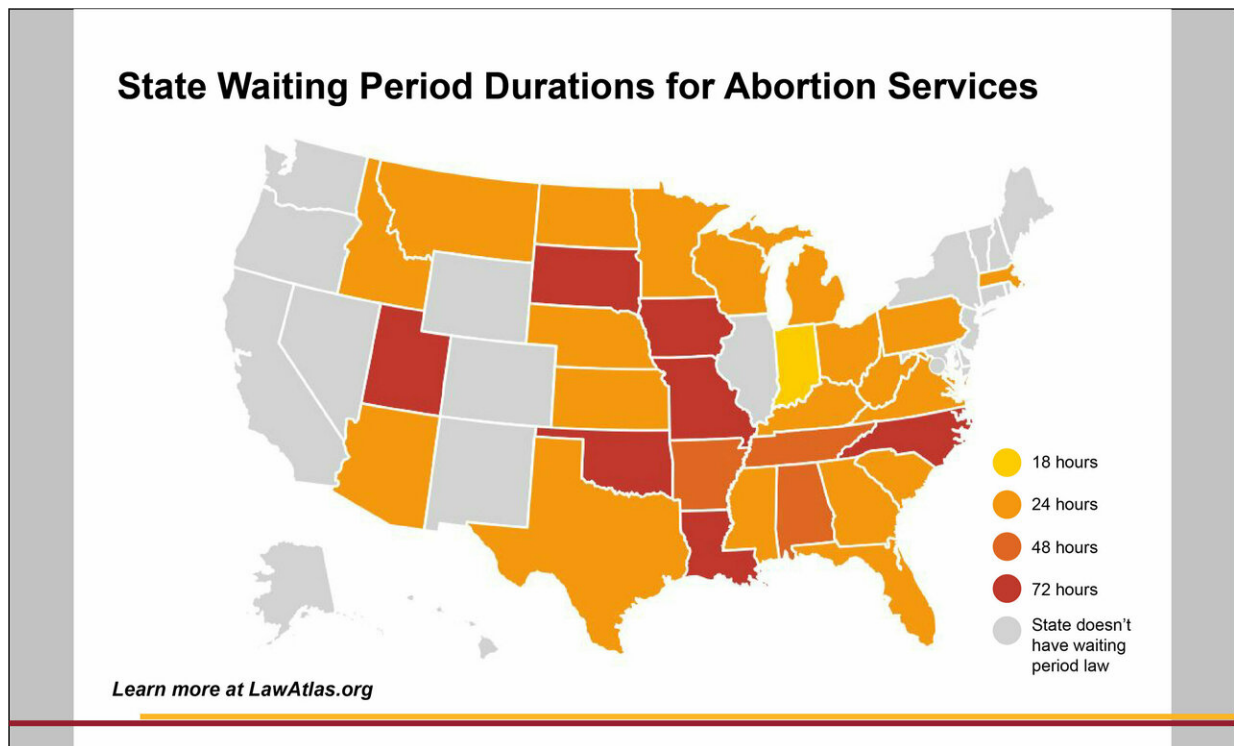


New suite of legal data capture US abortion laws

January 18 2019



Map illustrating state waiting period duration for abortion. Credit: Temple University Center for Public Health Law Research, Policy Surveillance Program

New legal data published to LawAtlas.org today provide a comprehensive look at the contents of US abortion regulations, relevant court cases and Attorneys General opinions that directly impact the provision of abortion services.

The 16 datasets capture 700 variables exploring [abortion](#) advertising restrictions, abortion bans, provider qualifications, reporting requirements for adults and minors, waiting period requirements, provisions that protect access to clinics, the ability for providers to refuse to perform abortions, restrictions on insurance coverage and [public funding](#) for abortion, statutory and [constitutional rights](#) to abortion, and targeted regulation of abortion providers (TRAP).

"This collaboration has produced the most comprehensive suite of legal data available on laws regulating abortion in the United States," said Lindsay Cloud, JD, director of the Policy Surveillance Program at the Center for Public Health Law Research. "Understanding the cumulative impact of abortion laws on health is more important than ever, as abortion procedures, facilities, and providers face ever-increasing regulation throughout the United States."

Key findings from the data include:

- Eighteen states prohibit abortion after 20 weeks post-fertilization (or 22 weeks since the last menstrual period).
- There are 12 states that prohibit abortion based on the woman's reason for seeking an abortion. These include race, sex, Down syndrome, and fetal anomalies.
- In 46 states, providers may refuse to provide abortion services to patients.
- Laws in 31 states require a waiting period prior to obtaining an abortion.
- In 15 states, patients are required to receive an ultrasound prior to obtaining an abortion.



Map illustrating state laws that ban abortion after 20 weeks post-fertilization. Credit: Temple University Center for Public Health Law Research, Policy Surveillance Program

The datasets were created for the [Abortion Law Project](#), through a collaboration between the Policy Surveillance Program at Temple University's Center for Public Health Law Research, Guttmacher Institute, Resources for Abortion Delivery (RAD), American Civil Liberties Union, Center for Reproductive Rights, National Abortion Federation, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

"This database will help users better understand the extent of regulations, thereby helping advocates, litigators and lawmakers to devise strategies to counter restrictions, and enabling providers to assist their patients in navigating legal hurdles," said Elizabeth Nash, Senior State Issues

Manager at the Guttmacher Institute. "In addition, this resource will be of great value in informing research projects on abortion access and availability."



Map illustrating state abortion refusal laws. Credit: Temple University Center for Public Health Law Research, Policy Surveillance Program

"Accurate and comprehensive information about regulations impacting access to abortion is critical to abortion providers, advocates, and policymakers," said Janet Crepps, Director of Regulatory Assistance for Abortion Providers at RAD. "Providing ready public access to this information in one place is an exciting new resource for everyone concerned about access to reproductive health care."

These datasets join more than 80 others across a wide variety of public health topics at LawAtlas.org, which is the central, authoritative place for policy surveillance data and methods. LawAtlas.org is operated by the Policy Surveillance Program at Temple University's Center for Public Health Law Research. Visit [LawAtlas.org](https://www.lawatlas.org) to explore.

More information: Policy Surveillance Program at the Center for Public Health Law Research, Temple University. Abortion Law Project. January 17, 2019. [lawatlas.org/page/abortion-law-project](https://www.lawatlas.org/page/abortion-law-project)

Provided by Temple University Center for Public Health Law Research

Citation: New suite of legal data capture US abortion laws (2019, January 18) retrieved 29 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-01-legal-capture-abortion-laws.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--