# ABORTION COVERAGE AND ACCESS

### ABORTION AND REPRODUCTIVE WELL-BEING

All people, regardless of who they are, where they live, and how much money they make, need and deserve the ability to achieve reproductive well-being. Reproductive well-being means that people have equitable access to the information, services, and support they need to make their own decisions related to sexuality and reproduction throughout their lives. Abortion access is one of many critical services people need to make decisions about their bodies, lives, and futures.

Abortion means ending a pregnancy and is a normal part of reproductive health care. The two main options include an in-clinic abortion and medication abortion. Regardless of how one chooses to terminate their pregnancy, all people deserve access to the care they need.

# Communities Across the Country Most Affected by the Dobbs Decision



More than 15 million women of color live in the 26 states which currently have or are likely to have abortion access restrictions.

Over 1.3 million transgender adults and 1.2 million nonbinary adults are already feeling the impact of *Dobbs*. The Hyde Amendment and other restrictions limit the use of federal funds for abortion except in extremely limited cases.

### **Overview of Attacks on Abortion**

Even after the Supreme Court affirmed a constitutional right to abortion in Roe v. Wade, abortion wasn't accessible for many who needed it. Just three years after the Roe decision, the <a href="Hyde Amendment">Hyde Amendment</a> was put into place. Created by Henry Hyde, an anti-abortion policymaker, the Hyde Amendment and similar restrictions combine to bar federal programs such as Medicaid from covering abortion services except in extremely limited circumstances. This has created a patchwork where some states use state funds to cover abortion care for low-income people, while other states don't. For decades, this particularly impacted people with low incomes and people of color who disproportionately reside in states where abortion was not covered by Medicaid and where targeted regulations of abortion providers (<a href="TRAP laws">TRAP laws</a>), gestational bans, and policies creating barriers for patients have been pervasive. This is why experts frequently say Roe was the floor, not the ceiling. It's also why efforts to simply "codify Roe" are inadequate.

In June 2022, the Supreme Court reversed its own precedent in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, overturning its decision in Roe. Immediately after the Dobbs decision, many state "trigger laws" that restricted or banned abortion immediately upon the fall of Roe, were allowed to take effect limiting access for pregnant people in those states. This began a chaotic period of court challenges, ballot initiatives, and an ever-changing legal landscape that persists today. This confusion, on top of bans and restrictions, makes it even more difficult for abortion seekers to find care.<sup>3</sup>



### **Current Landscape**

As of today, there are 13 states where abortion is completely banned. Millions of people across the country lack access in their communities, and those who lack resources are unable to travel for care—face devastating consequences.<sup>4</sup> And the impacts of these attacks and restrictions on abortion do not fall equally. The impacts of bans on abortion disproportionately impact marginalized communities including communities of color, LGBTQI+ folks, young people, and people with low incomes. A 2023 report found that over 15 million women of color live in the 26 states where abortion is banned or likely to be banned with the largest demographics being Latinas and Black women.<sup>5</sup> Additionally, 1.3 million transgender adults, and 1.2 million LGBTQ nonbinary adults in the U.S. are deeply impacted by the decision in Dobbs.<sup>6</sup>



AbortionFinder.org features the most comprehensive directory of trusted (and verified) abortion service providers and assistance resources in the United States.

## What Can Everyday People Do?

As we face continued attacks on our ability to achieve reproductive well-being it is important that we stay informed about what is happening at the local, state, and federal levels, organize and support organizations working towards reproductive well-being, and contact our legislators often and tell them to support policies that work towards reproductive well-being for all. Additionally, whether you're seeking information and care for yourself or supporting someone in your community, <a href="https://doi.org/10.1001/journal.org">AbortionFinder.org</a> is here as a resource featuring the most comprehensive directory of trusted and verified abortion providers and assistance resources in the United States.

## What Can Policymakers Do?

As we navigate relentless attempts to decimate access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care it is imperative that policymakers take action to support policies that support reproductive well-being. Policies such as the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA), the EACH Act, and the SAD Act are just some examples of bills that have been championed in the past and that work towards restoring and expanding access to abortion. We encourage policymakers to support these and similar policies and speak out against current and future attacks on abortion care.

### **Endnotes**

- 1. All Above All, 2025. Fact Sheet: About The Hyde Amendment. Retrieved on March 13, 2025, from <a href="https://allaboveall.org/resource/hyde-amendment-fact-sheet/">https://allaboveall.org/resource/hyde-amendment-fact-sheet/</a>
- 2. Guttmacher Institute, 2025. Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers. Retrieved on March 13, 2025, from <a href="https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/targeted-regulation-abortion-providers">https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/targeted-regulation-abortion-providers</a>
- 3. Power to Decide, 2023. #ThxBirthControl Survey Data. Retrieved on March 13, 2025, from <a href="https://powertodecide.org/what-we-do/information/resource-library/2023-thxbirthcontrol-survey-data">https://powertodecide.org/what-we-do/information/resource-library/2023-thxbirthcontrol-survey-data</a>
- 4. ANSIRH, 2025. The Turnaway Study. Retrieved on March 14,2025, from <a href="https://www.ansirh.org/research/ongoing/turnaway-study">https://www.ansirh.org/research/ongoing/turnaway-study</a>
- 5. Gallagher Robbins, K., Goodman, S., & Klein, J. State abortion bans harm more than 15 million women of color. National Partnership for Women & Families. 2024. Retrieved on March 13, 2025, from <a href="https://nationalpartnership.org/report/state-abortion-bans-harm-woc/">https://nationalpartnership.org/report/state-abortion-bans-harm-woc/</a>
- 6. Presser, L., Suozzo, A., Chou, S., Surana, K., Texas Banned Abortion. Then Sepsis Rates Soared. Pro Publica. 2025. Retrieved on March 14, 2025, from <a href="https://www.propublica.org/article/texas-abortion-ban-sepsis-maternal-mortality-analysis">https://www.propublica.org/article/texas-abortion-ban-sepsis-maternal-mortality-analysis</a>