

STIGMA, SENSITIVITY, AND SURVEYS: MEASURING ABORTION POST-DOBBS



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Although an estimated one in five pregnancies in the United States end in induced abortion, stigma around abortion has made it a highly sensitive and thus difficult-to-measure behavior. As states respond to the Supreme Courts' Dobbs decision, the roll-out of new laws creating further barriers to abortion is expected to magnify measurement challenges. Dr. Lindberg will present a body of recent research on abortion measurement and consider pathways forward post-Dobbs. This includes a series of quantitative analyses to identify the scope and correlates of abortion underreporting for three national fertility surveys in the United States and survey experiments to evaluate methodological approaches identified through formative mixed-methods research to improve the measurement of abortion in surveys.

Dr. Laura Lindberg is a professor at the Rutgers School of Public Health, where she directs the program in sexual and reproductive health. She also is a founding member of Youth Reproductive Equity, a collaborative promoting equity in abortion access for young people. She previously was a Research Scientist at the Guttmacher Institute for nearly twenty years. As a social demographer, Dr. Lindberg focuses on measuring the trends, determinants, and consequences of sexual and reproductive health in the U.S. Her recent projects from the National Institutes of Health include grants to improve the measurement of abortion in U.S. surveys and study the consequences of unintended childbearing.



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