

What happens when safe abortion is out of reach?

New York Times: [Texas Abortion Law Has Women Waiting Longer, and Paying More](#)

- “‘I’ve been doing intake for over 10 years and it’s just changed radically,’ said Jo Wunderlich, a volunteer who talks to as many as 70 women a week who call seeking financial help. ‘What we’re seeing is very often women are farther along in their pregnancy, it costs more money, we run out of money and fewer women can get funding.’”
- “Dr. Linda Prine, who provides abortions at a Whole Woman’s Health clinic in Las Cruces, N.M., said more than half of her patients on any given day came from Texas. Sometimes she finds them “sleeping in their cars in our parking lot before we open up in the morning.”
- “Stephanie, a 20-year-old student, said she had recently driven through the night to Albuquerque for an abortion 16 weeks into her pregnancy after she could not come up with the money in time to have the procedure done at a clinic in El Paso, where she lives...her options were limited to the closest such center, 550 miles away in San Antonio, or a regular abortion clinic in New Mexico.”

New York Times: [The Return of the D.I.Y. Abortion](#)

- “Eight of the 10 states with the highest search rates for self-induced abortions are considered by the Guttmacher Institute to be hostile or very hostile to abortion. None of the 10 states with the lowest search rates for self-induced abortion are in either category.”

Reuters: [Up against strict laws, Texas women learn do-it-yourself abortions](#)

- “Susanna was young, single, broke and pregnant in southern Texas where, thanks to the state's strict laws, her chances of getting a surgical abortion at a clinic were slim to none. So she did what an estimated 100,000 women or more in Texas have done - had a self-induced abortion. With the help of a friend, some online instructions and quick dash across the Mexican border for some pills, she addressed the issue of unwanted pregnancy in a state where women are finding abortion services too expensive and too far away.”
- “‘We certainly hypothesize that if there is a bad ruling from the Supreme Court that leads to more clinic closures, yes, this will only become more common,’ said Dr. Daniel Grossman of Ibis Reproductive Health in California and researcher with the Texas Policy Evaluation Project at the University of Texas at Austin.”

New York Times: [How Did I Get an Abortion in Texas?](#)

- “...I was told I would have to wait three to four weeks for the next available appointment. There was no way I could wait that long. Not only would I be carrying a baby I knew

wouldn't survive, but that kind of wait could push me past the 20-week mark after which almost all abortions are illegal in Texas.”

- “Women are risking their jobs, spending their life savings, driving hundreds of miles, crossing state lines as I had to — all to exercise a right that the Constitution protects.”

LA Times: [Without this Texas clinic, women with unwanted pregnancies would have to travel 230 miles or cross into Mexico](#)

- “Now the high court must decide whether the Texas law amounts to an undue burden for more than 1 million women who live at least 150 miles from a licensed abortion clinic. That includes women here in the Rio Grande Valley, for whom the next nearest clinic is 230 miles north in San Antonio.”
- “‘If it does go into effect, you will completely wipe out abortion access in this area,’ said Banda, a mother of three from the Rio Grande Valley who had an abortion at the clinic in 2006...‘We have Mexico a hop and skip away from us, and what happens is women take it into their own hands.’For many women, Banda said, ‘they have to choose between feeding their kids or having the procedure.’”

MSNBC: [Analysis: Closing abortion clinics results in tremendous burden on women](#)

- “When health centers close, women who have made the decision to end a pregnancy face increased wait times at the remaining health centers — upwards of 20 days at some facilities — and are forced to drive long distances for care. They are also forced to delay abortion to later in pregnancy, which could push abortion later in pregnancy and out of reach for many women.”
- “In October 2014, when the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals allowed Texas to enforce the law before the Supreme Court stepped in, a dozen abortion clinics closed overnight. The next day, the Planned Parenthood call center received 572 phone calls from the Houston area — more than six times the usual call volume.”

Mother Jones: [Women in Texas May Have to Wait an Extra 20 Days for an Abortion](#)

- “New research from the University of Texas—Austin has found that women seeking abortions in cities such as Dallas, Fort Worth, and Austin face staggering wait times of up to 20 days before they can get the procedure. The data...provides a startling look at the effects of abortion clinic closures in Texas just as the Supreme Court is deciding whether or not to hear a case that could slash the number of remaining clinics by half.”
- “A wait time of almost three weeks has serious consequences for women seeking abortions, ranging from her ability to afford an abortion, which becomes more expensive as the pregnancy progresses, to intensity of the procedure. In the second trimester, the cost of an abortion may go up by a hundred dollars every week.”

Daily Beast: [Abortion Barriers Hit Latinas the Hardest](#)

- “But the most immediate effects of the decision will be felt disproportionately by one group: Texan Latinas, and especially those living in the Rio Grande Valley. For these women, the NLIRH says, barriers to abortion access have become extreme in the last three years.”
- “When Vanessa, a mother of three, learned that the clinics near her in McAllen and Harlingen were closed, she tried to self-induce an abortion with herbs and injections. They didn’t work. The clinic in San Antonio was too far away so she went to Mexico instead but couldn’t get an abortion there, either. In the end, she carried the pregnancy to term and had a child she could not afford to raise.”

The Guardian: [After wave of anti-abortion laws, US sees signs of women taking drastic measures](#)

- “Five years into a wave of anti-abortion legislation that is without historical precedent, Johnston is not surprised. In fact, she is part of a rising chorus of abortion providers and activists who wonder if they are witnessing, as a direct result of those laws, a spike in women who are attempting to take matters into their own hands.”
- “There are phone calls about substances that carry warning labels for pregnancy: ‘What if I drank a whole bottle of this-or-that?’ said Sue Postal, who recently closed her clinic in Toledo. Others take more drastic measures, such as the young woman in Postal’s clinic whose boyfriend had punched her in the stomach as hard as he could – at the woman’s insistence.”

LA Times: [Crossing the 'abortion desert': Women increasingly travel out of their states for the procedure](#)

- “As more states adopt more restrictive laws and the number of clinics dwindles in the so-called “abortion desert” – an area that stretches from Florida to New Mexico and north into the Midwest – women are increasingly traveling across state lines to avoid long waits for appointments and escape the legal barriers in their home states.”
- “Because of the new laws, a clinic in Dallas started encouraging West Texas women to make appointments at its facility in Albuquerque, which had shorter waits and restrictions – but was still about 300 miles away. Since the law passed, the number of women traveling to New Mexico for abortions has more than doubled. In Kansas, the number of women arriving from Oklahoma and Texas soared from 38 to 243. The trend is similar at clinics in Louisiana.”