Abortion Bans

Restrictions on abortion are most often accomplished through prohibiting abortions at specific gestational limits, usually defined in state law by either a certain number of weeks post-fertilization or from a woman’s last menstrual period (LMP). Further limitations on abortions in state-level regulation include restrictions based on a woman’s reason for seeking an abortion, and bans on certain types of procedures used in late-term abortions.

This dataset is longitudinal, displaying laws regulating abortion reporting requirements in from December 1, 2018 through December 1, 2019. Additional maps and tables are available by visiting www.lawatlas.org.

Abortion Bans

As of December 1, 2019, 45 states have laws prohibiting the performance of certain abortions.

Jurisdictions: 45 (AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA, CT, DE, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NC, ND, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WV, WI, WY)

Fetal Heartbeat Bans

Abortion bans upon detection of a fetal heartbeat increased from one state (IA) as of December 1, 2018 to four states (IA, KY, MS, OH) as of December 1, 2019. All bans on abortion upon detection of fetal heartbeat have either been enjoined or declared unconstitutional since taking effect.

Reason-Based Abortions – Down Syndrome

While three states (IA, LA, OH) banned abortions based on diagnosis of fetal Down syndrome as of December 1, 2018, this number increased to six states (AR, IN, KY, LA, MO, OH) as of December 1, 2019. A Utah reason-based ban, which includes Down Syndrome diagnosis, was also enacted and would take effect pending a ruling from a court of authority.