

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

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

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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: [Pyramid Analytics \(va.gov\)](https://www.pyramidanalytics.va.gov)
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 [IFR, 9/2022](#)
- Abortion counseling (pregnancy options counseling) and abortion in certain circumstances
- Federal Supremacy

Implementation



- **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

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Thank You

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