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State abortion policies influence OB-GYN residents' decisions on where to practice and their sense of security in providing care.

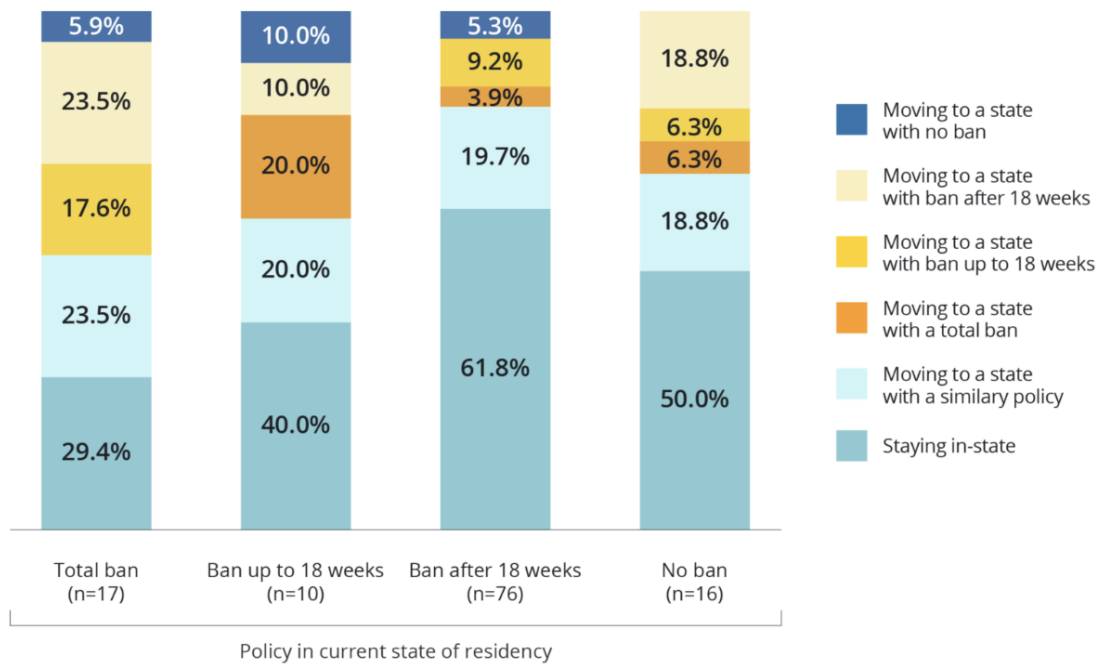
Today, the Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy (CRHLP) at UCLA School of Law released a new report titled, *State Abortion Policies and OB-GYN Residents: How Abortion Policies Influence Career Choices, Relocation Decisions, and Perceived Protection While Providing Care.*

The report examines how restrictive and protective state abortion policies influence where OB-GYN residents practice after residency. The report, linked [here](#), also explores how policies affect their level of concern, sense of legal protection, ability to provide all the care their patients need, and willingness to remain in certain policy environments. The report provides research and policy recommendations to improve reproductive health care education, training, and state health policy.

Abortion policy matters to residents as they choose the location of their practice after residency. Surveying 152 third- and fourth-year OB-GYN residents from 32 states, researchers found that while a little over half of surveyed residents who knew where they were living post-residency were choosing to stay where they trained, state abortion policy mattered to their choice of location. For 46% it informed their decision, and for 13% it was the deciding factor. **Most respondents (81.8%) who were moving out of state after residency were moving to states where abortion is not totally banned.**

"Based on our findings, we echo the calls for further research on the impacts of state abortion policies on the health workforce," said study author Leslie Serrano, Research Analyst at CRHLP. "Our findings show that most OB-GYN residents do not want to practice in states with abortion bans.

States should enact or expand on protective state policies that make providers feel safer while providing sexual and reproductive health care.”



Additional Findings

- Residents in all policy environments with gestational limits or abortion bans at any stage of pregnancy expressed concern about how these limits would impact their practice.
- Residents expressed concern that state and health-system abortion policies will limit their practice and compliance with medical standards of care, especially those in states with total bans or bans up to 18 weeks.
- Residents expressed concern that state abortion policies will put them at risk of facing criminalization, legal ramifications, and professional discipline. Concern was especially pronounced among those who will be practicing in states with total abortion bans or bans up to 18 weeks.
- Residents expressed concern that abortion policies negatively impact their patients' safety, health outcomes, and rights, especially those in states with total bans or bans up to 18 weeks.
- There is an array of protective policies, such as policies that provide protection from out-of-state investigations and policies that prohibit the disclosure of medical information related to abortion, that would make residents feel safer and more legally protected while providing abortion care. The only protective policy surveyed residents did not universally find protective was abortion ban health exceptions.

Our findings suggest that many residents do not want to practice in states with abortion bans or severe restrictions and that few residents training in states with less restrictive laws want to practice in more restrictive states. In the future, we may see growing health care workforce shortages and an increase in care deserts in states that ban and severely restrict abortion. The result will be fewer available doctors to meet pregnant people's abortion needs, as well as their needs for miscarriage care, pregnancy health, and births.

CRHLP will be hosting a webinar September 30th with Pamela Merritt, Executive Director of Medical Students for Choice, Dr. Jody Steinauer, Director of the UCSF Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health and Director of the Kenneth J. Ryan Residency Training Program in Family Planning, Lara Stemple, Senior Scholar with the Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy and Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies and International Programs at UCLA Law, and Leslie Serrano, Research Data Analyst at the Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy. Speakers will discuss the impacts of state abortion policy on medical education, care provision, and decision-making among medical students and residents.

Pre-register for the webinar at this [link](#) and read the full report [here](#).

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The Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy at UCLA Law is an independently funded think tank and research center developing long-term, lasting solutions that advance all aspects of reproductive justice and address the current national crisis of abortion access. We are lawyers, policy experts, scholars, and researchers who are working to increase access to abortion and contraception, end racial and economic disparities in maternal health outcomes, support people who decide to build families, and dismantle the gender bias that limits reproductive justice.