

State of Emergency for Women's Health

We are in a state of emergency for women's health in the U.S.

In America, the rate of death for women of reproductive age is on the rise. Women are 50 percent more likely to die in childbirth than 30 years ago,¹ and Black women are three to four times more likely to die than white women.² Sexually transmitted infections are at a record high in the U.S. for the fourth year in a row, with a 30 percent increase in the five years ending in 2017.³

Against this troubling backdrop, access to reproductive care is under attack by an unprecedented wave of legislative actions that further threaten women's health.

On June 1, 2019, Missouri is poised to become the first state in the U.S. with NO health center that provides abortion.⁴

If Roe is overturned, 1 in 3 women of reproductive age – more than 25 million women – would be living in states without abortion access.⁵ Banning abortion care will not stop abortion – it will stop safe, legal abortion care. And the cost will be women's lives.

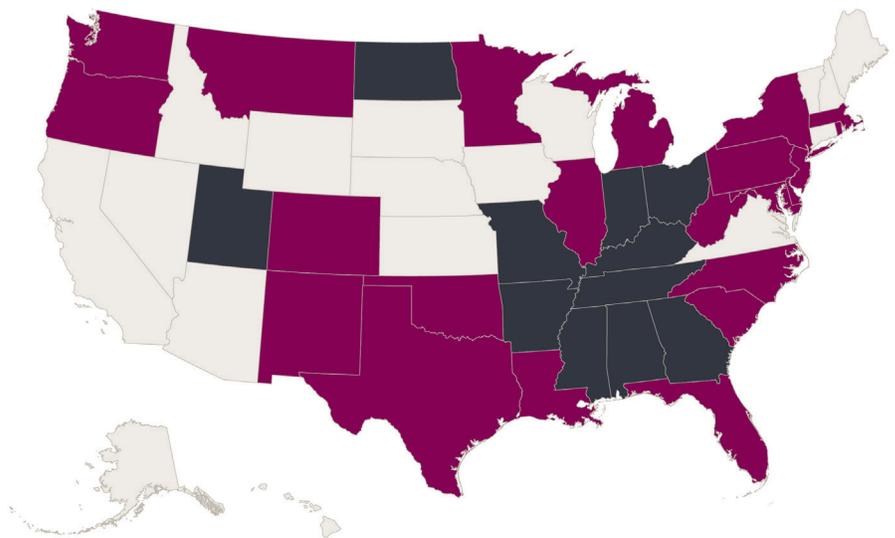
We are in a state of emergency for women's health. Barriers to reproductive care will only worsen health outcomes and exacerbate disparities and inequities.



DR. LEANA WEN
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NATIONWIDE PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

- 19 million women in the U.S. live in **reproductive health deserts** (geographic areas with a dearth of medical providers)⁶
- 90 percent of counties across the nation lack a **provider of abortion care**⁷
- **27 large cities are abortion deserts**, where women must travel 100 miles or more to get abortion care⁸
- There is a nearly **1,200-mile-wide desert of abortion providers** stretching from Idaho to North and South Dakota⁹
- Six states currently have **only one provider** (KY, MS, MO, ND, SD, WV); on June 1, one state may have none (MO)¹⁰
- Six states enacted bills that ban abortion care before most women know they are pregnant, including a near total ban on abortion care enacted in Alabama¹¹
- In 2019, 303 bills restricting abortion care have been filed in 47 states; 135 of these bills are bans on abortion in some, or all, circumstances¹²
- Since 2011, more than 430 abortion restrictions have been signed into law¹³



Abortion Ban(s) Introduced in 2019



Extreme Ban(s) Enacted in 2019

A View From the States



ALABAMA: Banned abortion from the time a woman is “known to be pregnant;” no exceptions for rape and incest; state could investigate women’s miscarriages; most punitive ban signed since *Roe* was decided, doctors could be charged with a Class A felony and be sentenced to up to 99 years in prison¹⁴

- Highest cervical cancer mortality rate in the U.S.¹⁵
- 4th worst infant mortality rate in the U.S.¹⁶



GEORGIA: Banned abortion at 6 weeks; state could investigate women’s miscarriages; doctors could be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison¹⁷

- 2nd worst maternal mortality rate in the U.S. (10x higher than California)¹⁸
- Half of Georgia counties do not have a single OB-GYN¹⁹



MISSOURI: Banned abortion at 8 weeks with no exceptions for rape and incest; state could investigate women’s miscarriages; doctors could be sentenced to up to 15 years in prison²⁰

- Maternal mortality rate is 50% higher than the U.S.²¹
- Congenital syphilis is at its highest rate in nearly two decades²²
- 5 counties in Missouri face a 1,000% increase in syphilis²³



OHIO: Banned abortion at 6 weeks with no exceptions for rape or incest; doctors could be sentenced to up to one year in prison²⁴

- Defunded Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies, a program that worked to reduce maternal and infant mortality²⁵
- Ohio introduced a bill requiring sex education materials to “clearly and consistently state that abortion kills a living human being”²⁶
- Stripped Violence Against Women Act funds from Planned Parenthood²⁷



TEXAS: Bill introduced that would criminalize women for having an abortion and could **subject them to the death penalty**, with no exceptions for rape, incest, or medical emergency²⁸

- **Texas:** 58% of public school districts teach abstinence-only sex education²⁹

“...ONE HAS TO THINK WELL, THERE’S A HOST BODY, AND THAT HOST BODY HAS TO HAVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF RIGHTS...BUT THERE’S AN ADDITIONAL LIFE THERE.”

– FLORIDA HOUSE SPEAKER JOSE OLIVA

“THE ALABAMA ABORTION BAN SIMPLY CRIMINALIZES ABORTION. HOPEFULLY, IT TAKES IT ALL THE WAY TO THE SUPREME COURT TO OVERTURN *ROE VS. WADE*.”

– ALABAMA STATE REP. TERRI COLLINS

FIGHTING BACK:

In response to the hundreds of restrictions placed on abortion care, states are making efforts to strengthen and codify fundamental health care access:

- **Nine states** introduced legislation that codifies *Roe vs. Wade* and the right of every person to safe, legal abortion care³⁰
- **16 states** introduced legislation that repeal a range of restrictions on abortion access, including TRAP regulations and mandatory waiting periods³¹
- **10 states** are expanding reproductive health coverage to people with low incomes³²
- **Five states** introduced legislation that would reduce abortion deserts by allowing advanced practice clinicians to provide abortion care³³

May 21, 2019: Hundreds of thousands of supporters attended over 500 events in all 50 states to **#StopTheBans**. In city after city, people rallied to protest abortion bans and voiced their support for protecting women’s health.

TAKE ACTION:

1) CALL Members of Congress:

Dial **202-816-6461** and ask your representative to support the **Women’s Health Protection Act** and the resolution to protect *Roe*. Tell them not to criminalize women and doctors.

2) JOIN the movement:

Text **NOBANS** to **22422** to fight back today in your community.

3) DONATE to Planned

Parenthood Action Fund: Visit plannedparenthoodaction.org to learn more and find additional actions to fight back.

ENDNOTES

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- ⁴ National Public Radio, Missouri Could Soon Become First State Without A Clinic That Performs Abortions (2019), <https://www.npr.org/2019/05/28/727323584/missouri-could-soon-become-first-state-without-a-clinic-that-performs-abortions>
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- ⁶ Power to Decide, Access to Birth Control (No date), <https://powertodecide.org/what-we-do/access/access-birth-control>
- ⁷ Jerman et al., Abortion Incidence and Service Availability In the United States (2014), <http://europepmc.org/abstract/MED/28094905>
- ⁸ Cartwright et al., Identifying National Availability of Abortion Care and Distance From Major US Cities: Systematic Online Search (2018), <https://www.jmir.org/2018/5/e186/>
- ⁹ Marty, America's Abortion-Free Zone Grows (2014), <https://www.thedailybeast.com/americas-abortion-free-zone-grows>
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- ¹¹ AL HB 319, GA HB 481, OH SB 23, MO HB 126, MS SB 2116, KY SB 9; State Legislature (2019)
- ¹² Planned Parenthood Federation of America, State Policy Team Report (2019)
- ¹³ Guttmacher Institute, Unprecedented Wave of Abortion Bans is an Urgent Call to Action (2019) <https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2019/05/unprecedented-wave-abortion-bans-urgent-call-action>
- ¹⁴ AL HB 319, Alabama State Legislature (2019)
- ¹⁵ Human Rights Watch, It Should Not Happen, Alabama's Failure to Prevent Cervical Cancer Death in the Black Belt (2018) <https://www.hrw.org/report/2018/11/29/it-should-not-happen/alabamas-failure-prevent-cervical-cancer-death-black-belt>
- ¹⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Infant Mortality Rates by State (2017) https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/infant_mortality_rates/infant_mortality.htm
- ¹⁷ GA HB 481, Georgia State Legislature (2019)
- ¹⁸ USA Today, Which states have the worst maternal mortality? (2018) <https://www.usatoday.com/list/news/investigations/maternal-mortality-by-state/7b6a2a48-0b79-40c2-a44d-8111879a8336/>
- ¹⁹ Georgia Maternal and Infant Health Group, Georgia's Obstetric Crisis: Origins, Consequences, and Potential Solutions (2015) <http://www.senate.ga.gov/committees/Documents/Oct%2026%20Ga%20Maternal%20Health%20%20Infant%20Research%20Group%20-%20Dr%20Zertuche.pdf>
- ²⁰ MO HB 126, Missouri State Legislature (2019)
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- ²⁸ TX HB 896, Texas State Legislature (2019)
- ²⁹ Texas Freedom Network Education Fund, Conspiracy of Silence (2016) <http://a.tfn.org/sex-ed/tfn-sex-ed-report-2016-web.pdf>
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