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# America's Newest Public Health Crisis

## *The Dangerous Side Effects of The United States Supreme Court*

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**W**hile the world has been dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States seems to be facing a new public health crisis, The United States Supreme Court. A public health crisis is described to be something that impacts the health and safety of a large group of people. During Donald Trump's four-year term as President, he appointed three right-wing judges to the Supreme court, Amy Coney Barret, Neil Gorsuch, and Brett Kavanaugh. In June of 2022, the three new conservative judges, along with the others, were major drivers in making several major decisions with harmful consequences for many citizens in the US.

On June 24th, 2022 the United States Supreme Court announced its decision to overturn the Roe v. Wade ruling, which protects people's constitutional right to abortion, essentially people's reproductive rights in general. In 1973, the Roe v. Wade case was decided with a seven to two vote, deeming that all states that banned abortion were unconstitutional. Implementing the decision, ensured that reproductive health care was not only accessible to people capable of pregnancy but more importantly safe. With the overturning of Roe V. Wade, however, the Supreme Court has become the newest public health crisis for Americans. What politicians fail to realize is that abortions will not stop, however, safe and accessible ones will. Millions of people capable of pregnancy will face severe health risks. The number of home and illegal abortions will rise, which often results in a higher rate of mortality. In addition, more people will be forced to endure certain health issues, such as various mental illnesses as a result of pregnancy, or even the fetus may have developmental issues that can cause issues in the future. Evidence of that is already taking place in hospitals across America, where people have been put in extremely dangerous health situations because of the overturning. This decision by the United States Supreme Court will raise the mortality rate and cause great harm to U.S. citizens.

In addition to Roe v. Wade overturning, the supreme court made another groundbreaking decision in the ongoing debate around gun control. Just a couple of days before the overturning of Roe v. Wade, the supreme court announced its decision on the New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen. This case focused on concealed carry laws for guns in New York. Up until June 23, 2022, New York State law required people to have a permit to carry a gun in public. The six to three decision, with the majority of votes being from the conservative judges, led to New York and many other states' gun laws being nullified. In the past few years, as attacks have risen across the country, gun violence has been considered a public health crisis, alongside the COVID-19 pandemic. This ruling from the Supreme Court will likely lead to a spike in gun threats as people are no longer required to have a permit for a concealed carry weapon and will be under the protection of the Second and Fourteenth Amendment. Thus, further demonstrating how the U.S. Supreme Court is a clear contributor to the threat to America's safety and provides more evidence of their role in the new public health crisis.

Both of these decisions, which happened one day apart from another, massively impact the American people. Whether the threat



is from guns or inaccessibility to crucial healthcare, these rulings are responsible for massive public health crises. Millions of people have and will be affected by the decisions, however underrepresented and underprivileged communities will feel the consequences much more. While many people already face barriers when it comes to accessing medical procedures such as abortions, the overturning will cause further difficulty and put people at even higher risk. Cases around the United States are already being debated in the courts. One of the most publicized cases is the ten-year-old girl in Indiana who required an abortion after being sexually assaulted. Victims of such crimes are often extremely underrepresented and forced into situations that put their health at great risk. A nationwide debate has struck up around the young girl and the doctor, Dr. Caitlin Bernard, who performed the procedure, even though abortions are legal in Indiana. Because of Bernard, the young girl was able to have the procedure in a safe environment, however, that is unfortunately not the case for many people.

What the United States Supreme Court continuously fails to realize is the physical and personal impact their actions will have on many people. Though the issues being debated are heavily rooted in the politics and political divide in the United States, it comes down to this being a health and safety issue for all Americans, and those living in the country. All in all, throughout the summer of 2022, the United States Supreme Court has been responsible for a new public health crisis that people need to be aware of and cautious of. ●●●