



## NWAAF Update Report for Seattle City Council – July 2023

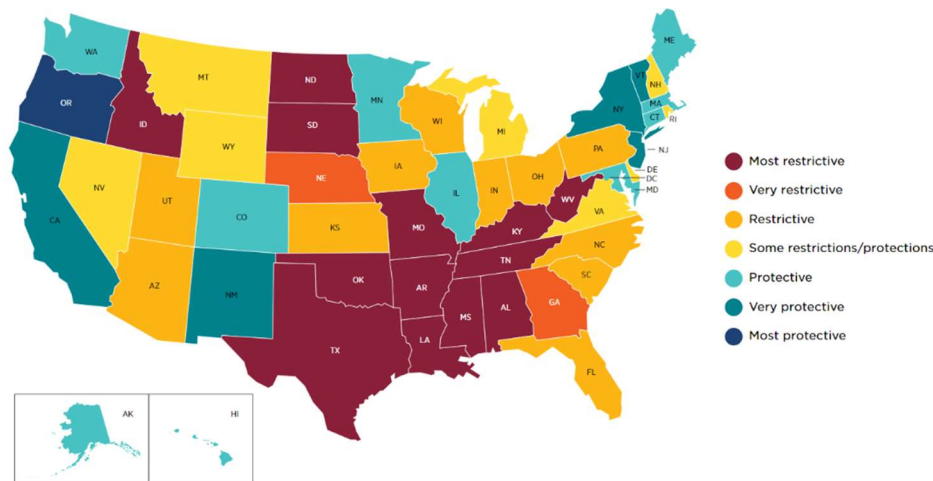
### Background: Dobbs Decision

Seattle and King County are committed to helping all people manage their pregnancies according to their own wishes – by accessing quality reproductive health care, including a safe and timely abortion, as needed. We uphold the value that every person has the right to their own bodily autonomy.

The U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs V. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* on June 24, 2022, overturning *Roe V. Wade*, rescinded a federal right and removed protections for people to legally access abortion services, prompting both Seattle and King County to invest in abortion access locally.

### Abortion Policy Activity Post Roe

As of June 2023, 20 states had banned or restricted abortion, a reflection of the fallout from the Supreme Court's ruling last year. Between April 2022 and March 2023, Washington state saw its number of monthly abortions increase by 16.5%, or an additional 290 procedures per month, according to the Society of Family Planning.



Washington is considered “Protective” of abortion access, in this chart from the Guttmacher Institute (May, 2023)

### City of Seattle and King County Investment in Abortion Access

Public Health is administering funds from both King County and Seattle in a blended contract to distribute the funds and support people needing abortion access more efficiently.

- In 2022, King County and Seattle allocated a combined \$750,000 to invest in the Northwest Abortion Access Fund (NWAAF) – with \$500,000 from the County and \$250,000 from the City.

- In 2023, Seattle committed an additional \$1.5 million
- The combined total is \$2.25 million (\$1.75 million from the City, \$500,000 from the County).

NWAAF funds are used to coordinate payment and/or logistics for medical care, travel and accommodation for individuals accessing abortion services in the region. The contract with NWAAF provides that 90% of the funding pays for travel, meals/lodging, and medical care for abortion services for individuals with limited financial resources, and the remaining 10% covers the NWAAF's administrative costs to support this work (indirect rate).

### **NWAAF's Activity and Investments**

Public Health established a contract with NWAAF in 2022 through the end of 2023. Based on quarterly reporting from NWAAF, from Q3-2022 through Q1-2023 NWAAF has supported 757 individuals in accessing abortion services locally, using \$819,382 of the blended City/County \$2.25 million fund.

- 75% of the funding expended during this period on abortion care was for services provided by Seattle-based providers.
- 45% of the individuals served were non-Washington residents travelling to Washington for abortion care.

NWAAF has been supporting abortion access since before the Dobbs decision. Since Dobbs:

- The number of NWAAF callers who had to travel outside of their state for care has almost doubled and now comprises 35% of all callers (up from 26% the prior year).
- Pregnant people are having to travel farther for abortion services, resulting in more expensive travel costs. For example, Idahoans are traveling farther distances into Oregon, Washington, and Utah to access abortion care, and callers from outside the Pacific Northwest, namely from Texas and other Southern states, are increasing.
- Pregnant people are further along in their pregnancies, resulting in more expensive medical care costs. As a result, the number of callers who are over 14 weeks pregnant has increased.
- Consequently, the median grant size has increased by 27%.

NWAAF has also noted people calling for support are experiencing more confusion and misinformation in understanding the legality around abortion.

NWAAF is filling a critical role in assisting individuals in navigating legally complicated and frightening environments to facilitate legal, safe, and financially viable abortion access.