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US

U.S. Taxpayer-Funded Study: Women Are Getting More Illegal Abortions Thanks To Zika



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A study funded by U.S. tax dollars and published in the New England Journal of Medicine (<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc1605389>) has found that women in countries hard-hit by the Zika virus have increased their use of abortion-inducing drugs from the abortion website Women on Web (WoW).

But a spokesperson for a pro-life obstetricians group told The Daily Caller that the study is “a propaganda piece for legalizing abortion” that “would never pass a peer review.”

Entitled “Requests for Abortion in Latin America Related to Concern about Zika Virus Exposure,” the study examined requests for purchases of abortion-inducing drugs from Women on Web, which provides the drugs illegally in nations where abortion is mostly or completely outlawed.

Abortion advocates, including (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drjdp7kxeGU>) the High Commissioner for the United Nations’ Commission on Human Rights, have been pushing for expanded access (<https://stream.org/media-fear-mongers-zika-virus-risks-to-push-abortion-birth-control-agenda/>) to the procedure since the Zika virus began spreading last year. Tens of thousands of women in Brazil, Columbia, and elsewhere have been infected, and at least 1,500 babies in Brazil alone have been diagnosed with microcephaly, though several studies (http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1605367?query=featured_home) have shown (<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1604037>) that a very small (<http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMsr1604338>) percentage of babies born to women who have contracted Zika have any disabilities.

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According to the study's summary, it examined 19 nations "that issued warnings to pregnant women about complications associated with Zika virus infection..." In those nations, "requests for abortion through WoW increased significantly," though its authors claim the study likely underestimated the rise in abortions.

"Our approach may underestimate the effect of the advisories on demand for abortion, since many women may have used an unsafe method, accessed misoprostol from local pharmacies or the black market, or visited local underground providers. But accurate data on these choices are difficult to obtain. Thus, our data provide a window on how concern about Zika virus infection may have affected the lives of pregnant women in Latin America."

The study was conducted over a four-month period by abortion researchers and two top-ranking officials with Women on Web. Dr. Donna Harrison, the Executive Director of the American Association of Pro-life Obstetricians & Gynecologists, told TheDC that study's methodology was extremely flawed.

"This 'study' is not really a study," Harrison said. "It is a propaganda piece for legalizing abortion. It is very telling the NEJM publishes information about illegal activity."

"The places where WoW distributes their illegal abortion drugs are countries where abortion is illegal. Thus, WoW is breaking the law of a sovereign nation. Further, there is no verification of anything that WoW reports. This would never pass a peer review, and thus is not science but WoW propaganda written not for knowledge, but rather designed to pressure sovereign nations into legalizing abortion."

In short, Harrison concluded, "This is political activism, not science."

Abortion groups say they want to prevent mothers from having to bear and raise babies with Zika-related disabilities such as microcephaly. But according to Harrison, "the risk of microcephaly in mothers infected with Zika in the first trimester appears to be about one percent. The new study from Colombia confirms the findings from the French Polynesian study that there appears to be no risk of microcephaly in second and third trimester infections."

NEJM did not respond to questions about Harrison's criticisms.

Dr. Margaret Honein, co-lead of the Pregnancy and Birth Defects Task Force for the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) Zika response, was more cautious in explaining the risks of Zika to unborn children, but like Harrison, she told TheDC that most women with Zika are not passing related disorders on to their offspring.

"The recent study in NEJM (published June 15, 2016) showed that among a subset of pregnant women with Zika virus disease, a majority (over 90 percent) of those infected in the third trimester delivered no infants with apparent birth defects, including microcephaly. Although these preliminary data from Colombia suggest that Zika virus infection during the third trimester of pregnancy is not

linked to birth defects like microcephaly, continued monitoring of the impact of Zika virus upon pregnancy and infant outcomes is ongoing, and we do not know if third trimester infection with Zika virus might have other effects on brain development," said Honein.

"We still don't know the level of risk from a Zika infection during pregnancy, meaning if a woman is infected, how often will her fetus have problems. However, preliminary reports suggest the risk for microcephaly from Zika virus infection in the first trimester might be in the range of 1-13 percent. Further information is needed to understand the risk of Zika virus infection during each trimester of pregnancy."

Honein explained that "while we don't yet know when during pregnancy Zika virus infection poses the greatest risk to the fetus, the evidence is strongest for exposure in early pregnancy and fetal brain defects. More data is needed to understand the risk during each trimester of pregnancy. We also don't know the full spectrum of health effects. For infants born to women infected with Zika who don't have microcephaly, we simply don't know and may not know for years if there will be long-term consequences on brain development."

The NEJM's WoW study came just a day after the National Institutes for Health (NIH), which partially funded the study, announced it is prepping (<https://stream.org/preliminary-data-suggests-low-risk-of-microcephaly/>) for its own study later this year. Both NIH and the National Science Foundation (NSF) contributed tax dollars to the study (http://www.nejm.org/doi/suppl/10.1056/NEJMc1605389/suppl_file/nejmc1605389_disclosures.pdf).

One of the authors received \$302,838 from NSF for five years (http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1255187&HistoricalAwards=false) of research, from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2018. A spokesperson for the The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), which is under the NIH, told

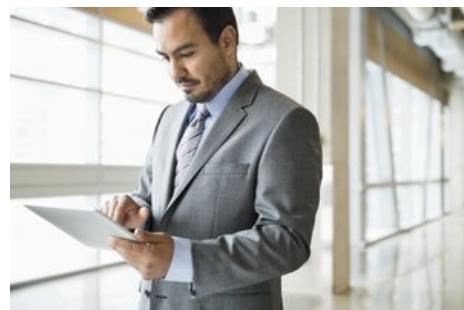
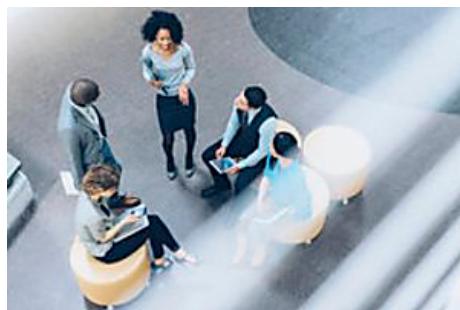
TheDC that the agency “provided general research infrastructure support to Princeton University’s Office of Population Research through the Population Dynamics Centers Research Infrastructure program. This program provides core support for computing, statistical, administrative, data management, technical training, and other services to Princeton’s Office of Population Research, but the grant does not fund individual studies.”

According to [data](https://projectreporter.nih.gov/project_info_details.cfm?aid=8932726&icde=30056554) (https://projectreporter.nih.gov/project_info_details.cfm?aid=8932726&icde=30056554) provided by the spokesperson, \$398,520 was provided for the grant. Because it doesn’t fund specific studies, “the NICHD does not fund, review, or select research topics or studies pursued by the individual scientists.”

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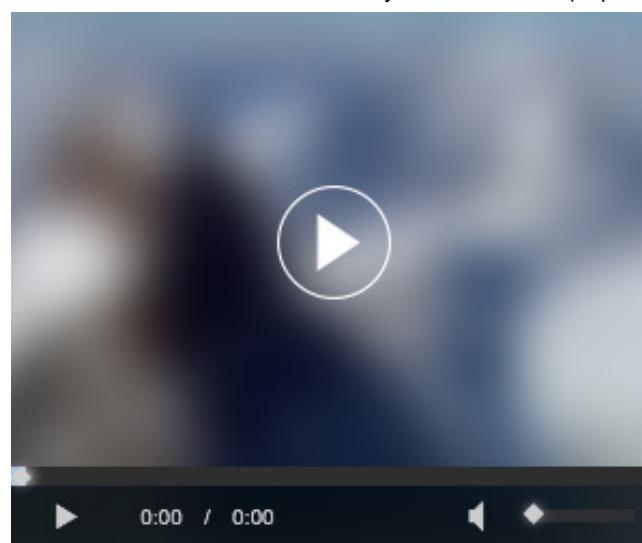


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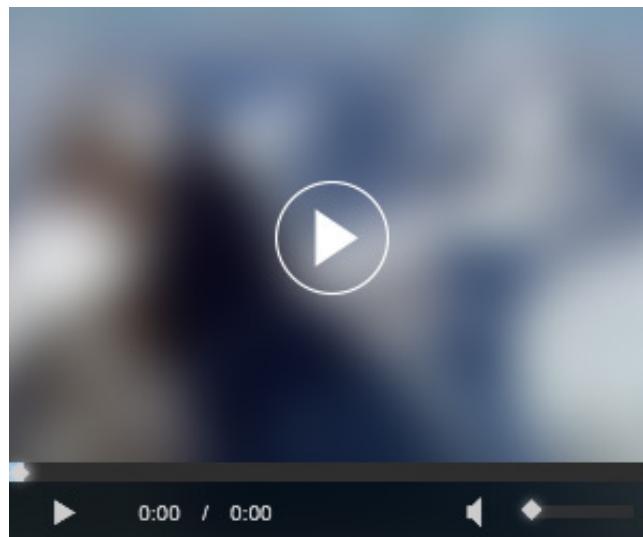
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Top Obama Official Goes On Unhinged Rant Against Corporate Profits, Right-Wing Militants



MICHAEL BASTASCH

(<http://dailycaller.com/author/michaelb/>)

2:49 PM 06/29/2016



Service Director Dan Ashe. Credit: USFWS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe recently gave a speech in front of environmental activists where he went on a rant against those who want to put

"economic development, private use, and corporate profit" above conservation.

The FWS director's speech called on environmentalists to unite and fight back against attempts from lawmakers (mostly Republican, but Ashe avoids saying this) who want "the federal government to divest hundreds of millions of acres of public land."

"Across the West, the very concept of public lands are under sustained assault from federal, state and local politicians and the special interests who fund them," Ashe said in his speech, according to a transcript published online Monday by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (<http://blog.trcp.org/2016/06/27/dan-ashes-manifesto-its-a-make-or-break-moment-in-conservation-history/>).

"We need all the help we can get, because these ideologues are waging a relentless campaign to undermine the legitimacy of public lands, public resources, and wildlife held in trust for the public," he said. "They want the federal government to divest hundreds of millions of acres of public land—not for sportsmen or women—but for economic development, private use, and corporate profit."

"They're doing what we used to do so well," Ashe added. "They're playing the long game, and they are succeeding in their larger aim—to undercut public support and confuse the issue for voters."

Ashe's speech even touched upon the occupation of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge by armed militants earlier this year. In January, armed militants led by Ammon Bundy occupied the refuge for more than a month (<http://www.opb.org/news/series/burns-oregon-standoff-bundy-militia-news-updates/malheur-occupation-ends/>). The militants were affiliated with the Bundy standoff against Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officials in 2014.

Ashe said the Bundy occupation was fueled by politicians who want to take back federal land — most of the politicians pushing for states to reclaim federal lands are Republicans (http://www.americanlands council.org/candidate_pledge).

"The Malheur occupation didn't occur in a vacuum. It happened because there are people, many of whom occupy positions of power and influence across the West, who share their values and beliefs, even if they recoil at their methods—for now," Ashe said.

Ashe also said environmentalists to band together and support candidates who back more conservation policies on public lands — policies that would restrict drilling and grazing.

"We have to have zero tolerance for politicians, at all levels of government, who support divestiture of public lands," he said. "No candidate should be able to call themselves a sportsman unless they defend, loudly and at every turn, the benefits and importance of public land ownership and professional stewardship."

"It's an election year, and we need a true sportsmen's platform," Ashe continued. "Not platitudes about rights to hunt and fish. We need sportsmen to make it a priority to support — in every sense of the word — candidates who embody this platform, and to oppose those who do not. We need to support politicians who will stand up for clean air and water and protection of habitat, and stand behind the professional public servants — local, tribal, state, and federal — who dedicate their lives to conserving wild places and wild creatures."

Follow Michael on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/MichaelBastaschDCNF) (<https://www.facebook.com/MichaelBastaschDCNF>) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/MikeBastasch) (<https://twitter.com/MikeBastasch>).

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Liberal AG Global Warming Investigations Into Exxon Are Falling Apart



MICHAEL BASTASCH

[\(http://dailycaller.com/author/michaelb/\)](http://dailycaller.com/author/michaelb/)

11:43 PM 06/29/2016



ExxonMobil fended off two of the investigations launched by liberal attorneys general into the oil giant's alleged campaign to mislead the public on global warming.

U.S. Virgin Islands Attorney General (AG) Claude Walker has withdrawn the subpoena he sent Exxon as part of his anti-racketeering investigation, and Massachusetts AG Maura Healey's office has agreed to temporarily suspend enforcing her subpoena.

"After conferring on the matter, the parties mutually agreed that Attorney General Walker will withdraw the subpoena and ExxonMobil will stipulate to the dismissal without prejudice of this action," reads a legal filing submitted to the court Thursday by Exxon and Walker that was obtained by The Daily Caller News Foundation.

Walker also withdrew his subpoena to the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI), a libertarian think tank, in May. Walker demanded CEI turnover records going back 20 years as part of the anti-racketeering probe against Exxon. CEI pushed back and is still pursuing sanctions against Walker (<https://cei.org/content/virgin-islands-ag-withdraws-dc-subpoena-cei>) for allegedly violating the group's constitutional rights.

Healey has also hit a snag in her Exxon investigation. Healey has "agreed not to move to enforce the [Civil Investigative Demand] during the pendency of this litigation and the litigation commenced by ExxonMobil on June 15, 2016... other

than by filing a cross-motion to compel as described below."

That's according to a joint filing from Healey's office and Exxon submitted to the court last week, which was obtained by TheDCNF.

Healey has agreed to an abeyance of the subpoena, meaning her office won't enforce the subpoena until all legal appeals are exhausted, which take a couple of years.

Exxon has essentially stopped two of the four attorneys general investigations. But California's investigation into Exxon has also not made much progress since it was launched in January.

California AG Kamala Harris's office opened an investigation into Exxon (<http://dailycaller.com/2016/01/20/now-calif-is-investigating-exxons-global-warming-stance/>), but the company has yet to receive a subpoena from Harris.

Harris is running for the Senate seat that will be vacated by Democrat Sen. Barbara Boxer next year. She recently won the state's Democratic primary (https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/kamala-harris-wins-california-senate-primary-rep-sanchez-in-second-place/2016/06/08/b0c2a2f0-2c08-11e6-b5db-e9bc84a2c8e4_story.html) and isn't expected to do much in terms of investigating Exxon.

Only New York AG Eric Schneiderman has an unhindered subpoena with Exxon.

Schneiderman was the first state prosecutor to launch an investigation into Exxon based on allegations made by left-wing reporters at InsideClimate News and Columbia University the company "knew" of the dangers of global warming, but funded skeptic groups to mislead the public about climate science.

Those reports, however, were backed by wealthy liberal foundations opposed to fossil fuels — some of those reporters didn't disclose they were funded by left-wing groups (<http://dailycaller.com/2015/12/02/reporters-attacking-exxon-didnt-reporters-didnt-disclose-they-were-funded-by-left-wing-groups/>)

[always-disclose-funding-from-environmentalists/](#)) when they got their piece published in the Los Angeles Times.

Schneiderman held an event in March where Walker and Healey announced they would be going after Exxon. For the event, Schneiderman brought in prominent environmental activists to discuss global warming and litigation strategies against oil companies.

Eco-activists gave these presentations behind closed doors the same day Schneiderman was joined by more than a dozen other attorneys general and former Vice President Al Gore in [condemning Exxon](#) (http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/gore-launches-climate-comeback/article/2587118?custom_click=rss) for “fraud” and “deceiving the American people.”

Schneiderman’s office then [tried to cover up activist involvement](#) (<http://dailycaller.com/2016/04/18/new-york-ag-tried-to-cover-up-activist-involvement-in-exxon-probe/>) by telling the environmentalists not to disclose to the media they attended the March event.

Follow Michael on [Facebook](#) (<https://www.facebook.com/MichaelBastaschDCNF>) and [Twitter](#) (<https://twitter.com/MikeBastasch>)

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SLIDESHOW

Here Are 10 Of The Best Duty Stations In The Army [SLIDESHOW]

DAN CHAISON

(<http://dailycaller.com/author/dan-chaison/>)

7:17 PM 06/29/2016

From California to Korea, the United States Army covers more than 150 countries. Soldiers deciding on where to hang their patrol cap have a number of incredible options.

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