BACKGROUND

Patient demand for abortion services has increased as abortion clinics close and legal restrictions increase. Medication abortion can safely and effectively be offered by trained providers in an outpatient setting. While medication abortion may not be the right choice for all, many value having a sense of control medication abortion offers, the less invasive nature, and the ability to complete the abortion in the privacy of their home.2,3

OBJECTIVE

To examine predictors of Illinois family planning provider interest in medication abortion training.

METHODS

Study Design: We conducted a mailed survey of Illinois family planning providers and clinics between October 2019 and March 2020. Survey packets were mailed to 1,062 ob-gyns, pediatricians and family medicine physicians, as well as 616 publicly-funded clinics.

Eligibility: Providers were eligible to participate if they provided contraceptive services to women of reproductive age at least twice per week.

Primary outcome: Provider interest in training opportunities for medication abortion.

Response rates: The sample was weighted to reflect the probability of selection and the non-response rate by specialty and setting. Final response rate was 17%.

Statistical analysis: Using multivariable logistic regression, we estimated adjusted odds ratios (aORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) of the association between health care provider, practice, and patient population variables, and provider interest in receiving medab training.

CONCLUSIONS

Findings suggest considerable interest in medication abortion training among subsets of Illinois family planning providers.

Given provider interest in medication abortion training along with recent and potential FDA regulation changes to reduce barriers to mifepristone, expanding targeted training opportunities may expand access to medication abortion in Illinois.

LIMITATIONS

• Relatively small sample size and focus on Illinois providers limits generalizability.
• Survey did not ascertain whether providers already offered medication abortion services or whether providers would be willing to provide medication abortion if they were trained.

REFERENCES


