

The Impact of Systemic Barriers to Abortion Care Access at AltaMed and Steps Towards Serving its Historically Disinvested Communities

Thao Le, M.D. Candidate, Michigan State University, College of Human Medicine
 Enedina Sepulveda Martinez, M.D. Candidate, Wright State University, Boonshoft School of Medicine
 Ashleen Martinez, Catherine Rosales, Genesis Sanchez, Ricardo Quinones, HCOP, AltaMed Health Services Corporation
 Dr. Marco Angulo, M.D., AltaMed Health Services Corporation

BACKGROUND

According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, excellence in women’s reproductive health care, including abortion, is essential and time-sensitive for long term physical, intellectual, social, and economic well-being of any society.¹ The recent overturn of *Roe v. Wade* denies the constitutional right to reproductive care and poses harm nationwide. Inadequate reproductive health services can have profound impacts, including financial insecurity, increased risk of intimate partner violence, and maternal and neonatal deaths.² These impacts are disproportionately felt by historically disinvested communities in the U.S. who have long faced systemic barriers to health care. As the largest independent Federally Qualified Health Center in the U.S., AltaMed can play a key role in providing comprehensive reproductive care to its patients and meet their health care needs by directly offering access to these services.

OBJECTIVES

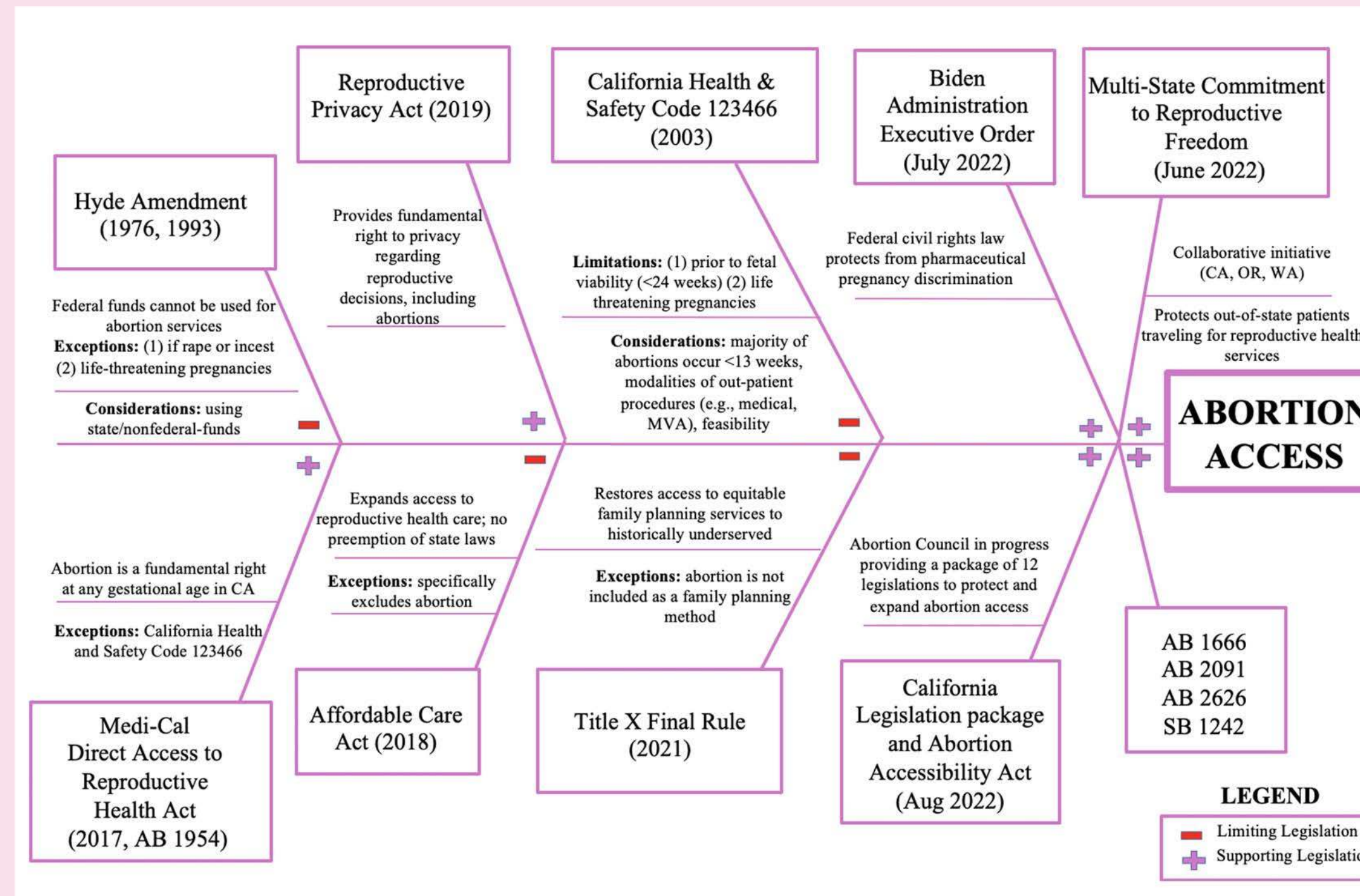
- To analyze existing legislation surrounding abortion care
- Raise awareness and understanding to abortion care and the communities it affects
- Provide guidelines and considerations for AltaMed to expand abortion care services
- Create an educational care tool for patients

METHODOLOGY

- Conducted a policy analysis on legislation surrounding abortion care
- Analyzed AltaMed’s Women’s Health data collection
- Used national public literature to create an educational patient care tool

RESULTS

Fig 1



CONCLUSION

- Supportive and limiting legislation surrounding abortion care exist (Fig. 1)
- Exceptions in CA allow AltaMed to provide abortion
- Data collection and statistics show abortion services are important, especially for AltaMed communities (Fig. 2-5)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Take considerations to providing abortion care
- Take the next steps to consider providing abortion care (e.g. billing, funding, liability, patient needs assessment, and feasibility)
- Utilization of patient care tool created to:
 - Address stigma and provide reproductive care options
 - Empower patient autonomy

Fig 2

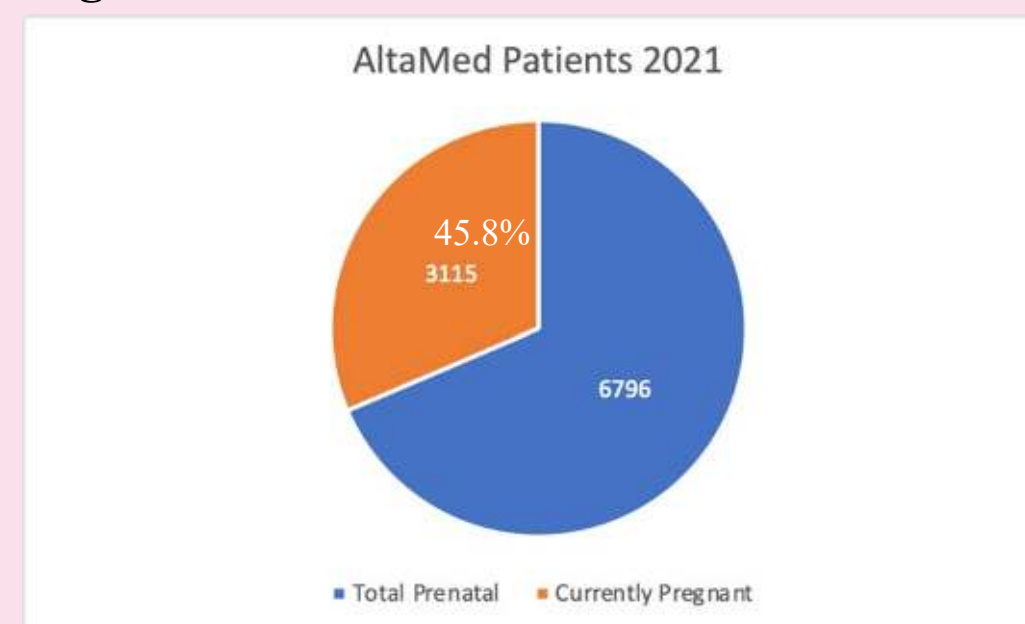


Fig 3

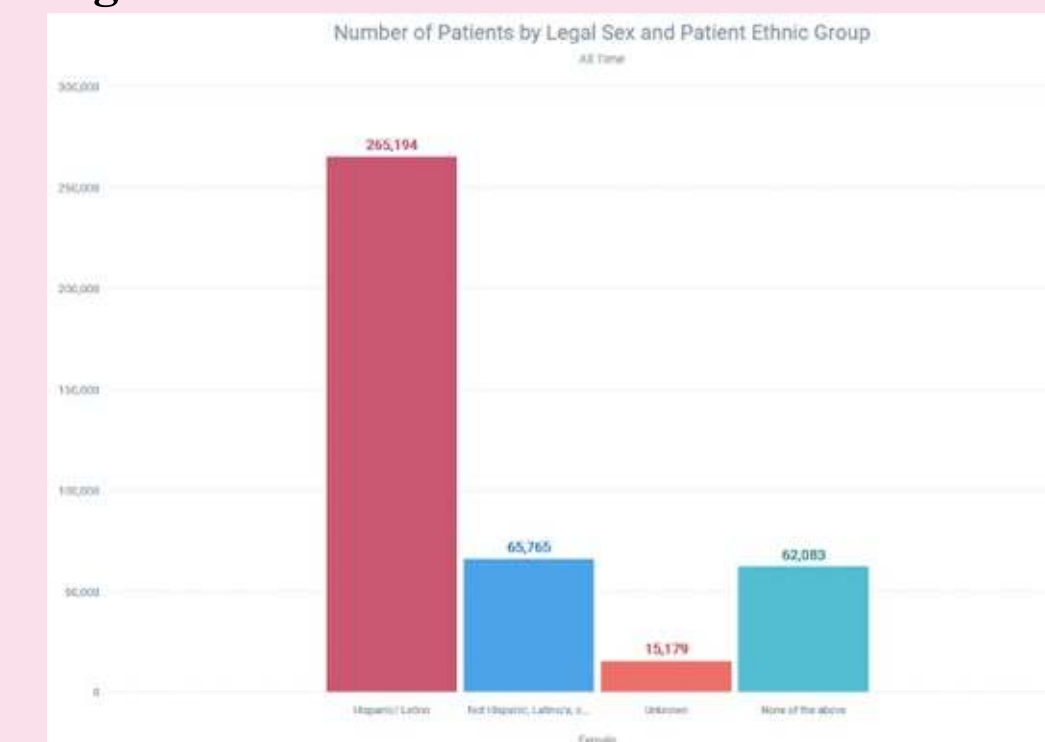


Fig 4

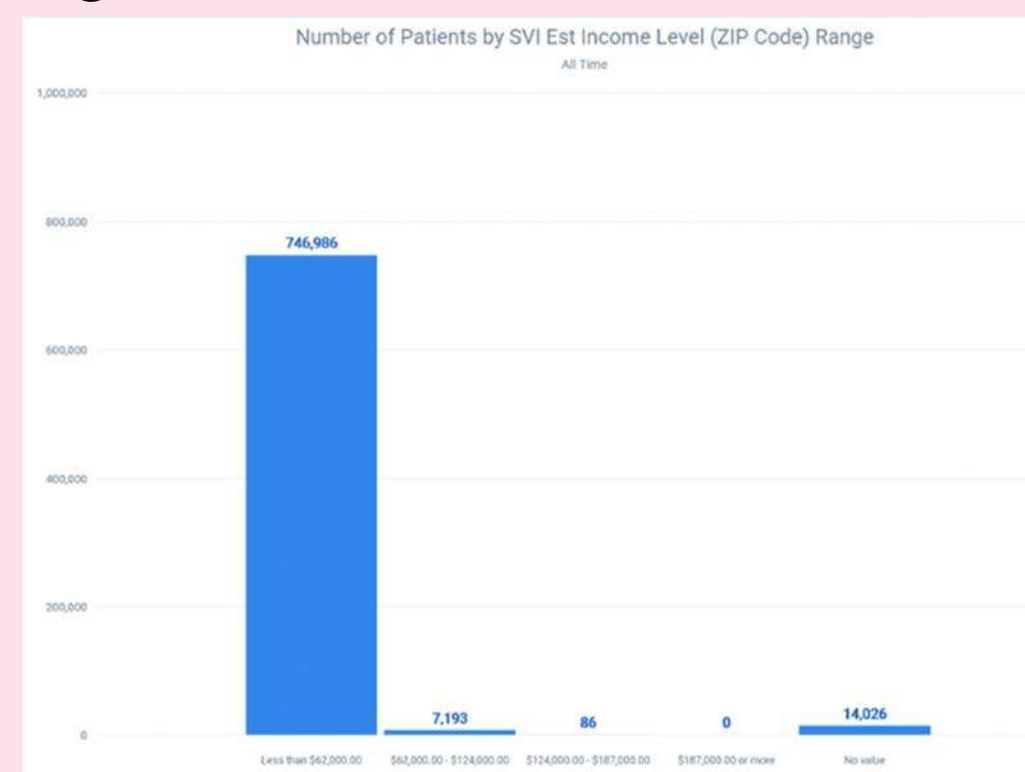
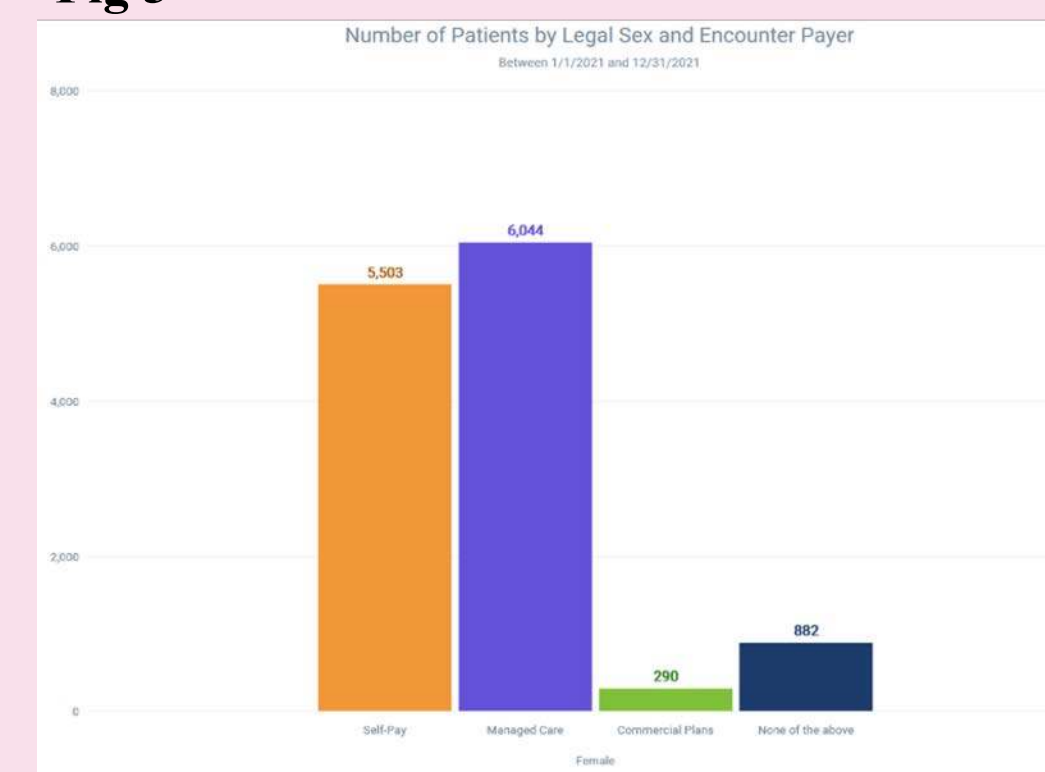


Fig 5



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- NMF Primary Care Leadership Program
- AltaMed Health Services Corporation
- Catherine Patterson, MA, MPH, Lizette Caldera, Marissa Lozano, MPH
- Dr. Huong Nghiem-Eilbeck, M.D.
- Dr. John Billimek, Ph.D., Dr. Olga Ventura, M.D.
- Erick Leyva, Juan Tavaréz

REFERENCES

1. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Access to women’s health care. Statement of Policy. Washington, DC: American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; 2013.
2. Columbia Mailman School of Public Health. Abortion is essential healthcare. Center of Reproductive Rights; 2022.
3. Figs. 2-5 Women’s Health Services Data Collection, AltaMed Health Services Corporation.