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Abortion Laws and HIV in the US

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Together, we can change the course of the HIV epidemic...one woman at a time.

#onewomanatatime

www.thewellproject.org

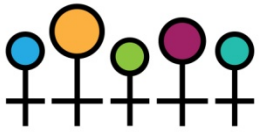
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Abortion Rights Around the Globe

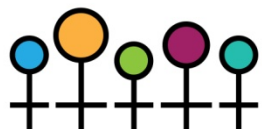
- Intentional termination of pregnancy
- Wide variety of abortion laws around the world
 - Prohibited under any circumstances
 - Even to save pregnant person's life (e.g., Honduras)
 - Allowed under most circumstances
 - Limits on time since last period (e.g., Netherlands: 24 weeks = *fetal viability*; Austria: 12 weeks)
 - No different from other procedures
 - Covered by national health insurance (e.g., Canada)



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Abortion Rights in the US – Federal

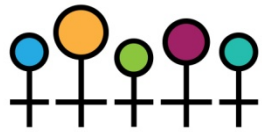
- *Roe v Wade*
 - 1973 Supreme Court decision
 - Woman's right to privacy
 - Abortion legal until 12 weeks after last period
- Further decisions on abortion rights
 - No total ban until fetal viability (about 24 weeks)
- *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*
 - 2022 Supreme Court decision
 - No federal right to abortion
 - Each state can pass its own laws
 - Could be used to restrict other privacy-based rights



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Abortion Rights in the US – States

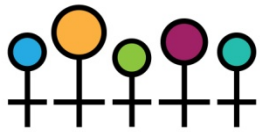
- Some states
 - Old abortion laws and new “trigger” laws went into effect
- Other states
 - Enact explicit protections for abortion
- Examples
 - Texas
 - All abortions banned except to save pregnant person’s life
 - Vermont
 - No restrictions at all
 - Middle ground
 - Exceptions for rape, limitations on pregnancy duration



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Abortion Rights in the US – States

- Restrictive laws being challenged in court
 - Law often put on hold (*injunction*) during court process
- Rapidly changing laws
 - Current information:
 - Abortion Finder's [state-by-state abortion guide](#)
 - Center for Reproductive Rights' [map](#)
- Laws making it illegal to help people get abortion
 - Example: Idaho
 - Effect: young people forced to carry unwanted pregnancy to term



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Abortion Rights in the US – Youth

- Don't threaten pregnant person themselves
- Make it illegal to help young person get abortion
 - This may include providing information
 - May not apply if parents agree to abortion
 - But: young people may fear parents' reaction to their pregnancy
- Restrictions on sex education
 - Lack of information on contraception makes need for abortion more likely
 - “Abstinence-only” education
 - Lack of information on HIV prevention or same-sex relationships



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If You Want to Help

- *Support organizations that advocate for a person's right to make decisions about their own body*
 - Includes right to choose
 - Includes transgender rights
 - Direct help may also be needed
- *Advocate for evidence-based sex education*
 - Equips young people with facts on HIV, STI and pregnancy prevention
 - Meanwhile: provide information yourself, if possible
 - E.g., through youth groups or other venues



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Learn More!

- To learn more about this topic, please read the full fact sheet:
 - [Abortion Laws and HIV in the US](#)
- For more fact sheets and to connect to our community of women living with HIV, visit:
 - [www.thewellproject.org](#)
 - [www.facebook.com/thewellproject](#)
 - [www.twitter.com/thewellproject](#)
 - [www.instagram.com/thewellprojecthiv](#)