

EMORY RISE RESEARCHERS FIND 90% OF ABORTIONS IN GEORGIA OCCURRING IN PRIOR YEARS LIKELY BANNED UNDER NEW RESTRICTIONS

The ban further harms patients who are Black, young, and with a high school diploma or less.

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Following the US Supreme Court's ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, Georgia's House Bill (HB) 481 went into effect on July 20, 2022, banning abortions after around six weeks into a person's pregnancy.

A new open-access [study](#) from researchers at the Center for Reproductive Health Research in the Southeast (RISE) estimated the effects of HB 481 on abortion access in the state. Using Georgia Department of Public Health abortion data from 2007 to 2017, RISE found that nearly 9 in 10 (88.4%) abortions in Georgia are likely banned under HB 481's requirements.

"By enacting this law limiting abortion to early pregnancy, the state stripped millions of Georgians of their reproductive autonomy," said Dr. Sara Redd, the study's lead author and RISE researcher.

The study also found that the early abortion ban disproportionately harms Black people, with fewer abortions among Black patients likely meeting the new legal requirements for abortion care (9.6%) under HB 481 compared to White patients (16.2%). Similar inequities were observed by age and education level, with the ban most affecting people younger than 20 years old and people with a high school diploma or less.

"These findings affirm what Amplify's partners have seen in clinics and communities across Georgia for years and what's been heightened since the enforcement of this latest ban," said Roula AbiSamra, study co-author and a staff member with the Amplify Georgia Collaborative.

"Abortion restrictions are largely successful in putting care out of reach for everyday people, and most of all for those who already face bias and barriers in getting the healthcare they need," AbiSamra said.

Authors are available for comment. Please send media requests to RISE@emory.edu.

Read the open-access study [here](#).

Learn more about the Center for Reproductive Health Research in the Southeast [here](#).

Learn more about the Amplify Georgia Collaborative [here](#).