# Survey Reveals Knowledge Gaps on Pregnancy Amidst Florida's New Abortion Law



**Survey Highlights Knowledge Gaps About Pregnancy Amidst New Abortion Legislation**

A recent survey conducted in late September 2023 with 1,356 respondents revealed significant gaps in Americans' understanding of pregnancy, particularly regarding how pregnancies are dated and the duration of a trimester. This survey, created by scholars of political science, gender, and public opinion, aimed to provide insights as states like Florida implement restrictive abortion laws.

Florida enacted a law on May 1, 2024, banning most abortions after six weeks of pregnancy, with exceptions for documented cases of rape, incest, and to save the mother's life. This aligns Florida with many Southern states that have introduced stringent abortion restrictions following the Supreme Court's June 2022 decision to overturn the federal right to an abortion.

Survey findings indicate that only one-third of respondents knew pregnancies are dated from the first day of the last menstrual period, with many mistakenly believing dating starts from conception or the last instance of sex. Regarding trimesters, many Americans are familiar with the term, but less than one-fourth of respondents answered both questions correctly about pregnancy timelines.

Additionally, the survey showed a discrepancy in pregnancy knowledge between genders, with 43% of women answering correctly about dating versus 23% of men. Most respondents opposed strict abortion restrictions, with only 35% supporting six-week bans. The survey also highlighted that supporters of such bans were less knowledgeable about how pregnancy timing works.

Florida's new law will impact access to abortions for many, including those from neighboring states where abortion is heavily restricted and who previously traveled to Florida for the procedure. The findings pose questions about the adequacy of knowledge among lawmakers regulating abortion access.