



Abortion in Texas Fact Sheet

September 2021

Characteristics of Texas' population

- There are 6.8 million reproductive-aged women in Texas, of which 1 in 6 (16.9%) live below poverty.^{1,i}
- Poverty rates among Black (20.3%) and Hispanic/Latinx Texans (22.1%) are more than twice as high as the poverty rates among Whites (8.7%).
- More than a quarter (26%) of reproductive-aged women in Texas are uninsured and 10% have public insurance coverage (e.g., Medicaid).

Abortion Access in Texas

- In 2020, 55,175 Texas residents obtained abortion care in Texas: 36% were Hispanic/Latinx, 30% were Black, 26% were White, 5% were Asian, and 1% were Indigenous or another race.²
- In 2020, there were 24 facilities providing abortion care in Texas, approximately 50% fewer facilities than in 2012 when 45 facilities were open.
- More than 40% (44.1%) of reproductive-aged women in Texas live in counties that do not have a facility that provides abortion care.
- For people living in counties that do not have a facility that provides abortion, the weighted median one-way distance to the nearest facility is 51 miles, but ranges from 12 to more than 300 miles.ⁱⁱ
- Because Texas law requires people to make two in-person visits to obtain an abortion (with few exceptions), many Texans have to travel several hundred miles round trip for care.

Abortion patients' challenges obtaining care at Texas facilities^{3,4}

- In 2018, TxPEP surveyed 603 people who obtained an abortion at 1 of 12 in-state facilities. Patients' race/ethnicity largely mirrored statewide data of Texas residents who obtained abortions.
- The majority of patients (61%) had children. More than 40% (43%) had to arrange for someone to take care of their child (or someone else they care for) to attend their abortion visits.
- Nearly two-thirds (62%) of patients reported incomes <200% of the federal poverty level, and almost half (47%) were uninsured. To pay for their abortion, many patients reported that they had to sell something of value or delay expenses, including bills, food, and their rent/mortgage.
- Overall, 16% of patients obtained an abortion <6 weeks from their last menstrual period (LMP); 71% had their abortion between 6 and 11 weeks from LMP, and 13% obtained care ≥12 weeks from LMP.
- More than one-third (39%) reported scheduling their abortion later than they would have liked. Those who had to postpone paying routine expenses and who reported the time and travel needed to get to the facility were difficult were more likely to report a scheduling delay.

References

1. U.S. Census Bureau. 2019 American Survey 5-Year Estimates. Available from: <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>.
2. Texas Health and Human Services. ITOP Statistics. Available from: <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/records-statistics/data-statistics/itop-statistics>.
3. Grossman D, Sierra G, Hopkins K, Potter JE, White K. Factors associated with delays obtaining abortion care in Texas. *Contraception*. 2020;102(4):288.
4. Dickman S, White K, Grossman D. Affordability and access to abortion care in the United States. *JAMA Intern Med*. 2021;181(9):1157-1158.

ⁱ We recognize that not all individuals who may become pregnant and need abortion care identify as women. The data we used recorded gender as a binary measure, and therefore we use that language in this report.

ⁱⁱ Travel estimates are from county of residence to the nearest facility in Texas or out of state.