

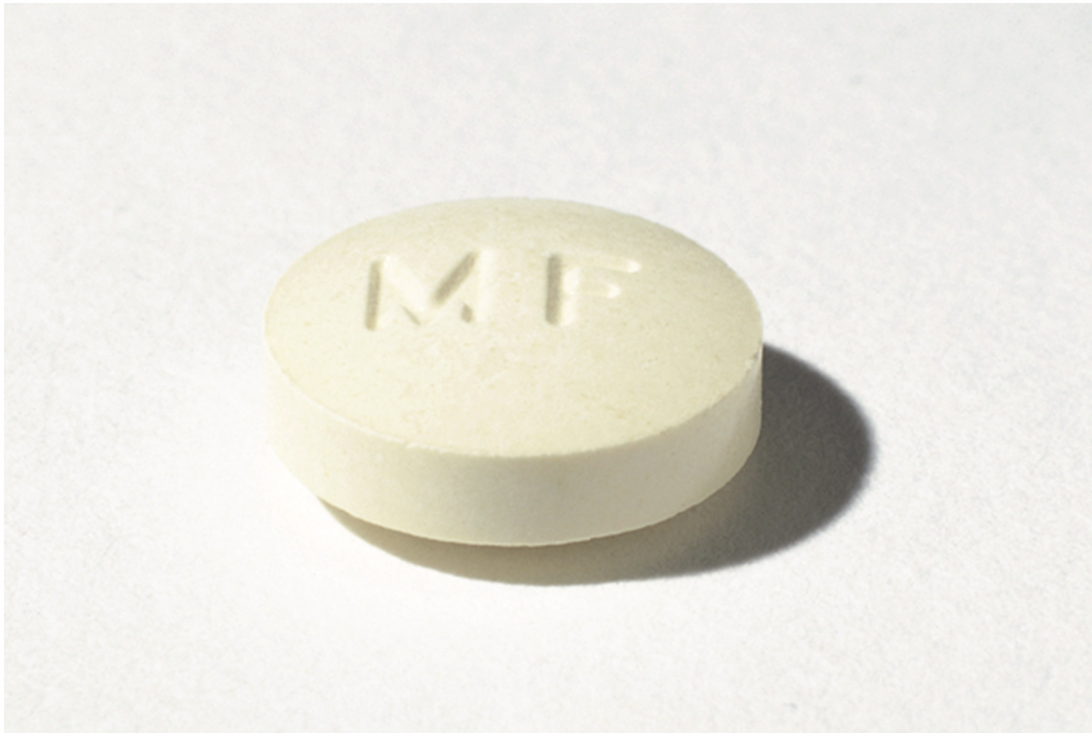
In the News

NATIONAL | *News*

Mifepristone on trial: Where lawsuits about a key abortion medication stand

NATIONAL REPORTING, ABORTION POLICY | Nov 18, 2025 | 2:32 pm ET | By Sofia Resnick

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Federal regulations around mifepristone, which has provided abortion access across the United States, are being challenged in multiple lawsuits from opposing directions. (Getty Images)

Our Legal and Policy Director, Diana Kasdan, was featured in a new States Newsroom [piece](#) examining the mounting pressure on the FDA's review of mifepristone and the wave of litigation that could reshape access to medication abortion nationwide. A related [article](#) featuring our Mifepristone Litigation and Federal Action Tracker surveys the status of multiple pending lawsuits.

As Diana explains, a core concern is ensuring that the FDA makes decisions rooted in real science and gives “reasoned explanations based in that evidence, as opposed to politics or ideology.”

Read the articles [here](#) and [here](#) and check out our [Mifepristone Tracker](#) for the latest on the many efforts to protect or restrict access to mifepristone



Our policy brief, [Unconditional Cash Transfer Programs as a Promising Reproductive and Racial Justice Policy Intervention](#), was cited in an op-ed in Penn Live examining how guaranteed income programs like the Philly Joy Bank are helping reduce financial stress for pregnant and parenting people. As the author notes, guaranteed income is increasingly recognized as a powerful tool for improving birth outcomes and advancing racial and reproductive justice, as our report highlights.

Read the op-ed [here](#).

Event Recap

UCLA School of Law
**Center on Reproductive Health,
 Law, and Policy**

Types of Abortion Bans and Restrictions in States with Reproductive Freedom Amendments

	Gestational Bans	Reason Bans	Mandatory Counseling & Delays	Telemedicine Bans	Physician-Only Requirements	TRAP Laws	Insurance Coverage Bans
Arizona	15 weeks** Viability	x	x	x	x	x	x
California	Viability						
Colorado							
Maryland						x	
Michigan			x**		x**		x
Missouri	Total ban*						
	8 weeks*						
	14 weeks*	x*	x*	x*	x	x*	x
	18 weeks*						
	20 weeks* Viability						
Montana	Viability						
New York	24 weeks						
Ohio	6 weeks**						
	22 weeks (since LMP)	x	x*	x*	x*	x	x
Vermont							

Note: Bans and restrictions written in italics and followed by an asterisk have been wholly or in part temporarily (*) or permanently enjoined (**) by courts since the passage of the reproductive freedom amendments. The chart reflects state laws as of August 29, 2025.

Our recent event, Realizing the Promise of State Reproductive Freedom Amendments, is now available to [watch online](#).

Since Dobbs, ten states have ratified constitutional amendments codifying the right to abortion and reproductive rights more broadly. This conversation brought together CRHLP experts and lawyers on the frontlines of litigation and ballot campaigns in Ohio, Michigan, and Missouri who shared insider perspectives on the progress of abortion litigation in state courts to enforce the new amendments and other advocacy needed to protect and enforce these new constitutional guarantees.

Watch the full conversation [here](#).

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Policy News

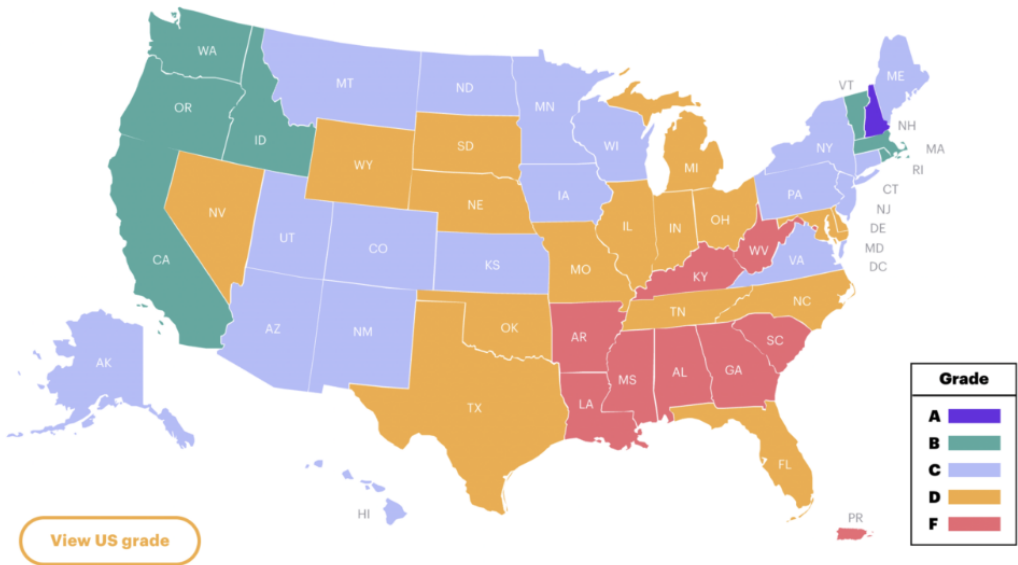


Photo credit: March of Dimes

The March of Dimes released its 2025 [Report Card](#) this week, which found that maternal and infant health outcomes in the U.S. remain poor and deeply inequitable. The national preterm birth rate in 2024 held at 10.4%, earning a D+, more states worsened rather than improved, and one-third of major U.S. cities received an F. Persistent racial and socioeconomic disparities continue to drive outcomes: babies born to Black mothers face a mortality rate nearly twice the national average, and indicators such as inadequate prenatal care, low-risk cesarean births, and severe maternal morbidity remain high nationwide. Maternal mortality returned to pre-pandemic levels but still totaled a disturbing 669 deaths, with significant racial disparities. The report emphasizes the continued role of structural inequities—including access to care, insurance type, and chronic health conditions—

and highlights supportive policies such as extended postpartum Medicaid coverage, Medicaid expansion, doula reimbursement, and paid family leave as essential to improving outcomes.



Photo credit: ProPublica

ProPublica's newest [story](#) in their "[Life of the Mother](#)" series, which chronicles the stories of women who have died preventable deaths due to abortion bans, investigates the preventable death of 37-year-old Tierra Walker. A Texas mother whose high-risk pregnancy rapidly escalated into crisis, Walker endured uncontrolled hypertension, seizures, and a dangerous blood clot early in her pregnancy — all indicators of preeclampsia, a condition that had previously caused the stillbirth of her twins. Despite these clear and compounding risks, more than 90 physicians involved in her care across multiple hospitalizations failed to offer or even discuss the option of ending the pregnancy, even as one documented she was at "high risk of clinical deterioration and/or death." At 20 weeks pregnant, Walker was sent home. Days later, her 14-year-old son found her unresponsive; an autopsy confirmed she died of preeclampsia. Experts told ProPublica that had she been able to obtain a termination at any point, she would still be alive.

Walker's story underscores the growing dangers facing pregnant patients with chronic or high-risk medical conditions in states with abortion bans. Post-Roe, emergency exceptions to abortion bans have become a critical issue in the medical field, posing difficult ethical situations for doctors and potentially tragic outcomes for patients. To learn more about how abortion bans obstruct standard medical care and endanger patients' lives, we encourage readers to read the [full investigation](#) into Walker's case and others in the "Life of the Mother" [series](#).

Legal News



Photo credit: Emily Tom/HPR

Florida's Attorney General has [filed a lawsuit](#) against Planned Parenthood, alleging the organization “misrepresents the safety” of abortion pills. The lawsuit seeks \$350 million in damages and requests sanctions, including dissolving the organization or barring it from providing abortions. Last summer Missouri's Attorney General filed a [similar lawsuit](#) in state court. Abortion pills, a combination of mifepristone and misoprostol, are used in nearly two-thirds of U.S. abortions and are increasingly prescribed via telehealth, especially in states with abortion bans. Studies [show](#) the medications are highly effective and safe. To learn more about the science supporting mifepristone's safety, read [our comment](#) submitted on behalf of more than 260 researchers to the FDA.



The SF Standard [reports](#) on Rachel Harrison, who was twice denied emergency miscarriage care at two different California Dignity Health hospitals because of Catholic directives that bar intervention while fetal cardiac activity is detected—even in nonviable, life-threatening pregnancies. In both instances, Harrison was discharged despite clear risks of infection and hemorrhage and ultimately required emergency treatment at a secular Kaiser facility, where clinicians identified sepsis and significant blood loss. Her experience echoes other cases now at the center of statewide litigation, including California Attorney General Rob Bonta's [suit against](#) Providence St. Joseph i for similar refusals of stabilizing care. The next hearing in the AG's case is scheduled for December 10. Harrison and her partner have since filed their own lawsuit, underscoring mounting legal scrutiny of how California's religious hospitals comply with emergency care requirements for pregnant patients facing dangerous complications.

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.

[As Abortion Opponents Target IVF, They're Promoting Fertility Clinics Like This One](#)

[The Many Problems With The FDA's Big Menopause Announcement](#)

[She Drove A Hundred Miles To Give Birth. New California Laws Are Bringing Maternity Care Closer To Home.](#)



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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