

ABORTION COVERAGE AND ACCESS

ABORTION AND REPRODUCTIVE WELL-BEING

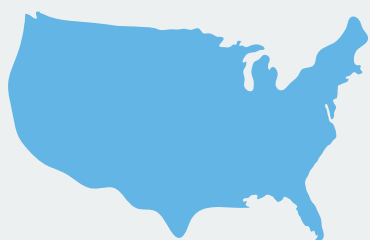
All people, regardless of who they are, where they live, and how much money they make, need and deserve the ability to achieve reproductive well-being. [Reproductive well-being](#) means that people have equitable access to the information, services, and support they need to make their own decisions 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.

Current Landscape

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 [Hyde Amendment](#) was put into place.¹ 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 put abortion out of reach for 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 ([TRAP laws](#)), gestational bans, and policies creating barriers for patients have been pervasive.² This is why experts frequently say Roe was the floor, not the ceiling. It's also why efforts to simply "codify or restore Roe" are inadequate.

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.

In June 2022, the Supreme Court reversed its own precedent in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, overturning *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](#).³

As of today, there are 13 states where abortion is completely banned. Millions of people across the country have no access to abortion in their communities, and those who lack resources are unable to travel for care—face devastating consequences.⁴

The impacts of these bans and restrictions on abortion do not fall equally. They 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.⁵ 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.⁶

Meanwhile, anti-abortion policymakers continue to push for further bans and restrictions. On New Year's Eve, the Trump-Vance Administration released a new regulation banning abortion for veterans and their loved ones, with no exceptions for rape or health endangerment. The policy also bans all abortion counseling. Despite the efforts of abortion rights champions on the Hill, the Senate voted 50-48 in favor of allowing this ban to stay in place. It is now the most restrictive abortion ban in any federal program.

Attacks on Medication Abortion

As of 2023, 63% of all clinician-provided abortions in the U.S. were medication abortions, with the percentage likely higher given some people self-manage their abortions.⁷ Given medication abortion is such a significant portion of overall abortion care, the anti-abortion movement has put it squarely in their sights.

They are targeting [shield law providers](#) (providers offering telehealth abortion care from states where abortion is protected) in an attempt to criminalize them and limit access to medication abortion. These groups, and policymakers who support them, have also sown mis- and disinformation campaigns about the safety and efficacy of medication abortion. This mis- and disinformation is then used as justification for policies and lawsuits designed to limit or ban access to medication abortion.

On May 1st, in Louisiana v. FDA, the Fifth Circuit issued a holding that temporarily restricted access to mifepristone by imposing in-person dispensing restrictions nationwide. This is despite the fact that mifepristone has been safely used in the U.S. for over 20 years. On May 14th, the Supreme Court [granted](#) an order blocking the Fifth Circuit's ruling and maintaining the status quo. While this case will continue to play out, it is important to know that medication abortion is safe, effective, and available by mail and in-person dispensing.



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, [AbortionFinder.org](#) 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. Policymakers should support policies that support meaningful, affordable access to abortion care for every person on their terms.

Endnotes

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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 <https://nationalpartnership.org/report/state-abortion-bans-harm-woc/>
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 <https://www.propublica.org/article/texas-abortion-ban-sepsis-maternal-mortality-analysis>
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