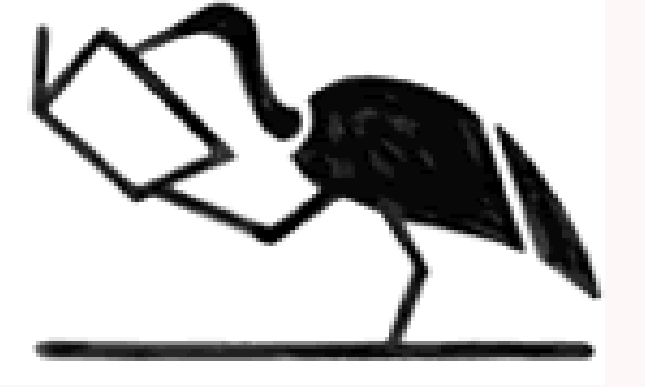


# Women describe barriers faced obtaining abortion care and generate short-term solutions to improve access for others

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## OVERVIEW

### Background

- Low-income women face disparities in access to health care, and are three times as likely to obtain an abortion as women with higher incomes.
- Obstacles to abortion access can lead women to have abortions at later gestations, or force women to continue unwanted pregnancies.
- Though abortion is safe, the medical risk of abortion increases with gestation, as does the cost. There are also fewer providers that perform abortion at later gestations.

### Objective & Methods

- Aimed to investigate low-income women's experiences obtaining and paying for abortion.
- Recruited a convenience sample of women through postings on community based websites.
- Conducted 71 semi-structured, in-depth telephone interviews with low-income women who obtained abortions in **Arizona** and **Florida**, states without Medicaid coverage of abortion, and **New York** and **Oregon**, states where Medicaid coverage is available.
- Analyzed in-depth interview data using ATLAS.ti.

## CONCLUSIONS

Women described numerous difficulties obtaining timely abortion care. These barriers highlight the need for long term efforts to improve abortion access, as well as the need for implementation of short-term strategies that will lead to improvements in women's abilities to obtain timely abortion care, and protect their health and quality of life.

## RESULTS

Participants commonly reported experiencing barriers that led to unwanted delays obtaining abortion care, and also generated solutions to mediating barriers.

