

# The Parental Notice Of Abortion Act (PNA) By The Numbers<sup>1</sup>



Roughly **1,000** Illinois residents **under 18**  
have abortions in the state each year.<sup>2</sup>

About **90 to 95%** involve an adult family member — parent, grandparent, step-parent they live with, or legal guardian — in their abortion decision.<sup>3</sup> Those who do not are forced to go in front of a judge to access abortion care in a process called “judicial bypass.”

Young people who *can, do* tell an adult family member about an abortion.  
PNA puts those who *cannot* at risk.

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Among young people who went through the judicial bypass process in recent years:

**40%** feared being forced to continue the pregnancy

**40%** feared being kicked out of their house or cut off financially

**30%** feared straining or ruining family relationships

**9%** feared physical or emotional abuse

**+500**: number of young people that the ACLU has assisted since 2013 with the judicial bypass process in Illinois. **Only 1** had their petition denied.<sup>4</sup>

**85%** of the young people who went through judicial bypass in recent years were ages **16 or 17**.

Illinois judges know that young people are mature and informed enough to make their own health care decisions. The court process is just an unnecessary hurdle.

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On average, the judicial bypass process adds **7 days** to a young person's abortion-seeking timeline in Illinois. But the process has taken as long as **47 days**.

Those days can be critical – a young person may become ineligible for a noninvasive medication abortion, or may need a procedure requiring multiple appointments over consecutive days.

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The burden of PNA disproportionately falls on Black, Indigenous and other young people of color.

**82%** of young people who went through judicial bypass in recent years identified as Black, Latinx, Asian, or multiracial.

<sup>1</sup> Since 2013, the ACLU of Illinois has represented nearly all of the young people who have gone through judicial bypass in the state. Unless otherwise noted, all statistics reported here are based on the experiences of 192 young people who were represented by the ACLU of Illinois in the judicial bypass process between January 2017 and June 2020 and agreed for their data to be shared for research purposes. These 192 represent about 80% of the young people who pursued judicial bypass during that time period, as 47 young people declined to share their data for research purposes. For more information, see Human Rights Watch and ACLU of Illinois, “*The Only People It Really Affects Are the People It Hurts*”: The Human Rights Consequences of Parental Notice of Abortion in Illinois, March 2021, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/03/11/only-people-it-really-affects-are-people-it-hurts/human-rights-consequences>.

<sup>2</sup> Illinois Department of Public Health, “Illinois Abortion Statistics 2018,” January 17, 2020, <http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/illinois-abortion-statistics-2018.pdf> (accessed December 9, 2020).

<sup>3</sup> Estimate by ACLU of Illinois based on the total number of young people who sought judicial bypass annually since PNA went into effect.

<sup>4</sup> Data from the ACLU of Illinois.