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Medical Education in Abortion

Monica V. Dragoman, MD, MPH; Jody E. Steinauer, MD, MAS; Ana G. Cepin, AB, MD; Maryam Guiahi, MD, MSc; Colleen M. Krajewski, MD; Diana L. Taylor, RNP, PhD; Molly F. Battistelli

[DISCLOSURES](#) | November 15, 2011

IN THIS ARTICLE

Diana L. Taylor, RNP, PhD, and Molly F. Battistelli

Most women face multiple obstacles when seeking abortion care. Nearly 87% of the nation's counties do not have an abortion provider, and this shortage is aggravated by factors such as inadequate or unavailable abortion training for women's health professionals, state abortion provider restrictions, segregation of abortion services from women's healthcare, and the worsening of anti-abortion harassment and violence.^[3] A shortage of abortion providers creates additional barriers to abortion care, with related negative health consequences. Almost half of women having later abortions (which have higher complication rates) report problems finding or getting to a provider, resulting in a delayed abortion.^[29,30]

Beginning in the 1990s, abortion training programs propagated nationally throughout the health professions in recognition of the aging population of current abortion providers and the lack of trained health professionals to replace them. [31,32,33,34,35,36] Professional organizations representing

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The Roundtable Question

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