



# Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department



*The role of public health is to:*

**PROMOTE** community-wide wellness,

**PREVENT** disease, and

**PROTECT** the community from infectious diseases,  
environmental hazards, and epidemics

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## Impact of House Bill 2

**Public Health and Human Services Subcommittee**

**December 2, 2014**

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Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department**

# Presentation Objectives

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- Provide presentation rational.
- Present overview of HB2 - an Act "relating to the regulation of abortion procedures, providers, and facilities; providing penalties."
- Present preliminary findings from implementation of HB 2.
  - Challenges to the State
  - Challenges for women in Austin

# Presentation Rational

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- **September 23, 2014**
  - The Austin City Council approved resolution 20140925-082.
- **Resolution directed the City Manager to:**
  - analyze the impacts of HB 2 relating to the regulation of abortion procedures, providers, and facilities, and
  - amend the City's legislative agenda to support legislation that repeals HB2.
- **Resolution also directed the City Manager to:**
  - conduct a study analyzing the impacts of HB2 on Austinites and present findings to the Public Health and Human Services Committee.

# Overview: Texas House Bill 2 (HB2)

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- [Texas House Bill 2](#) (HB2), known as Senate Bill 1 (SB1) is an Act "relating to the regulation of abortion procedures, providers, and facilities; providing penalties."
- HB2 changes the way Texas women will be able to access reproductive health care.

# Overview: Texas House Bill 2 (HB2)

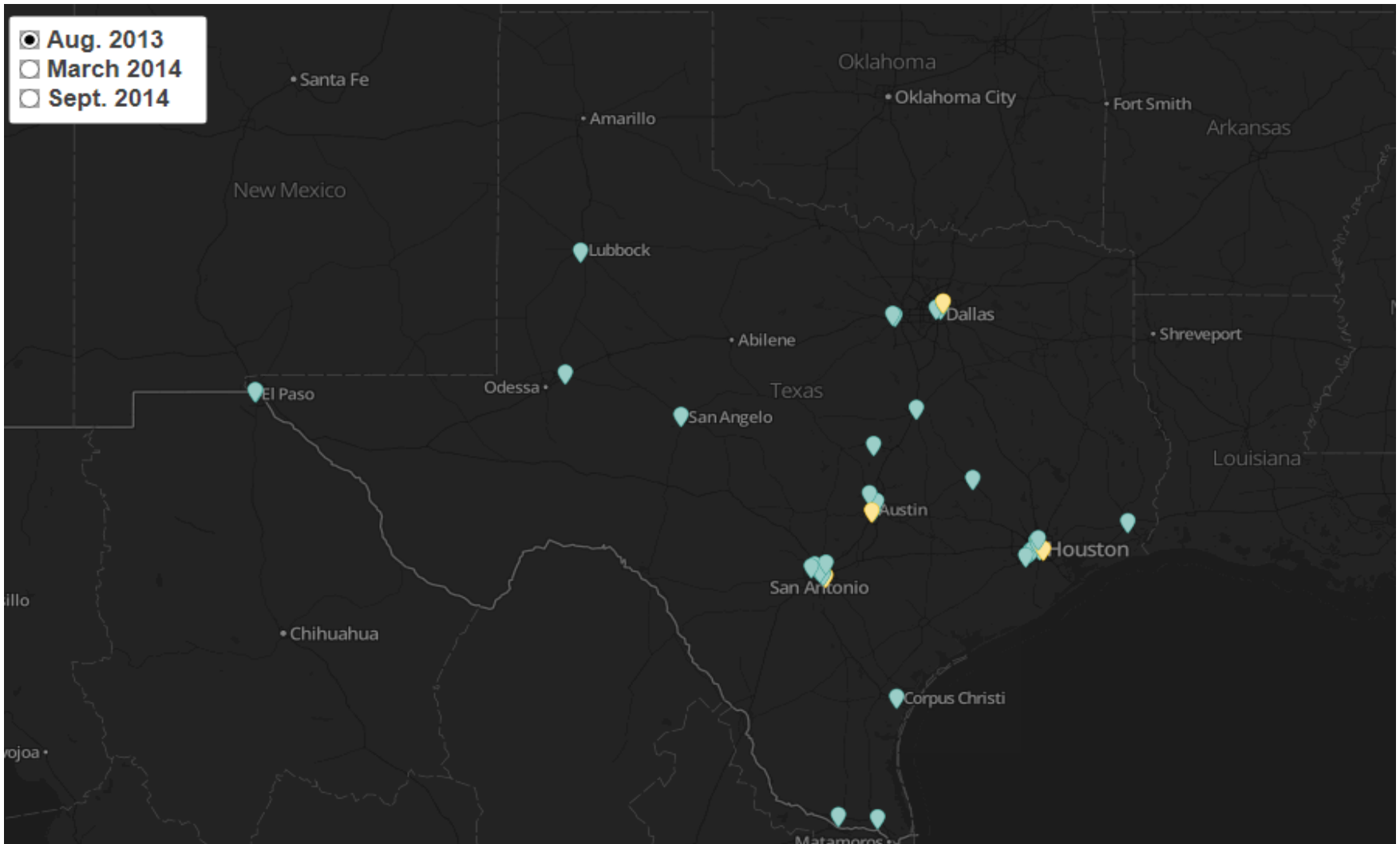
On July 18, 2013 - HB2 was signed into law.

- **On October 29, 2013 the following went into effect:**
  - Physicians performing abortions must obtain admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of the health center.
  - Abortions after 20 weeks post-fertilization are prohibited, except in cases of a severe fetal abnormality.
  - Abortion-inducing drugs must be used according to FDA regulations – these require that women visit the doctor in person for each of the 2 doses of the abortion pill.
  - After taking abortion-inducing drugs, there must be a follow-up appointment within 14 days. This brings the total of pill-related appointments to **three**. (NOTE: the [Texas 24-hour waiting period law](#) still requires that women living within 100 miles of their nearest abortion clinic wait 24 hours between their mandatory ultrasound and their actual abortion, meaning **four** doctor's appointments for most women seeking the abortion pill.)
- **On January 1, 2014 the following element of the law went into effect:**
  - All health centers performing abortions must meet ambulatory surgical center (ASC) standards, even if the health center provides only medication abortion.
- **On September 1, 2014**
  - Abortion clinics must comply with the ambulatory surgical center requirements.

# Impact of HB2: Challenges to the State

“relating to the regulation of abortion procedures, providers, and facilities”

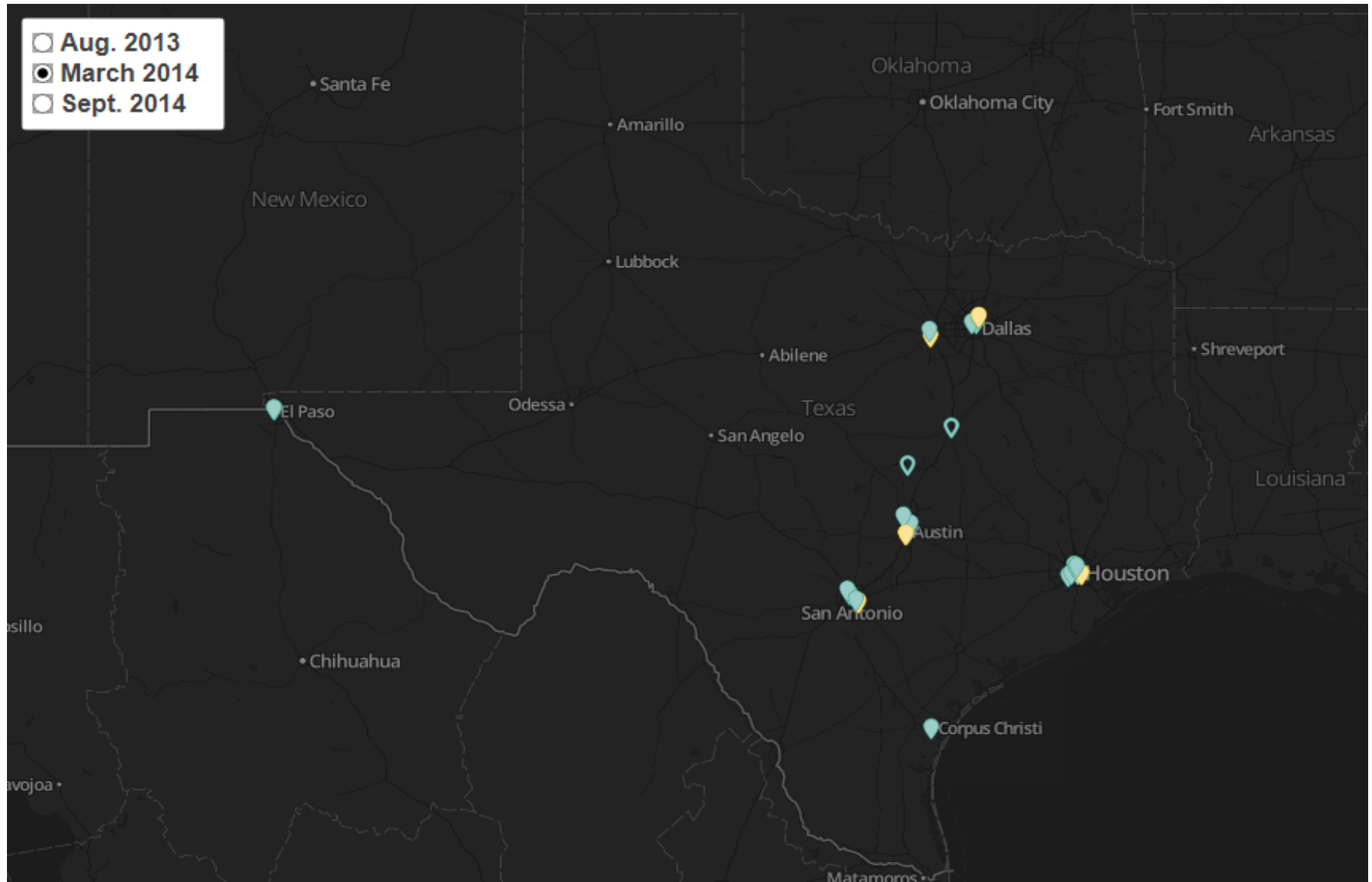
Prior to October 2013, 40 licensed health centers provided abortion in Texas



# Impact of HB2: Challenges to the State

“relating to the regulation of abortion procedures, providers, and facilities”

As of March 2014, 13 health centers in Texas providing safe legal abortions.



# **Impact of HB2: Impact to Women in Texas**

“relating to the regulation of abortion procedures, providers, and facilities”

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- There has been a 13% decrease (about 9,200 annually) in abortions after the first round of provisions took effect.
- Medication abortion has decreased by 70%.
- The number of women living more than 200 miles from a health center that provides safe legal abortion increased from 10,000 to 290,000.
- Communities including Waco, Killeen, Midland, Lubbock and others no longer have an abortion provider.



# Impact of HB2: Impact to women in Austin

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- **Financial Impact:**
  - Many women cannot afford to take the time off work, find child care, and arrange money for gas and the hotel stay to travel more than 300 miles roundtrip to the nearest abortion provider.
- **Access to Reproductive Health Services Impact**
  - In Austin, the morning following the initial court ruling that left Planned Parenthood as the only health center in Austin providing abortion services, Planned Parenthood received more than 200 calls from women seeking appointments for an abortion. This is 4X the usual number of calls received.
  - That same morning, nearly a dozen women came to Planned Parenthood's South Austin Clinic because they were no longer able to receive their scheduled appointment at another Austin health center.
  - In Austin, it is anticipated that women will have to wait longer periods as a result of women from across the State coming to Austin for services.

# Sources of Information

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- <http://www.texastribune.org/2014/03/19/impact-hb2-regulations-abortion-facilities-over-time/>
- <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/orgs/txpep/fact-sheets.php>
- <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/orgs/txpep/files/pdf/Rapidly-Changing-Access-to-Abortion-in-TX-18Jul2014.jpg>
- <http://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-greater-texas>



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## QUESTIONS

**Impact of House Bill 2**  
**Public Health and Human Services Subcommittee**  
**December 2, 2014**

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