

Title: The Impact of the Texas Abortion Ban on Gestational Age at Time of Abortion in a Large Volume Colorado clinic

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Objective: To assess changes in gestational age, rates of 2nd trimester abortion, the proportion of Texas residents, and the changes in distance traveled at a university-affiliated abortion clinic in Colorado after Texas passed Senate Bill 8 (SB8) which prohibits abortions >6 weeks' gestation.

Methods: Data are drawn from all patients obtaining an abortion ≤ 22 weeks gestation at a university-affiliated clinic between January 2018-June 2022. We created two time periods: before (January 2018-August 2021) and after SB8 (September 2021-June 2022). We compared the proportion of out-of-state residents obtaining care and gestational age categories before and after SB8 using chi-square tests. We determined the adjusted odds of a 2nd trimester abortion (≥ 13 weeks) after SB8 using logistic regression models adjusted for gravida, parity, age, and the proportion of out-of-state residents.

Results: We assessed 4,793 abortions; 3,824 before and 969 after SB8. After SB8, the proportion of patients who are Texas residents increased from 1% to 17 %; $p < 0.0001$. For out-of-state residents, the median distance traveled increased from 317 to 755 miles < 0.0001 . Among all patients, abortions ≥ 15 weeks increased from 12 to 21%; $p < 0.01$ and surgical abortions ≤ 10 weeks decreased from 47 to 33%; $p < 0.001$. The proportion of 2nd trimester abortions increased from 17 to 27%; $p < 0.001$ and the odds nearly doubled after SB8 (aOR:1.7; 95%CI: 1.4-2.1). Although higher among out-of-state residents (aOR:2.1; CI:1.4-2.9), the odds of a 2nd trimester abortion also increased among Colorado residents (aOR:1.6; 95%CI:1.3-1.9).

Conclusion: Post-Dobbs abortion bans will likely delay care not only for people forced to seek care out-of-state, but for residents of states maintaining abortion access.