



Figure 2: States are grouped based on type of abortion ban. The number of medical residency applicants in the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 application cycles.

to analyze if graduating OBGYN residents are sensitive to state abortion restrictions after the Dobbs ruling. The authors estimated the likelihood of changing future practice plans against various relevant explanatory variables. They found that OBGYN residents who intended to practice in abortion-restrictive states before the Dobbs decisions, were 8.52 times more likely to change their state of practice. Ganguly et al. (2026) investigates if the Dobbs decision caused a decline in residency applications to abortion-restricted states, and if this varied by applicant gender and specialty. Through their analysis, they found that there was a difference in applications from both genders in states with abortion restrictions compared to those with no restrictions.

Conclusion

Ultimately, there is no definite answer on if graduating medical students—specifically OBGYN students—going into residency are changing where they apply based on abortion laws across states. In Figure 2, we do see an increase in application amounts for no ban states; however, there are little differences in the amounts of applications for other restriction levels.

The choices of our future medical professionals are integral to a community’s health now and in the long term. This change in residency applications is worth exploring in order to ensure adequate medical care in all areas of the United States.

| Weeks into Pregnancy | Category | Level of Treatment |
|----------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 24 | No Bans | 0 |
| 18 | 18 Weeks | 0.25 |
| 12 | 12 Weeks | 0.5 |
| 6 | 6 Weeks | 0.75 |
| 0 | Full Ban | 1 |

Table 1: The level of abortion ban corresponding to weeks into pregnancy and the level of treatment used in our analysis.

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