

# Improving Access to Abortion Care in Ohio Through Telehealth

## What is telehealth abortion?

A telehealth abortion involves a virtual consultation with a healthcare provider and abortion medications mailed to the patient at home. **It is just as safe as in-clinic abortion care.**

### Telehealth abortion:

- Allows patients to avoid the cost and delays of traveling for abortion care
- Increases access for the people who generally experience the most barriers to care, including those living in rural areas and those with low incomes
- Improves care process for patients by shortening wait times, as well as increasing privacy and convenience

## Barriers to abortion care in Ohio

- Ohio lost nearly half its abortion clinics since 2011, and the remaining clinics are struggling to support both Ohio patients and people traveling into the state for care from places with abortion bans or strict limits.
- An Ohio court temporarily blocked enforcement of Ohio's law restricting the use of telehealth to provide abortion care. This law restricted telehealth abortion by requiring medically unnecessary in-person visits for medication abortion (Ohio Rev. Code 2919.124(B)). **This requirement is not based in medical evidence.**
- Ohio's elected officials continue to pursue anti-abortion measures that may impact telehealth provision each legislative cycle.

### What patients say about telehealth abortion:

"Talking to a doctor virtually allowed me to be seen almost immediately, so I could get all of this taken care of as quickly as possible."

"The privacy and convenience of the online abortion service are so much better than going to a clinic."

"I liked the fact that I didn't have to take any time off work. I didn't have to go anywhere."

The CHAT study asked 1,600 patients across the U.S. about their experiences using telehealth for abortion:

43%

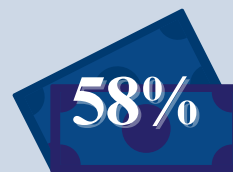
reported telehealth made it possible to obtain a timely abortion



were more comfortable at home



experienced increased privacy



reported it was available at a lower cost



were able to get abortion care sooner



## CALL TO ACTION

Permanently repealing Ohio's statute that restricts telehealth abortion can help people access abortions earlier in their pregnancies and reduce overall care-related costs.

### References

1. OSU Ohio Policy Evaluation Network (OPEN) <https://open.osu.edu/>
  2. UCSF CHAT Study - California Home Abortion by Telehealth <https://www.chatstudy.org/>
  3. Becker, A., et al. "It Was So Easy in a Situation That's So Hard": Structural Stigma and Telehealth Abortion. J Health Soc Behav 00221465241303873 (2025) <https://doi.org/10.1177/00221465241303873>
  4. Koenig, L. R. et al. Patient Acceptability of Telehealth Medication Abortion Care in the United States, 2021–2022: A Cohort Study. Am J Public Health Feb;114(2):241–50, (2024). <https://doi.org/10.2105/ajph.2023.307437>
  5. Koenig, L. R., et al. The Role of Telehealth in Promoting Equitable Abortion Access in the United States: Spatial Analysis. JMIR Public Health Surveill 9:e45671, (2023). <https://doi.org/10.2196/45671>
  6. Upadhyay, U. D. et al. Effectiveness and safety of telehealth medication abortion in the USA. Nat Med Apr;30(4):1191–8, (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-024-02834-w>
  7. Ohio Revised Code 2919.124.B Unlawful performance of a drug-induced abortion. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-2919.124>
  8. "Ohio sees spike in out-of-state abortions, but access to abortion care can be challenging"
- The UCSF Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) is part of the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program funded by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) (Grant Number ULI TR001872). The content of this document is solely the responsibility of CTSI and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH.

For more information, contact: [melissa@stateinnovation.org](mailto:melissa@stateinnovation.org)