

## Abortion in Alabama Factsheet

**Abortion is a common healthcare intervention.**<sup>1</sup>

Many factors affect **access to abortion** such as **legality** in the state where you live, **affordability, time, and getting the care you need with dignity and respect.**

**Abortion access** is a critical public health, human rights, and **reproductive justice issue.**

Abortion was first made illegal in Alabama in 1841 and was not addressed again in the Alabama Legislature until 1951 to take it from a felony to misdemeanor to perform abortion.<sup>2</sup>

The 1973 Roe v Wade decision by the US Supreme Court made abortion legal to perform again in Alabama and **by 1982 there were 45 locations in Alabama where a person could receive abortion care.**<sup>2</sup>

Starting in 1987 the Alabama Legislature began passing laws to ban abortion in certain circumstances, starting with **parental consent** and reaching to **gestational bans, mandatory waiting periods, insurance coverage bans, and coercive mandatory counseling.**

In 2018, **Constitutional Amendment 2** was passed by ballot initiative which baked fetal personhood into the **Alabama Constitution.**<sup>3</sup> This means that the state “*acknowledges, declares, and affirms that it is the **public policy of [Alabama] to ensure the protection of the rights of the unborn child [fetus] in all manners and measures lawful and appropriate.**”<sup>4</sup>*

In 2019, there were only **3 operating abortion clinics in the state**, spread to the north in Huntsville, to the west in Tuscaloosa, and south central in Montgomery.

During the 2019 Alabama Legislative Session, the **Alabama Human Life Protection Act** was passed which criminalized all abortions in the state except for when the life of the pregnant person is at risk. Because of the federal protection of Roe v Wade the near total ban did not go into effect, until Roe v Wade was overturned in June 2022.

Now, with a common and essential healthcare intervention completely out of reach for Alabamians we are seeing the consequences of almost two centuries of anti-abortion rhetoric and laws continue to wreak havoc on Alabama families.

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<sup>1</sup> [Abortion](#)

<sup>2</sup> [A history of abortion law and abortion access in Alabama](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Alabama Amendment 2, State Abortion Policy Amendment \(2018\) - Ballotpedia](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Creeping Personhood: Analyzing the Impact of Alabama Supreme Court’s Decision on IVF - O’Neill : O’Neill](#)