



# ABORTION IS HEALTH CARE



Abortion Rights Vigil in Pasadena, Photography by Luwin Kwan

On June 24, 2022 the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark 1973 Supreme Court decision that affirmed the federal constitutional right to abortion.

**Abortion remains safe and legal in California, and as your local Planned Parenthood, we are not backing down from this fight.**

## “MY ABORTION ALLOWED ME TO...”

Complete my college degree.

Raise my kids.

Get treatment for my eating disorder.

Take care of my partner who has cancer.

Work on my marriage.

Leave a toxic relationship.

Care for my elderly parents.

- PPSGV Patients

## Our doors are open

Over 100 Planned Parenthood health centers across the state continue to provide abortions, without judgement. With your support, Planned Parenthood Pasadena & San Gabriel Valley (PPPSGV) is doing its part to ensure that every person can access the care they need to control their body, their life, and their future.

### Expanding Access

We are committed to ensuring that our abortion services are accessible to all. We are training more clinicians to be abortion providers, offering abortions at a later gestation, adding abortion appointments to our schedule, creating an abortion patient navigation program, and more to meet the growing need to expand access.

### Mobilizing Our Communities

In partnership with local organizations, we have come together to mobilize thousands of residents to express our collective solidarity and support for abortion justice. We organize and participate in vigils, rallies, and other community events across our service area.

### Advocating for Change

We are part of California's Future of Abortion (FAB) Council comprised of over 40 reproductive freedom and sexual and reproductive health care allies, partners, and leaders throughout the state. The FAB Council developed 45 policy recommendations designed to protect and expand abortion access across California. In September, Governor Newsom signed all 17 FAB Council bills into law and the State Budget invested more than \$200 million to expand and protect abortion access. In November, Californians overwhelmingly voted in support of abortion access by passing Proposition 1, a measure to codify access to abortion and contraception in the state constitution.

# REMOVING BARRIERS TO CARE



Like so many California providers, we continue to see the fallout from the Supreme Court's cruel and devastating decision. Our volume of out-of-state abortion patients has increased threefold in the last year, with most traveling from Texas and Arizona. We are committed to removing any logistical or financial barriers to accessing care. We do this by supporting patients with the coordination of travel, lodging, time off work, child care, insurance coverage, and more before they walk through our doors. We know that these barriers disproportionately harm people of color, people living below the poverty level, young people, LGBTQ+ people, and others who are medically underserved.

**To ensure equitable access in this new post-Roe landscape, PPSGV now has an Abortion Access Specialist on staff to support all out-of-state abortion patients in overcoming obstacles to care.**

**One of the biggest questions our out-of-state patients ask is 'am I going to get in trouble for getting care in California?' and I want to make sure they know that they're coming into a safe space when they visit our health centers.**

— Carmen, Abortion Access Specialist



Beyond supporting patients with scheduling appointments, our Abortion Access Specialist works directly with each person to identify their lodging, transportation, and financial needs. They help patients navigate insurance options, access financial assistance through abortion funds, and have built partnerships with local hotels to ensure anyone traveling to our health centers has a safe place to stay. Our Access Specialist also plays an important role in dispelling myths, assuaging fears, and answering sensitive questions through one-on-one conversations with each patient. We plan to expand this support to in-state abortion patients soon.

## THE FACTS

Nearly **1 IN 4 WOMEN** will have an abortion by the age of 45.

(Guttmacher Institute, 2017)

**59%** of abortions in the U.S. are obtained by people with children.

(Guttmacher Institute, 2016)

As many as **16,100 PATIENTS PER YEAR** are estimated to travel to California for abortion from states where the procedure is banned or restricted.

(UCLA Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy, 2022)



Having an abortion means someone is **4 TIMES MORE LIKELY** to live above the poverty line, finish their planned education, and report higher levels of emotional wellbeing, compared to someone who was denied an abortion.

(Advancing New Standards In Reproductive Health, 2022)

# DESTIGMATIZING ABORTION

## How you can help change the narrative

Abortion stigma creates and maintains social, medical, and legal barriers to abortion access across our country. Stigma, acknowledged and unacknowledged, leads to discomfort about abortion and perpetuates a dangerous cycle of misinformation, shame, and silence surrounding it. Everyone has their own personal reasons for seeking an abortion, and all of those reasons are valid. As stigma continues to be weaponized to support abortion restrictions throughout the country, it is more important than ever to be proud, vocal advocates for sexual and reproductive rights and to stop perpetuating harmful ideas about abortion.

### Abortion stigma

is a shared understanding that abortion is morally wrong and/or socially unacceptable.

## LANGUAGE MATTERS

Instead of...	Consider using...
Choice	Decision
Reduce abortion, keep abortion rare	Reduce rate of unintended pregnancy, keep abortion safe and legal
Anti-choice, Pro-life	Anti-reproductive health, Anti-abortion
"Late-term" abortion	Abortion later in pregnancy
Women's rights	Reproductive rights
Heartbreaking, tragic	Complex, personal decision
Implying that abortion rights are not popular	Amplifying the fact that the majority of Americans believe abortion should be legal
Unwanted / unplanned	Unintended
Terminate / termination	End a pregnancy



## Leading by example

Stigma is pervasive. From supporters and politicians to providers and patients, anyone can internalize and uphold misconceptions about abortion. In order to address stigma head-on and encourage more open, honest, and compassionate dialogue, PPPSGV is facilitating anti-stigma trainings, values clarification workshops, and other resources for staff, volunteers, patients, community leaders, elected officials, and supporters. Our Public Affairs team is also leading the creation of an online, interactive training module designed to empower users with the information and tools needed to begin recognizing and dismantling stigma in their day-to-day life. The new training module will launch later this year and will be available to the public via our website.

Abortion is Health Care.

# LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

## Abortion Over the Years



### TODAY

Proposition 1 passes in the November 2022 election, enshrining the right to abortion and contraception in the California State Constitution. Abortion services are available at all 5 PPPSGV health centers. We provided 3,555 abortions last year.

1967

California legislature enacts the Therapeutic Abortion Act, legalizing abortion in specific and limited circumstances.

1969

California Supreme Court decides *People v. Belous*, marking the first time the U.S. recognized a patient's constitutional right to abortion, specifically on the grounds of privacy and liberty.

1973

*Roe v. Wade* recognizes abortion as a right protected by the U.S. Constitution, legalizing abortion nationwide.

1976

The Hyde Amendment first goes into effect, prohibiting the use of federal Medicaid funds for almost all abortions.

1991

PPPSGV launches abortion services at our Pasadena Health Center.

1992

*Planned Parenthood v. Casey* introduces the 'undue burden' standard for evaluating abortion laws, making it harder (than the test set forth in *Roe*) to challenge abortions restrictions in federal court.

2000

Medication abortion is approved by the FDA.

2022

The U.S. Supreme Court overturns *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.

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