

Panel on Research and Policy

Care Post-Roe: Documenting poor-quality care since *Dobbs*

Daniel Grossman, MD

October 13, 2023

Medical Impact of Roe Reversal Goes Well Beyond Abortion Clinics, Doctors Say

State abortion bans carry narrow but sometimes vague exceptions, and years of prison time. That's forcing doctors to think like lawyers, and hospitals to create new protocols.

Research Letter

Maternal morbidity and fetal outcomes among pregnant women at 22 weeks' gestation or less with complications in 2 Texas hospitals after legislation on abortion

Nambiar, et al., AJOG 2022

CBS EVENING NEWS >

Abortion bans restrict medications women need for chronic conditions

Confusion post-Roe spurs delays, denials for some lifesaving pregnancy care

Miscarriages, ectopic pregnancies and other common complications are now scrutinized, jeopardizing maternal health

Louisiana woman forced to carry fetus missing skull to term or travel to Florida for abortion

A new Louisiana law has outlawed abortion with very few exceptions

CarePostRoe.com: Documenting stories of poor-quality care post-*Dobbs*



Care Post
Roe

1 of 1



Slide 85

Care Post-Roe report on preliminary findings



Care Post-Roe: Documenting cases of poor-quality care since the *Dobbs* decision

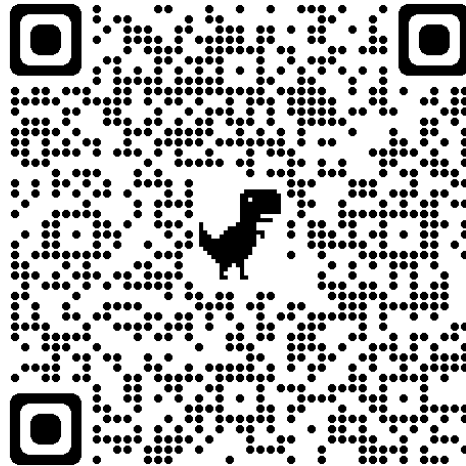
Preliminary findings, May 2023

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The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

POLITICS

Abortion laws triggered dozens of health complications, new report says

The research is an effort to capture an expansive picture of how health care has been affected by abortion bans



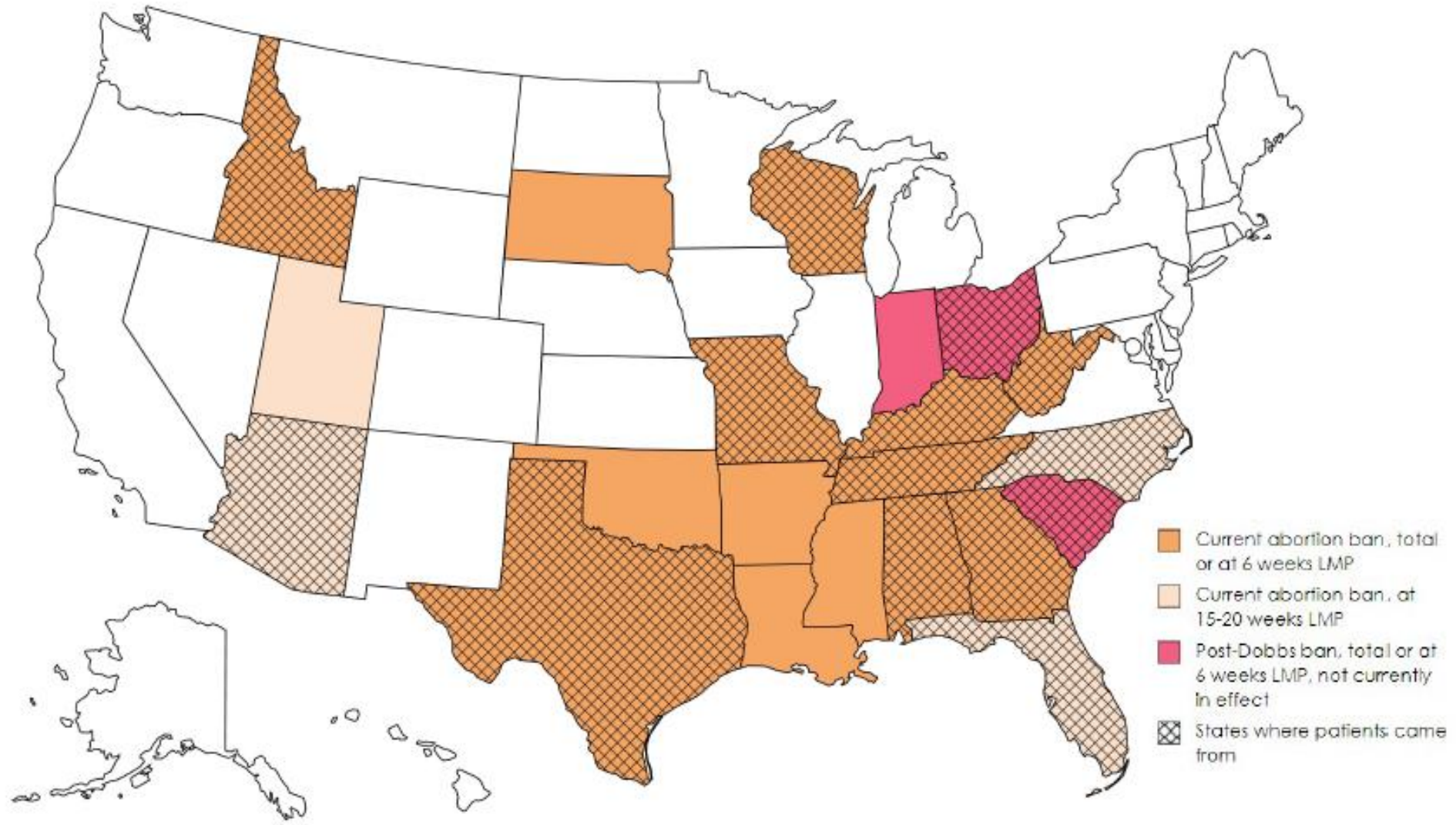
By Caroline Kitchener

May 16, 2023 at 6:00 a.m. EDT



(The Washington Post)

States where patients came from



Scenarios described in narratives

- Obstetric complications in the second trimester prior to fetal viability, including preterm prelabor rupture of membranes, hemorrhage, cervical dilation, and hypertension
- Ectopic pregnancy, including cesarean scar ectopic
- Underlying medical conditions that made continuing a pregnancy dangerous
- Severe fetal anomalies
- Early miscarriage
- Extreme delays in obtaining abortion care
- Delays obtaining medical care unrelated to abortion

Demographic profile of patients in narratives

Race/ethnicity	
Asian	1 (2%)
Black	11 (22%)
Latina/Latinx/Hispanic	12 (24%)
White	18 (36%)
White and Latina/Latinx/Hispanic	1 (2%)
Missing/not known	7 (14%)
Primary language	
English	44 (88%)
Spanish	6 (12%)

Limitations

- Primarily qualitative: study describes the range of scenarios, but cannot estimate the incidence of these deviations from standard of care
- Scenarios focus on short-term effects; there are likely long-term effects that we cannot yet document (infertility, chronic pelvic pain, mental health, etc.)
- Relatively small sample and cannot draw conclusions about changes over time

Conclusions

- Study documents wide range of harm occurring among people with capacity for pregnancy related to new abortion bans
- Notable that half of cases involved patients described as Black or Latinx/Latine, suggesting disproportionate harm to BIPOC individuals
- Bans also having impact on providers, including moral distress due to feeling like they cannot provide evidence-based care
 - Some considering moving to state with legal abortion

Next steps

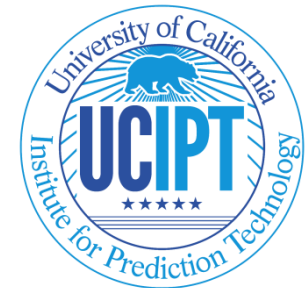
- Continuing to collect data, perform interviews at least through September
- Disseminating report findings with media
- How we hope data will be used:
 - To plan additional research to quantitatively measure incidence of these harmful scenarios
 - To inform hospital and health system policies to reduce delays and denials of care
 - To assist with public education about impact of laws

THANK YOU!

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Internet Searches for Self-Managed Abortion After Roe v Wade Overturned

Sean D. Young, PhD, MS
Executive Director, Institute for Prediction Technology
Professor, UC Irvine Emergency Medicine and Informatics



Conflict of Interest Statement

Funding to University

NCCIH

NINDS

NIAID

NIDA

NIMH

NCATS

NSF

University of California

Wholistic

IEEE

Intel

NIMHHD

Advising/Consulting

Health technology
companies

Book Royalties

HarperCollins Publishers

Penguin Books

Cheers Publishing

Sextante

Toyo Keizai

MIF

Book21

Commonwealth Publishing

Group

Syllabus

NOTE: Where it is feasible, a syllabus (headnote) will be released, as is being done in connection with this case, at the time the opinion is issued. The syllabus constitutes no part of the opinion of the Court but has been prepared by the Reporter of Decisions for the convenience of the reader. See *United States v. Detroit Timber & Lumber Co.*, 200 U. S. 321, 337.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

Syllabus

DOBBS, STATE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, ET AL. *v.* JACKSON WOMEN’S HEALTH ORGANIZATION ET AL.

CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR
THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

No. 19–1392. Argued December 1, 2021—Decided June 24, 2022

Mississippi’s Gestational Age Act provides that “[e]xcept in a medical emergency or in the case of a severe fetal abnormality, a person shall not intentionally or knowingly perform . . . or induce an abortion of an unborn human being if the probable gestational age of the unborn human being has been determined to be greater than fifteen (15) weeks.” Miss. Code Ann. §41–41–191. Respondents—Jackson Women’s Health Organization, an abortion clinic, and one of its doctors—challenged the Act in Federal District Court, alleging that it violated this Court’s precedents establishing a constitutional right to abortion, in particular *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U. S. 113, and *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pa. v. Casey*, 505 U. S. 833. The District Court granted summary judgment in favor of respondents and permanently enjoined enforcement of the Act, reasoning that Mississippi’s 15-week restriction on abortion violates this Court’s cases forbidding States to ban abortion pre-viability. The Fifth Circuit affirmed. Before this Court, petitioners defend the Act on the grounds that *Roe* and *Casey* were wrongly decided and that the Act is constitutional because it satisfies rational-basis review.

Held: The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion; *Roe* and *Casey* are overruled; and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives. Pp. 8–79.



Potential Impact on Public Health





8,000,000,000

searches each day

Source: Oberlo.com, 2022

Monitoring Public Interest

Google Trends Home Explore Trending Now

Where can I get an abortion?
Search term

+ Compare

United States ▼ Past 12 months ▼ All categories ▼ Web Search ▼

Methods

- Complex and rapidly evolving laws across states.
- Our team evaluated public interest in states where abortion is legal vs illegal, data on abortion legality across states were collected on August 1st, 2022.
- Keyword searches: *how to miscarriage, how to do an abortion, where can I get an abortion, how to get rid of pregnancy, and abortion clinics near me.*
- Control searches: *how to take Tylenol (Johnson & Johnson), how to lower blood pressure, how to get rid of headache, and primary care doctors near me.*
- Google Trends searches were collected between June 24th, 2022 and September 8th, 2022.

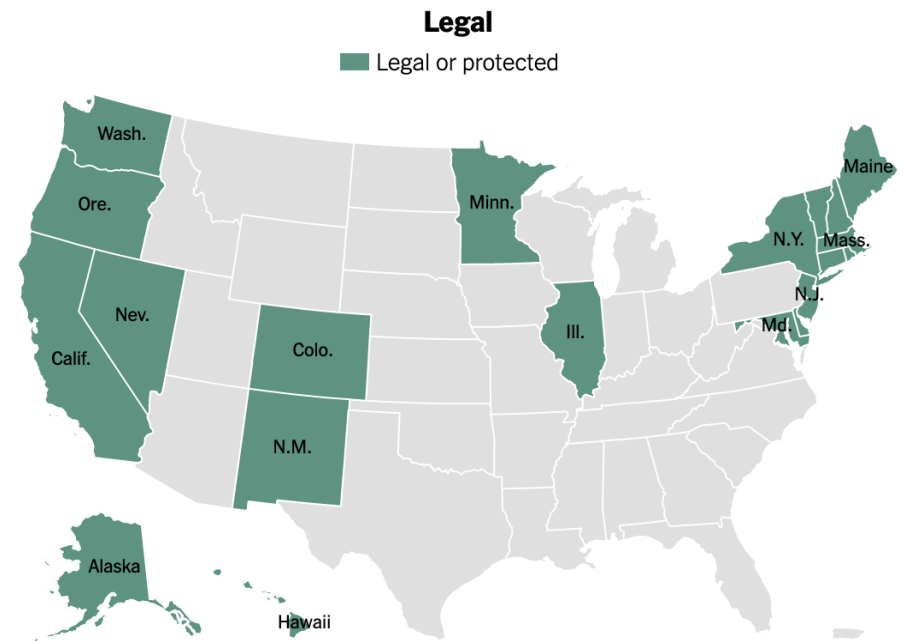
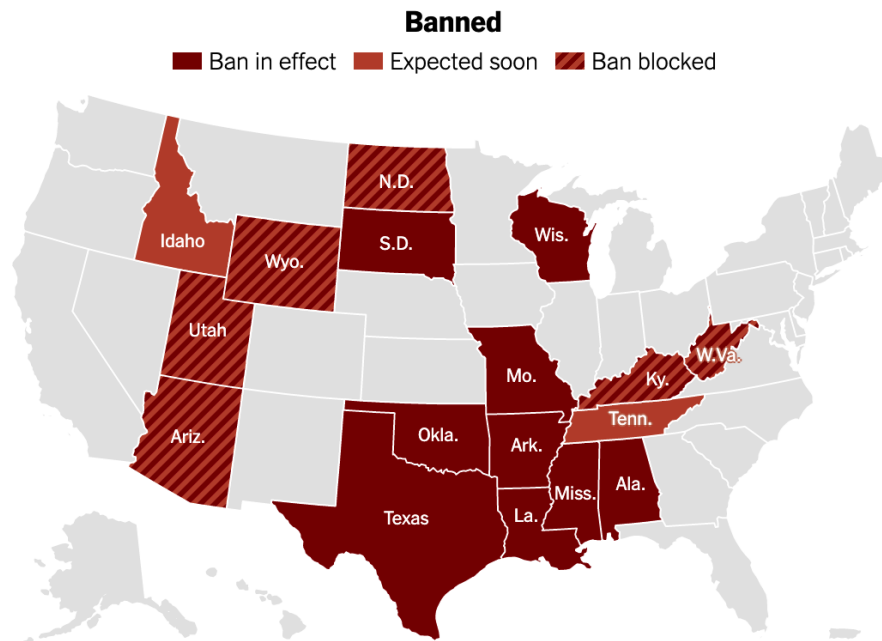
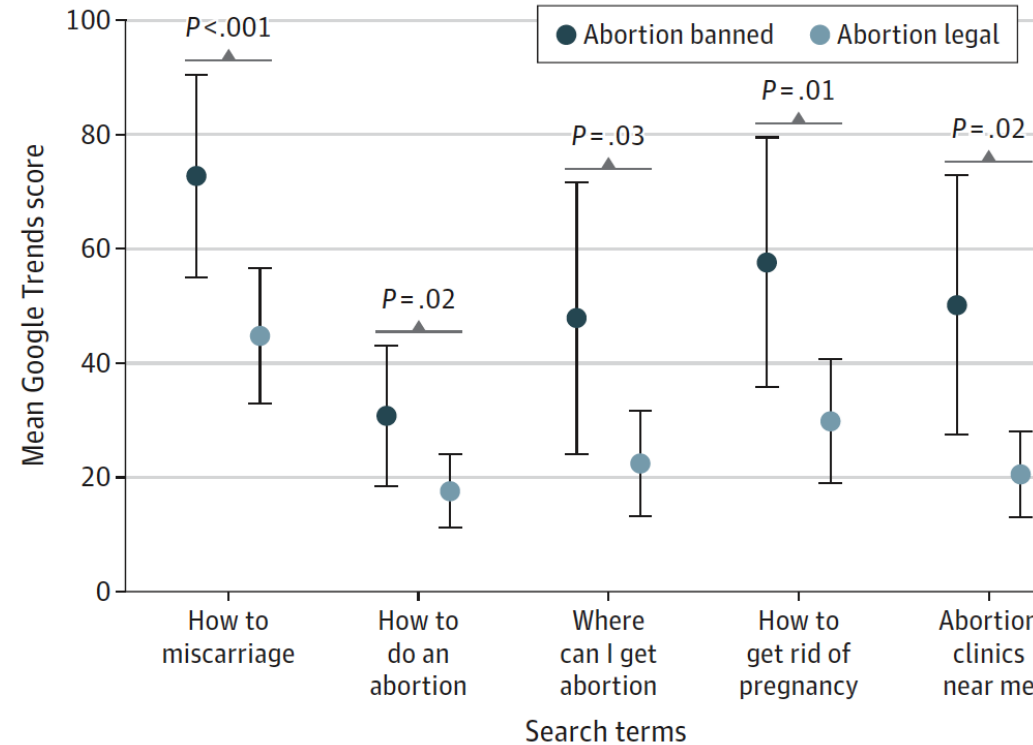


Figure. Internet Searches in States Where Abortion is Illegal vs Legal and Protected



This study used the Google Trends relative popularity scale, in which each data point for a keyword search is divided by the total number of searches performed at that location and time. Resulting numbers are then scaled from 0 to 100 based on a topic's proportion to all searches on all topics at that location and time. For example, a score of 50 indicates that the search topic was 50% as popular as the topic with the most searches. States that did not have sufficient search data were not included. The error bars represent SEs.

Conclusion

- Greater number of searches for abortion-related phrases in states where abortion is illegal vs legal. Might be an early warning sign for health departments.
- Searches for “how to miscarriage” in states where abortion is illegal: 72.72 (95% CI, 60.21-85.25). Searches for this phrase in legal states: 44.76 (95% CI, 37.33-52.21).
- Commonly used self-managed abortion practices (e.g., herbal remedies, infliction of blunt trauma) may cause harm to women. Potential concerns of these methods include overdoses, poisonings, risk of infection, adverse effects of herbal remedies, or pelvic injuries from blunt trauma.
- Need for exploring the future potential clinical impact in states where abortion is illegal.
- Policymakers should consider external consequences when determining policy.

Limitations

- Data used were not representative of the general population, potentially excluding individuals with limited online literacy and internet access.
- Identifying data on individuals may have unintended harms for women. Essential to ensure anonymity and safeguarding of data.
- Clinical impact was not assessed.

Future Directions

- Future research on the use of search engine data as early warning tool.
- Collaboration with industry partners to refine strategies.
- Assess clinical impact of these approaches and future demands for emergency contraception in the ED setting.
- Inform policy reform.



Thank you!

Funder: NIH

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Reproductive Health & Pharmacy Access

Orange County Women's Health Summit

October 13, 2023

Sally Rafie, PharmD, BCPS, APh, NCMP, FCCP, FCPPhA



Affiliations

- Founder, Birth Control Pharmacist
- Pharmacist Specialist, UC San Diego Health

About Birth Control Pharmacist

Birth Control Pharmacist provides education and training, implementation assistance, resources, and clinical updates to pharmacists prescribing contraception and key stakeholders, as well as leading and stimulating advocacy, research, and policy efforts to expand the role and realize the potential of pharmacists in reproductive health and justice.

Why Pharmacy Access

Pharmacists

- Health care providers
- Education and training
- Expertise in medication use
- Services provided
 - Counseling and education
 - OTC recommendations
 - Immunizations
 - Referrals

Pharmacies

- Locations
- Hours
- High traffic
- Confidential
- No cost or affordable services
- OTC medications and self-care products



AND many other settings where pharmacists practice!

Pharmacists' Roles



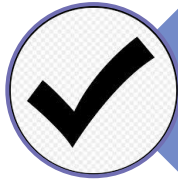
Environment



Prescribing (if possible)



Inventory & Dispensing



Counseling



Privacy

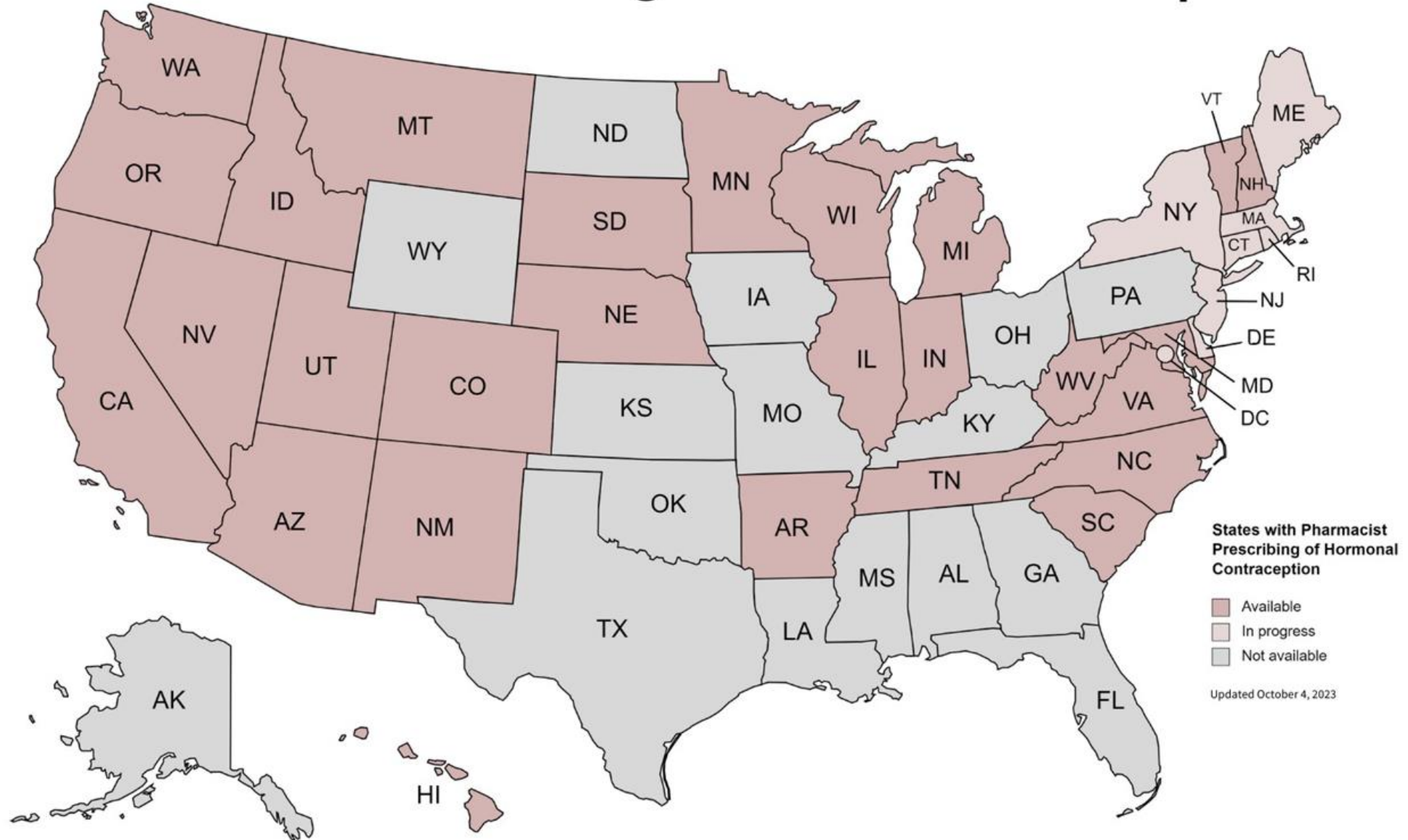
Contraception Care

Pharmacist Prescribing vs OTC

	Pharmacist Prescribing	Over-the-Counter (OTC)
Approval	State law or regulation	FDA
Methods	Pill, patch, ring, shot, emergency contraception	Condoms, spermicides, emergency contraception
Availability	Participating pharmacies in selected states	Pharmacies, other stores, and online
Prescription	Prescribed by a pharmacist after reviewing your health history and measuring your blood pressure	No prescription required
Doctor Visit	No visit or physical exam required	No visit or physical exam required
Age Restriction	Depends on state	None
Birth Control Costs	Covered by Insurance	Depends on state and insurance; may require a prescription for coverage
Visit Costs	Depends on state and insurance; may cost up to \$50 without coverage	None
Time	5-20 minutes for visit	<5 minutes for purchase
Learn more about birth control pharmacies or find a participating pharmacy near you: <i>https://www.birthcontrolpharmacies.com/</i>		

<https://birthcontrolpharmacies.com>

Pharmacist Prescribing of Hormonal Contraception



<https://onlinenursepharmacist.com/policies>

Why pharmacy access to birth control prescriptions is good policy

The Plan For Getting Plan B: Not Every Store Has Over-The-Counter Emergency Contraception

What Should You Do If A Pharmacist Denies You A Prescription?

How to Find a Pharmacy That Can Prescribe Birth Control

Here's Why You Might Not Be Able To Find Emergency Contraception On The Shelf

You can obtain birth control without a doctor's visit — here's how

Pharmacists Aren't Using Contraceptive Powers

A new law expands pharmacists' abilities to include prescribing birth control methods, but few do so, research shows.

From Policy to Practice

1



Legislation

2



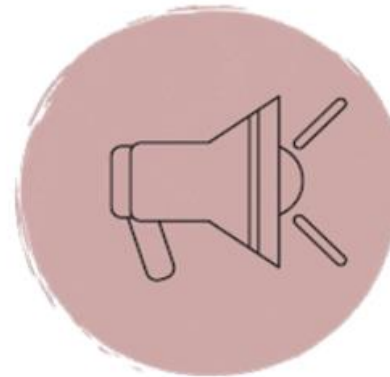
**Rulemaking
and Protocols**

3



**Pharmacist
Training**

4



**Public
Awareness**


birthcontrolpharmacies.com


Home Find A Pharmacy More


There's a new birth control doctor
in your neighborhood

Birth Control Pharmacies




Specially trained pharmacists in some states can prescribe the birth control pill, patch, ring, and shot for you.



STEP 1
Visit a Birth Control
Pharmacy Near You



STEP 2
Personalize Your Birth Control
with Your Pharmacist


STEP 3
Walk Out with
Your Birth Control

Find a Birth Control Pharmacy Near You

Enter an address or zipcode   Radius: 10 mi 



Map Satellite 

The map above is a directory of pharmacies that self-reported offering birth control services.
We recommend calling to confirm service availability.

Are we missing a birth control pharmacy?
[Submit Info >](#)



3500+
birth control
pharmacies
on the map!

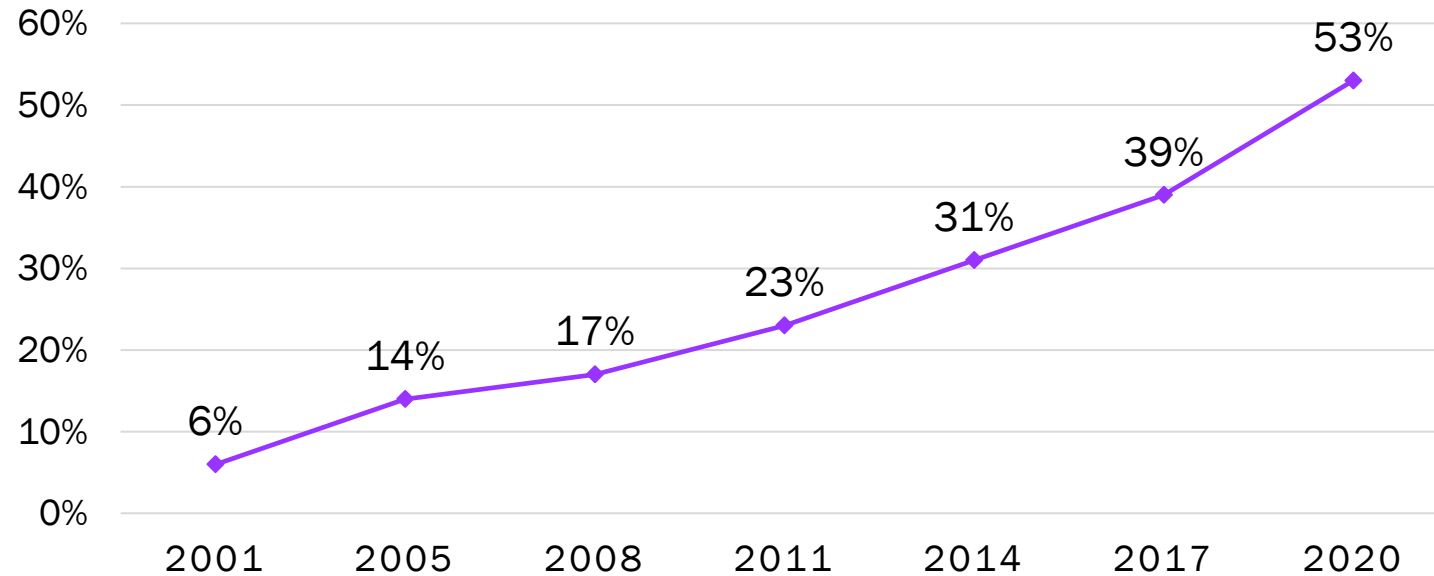
Over-the-Counter Pill Coming Soon



Abortion Care

Increasing Proportion of Medication Abortions

Medication abortion as proportion of all nonhospital abortions in the US



Mifepristone
approved in 2000

Guttmacher Institute. October 2019.

Available Pharmacist Authorities: Medication Abortion

Current state: Pharmacies can dispense

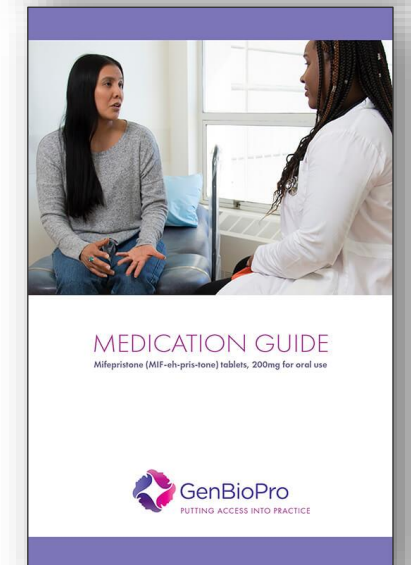
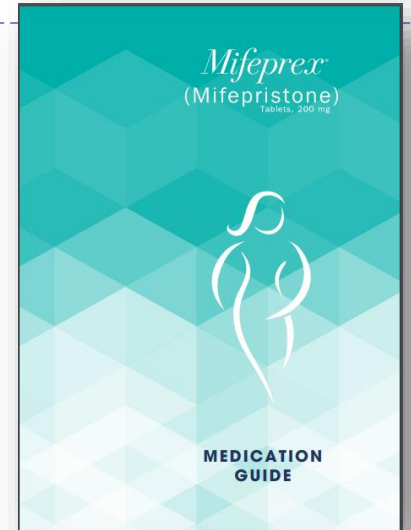
- 🔒 As of January 2023, mifepristone can now be dispensed in certified community pharmacies
- 🔒 Certified pharmacies are authorized to dispense the medication after receiving a prescription from a certified prescriber under the mifepristone REMS program

Future goal: Pharmacists can provide (screen, prescribe, and dispense)

FDA REMS Program for Mifepristone

FDA Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) limits who can dispense mifepristone and where

- Prescribers must complete the “Prescriber Agreement Form” and give patient Medication Guide
 - Physicians
 - Nurse midwives
 - Physician Assistants
 - Nurse Practitioners
- Patients must sign “Patient Agreement Form”
- Pharmacies must sign the “Pharmacy Agreement Form” in order to become certified to dispense



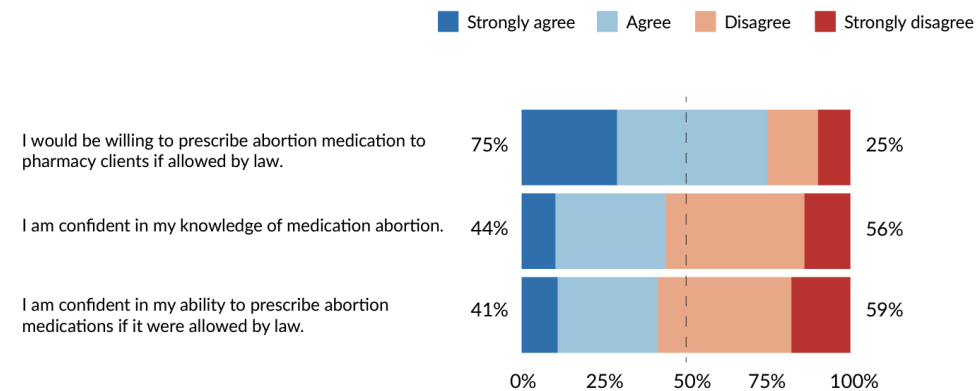
Exploring future pharmacist roles in the US



Improving Access to Abortion Medication and Contraception

Findings from the California Pharmacist Survey

Figure 2. Participant attitudes about medication abortion provision



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mail@birthcontrolpharmacist.com

Connect on
social media or
send an email!