

ESTIMATING THE EFFECTS OF GEORGIA'S EARLY ABORTION BAN ON ACCESS TO CARE

WHAT IS GEORGIA'S EARLY ABORTION BAN?

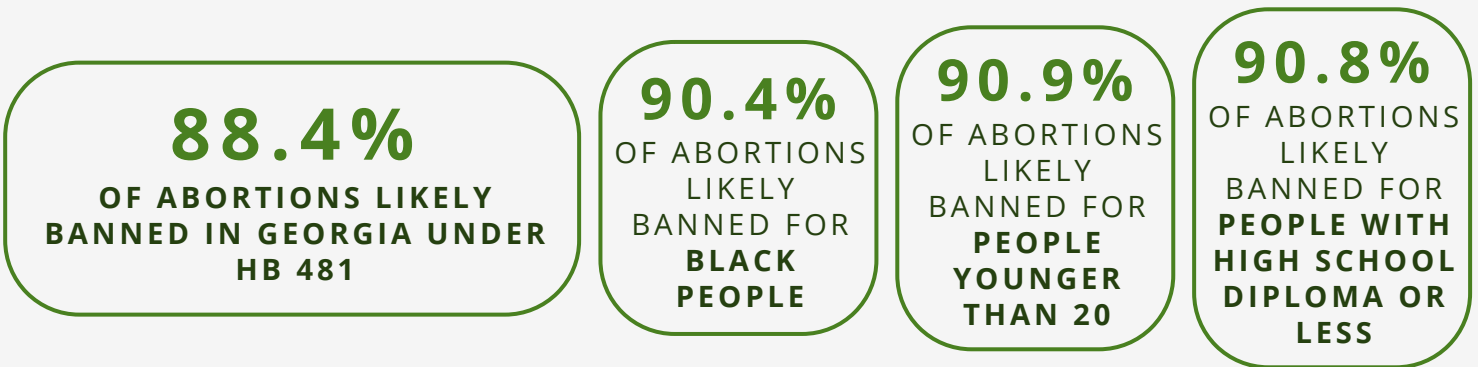
A highly restrictive early abortion ban, House Bill (HB) 481, went into effect in Georgia on July 20, 2022, following the Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* ruling. HB 481 bans abortion after around 6 weeks into a person's pregnancy.

HOW DID WE ASSESS THE EARLY ABORTION BAN'S EFFECTS?

Under guidance from abortion providers, researchers defined abortions occurring at or beyond 6 weeks of pregnancy as banned by HB 481. They used Georgia abortion data from 2007 to 2017 to estimate the number of abortions that are likely banned under HB 481.

WHAT DID WE FIND?

This study estimates that HB 481 likely bans nearly 90% of abortions in Georgia. This drastic change especially affects Black people, young people, and people with less education—people already facing structural and intersectional inequities in accessing the health care system.



WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

Georgia's early abortion ban threatens reproductive autonomy and public health. Pregnant people unable to access abortion care in Georgia may pursue care by self-managing abortions or traveling out-of-state; otherwise, they may continue the pregnancy and face increased risks of pregnancy-related illness or death.

The additional restrictions of HB 481 likely worsen Georgia's obstetric care shortage, by intruding into the provider-patient relationship, creating burdens to providing reproductive health care, and discouraging providers from practicing in the state.

Citation

Redd SK, Mosley EA, Narasimhan S, Newton-Levinson A, AbiSamra R, Cwiak C, Hall KS, Hartwig SA, Pringle J, Rice WS. **Estimation of Multiyear Consequences for Abortion Access in Georgia Under a Law Limiting Abortion to Early Pregnancy.** *JAMA Network Open.* 2023; 6(3):e231598. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.1598>



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