

# Many obstetrics and gynecology residents won't get abortion training if Roe is overturned

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Nearly half of obstetrics and gynecology residency programs in the U.S. may lack abortion training if Roe v. Wade is overturned in an upcoming Supreme Court decision, according to a new study by UC San Francisco and UCLA.

Researchers mapped OB-GYN residency programs across the U.S. and

highlighted those in the 26 states that are expected to ban [abortion](#) if the Supreme Court overturns *Roe v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which is expected by the end of June.

They found that 128 (44.8%) of the 286 OB-GYN residency programs included in their analysis are in states that are certain or likely to ban abortion if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned. And 2,638 (43.9%) of the 6,007 residents who were in accredited OB-GYN programs across the country as of 2020 were at programs in states that are certain or likely to ban abortion if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned. "In 2020, 92% of obstetrics and gynecology residents reported having access to some level of [abortion training](#)," the authors wrote in the study, appearing April 28 in *Obstetrics & Gynecology*. "We predict that, if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, this would plummet to at most 56%." The researchers said their analysis most likely underestimates the impact, as they did not include [family medicine](#) and other specialties where residents also receive abortion training.

"Decimating abortion training in half the country will have far-reaching impacts," said senior author Jody Steinauer, MD, Ph.D., who directs the Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health at UCSF. "It could affect the care of future patients of clinicians who trained in these states wherever they go on to practice. We need to develop new and innovative ways to train OB-GYNs and other clinicians to provide this essential care."

First author Kavita Vinekar, MD, assistant clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology in the UCLA School of Medicine, said abortion training also confers other important skills in bedside manner, counseling, trauma-informed care, miscarriage management, and uterine evacuation. "Those are the skills I got in my abortion training that I use every single day in all of the non-abortion care that I do," she said.

The researchers suggest that clinical educators arrange out-of-state travel rotations, patient-centered early pregnancy loss training, and abortion simulation curricula to prepare for the dramatic decline in access to abortion training if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned.

**More information:** Kavita Vinekar et al, Projected Implications of Overturning *Roe v Wade* on Abortion Training in U.S. Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Programs, *Obstetrics & Gynecology* (2022). [DOI: 10.1097/AOG.0000000000004832](https://doi.org/10.1097/AOG.0000000000004832). [journals.lww.com/greenjournal/ ...  
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