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#WeCount Report Shows Major Disruption in Abortion Care One Year After *Dobbs*

While abortions increased overall nationally, nearly 115,000 fewer abortions were provided by clinicians in the 17 states where total or six-week abortion bans were in effect

Denver, CO—The Society of Family Planning released its fourth #WeCount report today showing that in the year following the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* decision, clinician-provided abortions virtually disappeared in states with abortion bans, while abortion care increased in states where abortion is legal with fewer restrictions. In states with total or six-week abortion bans, abortions decreased by nearly 115,000. States where abortion remained legal beyond six weeks saw a cumulative increase of nearly 117,000 abortions in the 12 months following the *Dobbs* ruling.

“A year after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, abortion access in the United States plummeted to zero in some states while increasing to meet the acute need in others, leading to a complete disruption in the healthcare system and people’s lives,” said **Dr. Ushma Upadhyay, #WeCount Co-Chair and professor at the University of California, San Francisco’s Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH)**. “Our ability to access safe and effective healthcare should not be contingent upon the state in which we live or our ability to travel for necessary care.”

#WeCount found that states that banned abortion completely or after six weeks had 114,590 fewer abortions from July 2022 to June 2023, compared to baseline data from April and May 2022. The 14 states with total abortion bans during this timeframe had 94,930 fewer clinician-provided abortions, and the three states where six-week bans were in place after *Dobbs* had a total of 19,660 fewer abortions provided by clinicians.

“The impact of the *Dobbs* decision is just as devastating as we expected,” said **Amber Gavin, vice-president of advocacy and operations, A Woman’s Choice**, an independent abortion clinic with locations in Florida and North Carolina. “Clinics are striving to meet the needs of people from within our own state, and we’ve had a huge influx of people traveling from out of state to get abortion care. With new restrictions in North Carolina and a potential six-week ban looming in Florida, I’m not sure where all the people seeking abortion care in the Southeast will turn.”

#WeCount found that states where abortion remained legal beyond six weeks had a total of 116,790 more abortions compared to baseline data from April and May 2022. States with the largest increases include Illinois (21,500), Florida (20,460), North Carolina (11,830), California (8,810), and New Mexico (8,640). Many of these states border states with abortion bans and serve as access points for people who travel from other states to obtain care.

“Every month, the Chicago Abortion Fund assists over 500 people within Illinois and another 500 traveling to clinics outside our state. That’s over 12,000 people a year faced with a system that is failing them,” said **Megan Jeyifo, Executive Director of the Chicago Abortion Fund**. “While we’re committed to

filling the gaps, let's be clear: this is a Band-Aid on a gaping wound. It's unacceptable that in 2023, people are having to cross state lines, navigate logistical nightmares, and incur high costs to access basic healthcare. At the Chicago Abortion Fund, we offer comprehensive support—from covering travel and childcare expenses to meal stipends and appointment costs—but what we really need is systemic change. We challenge policymakers to step up and address this crisis at its root. We won't rest until everyone has access to the affirming, affordable abortion care they deserve, right in their own community."

#WeCount also tracks the shift in abortion care toward virtual-only telehealth providers. Abortions provided by virtual-only clinics have increased from a monthly average of 4,045 abortions before the *Dobbs* decision (nearly 5% of all abortions), to an average of 6,950 abortions per month in the 12 months following the *Dobbs* decision (greater than 8% of all abortions).

"The *Dobbs* decision turned abortion access in this country upside down," said **Alison Norris, MD, PhD, #WeCount Co-Chair and professor at The Ohio State University's College of Public Health**. "The fact that abortions increased overall in the past year shows what happens when abortion access is improved, and some previously unmet need for abortion is met. At the same time, this increase in abortion access can't mask the tremendous hardships that people are overcoming to obtain basic healthcare services. And for people who can't travel, we know that being denied abortion care can have devastating mental, emotional, and economic impacts. Unfortunately, this is the reality for people across wide swaths of the country right now."

The full #WeCount report is available [here](#). #WeCount will continue to track data about the number of abortions provided in each state through 2024.

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*#WeCount is a time-limited study collecting monthly abortion volume data by state to better understand the impact of the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* on abortion access. #WeCount data include clinician-provided abortions, defined as medication or procedural abortions completed by a licensed clinician in a clinic, private medical office, hospital, or virtual-only clinic in the US known to offer abortion care during the period of study. This report does not reflect any self-managed abortions, defined as any attempt to end a pregnancy outside the formal healthcare system.*

The Society of Family Planning is a source for science regarding abortion and contraception. The Society is made up of a multidisciplinary community of scholars, clinicians, and others united around a vision of just and equitable abortion and contraception informed by science.