

Summary of Texas Abortion Numbers Post *Dobbs* Update: June 2023

Written by Paul Brown

In February 2023 we endeavored to put together numbers that would reflect an estimate of the number of abortions in Texas in the 12 months post *Dobbs*. We leveraged available data from Texas Health and Human Services, the Texas Policy Evaluation Project, the Journal of the American Medical Association, the US Census Bureau, and included some supplementary information from the New York Times and the LA Times. Here is a step-by-step explanation of what we did to arrive at our final figures:

1. [Texas HHS ITOP Data](#) showed total in-state abortions for Texas in 2021, including an average of 5,143 per month for Jan. – Aug. (pre TX Heartbeat Act), and an average of 2,409 per month for Sep. – Dec. (post SB8).
2. [Out-of-State Travel report by TxPEP](#) indicated that an average of 1,391 women traveled out of state each month Sep. – Dec. 2021. Given they only looked at 34 out of 44 open facilities across 7 states, we estimated that their number was low by at least 10%, and adjusted that figure to 1,546.
3. [JAMA Network reported](#) a spike in requests for abortifacients by mail from Aid Access amongst Texas women immediately after the Heartbeat Act went into effect. While an unfiltered reading of this data would indicate an average of 1,136 requests per month from Sep. – Dec. 2021, we ultimately settled on a more conservative figure of 904 per month due to subsequent data that was released by the same publication showing lower numbers due to differing methodology.
4. Adding the figures from steps 1-3 together we get a final number of 4,859 abortions per month Sep. – Dec. 2021, for a total of 60,580 estimated abortions in 2021 (prior to *Dobbs*).
5. Next we evaluated [another TxPEP report](#) indicating that 97% of women would still consider an abortion via other options if it were no longer available in facilities in Texas. This provided a baseline expectation that numbers post *Dobbs* may not decrease significantly.
6. Ultimately we looked at [another JAMA report](#) that tracked requests for abortifacients across 30 US states before and after the *Dobbs* decision (full text not available online – must be purchased, rented, or accessed through an institution). This report indicated that there were 6 requests per week per 100,000 female residents aged 15 to 44 in Texas from June 21 to August 31, 2022.
 - a. We downloaded [population data from the US Census Bureau](#) and identified that 6,156,590 were included in this population.
 - b. We divided this figure by 100,000 for a number of 61.57.
 - c. Multiplying 61.57 by 6 (requests per week) showed that there were 369 requests per week amongst Texas women.
 - d. To convert the weekly numbers to monthly numbers we divided 369 by 7, which equals 52.714286. We divided that figure by 12 to get 4.392857, which we multiplied by 369 (requests) to show a total of 1,620 requests per month.
7. Since no new, substantive data exists showing how many Texas women travel out of state for abortions, we had to construct this using the post Heartbeat Act data. We simply used the ratio of mail-order abortions to out-of-state travel abortions that existed post SB8 and applied it to the post *Dobbs* numbers.

- a. There were 70.891% more out-of-state travel abortions than mail-order abortions in Sep. – Dec. 2021, yielding a total of 2,743 out-of-state abortions per month post *Dobbs*
- b. **1,605 (mail-order) plus 2,743 (out-of-state) equals 4,348 per month**
- c. **4,348 per month times 12 is 52,176 annually (32,916 out of state and 19,260 by mail)**

A 12-page paper providing more details on the methodology is available, along with PDF copies of sources.

Since publishing the above numbers, we have consistently stated that we consider these numbers to be conservative. While it would be nicer to believe otherwise, more recent information indicates that the numbers may be far worse than originally concluded.

While no new JAMA or TxPEP studies have been released showing concrete data, a number of articles with direct access to primary sources have shed some light on the topic.

An [NBC article](#) published in April 2023 quotes Abigail Aiken, an associate professor of public policy at the University of Texas, who was a contributing author in at least one of the JAMA studies. She stated that Between September 2022 and January 2023 there were an average of 254 requests for mail-order abortion pills from Aid Access per day (nationally). This is an 18.69% jump from the national daily average from June 24, 2022 to August 31, 2022, which constitutes the last previously available data on the subject. Far from staying flat, the numbers have jumped significantly. Just as was the case in February when the initial numbers were compiled, we had no data indicating that those numbers might actually go up, yet they rose significantly. We are in the same position today. It is not unlikely that those trends have continued since January.

To make matters worse, we also now have better data on other online distributors of abortion pills besides Aid Access. In April 2023 the New York Times published [an article](#) indicating that Aid Access only constitutes an estimated 46% of all abortion pills provided outside the US healthcare system from July to December 2022. Another supplier called Las Libres supplied another 35%, and other online sellers constituted the last 19%.

Though the above information from NBC and the NYT is discussing national data, it is reasonable to suggest that these figures represent some increase in the Texas numbers. Without more complete studies that include more data specific to Texas, we would be hesitant to provide newly updated totals.

That being said, it is likely that our original estimate was low by at least 5,000 or 10,000. In keeping with our previous approach, this is an *incredibly* conservative estimate, but it would bring us to an **estimate of between 57,176 and 62,176 abortions annually amongst Texas women**. Unlike our previous estimate, these figures do not indicate *any* drop in the number of abortions since 2020. On the contrary, they indicate an increase of 3.63% to 12.69% from the 2020 number of 55,175.

Abortion is murder. Intentionally pushing for legislation that purposefully provides immunity for the *primary actor* in these murders results in massive loopholes that ultimately result in no justice for the preborn. The time for all people and organizations who call themselves pro life to boldly and explicitly support the total abolition of abortion is now. Anything less will continue to result in the monumental shedding of innocent blood through the continuation of prenatal genocide.