

# Veterans Health Administration, Office of Women's Health Reproductive Health Post Dobbs

June 2024

### Veteran's Health Administration

- Largest Integrated Health Care System in the Country
- >2 million female Veterans in US, >700K use VHA, 40% reproductive age
- Compared to General Population, female Veterans:
  - More likely to be non-white
  - More likely to be rural
  - High Mental Health/Trauma Burden
- Approximately 7,000 deliveries in 2023

Per VSSC WATCH Report for FY21: <u>Pyramid Analytics (va.gov)</u> Source: Washington DL, VA HSR&D #IIR-17-289 Preconception Care in VHA, Callegari et al SRM 2018;36(6):327



#### **Provision of Abortion: Pivot Post Dobbs**

#### Pre-Dobbs:

- Abortion and "Abortion Counseling" excluded from Medical Benefits Package
- Veterans relied on care outside VA

#### Post-Dobbs:

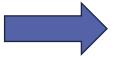
- VA published <u>IFR, 9/2022</u>
- Abortion counseling (pregnancy options counseling) and abortion in certain circumstances
- Federal Supremacy

### **Implementation**

#### **National**



### Regional



Local

#### Workforce

- Change Management
- Training
- Excusal Process

#### Resources

- Mifepristone
- Pelvic transvaginal ultrasound
- Uterine Evacuation
  - EVA/MVA

### Challenges

- Chilling affect of punitive state laws
- Resistance to change
- Reliance on community for pregnancy-related care
- Travel costs

#### **Successes**

- Large integrated healthcare system
  - All pharmacies REMS certified
  - Clinical resource hubs/telemedicine
  - Ability to provide care across regions
  - Wrap-around support
    - Primary care management of chronic disease
    - Access to contraception if desired
    - Intimate partner violence support
    - Mental health support/SUD treatment
- Building infrastructure for abortion care improves all care for Veterans





## Thank You

Name: Amanda M. Johnson, MD

Title: Acting Deputy Chief Officer, Office of Women's

Health

Organization: Veteran's Health Administration

Email address: Amanda.Johnson@va.gov