

After Roe v Wade

On June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down *Roe v. Wade*, eliminating nearly 50 years of constitutionally protected reproductive rights for women and handing over the power to legislate abortion policy to each state.

This immediately triggered bans and severe restrictions across the country. The consequences have created chaos, confusion and barriers to abortion access, disrupted healthcare and ended safeguards to women's freedom, bodily autonomy and equality.

- 22 million people of reproductive age—about 2 in 5 American women—live in states with abortion bans or severe restrictions.
- 14 states totally ban abortion (after conception.)
- Five states restrict abortion access.
- Six states' bans are on hold (some temporarily).
- 25 states (and Washington D.C.) provide legal and protected abortion care (Note: figures are subject to change due to courts or legislation).



“Young women will come of age with fewer rights than their mothers and grandmothers had. ... The majority’s refusal even to consider the life-altering consequences of reversing *Roe* ... is a stunning indictment of its decision.”

—Portion of the dissenting opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* by U.S. Supreme Court Justices **Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Stephen Breyer** / *Washington Post* illustrations

69%-73%

Percentage of Americans who disapprove of the Supreme Court’s decision in the *Dobbs* case

The *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* decision upended 1973’s federal protections to abortion has created a thorny legal battlefield in courts across several states with bans challenged and blocking restrictions imposed by legislators and governors.

The majority of Americans

support abortion. By more than a 2-to-1 margin, people find access too difficult. A year after the 6-3 *Dobbs* decision, there is growing support of abortion rights, as anti-abortion efforts amplify political divisions.

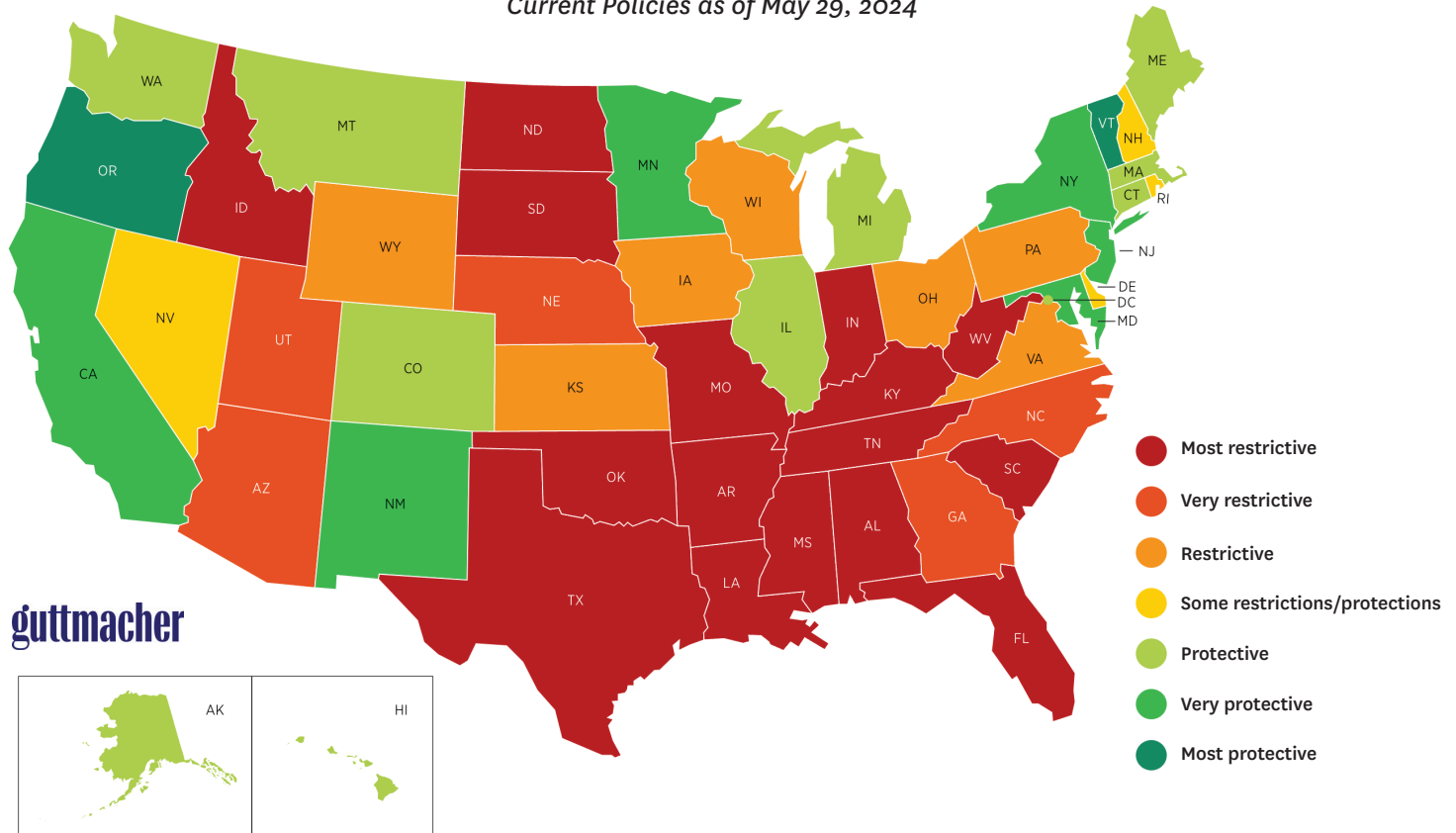
- Only 13% of voters support abortion bans.
- 62% to 85% of Americans say abortion should be legal in some or most cases. **MORE**
- 69% to 73% of Americans disapprove of the Supreme Court’s decision.



The complexities of the abortion landscape are nearly impossible to navigate as it shifts state-by-state and almost day-to-day, complicated by restrictions, ranging from 6-week to 15-

U.S. Abortion Policies and Access After Roe

Current Policies as of May 29, 2024



week gestation periods or no exceptions for the health or life of the mother, rape, incest, or fetal anomalies. People seeking abortion care encounter hurdles and providers fear legal penalties for delivering healthcare for patients.

■ **Wisconsin:** Clinics in Milwaukee and Madison resumed operations after a year when a judge ruled that a 144-year-old law didn't apply to medication abortions.

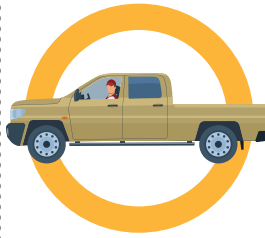
■ **Montana:** Legislature passed 10 anti-abortion laws in 2023 which courts put on hold. Montana Supreme Court ruled the state Constitution protects the right to an abortion.

■ **Idaho:** Supreme Court considering the U.S. Department of Justice challenge to the near-total abortion ban that denies emergency medical abortion care.

Making Abortion a Crime



In many states, performing an abortion is a felony. Penalties can include fines from \$1,000 to \$100,000, loss of license, and incarceration ranging from months/years to a life sentence.



In Texas it's illegal to "aid and abet" an abortion, which is aimed at clinic or hospital staff, those who give financial support, and even helpers who offer transportation. The vigilante-style process allows people to reap a reward of \$10,000 if they report someone that they suspect is involved with an abortion.



Investigations of self-managed abortions have charged people with concealment of a birth or even homicide, seizing phones and tablets for evidence in texts, emails and browser history.



Abortion laws prevent providers from giving care to women experiencing miscarriages, ectopic pregnancies and other health complications during pregnancy or delay treatment.



RESULTS OF BANS: Dozens of clinics are closing, with doctors fleeing restrictive states over fear of legal penalties. States like New Mexico and Illinois—which border states with bans—are seeing an influx of women seeking abortions. This means costly changes to staff and hours to accommodate patients, and extended waiting time for appointments. Mobile clinics travel to cities in states like Colorado, which has six neighboring states with abortion bans.

PEOPLE ON THE MARGINS ARE THE MOST VULNERABLE

Abortion bans disproportionately affect low-income and vulnerable people, who may already live in “maternal health deserts.” Denying an abortion can cause additional physical, emotional and economic hardship, and there’s more risk for POC who might have complicated pregnancies and childbirth. Maternal mortality rates are up to 15x higher for Black women.

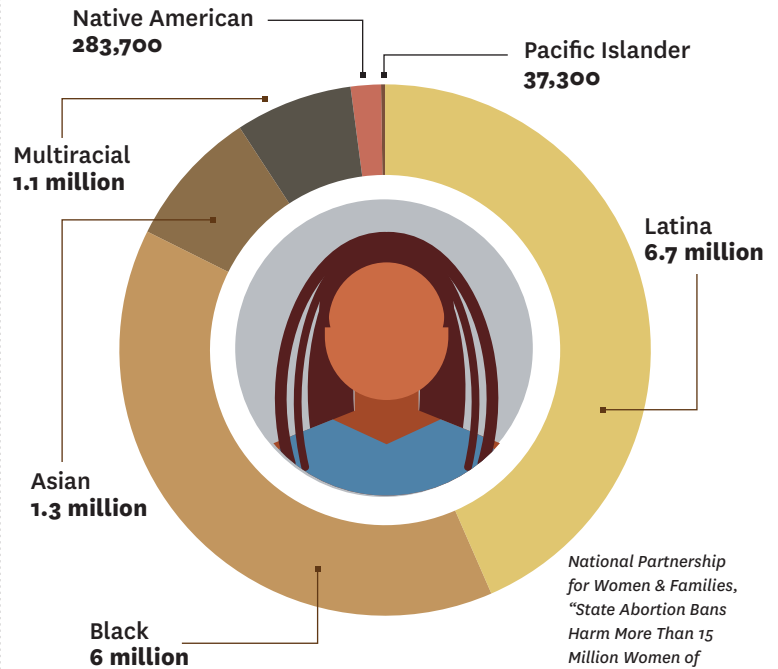


- Low-income
- People of color
- People with disabilities
- Rural residents without local hospitals/clinics
- Veterans
- No insurance or Medicaid

15x When denied access to abortions, maternal mortality rates are up to 15x higher for Black women.

Outsized Harm for People of Color

In the 20-plus states with abortion bans and restrictions more than half the women impacted live below the poverty line, 7% are disabled and the majority are POC.



NEW MEXICO

One of several likely destinations for women needing an abortion

300 MILES

Average distance to an abortion clinic—a sharp increase since 2014 when it was less than 25 miles.

ADDITIONAL COSTS: Dozens of women’s health clinics closed in more than a dozen states across the South and Midwest. Traveling out-of-state to terminate a pregnancy requires extra expenses in addition to the cost of the procedure or medication: long-distance travel (transportation); lodging and food (longer with mandatory waiting periods); loss of income due to unpaid time off from work; and childcare coverage.

Medication Abortion and IVF



The latest attack on abortion comes with recent court decisions to revoke or restrict mifepristone, the safe and effective drug for more than 20 years used in the majority (54%) of abortions (as of 2022). The FDA approved selling the medication in pharmacies in 2023. A court intervention in the science-based FDA approval process is unprecedented. This outcome of the Supreme Court decision on limiting the medication is uncertain. The advantages of this method of abortion include expanding providers; availability via telehealth (which increased 136% in 2022); and the ability to self-manage.

Another battle for reproductive autonomy involves IVF treatment. An Alabama court ruled that embryos created through in vitro fertilization are children. “Fetal personhood” has been enacted in Missouri and Georgia, and a dozen more states are attempting similar legislation, including Indiana and Utah. Contraception is also potentially ripe for legislation.



Tap or click on button to download our tip sheet on medication abortion

ABORTION ISSUES MAY DRIVE VOTERS TO THE BALLOT BOX

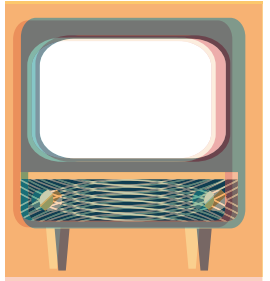
Congressional attempts to impose a federal ban on abortion are not likely to become law, but other threats loom—including against birth control and other contraception methods—if states and courts extend restrictive efforts. Abortion issues are driving voters to the ballot box in several states. Seven initiatives previously won. Voters rejected anti-abortion efforts in battleground states like Kansas, Kentucky and Ohio. Twenty states strengthened abortion laws.



In November 2024, abortion could be on ballots in up to dozen states, including Florida, Arizona and Missouri. States are mounting signature campaigns to allow the public to uphold abortion rights. Measures will ask about various issues like protecting reproductive rights in state constitutions, and lifting abortion bans or changing restrictions.



Abortion stories matter. The health of millions is at risk in states that prohibit abortions. TV storylines portraying abortion experiences can inform viewers and reduce stigma.



LINKS TO RESOURCES

- [We Testify](#)
- [Abortion Out Loud—Advocates for Youth](#)
- [Reclaim](#)
- [Planned Parenthood](#)
- [13 stories from Texas](#)



Tap or click on button to watch *Future of Abortion* video featuring actor and women's rights advocate Alyssa Milano

A Woman's Right To Choose Turns Political

We've come a long way from TRAP laws (Targeted Restrictions on Abortion Providers) ordering that doorways be as wide as ambulatory surgical centers and other unnecessary medical requirements designed to shutter clinics. Reproductive rights are now in the hands of legislators, governors and judges across the country. As a woman's freedom of choice turned political, participation at the local level is vital to protecting rights.



LINKS TO RESOURCES

- [Guttmacher Institute](#)
- [Physicians for Reproductive Health](#)
- [Society for Family Planning](#)
- [Kaiser Family Foundation](#)



Tap or click on button to watch an historical long view of abortion in the U.S.



"Abortion is health care. Recent state restrictions, coupled with ongoing efforts to curtail access to medication abortion pills nationwide, are an attempt to interfere with the delivery of evidence-based health care and control pregnant people's bodies."

—**Suzanne Bell**
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health