

THE TEXAS POLICY EVALUATION PROJECT

Assessing the Impact of State Reproductive Health Legislation

Access to abortion care in the wake of HB2

The Texas Policy Evaluation Project (TxPEP) has collected data on abortion services during the first six months after HB2 was enforced in November 2013. The results of this evaluation will be released later this summer. Below are some highlighted results related to the evaluation.

- There has been a marked decline in the number of facilities providing abortion care. In May 2013, there were 41 facilities providing abortion. During the period of public debate around HB2 and after its passage, eight facilities closed or stopped offering abortion care, leaving 33 open facilities on October 31, 2013. When HB2 was enforced on November 1, 2013, eleven clinics closed or stopped offering abortion. Over the next several months, five clinics reopened, and another seven closed. There are currently 20 open facilities providing abortion care.
 - Note: the 50% reduction in abortion facilities does not mean there has been a similar reduction in abortions performed in the state. TxPEP will be releasing the results of its evaluation of change in the abortion rate when the analysis is finalized.
- Almost all of these closures are related to difficulties obtaining hospital admitting privileges for physicians at these facilities.
- Smaller cities have been more severely affected by HB2, with all clinics closing in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and all but one closing in West Texas.
- When the final provision of HB2 requiring facilities to meet the standards of ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) goes into effect in September 2014, it is anticipated that there will only be six or seven facilities providing abortion care in Texas.
- As clinics closed, the number of women living far from a clinic in Texas providing abortion has grown.
 - The number of women of reproductive age in Texas living more than 50 miles from a clinic providing abortion in Texas increased from 816,000 in May 2013 to 1,680,000 by April 2014. When the ASC requirement goes into effect this will increase to 1,960,000.
 - The number of women of reproductive age in Texas living more than 100 miles from a clinic providing abortion in Texas increased from 417,000 in May 2013 to 1,020,000 by April 2014. When the ASC requirement goes into effect this will increase to 1,335,000.
 - The number of women of reproductive age in Texas living more than 200 miles from a clinic providing abortion in Texas increased from 10,000 in May 2013 to 290,000 by April 2014. When the ASC requirement goes into effect this will increase to 752,000.
- According to data from the Texas Department of State Health Services, in 2012 only 21% of all abortions were performed in ASCs. Preliminary results from the TxPEP evaluation indicate that this proportion has not increased significantly, indicating that the existing ASCs are unlikely to have the capacity to meet the demand for abortion services in the state.
- Texas women—especially those living outside of the five largest cities in the state—have been affected by the clinic closures. They must travel farther to access care, which implies higher costs and logistical challenges, which in some cases result in delays accessing care.