Measuring *Dobbs'* impact in Wisconsin

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October 5, 2023
National Academies

Wisconsin abortion law 101

1849

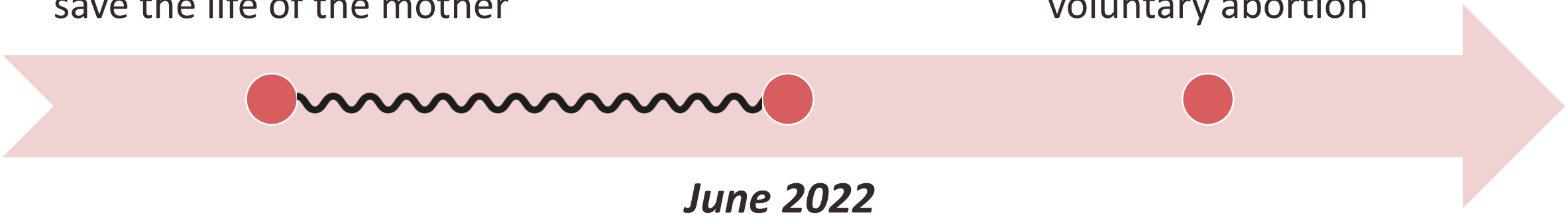
Felony for anyone "other than the mother" to "intentionally destroy the life of an unborn child" except to "save the life of the mother"

June 2022

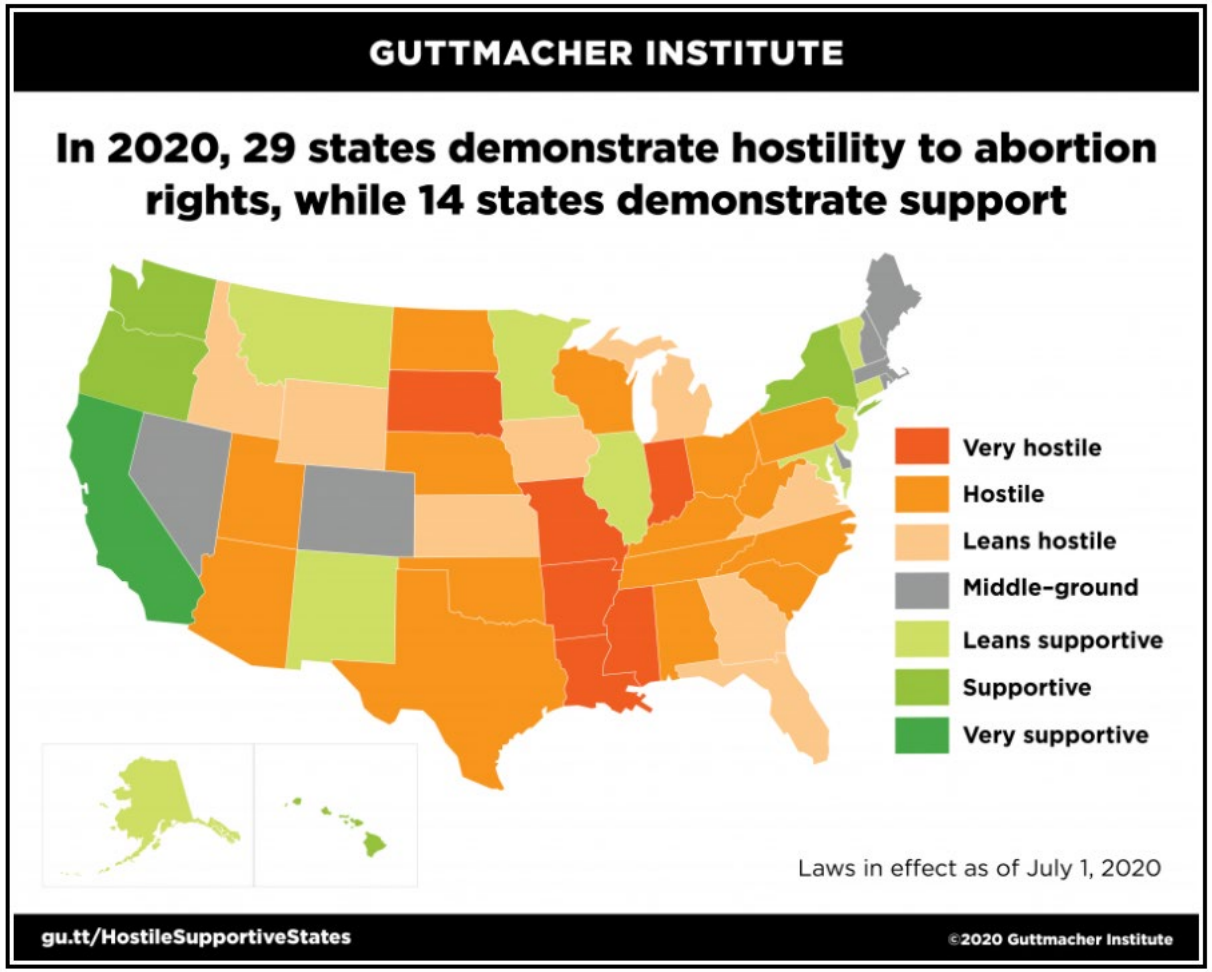
Dobbs decision, all clinics close

September 2023

Circuit court rules that law does not prohibit voluntary abortion



Wisconsin has been "post-*Roe*" for years



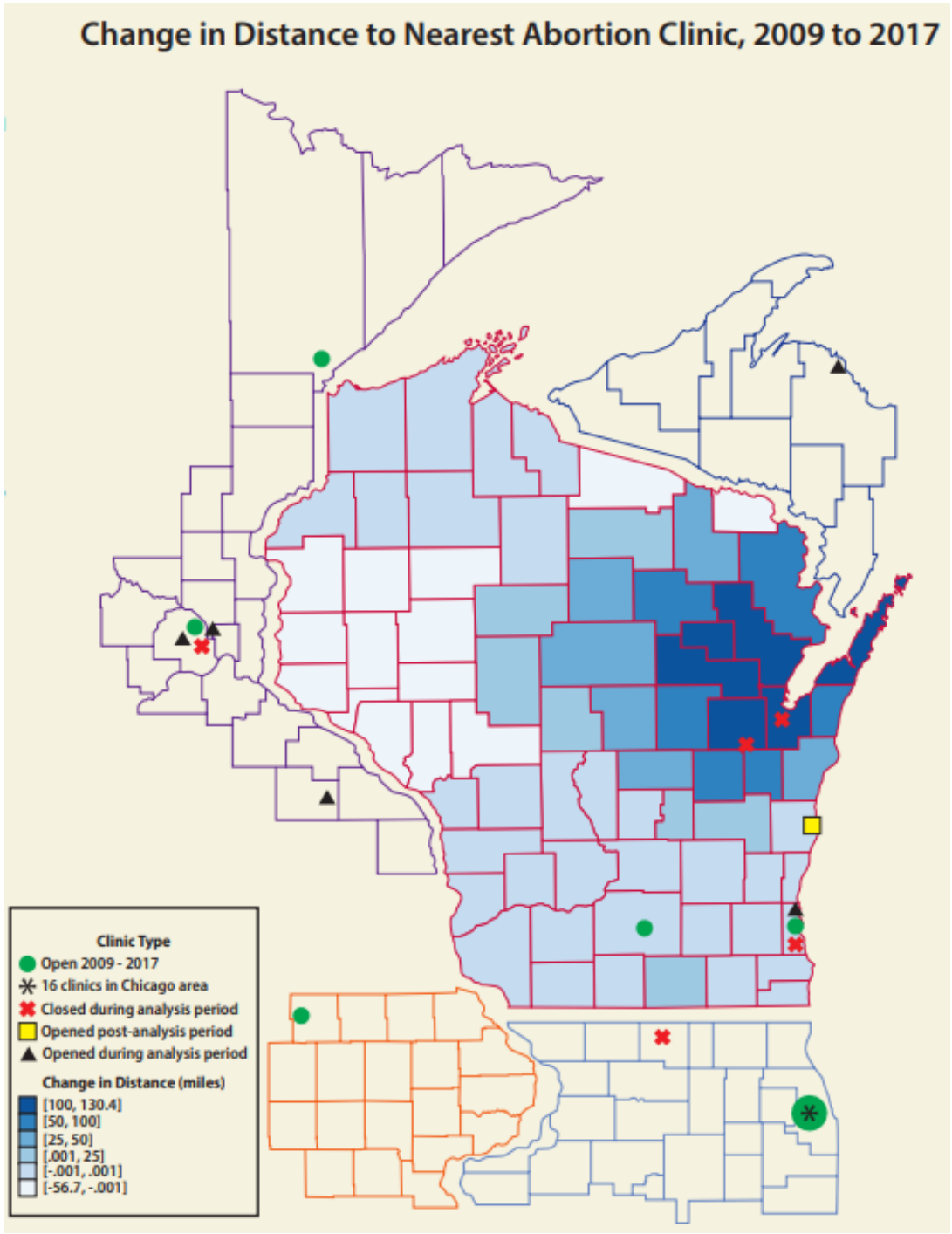
Pre-*Dobbs* Wisconsin abortion restrictions

- Ban on:
  - Medicaid coverage and State of Wisconsin insurance coverage
  - Telehealth abortion
  - Abortion past 20 weeks' gestational duration
- Mandated:
  - 24-hour waiting period
  - Same doctor for medication abortion counseling and pill dispensation
  - Ultrasound
  - Unscientific counseling ("psychological trauma," "danger to subsequent pregnancies")

Pre-*Dobbs* abortion landscape

- In 2010-2017, 40% of the state's abortion clinics closed
  - CORE documented increased birth rates in counties that lost access

- Just prior to *Dobbs*, only three clinics offered abortion care



Post-*Dobbs* abortion landscape

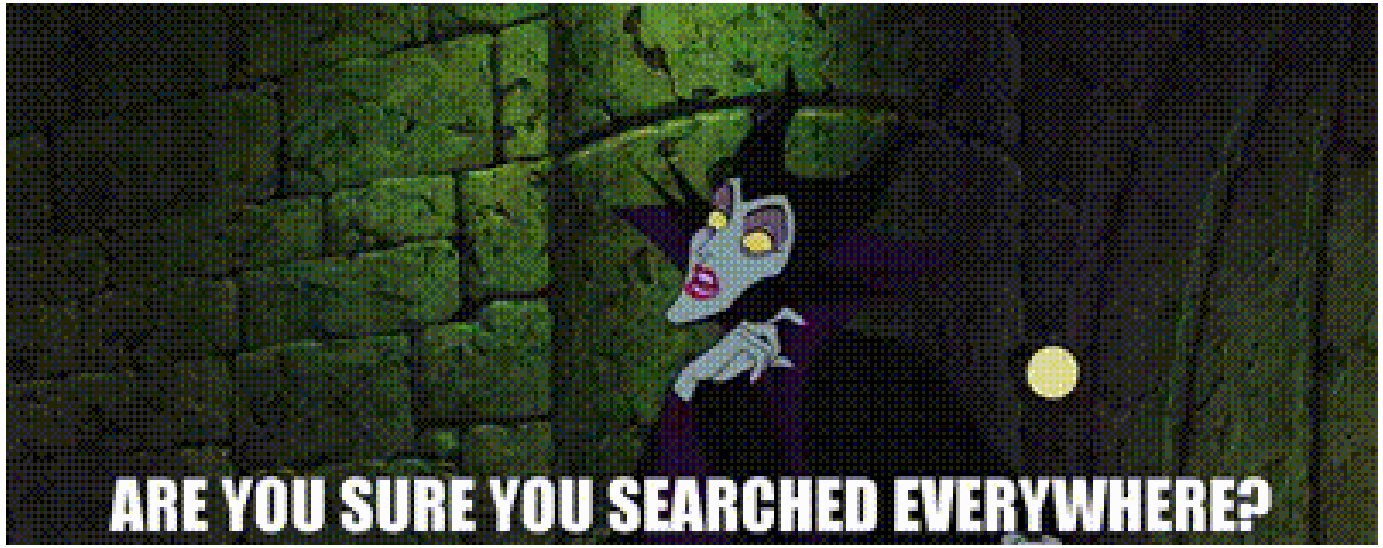
- Remaining clinics stopped offering abortion services
- Three neighboring states retained access

CORE's goal (pre- and) post-*Dobbs*

Document health, wellbeing, and social consequences of barriers to abortion in Wisconsin and beyond

The methodological challenge

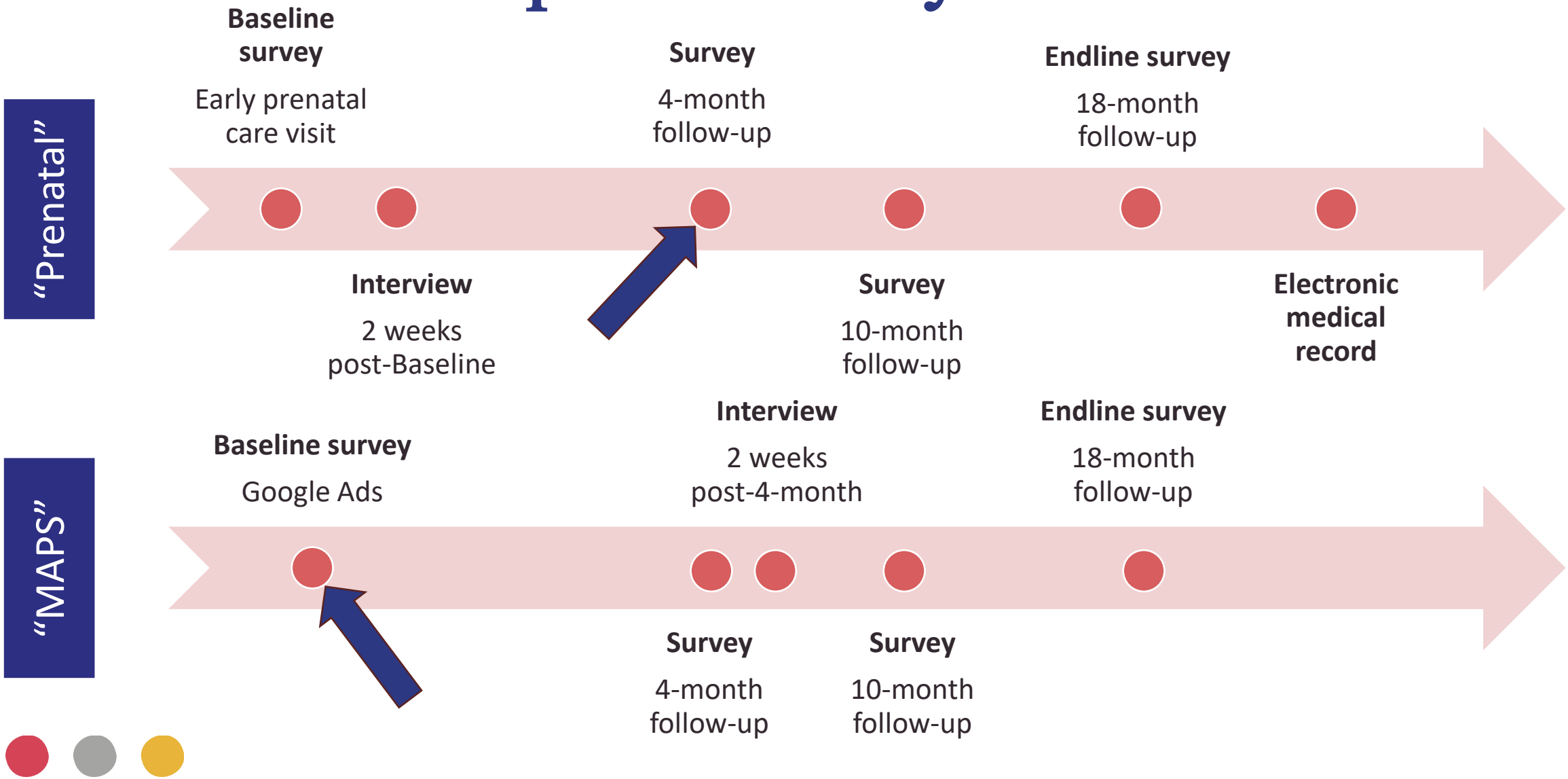
How do we find Wisconsinites considering abortion (who never make it to an abortion provider)?



Post-*Roe* impact research portfolio

	"Turnaway"	"Prenatal"	"MAPS"
Where?	Abortion clinics	Prenatal clinics	Online (Google Ads)
Who?	Turnaway Study participants	Prenatal care patients	Pregnant, considering abortion
How?	In-depth interviews	Longitudinal surveys, interviews	Longitudinal surveys, interviews

Post-*Roe* impact study timelines



Prenatal care study progress

- 35 out of 212 (one in six) participants report having considered abortion
  - Abortion considerers more likely than non-considerers to report financial scarcity, have Medicaid vs private insurance

- 20 abortion considerers have completed interviews
  - Preliminary themes:
    - Confusion abounds
    - The slide into continuing pregnancy is subtle, not dramatic
    - Abortion consideration is common in context of genetic testing

MAPS study progress

- Study is a partnership with Ibis Reproductive Health and Indiana University
  - Drew on Ibis's previous online work in Indiana
- We continue to hone Google Ads campaign
- So far, 14 Wisconsinites have completed the baseline survey

Challenges to date

- Dynamic legal and healthcare delivery context
- Bad actors and bots
- Folks hard for researchers to find pre-*Dobbs* are even harder to find now

Strategies for success

- Lean into research partnerships
- Maintain critical relationships with Wisconsin partners and providers
- Bake potential for change into instruments and design
- Include data scientists as key team members
- Plan for bad actors in screening, data quality checks

Hope survives!

- Partnerships are stronger and more important than ever
- Learning opportunities abound
- Our methods are working!

Thank you!

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Extra slides

What do we do with the data?

JOURNAL OF
POLICY ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT

Research Article | Full Access

Undue Burden Beyond Texas: An Analysis of Abortion Clinic Closures, Births, and Abortions in Wisconsin

Joanna Venator, Jason Fletcher

First published: 03 November 2020 | https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22263 | Citations: 14

WMJ advancing the art & science of medicine in the midwest

"The biggest problem with access:" Wisconsin legislation's impacts on medication abortion experiences

Ms. Taryn M. VALLEY, MA,[a,b] Ms. Meghan ZANDER, BA,[a] Dr. Laura JACQUES, MD,[a] and Dr. Jenny A. HIGGINS, PhD, MPH[a]


ROE V. WADE'S FALL
Consequences for Wisconsin
UW CORE
CORE BRIEF
What it costs Wisconsinites to obtain abortion
April 2023
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CORE BRIEF
Impacts of abortion restrictions on pregnant people, their partners, families, and communities
July 2023
UW CORE
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Since the June 2022 U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization overturned Roe v. Wade, abortion healthcare services have been unavailable in Wisconsin, except in extremely rare cases. Wisconsin is one of 15 states where abortion is now essentially banned.
Even before Dobbs, abortion care was heavily restricted and difficult to access in Wisconsin. Reproductive health policy experts had long classified Wisconsin as hostile to abortion due to a slew of scientifically unfounded laws that reduced access, including perhaps the most onerous medication abortion restrictions in the country.[1] After 40% of the state's abortion clinics closed between 2010 and 2020, CORE researchers documented increases in birth rates in the Wisconsin counties furthest from the remaining clinics.[2]

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Today, @PPAWI announced it will resume abortion healthcare services on Monday. Evidence shows accessible, affordable abortion care services are essential for reproductive equity, autonomy, and the wellbeing of pregnant people in Wisconsin. More fro

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UW Collaborative for Reproductive Equ
Today, Planned Parenthood of Wiscon
announced that it will resume abortion

2:27 PM · Sep 14, 2023 · **524** Views

wisccore

wisccore Edited • 6w
What are the implications of yesterday's ruling from the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals on the widely used abortion medication mifepristone? Access to mifepristone ***will not change*** until the U.S. Supreme Court decides in this case. But if the ruling goes into effect, it **would bring big changes to abortion care.**

✔ The ruling keeps in place the FDA's original approval of mifepristone for abortion and miscarriage care from 2000.
✔ It also keeps in place the FDA's later approval of the generic version of the drug.
✘ But the ruling would reverse

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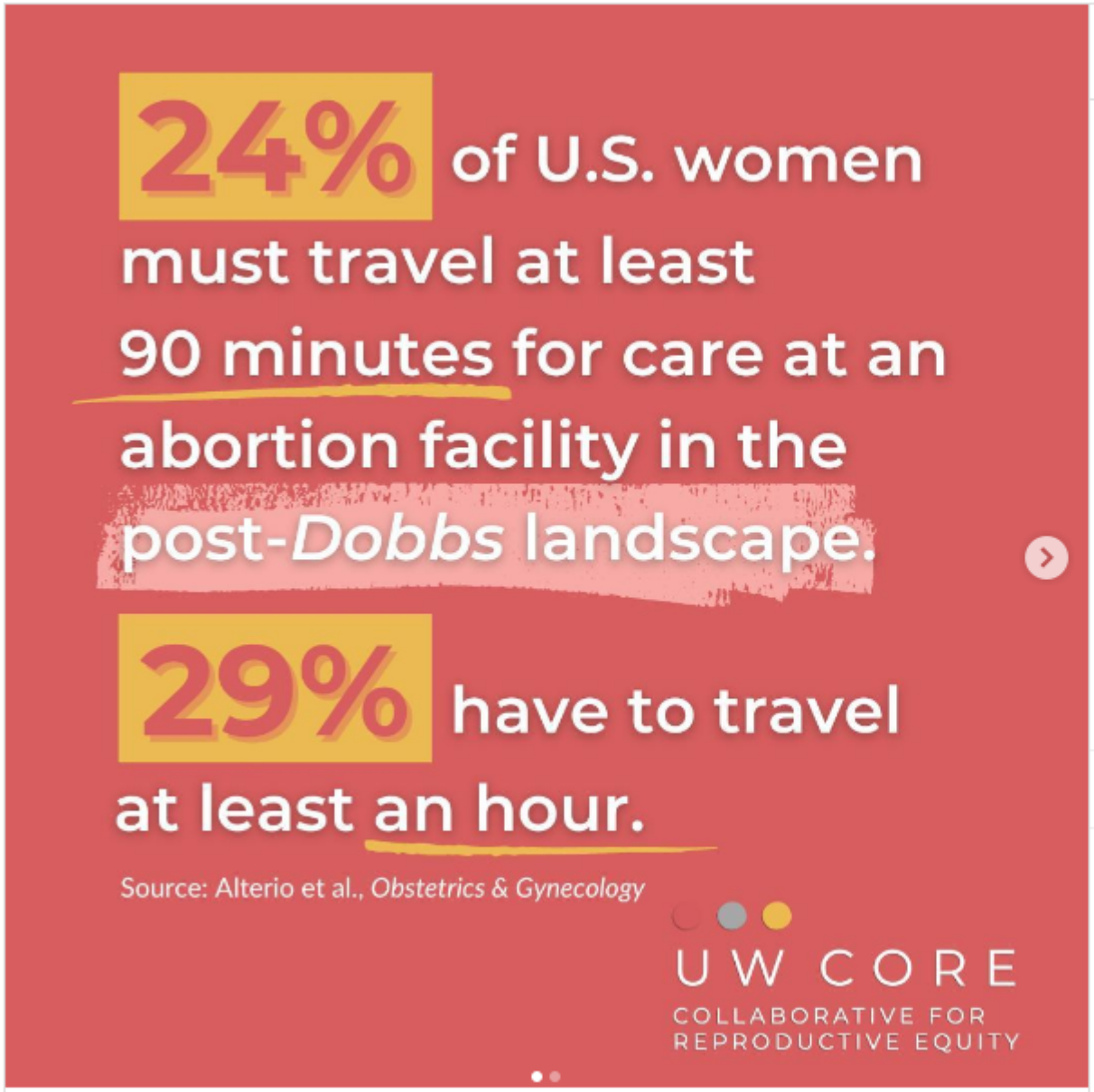

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wisccore 6w
In the post-#Dobbs landscape, 24% of U.S. women of reproductive age must travel at least 90 minutes for care at an abortion facility and 29% have to travel at least an hour. That's from a new study by @wsumedicine, @ucdavis, and @uncchapelhill in @greenjrnl.

If all states the authors categorized as no access, severely limited access, or at risk of losing access enacted abortion bans:
❌ 54% of women wouldn't have access within a 30-minute drive
❌ 46% and 43% wouldn't have access within a 60- and 90-minute drive, respectively

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AUGUST 22

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590
fewer abortions have taken place in Wisconsin every month since the Dobbs decision.
Each of those numbers represents an individual pregnant person affected by recent changes in abortion policy.
Source: #WeCount/Society of Family Planning
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wisccore 23w
In #Wisconsin, a total of 3,540 fewer abortions, or 590 fewer abortions each month, took place between June and December 2022 post-#Dobbs compared to prior months. That's from a new report by the #WeCount national abortion counting effort. Read our analysis at the link in our bio.
The #WeCount report documents:
⚠ Continued steep declines in abortion across the U.S. following the #Dobbs Supreme Court decision
⚠ Additional abortion numbers in less-restrictive states do not make up for the declines in more-restrictive
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APRIL 25
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A new @WiscCORE brief estimates the cost to obtain an abortion in the post-#Roe landscape. For three example #Wisconsin patients traveling to reproductive healthcare centers in neighboring states, costs exceed $1,000 in each scenario — presenting significant hardship. In context:

About 40% of U.S. adults couldn't cover an unexpected $400 expense without going into debt.
Due to structural factors, people most in need of abortion care disproportionately experience poverty and financial scarcity.
Research documents that 75% of abortion patients have low incomes

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MAY 2

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@WiscCORE

On this Labor Day, we share some of the extensive evidence documenting how abortion restrictions:
❌ Reduce people's ability to participate in the labor force as they see fit
❌ Jeopardize worker recruitment & retention
❌ Lessen people's ability to achieve life aspirations (1/5)

UW CORE- The Collaborative for Repr... @Wis... · Jul 25 Promote ···

Even before #Dobbs, many hospitals had policies prohibiting abortion care, including in #Wisconsin. Researchers have shown these policies and other abortion restrictions can negatively affect pregnancy-related healthcare, especially miscarriage management. #TeachingTuesday (1/4)

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This #PrideMonth, we recognize abortion as an LGBTQ+ issue, the effects of abortion restrictions on the LGBTQ+ community amid numerous intersecting threats to LGBTQ+ rights, and the critical need for safe, affordable, gender-affirming abortion services. #TeachingTuesday (1/6)

UW CORE- The Collaborative for Repr... @Wis... · Aug 16

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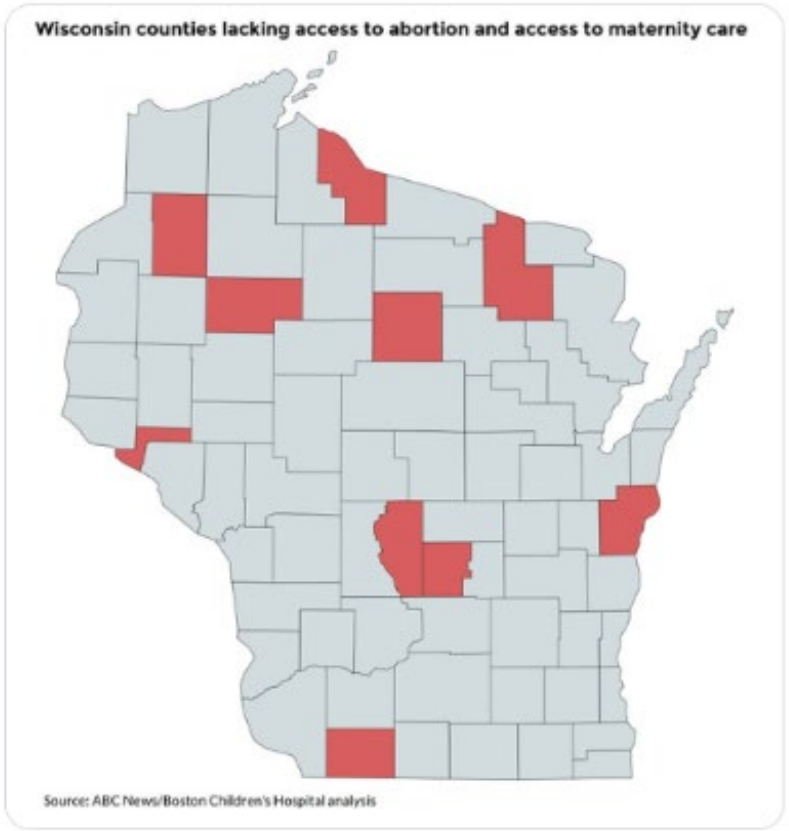
Did you know? In Wisconsin, 10 counties are "double deserts" – lacking access to abortion AND access to maternity care. That's according to a new @ABC/@BostonChildrens analysis drawing on data from @MarchofDimes and @JAMA_current. abcn.ws/45n4WUB (1/3)



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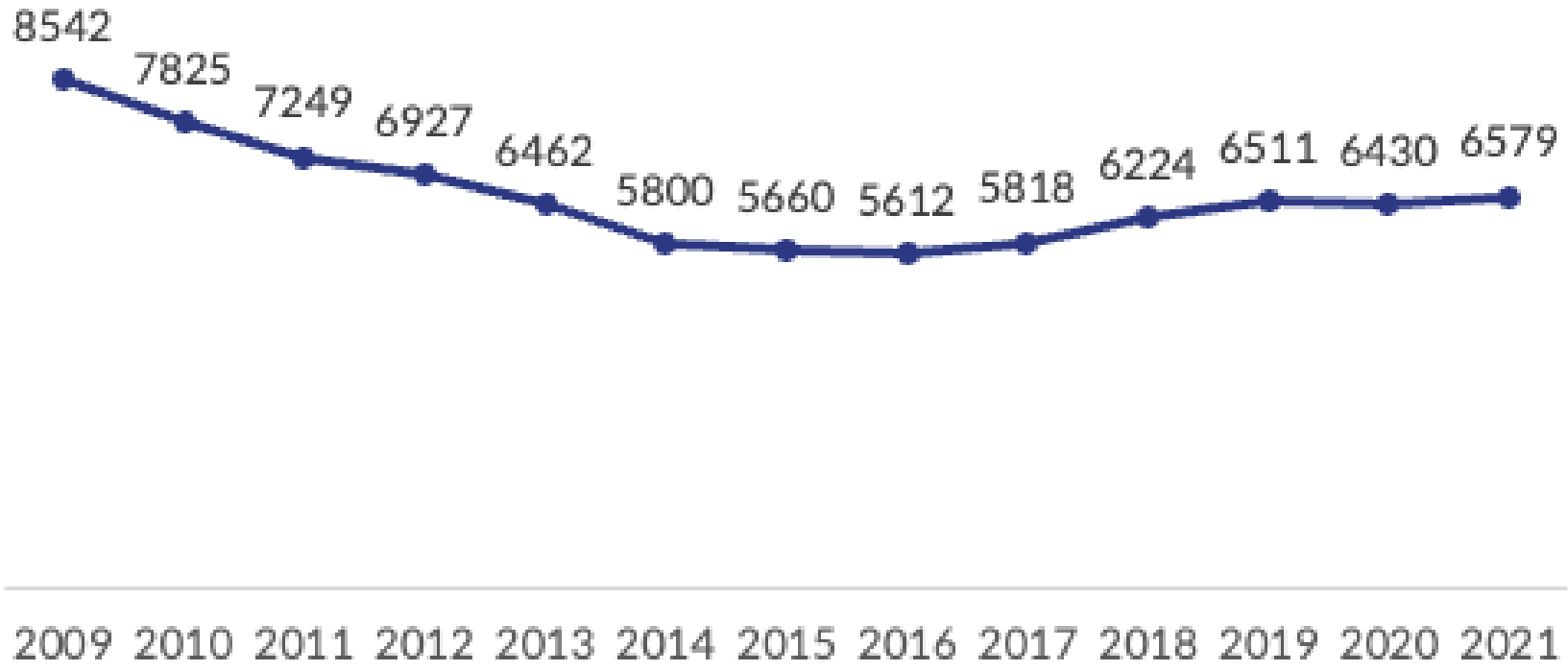
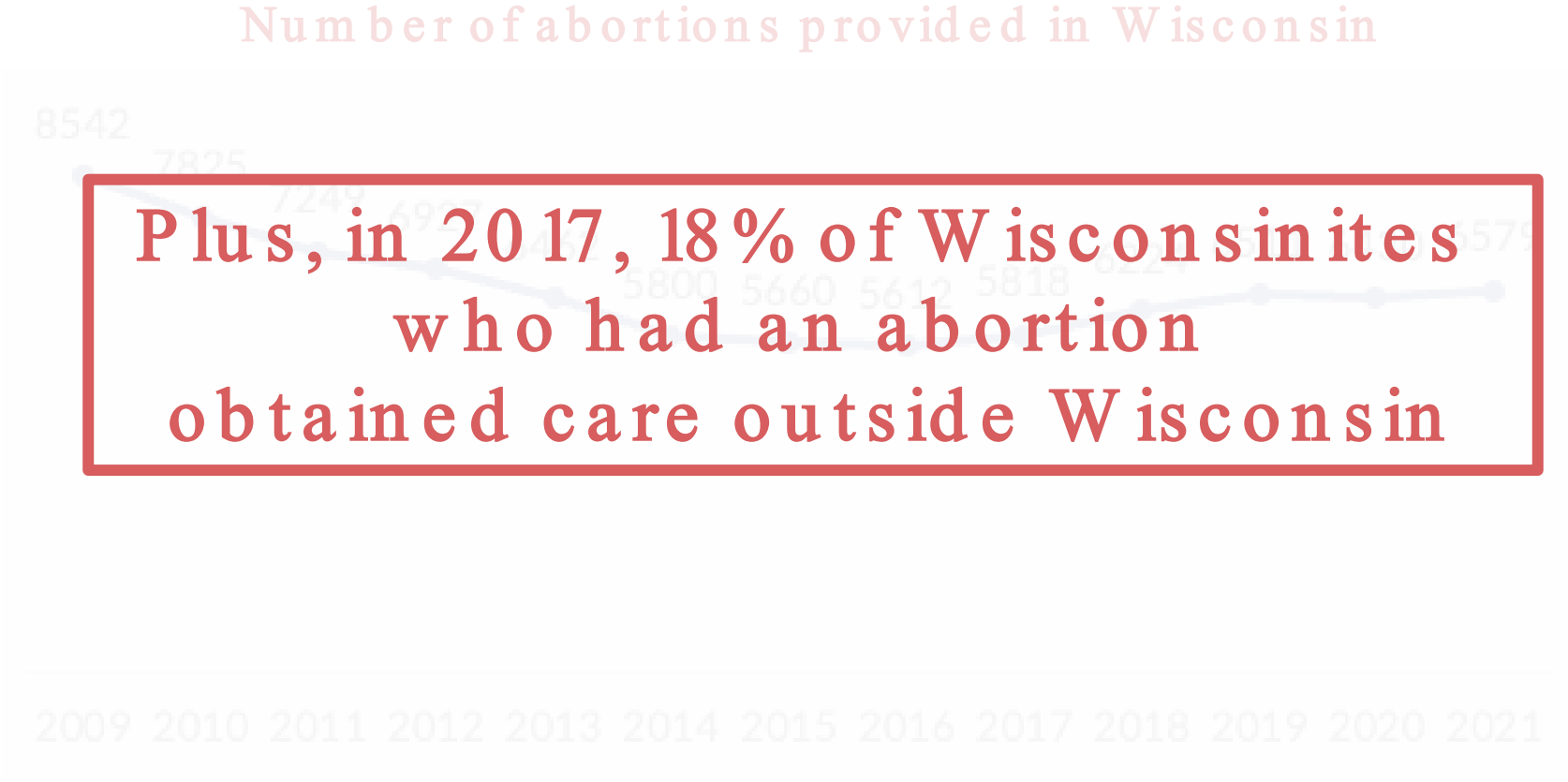
Pre-*Dobbs* access

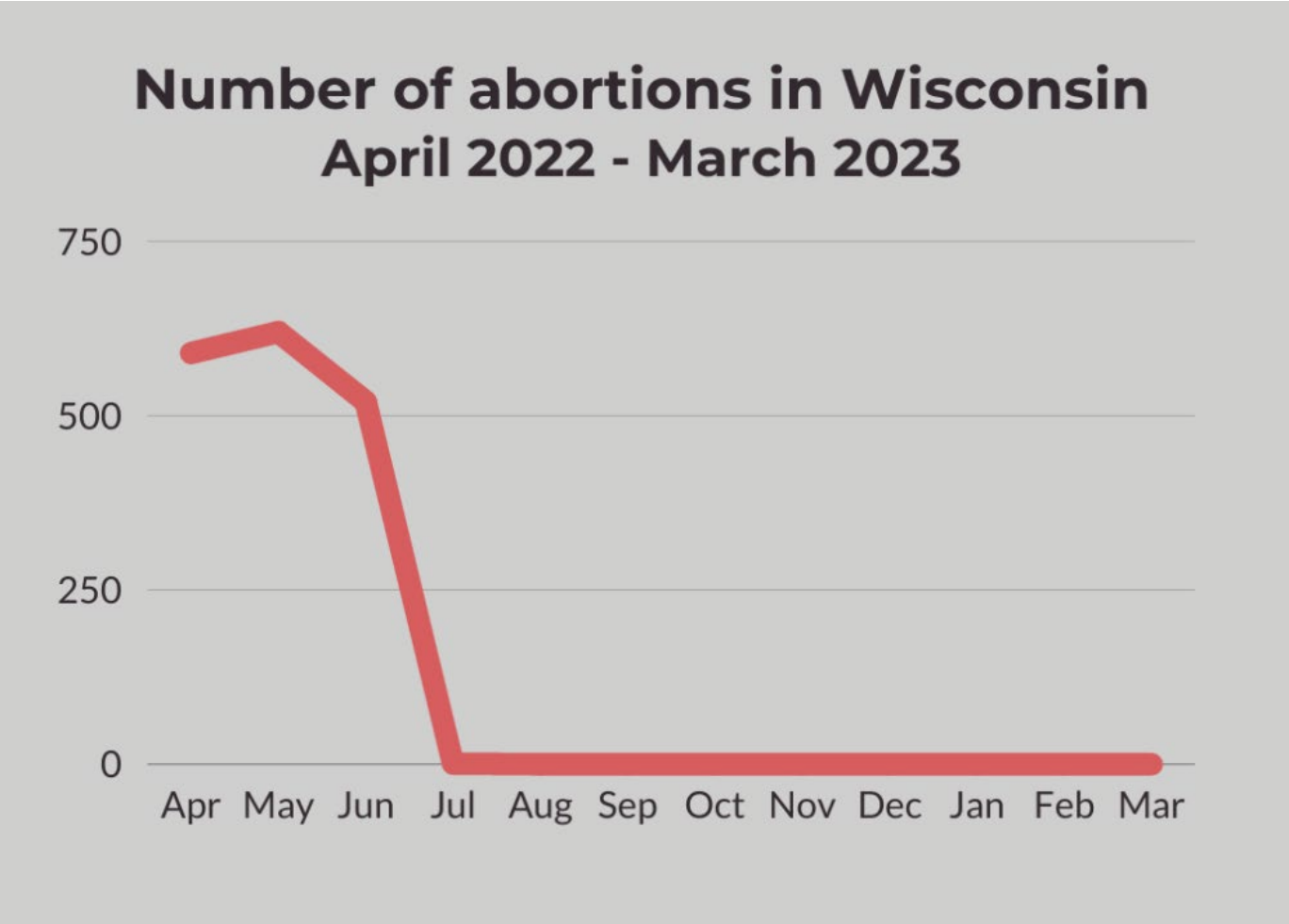
Number of abortions provided in Wisconsin



Pre-*Dobbs* access



Plus, in 2017, 18% of Wisconsinites who had an abortion obtained care outside Wisconsin



Source: Society for Family Planning, #WeCount

7,080 fewer abortions took place in Wisconsin in the year after *Dobbs*

Post-*Dobbs*, what happened to Wisconsinites who wanted abortion?

- Some crossed state lines for abortion
  - However, increases in haven states did not make up for all decreases in ban states
- Some self-managed an abortion
- Some did not have an abortion

	% change in abortions, 2020 to Jan-June 2023
Illinois	+69%
Iowa	+11%
Michigan	+16%
Minnesota	+25%
Wisconsin	-100%

Source: Society for Family Planning, #WeCount