

don't be a pill:

REPRO JUSTICE 101

Issue 12: November 27, 2023

Medical Students for Choice

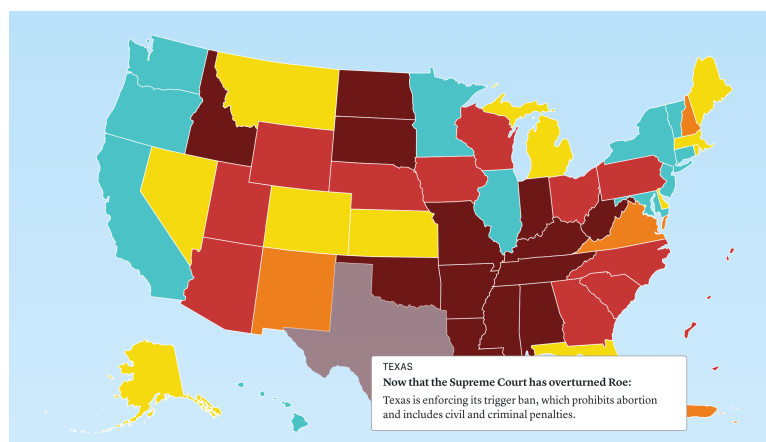
New & Noteworthy

[JAMA Pediatrics](#) released a [report earlier this month](#) detailing the association between an **increase in children entering foster care** and **Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) laws** from 2000-2020. Over 4 million children were placed in foster care in this time frame, with an **11.4% increase** of entrance in **states with a first-trimester abortion ban**. These findings were further significant for racial and ethnic minorities.

A [retrospective study](#) in the *American Journal of Emergency Medicine* tracked pregnancy-related ED presentations from 2016-2020. About **50% of presenting patients required surgery, while 18% required hospitalization** for pathologic pregnancies. The authors of the study press for implications in a post-Dobbs US where [ambiguity in rapidly changing state laws](#) conflict with [EMTALA](#) may **obstruct access to life-saving reproductive healthcare** in EDs.

The IZA Institute of Labor Economics released [estimates](#) of **initial birth data following the Dobbs decision**. Birth data obtained by the CDC from 2019-2023 in total ban states indicated a **2.3% increase in all births in 2023** post-Dobbs, compared to control non-total-ban states. **Driving distance** to the nearest legal abortion facility strongly correlated with increased birthrate in states with total bans.

The State of Texas



* United States Abortion Access Map, [Center for Reproductive Rights](#).

The state of Texas passed several laws in 2021 governing abortion access and care prior to Dobbs.


[SB8](#) prohibits abortion after fetal heartbeat detection and encourages for civil enforcement in obtaining, aiding or “abetting” in abortion access. [SB4](#) governs abortion medications, prohibiting access through mail and requiring physicians to examine patients in clinic. [HB1280](#) was a trigger law provision that bans abortions after 30d of pregnancy once Roe v. Wade was overturned or in case of loss of federal or constitutional protection of abortion.

Texas carries a significant history of abortion laws at all levels of access and care. A summary can be found [here](#).

Build Me Up, Buttercup

Biweekly foundational content: papers, books, podcasts, articles, etc.

A Podcast!



This week’s offering is our first podcast! A primer on the Mothers of Modern Gynecology: [Anarcha, Lucy, and Betsey](#), from NPR’s Hidden Brain.

The man often called as the Father of Gynecology, Dr Sims, experimented on countless enslaved Black women in his attempts to cure vesicovaginal fistulas. Three women have been identified: Anarcha, Lucy, and Betsey.

They are now [celebrated in statue](#) at the **More Up campus in Montgomery, AL** for their contributions to modern gynecology.

Their [untold history exemplifies and echoes](#) the continued systemic racial injustices within the healthcare system, and uplifts the stories of the many enslaved individuals whose exploitation led to our scientific knowledge.

Org. Spotlight!

[Indigenous Women Rising](#) supports indigenous and Native individuals seeing abortion care, midwifery, or doula care. Given the current lack of support and historic oppression of reproductive freedom and sovereignty, IWS rebuilds a network of care and funding to provide culturally sensitive care.

Thanks for reading issue #12! Previous issue: [11](#). As always, commentary, thoughts, discussion are encouraged – this newsletter hopefully will act as a conversation starter. Please feel free to reach out to any of our WesternU MSFC board members through [email](#). Take good care. – [Clarice](#) (she/her), Advocacy Chair

