Record Nr. UNINA9910818892603321 Autore Reagan Leslie J Titolo Dangerous pregnancies: mothers, disabilities, and abortion in modern America / / Leslie J. Reagan Berkeley, : University of California Press, c2010 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-280-67830-5 9786613655233 0-520-94500-X Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (390 p.) Disciplina 614.5/240973 Abnormalities, Human - United States - History Soggetti Abortion - United States - History Disability awareness - United States - History Rubella in pregnancy - United States - History Rubella - United States - History Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Front matter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Acknowledgments --Nota di contenuto Introduction. Epidemics, Reproduction, and the Fear of Maternal Marking -- ONE. Observing Bodies -- TWO. Specter of Tragedy --THREE. Wrongful Information -- FOUR. Law Making and Law Breaking in an Epidemic -- FIVE. "If Unborn Babies Are Going to Be Protected" --EPILOGUE. From Anxiety to Rights -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index Dangerous Pregnancies tells the largely forgotten story of the German Sommario/riassunto measles epidemic of the early 1960's and how it created national anxiety about dying, disabled, and "dangerous" babies. This epidemic would ultimately transform abortion politics, produce new science, and help build two of the most enduring social movements of the late twentieth century--the reproductive rights and the disability rights movements. At most a minor rash and fever for women, German measles (also known as rubella), if contracted during pregnancy, could result in miscarriages, infant deaths, and serious birth defects in the newborn. Award-winning writer Leslie J. Reagan chronicles for the first

time the discoveries and dilemmas of this disease in a book full of

intimate stories--including riveting courtroom testimony, secret investigations of women and doctors for abortion, and startling media portraits of children with disabilities. In exploring a disease that changed America, Dangerous Pregnancies powerfully illuminates social movements that still shape individual lives, pregnancy, medicine, law, and politics.