



EXPLAINED: Abortion Research & Policy Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) Laws

Learning Objectives:

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

- Describe the impact of Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) laws.
- Describe the implications of the Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt decision on current abortion restrictions and future abortion provision in the United States.

Video Lecture:

Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) laws
Presented by Dan Grossman, MD



Available at: InnovatingEducation.org/Explained

Suggested Readings:

- Gerdts C, et al. "[Impact of Clinic Closures on Women Obtaining Abortion Services After Implementation of a Restrictive Law in Texas.](#)" Am J Public Health. 2016 May;106(5): 857-864.
- Grossman D, et al. "[Change in abortion services after implementation of a restrictive law in Texas.](#)" Contraception. 2014 Nov;90(5): 496-501.
- [Change in number of physicians providing abortion care in Texas after HB2.](#) Texas Policy Evaluation Project: Research Brief. 2016 Feb. Accessed on Nov 2, 2016.
- Upadhyay UD, et al. "[Incidence of emergency department visits and complications after abortion.](#)" Obstet Gynecol. 2015 Jan;125(1): 175-183.
- White K, et al. "[Complications from first-trimester aspiration abortion: a systematic review of the literature.](#)" Contraception. 2015 Nov;92(5): 422-438.



Lesson Plan in a Flipped Classroom Setting EXPLAINED: TRAP Laws

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

- Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers, or TRAP laws, focus on abortion clinics and providers, which generally make it more difficult—or even impossible—to provide abortion.
- TRAP law provisions do nothing to improve the safety of abortion, but instead have caused clinic closures, which have real measurable effects on women's access to abortion services.
- Because of the Texas TRAP laws, many clinics closed; between 2013 and 2016, the number of Texas abortion clinics dropped from 41 to 17, a 60% decline.
- As clinics closed, women had to travel farther and pay more out of pocket; wait times increased.
- In the first 6 months after the two TRAP provisions of Texas House Bill 2 went into effect:
 - total number of abortions performed in Texas declined by 13%
 - proportion of abortions performed after 12-weeks gestation increased
- The Supreme Court rejected 2 provisions of HB 2 in June of 2016. Their decision said that laws restricting abortion cannot be considered in the abstract, and said that courts must look at the potential benefit of the law compared to the potential risks.

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 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 and distribute the small group activity quiz (page 3-4). 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 on the quiz and have learners share their answers.
- 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 5.

Names



EXPLAINED: TRAP Laws Small Group Activity

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

Questions

1. Which is NOT an example of existing abortion regulations that target the “supply” side of abortion?
 - Abortion facilities are required to have a transfer agreement with a local hospital.
 - Women are required to wait for a period of one to six days after visiting the provider for the first time before having an abortion.
 - Physicians providing abortions must have admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of the facility.
 - Abortion clinics must meet the standards of ambulatory surgical centers.
 - Provision of medication abortion care is limited only to physicians, despite recommendations from the World Health Organization that Advanced Practice Clinicians (e.g. physician’s assistant, nurses, midwives) can safely provide medication abortion.

2. List at least three impacts of clinic closures due to the admitting privileges requirement and the ASC law.
 - i.

 - ii.

 - iii.

3. After the two TRAP laws went into effect, the total number of abortions performed in Texas had - _____, and the proportion of abortions performed after 12 weeks gestation had _____.
 - increased; increased
 - increased; stayed the same
 - increased; decreased
 - decreased; stayed the same
 - decreased; _____ increased



Open-Ended Question

The Supreme Court decision in the Whole Woman’s Health case has, more broadly, made clear of the judicial standard related to undue burden. Courts have a constitutional duty to review factual findings and weigh the potential benefit of the law compared to the potential risks. How do you think this decision will impact similar restrictions on abortion access in other states? What particular effects of this decision do you foresee happening in your own community?



EXPLAINED: TRAP Laws **Quiz Answer Sheet**

Questions and Answers

1. Which is **NOT** an example of existing abortion regulations that target the “supply” side of abortion?
 - Abortion facilities are required to have a transfer agreement with a local hospital.
 - Women are required to wait for a period of one to six days after visiting the provider for the first time before having an abortion.**
 - Physicians providing abortions must have admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of the facility.
 - Abortion clinics must meet the standards of ambulatory surgical centers.
 - Provision of medication abortion care is limited only to physicians, despite recommendations from the World Health Organization that Advanced Practice Clinicians (e.g. physician’s assistant, nurses, midwives) can safely provide medication abortion.

Explanation: Initially, many abortion restrictions that were enacted after Roe v. Wade were focused on women seeking abortion or the “demand” side of abortion. These include laws that require women to receive biased counseling and mandatory waiting periods. More recently, states have begun to focus on the “supply” side of abortion- the clinics and providers. These regulations, more commonly known as TRAP laws, make it more difficult to provide abortion.

2. List at least three impacts of clinic closures due to the admitting privileges requirement and the ASC law.

Answer: (Other responses may also be acceptable)

1. As clinics closed, the remaining facilities became concentrated in the largest cities.
 2. Since more women were living farther from the nearest clinic, women had to travel farther to access care, and thus ended up having significantly higher out-of-pocket costs.
 3. Wait times to get an appointment increased as clinics closed.
3. After the two TRAP laws went into effect, the total number of abortions performed in Texas had - _____, and the proportion of abortions performed after 12 weeks gestation had _____.
 - increase; increased
 - increase; stayed the same
 - increased; decrease
 - decreased; stayed the same
 - decrease; increase**

Explanation: One study showed that during the first 6 months after the two TRAP laws went into effect, the total number of abortions performed in Texas declined by 13%. There was also an increase in the proportion of abortions performed after 12 weeks gestation.