



Current Texas law unintentionally endangers the lives of pregnant women and is **creating a healthcare crisis for all women in our state.**

## The Data

### **Pregnancy complications are routine. Texas law makes them dangerous.**

- **8% of all pregnancies involve complications** that, if left untreated, may harm the mother or the baby.<sup>1</sup>
  - This means **more than 31,000 Texas mothers are especially vulnerable each year.**<sup>2</sup>
  - Since these laws went into effect, **the rate of sepsis, a life-threatening infection, has increased 55% in second trimester pregnancy loss hospitalizations.**<sup>3</sup>
- **1 in 333 pregnant women receive a fatal fetal abnormality diagnosis** and face the heartbreaking reality that their child will not live past birth.<sup>4</sup>
- Current Texas law **forces** a woman to carry a nonviable fetus to term.
  - There were 255 additional infant deaths in Texas from 2021 to 2022, **a staggering 13% increase in infant mortality** (vs. 1.8% for the rest of the US).<sup>5</sup>
  - **Deaths due to birth defects rose by 23%** in Texas from 2021 to 2022, while the rest of the US saw a 3% decline.<sup>5</sup>
- **Pregnancies with fetal anomalies are associated with an increased risk of severe maternal morbidity (SMM)**, defined as any maternal ICU admission, transfusion, uterine rupture, or hysterectomy.<sup>6</sup>
  - **For almost all anomalies, the risk of an SMM is 58% to 227% more likely.**<sup>6</sup>

### **Current laws are inhibiting OB-GYNs from providing medically necessary care, driving them out of Texas.**

- Of ~450 Texas OB-GYNs surveyed on the impact of state reproductive health laws:<sup>7</sup>
  - **76% believe they cannot practice according to evidence-based medicine.**
  - **60% fear legal repercussions** from practicing evidence-based medicine.
  - **21% have thought about or are planning to leave Texas** to practice in another state.
  - **13% are planning to retire early.**
  - **10% have already left Texas** or are leaving their obstetrics practice or medicine altogether.
- In the 2023-2024 application cycle, **Texas saw a 16% decrease in applications to OB-GYN residency programs and a 12% decrease across all specialties** vs. 0.4% increase / 0.6% decrease, respectively, across states where abortion remains legal.<sup>8</sup>
- The state cannot afford to lose quality medical providers as **47% of Texas counties are already maternal care deserts**<sup>9</sup> and **60% of rural hospitals do not provide obstetric care** due in part to a lack of physicians.<sup>10</sup>

### **This impending shortage of OB-GYNs is dangerous for Texas women of all ages.**

- Since these laws went into effect, **Texas' maternal death rate has increased 56%** vs. an average 11% increase in other states.<sup>11</sup>
- Texas ranks as the **second worst performing state in women's health and reproductive care**<sup>12</sup> and has **the highest number of maternal deaths nationwide.**<sup>13</sup>
- As 20% of women consider OB-GYNs to be their primary care providers, without enough OB-GYNs, women will be **forced to forgo early detection and treatment of health issues**, including cancer screenings.<sup>14</sup>

### **75% of Texas GOP primary voters favor modifying state abortion laws.**

- Of 600+ Texas Republican primary voters surveyed in Sept. 2024, **75% support modifications to:**<sup>15</sup>
  - **Add exceptions** for fatal fetal abnormalities, rape, and incest.
  - **Remove severe penalties** for medical professionals.

### **The negative economic impact of Texas abortion bans is growing.**

**66% of "top talent"** (adults ages 18-64 with a college degree who are working full time or looking for full-time work) **says the Texas abortion ban would discourage them from working in the state.**<sup>16</sup>



## References

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