

DID YOU KNOW?

Women Are Dying in Childbirth Far More Often in the U.S., Even as Other Countries Make Pregnancy Safer



→ The U.S. maternal mortality rate is rising, while it's falling elsewhere across the developed world. Serious injuries and complications are needlessly even more widespread with shockingly little attention being paid.

"Each year, over 600 women in the U.S. die from pregnancy-related causes, and over 65,000 experience life-threatening complications or severe maternal morbidity," Eliza-

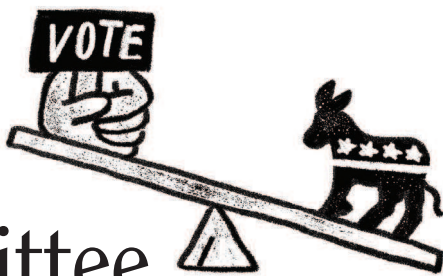
beth Dawes Gay reported, covering an April 2016 congressional briefing organized by Women's Policy Inc. "The average national rate of maternal mortality has increased from 12 per 100,000 live births in 1998 to 15.9 in 2012, after peaking at 17.8 in 2011."

"The U.S. is the only nation in the developed world with a rising maternal mortality rate," then-U.S. Rep. Lois Capps (D-Calif.) stated at the meeting.

"Inadequate health care in rural areas and racial disparities are drivers of this maternal health crisis," Project Censored summarized. "Nationally, African-American women are three to four times more likely than white women to die from pregnancy-related causes, with rates even higher in parts of the U.S. that Gay characterized as 'pockets of neglect,' such as Georgia, where the 2011 maternal mortality rate of 28.7 per 100,000 live births was nearly double the national average."

DID YOU KNOW?

The Democratic National Committee Says It Can Legally Pick Whomever It Wants as the Presidential Nominee



→ A key story about 2016 election has mostly been ignored by the media—a class action lawsuit alleging that the Democratic National Committee broke legally binding neutrality agreements in the Democratic primaries by strategizing to make Hillary Clinton the nominee before a single vote was cast.

The lawsuit was filed against the DNC and its former chairwoman, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, in June 2016 by Beck & Lee, a Miami law firm, on behalf of supporters of Bernie Sanders. A hearing was held on the suit in April 2017 in which DNC lawyers argued that neutrality was not actually required and that the court had no jurisdiction to assess neutral treatment.

As Michael Sainato reported for *The Observer*, DNC attorneys claimed that Article V, Section 4 of the committee's charter—which instructs the DNC chair and staff to ensure neutrality in the Democratic presidential primaries—is actually "a discretionary rule" that the committee "didn't need to adopt to begin with." In addition, DNC attorney Bruce Spiva later said it was within the committee's rights to "go into back rooms like they used to and smoke cigars and pick the candidate that way."

DID YOU KNOW?

Governments Across the Globe Shut Down Internet Access to Quiet Protests

→ In 2016, governments around the world shut down internet access more than 50 times, according to the digital rights organization Access Now, "suppressing elections, slowing economies and limiting free speech," as Lyndal Rowlands reported for the Inter Press Service.



"In the worst cases, internet shutdowns have been associated with human rights violations," Rowlands was told by Deji Olukotun of Access Now. "What we have found is that internet shutdowns go hand in hand with atrocities." Olukotun said.

Kevin Collier also covered the report for news site Vocativ, noting that Access Now uses a "conservative metric," counting "repeated, similar outages"—like those that occurred during Gabon's widely criticized internet "curfew"—as a single instance.

"Many countries intentionally blacked out internet access during elections and to quell protest. Not only do these shutdowns restrict freedom of speech, they also hurt economies around the world," Project Censored notes.

"Understanding what this means for internet users can be difficult," Azad Essa reported for Al Jazeera in May 2017. Advocates of online rights "need to be constantly pushing for laws that protect this space and demand that governments meet their obligations in digital spaces just as in non-digital spaces," he was told by the U.N.'s special rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, David Kaye. [WU](#)

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