

Facts About Abortion Later in Pregnancy

Why Later?

People seek abortions later for the same reasons they do earlier. **Dr. Katrina Kimport identifies two common pathways through which people find themselves seeking later abortions:**¹



First Path: They learn new information

- Pregnancy was discovered after the 1st trimester (most common!)
- Newly discovered diagnosis of a fetal impairment
- Newly discovered threat to the health or life of the patient
- Sudden life event or significant change in circumstances

Second Path: They experience barriers to obtaining care earlier

- Abortion bans and burdensome regulations
- Difficulty paying for an abortion earlier
- Interaction with religious Crisis Pregnancy Center (CPC)
- Difficulty arranging childcare or getting time off of work
- Conflicts with family and/or partner about the pregnancy
- Difficulty finding or traveling to an abortion provider

Who Seeks This Care

Anyone who can become pregnant could need a later abortion. Because we do not live in equitable environments, some groups are more likely to need later care. These include young women, low-income women, rural women, and Black women.^{2,3} **Abortion bans make existing inequities worse.**

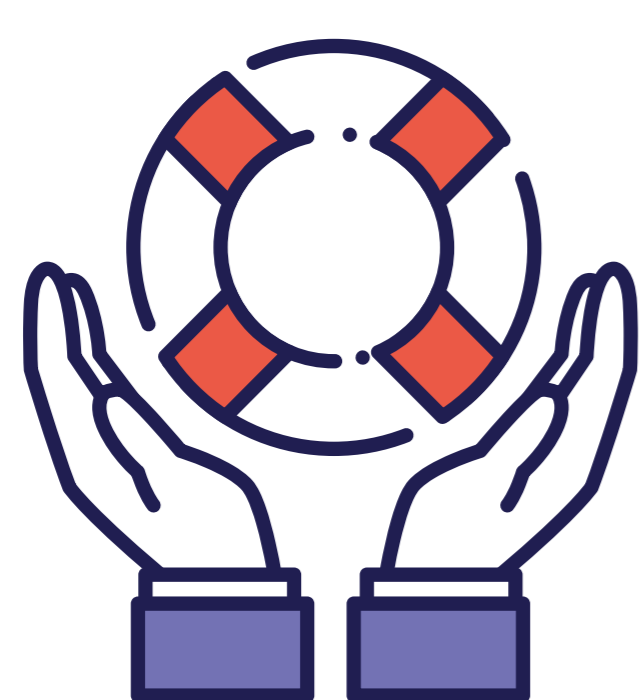


Confidence in Abortion Decision

Most people who have abortions (95%) say it was the right decision and **the most common emotion reported is relief.**⁵

“Indies” Provide Later Care

Later abortion care is almost exclusively provided by independently-owned clinics: The Abortion Care Network (ACN) found that 79% of all U.S. abortion clinics that provide care after 22 weeks of pregnancy are independent clinics. After 26 weeks that number jumps to 100%.

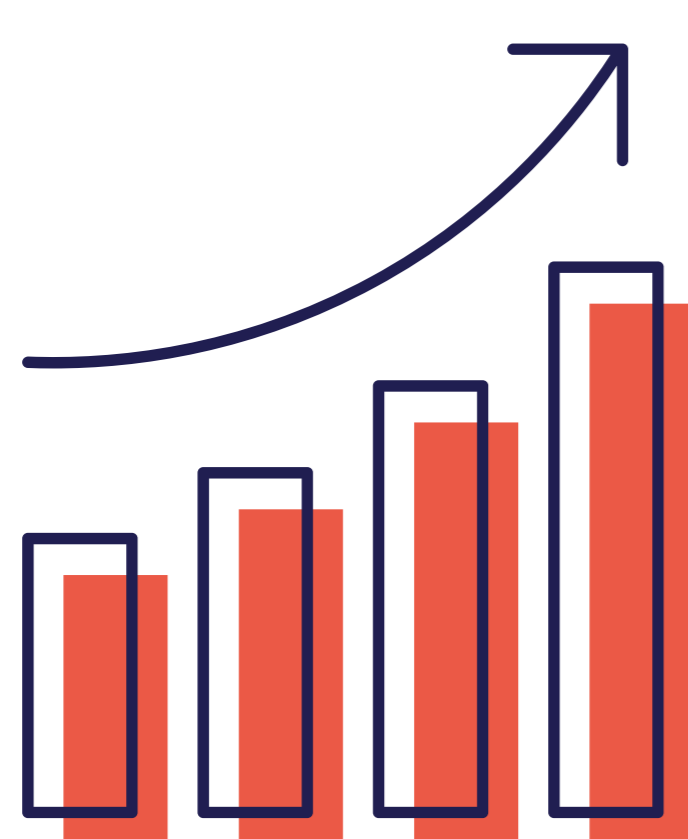


Safe Throughout Pregnancy

Abortion is safer than childbirth and safer than getting your wisdom teeth removed. **Abortion care is safe, and this is true at any point in pregnancy.** Medically unnecessary restrictions that make abortion care harder to get don't make it safer.⁷

Later Care is Expensive

An abortion at 20 weeks is around \$2,500.³ Costs increase as the pregnancy progresses. 75% of all abortions are among low-income patients.⁸ **Most cannot use public insurance like Medicaid to pay for an abortion due to the Hyde Amendment.**⁹ Therefore many abortion seekers are delayed in getting care because they have to raise money.



Need is Going Up

Generally, abortions become increasingly rare with each week of pregnancy.¹⁰ But many people are not able to access care as soon as they would like. This has always been true, and it is getting worse. There are more obstacles for abortion seekers to overcome—more bans, fewer clinics, longer wait times, etc. **These delaying factors are pushing more people later.**¹¹

¹ Kimport K. Is third-trimester abortion exceptional? Two pathways to abortion after 24 weeks of pregnancy in the United States. *Perspect Sex Reprod Health*. 2022 Jun;54(2):38-45. doi: 10.1363/psrh.12190. Epub 2022 Apr 10.

² Jones RK, Jerman J (2017) Characteristics and Circumstances of U.S. Women Who Obtain Very Early and Second-Trimester Abortions. *PLoS ONE* 12(1): e0169969

³ Foster, D.G. and Kimport, K. (2013). Who Seeks Abortions at or After 20 Weeks?. *Perspect Sex Repro H*, 45: 210-218

⁴ Kimport K. Why Women Seek Abortions After 24 Weeks of Pregnancy (2019). Scholars Strategy Network. <https://scholars.org/contribution/why-women-seek-abortions-after-24-weeks-pregnancy> (Accessed December 04, 2020)

⁵ Rocca CH, Kimport K, Roberts SCM, Gould H, Neuhaus J, Foster DG (2015) Decision Rightness and Emotional Responses to Abortion in the United States: A Longitudinal Study. *PLoS ONE* 10(7): e0128832.

⁶ <https://turnawaystudy.com/results/> (Accessed December 04, 2020)

⁷ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2018. *The Safety and Quality of Abortion Care in the United States*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press

⁸ Jerman J, Jones RK and Onda T. *Characteristics of U.S. Abortion Patients in 2014 and Changes Since 2008*. New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2016

⁹ Restrictions on Medicaid funding for abortions: A literature review Henshaw SK, Joyce TJ, Dennis A, Finer LB, Blanchard K. *Restrictions on Medicaid funding for abortions: A literature review*. Guttmacher Institute. July 2009.

¹⁰ Source: Kortsmitt K, Mandel MG, Reeves JA, et al. *Abortion Surveillance — United States, 2019*. *MMWR Surveill Summ* 2021;70(No. SS-9):1–29.

¹¹ Ushma D. Upadhyay, 2022: Barriers Push People into Seeking Abortion Care Later in Pregnancy. *American Journal of Public Health* 112, 1280_1281

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