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Brief Report: Illinois Abortion Statistics Update

Illinois Abortion Update, May 2023

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Providers in Illinois are averaging a monthly increase of 1,140 abortions in the post-Dobbs environment. Illinois is currently the state experiencing the second highest increase in abortion care. This number will likely heighten, as Florida and North Carolina, increase abortion restrictions. Currently, Florida has a 15 week ban and while legal until 20 weeks in North Carolina, new laws are currently being litigated which could reduce access.

As the legal status of abortion in neighboring states continue to change, more people will travel to Illinois for care. For example, Indiana, where abortion is currently legal but has had short term bans, has seen 50% reduction in people seeking abortion in Indiana. Most likely people from Indiana seeking abortion care are travelling to neighboring states like Illinois to now receive care.

As demonstrated in the graph below, Illinois has been experiencing a steady increase in number of abortions after the *Dobbs* ruling in June 2022. In states like Ohio, which the policy around the legality and accessibility of abortion has been tumultuous, the number of abortions provided was just reaching pre-*Dobbs* numbers in December 2022. Similarly, Indiana has seen a steady decrease of number of abortions provided in state, which may be contributed to both the required waiting period and the changing state policies around abortion legality.

The landscape remains heavily regulated for those under the age of 18 seeking abortion care in the Midwest. While Illinois repealed required parental notification in 2021, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa all require either parental consent or notification for minors seeking abortion care within their state. This leaves young people in a particularly vulnerable position in the Midwest, as they can only travel to Minnesota or Illinois – or go through the judicial bypass process – to access abortion care without parental notification.

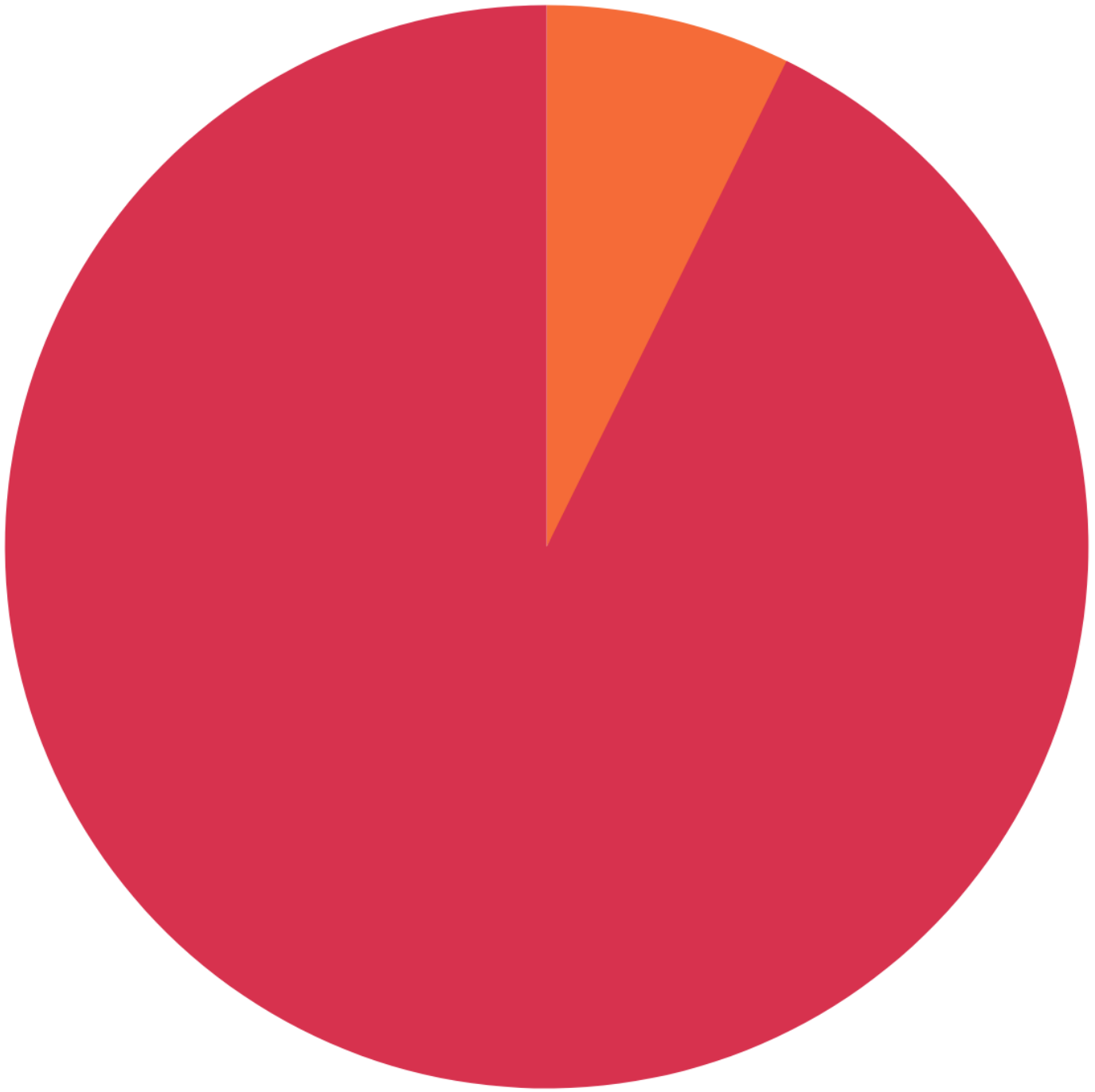
Overview of Post-Dobbs Illinois

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In June of 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned its earlier decision in *Roe v. Wade*, which erased the constitutional right to abortion and allowed states to restrict abortion. To date, 25 states have banned or severely limited abortion access (1). Many states in the Midwest and South now heavily restrict abortion, while several states have preserved and supported access, including Illinois.

As a result, Illinois has seen a 28% increase in abortions from April of 2022 to August of 2022, marking the dramatic shift that *Dobbs v. Jackson* has had on regional abortion care access ([#WeCount Study](#)) (2). Illinois currently ranks fifth when measuring states with the greatest increases of abortions performed during this time period. As compared to April,

IL
7.3%



USA
92.7%

Abortions Performed in the US from April 2022 - August 2022

Illinois providers facilitated 1,520 more abortions in August; totaling 30,300 abortions performed between April and August of 2022. Abortions in Illinois account for 7.3% of abortions performed in this time frame in the United States. This large number is attributed to both protective abortion legislation in Illinois and the restrictive abortion policies in states surrounding Illinois. The Illinois state government recently passed a HB 4664, The Patient and Provider Act. This act provides key protections to both people seeking and providing abortion in Illinois. Ci3 will be sending out messaging in the coming weeks breaking down the new changes resulting from the Patient and Provider Act.

Abortion Access Landscape and Illinois

People from all across the United States travel to Illinois to seek abortion care. Illinois laws do not impose barriers such as mandated counseling, waiting periods, or short gestational limits. However, many people travel from the directly surrounding abortion-hostile states. Some states, such as Missouri and Wisconsin, have total bans, while other states such as Indiana, Ohio, and Iowa have hostile policies and/or quickly changing policy environments which may make abortion access more difficult.

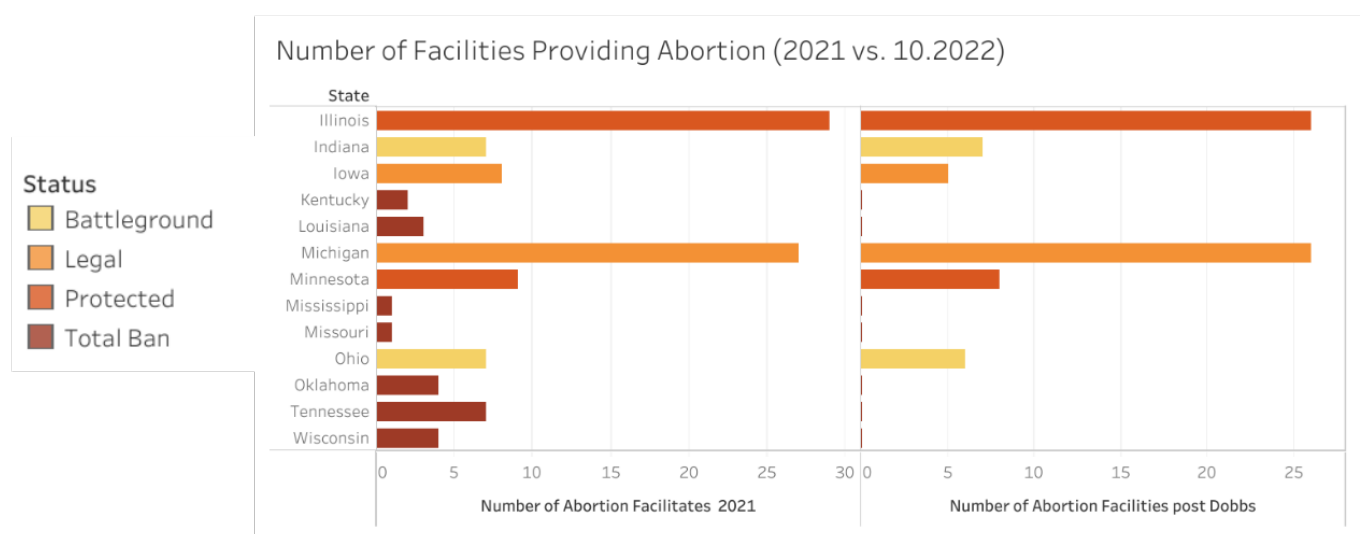


The table below highlights some of the specific policies which affect access to abortion care in the Midwest. Notably Minnesota and Illinois are the only states in the Midwest which have expanded Medicaid coverage to fully cover abortion. Ci3 researchers have documented the implementation of this policy in Illinois (3). Illinois however, is the only state in the area which does not require parental consent of minors to receive abortions. [Ci3 provided testimony](#) to help repeal parental notification in Illinois in October 2021.

State *	Legal/Gestational Limit	Telehealth	Medicaid Expansion	Parental Notification
Illinois	Legal until viability	Legal	Yes	Not Required
Wisconsin	Total ban	Illegal	No	Required
Iowa	Legal until 20 weeks	Legal	No	Required
Minnesota	Legal until viability	Legal	Yes	Required
Michigan	Legal until viability	Legal	No	Required
Indiana	Legal until 22 weeks	Legal	No	Required
Ohio	Legal until 22 weeks	Legal	No	Required
Kentucky	Total Ban	Illegal	No	Required
Tennessee	Total Ban	Illegal	No	Required
Arkansas	Total Ban	Illegal	No	Required
Missouri	Total Ban	Illegal	No	Required

* information as of 2/24/2023

Further, the number of facilities that provide abortions (both multi-use and single-use facilities) have decreased in the Midwest in the post-Dobbs environment. These reductions can be traced to complete bans in the state or to the economic toll of frequent policy changes on independent clinics. Prior to clinic closures were found to be correlated to laws created to enhance or target regulation of abortion providers (TRAP) laws (4). In comparing the number of facilities providing abortion in 2021 to post-Dobbs 2022, facilities in states with abortion bans have seen their clinic numbers drop to zero while states with restrictions but not bans have seen a decrease in facilities which provide abortion (5).



Looking Ahead

The FDA in January 2023 approved a pathway allowing for pharmacy dispensing of mifepristone. As [reported by CNBC](#), large retailers such as Walgreens and CVS have announced that they will soon be applying for certification of mifepristone distribution from their stores (6).

Messaging around rollout of this new avenue of distribution is still forthcoming. Ci3 has recently completed research on pharmacist readiness and comfort in dispensing mifepristone and possible patient preferences for pharmacy pick-up. A recent Ci3 study, [Exploring Illinois contraceptive providers' interest in medication abortion training](#), found that some family planning providers are interested in medical abortion training; additional training may increase the number of providers able to counsel, refer, and provide medication abortion (7).

However, the recent case of Alliance for [Hippocratic Medicine \(AHM\) vs FDA](#) seeks to overturn the FDA's approval of mifepristone (8). An initial ruling has not yet been released, however, it may result in the national prohibition of mifepristone for use of abortion and misoprostol for use of abortion. Up until February 24, 2023 mifepristone and misoprostol are available where abortion is legal, this landscape may rapidly shift given the outcome of AHM vs. FDA. This case may further slow down or completely halt the expansion of mifepristone distribution.

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Contact

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