

A Call to Contraception: Overturn of Roe V. Wade Catalyzes Rise In U.S. Vasectomy Consultations

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INTRODUCTION

- January 22nd, 1973 saw the Supreme Court's ruling on Re v. Wade, 410 U.S.113
- This designated the constitutional right of an abortion until the point of viability, as defined by survivability outside of the womb.
- June 24, 2022, the U.S Supreme Court ruled in a landmark decision on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, leaving abortion rights defined at the state level.
- News outlets anecdotally reported American urologists were experiencing significant increases in clinical encounters for vasectomies.
- Immediate change in legislature may have served as a call-to-action for those of reproductive capacity to engage in more safe and permanent ways to avoid pregnancy.
- Due to long-term precedent of Roe-v Wade's protection of abortion from 1973 to 2022, no one of reproductive age (15-44 years) has personally experience navigating reproductive methods before Roe v. Wade precedent.
- Objective:** Explore the impact of changes to federal protection of abortion rights on number of individuals seeking vasectomies at two high-impact academic centers and their concurrent correlation with Google Web searches.

METHODS

- Cross-sectional analysis of Google web searches from 1/1/2004 – 11/31/2022 was performed for the key term "vasectomy" utilizing Google Trends®.
- Coefficients of determination were calculated for the linear search trend of this term.
- Cross-sectional analyses were performed utilizing databases from the electronic medical records of two high impact university hospitals ('Hospital-1' and 'Hospital-2') in the U.S.
- EMR analyses focused on patient encounters for vasectomy consultation coded as 'vasectomy' and 'vasectomy consultation' from 6/01/2022 – 11/31/2022.
- Internet interest of vasectomies by state were analyzed. Each state was given a score based on restrictiveness of current abortion legislation: 1) Total ban or de facto ban, 2) ban at 6 weeks, 3) ban at 15 weeks, 4) ban at 20 weeks, 5) ban at 24 weeks, and 6) no cut off for abortion.
- Lower scored states indicate more restrictive reproductive laws.
- Google Trends was used to asses interested over the same six-month interval in each U.S. state.

RESULTS

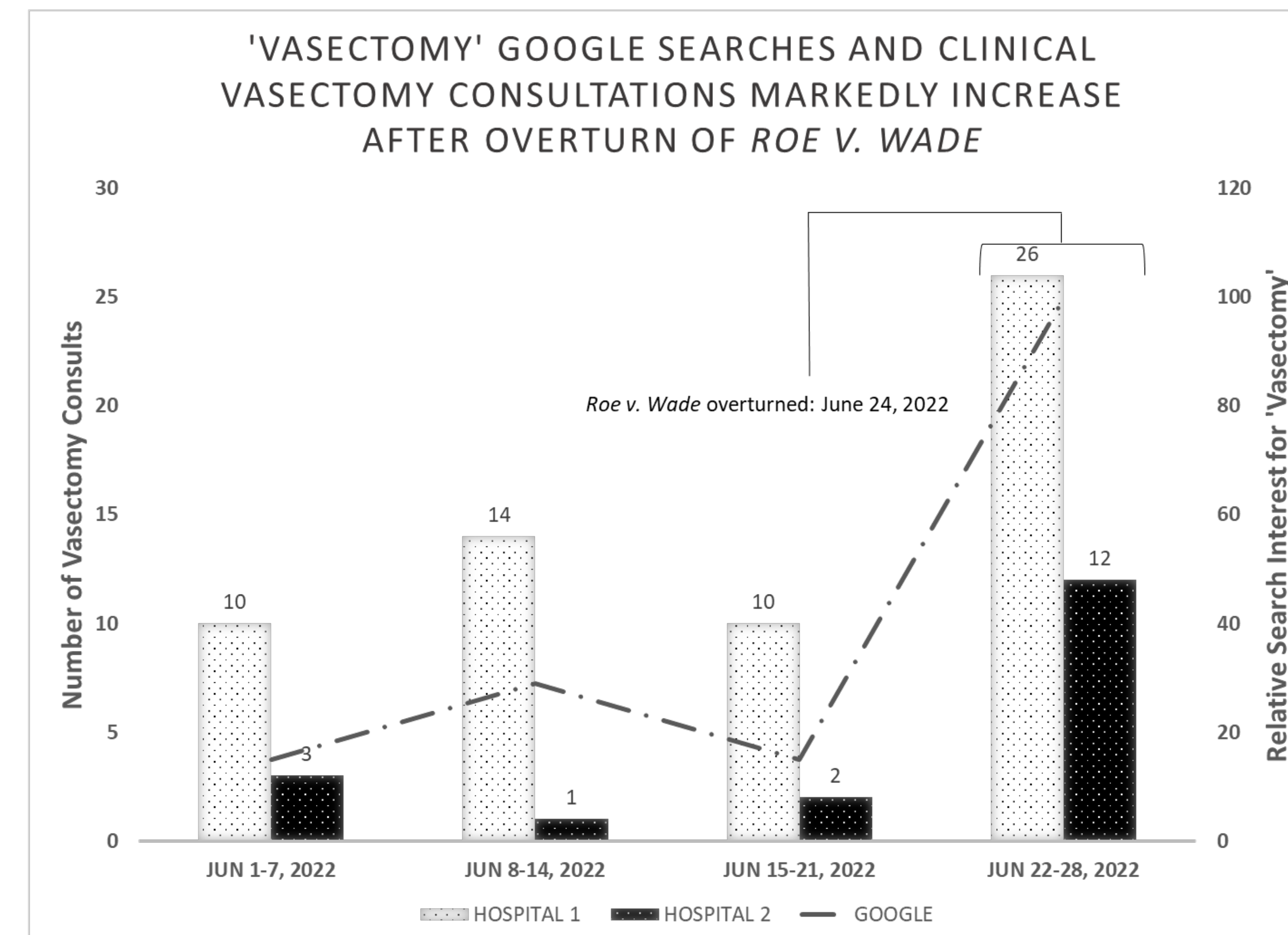


Figure 1: June 2022 Vasectomy Consultations Against Google Searches

	June	July	August	September	October	November
Hospital-1	60	49	52	52	63	14
Hospital-2	53	46	65	52	58	55
Google Interest	56.25	36.6	28.0	26.0	27.8	27.0

Figure 2: Vasectomies at Each Institution by Month in the Year 2022

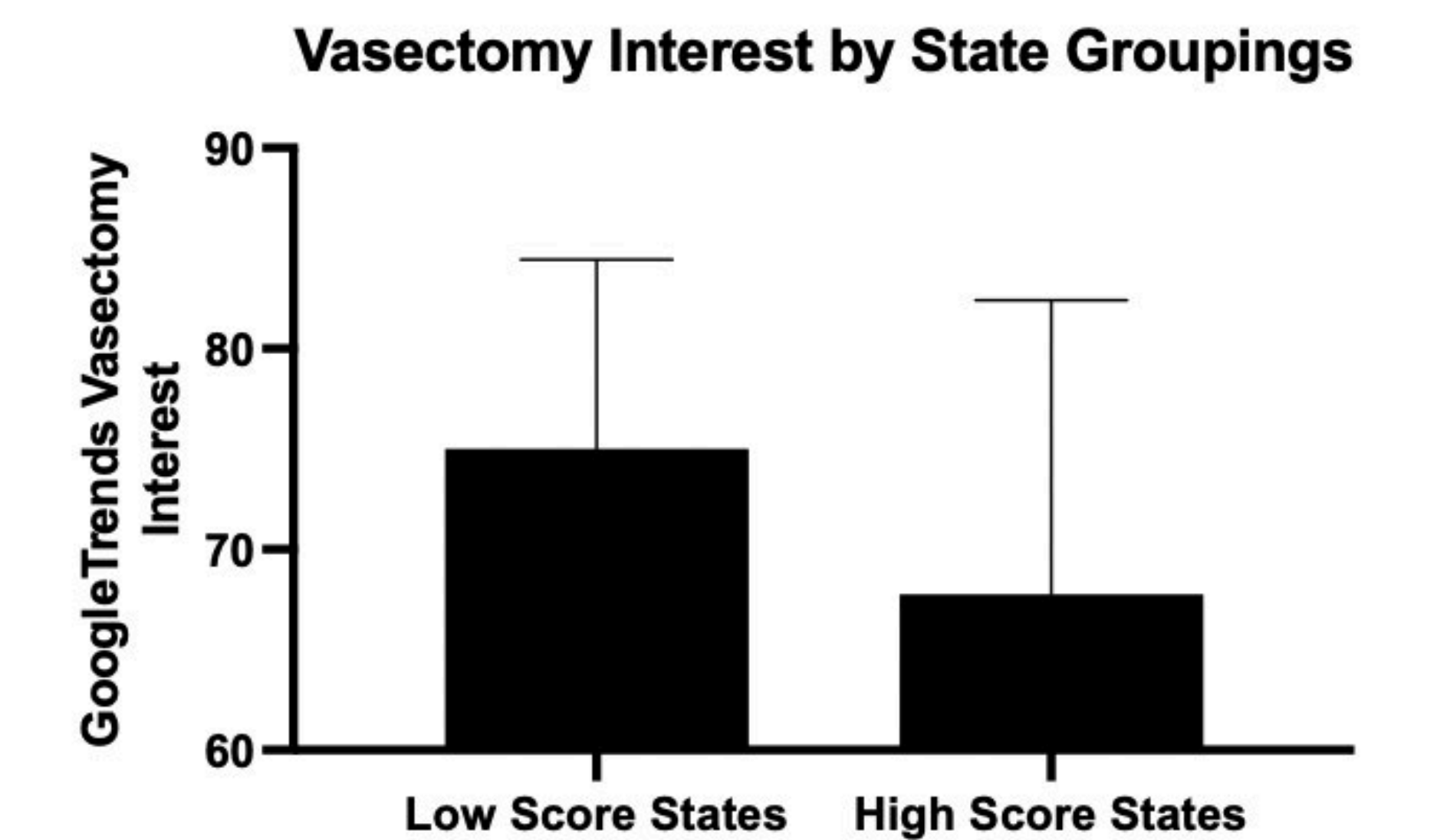


Figure 3: State-by-State Analysis of Vasectomy Interest

DISCUSSION

- Our study demonstrated a marked correlation between increase in Google searches and office visits for vasectomy consultation.
- State-specific data reveals the widespread interest in more permanent contraceptive efforts such as vasectomies in states where abortions are harder to obtain.
- Clinicians may counsel their reproductive-aged patients in proactive contraceptive efforts to combat the varying reproductive restrictions.

CONCLUSIONS

- Online search interest as well as clinical encounters for vasectomy consultations increased dramatically over the month following the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*.

