

# Before Roe:

## When Abortion Was Illegal

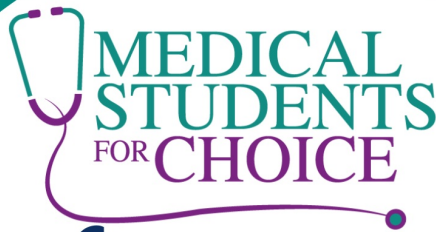


Prior to 1973, abortion was illegal in the US with the exception of four states—New York, Colorado, California, and North Carolina—where it was legal only under limited circumstances, such as life endangerment.

An estimated 1.2 million women in the U.S. resorted to illegal abortions yearly. Botched illegal abortions caused as many as 5,000 deaths a year.



These illegal abortions were often performed by untrained physicians in unsanitary conditions using primitive methods.



# Roe v. Wade

## A Monumental Decision

# 1973

On January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion in the U.S.

In a 7-2 ruling, the court ruled that the constitutional right to privacy extended to a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy.



Abortion-related complications and death decreased dramatically; the risk of maternal death resulting from abortion fell to 3.4 deaths per 100,000 in 1973 and 1.3 per 100,000 by 1977.



# 42 Years After Roe v. Wade... abortion is still not as available as you think

## WHY?

### Shortage of Providers

One of the biggest obstacles to safe, legal abortion is the absence of trained abortion providers.

A national probability sample in 2009 showed that 57% of Ob/Gyn abortion providers were aged 46-65.

24% of women wanting abortions have to travel 50 miles or more for that service.

2% of all American Ob/Gyns perform over 50% of the abortions in the U.S.

### Lack of Training

Abortion is one of the most common medical procedures, yet medical students are not trained to provide it.

Two-thirds of all medical students in the U.S. spend less than 30 minutes of class time on all aspects of abortion.

The same study found that both infertility and Viagra receive more required class time—on average—than contraception or abortion.

Despite the 1995 ACGME mandate that all Ob/Gyn residency programs must provide access to abortion training and ACOG's 2009 opinion in support of abortion access and training, only 51% of Ob/Gyn residency programs include routine abortion training and 10% offer no training.

Less than 10% of family medicine residency programs offer routine training in first trimester abortion.

### Increasing Restrictions on Access

The Hyde Amendment bans the use of federal Medicaid funds to provide abortions, except in cases of rape, incest, or life endangerment. In 2010, President Obama issued an executive order affirming the Hyde Amendment.

39 states have enacted parental consent or notification laws requiring women under the age of 18 to get permission from, or to inform, one or more of their parents.

Abortion is one of the only medical procedures with a "conscience clause" allowing medical providers to refuse to participate in the care of a patient.

During the 2013 state legislative sessions, more than 300 abortion restrictions were introduced in 36 states. Restrictions were passed in 17 of them.