

FOR RELEASE: May 16, 2023

Contact: Virali Modi-Parekh

ANSIRH Strategic Communications Director

virali.modi-parekh@ucsf.edu

New Report Details How Post-Roe Abortion Bans Are Harming Patients and Providers

San Francisco, California – A first-of-its-kind report from University of California San Francisco’s Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH) shows how, since the Supreme Court struck down *Roe v Wade* ten months ago, health care providers have been unable to provide standard medical care in states with abortion bans, leading to delays, denials of care, and worsened health outcomes.

Part of the Care Post-Roe Study, the report offers an early look at how patients have been impacted since the fall of *Roe* through 50 narratives provided anonymously by their providers, from September 2022 to March 2023. The report also includes quotes highlighting the types of complications that providers observed.

“The report paints a stark picture of how the fall of *Roe* is impacting healthcare in states that restrict abortion,” **said Dr. Daniel Grossman, lead report author and director of ANSIRH.**

“Banning abortion and tying providers’ hands impacts every aspect of care and will do so for years to come. Pregnant people deserve better than regressive policies that put their health and lives at risk.”

The report documents a wide range of harm occurring among pregnant people in states with abortion bans, including increased morbidity and complications that could result in serious impairment and risk of death. The report notes that longer-term effects, which are not yet observable, could include loss of fertility, chronic pain, heart attack and stroke risk related to hypertension, and effects on mental health. Moreover, the narratives also touch on cost and logistical barriers that patients experienced, which were more acute for those who had to arrange care for their children, get time off work, or pay for travel to a distant state.

"Abortion bans that block providers from offering standard medical care have the greatest impact in states like Texas that have some of the poorest indicators of maternal health," **said Dr. Kari White, lead investigator of the Texas Policy Evaluation Project at The University of Texas at Austin.** "Pregnant people should be able to rely on their healthcare provider to provide the best possible care, regardless of where they live."

Additionally, the report underscores the emotional and professional impacts on providers. Health care providers expressed moral distress at being forced to follow medically unsound practices, with one noting that anti-abortion restrictions are *“a gross violation of common sense and the oath I took when I got into this profession to soothe my patients’ suffering.”* Some felt this distress so acutely that they were considering relocating to a state where abortion remained legal. Others observed how abortion bans increased both the cost of

services due to complications and the amount of time needed to care for a patient, leaving them with less time to spend on all their patients.

Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialist and Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Chloe Zera said, "Unfortunately, this report confirms that our fears about abortion bans are valid. As someone who cares for patients who have high-risk pregnancies, I need to be able to provide care consistent with evidence-based guidelines. This research underscores the completely preventable harm that is now happening to our patients because of barriers to abortion care."

With [maternity wards across the country shutting down](#), these types of cases will further disrupt the landscape for care. The Care Post-Roe study will continue to document cases in states with abortion bans at least through September 2023. For more information on the study, please visit <https://www.ansirh.org/research/ongoing/care-post-roe>

Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH), based at the University of California, San Francisco, conducts rigorous scientific research on complex issues related to reproductive health in the United States and internationally. ANSIRH provides much-needed evidence for active policy debates and legal battles around reproductive health issues. To learn more, please visit www.ansirh.org.