New Report Shows Major Drop in Abortion Access Across the Country

32,260 fewer abortions in first six months after Dobbs, compared to the average monthly number of abortions observed in the pre-Dobbs period

Denver, CO—The second report released today by #WeCount shows that in the six months after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in June 2022, there was a dramatic decrease in abortions provided by clinicians as state bans shut down abortion care and pushed abortion out of reach for thousands of people.

From July through December 2022, there were 32,260 fewer abortions, compared to the average monthly number of abortions observed in the pre-Dobbs period. The drop was driven by states that banned abortion care. Meanwhile, states with legal protections for abortion saw a comparably small rise in abortion care.

“The #WeCount data show just how much abortion care has been disrupted in the wake of the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe,” said Dr. Ushma Upadhyay, #WeCount Co-Chair and professor at University of California, San Francisco’s Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH). “We know that when someone wants to have an abortion but is unable to get one, the impact on their lives can be devastating, economically, physically, socially and psychologically. Multiply that impact by thousands, and that’s the landscape of abortion access right now.”

States with the largest decrease in the number of abortions provided by a clinician were Texas, Georgia, Tennessee, and Ohio. States with the largest increases include Illinois, Florida, and North Carolina.

#WeCount also tracks the shift in abortion care toward virtual telehealth providers, which increased from 4% of all abortions in April 2022 to 11% in December.

“With the massive decreases in abortion access, evidence that people are traveling to other states for care, and the volatility in the numbers of abortions provided by clinicians from month to month, it is clear that we are still reeling from the Dobbs decision, and that abortion access across the country may not stabilize for some time,” said Alison Norris, MD, PhD, #WeCount Co-Chair and associate professor at The Ohio State University’s College of Public Health.
#WeCount will continue to track and release data about the number of abortions provided in each state through July 2023. The Society of Family Planning is leading this effort, in collaboration with providers, researchers and other stakeholders, to collect the data, support analysis, and disseminate findings.

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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.

The Society of Family Planning (SFP) is a source for science regarding abortion and contraception. SFP 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.