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New #WeCount Report Shows More Than 25,000 Fewer Abortions in the Nine Months Following *Dobbs*

Denver, CO—Ahead of the one year mark of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*, <u>#WeCount</u> released a third report showing the latest count of abortions provided by clinicians across the country. From July 2022 through March 2023, #WeCount shows that nationwide, more than 25,000 people were unable to get an abortion from a provider. In the states where abortion is banned completely or at six weeks, more than 80,000 people seeking abortion in states where abortion is banned fully or at six weeks encountered disruptions in accessing abortion care. Looking at both numbers together offers a picture of how many people have likely traveled for care during this period.

"The latest release of #WeCount data demonstrates the ways the *Dobbs* decision continues to devastate abortion access across the country, especially in states where abortion has been heavily restricted or banned," 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 being denied abortion care can have devastating mental, emotional, physical and economic impacts on people, and that is what people are experiencing across wide swaths of the country right now."

States that enacted bans showed the greatest percentage of declines in abortion, with numbers of abortions provided by clinicians plummeting to near zero. States with the largest increases in the total number of abortions provided by a clinician during the nine-month period after Dobbs include Florida, Illinois, North Carolina, Colorado, California, Virginia, and Kansas.

#WeCount also tracks the shift in abortion care toward virtual telehealth providers. Virtual-only services increased by 85% compared to the pre-*Dobbs* period, going from comprising 5% of all abortions to 9% of all abortions.

"The data demonstrate that state-level bans have created barriers to accessing care, denying people the autonomy to make decisions about their bodies and futures. As a result, people who otherwise would have sought abortion care from a provider either self-managed their abortions, traveled to another state for care, or were forced to remain pregnant against their will," said Alison Norris, MD, PhD, #WeCount Co-Chair and associate professor at The Ohio State University's College of Public Health.

<u>Please see the full #WeCount report here</u>. #WeCount will continue to track and release data about the number of abortions provided in each state through July 2023. <u>The Society of Family Planning</u> 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.