

Report: Abortionists in 32 States Were Cited for More Than 1,400 Health Violations

Americans United for Life has provided an analysis of confirmed reports of dangerous and unsafe conditions in abortion clinics over the past eight years, compiling them in a new report titled *Unsafe: How The Public Health Crisis in America's Abortion Clinics Endangers Women*.

The more than 200-page analysis details horrific abortion clinic conditions, documenting that 227 abortion providers in 32 states were cited for more than 1,400 health and safety deficiencies between 2008 and 2016. It also includes details from hundreds of “significant violations of state laws regulating abortion clinics.”

The report includes:

- *Women You Should Know*, which tells the stories of women who have been victimized by the abortion industry. Many of these women lost their lives after receiving dangerously incompetent care in the nation's abortion clinics.
- *America's Epidemic of Substandard Abortion Facilities and Practices*, which features a detailed analysis of hundreds of violations and deficiency reports from state health inspectors showing that abortion clinics, including Planned Parenthood facilities, are routinely cited for putting women's health and safety at risk. Among the most common violations found in America's abortion clinics are failing to ensure a safe and sanitary environment, failing to document and protect patient records, failing to properly train staff, allowing unqualified staff to provide care to patients,

utilizing expired medications and medical supplies, failing to purchase and maintain required equipment, failing to adopt and follow health and safety protocols, failing to properly handle medications, failing to comply with physical plant standards and failing to monitor patient vital signs. Hundreds of significant violations of these common sense health and safety standards were found over just the past 8 years.

- *The Perilous Prevalence of "Circuit Rider" Abortionists*, which reveals the abortion industry's reliance on a small cadre of abortion providers who travel from state to state plying their grisly trade and who are not available to women suffering post-abortive complications. The report also highlights the dangerous individuals who populate the abortion industry. Shockingly, at least 65 of the abortion providers examined were chronic offenders who had been cited multiple times for the same violations in subsequent inspections. Further, at least 13 abortion providers either failed to report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or failed to implement practices to protect minors from ongoing sexual abuse, at least 30 abortion providers failed to provide or post all required informed consent information and more than two dozen abortion clinics failed to comply with abortion reporting requirements.

While performing about a third of all abortions in the U.S., Planned Parenthood is featured prominently in the report. Thirty-nine of its clinics in Alabama, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia were cited.

The following are the top 10 violations found among various abortion clinics from the report:

- Failure to ensure a safe and sanitary environment and to

follow infection control policies—130 clinics in 22 states

- Failure to accurately document patient records and keep patient medical information confidential—100 clinics in 17 states
- Failure to ensure staff are properly trained for duties—82 clinics in 14 states
- Unlicensed/unqualified/untrained staff providing patient care—81 clinics in 14 states
- Expired medications and medical supplies—77 clinics in 17 states
- Failure to adopt, follow and/or periodically review internal health and safety protocols—77 clinics in 15 states
- Failure to purchase and maintain the required equipment—74 clinics in 11 states
- Failure to properly handle medications—62 clinics in 16 states
- Failure to comply with physical plant standards—41 clinics in 6 states
- Failure to monitor patient vital signs—30 clinics in 10 states

AUL Vice President of Legal Affairs Denise Burke, who authored the report, issued the following statement to coincide with its release:

The Supreme Court wrongly threw out Texas' health and safety standards, concluding that there was insufficient evidence to support the need for the law. That perceived deficit must be addressed wherever and whenever possible, yet this void exists, in part, because of the scandalously lax manner in which many abortion clinics are monitored.

AUL took on the task of learning what information is available on abortion clinic conditions and what is not, as too few states protect women by appropriately regulating and inspecting abortion clinics. The fact that data from some

states are not included in the report indicates the need for better and more regular inspections and reporting on the results of those inspections. Importantly, AUL is releasing this report in advance of the 2017 state legislative sessions so that lawmakers will have an important tool for explaining the critical need for enhanced health and safety standards and to call for further investigation.

The abortion industry willingly sacrifices women's health and safety in their "back alley" clinics, prioritizing mere access to abortion over women's health and safety. Convicted murderer Kermit Gosnell provided "mere access" to abortion, and women died in his care. During the investigation of Gosnell and his "house of horrors" abortion clinic, the grand jury found that, while there were laws on the books allowing for inspections, state officials decided not to act because of abortion politics. Women's health and safety must not be held hostage by an abortion industry willing to put profit over people.

This report is the tip of the iceberg as too many state officials are turning a blind eye to this red-light district of medicine. AUL is calling on state attorneys general and governors to order inspections of abortion clinics and on state legislators to enact the enhanced protections for women and their unborn children featured in AUL's Women's Protection Project and Infants' Protection Project. {eoa}