

In national survey, U.S. ob-gyns say care has worsened after Dobbs decision

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The U.S. Supreme Court decision ending a nationwide right to abortion

one year ago has made it harder for doctors to treat miscarriages and other pregnancy-related emergencies, a new report shows.

The nonprofit organization KFF [surveyed obstetrician-gynecologists \(ob-gyns\)](#) across the United States and found that a majority were concerned about worsening numbers of deaths, [maternal health](#), and racial and ethnic inequities in the wake of the court's landmark ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization.

KFF surveyed a nationally representative sample of 569 U.S. ob-gyns between March 17 and May 18, 2023.

In [states](#) with abortion bans, half said their patients had been unable to obtain an abortion. That was also true for about 24% of patients nationwide, whether abortion was banned in their state or not.

About 4 in 10 doctors in states with bans said they had faced constraints in their ability to care for women experiencing miscarriages and pregnancy-related emergencies. And about 6 in 10 of doctors in those states expressed concerns about legal risk when making decisions about patient care.

Numbers were similar in states with gestational limits on abortion.

Nationwide, 42% of respondents said they were very or somewhat concerned about their own legal risk when making decisions about [patient care](#) and the need for an abortion.

Large percentages also said the decision had worsened pregnancy-related deaths (64%), as well as racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health (70%).

About 55% said it made it harder to attract new ob-gyns to the field,

according to a news release from KFF.

In states where abortion is banned, 60% of the doctors surveyed said their decision-making autonomy had worsened, and 55% said it has become more difficult to practice within the standards of care.

The decision has also affected contraception usage, the [survey](#) showed.

More than half of ob-gyns said more patients have been seeking contraception since the decision. About 43% of respondents reported an increase in patients seeking sterilization, and 47% in those seeking IUDs (intrauterine devices) and implants.

One statistic that was unchanged in the wake of the court ruling was the percentage of office-based ob-gyns who said they provide abortion services. It remained at 18%.

About 30% of ob-gyns practicing in states where abortion is banned said they do not provide, refer or offer any resources for abortion services to their patients. About 48% said they only offer information, such as [online resources](#), to help patients seek out [abortion](#) services on their own.

More information: The Pew Research Center has more on [abortion](#) in the United States.

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