



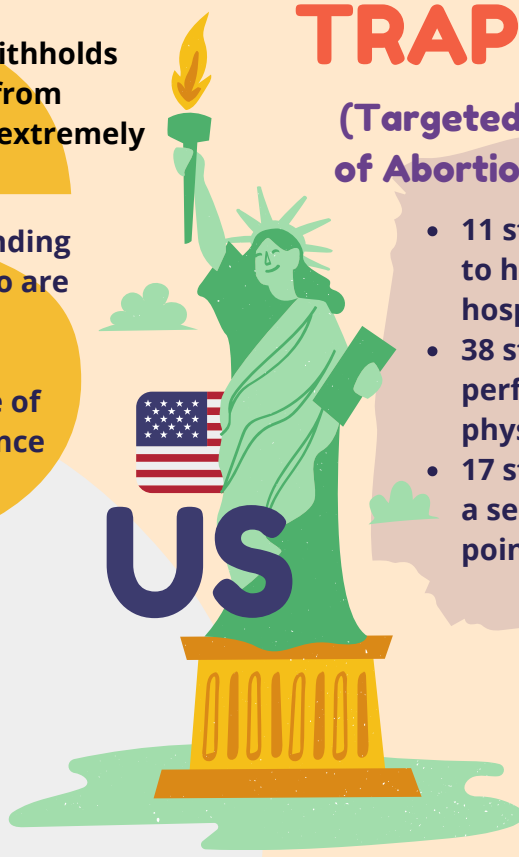
# THE LEGALITY OF ABORTION: US VS UK

Abortion is more than a divisive political issue; it is a public health issue, a legal issue, and a gender-based violence issue. This infographic represents the second installment of a three-part analysis breaking down US/UK abortion legislation. Here, we cover the legislative limits and liberties of the current laws in practice.

- ▼ **1976 Hyde Amendment:** withholds federal Medicaid funding from abortions nationally with extremely narrow exceptions
- ▼ 16 states provide state funding for Medicaid enrollees who are seeking abortions
- ▼ 11 states restrict coverage of abortion in private insurance plans



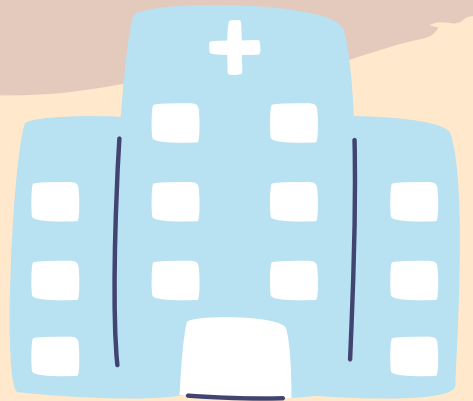
In 33 states, only a licensed physician is allowed to dispense medication abortion pills. As of 2019, 14 state Medicaid programs do not cover the abortion pill even in the cases of rape, incest, and life endangerment.



## TRAP LAWS

(Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers)

- 11 states require abortion providers to have some affiliation with a local hospital
- 38 states require abortions to be performed specifically by licensed physicians
- 17 states require the involvement of a second physician after a specified point



## OTHER TACTICS

- Mandatory waiting periods
- Parental involvement
- Forced "counseling" by unlicensed and unregulated "crisis pregnancy centers"

27 major U.S. cities are considered **abortion "deserts,"** where most people live more than 100 miles from an abortion provider. As of June 2019, six U.S. states are down to just one abortion clinic.



Designated abortion clinics run by non-profits span nearly every single county of England, Scotland, and Wales. Abortions conducted in hospitals account for 25% of abortions in England and Wales (compared to 5% in the US).

98% of abortions are **free of charge** through the National Health Service (NHS).

The NHS explicitly states that a **pregnant person should not have to wait more than 2 weeks** from the first referral to the actual abortion. The first consultation is expected within 5 days and can be conducted over the telephone.

The 1967 Abortion Act was never extended to Northern Ireland.

- **Before 2019:** pregnant persons seeking abortions have to travel to England
- **2019:** abortion is decriminalized with changes intended to take effect in 2020
- **2021:** The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission begins legal action against the UK government for its failure to commission safe and accessible services more than a year after legalization



A minor's parents or a pregnant person's partner do not need to be informed about the abortion.



WANT TO  
LEARN MORE?

Read our full blog post, "Understanding the Legality of Abortion: A US/UK Comparative Framework," at [www.empowerlab.org/our-blog](http://www.empowerlab.org/our-blog). Citations included.

