

ABORTIONS IN MAINE ARE ON THE RISE.

In the ten years from 2009 to 2018, abortions dropped by an amazing 19 percent—from 2,413 abortions in 2009 to 1,949 in 2018. But in 2019, after Governor Janet Mills and the Democratic majority in the Legislature passed pro-abortion legislation, including the state-taxpayer funding of abortion through MaineCare, the number of abortions increased to 2021.

In 2020, that figure increased again, despite the COVID lockdown, to 2064.

The changes to abortion laws that went into effect in 2019 included allowing physician assistants and nurses with advanced training to perform aspiration abortions. This likely increased the number of places in Maine performing this type of abortion from three to up to 18.

The other law passed in 2019 requires insurance plans that cover maternity care to pay for abortions, including MaineCare, the state's Medicaid program. **Because of the prohibition on using federal money to pay for abortion, the state pays the full cost of MaineCare-covered abortions.** MaineCare coverage of abortions went into effect during calendar year 2019; the provision covering private insurance went into effect January 1, 2020.

Between 2009 and 2018, surgical abortions dropped by 47 percent (1,046 v. 1,976). This trend continued in 2019, falling to 995. This is a 54 percent decrease in abortions in the ten years between 2010 and 2019. In 2020, surgical abortions fell again to 618, a 38 percent drop from 2019.

In 2016, Maine Family Planning introduced chemical/telemed abortions at ALL 17 of their locations. **Maine went from having three abortion clinics to having 20 abortion clinics overnight.** The result: chemical abortions increased by 47 percent in just one year (542 v. 799).

Maine CDC reports that, from 2009 to 2018, chemical abortions increased by 106 percent. Sadly, in 2019, the number of chemical abortions increased from 2018's 901 to 1023, driving the overall increase in the number of abortions in the state. In 2019, 55 percent of abortions were chemical.

However, the number of chemical abortions increased again in 2020 to 1446, a 40 percent jump. In 2020, 70 percent of all abortions were chemical.

Maine Family Planning offers chemical telemed/webcam abortions at all of their clinics in the following towns: Bangor, Belfast, Calais, Damariscotta, Dexter, Ellsworth, Farmington, Fort Kent, Houlton, Lewiston, Machias, Norway, Presque Isle, Rockland, Rumford, Skowhegan, and Waterville.

The significant fall in surgical abortions and the rise in chemical abortions in 2020 may be due in large part to the restrictions implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the increased use and availability of telemedicine, for which abortion was already allowed under Maine law, as well as the limitations on in-person medical services and other medical provider restraints related to the pandemic.

While surgical abortions are decreasing, the particularly gruesome Dilation & Evacuation abortion procedure (commonly known as a Dismemberment Abortion) has dramatically increased in Maine. This grizzly abortion procedure is customarily committed on innocent, unborn children in the second trimester. These abortions grew by an amazing 3,336 percent, from three in 2009 to 104 in 2018, although falling slightly in 2019 to 92 and falling again in 2020 to 80.

Although we are making inroads, abortion is still NOT rare in Maine... with an average of 5.6 abortions committed EVERY DAY.. 39.7 abortions EACH WEEK.