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August 16, 2021

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**With Supreme Court Set to Consider Abortion Ban, New Study Examines the Reasons for Delays in Recognizing Pregnancy Among Women Seeking Abortion**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA** -- A new study by [University of California, San Francisco's Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health](#) (ANSIRH), [published in Contraception](#), documents that many women seeking abortion discovered their pregnancy later and examines the reasons for delays in recognizing pregnancy.

As the Supreme Court [takes up a Mississippi case](#) this fall that could ban abortion at 15 weeks and with states across the country continuing to limit when people can access abortion, the study results show that these bans can push abortion out of reach for people who did not discover they were pregnant until later in pregnancy.

Study findings include:

- Most women seeking second trimester abortions discovered their pregnancy more than eight weeks after their last menstrual period.
- Reasons for delays in recognizing the pregnancy included a lack of pregnancy symptoms and other symptoms similar to pregnancy occurring at the same time.
- Women who had never given birth or who were using hormonal contraception were more likely to discover they were pregnant after 13 weeks.

***"People seek abortion care later in pregnancy for a number of reasons that are out of their control and must be able to make decisions about their pregnancy based on what is best for their health and their families, without political interference," said Dr. Diana Greene Foster, study author and Director of Research at ANSIRH.***

Delay in pregnancy recognition sets off a cascade of logistical and financial barriers to abortion care, increases the likelihood of needing an abortion in the second trimester, and leads some people to carry unwanted pregnancies to term.

**Jenn Chalifoux\***, a storyteller who had a first-hand experience of later discovery of pregnancy and abortion, offers this perspective: ***"I didn't understand how a pregnancy could go undetected until it happened to me. I thought all pregnancies looked and felt the same. But I learned firsthand how it feels to discover a pregnancy later and realize that time and options for abortion care are rapidly running out. I was able to get an abortion and it saved my life. No one should be denied that because of the timing of their pregnancy discovery."***

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\*Ms. Chalifoux was not surveyed as part of the study published in *Contraception*.

*Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH), based at the University of California, San Francisco, conducts rigorous scientific research on complex issues related to reproductive health in the United States and internationally. ANSIRH provides much-needed evidence for active policy debates and legal battles around reproductive health issues. To learn more, please visit [www.ansirh.org](http://www.ansirh.org).*