

To EMTALA or EMTALNOT

Bioethics & Public Policy

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Our Question:

When considering a high risk pregnancy with possible outcomes of death or serious injury, is following **EMTALA** principles - granting the woman the decision to choose between receiving an emergency abortion or giving birth - more ethical opposed to following **Idaho state laws** - abortion is illegal regardless of the state of the mother/risk of pregnancy?

Under what conditions is an abortion life saving?

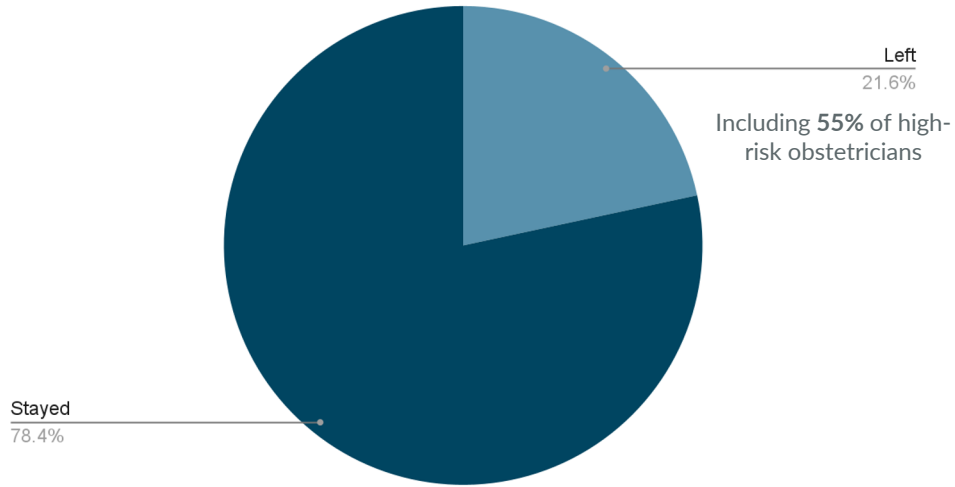
- Workers hesitant
 - Do not want to risk license getting revoked
 - Confused on what is considered to be an emergency
 - Patients mental health
 - RESULT: practice in different state
- Example: The Idaho Academy of Family Physicians



OB/Gyn availability in Idaho

- Only **22/44** counties in Idaho have access to OB/Gyn care;
- Among these 22, **only 10 meet bare minimum** coverage standards;
- **90%** of the United States may have better pregnancy outcomes than Idaho.

OB/Gyns in Idaho: Aug 2022 - Nov 2023



Patient Experiences

Jennifer Adkins

After learning at 12 weeks of pregnancy that her baby was unlikely to survive due to multiple conditions which usually results in miscarriage (and life-threatening conditions for herself as well), she had to obtain abortion care by traveling to **Oregon** only after receiving **outside help from abortion funds**.

Kayla Smith

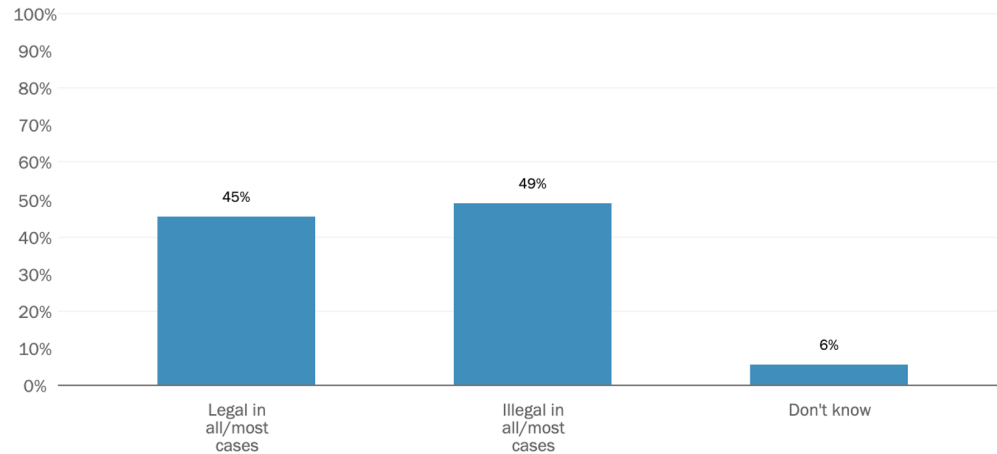
Similar to Adkins, Smith learned that her baby had a **fatal heart condition**. As Smith had been previously diagnosed with **preeclampsia**, she had a **heightened risk of developing the condition again**. Kayla and her husband traveled to **Seattle** in order to obtain abortion care after taking out a **personal loan and financial assistance** from family and friends.

Conclusion

- The court case has not yet concluded (by June 26);
- Very personal and decisive issue;
- Dependent on person's view, cannot be reasonably set in stone by law

Views about abortion among adults in Idaho

% of adults in Idaho who say abortion should be...



References

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[This source contains the audio and transcript of the argument]
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Easter Egg: 1 day before the presentation

6-3 Supreme Court decision

“The Supreme Court decided to wait until after the election to tell Americans whether women who are in crisis can get the emergency medical care they need,” Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) said in a statement. “The Supreme Court doesn’t get the final word on abortion — the American people do.”

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