

**HR25
BOGOTÁ
COLOMBIA**

27-30 April 2025

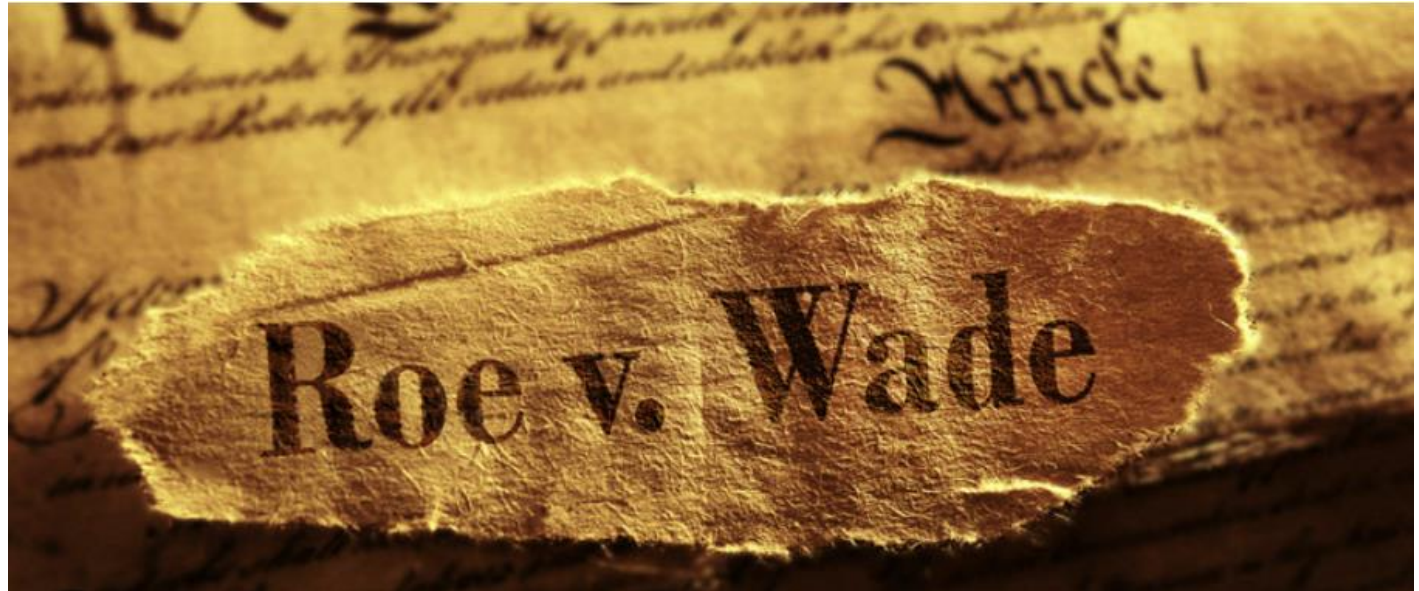
**SOWING CHANGE
TO HARVEST JUSTICE**

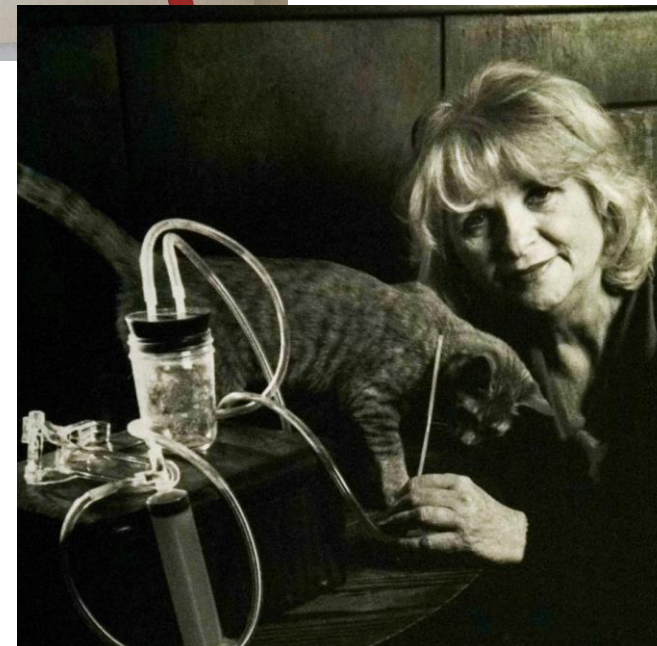
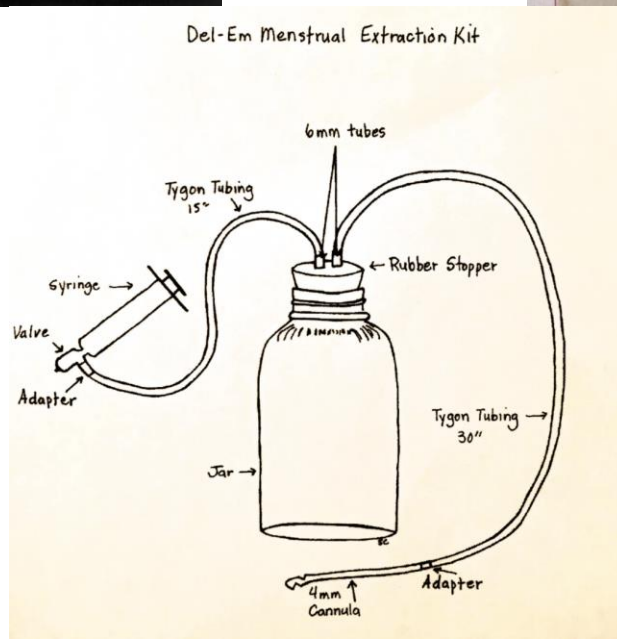
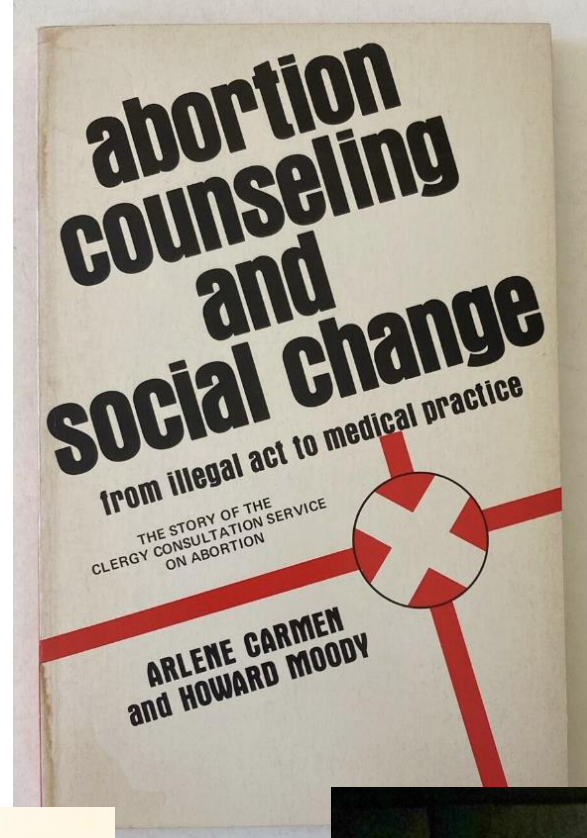
THE HARM REDUCTION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025
BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA
27-30 APRIL 2025

Lynn M. Paltrow

Sex, Drugs, & Pregnancy: The Future of Harm Reduction

Before





Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, 597 U.S. 215 (2022)

Trump: 'I was able to kill Roe v. Wade'

The former president and front-runner for the 2024 Republican nomination leans into his key role in eliminating federal abortion rights, taking credit for state-level bans.



— Donald Trump at a campaign event in Manchester, N.H., last month. Jabin Botsford / The Washington Post via Getty Images file



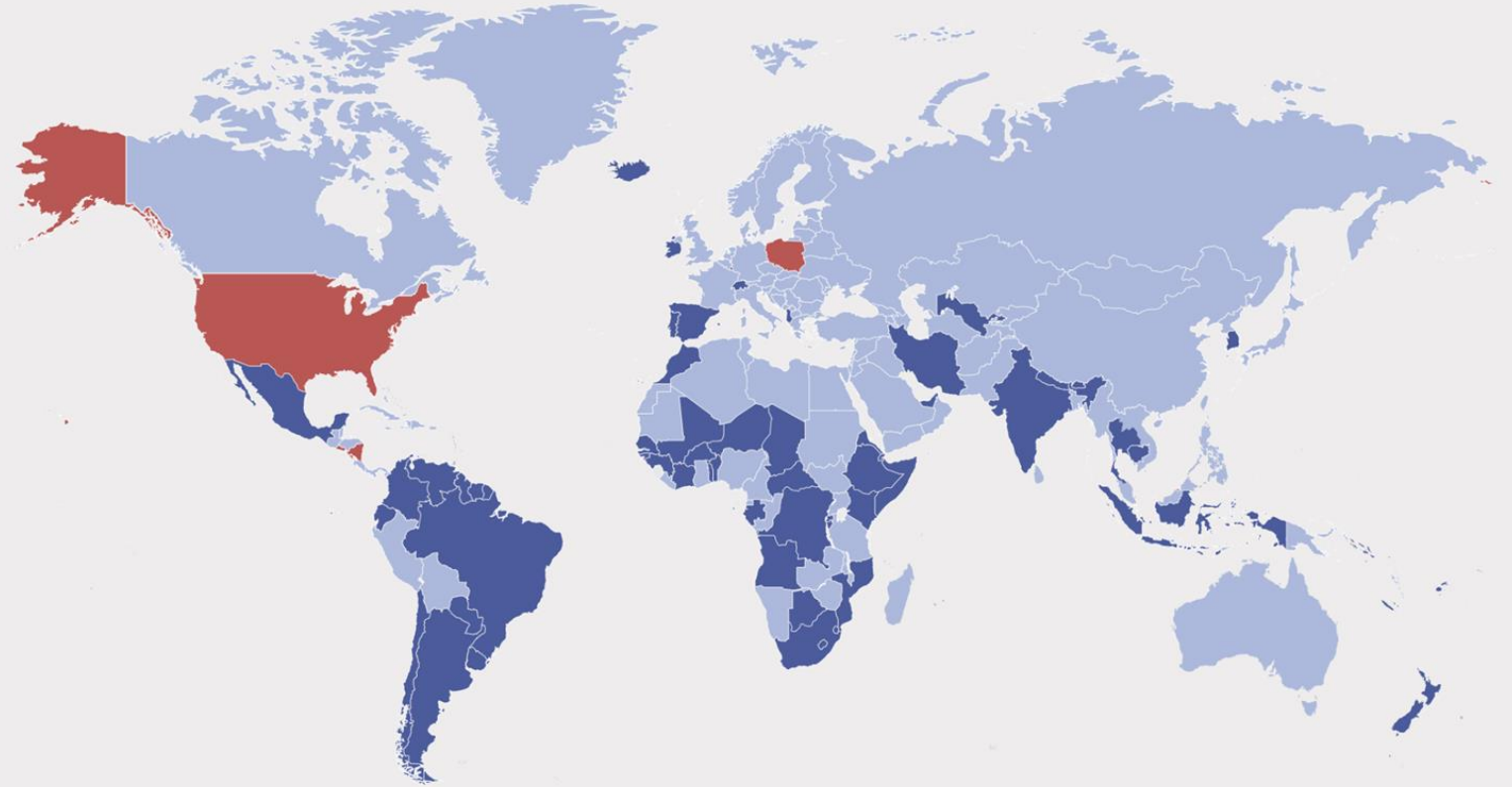
While Mexico, Argentina, Colombia . . .

CENTER *for* REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Over the past 30 years, more than 60 countries and territories have liberalized their abortion laws. From Ireland to Nepal, abortion rights are becoming recognized as fundamental human rights for millions of people worldwide. And in Latin America, the Green Wave is ushering in a new era of liberalization in Colombia, Mexico, Argentina, and elsewhere in the region.



An overwhelming trend towards the liberalization of abortion laws



Pictured: Countries and territories that have liberalized their abortion laws (dark blue) vs. those that have rolled back the legality of abortion (red).

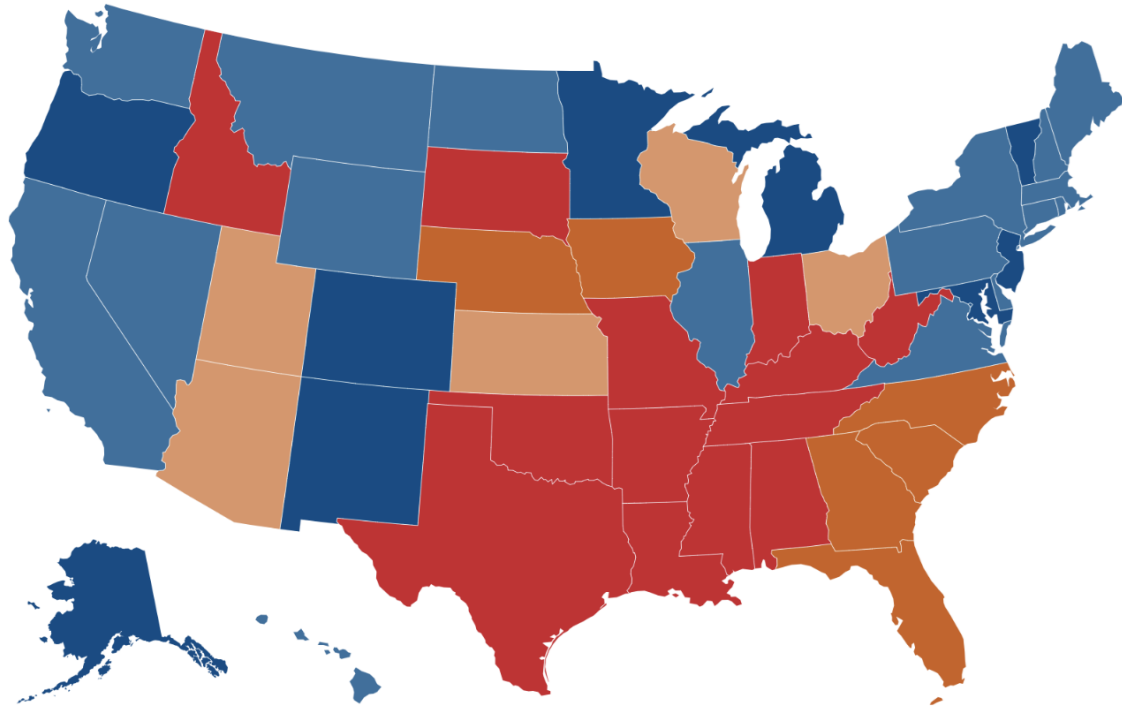


Thirteen U.S. states enforce total bans, and six more restrict access in a manner that is tantamount to a total ban

Status of Abortion Bans in the United States as of October 7, 2024

Hover over state for more details

- Abortion Banned (13 states)
- Gestational limit between 6 and 12 weeks LMP (6 states)
- Gestational limit between 15 and 22 weeks LMP (5 states)
- Gestational limit at or near viability (17 states)
- No gestational limits (9 states & DC)



Over half (53%) of white women ages 18-49 live in states with bans or restrictions. Six in ten Black (60%) and American Indian or Alaska Native (59%) women ages 18-49 live in states with abortion bans or gestational restrictions.

POLICY ANALYSIS MARCH 2024

Despite Bans, Number of Abortions in the United States Increased in 2023



More than 1 million abortions occurred in the **formal** health care system in 2023, the first full calendar year after the US Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* overturned *Roe v. Wade*. This is a 11% increase since 2020, the last year for which comprehensive estimates are available. It is also the highest number and rate measured in the United States in over a decade.

Consistent with this, as of October 22, 2024, the Society of Family Planning in #WeCount has found a small but consistent increase in the national monthly number of abortions

How did this happen??

- Broader availability of telehealth for medication abortion.
- Increased financial support at least temporarily in the aftermath of Dobbs
- State policies improving protections and access to care.

Washington, DC have “shield laws that protect health care providers—and, in some instances, volunteers and patients—from legal or professional consequences enforced by states banning abortion.



NEWS RELEASE MARCH 19, 2024

Medication Abortions Accounted for 63% of All US Abortions in 2023, an Increase from 53% in 2020

New 2023 data show more than one million abortions took place in the formal US health care system, the highest number since 2011

Misoprostol & Mifepristone



Misoprostol and Mifepristone are very safe and very effective

A vast majority of studies report that more than 99 percent of patients who took the pills had no serious complications. These uncommon complications can include hospitalization, blood transfusions or major surgeries.

Abortion providers often say that the pills are safer than many common drugs, such as Tylenol and Viagra. Drug safety experts do not typically compare drugs in this way, and they instead assess the safety of a given medication against other choices.

For pregnant women considering medication abortion, the alternatives would be childbirth or procedural abortion.

Serious complication rates

Procedural abortion	0.16% of patients
Medication abortion	0.31%
Childbirth	1.4%

Sources: Ushma Upadhyay, University of California, San Francisco (2015 study); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2014 study)

In addition to being a safe and effective way to end a pregnancy, mifepristone and misoprostol are also used to treat a wide variety of conditions – both related and unrelated to pregnancy – including postpartum hemorrhage, miscarriage management, Cushing’s Syndrome, uterine fibroids, ovarian cancer, and gastric ulcers. The World Health Organization and medical research Establish that this medication is used safely around the world for a wide variety of obstetric and gynecological health care needs, including treatment of postpartum hemorrhage **and** safe termination of pregnancy.

https://www.womenonweb.org/en/

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Abortion Pill Access by Mail

Women on Web provides safe abortion pill access by mail to the world. Request Mifepristone and Misoprostol abortion pills online.

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Women on Web has helped over 100,000 people order abortion pills online. The abortion pill is safe, effective, and delivered to your home by mail.

I had an abortion

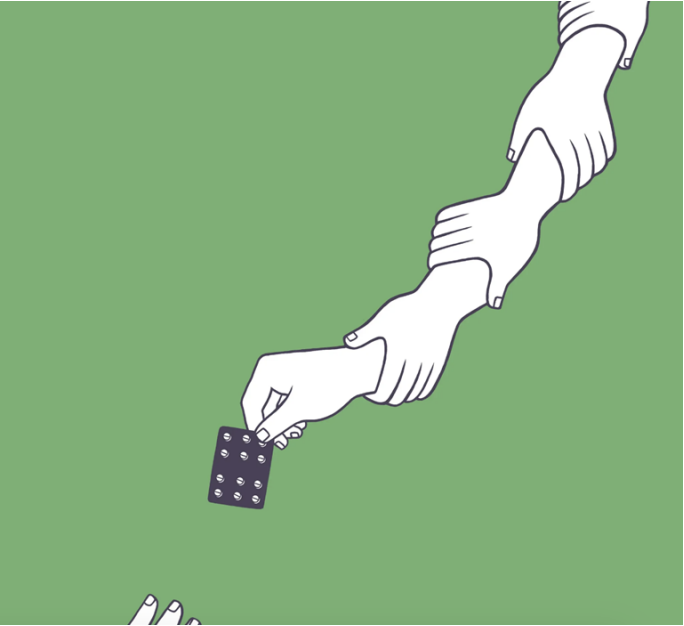
Every unique abortion story that is shared empowers women and pregnant people around the world to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights.

A REPORTER AT LARGE

THE POST-ROE ABORTION UNDERGROUND

A multigenerational network of activists is getting abortion pills across the Mexican border to Americans.

By Stephania Taladrid
October 10, 2022



https://www.plancpills.org/

PLAN C

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Abortion pills by mail in every state.

Plan C provides up-to-date information on how people in the U.S. are accessing at-home abortion pill options online.

Select a state or territory ▾

Search

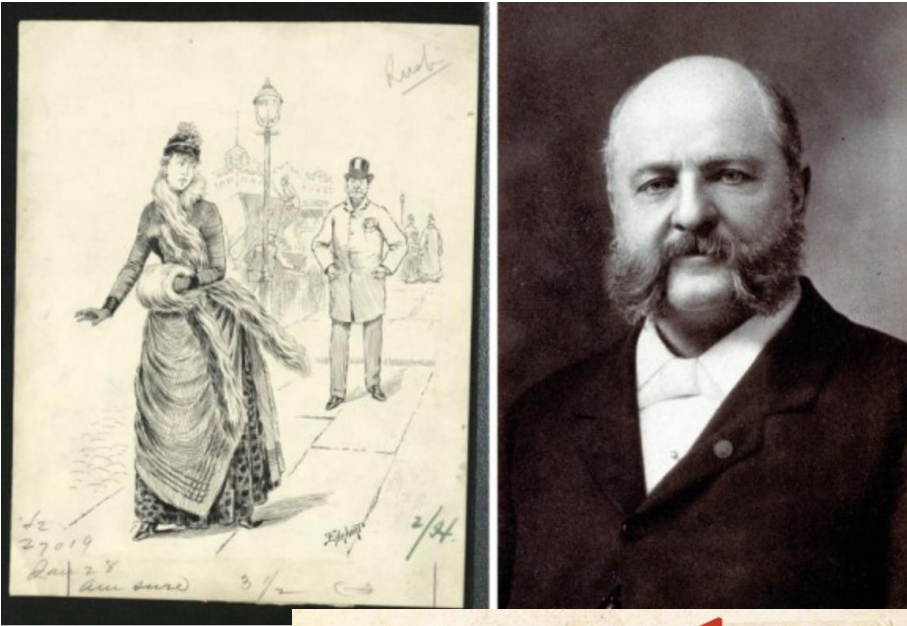
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Did you know you can order abortion pills ahead of time, just in case?

So they are safe, they are protecting women's lives: Let's find a way to stop them!



The biggest threat to abortion pills is the Comstock Act, an 1873 anti-obscenity law that anti-abortion advocates argue criminalizes the mailing of medication used to terminate a pregnancy. But before then .

...



LAW

A new Louisiana law will re-classify misoprostol as a dangerous controlled substance

SEPTEMBER 27, 2024 · 6:00 PM ET

HEARD ON [ALL THINGS CONSIDERED](#)

Louisiana, where abortion was already illegal, became the first in the US to reclassify mifepristone and misoprostol as “controlled dangerous substances” Louisiana’s Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law regulates drugs that can be highly addictive like opioids, ephedrine and antidepressants. But the scientific evidence is unmistakable: Abortion pills are neither addictive nor dangerous.

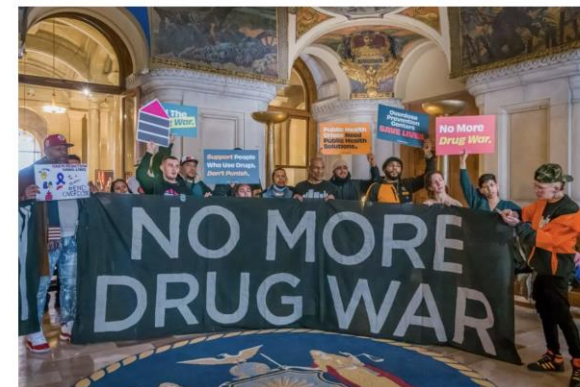
Possession without a prescription can result in a prison sentence of 5 years and or a fine of \$5,000. Distribution or possession with intent to distribute is punishable for up to 10 years in prison with a fine of up to \$15,000.



Criminalizing Drugs—including Misoprostol and Mifepristone —Is a Bad Idea

PUBLISHED 6/7/2024 by LYNN M. PALTROW

Even before Louisiana's decision to label abortion pills as dangerous controlled substances, the parallels and connections between the war on drugs and the war on abortion have been clear.



Demonstrators at the New York State Capitol push back against Governor Kathy Hochul's proposed plans to increase criminalization to address the overdose crisis. (Erik McGregor / LightRocket via Getty Images)

Criminalization is Nothing New in the U.S.

The Policy and Politics of Reproductive Health
**Arrests of and Forced Interventions on
Pregnant Women in the United States,
1973–2005: Implications for Women’s
Legal Status and Public Health**

Lynn M. Paltrow
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
Jeanne Flavin
Fordham University

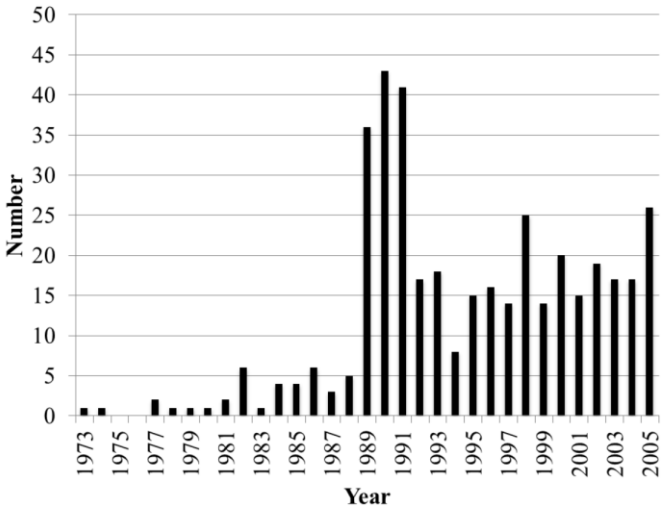


Figure 1 Number of Arrests, Detentions, and Forced Interventions of Pregnant Women in the United States (1973–2005)

In the first year after Dobbs, **at least 210** pregnant women faced criminal charges that would not have occurred but for pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes – including abortion, miscarriage, stillbirth, and birth.

The 210 prosecutions initiated in this one-year period represent a high-water mark—the largest single-year number since researchers began tracking these cases. (413 in 33 years [12.5 per year] 1973–2005; 1,369 in 16.5 years 2006–June 2022 [82 per year] June 2022–2023 [201 in one year]);

Approximately 84% of the cases involve an allegation of pregnancy and the use of a criminalized drug



Pregnancy As a Crime:

A Preliminary Report on the
First Year After *Dobbs*

Criminalization is nothing new . . . Not even falsely labeling Misoprostol a “dangerous” drug.

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

Murder charges dropped against Georgia woman jailed for taking abortion pills

June 10, 2015



Kenlissia Jones was charged with murder after she took an abortion-inducing pill and her baby died.
(Courtesy Ricco Riggins)



Georgia Criminal Law§16-13-72. If convicted of selling, distributing, or possessing dangerous drugs in Georgia, you will be guilty of a misdemeanor. Misdemeanor convictions in Georgia carry fines up to \$1,000, jail time up to one year, or both.

Consequences

Louisiana's new abortion pill law may delay lifesaving care for women, doctors say

Under the new law, the drugs mifepristone and misoprostol will be designated as Schedule IV controlled substances.



 **NBC NEWS**

LOUISIANA ILLUMINATOR

GOVT + POLITICS ENVIRONMENT HEALTH CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

ABORTION POLICY COURTS GOVT + POLITICS HEALTH CARE HEALTH POLICY

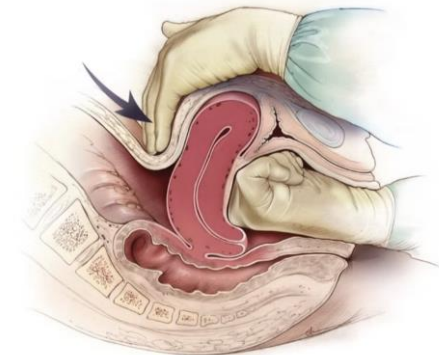
Louisiana health care providers sue state, claiming misoprostol law violates constitution

'Patients cannot go to court to challenge a law while hemorrhaging,' lawsuit says

BY: LORENA O'NEIL - OCTOBER 31, 2024 2:06 PM



As a result of the controlled substances law, hospitals have been forced to take misoprostol out of obstetric hemorrhage carts and instead store it in passcode-protected locked compartments. Any delay in obtaining the drug, doctors say, is a matter of life or death for patients who are hemorrhaging. People who've been prescribed misoprostol for their miscarriages have also reported having a hard time filling prescriptions at local pharmacies. One source told reporters this process can take up to 45 minutes in a rural hospital because doctors sometimes must call a remote pharmacy and leave a voicemail, reducing the application of vital medicine to nail-biting, life-altering phone tag.



The US Context: MATERNAL MORTALITY

The United States continues to have the highest rate of maternal deaths of any high-income nation, despite a decline since the COVID-19 pandemic. And within the U.S., the rate is by far the highest for Black women. Most of these deaths — over 80 percent — are likely preventable.

Study finds higher maternal mortality rates in states with more abortion restrictions

[View PDF](#)

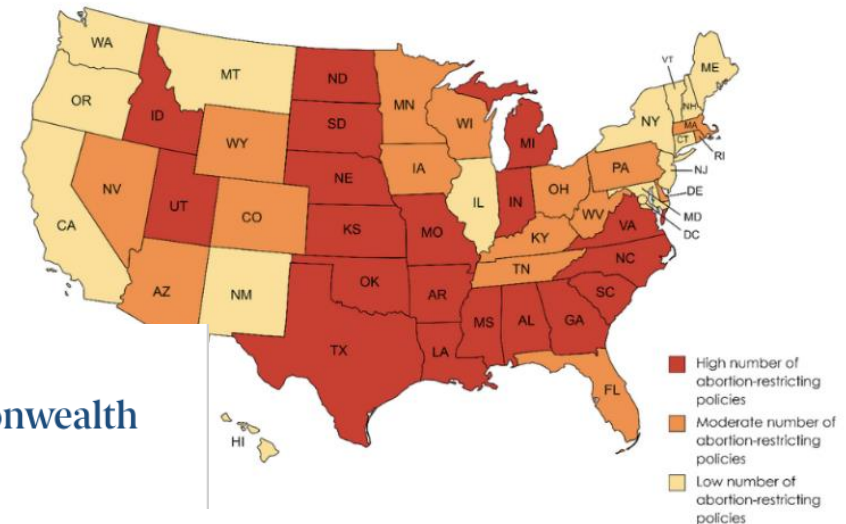
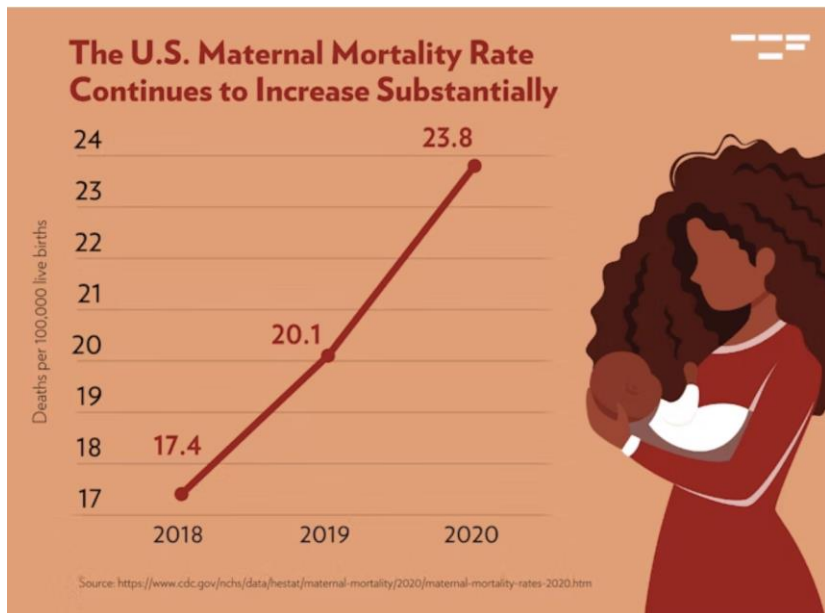


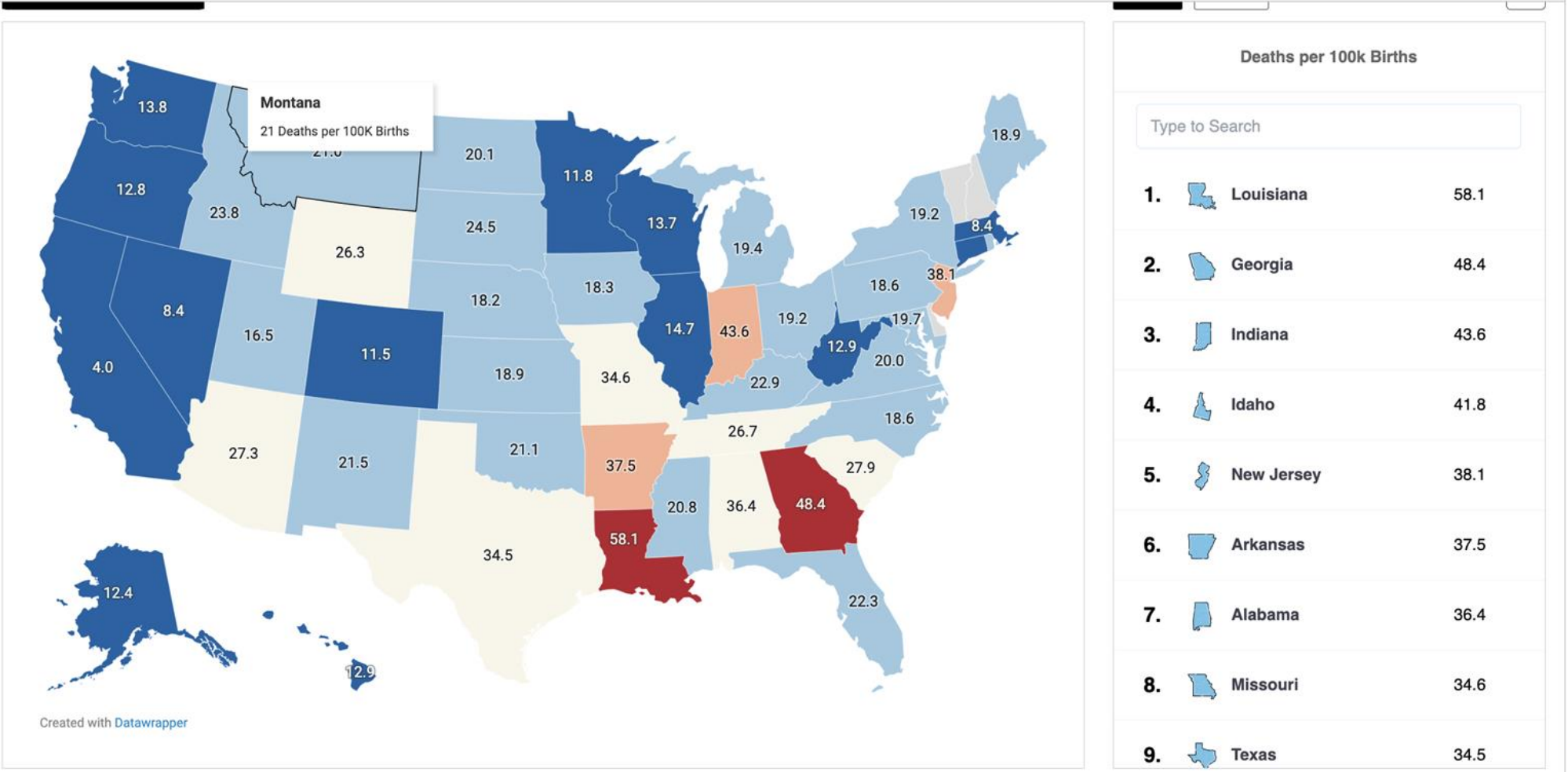
Figure 1. State abortion policy context in 2015

States with more restrictive abortion policy climate have higher total maternal mortality, measured as a death during pregnancy or within one year following the end of a pregnancy, a recent study conducted by a team of Tulane researchers finds.



Maternal Mortality Rate By State

Last updated September 18, 2024



Created with Datawrapper

Louisiana is among the worst states in terms of maternal mortality and morbidity, with Black women disproportionately at risk of dying due to complications with childbirth.

MATERNAL MORTALITY, MORBIDITY, AND SUFFERING

More than 100 pregnant women in medical distress who sought help from emergency rooms were turned away or negligently treated since 2022, an Associated Press analysis of federal hospital investigations found.

60 MINUTES - NEWSMAKERS

In Louisiana, pregnant women struggle to get maternal health care, and the situation is getting worse

60

By Sharyn Alfonsi
Updated on: August 20, 2023 / 7:00 PM EDT / CBS News



LETTER FROM TEXAS

DID AN ABORTION BAN COST A YOUNG TEXAS WOMAN HER LIFE?

As many conservatives hail the fall of Roe for saving unborn lives, high-risk pregnancy becomes even more perilous.

By Stephania Taladrid
January 8, 2024



impact x REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

After a hospital **denied** her abortion, her ectopic pregnancy **ruptured** her fallopian tube and **destroyed** part of her reproductive system.

This is the story of **Kyleigh Thurman**. →



AP WORLD U.S. ELECTION 2024 POLITICS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS SCIENCE FACT CHECK

Election 2024 Middle East wars Madison Square Garden Timothée Chalamet Dwyane Wade statue

HEALTH

Dozens of pregnant women, some bleeding or in labor, are turned away from ERs despite federal law

PROPUBLICA



Health Care Afraid to Seek Care Amid Georgia's Abortion Ban, She Stayed at Home and Died

Carol Miller's family said she didn't visit a doctor "due to the current legislation on pregnancies and abortions." Maternal health experts deemed her death preventable and blamed Georgia's abortion ban.

Newsweek
Aug. 16, 8 a.m. EDT

Health Care

Abortion Bans Have Delayed Emergency Medical Care. In Georgia, Experts Say This Mother's Death Was Preventable

At least two women in Georgia died after they couldn't access legal abortions and timely medical care in their state, ProPublica has found. This is one of their stories.

by Kaithe Burns
Aug. 16, 9 a.m. EDT



INFANT MORTALITY



BREAKING NEWS!

Infant mortality in the U.S. worsened after Supreme Court limited abortion access

Infant deaths have increased in the United States since the Supreme Court ruling that [overturned Roe vs. Wade](#) and allowed states to make abortion illegal, researchers reported Monday.

BLACKMAMASMATTER.ORG

News Article, October 25, 2024 Infant Mortality Increases Across US Following Dobbs Decision



The Dobbs decision was associated with a 7% absolute increase in overall infant mortality—equivalent to 247 excess deaths—and a 10% increase among infants with congenital anomalies, corresponding to 204 additional deaths.

*Image Credit: Aliaksei Lasevich -
stock.adobe.com*

Large racial disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes persist.

PROHIBITION
PROHIBITION
PROHIBITION
PROHIBITION

The Drug War Doesn't Stop Drug Use
The War on Abortions Doesn't Stop Abortion
Prohibition is a Tools of Oppression
That Undermines Human Rights & Public Health

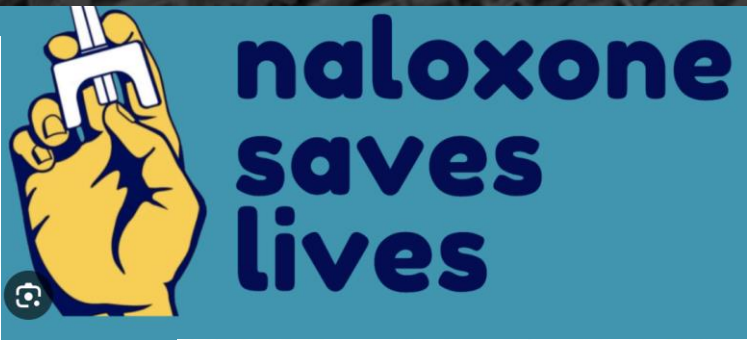
Harm Reduction, Compassion and Respect Work!





Overdose prevention center OnPoint NYC in New York, N.Y., Friday, February 18, 2022. © 2022 Seth Wenig/AP Photo

Let's Save Lives



Evidence-backed public health approaches including harm reduction have proven over several decades to keep people alive, safer, and healthier.

