State Abortion Laws

Prepared by the Policy Surveillance Program Staff

ABOUT STATE ABORTION LAWS & THE DATA

The Abortion Law Project created a comprehensive suite of datasets covering 15 different types of abortion regulations: Abortion Advertising Restrictions, Abortion Bans, Abortion Provider Qualifications, Abortion Reporting Requirements, Abortion Requirements for Minors, Abortion Waiting Period Requirements, Medication Abortion Requirements, Protecting Access to Abortion Clinics, Refusal to Perform Abortions, Restrictions on Insurance Coverage of Abortion, Restrictions on Public Funding of Abortion, Statutory and Constitutional Right to Abortion, TRAP – Ambulatory Facility Licensing, TRAP – Ambulatory Surgical Center Requirements, and TRAP – Hospitalization Requirements. This individual dataset provides a general overview of these 15 regulatory areas within each state from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2019.

Each of the questions in this overview dataset corresponds to the first coding question in each of the 15 individual datasets. Clicking on the citation button described below will provide a link to the proper individual dataset.

NAVIGATING THE DATA

There are two ways to navigate the data by clicking the Filter tab or the Explore tab — for each option, the data can be visualized in a map and table format or in jurisdiction profiles.

Filter

The dataset homepage will default to the Filter tab. Here, users may answer a series of questions to learn more about the characteristics of the laws. Answering more than one question will show all the jurisdictions that meet the combined criteria. Criteria selected will be listed above the questions, and can be removed by clicking the white X or by clicking “Reset” above the questions.

Explore

Users can access Explore by clicking the Explore tab in the bar above the questions. Using Explore, users will see the answers to one question across all jurisdictions.

The primary questions in this dataset are:

1. Is there a law restricting the advertisement of abortions?
2. Is there a law prohibiting the performance of certain abortions?
3. Is there a law regulating abortion provider qualifications?
4. Is there a law imposing reporting requirements related to abortions?
5. Is there a law requiring parental involvement for a minor’s abortion?
6. Is there a law imposing requirements on a patient before they can obtain an abortion (e.g. counseling, waiting period, ultrasound, or fetal heart tone)?
7. Is there a law explicitly regulating medication abortion?
8. Is there a law providing protections related to a facility or healthcare provider that provides abortion services?
9. Is there a law allowing for the refusal to provide abortion services?
10. Is there a law restricting insurance coverage of abortion?
11. Is there a law restricting the use of public resources for abortion?
12. Is there a state statute or constitutional provision protect the right to an abortion?
13. Is there a TRAP law imposing facility licensing requirements on abortion providers?
14. Is there a TRAP law requiring abortion providers to meet ambulatory surgical center requirements?
15. Is there a TRAP law requiring abortions to be performed in a hospital?

DISPLAYING THE RESULTS

There are two display modes once criteria have been selected by using either the Filter or Explore tab — Map display mode and Profiles display mode.

Map Display
LawAtlas.org dataset homepages default to the map display mode. When querying the data using the Filter tab, all jurisdictions that meet the criteria selected will display in one tone of yellow. Those jurisdictions that do not meet the criteria selected will be colored gray. When querying the data using the Explore tab, the map will illuminate with colors from yellow to red that are associated with the various answer choices (the color-coding is defined by the key to the left of the map).

Below the map, a table will appear. Using the Filter or Explore tab to navigate the questions will change the display:

- Using the Filter tab, you can select an unlimited number of criteria and the applicable jurisdictions that meet the combined criteria will be displayed in the table below.
- Using the Explore tab, you can isolate a single criterion and the applicable jurisdictions will appear in the table below.

Profiles Display
The Profiles display presents the results of the criteria selected in a text-based format for each applicable jurisdiction. Using the Filter tab, jurisdictions that meet the criteria selected will display. Using the Explore tab, jurisdictions that meet the criterion selected will display. If no criteria are selected, the full profiles for each state will appear under both Filter and Explore.

Profile Legend
Within each Profile box, above the questions and answers, there are additional options and information useful in exploring the law:

| ## | Toggle Legal Text | – Selecting this option will show all the legal text used to answer questions for this jurisdiction. For this particular overview dataset, there is no legal text provided as the goal of each question is to link the corresponding individual dataset. |
Toggle Full Place Profile – Selecting this option will show all questions and answers for this jurisdiction, regardless of what was selected using the Filter or Explore tabs.

Toggle Size – Selecting this option will make the profile larger, but will not change the information displayed.

Legal Text History – This interactive timeline displays when changes in the law have occurred within a jurisdiction. Using the arrows to the left or right, users may explore how the law has changed over time as new amendments to the law have been enacted. The timeline will change from gray to a shade of yellow when the jurisdiction passed its first relevant law. Each change in the law after that is marked by a break in the timeline.

Map and Profile Legend
There are a few symbols to be aware of in both Map and Profiles display modes:

Section Symbol – Clicking this symbol will open a window that displays a link stating “Click here to learn more about” the individual dataset corresponding to the coding for each question.

Caution Note – Clicking on this symbol will open a small window that displays text that describes important caveats about the question and answer.

DATASET RESOURCES
This dataset homepage includes the following resources available for download:

- Research Protocol: The Research Protocol is a comprehensive document that outlines the entire methodology of the project, including the scope, inclusion and exclusion criteria, data collection methods, definitions, coding scheme decisions, as well as the quality control process.

- Summary Report: The Summary Report provides a snapshot of important findings from the dataset.

CONTACT US TO REPORT AN ISSUE WITH THE DATA
While reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the information in this resource is complete and accurate, the creators make no guarantee that it is error free; if you encounter information that you believe is inaccurate, please contact us at RAAP@radprogram.org and lawatlas@temple.edu.
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