



THE FULLER PROJECT™

ERICA HENSLEY

Erica Hensley is a public health and data reporter based in and covering the South, with a particular focus on reproductive health and equity.

Before joining The Fuller Project, she freelanced and worked as an investigative reporter focusing on public health for one of the first Southern non-profit digital outlets, Mississippi Today, where she was a Knight Foundation fellow and her COVID-19 work helped put national attention on Mississippi's hamstrung response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She was the inaugural recipient of the Doris O'Donnell Innovations in Investigative Journalism Fellowship and won Atlanta Press Club's investigative reporting award for her work on lead exposure in Georgia.

Erica built a reproductive health beat from scratch in Mississippi, covering lacking sex education, perinatal and infant mortality, obstetrics deserts, and the state's 15-week abortion ban that passed in 2018 — then the strictest ban in the country — that eventually toppled *Roe v. Wade* four years later. But for her, just as important as investigating policy problems is spotlighting solutions, and the women on the ground who have long fought for and created better conditions for their communities.

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REPORTER



ERIKA HENSLEY | THE FULLER PROJECT

Using data analysis and community-driven storytelling, her partnership with *Reckon News* focuses on intersectional problems and solutions in reproductive health across the Southeast.

Erica's work has been featured in *The Daily Beast*, *Undark Magazine*, *Kaiser Health News*, USA Today network, and *Scalawag Magazine*. She received a bachelor's in print journalism and political science from the University of Southern California and a master's in health and medical journalism from the University of Georgia. She now splits her time between Mississippi and Georgia.

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