



EXPLAINED: Abortion Research & Policy *Abortion Safety in the United States*

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the session, learners will be able to:

- Understand the safety profile of abortion as practiced in the US.
- Describe the impact of abortion restrictions on abortion access.

Video Lecture:



Abortion Safety in the United States
Presented by Dr. Dan Grossman, MD

Available at: InnovatingEducation.org/Explained

Suggested Readings:

- Raymond EG, et al. [Mortality of induced abortion, other outpatient surgical procedures and common activities in the United States](#). Contraception. 2014 Nov;90(5): 476-9.
- Grossman D, et al. [Changes in abortion services after implementation of a restrictive law in Texas](#). Contraception. 2014 Nov;90(5): 496-501.
- Raymond EG, Grimes DA. [The comparative safety of legal induced abortion and childbirth in the United States](#). Obstet Gynecol. 2012 Feb;119(2 Pt 1):215-9.
- Change in number of physicians providing abortion care in Texas after HB2. Texas Policy Evaluation Project: Research Brief. 2016 Feb; Available at: <https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/txpep/files/pdf/TxPEP-ResearchBrief-AdmittingPrivileges.pdf>.



Lesson Plan in Flipped Classroom Setting: *EXPLAINED: Abortion Safety in the United States*

Using a flipped classroom model, this lesson plan will use the video lecture and additional resources to provide learners with an engaging learning environment. Here's how to use this course in a "flipped-classroom" at your own institution.

Teaching Points

- States have enacted nearly as many new abortion restrictions in the last five years as in they have in the previous 15 years.
- Around the world, approximately 40,000 women died from unsafe abortion in 2013 in places where abortion was highly restricted or illegal.
- In the United States, abortion is safer than other outpatient procedures such a dental procedures, plastic surgery, etc.
- 90% of abortions are performed in the first trimester.
- Abortion restrictions make abortion less safe.

Time Required

Total Time of Video Lectures: 7 minutes

Estimated Independent Prep Time Required by Learner: 30 minutes

Total Estimated Time Required for In-Classroom Activity: 30 minutes

Materials Required and Instructor Preparation

- Learners will need internet access with enough bandwidth to view streaming videos.
- The instructor should print copies of the small group activity quiz (page 3) included in this packet.

Activity

Independent Preparation (conducted by learner before in-classroom activity)

- Learners should independently view the video lecture.
- Learners may be assigned any of the following relevant readings (determined by instructor's desired learner work-load) as outlined in the "Suggested Readings" section on page 1.

In-Classroom Activity (Small Group Activity)

- Divide the classroom into small groups of (3 or 4 and distribute the small group activity (page 3). Instruct learners spend 15 minutes and work together to answer the questions provided.
- At the end of this activity, convene the class. Present the questions and have learners share their answers and discuss.
- Write the correct answers on the board for the class to see. Collect each handout from learners.
 - The instructor can reference the answer sheet on page 4-5.



Names _____

EXPLAINED: Abortion Safety in the United States
Small Group Activity - Quiz

In your group, answer the following multiple-choice and short answer questions referencing the video lecture assigned before class. Be prepared to turn in this handout at the end of class.

Questions

1. _____% of abortions are performed in the first trimester.
 - <5%
 - 10%
 - 60%
 - 90%

2. Abortion restrictions (such as increased facility regulations or mandating providers to have admitting privileges at local hospitals) make abortion _____ safe.
 - Less
 - More

3. The risk of death associated with childbirth is approximately _____ times _____ than that associated with abortion.
 - 5-7; higher
 - 12-13; higher
 - 5-7; lower
 - 12-13 lower

4. Which of the following procedures/activities has the least risk of death?
 - Abortion
 - Participating in a large bicycling event
 - Running a marathon
 - Outpatient plastic surgery



EXPLAINED: Abortion Safety in the United States **Quiz Answer Sheet**

Questions and Answers

1. _____% of abortions are performed in the first trimester.
- <5%
 - 10%
 - 60%
 - 90%

Answer: **90%**

Explanation: 90% of abortions are performed in the first trimester.

2. Abortion restrictions (such as increased facility regulations or mandating providers to have admitting privileges at local hospitals) make abortion _____ safe.
- Less
 - More

Answer: **Less**

Explanation: Rather than making abortion safer, state laws restricting the practice of abortion may be increasing the risks of abortion. In addition to the risk of driving farther, the closure of clinics in Texas has affected women's health and safety in a variety of ways. Between 2013 and 2014, there was a 14% decline in abortions performed in Texas. While some of that decline reflects women traveling out of state, much of the decline is due to women not getting the abortion they want.

3. The risk of death associated with childbirth is approximately _____ times _____ than that associated with abortion.
- 5-7; higher
 - 12-13; higher
 - 5-7; lower
 - 12-13 lower

Answer: **12-13; higher**

Explanation: In the US, the pregnancy-associated mortality rate among women who delivered babies is about 8.8 deaths per 100,000 live births- and it's even higher for certain groups of women, including women of color. Meanwhile, the mortality rate related to abortion is about 0.7 deaths per 100,000 abortions. That means that the risk of death associated with childbirth is 12-13 times higher than that



associated with abortion.

4. Which of the following procedures/activities has the least risk of death?
- Abortion
 - Participating in a large bicycling event
 - Running a marathon
 - Outpatient plastic surgery

Answer: **Abortion**

Explanation: One study that looked at the risk of death while participating in a large bicycling event, stated there were at least 4 deaths per 100,000 participants. The risk of death while running a marathon is reported to be 0.6-1.2 deaths per 100,000 in several very large studies. The risk of death associated with outpatient plastic surgery varies between 0.8 and 1.7 deaths per 100,000 procedures. The mortality rate related to abortion is about 0.7 deaths per 100,000 abortions.



VIDEO COMPANION GUIDE