



South Carolina

The Costs of Reproductive Restrictions to States



In South Carolina, abortion bans and other restrictions cost the state economy **\$1.9 billion** per year.¹

Limiting women's access to the full range of reproductive health care services, including abortion, can have a devastating impact on states: their economic well-being and the short- and long-term earnings of their residents. It can also have high economic costs to businesses.

New research from the Center on the Economics of Reproductive Health at the Institute for Women's Policy Research finds that abortion bans and targeted restrictions on abortion providers (TRAP) laws cost state and local economies \$105 billion annually by reducing labor force participation and earnings among women. Restrictive laws also increase turnover and time-off from work among women ages 15 to 44 years.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- In South Carolina, implementing abortion bans and other restrictive reproductive health care policies could cost the state **\$1.9 billion per year**.
- Nearly **10,000** women ages 15 to 44 could enter the workforce absent these state restrictions, strengthening South Carolina's economy and local businesses.
- South Carolina earned a **C** on the IWPR Reproductive Rights Index and ranked **27th** on women's reproductive rights.
- South Carolina earned a **D** on the IWPR Employment and Earnings Index for the economic standing of women across all 50 states and the District of Columbia and ranked **42nd** on women's labor force participation rate.²

The takeaway is clear: **Restrictive reproductive health policies put state economies at risk and limit women's economic potential.**

¹ IWPR, "The Costs of Reproductive Health Restrictions," IWPR.org, May 19, 2021, <<https://iwpr.org/costs-of-reproductive-health-restrictions/>>.

² Data forthcoming in 2021 on Reproductive Rights Index; Elyse Shaw and Halie Mariano, *Before the She-Cession*, Employment and Earnings Index, IWPR #R654 (Washington, DC: IWPR, 2021), <<https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Employment-Earnings-Index-Brief.pdf>>.



The Institute for Women's Policy Research strives to win economic equity for all women and eliminate barriers to their full participation in society. As a leading national think tank, IWPR builds evidence to shape policies that grow women's power and influence, close inequality gaps, and improve the economic well-being of families.