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Medication Abortion on Your UC & CSU Campus: A Student Toolkit About the College Student Right to Access Act

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Publication Date

2025-08-11

Medication Abortion on Your UC & CSU Campus:

A Student Toolkit About the College Student Right to Access Act

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July 2025

**Based at UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies, the Cal-in-Sacramento Fellowship Program sends approximately 30 Cal students to the state's capital every summer for eight-week public service internships. The Jo Freeman Women in Politics Fellowship supports Cal-in-Sac Fellows whose individual research projects focus on women in politics, including research on public policies that affect women.*

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I. Welcome

Dear Reader,

I first learned that I was guaranteed access to medication abortion as a student at UC Berkeley while taking a class called “Sociology of Health and Medicine.” At that point, I was already in my senior year, about to graduate. I was shocked that it took me so long to learn about this resource. As I began talking to my classmates about it, I realized that I was not alone: most of the campus community was also unaware of their right to abortion care.

California passed SB24 in 2019, requiring all UCs and CSUs to provide medication abortion at their student health centers by 2023. Known as the College Student Right to Access Act (CSRAA), this policy acknowledged abortion access as a core component of student wellbeing. College students often have limited time, money, or travel options, which can make it difficult to access reproductive healthcare. With abortions provided directly on campus, these barriers were reduced for thousands of college students across California.

But this resource isn’t useful if students don’t know it exists in the first place. That’s why I became interested in improving student outreach about abortion care on campus. I surveyed 30 students at University of California and California State University campuses to understand how students access and learn about healthcare. In summer 2025, I interviewed two health promotion team members at UC Berkeley and San Francisco State University (SFSU). I also interviewed a health equity researcher from SFSU, a member of the UC Policy communications team, and two healthcare providers at the UC Irvine campus health center. All of my research directly informed this toolkit.

In the following pages, you will find practical information and FAQs about the College Student Right to Access Act, along with suggestions for awareness campaigns on your own campus. Whether you are a student, school administrator, or healthcare provider, I hope that this resource can help advance student health access across California. We are stronger together!

In solidarity,

Genevieve Schweitzer

II. Introduction to the College Student Right to Access Act and Medication Abortion

a. What is the College Student Right to Access Act (CSRAA)?

CSRAA ([Senate Bill 24](#)) guarantees **all UC and CSU** students access to medication abortion at their student health centers as of 2023. Each campus was granted \$200,000 to help cover the associated costs of increased healthcare staff and supplies.

Whether or not you are a California resident, **everyone** has a **fundamental right** to abortion care in this state, guaranteed by the California Constitution.¹ CSRAA simply makes it easier for college students to access affordable abortions, closer to home. Without CSRAA, most college campuses would be about **30 minutes to an hour away** from the closest off-campus abortion provider on public transit.²

Many students have concerns about privacy and anonymity when they visit their student health centers for sexual health matters. If you choose to receive a medication abortion on campus, your information remains **completely private and secure**. Your abortion history will not be shared with anyone.

CSRAA is a necessary step towards ensuring students receive the healthcare they need.

Healthcare providers at UCs and CSUs have received regular training and system-wide support to roll out abortion care on campus. However, CSRAA **does not** provide statewide requirements for campus outreach or communication about medication abortion.

¹ “Know Your Rights: Abortion Access in California.” ACLU NorCal.
<https://www.aclunc.org/our-work/know-your-rights/know-your-rights-abortion-access-california>.

² Upadhyay, Ushma D., Alice F. Cartwright, and Nicole E. Johns. “Access to Medication Abortion Among California’s Public University Students.” *Journal of Adolescent Health* 63, no. 2 (August 2018): 249–52.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2018.04.009>.

In fact, several campus health providers shared that student awareness was the **biggest challenge** with implementing medication abortion. Thanks to CSRAA, they have the resources they require to roll out abortion care on campus. Now, campuses just need help informing students about it. This is where you come in: your advocacy can ensure that more students know about their right to abortion on campus!

b. What is Medication Abortion?

Medication abortion, also known as the abortion pill, is a method to end pregnancy by taking a combination of medicines called mifepristone and misoprostol. Mifepristone stops pregnancy by blocking the hormone progesterone. Misoprostol clears out your uterus, similar to an early miscarriage. This method is very effective, but the sooner you take it, the better it works. You can learn more about medication abortion in [this guide from Planned Parenthood](#).

Many people choose to have a medication abortion because it allows them to manage their abortion from home, instead of having surgery. In fact, medication abortion has become the most common abortion method in the United States, accounting for 63% of clinician-provided abortions.³ However, there is another option: an in-clinic abortion, which is when a medical provider uses a suction procedure to end the pregnancy. In-clinic abortions are **not guaranteed by CSRAA**, so you would likely have to go to an off-campus clinic, like Planned Parenthood, to receive one. However, many student health insurance plans will help provide you with **a free or**

³ DoCampo, Isabel, Rachel K. Jones, and Isaac Maddow-Zimet. "The Role of Medication Abortion Provision in US States Without Total Abortion Bans, 2023." *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* 57, no. 1 (2025): 3–7. <https://doi.org/10.1111/psrh.12294>.

low-cost referral to an off-campus clinic. You can search for abortion providers on [this secure website managed by the state of California](#).

You can also prevent pregnancy by using emergency contraception. For example, the Paragard copper IUD and Mirena hormonal IUD are both 99% effective at ending pregnancy if they are inserted within 5 days of unprotected sex. You can read more about emergency contraception in this guide from the [UC Berkeley Tang Center](#). You may be able to access emergency contraception at your campus health center.

There are many factors to keep in mind when preparing for an abortion, from how far along you are in your pregnancy to the type of health insurance you have. Regardless of which option you choose, **you should always talk to a healthcare provider at your campus clinic first**. They can help you make a decision that's right for you.

c. How Can You Access Medication Abortion on Campus?

Any UC or CSU student can access medication abortion at their school health center. All campus health center websites should provide information about abortions, so you can easily call and/or make an appointment.

Many UC and CSU campuses also have health promotion teams at their health centers. These teams gather resources to help you learn about reproductive health. If your campus has a health promotion team, that could be a good place to explore your options and talk to an expert about questions or concerns. Health promotion teams assist all students, regardless of insurance plan.

i. UC Students

If you are a UC student with the UC Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP), your medication abortion will be completely free. Even if you don't have SHIP, you can still access medication abortion at your campus health center. However, depending on your personal insurance plan, you may have to pay for the medicine out of pocket. If you are unsure, you should talk to your school health center or your insurance provider. You can also [call your nearby Planned Parenthood](#) or [read their pamphlet about abortion costs](#).

ii. CSU Students

Many CSUs include health insurance in their tuition costs, which typically covers medication abortions at the student health center. However, other CSU campuses may require you to find your own insurance coverage, which may affect the cost of your abortion. If you have questions about medication abortion coverage, you should call your student health center and/or your insurance provider. You can also [call your nearby Planned Parenthood](#) or [read their pamphlet about abortion costs](#).

d. Why Do Students Need CSRAA? Fast Facts

Access to abortion is important for student success, well-being, and equality.

- ★ Women who have access to abortions are **more likely to graduate** from college and attain financial success.⁴

⁴ Everett, Bethany G., and Catherine J. Taylor. "Abortion and Women's Future Socioeconomic Attainment." *American Sociological Review* 89, no. 6 (December 2024): 1044–74. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00031224241292058>.

★ The **number one reason** that American college students drop out and fail to graduate is unplanned pregnancy.⁵

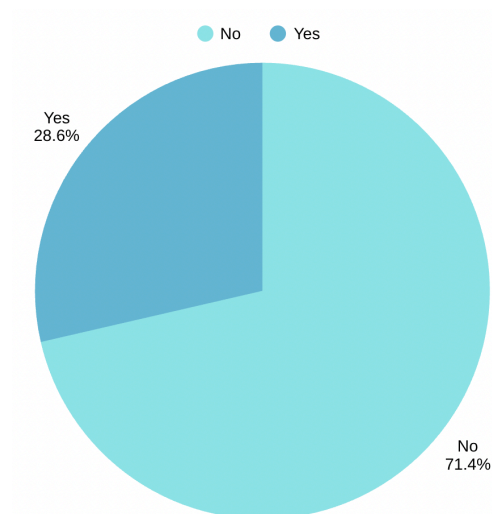
★ Students who are women, racial minorities, gender minorities, or LGBTQ+ are most likely to experience barriers to sexual healthcare.⁶

College students report a high demand for reproductive health services such as abortion.

★ It is estimated that **322 to 519** California public university students seek medication abortions each month.⁷

★ In my pilot survey of 30 undergraduate students at UC Berkeley and San Francisco State University (SFSU), nearly **29%** reported that they or someone they knew needed an abortion while in college.

While in college, have you or someone you know ever needed an abortion?



⁵ Horwitz, Ilana, Kaylee Matheny, and Natalie Milan. "Abortion Bans and College Drop-Outs." *Contexts* 20, no. 4 (November 2021): 76–76. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15365042211058133>.

⁶ Rohrer, Cynthia D., and Sepideh Modrek. "Decreasing Reproductive and Abortion Care Barriers: Findings on the Student Health Center's Role from a Student Survey." *BMC Women's Health* 23, no. 1 (February 24, 2023): 84. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12905-023-02230-5>.

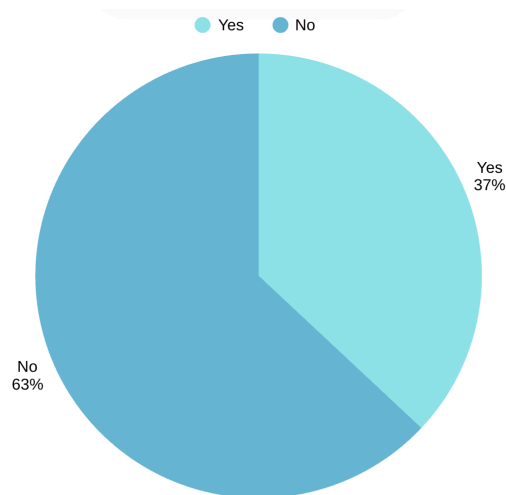
⁷ Upadhyay, Ushma D., Alice F. Cartwright, and Nicole E. Johns. "Access to Medication Abortion Among California's Public University Students." *Journal of Adolescent Health* 63, no. 2 (August 2018): 249–52. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2018.04.009>.

III. Student Awareness About Medication Abortion Access

a. Do Students Know Their Rights?

Medication abortion access is important for students – but this resource is underutilized. UC Berkeley and SFSU are two campuses that have been successful at providing medication abortions, and are located in socially liberal, diverse cities where most people are pro-choice.⁸ Despite these biases, my pilot survey at these campuses revealed that **the majority (63%)** of UC Berkeley and SFSU students **did not** know about their right to medication abortion. Considering that these two campuses are leaders in student medication abortion access, it is likely that other public colleges in California have even lower rates of awareness among their student bodies.

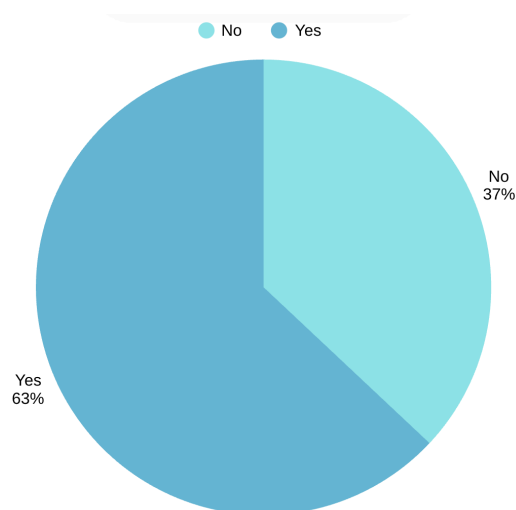
Before completing this survey, were you aware that you have a right to access medication abortion on campus?



⁸ Baldassare, Mark, Dean Bonner, Rachel Lawler, and Deja Thomas. "PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government." Public Policy Institute of California, 2022.
<https://www.ppic.org/?show-pdf=true&docraptor=true&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ppic.org%2Fpublication%2Fppic-statewide-survey-californians-and-their-government-september-2022%2F>.

Even though all California public campuses provide health centers, many college students, especially men, are not aware of the reproductive health services offered at their schools.⁹ In my pilot study, **37%** of UC Berkeley and SFSU students had never visited their student health center. Student health centers are a great way to receive information about healthcare resources on campus. When conducting routine check-ups, many healthcare providers also will ask students if they need medication abortion or other sexual health resources, which helps inform students that they can go there for help.

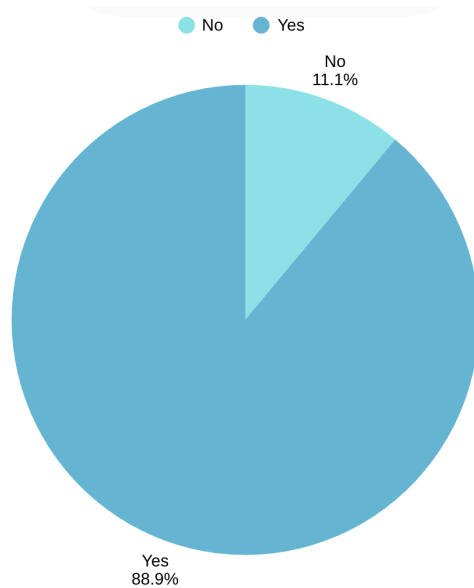
Have you ever visited your student health center before?



Most students (89%) know what a medication abortion is – but that’s still **11% of students who don’t**, at two schools with health promotion teams and relatively more resources for reproductive healthcare. This suggests that there is still a need for more education about this topic.

⁹ Rohrer, Cynthia D., and Sepideh Modrek. “Decreasing Reproductive and Abortion Care Barriers: Findings on the Student Health Center’s Role from a Student Survey.” *BMC Women’s Health* 23, no. 1 (February 24, 2023): 84. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12905-023-02230-5>.

Do you know what a medication abortion is?



IV. Advocacy Ideas

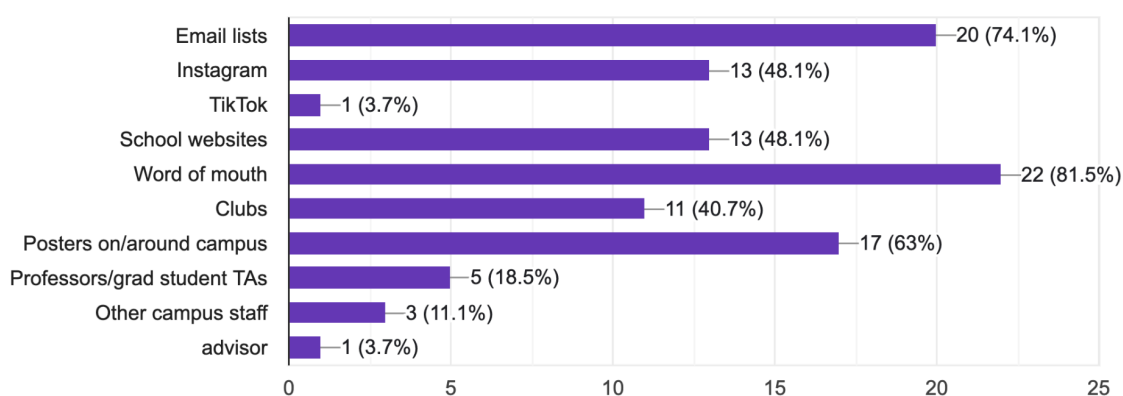
a. How Do Students Learn About Healthcare?

According to students at UC Berkeley and SFSU, the **most common method** to learn about healthcare resources on campus is **word of mouth**.

This finding was also confirmed in my conversations with healthcare providers and researchers at UCs and CSUs. Even though most Californians support the right to abortion, the UCs and CSUs serve students from all around the world and receive a lot of attention as major US colleges. Some campus administration might be hesitant to advertise abortion services, in order to preserve the safety of their campus, or to avoid controversy.

This is why we need outreach **from the ground up!** Students, clubs, and campus staff can make a difference just by talking about abortion access on campus.

How do you usually learn about healthcare resources on campus?



Students also reported that they learned about healthcare resources from email lists and posters on or around campus. Instagram, school websites, and clubs are all other great ways to reach students.

The health promotion team members I spoke to emphasized that students **do not** like to use phone calls to receive information. They prefer to get as much information as possible from friends, websites, email lists, or posters, before speaking to a healthcare professional. They also tend to prefer to book appointments online, instead of calling. It can feel intimidating to talk to a healthcare provider. When there is sufficient information already made available by campuses, students are more likely to know about and access healthcare resources like medication abortion.

b. Case Studies From Successful Campuses

The Health Promotion Teams at UC Berkeley and SFSU have found that the best way to engage students is through **hands-on, interactive campaigns** on campus. Here are two examples of successful initiatives that got students excited about healthcare!

★ SFSU Condom Cart

The SFSU Condom Cart offers free condoms, dental dams, and sexual health pamphlets. This campaign was successful because it combined **physical resources**, like condoms, with **informational resources**, like pamphlets and flyers for upcoming workshops hosted by the Health Promotion Team. As students picked up supplies, they were able to register for informational workshops to learn more about reproductive health options on campus.

The Condom Cart was also successful because various SFSU social media accounts [posted about it](#). About **50% of students** at UC Berkeley and SFSU reported that Instagram was one of their main sources of information about healthcare resources.

SFSU's Condom Carts don't just have condoms – they also share important information about many sexual health resources, including medication abortion! This is a fun and impactful way to reach students, and helped inspire similar projects across many other campuses.

In my conversations with health promotion teams and healthcare providers, I learned that several other UCs and CSUs are working towards implementing similar vending machines to provide resources, from condoms to Plan B.

One important consideration when developing these vending machines or Condom Carts is **privacy**. These resources should be available in areas of campus that are easy to find, but not as heavily trafficked, so that students don't have to worry about being seen taking sexual health resources if they feel embarrassed or shy about it.

Pro Tip: [National Condom Week](#) occurs **every year around Valentine's Day!** This is a great week to roll out social media campaigns about sexual health and to promote resources like the Condom Cart.



The SFSU Condom Cart, Courtesy of SFSU's Golden Gate Xpress

★ UC Berkeley's Safer Sex Supply Map

The [Sexual Health Education Program](#) (SHEP) at UC Berkeley provides workshops, resources, and even semesterly for-credit classes about reproductive healthcare. One of their successful initiatives was the [Safer Sex Supply Map](#) from 2025, which helps students discover nearby stores and clinics providing reproductive health supplies and services.

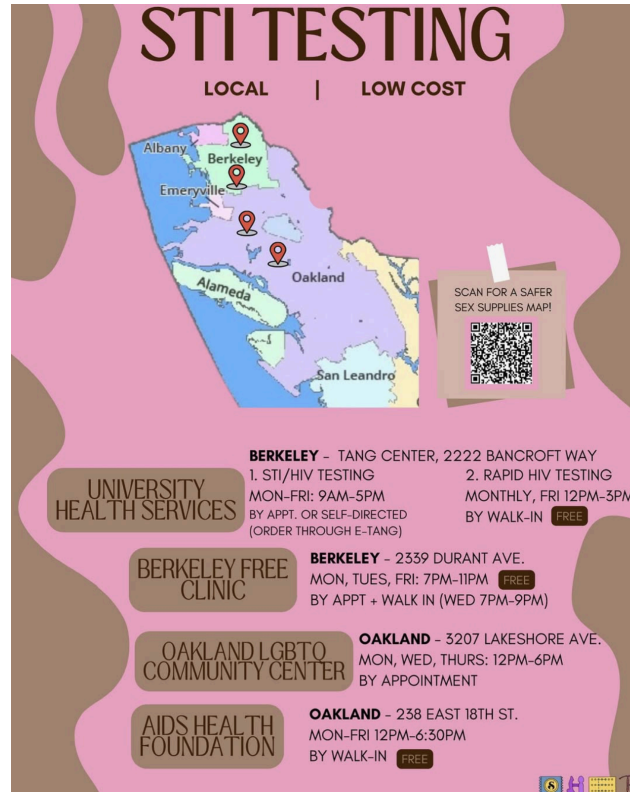
SHEP successfully promoted this resource by promoting it [on Instagram](#). During National Condom Week 2025, they tabled in a busy area on campus and provided physical copies of the map. This is a great way for students to learn that they can access medication abortion at their own campus clinics.

In general, the [SHEP Instagram](#) (@ucbshep) is an excellent resource to get inspiration for engaging campus-wide campaigns! They offer fun options like sex toy giveaways, reproductive health trivia games, free sex coaching, and workshops. Their regular infographics provide helpful information about campus health resources, including abortion.

You can build your own Safer Sex Supply Map using [Google My Maps](#)!



The 2025 Safer Sex Supplies Map, Courtesy of the [SHEP Instagram](#).



The 2025 STI Testing Map, Courtesy of the [SHEP Instagram](#).

c. How Can You Raise Awareness About Medication Abortion?

If you would like to help get the word out about medication abortion on campus, there are many different projects or initiatives to try! Whether you are a student, a member of a club, or a school administrator, you can make a difference on your campus.

i. Students:

- ★ Tell your friends about their right to medication abortion! **Most students learn about their healthcare resources through word of mouth.**

- ★ Make an announcement to your class to let them know about this resource, or ask your professor/TA to do so. See the [Additional Resources section](#) to find a QR code to this toolkit that you can easily share with your class!
- ★ Talk to your professor and encourage them to add medication abortion as a resource in their syllabus or Canvas website.
- ★ Make posters to post around dorms, campus, and surrounding areas.
- ★ Write an article for your student newspaper informing students about CSRAA.
- ★ Check your student health center website to see if it provides thorough information about medication abortion. If not, reach out to a member of the health team to talk to them about it. The health center website should:
 - Explain how to access medication abortion on campus
 - State that medication abortion is free/included in student health plans
 - Explain the differences between medication versus in-clinic abortions
 - Allow students to book appointments online
 - Direct students to other sexual health information, such as details about emergency contraceptives or birth control.

ii. Student Clubs

- ★ Create posters or social media posts to help students learn about this resource.
- ★ Include medication abortion resources in your email lists to club members.
- ★ When flyering for your club on campus, include information or extra flyers about medication abortion. See the [Additional Resources section](#) to find a QR code to this toolkit that you can easily share!

- ★ Work with the Student Government at your school! Student Governments often have more funding and can reach more students than most other clubs on campus.
- ★ Contact other organizations on campus to collaborate and reach more students. For example, you could work together to table on campus and share shifts. Some relevant, well-established organizations that may exist on your campus include:
 - The Basic Needs Center
 - Health Promotion & Education Teams
 - Student Health Center
 - Women's or LGBTQ Centers

iii. Campus Staff/Faculty

- ★ Share medication abortion resources or this toolkit in your syllabi or your Canvas website. See the [Additional Resources section](#) to find a QR code to this toolkit.
- ★ Include information about medication abortion in email lists.
- ★ Link medication abortion information in your email signature.
- ★ Post flyers in your classroom with information about medication abortion.
- ★ When sharing other health services with students, always mention medication abortion. Abortion relates to mental, physical, spiritual, and financial health!

d. Beyond CSRAA: How Can You Improve Reproductive Healthcare Resources on Campus?

Want to take your advocacy a step further? Medication abortion is just one of the many reproductive healthcare resources that college students depend on. If you are interested in

expanding healthcare options on campus, there are other actions you can take that go beyond CSRAA and help support the wellbeing of your fellow classmates.

- ★ Contact your local representative and encourage them to expand CSRAA to include in-clinic abortions. This would allow students to choose between medication or surgical abortions. You can find your California state representative on the following website: <https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>.
 - You also could ask your local representative to consider including community colleges in CSRAA, expanding beyond UC and CSU campuses. While most community colleges don't have health centers, the health equity researcher Sepideh Modrek has suggested installing vending machines providing Misoprostol, an abortion medicine that is cheap to distribute.
- ★ Check if your campus already has a Health Promotion Team. If not, speak to a campus administrator or clinic staff about the idea of starting one. You can show them the resources offered by [UC Berkeley](#) or [SFSU](#), where Health Promotion Teams are an important source of information for students.
- ★ Start a reproductive health club on campus. You can start your own, or join one of the nationwide networks of existing clubs, such as:
 - Planned Parenthood's [Students United for Reproductive Freedom](#)
 - [URGE CA](#)
 - [The Period Project](#)
 - The [Gender & Sexuality Alliance](#)
 - [If/When/How](#) (Law Students)

V. Additional Resources

a. QR Code to This Toolkit

Feel free to share this QR code with students, friends, professors, and colleagues. Try printing it out or posting it on Instagram! You may also download or send a PDF of the QR code [at this link](#).



b. Statistics and Factsheets About Medication Abortion

[California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls](#)

This Commission publishes annual reports on the implementation of medication abortion on each UC and CSU campus. For example, see the [2024 Report](#) to learn how many medication abortions were provided at your UC or CSU campus last year.

[California Abortion Access](#)

This website, published by California For All, provides a variety of abortion resources. It includes a secure search engine to find nearby abortion providers.

[Decreasing Reproductive and Abortion Care Barriers: Findings on the Student Health Center's Role From a Student Survey](#)

This study examines barriers to reproductive healthcare on California campuses.

[Medication Abortion: Current State and Changing Information on University Student Health Center Websites](#)

This study examined Student Health Center (SHC) websites for college campuses across the country, finding that only 7.5% of SHC websites provided detailed information on access to medication abortion in 2024. However, this is a big increase from 1% in 2022, in part thanks to CSRAA in California!

[Planned Parenthood: The Abortion Pill](#)

This page provides detailed information about medication abortion.

[Planned Parenthood: How Much Does an Abortion Cost?](#)

This page helps you learn about different health insurance plans and the cost of an abortion.

[Nationwide Factsheet on Abortion in the United States](#)

This factsheet from the Guttmacher Institute paints a picture of the current state of abortion care in the US.