An innovative approach to assessing the relationship between legislative restrictions, abortion clinic closures, and abortion rates in Ohio, 2006-2017

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Introduction
Abortion care has become increasingly restricted in Ohio and across the United States since 2010. We assess the abortion care landscape in Ohio to understand the relationships between targeted regulations of abortion providers (TRAP laws), abortion clinics’ ability to provide comprehensive abortion services, and abortion care access.

Data and Methods

Data
Timelines of abortion clinic dates of operation and of state legislative changes related to abortion care
Sources:
• Ohio Department of Health
• Archival Internet Research
Crude abortion rates by county
Sources:
• Ohio Department of Health annual abortion reports
• CDC’s Vital Statistics

Methods
We used ArcGIS to create a series of static maps to demonstrate and analyze the distribution of crude abortion ratios by county, clinic closures, and legislative changes from 2006 to 2017.

Acknowledgements
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Figures

2006

2017

TRA P Laws Implemented in Ohio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Law</th>
<th>Restrictions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>HB 153</td>
<td>Bans public facilities from providing non-therapeutic abortions&lt;br&gt;Extends ban on state funding of insurance plans that cover abortion</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>HB 78</td>
<td>Bans abortion once viability is confirmed, requires viability testing at 20 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>HB 63</td>
<td>Minors seeking abortion must get judicial bypass in their own county</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>HB 79</td>
<td>Prohibits Affordable Care Act insurance plans from covering non-therapeutic abortions</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>HB 59</td>
<td>Prohibits abortion without prior testing for a fetal heartbeat&lt;br&gt;Restricts funding for Rape Crisis Centers who give abortion referrals&lt;br&gt;Codifies written transfer agreement requirements for clinics&lt;br&gt;Redirects Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds from family planning facilities to crisis pregnancy centers</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>HB 64</td>
<td>Defines local hospital for transfer agreements as one within 30 miles of clinic&lt;br&gt;Sets further restrictions on variance applications for transfer agreements</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>HB 294</td>
<td>Limits Planned Parenthood from receiving certain federal funds</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>SB 127</td>
<td>Bans abortion after 22 weeks from a person’s last missed period</td>
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Results

Legislative Changes, Clinic Statuses, and Abortion Rates
- Coincidental with TRAP laws being implemented, abortion clinics began to close in Ohio—especially those outside of major metropolitan areas.
- The crude abortion rate declined during our study period, especially in rural counties where access decreased.
- The largest decreases occurred 2011-2013.

Conclusions
Interactive, web-based mapping tools and static maps provide a portrait of changing abortion access in Ohio to patients, healthcare providers, researchers, and patients. This approach provides immediate, unrestricted information to Ohioans who want to know where abortion services are available, what legislative changes coincided with clinic closures, and how these changes are reflected in county abortion rates.

Implications for Uterine Transplant
Our research demonstrates the state legislature’s commitment to regulating reproduction in Ohio. As uterine transplant becomes more common, healthcare providers and patients are likely to interface with the state reproductive regulatory apparatus beyond federal regulations governing organ transplantation.