, MAODC
Executive Director



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jamarr'.

Jamarr Brown
Board President

Abortion Care

Building Bridges for Abortion Seekers Across Stigmatized Systems of Care

Provide partners with organizations across stigmatized systems to care to affirm the dignity and autonomy of pregnant people. Our deep technical assistance and training empowers providers at the intersection of stigma and pregnancy to be informed, resourceful points of connection for people navigating unintended pregnancy and seeking abortion.

HIV
Social workers are key connectors for many populations disproportionately impacted by the HIV epidemic, which includes Black and Latine women, transgender men, and other people who can get pregnant. This year, Provide was selected to present at this year's National Conference on Social Work and HIV where Technical Assistance Manager Ann Dills spoke to providers about supporting people living with HIV around comprehensive reproductive and sexual health needs. We also continue to partner with state health departments and agencies to deliver custom technical assistance around the intersection of HIV and pregnancy.



SELF-MANAGED ABORTION (SMA):
abortion that happens outside the formal healthcare system, frequently using abortion pills (misoprostol alone or together with mifepristone)

Substance Use

In 2023, Provide launched a new half-day training on *Connecting Abortion Referrals and Harm Reduction* to prepare providers to affirm client autonomy as they navigate the stigmas associated with drug use and abortion. By recognizing and combatting stigma, providers can help connect their clients who use drugs and clients seeking abortion to quality, empathetic care that centers their autonomy and humanity.

HARM REDUCTION:

a spectrum of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative outcomes associated with drug use; a philosophical and political movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who use drugs.

91
participants from across health and social service systems

29
states represented, with nearly 1/3 of participants coming from Appalachian states particularly impacted by the opioid epidemic

62
ORGANIZATIONS represented, including partners in substance use, public health, intimate partner violence, HIV, and more

Domestic & Sexual Violence

Provide's ongoing partnership with *If/When/How* continues to empower advocates and social workers help survivors of domestic and sexual violence avoid criminalization when accessing abortion care. This year, we trained **56 providers** and built connections with three national organizations working to end domestic violence, which will allow us to teach advocates across the country about the intersections of reproductive coercion, mandatory reporting, and self-managed abortion (SMA).



Family Planning

Provide conducted outreach to Title X grantees, who provide federally funded planning services, to address issues around navigating all-options counseling in a confusing legal landscape. Many of these providers receive mixed messages between federal guidance (which mandates all-options referrals) and threats from anti-abortion officials in their state. Through training and assistance, we supported these clinicians in understanding their federal responsibilities and getting comfortable talking about abortion care, even in states where abortion is currently banned or restricted.

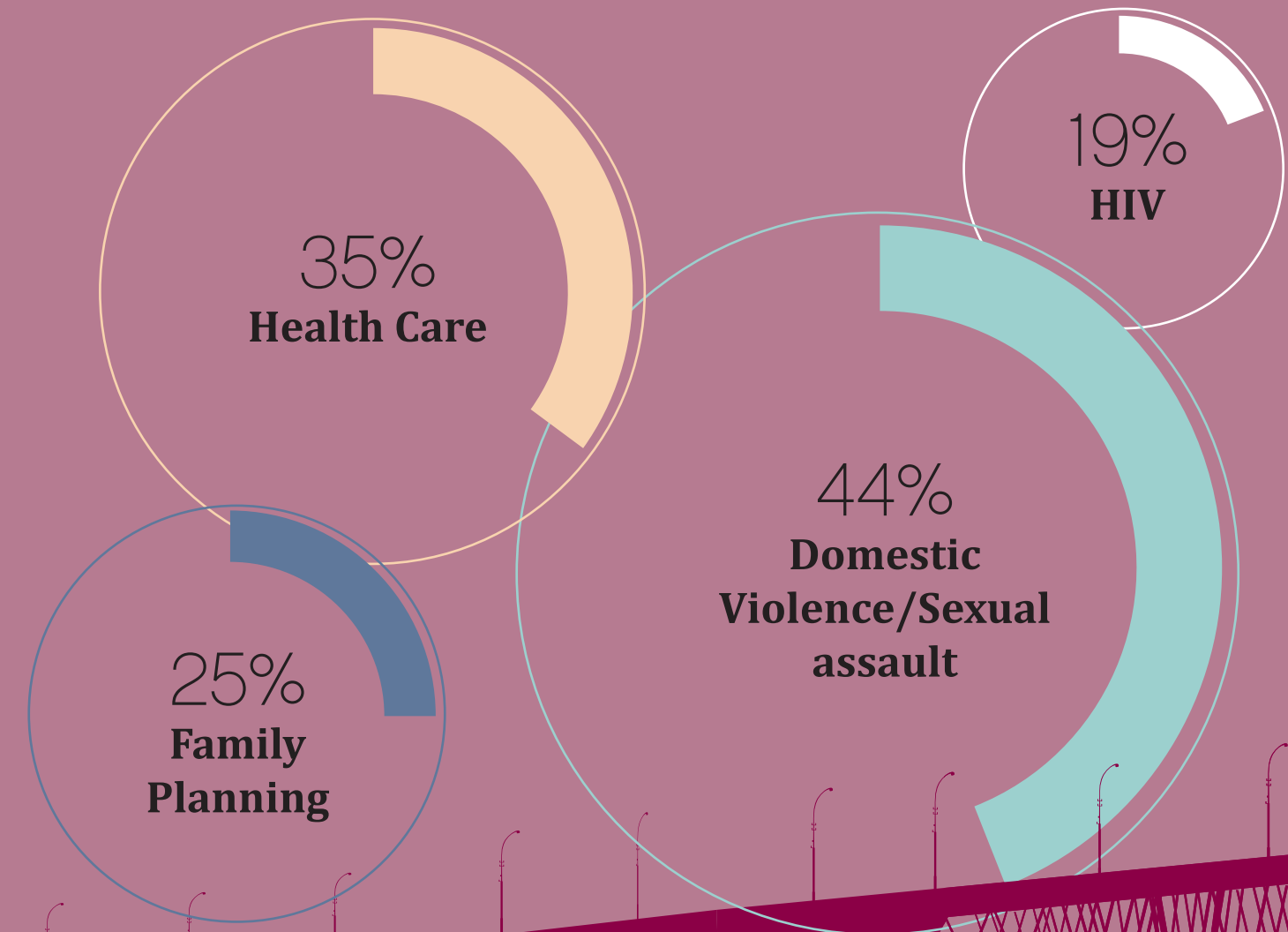
Primary Care

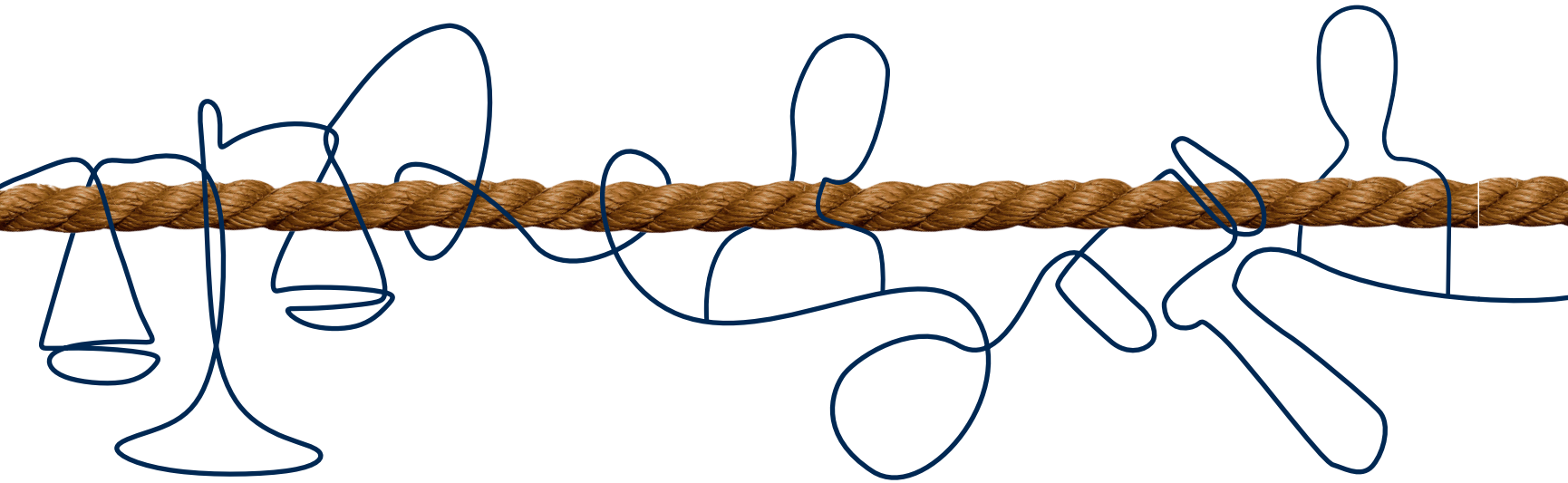
In 2023, Provide continued our work with the **ExPAND Mifepristone Learning Collaborative** to deepen abortion literacy among primary care providers. Early in the year, we were part of a multi-session training for residents at a Chicago-area hospital anticipating a large influx of patients seeking abortion following the abortion bans taking effect across the region. Late in the year, we delivered additional training on abortion referrals for the **Chicago Department of Public Health's** specialty clinics who deliver STI testing and treatment.

Abortion Funding & Practical Support

Abortion funds and practical support organizations are invaluable in a post-Roe landscape. These organizations—many staffed heavily by volunteers—help people seeking abortion access not only critical funding to pay for their medical care, but also assistance with transportation, childcare, and lodging when traveling for abortion services. In 2023, Provide partnered with abortion funds to assess the needs of staff and callers and used this important data to develop a training addressing critical needs around stigma, trauma-informed care, and burnout prevention. Provide has since piloted this training with the **Kentucky Health Justice Network, ARC Southeast, and Apiary for Practical Support**. We also are working with the abortion organizations, including the Brigid Alliance, to deepen caseworkers' ability to serve diverse populations of abortion seekers, including people who use drugs, people living with HIV, and survivors of intimate partner violence.

In 2023, training participants came from these systems.





"The Practice Guide is the most patient-centered approach because it focuses on caring for the person in front of you."

-Julie Jenkins, DNP, APRN, WHNP-BC

Connecting Providers to Abortion Resources in a Confusing Legal Landscape

In the online era, accurate information about abortion is more accessible than ever—and yet people seeking abortion must navigate a minefield of so-called “crisis pregnancy centers” run by anti-abortion groups to find it. In response, Provide developed a Tools of the Trade webinar series to give providers an overview of the best online resources available for finding vetted abortion providers, understanding the legal restrictions, and following best practices around pregnancy referrals.

While there has been a concerted effort to develop tools to help people access care, providers need to know how and when to use them. That’s why **Provide’s Abortion Referrals Training** has been our flagship program since 2013. This training has evolved over the years to meet the needs of front-line providers, particularly those working in restricted states across the U.S. Southeast and Midwest. We continue to use our training sessions to educate providers on basic abortion information, learn about the resources available to them, and give them an opportunity to practice delivering accurate, non-biased pregnancy counseling and support to access safe abortion care.

Provide’s Practice Guide for Pregnancy Options Counseling
In January 2023, Provide launched our Practice Guide for **Pregnancy Options Counseling**. From our research, we know that most health and social service providers receive very little, if any, training or practical support on how to effectively counsel pregnant clients – which can lead to confusion, misinformation, and unsatisfactory care. That’s why we worked to assemble a unique advisory board of patients, patient advocates, clinicians, social service leaders, options counseling experts, and folks from reproductive justice organizations to develop a resource that would help fill in these gaps. In the Practice Guide, we present two options— to remain pregnant or to end the pregnancy—that center the healthcare needs of the pregnant person and guide providers through offering compassionate, nonjudgmental guidance to support decision-making.

We delivered **21 trainings** covering abortion referrals, stigma, provider tools, and more.



327 providers attended our training, with **nearly half** attending multiple trainings in 2023.

69% of providers we trained are living and working in a restricted-access state,



91% of participants report that they are likely to apply the skills they learned in our training.

Through our partnership with the Reproductive Health Access Project (RHAP), Provide’s Practice Guide was disseminated to more than **7,000 providers** in 2023.





2023 Board of Directors

Provide benefits from a diverse and engaged Board of Directors made up of state, national, and global leaders in reproductive and community health, including service providers, administrators, policy experts, and advisors.



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Fatimah Gifford, MAODC

Connecting with Our Values & Each Another



Provide's values around collaboration and participation unite our dedicated team. This year, we used virtual and in-person connections to build shared understanding around our values and implement our strategic plan to actualize our vision of an equitable health system that treats all people with dignity and respect.

2023 National Meeting

For the first time since before the COVID-19 pandemic, Provide staff came together in person in Austin, Texas for a three-day National Meeting. We used the opportunity to dig deep into our organizational culture and values, highlighting the role of racial equity in our work and what it means to advance abortion access through a reproductive justice lens.

In these conversations, we reaffirmed our commitments to eradicating anti-blackness and undoing white supremacy culture within Provide's policies and practices, as well as our informal norms. We know that racial justice requires continual (un)learning and growth, and we are holding ourselves accountable to fostering a diverse, inclusive, and just organization.

As part of living our values, we also continue to regularly review and improve the benefits we're able to offer our dedicated staff. In 2023, we instituted new policies to enable our folks to prioritize wellness and rest, including unlimited paid time off and sabbatical leave after five years.



Staff

We recognize and thank all the staff who contributed to Provide's work in 2023:



Fatimah Gifford, MAODC
Executive Director



Dannielle Shaw, JD
Managing Director



Ashley Bordas
Director of Development



Tara Johnson, M.Ed.
Training Design &
Delivery Specialist



Adina Koch
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Tiffany Collins-Webb
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Ann Dills, MSW
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Manager



Michelle Dowell-Vest
Director of Finance &
Administration



Savannah Low, MSW
Technical Assistance
Specialist



Crystal Norwood
Communications
Manager



Lauren Pring, MPH
Director of
Evaluation



Monika Gilliard, CHE
Major Gifts Officer



Sara Hunter
Development
Specialist



Danielle Hurd
Outreach & Training
Manager



Ondine Quinn, MSW, CSW, CSE
Director of Program
Development



Eric Wilson
Executive Assistant
& Board Liaison



Support



Connecting with Communities of Support

Bold Conversations on Abortion Advocacy

This year, donors in Boston and Washington, D.C., opened up their homes for a series of receptions where Provide supporters gathered to talk about the reproductive health landscape and abortion advocacy. Thanks to the generosity of our hosts, we had the opportunity reconnect with longtime champions and bring in new friends to learn about Provide's robust programming.



Thank you to our hosts, **Marcy Oppenheimer & Joe Neale** in Washington D.C., and **Cara Hesse** in Boston!



Provide Day Drag Bingo

In April, Provide marked our 31st anniversary with a virtual Drag Bingo event, featuring emcee Shequida Hall! Thank you to all who helped us celebrate our yearly milestone with this fun, virtual friend-raiser.

Growing our GEM Program

At Provide, every supporter is a jewel — and a select few are GEMs! As members of our Giving Every Month (GEM) program, these donors help us maintain financial stability throughout the year so we can continue to operate at full speed.



"Reproductive rights are the cornerstone of any person's agency and ability to exercise their autonomy and dignity. I've grown in my understanding of the issues in more complex and nuanced terms as they relate to justice and equity. It can be, along with education, the deciding factor whether a woman does what she wants to do with her life. It's just so fundamental."

-Suzanne Ehlers



"Of all the things I do to support gender equity, Provide is the only organization that I support with a monthly gift. I feel so strongly about abortion access that I don't want to have to keep thinking about my support. Provide is a key part of my monthly budget, and I am pleased to be on the team."

-Andie S. Kramer



"The approach that Provide has taken in working with health professionals is very nuanced and unique in this space. I know it's not easy, especially in this political climate. Combined with the effort to be really inclusive, I see Provide bringing more people who are impacted by these issues into the community, and I really appreciate that."

-Christy Fujio

Finances

Revenue

Grants.....	\$ 2,705,037.13
Contributions.....	\$ 225,660.84
Other.....	\$ 300,420.33

Expenses

Program	\$ 1,464,235.66 (61%)
Management	\$ 528,084.99 (22%)
Fundraising.....	\$ 408,065.67 (17%)



Supporters

Institutional Funders:

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- Women Donors Network



Supporters



*Donors marked with an asterisk are GEMS (monthly donors) as of December 2022
 +Donors marked with a plus have been giving for 5 consecutive years
 #Donors marked with a hashtag have been giving for 10 consecutive years



Champions (\$10,000+ in 2023)

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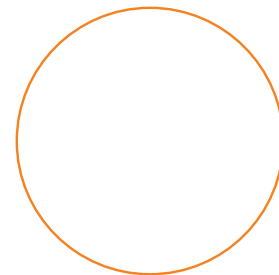
Denise Littlefield Sobel
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