

ABOUT WOMEN'S HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS...

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Better health leads to improved lives and economic prosperity. This is particularly true for women, who play an outsized and growing role in the U.S. economy. For example:

- Women comprise over 50% of the population and nearly half the workforce.
- Approximately 40% of working women out-earn their husbands.
- Women control more than 60% of personal wealth in the US.
- Women control or influence 85% of overall consumer spending.
- Women make 80% of healthcare decisions.

"We know today that almost every disease affects women differently than it does men, because we know that every cell in the body has a sex. Yet we still don't prioritize and invest in research that focuses on women or even includes women in sufficient numbers." Dr. Stacey Rosen, Katz Institute for Women's Health

Many public health challenges are specific to women. For example:

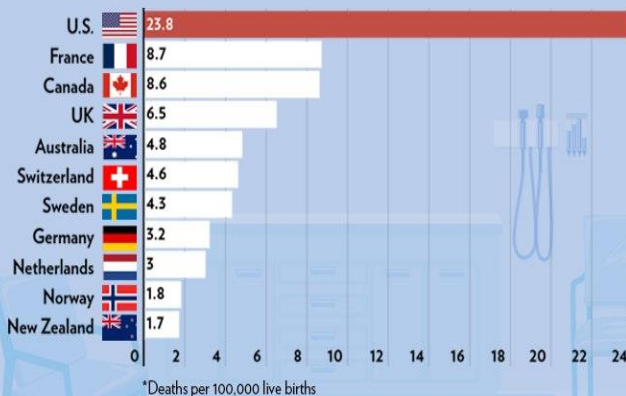
- Women experience unique health conditions related to puberty, pregnancy, childbirth, and menopause.
- Ovarian cancer is the most lethal gynecological cancer, with a five-year survival rate.
- Cardiovascular disease is the #1 killer of women, yet only 1/3 of patients in clinical trials are women. Women are more than 50% likely to die one year after a heart attack than men.
- Women comprise 75% of Alzheimer's patients, which is the leading cause of disability in women. A woman's risk of Alzheimer's is twice that of men.
- Lung cancer is the #1 cause of cancer death in women – exceeding breast, ovarian, and cervical combined. Non-smoking women are 3 times more likely to get lung cancer than non-smoking men.
- Twice as many women are diagnosed with depression than men, a major cause of disability in women.
- Women account for 78% of autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, and psoriasis.

Despite these gender-specific risks, research has disproportionately targeted diseases that affect primarily men. In fact, the National Institutes of Health only began to study women's health in 1993. Today, we know that each dollar invested in women's health returns \$3 in economic growth. More generally, RAND Corporation found that investing \$350 million in Alzheimer's, rheumatoid arthritis, and cardiovascular disease would generate \$14 billion in economic benefits – a figure that doesn't consider the intangible value of tens of millions of improved lives.

Despite record spending on healthcare, the U.S. ranks far below other industrialized nations in many key health indicators. Examples include life expectancy, chronic disease, and "deaths of despair" from suicide, drugs, and alcohol abuse. Many of these problems are worsening. Global health data show the U.S. lagging far behind peer nations in maternal mortality

rates – a shortfall exacerbated by poverty, a lack of insurance, underinsurance, and the closure many rural healthcare providers. In fact, Texas ranks last in the nation in access to insurance.

Maternal Mortality in the U.S. Far Outstrips That of Other Industrialized Nations



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/maternal-mortality/2020/maternal-mortality-rates-2020.htm>

- The U.S. has the highest rate of infant and maternal death.
- Rates of maternal deaths are 62% higher in abortion-restricted states as compared to others (28.8 vs. 17.8 deaths per live birth).
- Black mothers are more likely to die than white mothers – almost three times as high in some states. This has been true for over a century.
- Leading cause of death in pregnant women is homicide and domestic abuse.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

A growing range of restrictions on women's healthcare and medical practices has made pregnancy and childbirth even more dangerous. The Guttmacher Institute studies show that says that in 2020 there were 14.4 abortions in the U.S. per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44. Its data shows that the rate of abortions among women has generally been declining in the U.S. since 1981, when it reported there were 29.3 abortions per 1,000 women in that age range.

These women represent a wide range of backgrounds, incomes, and ages. According to data from the CDC, the vast majority of women who had abortions in 2020 were unmarried (86%), while married women accounted for 14%. A quarter of women who had abortions in 2020 had one previous live birth, 20% had two previous live births, 10% had three, and 6% had four or more previous live births.

- 61% of U.S. adults believe that **abortion should be legal** in most or all cases.
- Over **90% of abortions occur in the first trimester** (13 weeks) – long before fetal viability, which is generally considered to be between 23-24 weeks gestational age, meaning that these newborns have a < 50% chance of either dying or surviving with severe impairment if active care is instituted.
- It is estimated that there are more than **26,000 rape-related pregnancies** in Texas after the state outlawed abortion with no exceptions.
- **Maternal death rates were 62 % higher in 2020** in abortion-restriction states than in abortion-access states (28.8 vs. 17.8).
- The **Pregnant Workers Fairness Act** went into effect in June 2023 and requires employers to provide “reasonable accommodations” to a worker’s known limitations related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, unless the accommodation will cause the employer an “undue hardship.” However, a federal judge in Texas ruled in March 2024 that the legislation cannot be enforced in the state.
- Texas law now requires **teens to have parental permission to receive contraception**. For the first time in 15 years, teen age pregnancy is 50% higher than the national average and sexually transmitted diseases are on the rise.
- **IVF is now more difficult** for the millions of families who want children.
- On average, it costs **\$12,000 cost to give birth** to a child in Texas. **Child care** is one of the biggest expenses for families. The average annual cost of child care for a baby Texas is \$9,324-\$777 a month; it's \$6,055 for care for school-age children.

Abortion is health care, and health care is personal. People deserve to be in charge of their own medical decisions throughout their pregnancy. Lawmakers who care more about control than health or personal freedom don't deserve to make those decisions for you or anybody else.

UNDER BIDEN

- Called on Congress to restore the protections of Roe v. Wade in federal law so women in every state have the freedom to make deeply personal health care decisions
- Continued to take executive action to protect access to reproductive health care, including through ongoing implementation of the President's three Executive Orders and a Presidential Memorandum issued since the Court overturned Roe v. Wade
- Increased the level of research funding for conditions that impact women by adding \$100 million to women's health research
- To date, the Administration has taken action to:
 - Protect access to abortion, including FDA-approved medication abortion and strengthen access to contraception
 - Defend access to emergency medical care
 - Support the ability to travel for reproductive health care
 - Safeguard the privacy of patients and health care providers and ensure access to accurate information and legal resources

Trump claims credit for overturning Roe v. Wade and posted on Truth Social that “After 50 years of failure, with nobody coming even close, I was able to kill Roe v. Wade....”

UNDER TRUMP

- Trump doubled down on his campaign promises to hinder reproductive rights through policy, executive orders, appointments, and resolutions.
- Trump appointed the three justices who enabled the overturning of Roe v. Wade, and his allies are already planning ways that Trump can restrict abortion rights through executive action if re-elected.
- Trump named anti-choice advocates to key posts at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
- With Trump in office, the House of Representatives, passed the *No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2017*, a measure that would have denied insurance coverage of abortion care for nearly all women, including the millions who rely on federal insurance plans and state marketplaces.