

The abortion landscape has shifted considerably following the *Dobbs* Supreme Court decision. To date, 14 states have banned abortion, leading to a patchwork of service availability. Despite this, many facilities are increasing their gestational limits for medication abortion and/or procedural abortion, positioning themselves to meet greater demand and the needs of those delayed in accessing abortion care due to travel.

Background

ANSIRH’s Abortion Facility Database collects data on publicly-advertising abortion facilities in the U.S. and is updated annually via online searches and mystery shopper calls. We analyzed data in Fall 2021 and Fall 2022 before and after the *Dobbs* decision to understand trends in gestational limits at abortion facilities. We reviewed 790 abortion facilities in 2021, which increased to 820 in 2022.

Abortion facility gestational limits, the weeks in pregnancy until a patient can receive an abortion, are determined by state laws, facility practices, provider training, and other factors. This analysis shows that the *Dobbs* ruling not only led to substantial changes in the distribution of abortion facilities, but also changes to gestational limits on abortion services across the country. **Note:** The data in this brief was current as of October 2022; at that time, 13 states had abortion bans in effect.^{1,2}

Changes in the Availability of Medication Abortion

- Due to state bans on all abortion services, fewer states offered medication abortion in 2022 (37 states + DC) than in 2021 (49 states + DC). Facilities in 13 states did not offer medication abortion as of October 2022 (see Figure 1).
- However, gestational limits for medication abortion increased in facilities in 19 states.
- Among facilities providing medication abortion, those that provided care after 10 weeks increased over time, from 34% (261/773) in 2021 to 37% (292/789) in 2022. Of those 292 facilities, 268 offered medication abortion up to 11 weeks, 3 offered up to 12 weeks, 17 offered up to 13 weeks, and 4 offered up to 14 weeks.

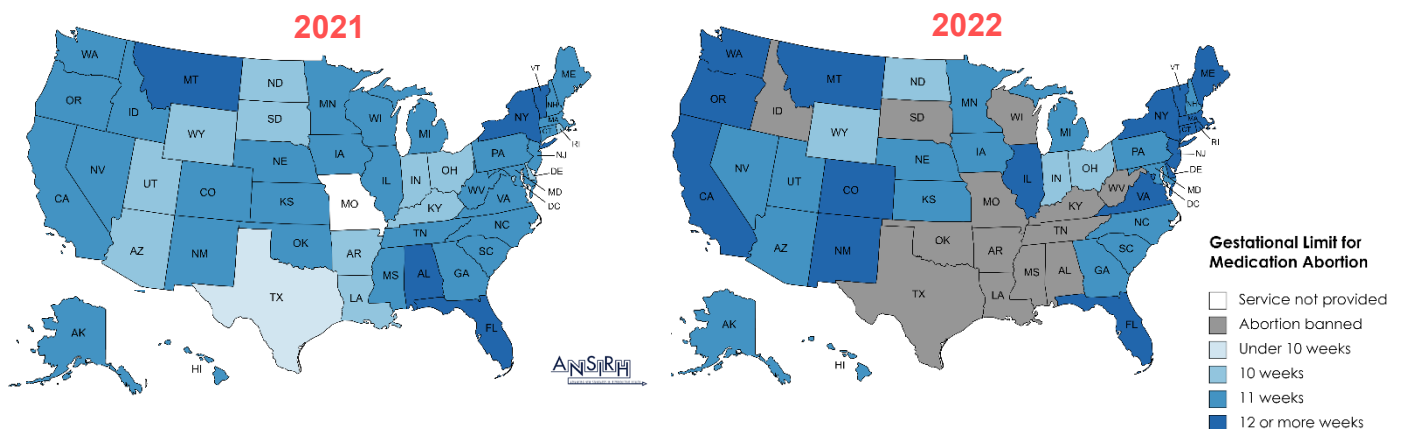


Figure 1. Upper Gestational Limit for Medication Abortion in 2021 and 2022

Changes in the Availability of Procedural Abortion

- Due to abortion bans, fewer states had facilities that offered procedural abortion in 2022 (36 states + DC) than in 2021 (49 states + DC). Facilities in 14 states did not offer procedural abortion as of October 2022, including Wyoming, which offers only medication abortion.
- From 2021 and 2022, the median gestational limit for facilities providing procedural abortion increased from 16 to 17 weeks; the range remained consistent at 6 to 32 weeks.
- Facilities' upper gestational limits for procedural abortion increased in Illinois, Maine, Vermont, and Washington DC and decreased in Rhode Island and Utah.
- Among facilities offering procedural abortion, the proportion offering care in the second trimester (after 12 weeks gestation) increased from 86% (405/473 facilities) in 2021 to 89% (406/455) in 2022. Increases were also noted for facilities that offered services in the third trimester (after 24 weeks), which increased from 17 facilities (4%) in 2021 to 25 (5%) in 2022.

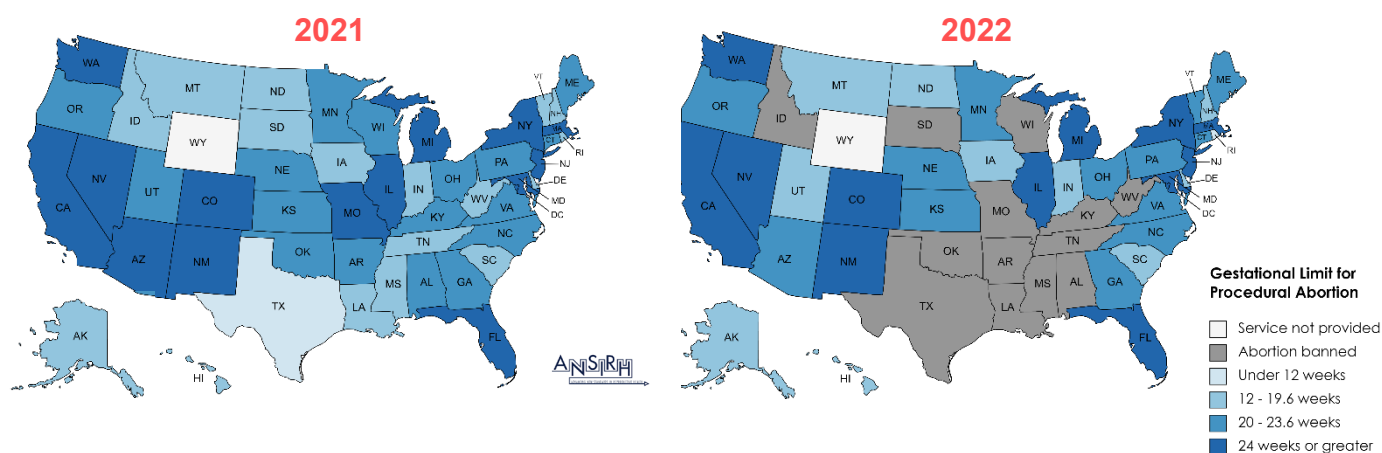


Figure 2. Upper Gestational Limit for Procedural Abortion in 2021 and 2022

Implications

The increase in facilities offering medication abortion after 10 weeks and second and third trimester procedural abortion shows a robust response to the changing abortion care landscape after the *Dobbs* decision. These facilities are adjusting and increasing their service availability, positioning themselves to meet changes in demand for abortion care owing to higher numbers of abortion seekers coming from out of state and to meet the needs of patients who require abortion later in pregnancy due to delays in access to care.

¹ The New York Times. Tracking the States Where Abortion is Now Banned. Updated October 13, 2022. <https://web.archive.org/web/20221031000956/https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/us/abortion-laws-roe-v-wade.html>

² Since October 2022, North Dakota has banned all abortion services and Georgia has implemented a 6-week ban.