

CRHLP Update



CRHLP Research Director, Subasri Narasimhan, has been named a 2026 Changemakers in Family Planning awardee by the Society of Family Planning. The prestigious Changemakers in Family Planning award recognizes scholars of color and supports them in expanding their research skills and expertise as part of the Society's commitment to addressing institutionalized racism in the field of family planning.

Through the Changemakers Award, Suba will examine the successes, challenges, and real-world outcomes of significant public investments in abortion care in states that have worked to protect access following *Dobbs*. Her research will help document what these investments mean for patients and communities, providing critical evidence for policymakers, health department leaders, advocates, and the broader family planning movement.

Events

OPEN HOUSE



YOU'RE INVITED!

**Come meet the staff of the Williams Institute and
the Center on Reproductive Health, Law & Policy!**

Current UCLA Law students are invited to join us to learn about the
academic and extracurricular opportunities we have available.

**WEDNESDAY
September 9**

5:30 – 7:00PM

Presentation at 6:00pm

At our office in Westwood (Address provided upon RSVP)

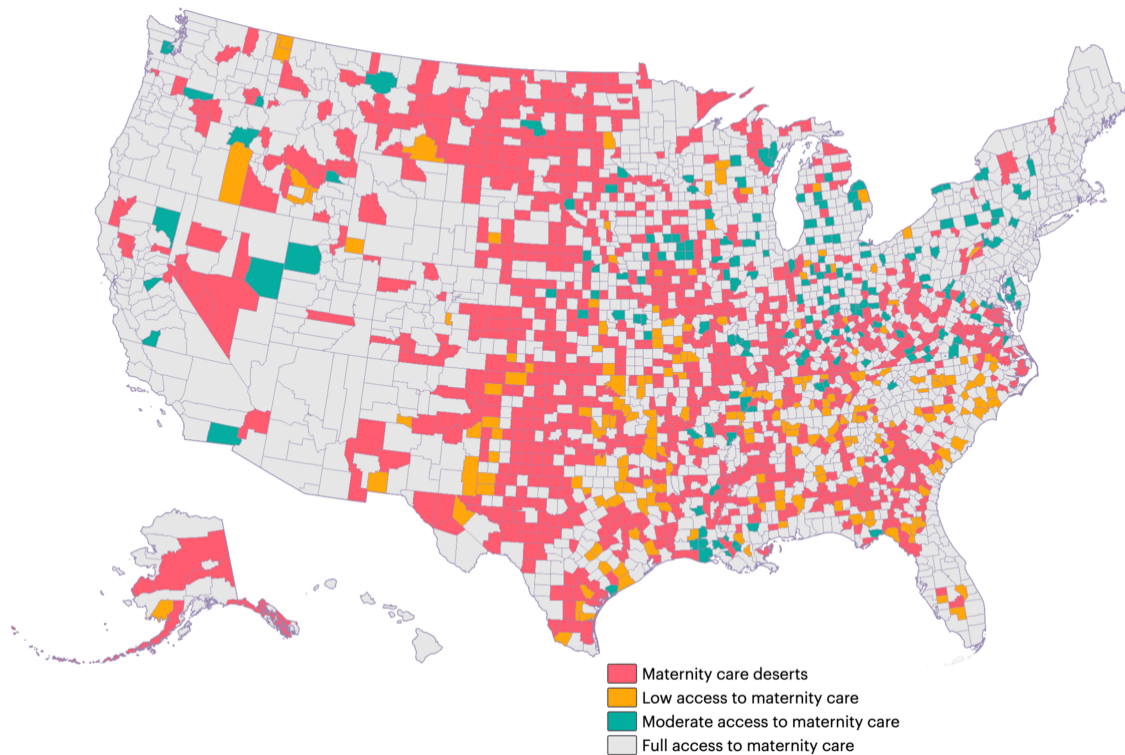
Refreshments will be provided.

RSVP: tinyurl.com/StudentOH2026

RSVP now for our UCLA Law Student Open House, co-hosted with the The Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law! Join us on Wednesday, September 9, 5:30–7:00 PM to meet the staff of the Williams Institute and CRHLP and enjoy light refreshments and appetizers.

At 6:00 PM, enjoy a special presentation about our work and ways you can get involved. Whether you're curious about research, policy, or advocacy, now is your opportunity to get involved! Register now and spread the word by sharing this invite with your network: tinyurl.com/StudentOH2026.

Policy News



asbex
 March of Dimes

The March of Dimes released its [2026 maternity care report](#), finding that access to maternity care remains severely limited and deeply inequitable across the country. Nearly 35% of U.S. counties are maternity care deserts – defined as places where there are no hospitals or birth centers offering obstetric care and no obstetric clinicians. These care deserts affect 2.4 million women of reproductive age and 149,000 births annually, while another 3.4 million women and 209,000 infants live in counties with only low or moderate access to care. More than half of U.S. counties lack a hospital with labor and delivery services, with rural communities particularly affected. Hospital closures are further worsening access, with at least 96 labor and delivery units closing across 35 states since January 2024, increasing travel times by an average of 25 minutes in affected communities. The report also highlights persistent insurance disparities for women of reproductive age, with uninsured rates highest in the South, rural areas, and maternity care deserts, particularly in states that have not expanded Medicaid. March of Dimes emphasizes policies and programs such as Medicaid expansion and postpartum coverage, rural obstetric training, mobile health centers, expanded doula access, and unconditional cash programs as important strategies for improving access to maternity care and addressing the broader social and economic barriers affecting maternal and infant health.



Massachusetts has become the 10th state, along with Washington, D.C., to eliminate its statutory gestational limit on abortion. Massachusetts law used to ban abortion after 24 weeks except for a limited set of reasons. The new law states that abortions at 24 weeks or more may be provided by a physician based on their professional judgment. The law [was supported](#) by major medical organizations, including the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, the Massachusetts Medical Society, and the Massachusetts chapter of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, as well as patients and advocates who have been forced to travel out of state to obtain abortions later in pregnancy. While most abortions occur in earlier stages of pregnancy there are an array of reasons people seek an abortion after 24 weeks of pregnancy. Laws that ban care at that stage, even with exceptions, can tie the hands of patients and providers at the very moment a pregnant person is navigating some of their most complex and individualized medical needs.

Legal News



Otto Kitsinger for States Newsroom

For the first time since the Dobbs decision overruled Roe v. Wade, a federal judge [has ruled](#) that there is a fundamental constitutional right to health-preserving abortion. It held that the state's near-total abortion ban without a health exception violates a fundamental liberty right under the Fourteenth Amendment, and that excluding the risk of life-threatening self-harm violates the Equal Protection Clause. The ruling allows doctors in Idaho to provide abortions when necessary to prevent serious physical or mental health harms to the pregnant person. The judge [wrote](#) that "a pregnant woman's health is not a state resource to be allocated at the legislature's whim. The Fourteenth Amendment exists precisely to prevent subjugation like this." The decision follows testimony from Idaho physicians who said the law has forced them to refer patients with serious pregnancy complications out of state, including to Utah, for care. The judge did uphold as constitutional Idaho's ban on abortion where there has been a fatal fetal diagnosis and for pregnancies with multiples, even if the termination of one fetus increases the chance that the other(s) will survive.



Kansas City Star

A Kansas district court judge [has struck down](#) several abortion restrictions dating back to 1997, ruling that they violate Kansans' constitutional right to bodily autonomy. The [decision](#) invalidates requirements imposing state-mandated disclosures and delays that included , government-scripted information for patients, telling patients scientifically unsupported information about medication abortion "reversal," and forcing physicians to obtain and report to the state their patients' reasons for seeking an abortion. The ruling follows a 2024 Kansas Supreme Court decision reaffirming abortion as a fundamental right. A day after the decision came out, more than 60% of Kansas voters rejected a proposed constitutional amendment that would have changed how state Supreme Court justices are selected. The proposed change was backed by anti-abortion politicians who have criticized the court's rulings protecting abortion rights and sought greater influence over its composition.

Food for Thought



With so much going on in the world of reproductive health, law, and policy, every week we'll share articles, books, and media you might have missed.

[My Hysterectomy Was A Gift. Dr. Kemi Doll Shows Why Women Need To Share Our 'Womb Stories'](#)

[She's Remaking The Abortion Landscape One Pill At A Time](#)

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

[Missouri Women Have Fought For Abortion Rights For Decades. They're Still Fighting.](#)



Reimagining the future of reproductive health, law, and policy.

UCLA Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy is a think tank and research center created to develop long-term, lasting solutions that advance all aspects of reproductive justice, and address the current national crisis of abortion access.

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