State Facts About Abortion
Vermont

National Background and Context

Each year, a broad cross section of people in the United States obtain abortions. In 2017, 862,320 abortions were provided in clinical settings in the United States.

The U.S. Supreme Court recognized the constitutional right to abortion in the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision and has reaffirmed that right in subsequent decisions.

However, since 2010, the U.S. abortion landscape has grown increasingly restrictive as more states adopt laws hostile to abortion rights. Between January 1, 2011 and July 1, 2019, states enacted 483 new abortion restrictions, and these account for nearly 40% of all abortion restrictions enacted by states in the decades since *Roe v. Wade*. Some of the most common state-level abortion restrictions are parental notification or consent requirements for minors, limitations on public funding, mandated counseling designed to dissuade individuals from obtaining an abortion, mandated waiting periods before an abortion, and unnecessary and overly burdensome regulations on abortion facilities.

Abortion Incidence

• Approximately 862,320 abortions occurred in the United States in 2017. The resulting abortion rate of 13.5 abortions per 1,000 women of reproductive age (15-44) represents an 8% decrease from the 2014 rate of 14.6

• In 2017, 1,300 abortions were provided in Vermont, though not all abortions that occurred in Vermont were provided to state residents: Some patients may have traveled from other states, and some Vermont residents may have traveled to another state for an abortion. There was a a 5% decline in the abortion rate in Vermont between 2014 and 2017, from 12.1 to 11.4 abortions per 1,000 women of reproductive age. Abortions in Vermont represent 0.2% of all abortions in the United States.

Where Patients Obtain Abortions

• In 2017, there were 1,587 facilities providing abortion in the United States, representing a 5% decrease from the 1,671 facilities in 2014. Sixteen percent of facilities in 2017 were abortion clinics (i.e., clinics where more than half of all patient visits were for abortion), 35% were nonspecialized clinics, 33% were hospitals and 16% were private physicians' offices. Sixty percent of all abortions were provided at abortion clinics, 35% at nonspecialized clinics, 3% at hospitals and 1% at physicians' offices.

• There were 10 facilities providing abortion in Vermont in 2017, and 6 of those were clinics. These numbers represent no change in clinics from 2014, when there were nine abortion-providing facilities overall, of which six were clinics.

• In 2017, 89% of U.S. counties had no clinics providing abortions. Some 38% of reproductive-age women lived in those counties and would have had to travel elsewhere to obtain an abortion. Of patients who had an abortion in 2014, one-third had to travel more than 25 miles one way to reach a facility.

• In 2017, some 64% of Vermont counties had no clinics that provided abortions, and 38% of Vermont women lived in those counties.

Restrictions on Abortion

• Vermont does not have any of the major types of abortion restrictions—such as waiting periods, mandated parental involvement or limitations on publicly funded abortions—often found in other states.

References for information contained in this fact sheet are available at https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/state-facts-about-abortion-vermont

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