

The Turnaway Study

Mila Lewis-Peinado

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Introduction

Goal of the study: describe mental, physical, and socioeconomic effect of getting a wanted abortion vs. getting denied for a wanted abortion

- ▶ Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH) at UCSF
- ▶ Gap in research

Focus on study design and statistical analysis

Study Design: Groups

- ▶ First trimester abortion group
- ▶ Near limit group : Women who sought an abortion up to two weeks under the facility's gestational limit and received an abortion
- ▶ Turnaway group: Women who sought an abortion up to three weeks over the gestational limit and were turned away without receiving an abortion

Study Design: Recruitment

- ▶ Recruitment was from Jan 2008 to Dec 2010
 - ▶ Interviews ended Jan 2016
- ▶ Natural experiment in 1:2:1 ratio
- ▶ 30 facilities
- ▶ Inclusion criteria: English/Spanish speaking, 15 y/o or older, no fetal anomalies

Study Design: Flowchart

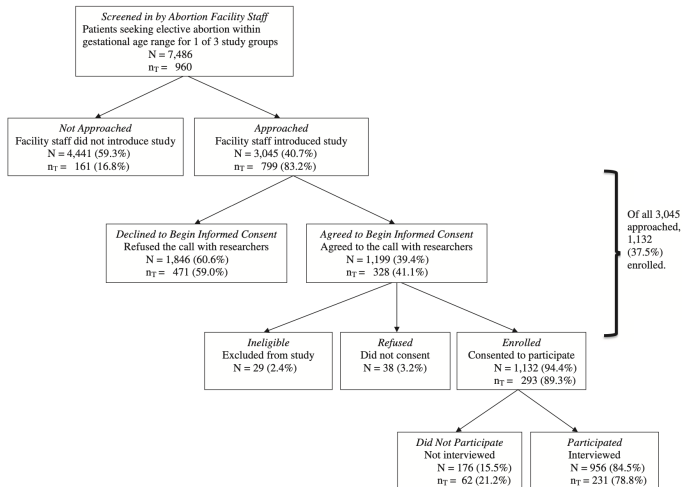


Figure 1. Recruitment process for all patients seeking induced abortion and initially screened eligible, including those denied abortions in the turnaway study group, at 30 abortion facilities in the United States, 2008 to 2010. N, number of patients screened eligible in all three study groups; n_T, number in the turnaway study group only.

Study Design: Incentives

- ▶ Facilities: 1000 USD each quarter of the recruitment period
- ▶ Staff: 15 USD gift cards every few months, chocolate, flowers, cards
- ▶ Participants
 - ▶ Informed consent: 15 USD gift card
 - ▶ 50 USD gift card after each interview

Statistical Analysis: Linear Mixed Effects Models

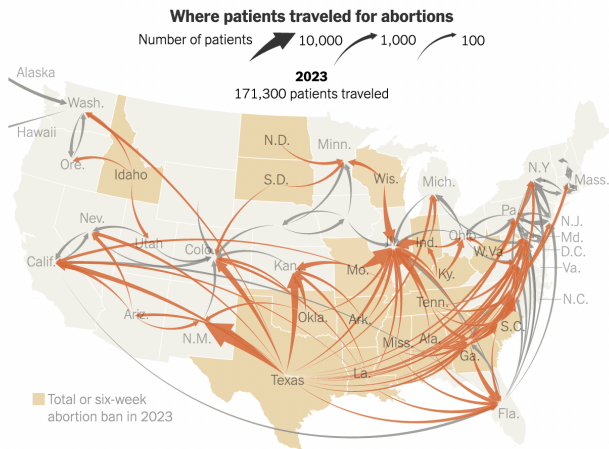
- ▶ Pros: takes correlations into account (individual and facility), easier to understand than generalized estimating equation, good for longitudinal study
- ▶ Cons: makes a lot of assumptions

Statistical Analysis: Model Equation

$$\begin{aligned} Y_{ijt} = & \beta_0 + \beta_{0i} + \beta_{0ij} \\ & + \beta_1(\textit{FirstTrimester}) + \beta_2(\textit{TurnawayNoBirth}) \\ & + \beta_3(\textit{TurnawayBirth}) + \beta_4 t \\ & + \beta_5 t(\textit{FirstTrimester}) + \beta_6 t(\textit{TurnawayNoBirth}) \\ & + \beta_7 t(\textit{TurnawayBirth}) + \beta_8(\textit{BaselineAge}) \\ & + \beta_9(\textit{BaselineParity}) + \beta_{10}(\textit{BaselineHouseholdStructure}) \\ & + \beta_{11} Y_{0ij} + \epsilon_{ij} \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Most outcomes groups were similar at baseline
 - ▶ Age, parity and household structure are different at baseline
- ▶ Mental Health (measured suicidal ideation, depression, anxiety symptoms, quality of life): more stress, less life satisfaction, and was less likely to set ambitious goals
- ▶ Financial Wellbeing (personal income, household structure, public assistance): increase in poverty, decrease in employment

Further Steps



Source: The New York Times.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/06/13/us/abortion-state-laws-ban-travel.html>