What Happens to Women Who Want an Abortion But Can’t Get One?

From 2008–2010, women were recruited from 30 abortion facilities around the country. Each site had the latest gestational limit within 150 miles–so if you were too late for this clinic, there was nobody nearby who could provide an abortion just under the limit just above the limit

Women were turned away from clinics who were within days of the gestational limit of each other.

What We Found

A third of women having later abortions traveled more than 100 miles.

Two-thirds of women paid more than 33% of their monthly income in out of pocket costs.

Women gave many reasons for wanting to terminate their pregnancies including:

- They could not afford to raise a child or another child.
- Their reasons related to the man involved in the pregnancy.
- They needed to care for the children they already had.

And it turns out they are right.

Children are negatively affected when their mothers are denied wanted abortions.

Families fall into poverty when women are unable to get wanted abortions.

Women’s existing children are more likely to become poor and to not meet developmental milestones when their mothers are unable to access abortion care.

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