

To date, the focus of human resources for abortion care has been on educating and training new physician providers. However, we know that abortion training does not uniformly lead to abortion provision. There has been relatively little attention paid to the factors that lead to abortion provision or longevity in abortion provision after training. Sociologists point out that abortion work is a kind of socially stigmatized "dirty work," and that doing such work can have negative impact on workers. Despite this, there is only very limited research on the psychosocial experiences of physician providers or other caregivers in the abortion team. However outside of abortion, there is extensive literature that documents the burdens of stigmatized identity, and the phenomena of burn-out and compassion fatigue associated with difficult work in the helping professions generally, and which points to the need for supportive interventions for these kinds of workers. The goal of our work is to strengthen human resources for abortion care by designing and implementing a self-care workshop for abortion team members. The workshop is completed, and results will be published shortly.