

We held 45 research conversations and two focus groups with women and their supporters. A debt of gratitude to the many participants who have given generously of their time to this project. This research is not possible without you!

Data from the project was so rich it supported a number of research inquiries in addition to the project report.





PEI Context

Anti-choice structures

Silencing the concept of abortion

But, like exactly, then there's nothing really for young girls at whoever who are in trouble or want to seek more information about that. There's nowheres for them to go, ... there is no information. You know, everybody's kind of showing it under the couch, or in the closet. You know, it's kind of a taboo to talk about it. Well I was sitting there (at the Halifax hospital abortion clinic) and a girl I went to high school with, she came in and she was like hey and I was like hey. (laughs) And then another girl that I knew through a friend was there as well and, uh, and they were all just talking about how brutal it was to have to come, like everybody. And then the other girls that were there too that weren't from PEI but just like, wow you had to come from PEI? They don't do it there. And like, no it's illegal. And they're like, are you serious? And everyone thinks- See we're all thinking its illegal, and like. Like why? That makes no sense.

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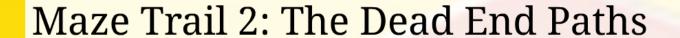
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Maze Trails

1: The Surgical Abortion Paths





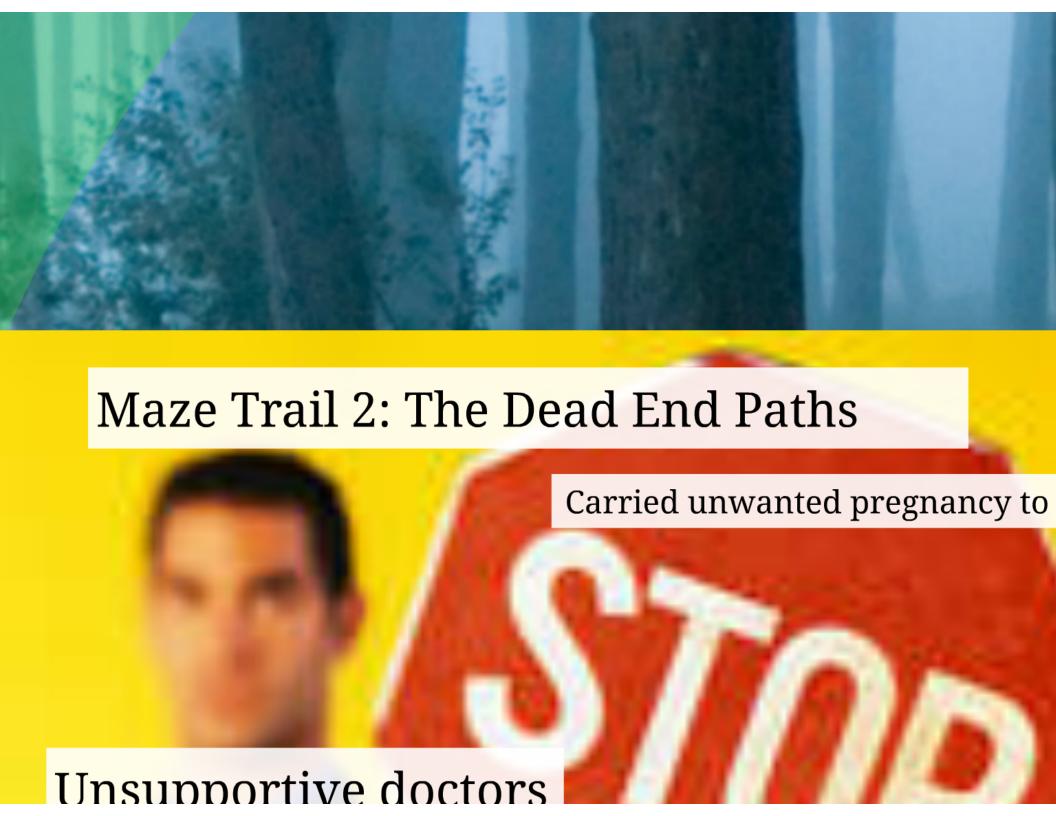


Carried unwanted pregnancy to term

Unsupportive doctors

Unsupportive Family and friends

Intimate Partner violence







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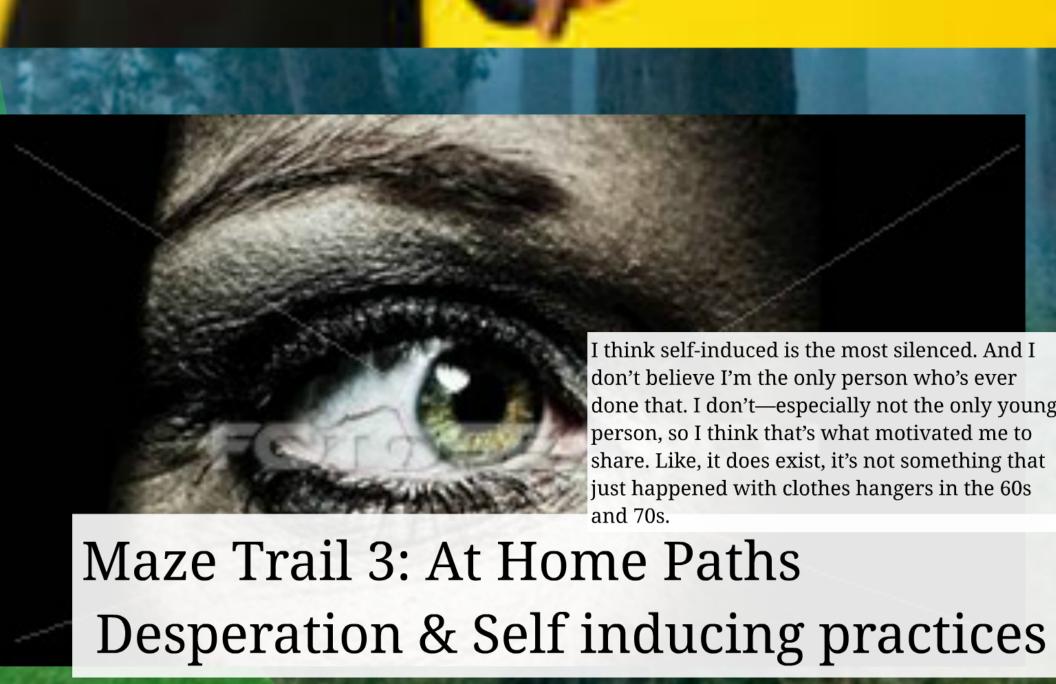
I asked, you know, I'm interested in looking at not continuing this pregnancy. I am wanting to know about other alternatives. And he said, "Oh, I wouldn't recommend that." That was his response.





Unsupportive Family and friends

Intimate Partner violence

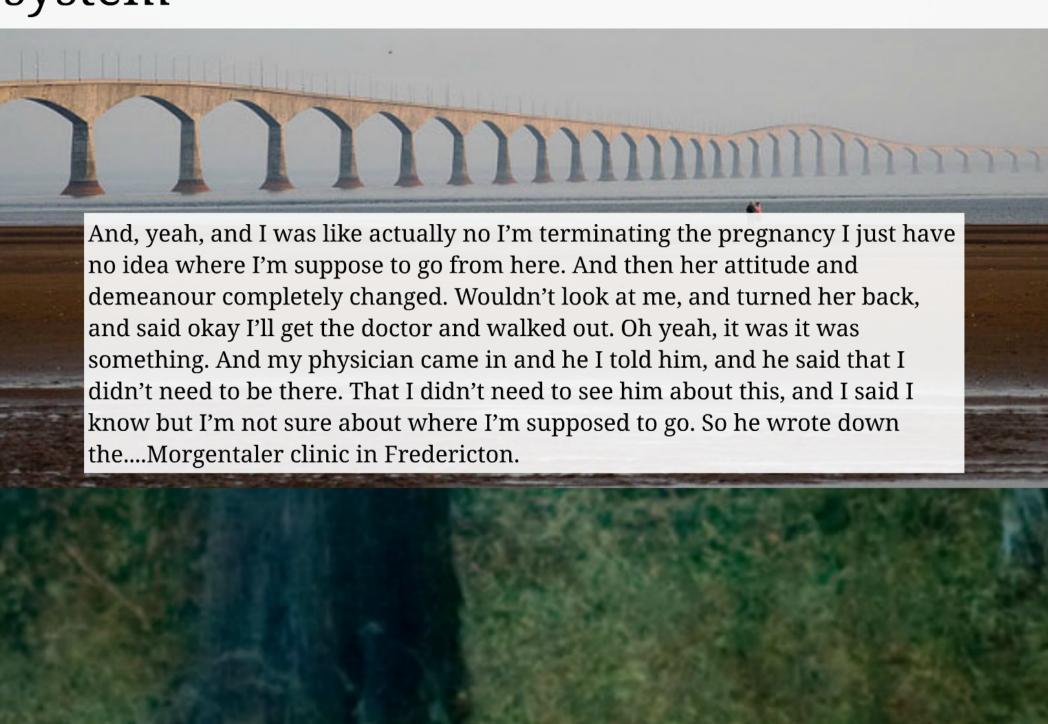


Maze Trail 4: Self Referral Surgical Abortion Paths outside the public health system



And, yeah, and I was like actually no I'm terminating the pregnancy I just have no idea where I'm suppose to go from here. And then her attitude and demeanour completely changed. Wouldn't look at me, and turned her back, and said okay I'll get the doctor and walked out. Oh yeah, it was it was something. And my physician came in and he I told him, and he said that I didn't need to be there. That I didn't need to see him about this, and I said I know but I'm not sure about where I'm supposed to go. So he wrote down the....Morgentaler clinic in Fredericton.

system





I think so. I think if I hadn't have gotten angry I'd still be sitting there feeling sorry for myself and feeling guilty and feeling like I wronged somebody. But in the end the only person I could have wronged was myself. And that's only if I judged myself. And I just feel like I'm choosing not to do that because I don't feel like-I don't feel like I've done the wrong thing...You have to self-reflect, and things like this really make you—force you to self-reflect. And at the end of the day, I personally—I'm proud of my decision. Um, I mean, I'm good with me. And there's nobody that could change my mind on that at this point. Which is wonderful to say that I got to that point, and I wouldn't have gotten there without this, you know, without going through that experience. It's a part of me, and it's become a positive influence in my life.



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Recommendations

Local Access Matters

Professional Accountability

Eliminate Culture of Silence



Thank you to the Research Team for their ongoing work and support of this community based research project.

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MacQuarrie, C., & Pottie, C. Post Abortion Discourses: Listening for a Change

Foucauldian Discourse Analysis
Post Abortion Syndrome (Abortion Regret)

You're going to

regret this

"I know it would really piss him off if he knew I didn't regret it.

That would really bother him.

Anti-Choice

"Abortion is wrong/murder,"

"So you get there, and there's all these people standing outside with all these signs, and telling you that you're a horrible person and everything."

Abortion is not welcome here

"You're going out of your own province, into this little converted house that has no sign on it or anything, right, and [laughs] total backdoor feeling, it's definitely a big strong message that abortion is not allowed on Prince Edward Island.

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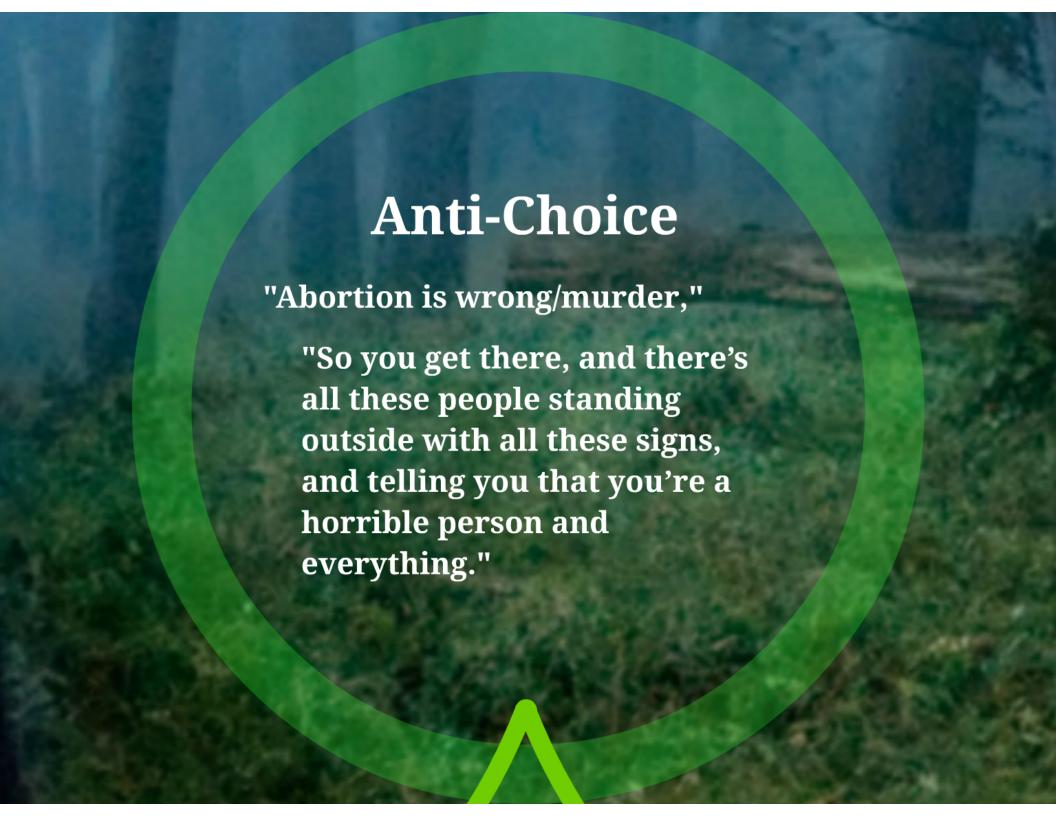
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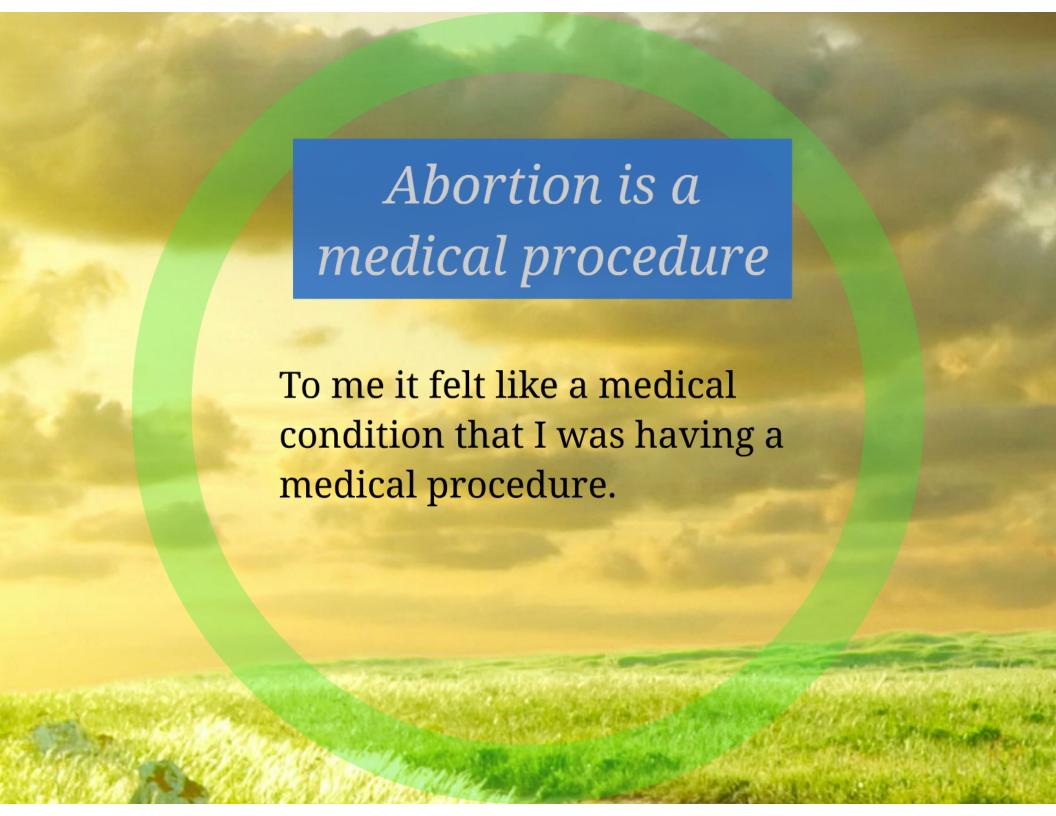
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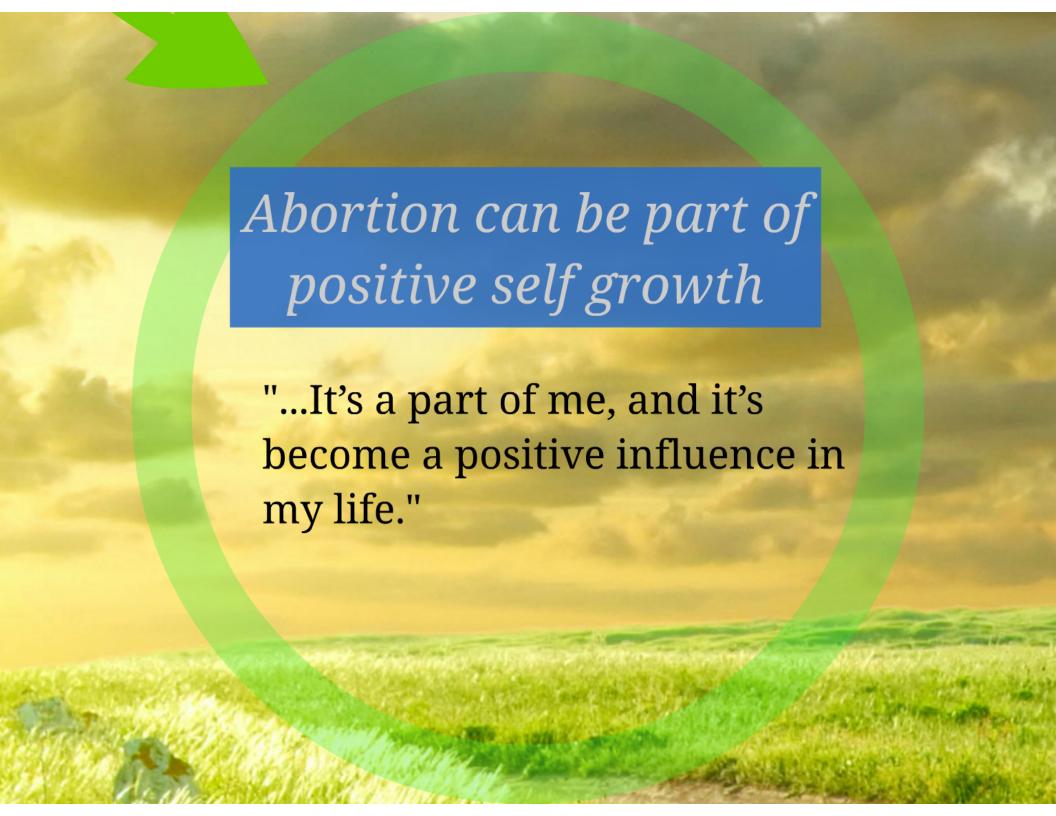


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Abortion is a medical procedure To me it felt like a medical condition that I was having a medical procedure. Abortion can be part of Abortion is about positive self growth caring But if I have another kid that I "...It's a part of me, and it's can't take care of then I get become a positive influence in involved, I'm just thinking ahead of time, with child protection. My my life.' kids could be taken away







Conclusions

Post-abortion discourses are rich areas for understanding how women are thinking about their experience.

Abortion stigma and anti-choice environments are key factors in creating abortion regret discourse.

The stronger the need for a woman to resist anti-choice barriers and to persist in her choice, the more likely she is to to create a self affirming narrative of her abortion.