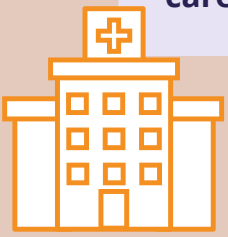




THE LEGALITY OF ABORTION: US VS UK

Abortion is more than a divisive political issue; it is a public health issue, a legal issue, and a gender-based violence issue. This infographic represents the third installment of a three-part analysis breaking down US/UK abortion legislation. Here, we cover how abortion access and legislation has been transformed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

By May 2020, **33% of women of reproductive age experienced a cancellation or delay** of contraceptive or other reproductive health care due to the pandemic.



Incidents of harassment at clinics have increased with the rise of reports of COVID-specific aggression, such as coughing on patients.



Jan 13, 2021

The Supreme Court grants the Trump administration's request to reinstate an FDA rule mandating that **patients seeking medication abortion must make an in-person visit** to their health care provider to pick up the medication.



Apr 13, 2021

Under the Biden administration, the FDA temporarily lifts their in-person medication requirement. However, this does not apply to 28 states that do not allow telehealth for abortions.

MARCH 13, 2020

President Trump declares COVID-19 a National Emergency. By October, all states except North Dakota issued stay-at-home orders and/or new guidance on elective procedures.



Texas proclaimed that **any abortion that is not medically necessary is in violation** of an executive order, leading to 150 cancelled appointments and a 231 mile increase in one-way driving distance to a clinic.

The ambiguity of "elective" procedures means abortion, in many states, became **classified as non-essential** or was stopped altogether.



1. Consultation with nurse or midwife with additional telemedicine safeguards if under 18.
2. Two doctors review consultation notes and provide signature for prescription.
3. Prescription is delivered in plain packaging or can be picked up from a registered clinic.



Mar 30, 2020

U.K. government **licenses homes to receive both abortion pills** up to 9 weeks and 6 days gestation in England and Wales and up to 12 weeks gestation in Scotland. A "public consultation" is being conducted on whether the measure should be permanently retained.

On April 8, 2020, the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS), a leading abortion provider, launched their **"Pills by Post" program**. Results of the program were released in Sep 2020:

MARCH 26, 2020

The UK-wide lockdown that Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced just several days before legally comes into force, requiring citizens to stay at home.

Complete service is **free of charge** from start to finish.

97% of consultations for abortion care are being conducted via telephone and video call assessments

- ✓ more appointments available
- ✓ waiting time reduced 50%
- ✓ 86% terminations performed before 10 weeks gestation

- ✓ requests to UK's largest online provider of illegal abortion medication have ceased
- ✓ 97% client satisfaction rate

**WANT TO
LEARN MORE?**

Read our full blog post, "Understanding the Legality of Abortion: A US/UK Comparative Framework," at www.empowerlab.org/our-blog. Citations included.



The Empower Lab is a clinical research and advocacy lab based at NYU working to further gender equity through scientific approaches to issues of gender-based violence that disproportionately affects low-income women both around the globe and in our global city, New York.