

**UNDERSTANDING ABORTION
STATISTICS**
A WHITE PAPER



Executive Summary

Many different statistics are used to make arguments both for and against abortion. It can often be difficult to differentiate fact from opinion in these debates and in the media, given that most media organizations take a stance one way or the other on the topic. This white paper compiles statistics from government, pro-choice, and pro-life organizations into an unbiased factsheet that will help individuals understand the facts about abortion, primarily in the United States.

Globally, 25 percent of all pregnancies ended in abortion in 2010-2014, with 56 M abortions occurring on average annually during this period. The abortion rate has declined markedly in developed countries but has remained roughly the same in developing countries, which now have a higher rate of abortions than developed regions.

Geographic Area	Annual No. of Abortion		Abortion Rate (per 1,000 women age 15-44)	
	1990-1994	2010-2014	1990-1994	2010-2014
World	50,200,000	55,900,000	40	35
Developed Regions	11,800,000	6,600,000	46	27
Developing Regions	38,400,000	49,300,000	39	36
Africa	4,600,000	8,200,000	33	34
Asia	31,200,000	35,500,000	41	36
Latin America and Caribbean	4,400,000	6,500,000	40	44
North America	1,600,000	1,200,000	25	17
Europe	8,200,000	4,300,000	52	29
Oceania	100,000	100,000	20	19

In the United States, abortion rates are at the lowest rate observed since Roe v. Wade made abortions legal. 926,200 abortions were performed in 2014, meaning that 19 percent of pregnancies (excluding miscarriages) that year ended in abortion. Sixty-one percent of abortions are obtained by women age 20-29. At 2014 abortion rates, one in 20 women (5 percent) will have an abortion by age 20, about one in five (19 percent) by age 30, and about one in four (24 percent) by age 45.

The abortion rate has continued to fall in almost every demographic. Most abortion patients are in their 20s and already have at least one previous child. African American women are 2.7 times more likely to experience abortion than white women. Additionally, almost half of women experiencing abortion are below the poverty line. More than one-third of abortion recipients reported they attended church at least once a month at the time of their first abortion, and 70 percent of women who have had an abortion indicate their religious preference is Christian.

Understanding Abortion Statistics

The average woman choosing abortion makes the decision within a day of confirming her pregnancy and obtains an abortion within the next week. The most frequently cited reason for abortion is financial concerns.

Abortions are being performed earlier in pregnancy, compared to previous years, with 66 percent of abortions performed by 8 weeks' gestation in 2013. Women are also increasingly opting for medicinally induced abortions rather than surgical abortions; these procedures increased from 6 percent of all non-hospital abortions in 2001 to 31 percent in 2014.

The number of abortion-providing facilities in the United States has declined (by 3 percent from 2011 to 2014, from 1,720 to 1,671), as well as the overall number of clinics providing abortion services (by 6 percent from 839 to 788). However, despite falling abortion numbers, revenue for the abortion industry has continued to rise.

In 2016, 34 percent of U.S. adults did not consider abortion to be a moral issue, up from 23 percent in 2013. In addition, 29 percent of Gen Z believe that abortion is wrong, a decrease from 33 percent of Millennials.

Abortion is a complicated political issue. The partisan divide has deepened over the past decade, with 59 percent of Republicans now saying that abortion should be illegal in all or most cases (up from 48 percent in 1995), and 76 percent of Democrats saying abortion should be legal in at least most cases (up from 64 percent in 1995). In general, there has been a trend since 2010 toward enacting more abortion restrictions at a state level, including the most recent push toward "heartbeat bills." In terms of political campaign funding, pro-choice organizations have consistently outspent pro-life organizations by anywhere from 20 percent to 900 percent every year since 1990.

Studies have shown that the decision to have an abortion often occurs under pressure, with 64 percent of women reporting feeling pressured to abort. In addition, suicide rates are six times higher among women who have had an abortion, and 65 percent of women suffer trauma symptoms after an abortion.

Global Statistics:

Globally, 25 percent of all pregnancies ended in abortion in 2010-2014, with 56 M abortions occurring on average each year. This is an increase from 50 M annually in 1990-1994, resulting primarily from population growth. The abortion rate has declined markedly in developed countries but has remained roughly the same in developing countries, meaning that the rate is now higher in developing regions than in developed regions.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), abortion is considered safe when done in accordance with recommended guidelines, but many women in developing countries undergo unsafe procedures, resulting in nearly 7 M being treated for complications from unsafe abortions annually and at least 2,000 deaths from abortion-related complications every year. According to the WHO, the abortion rate is not significantly different in countries where abortion is highly restricted than in those where abortion is broadly legal.

RATES AND PERCENTAGES

Global and regional estimates of induced abortion, 1990-1994 and 2010-2014

World and region	Abortion rate*		% of all pregnancies ending in abortion
	1990-1994	2010-2014	2010-2014
World	40	35†	25
Developed countries	46	27†	27
Developing countries	39	36	24
Africa	33	34	15
Asia	41	36	27
Europe	52	29†	30
Latin America and the Caribbean	40	44	32
Northern America	25	17†	17
Oceania	20	19	16

*Abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44. †Difference between 2010-2014 and 1990-1994 was statistically significant.

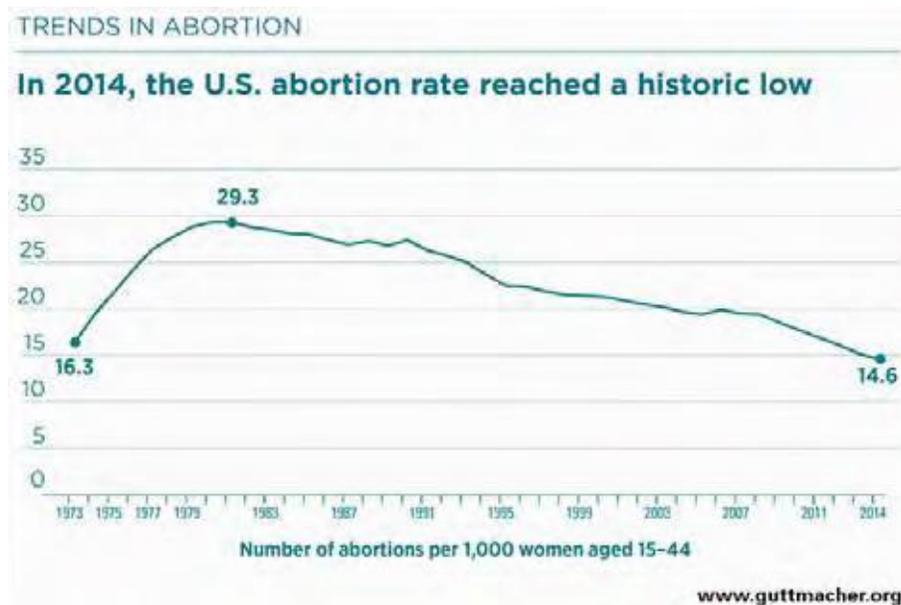
www.guttmacher.org

U.S. Statistics:

Around 60 M abortions have occurred since Roe v. Wade made abortion legal in the United States. The number of abortions in the United States increased gradually from 1973, then peaked in 1990 and has been on the decline since then.

In the United States, 45 percent of all pregnancies in 2011 were unintended, and about four in 10 of these unintended pregnancies were terminated by abortion. Nineteen percent of pregnancies (excluding miscarriages) in 2014 ended in abortion, when approximately 926,200 abortions were performed.

The abortion rate in 2014 was 14.6 abortions per 1,000 women age 15-44. This is the lowest rate ever observed in the United States; in 1973, the year abortion became legal, the rate was 16.3. At 2014 abortion rates, one in 20 women (5 percent) will have an abortion by age 20, about one in five (19 percent) by age 30, and about one in four (24 percent) by age 45.

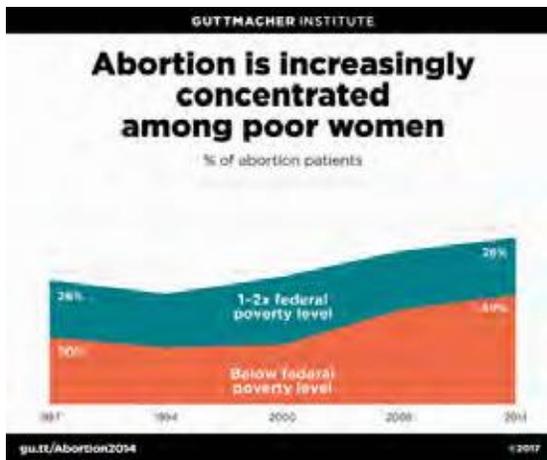


Abortion Rates by Demographics

Most abortion patients are in their 20s and have already had at least one previous child. African American women are 2.7 times more likely to experience abortion than white women. Additionally, almost half of women experiencing abortion are below the poverty line.

- More than half of all U.S. abortion patients in 2014 were in their 20s. Patients age 20–24 obtained 34 percent of all abortions, and patients age 25–29 obtained 27 percent.
- Twelve percent of abortion patients in 2014 were adolescents. Those age 18–19 accounted for 8 percent of all abortions, 15–17-year-olds for 3 percent, and those younger than 15 for 0.2 percent.
- White patients accounted for 39 percent of abortion procedures in 2014, blacks for 28 percent, Hispanics for 25 percent, and patients of other races and ethnicities for 9 percent.
- Seventeen percent of abortion patients in 2014 identified as mainline Protestant, 13 percent as evangelical Protestant, and 24 percent as Catholic; 38 percent reported no religious affiliation, and the remaining 8 percent reported some other affiliation.

- The vast majority (94 percent) of abortion patients in 2014 identified as heterosexual or straight. Four percent of patients said they were bisexual, while 0.3 percent identified as homosexual, gay, or lesbian and 1 percent identified as “something else.”
- In 2014, some 46 percent of all abortion patients had never married and were not cohabiting. However, nearly half were living with a male partner in the month they became pregnant, including 14 percent who were married and 31 percent who were cohabiting.
- Fifty-nine percent of abortions in 2014 were obtained by patients who had had at least one birth.
- Some 75 percent of abortion patients in 2014 were poor or low-income. Twenty-six percent of patients had incomes of 100–199 percent of the federal poverty level, and 49 percent had incomes of less than 100 percent of the federal poverty level (\$15,730 for a family of two).
- Fifty-one percent of abortion patients in 2014 were using a contraceptive method in the month they became pregnant, most commonly condoms (24 percent) or a hormonal method (13 percent).



The abortion rate has continued to fall in almost every demographic. The most dramatic change was for 15-19-year-olds, where the abortion rate dropped 31 percent between 2004 and 2013.

- 19 percent of all pregnancies in the United States in 2014 ended in abortion, down from 29.4 percent in 1980 and 21.3 percent in 2000.
- Approximately 926,200 abortions were performed in 2014, down 12 percent from 1.06 M in 2011.
- The abortion rate in 2014 was 14.6 abortions per 1,000 women age 15-44, down 14 percent from 16.9 per 1,000 in 2011. At 2014 abortion rates, one in 20 women (5 percent) will have an abortion by age 20, about one in five (19 percent) by age 30, and about one in four (24 percent) by age 45.
- Between 2004 and 2013, abortion rates decreased in all age groups except in women 40 and older, where it remained stable. The greatest decrease was among adolescents 15-19, where the rate decreased 46 percent, meaning that the percent of abortions occurring among adolescents has decreased 31 percent.

Attitudes Toward Abortion

Fewer Americans are viewing abortion as a moral issue, and the percent who consider it morally wrong has also declined.

- In 2016, 34 percent of U.S. adults did not consider abortion to be a moral issue (up from 23 percent in 2013), while 44 percent of U.S. adults consider abortion to be morally wrong (down from 49 percent in 2013).
- In 2016, 59 percent (up from 56 percent in 2013) of Americans expressed the opinion that abortion should be legal in all or most cases.
- In a 2013 USA Today/Gallup poll of Americans, the following groups viewed themselves as pro-life:
 - 50 percent of Protestant Christians and 45 percent of Catholic Christians
 - 43 percent of women and 44 percent of men
 - 36 percent ages 18-29, 42 percent ages 30-49, 53 percent ages 50-64, and 45 percent of those ages 65 and older

About half of individuals between 18 and 31 support more restricted access to abortion.

- Millennials have had an average of eight sexual partners, which is less than any generation since the 1960s. Boomers had an average of 11 and Generation X an average of 10.
- 53 percent of Millennials (individuals between 18 and 31) think that abortion should be illegal, or legal only in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother.
- 49 percent of Millennials say they would support a ban on abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, if it were enacted in their state.

Fewer current high school students believe abortion is wrong, compared to Millennials, but slightly more believe sex outside of marriage is wrong.

- 29 percent of Gen Z believe that abortion is wrong, a decrease from 33 percent of Millennials.
- Nationwide, 41.2 percent of high school students have had sexual intercourse.
- 21 percent of Gen Z believe that sex before marriage is morally wrong, an increase from 19 percent of Millennials.
- The percentage of high school students who are currently sexually active (meaning they had sex during the past three months) is 30.1 percent.
- 11.5 percent of high school students have had sexual intercourse with four or more persons.

Abortion and the Church

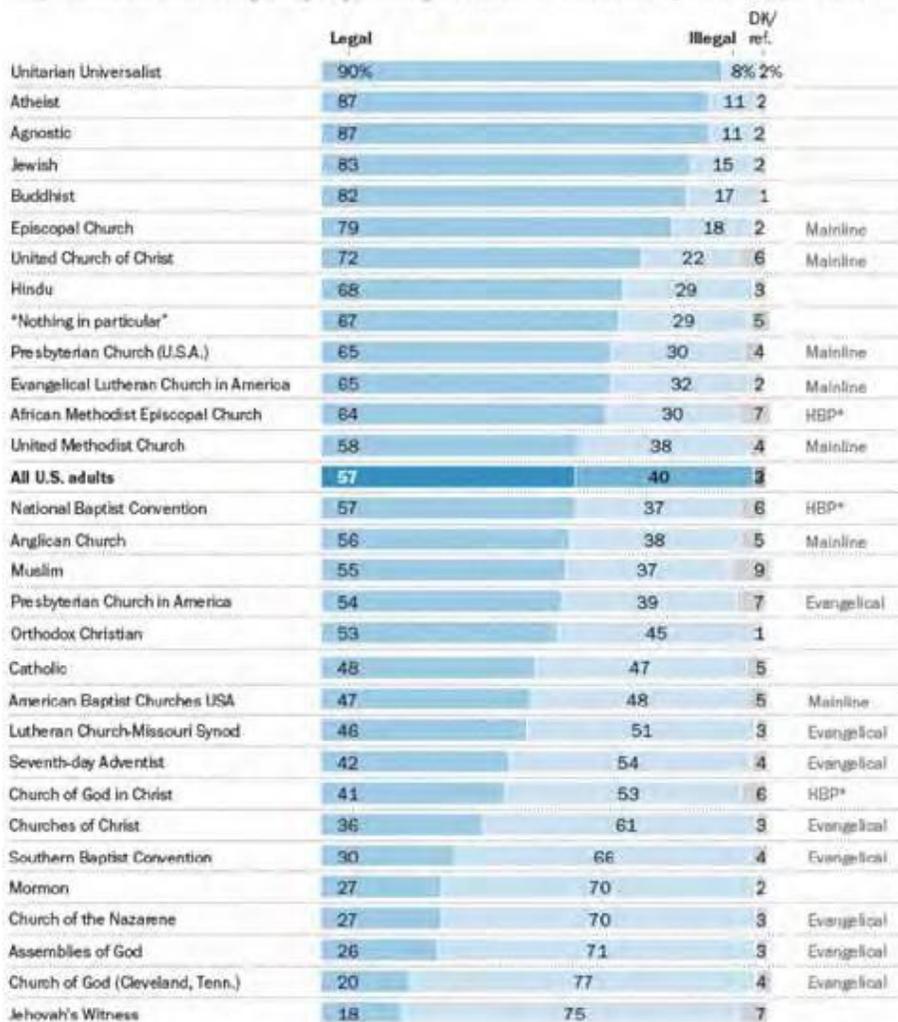
American religious groups vary widely in their views of abortion.

- 35 percent of those who are part of the mainline Protestant tradition say abortion should be illegal in all or most cases, with 60 percent in support of keeping abortion legal.
- Members of the Episcopal Church (79 percent) and the United Church of Christ (72 percent) are especially likely to support legal abortion, while most members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the mainline Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (65 percent) also take this position.
- 63 percent of evangelicals say abortion should be illegal in all or most cases, with 33 percent in support of keeping abortion legal.

- Members of some evangelical churches, including the Pentecostal denominations Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee) (77 percent) and Assemblies of God (71 percent), as well as America’s largest evangelical denomination, the Southern Baptist Convention (66 percent), are especially likely to say that abortion should be illegal in all or most cases. Most members of the Church of Nazarene, Churches of Christ, Seventh-Day Adventist, LCMS, and Presbyterian Church in America also take this position.
- Unitarian Universalists (90 percent) and American Jews (83 percent) are much more supportive of legal abortion than the general population.
- Most Jehovah’s Witnesses (75 percent) and Mormons (70 percent) say abortion should be illegal in all or most cases.
- And most people who have no religious affiliation—particularly atheists and agnostics (87 percent each)—support abortion rights.

Americans’ views on abortion, by religious group

% of U.S. adults in each religious group who say that in all or most cases, abortion should be ...



*Historically black Protestant tradition

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Data for all U.S. adults from survey conducted June 8-18, 2017. Data from all religious groups from 2014 U.S. Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept. 30, 2014.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Understanding Abortion Statistics

More than one-third of abortion recipients reported they attended church at least once a month at the time of their first abortion.

- Only 48 percent of self-identified evangelicals who attend church once or twice per month strongly agree with the statement “Abortion is a sin.”
- 70 percent of women who have had an abortion indicate their religious preference is Christian.
- 35 percent of Christian women who have had an abortion indicate they currently attend church once a week or more.
- Among patients who had an abortion in 2014, there was a decrease among those who reported a religious affiliation—24 percent were Catholic, 17 percent were mainline Protestant, 13 percent were evangelical Protestant, and 8 percent identified with some other religion. Thirty-eight percent of patients had no religious affiliation.
- As women considered their abortion decision, the most typical reactions/expectations from a local church were “judgmental” (33 percent) or “condemning” (26 percent).
- 51 percent of women agree that churches do not have a ministry prepared to discuss options during an unplanned pregnancy.
- 40 Days for Life reports that when someone prays in front of an abortion facility, the “no-show” rate for abortion appointments can be as high as 75 percent.

Among women who have had an abortion:

- Only 7 percent of women discussed their abortion decision with anyone at church.
- Three-fourths (76 percent) say the church had no influence on their decision to terminate a pregnancy.
- Two-thirds (65 percent) say church members judge single women who are pregnant.
- A majority (54 percent) think churches oversimplify decisions about pregnancy options.
- Fewer than half (41 percent) believe churches are prepared to help with decisions about unwanted pregnancies.
- Only three in 10 think churches give accurate advice about pregnancy options.
- Even among regular churchgoers, 52 percent of women who had abortions say the church had no influence on their decision.

Types of Abortion

There are two main categories of abortions: medication abortions (used only if less than 10 weeks pregnant) and surgical abortions.

A medication abortion requires two different medicines—mifepristone and misoprostol—to be taken together. Mifepristone blocks the body’s own progesterone, stopping the pregnancy from growing. Then the misoprostol causes cramps and bleeding to empty the uterus. Medicines are typically distributed

at a health center, but when and where patients take them depend on state laws and center policies. The effectiveness of this method depends on how far along the pregnancy is when the patient takes the medication.

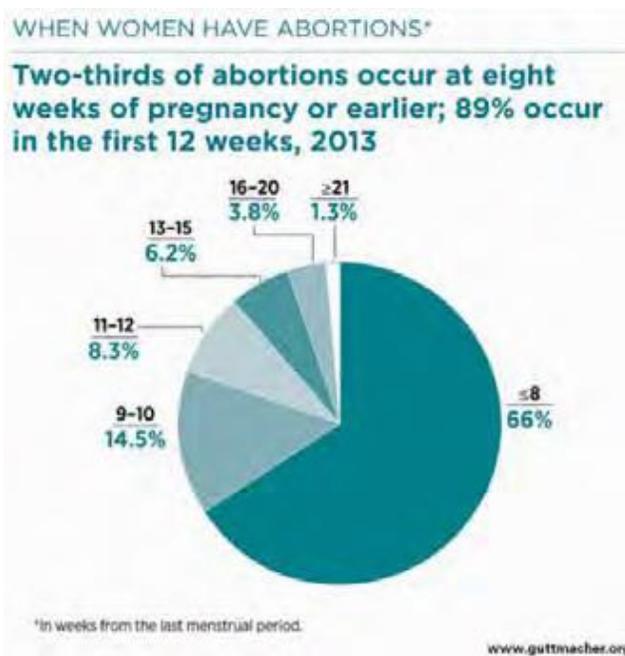
- For people who are eight weeks pregnant or less, it works about 94-98 out of 100 times.
- For people who are eight to nine weeks pregnant, it works about 94-96 out of 100 times.
- For people who are nine to 10 weeks pregnant, it works about 91-93 out of 100 times.

Surgical abortions use suction to take a pregnancy out of the uterus and usually take five to 10 minutes. There are a few types of surgical abortions. Suction abortion (also called vacuum aspiration) is the most common type, which uses suction to empty the uterus, up to about 14-16 weeks after the patient’s last period. Dilation and evacuation (D&E) is another kind of procedure, which uses suction and medical tools to empty the uterus; it can be used 16 weeks or longer after the patient’s last period. Surgical abortions are very effective and work 99 out of 100 times.

Services and Providers

Abortions are being performed earlier in pregnancy, compared to previous years. Women are also increasingly opting for medicinally induced abortions rather than surgical abortions.

- Medication abortions increased from 6 percent of all non-hospital abortions in 2001 to 31 percent in 2014. Data shows that the average gestational age at which abortion occurs has shifted to earlier within the first trimester, likely due at least in part to the increased availability of medication abortions.
- In 2013, the majority (66 percent) of abortions were performed by ≤8 weeks’ gestation, and 25.6 percent were performed between 9 and 13 weeks’ gestation. 7.1 percent of abortions were performed between 14 and 20 weeks’ gestation, and 1.3 percent were performed at ≥21 weeks’ gestation. From 2004 to 2013, the percentage of all abortions performed at ≤13 weeks’ gestation remained consistently high (≥91.5 percent), and among those performed at ≤13 weeks’ gestation, the percentage performed at ≤6 weeks’ gestation increased 16 percent.



Understanding Abortion Statistics

The number of abortion facilities has declined, as well as the overall number of abortion providers.

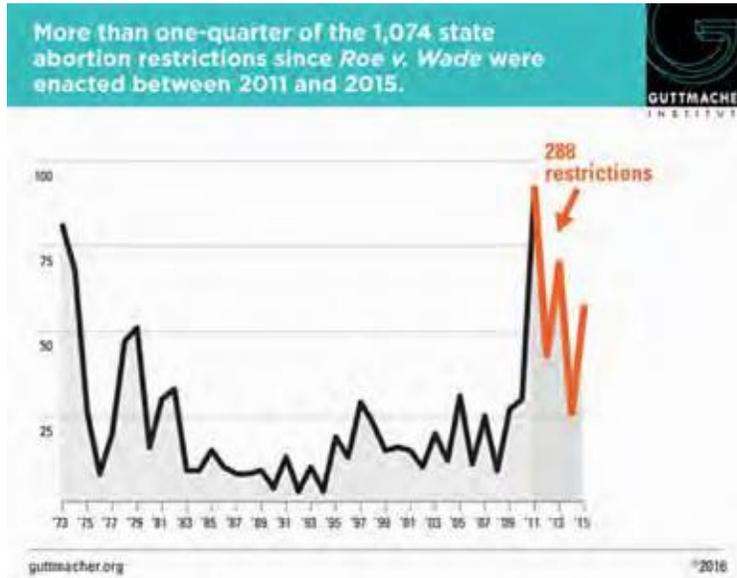
- In 2014, some 46 percent of abortion clinics offered very early abortions (at four weeks' gestation or earlier, before the first missed period), and 99 percent offered the procedure up to eight weeks from the last menstrual period. Seventy-two percent of clinics offered abortions up to 12 weeks, 25 percent up to 20 weeks, and 10 percent up to 24 weeks.
- In 2014, of facilities that supplied later-second-trimester abortions, 25 percent offered abortions up to 20 weeks (down from 34 percent in 2012) and 10 percent offered abortions up to 24 weeks (down from 16 percent in 2012).
- The number of U.S. abortion-providing facilities declined 3 percent between 2011 and 2014 (from 1,720 to 1,671). The number of clinics providing abortion services declined 6 percent over this period (from 839 to 788). Ninety percent of all U.S. counties lacked a clinic in 2014, and 39 percent of women of reproductive age lived in those counties.
- Eighty-four percent of clinics reported at least one form of antiabortion harassment in 2011. Picketing was reported by 80 percent, and phone calls by 47 percent. Fifty-three percent of clinics were picketed 20 times or more in a year. Three percent of clinics reported receiving at least one bomb threat in 2011.

However, despite falling abortion numbers, revenue for the abortion industry has continued to rise.

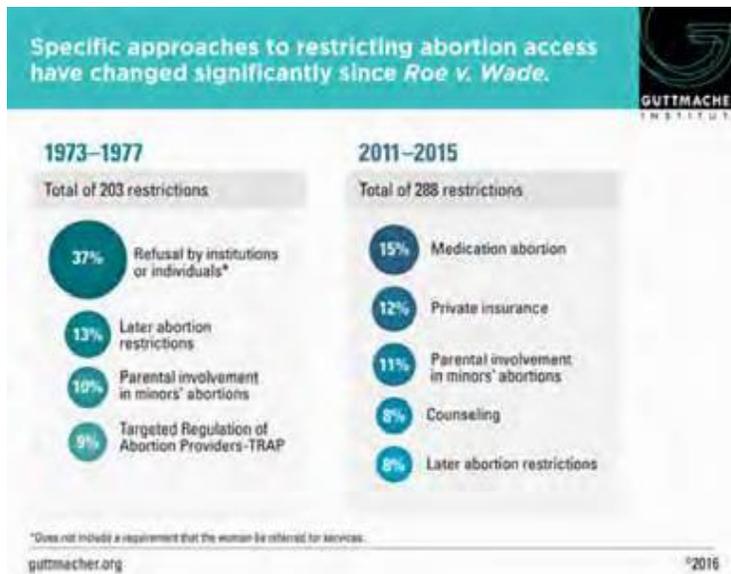
- In 2017, the abortion and family planning industry reported revenue of \$3 B (up almost \$1 B from 2013), with annual growth of 3.2 percent. It is important to note that these numbers include non-abortion products and services. Planned Parenthood has the greatest market share in this industry with 74.9 percent of profits.
- In 2014, the average amount paid for an abortion in a nonhospital setting at 10 weeks' gestation and with local anesthesia was \$508. The average paid for an early medication abortion (up to 9 weeks' gestation) was \$535.
- In 2014, the median charge for an abortion at 20 weeks was \$1,195.

Abortion Restrictions

The landmark Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade* and subsequent rulings upholding it have granted Americans the right to abortion but allow states to restrict access to varying degrees. Since 1973, states have enacted more than 1,074 laws to limit access to the procedure (as of 2016). More than a quarter of these laws passed between 2010 and 2015. This means that the years of 2010 to 2015 account for more abortion restrictions than any other five-year period since *Roe*.



The specific approaches to restricting abortion have also changed significantly since then.



Understanding Abortion Statistics

In 2019, there has been a shift toward legislation commonly referred to as “heartbeat bills,” which generally ban abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected, which can be as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. So far, Alabama has signed into law a near-total ban on abortion, while five other states passed “heartbeat bills,” and another 10 states have proposed legislation specifically mentioning heartbeat detection.

On the flipside, 10 states have put into place laws protecting access to abortion, including New York, which passed a law on the 46th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* earlier this year protecting women’s access to abortion and shielding doctors who perform abortions from criminal prosecution.

Politics of Abortion

Abortion is a polarizing political issue. Today, a 58 percent majority of Americans say abortion should be legal in all or most cases, while 37 percent think abortion should be illegal in all or most cases. These views are relatively unchanged in the past few years. However, recent studies have found a deeper partisan divide on abortion compared with two decades ago.

- By a wide margin (59 percent to 36 percent), Republicans say abortion should be illegal in all or most cases. In 1995, Republicans were evenly divided (49 percent legal vs. 48 percent illegal).
- Views among Democrats have shifted in the other direction over the past two decades. Today, 76 percent of Democrats say abortion should be legal in at least most cases. In 1995, 64 percent favored legal abortion in all or most cases.

When it comes to political campaign funding there is another big divide—this time between pro-choice and pro-life organizations.

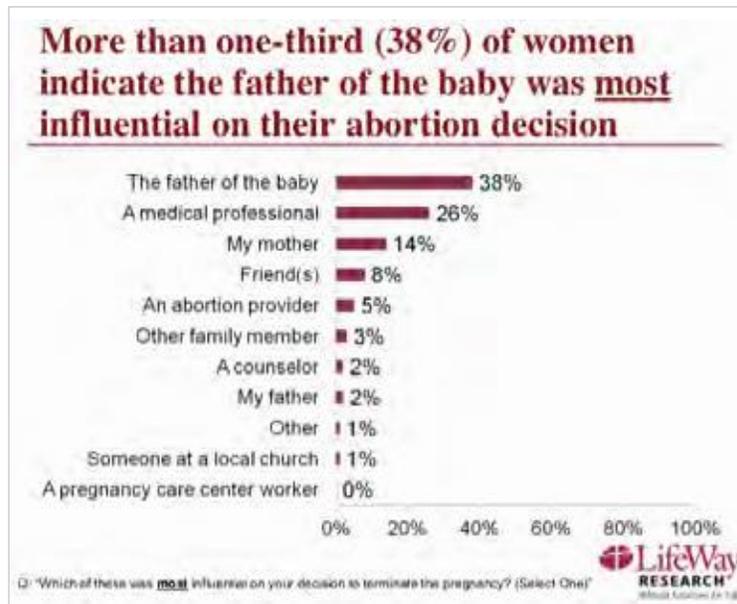
- Pro-choice abortion-policy organizations have outspent pro-life ones by anywhere from 20 percent to 900 percent nearly every year since 1990 (which is the oldest data gathered by the Center for Responsive Politics).
- In 2018, pro-life groups put a total of \$4.8 M toward independent spending and campaign contributions at the state and federal levels. Pro-choice groups spent \$50.7 M.
- In Alabama, political action committees opposed to the 2019 anti-abortion “Amendment 2” law lost despite enjoying a roughly 100-to-1 money advantage over pro-life groups that supported the amendment.

Making the Decision

The average woman choosing abortion makes the decision within a day of confirming her pregnancy and obtains an abortion within the next week. The most frequently cited reason for abortion is financial concerns.

- According to a study by abortion researchers, four days passed on average between the time a woman first suspected pregnancy and confirming the pregnancy. The median time from confirming the pregnancy to deciding to have an abortion was zero days, the median time from deciding to have an abortion to first attempting to obtain abortion services was two days, and the median time from first attempting to obtain abortion services to obtaining the abortion was seven days.
- Minors took a week longer to suspect pregnancy than adults did.

- 58 percent of women reported that they would have liked to have had the abortion earlier. The most common reasons for delay were that it took a long time to make arrangements (59 percent), to decide (39 percent), or to find out about the pregnancy (36 percent). Poor women were about twice as likely to be delayed by difficulties in making arrangements.
- Women’s reasons for seeking abortion included financial reasons (40 percent), timing (36 percent), partner-related reasons (31 percent), and the need to focus on other children (29 percent). Most women reported multiple reasons for seeking an abortion (64 percent).
- 38 percent of women indicate that the father of the baby was most influential in their abortion decision, followed by a medical professional (26 percent), the woman’s mother (14 percent), a friend (8 percent), and an abortion provider (5 percent).



- Only 12 percent of women included a physical problem with their health among reasons for having an abortion.
- 1 percent of aborting women reported that they were the survivors of rape.

Another study found that the reasons patients gave for having an abortion underscored their understanding of the responsibilities of parenthood and family life. The three most common reasons—each cited by three-fourths of patients—were concern for or responsibility to other individuals; the inability to afford raising a child; and the belief that having a baby would interfere with work, school, or the ability to care for dependents. Half said they did not want to be a single parent or were having problems with their husband or partner.

Abortion Risks

The risks associated with choosing to have an abortion are highly contested by pro-choice and pro-life groups.

Pro-choice studies have found that:

- A first-trimester abortion is one of the safest medical procedures and carries minimal risk. Major complications (those requiring hospital care, surgery, or transfusion) occur at a rate of less than 0.5 percent.
- Abortions performed in the first trimester pose virtually no long-term risk of problems such as infertility, ectopic pregnancy, spontaneous abortion (miscarriage), or birth defect, and little or no risk of preterm or low-birth-weight deliveries.
- Exhaustive reviews by panels convened by the U.S. and U.K. governments have concluded that there is no association between abortion and breast cancer. There is also no indication that abortion is a risk factor for other cancers.
- Leading experts have concluded that among women who have an unplanned pregnancy, the risk of mental health problems is no greater if they have a single first-trimester abortion than if they carry the pregnancy to term.
- The risk of death associated with abortion increases with the length of pregnancy, from 0.3 for every 100,000 abortions at or before eight weeks to 6.7 per 100,000 at 18 weeks or later.

Pro-life studies have found that abortion in America often occurs under pressure, without adequate information, and that it comes with a myriad of risks. They argue that:

- 64 percent of women report feeling pressured to abort.
- 54 percent are unsure of their decision, yet 67 percent receive no counseling beforehand.
- 79 percent aren't told of available resources.
- 84 percent aren't sufficiently informed before abortion.
- Pressure to abort can escalate to violence.
- Homicide is the leading killer of pregnant women.
- Clinics fail to screen for coercion.
- Many are misinformed by experts about fetal development, abortion alternatives, or risks.
- Many are denied essential personal, family, societal, or economic support.
- Nearly 80 percent of abortions take place in non-hospital facilities that are ill-equipped for emergency care.
- 31 percent of women have health complications afterward.
- 65 percent suffer multiple symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.
- These women have a 65 percent higher risk of clinical depression.
- 10 percent have immediate complications, and some are life-threatening.
- These women's risk of dying from all causes is 3.5 times higher than the average.
- Suicide rates are six times higher if women abort vs. giving birth.

Alternatives to Abortion

Pregnancy Help Centers

For those facing unplanned pregnancies, an alternative type of provider exists—pregnancy help centers. These centers provide education, counseling, and support to women making a decision on what to do next. With 2,752 locations in the United States as of 2017, these centers significantly outnumber abortion businesses and provide a range of free services and support.

- In 2017, pregnancy centers provided almost 2 M people with free services, with estimated community cost savings of at least \$161 M annually.
- 2,752 center locations nationwide provide vital services including medical services, parenting programs, and sexual risk avoidance education.
- More than seven in 10 locations offer free ultrasounds (up 24 percent since 2010).
- 400,100 hours of free services were contributed by credentialed nurse sonographers and registered diagnostic medical sonographers in 2017.
- 100 mobile units with ultrasound are on the road to bring services to women in the community.
- 30,000 contacts per month reach Heartbeat International’s Option Line hotline and email/chat lines.
- 67,400 volunteers serve pregnancy centers, including an estimated 7,500 medical professionals who freely give of their time and skills.
- Centers carried out 679,600 free pregnancy tests in 2017.
- 295,900 moms and dads attended parenting courses.
- 24,100 after-abortion support clients were seen in 2017 (services include support, counseling, and referral to professional help when appropriate for both women and men).
- More than 1 M students attended community-based sexual risk avoidance education presentations in 2017.

Abortion Pill Reversal (APR)

Another service offered by some pregnancy centers is abortion pill reversal (APR). APR enables women to change their mind partway through a chemical abortion by using a high dose of progesterone to reverse the effects of mifepristone, the first medicine in a chemical abortion.

For those seeking to reverse a chemical abortion (commonly referred to as a medical abortion), the goal is to start the protocol within 24 hours of taking the first abortion pill. However, it has been successful when started within 72 hours of taking the first abortion pill, although the efficacy decreases over time.

APR is a controversial procedure, which pro-life organizations tend to support but pro-choice organizations do not. According to Heartbeat International, the operator of the APR program:

- Initial studies of APR have shown that APR has a 64-68 percent success rate.
- 750 lives have been saved through the Abortion Pill Rescue Network.
- Without the APR treatment, mifepristone may fail to abort the pregnancy on its own. In other words, the pregnancy may continue even without APR if the patient decides not to take misoprostol, the second abortion drug likely prescribed or provided. However, APR has been shown to increase the chances of allowing the pregnancy to continue.

Understanding Abortion Statistics

- Progesterone has been safely used in pregnancy for more than 50 years.
- Initial studies have found that the birth defect rate in babies born after APR is less than or equal to the rate in the general population. Neither mifepristone nor progesterone is associated with birth defects.

The American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AAPLOG) supports the procedure, and in its public statement on APR says that:

- Progesterone has been safely used during pregnancy for decades without undesired effects.
- For those infants who survive mifepristone, there is no evidence of birth defects associated with the medication.
- The efficacy of reversal (55 percent on average) is, in fact, higher than “sitting and waiting” alone (7- 40 percent, depending on gestation) to see if a pregnancy continues (this is based on small studies, but this is because there is a small population that chooses reversal in the first place).

However, on the other hand, several organizations do not support the use of the reversal procedure, such as NARAL Pro-Choice America, Planned Parenthood, and ACOG (American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists). The main concerns that these organizations have are:

- Success rates from APR are from small studies and are very similar to those who only take mifepristone without any progesterone treatment.
- That offering the reversal procedure undermines a woman’s ability to choose, perhaps by implying that women must not have thought it through, and so need an option to get out.
- That progesterone therapy, when given improperly, can cause damage to some of the body’s main systems, including the nervous, cardiovascular, and endocrine systems.

Adoption

One of the main options pregnancy help centers counsel women on is adoption. Adoption rates have stayed relatively consistent in the United States, and adoption is generally considered to be a positive option for those facing unplanned pregnancies.

- In 2014, there were 17.3 infant adoptions per 1,000 abortions and 4.6 infant adoptions per 1,000 live births, a slight change from 17.0 infant adoptions per 1,000 abortions and 5.5 infant adoptions per 1,000 live births in 2002.
- The National Council for Adoption estimates the Adoption Option Index (relative frequency of infant adoptions per 1,000 abortions and births to unmarried women) for 2014 to be 6.9, an increase from 6.1 in 2007.
- 61 percent of adults surveyed agreed that for an unmarried woman with an unplanned pregnancy, sometimes choosing adoption is what it means to be a good mother.
- 51 percent of adults surveyed agreed that for the child of an unmarried woman with an unplanned pregnancy, adoption is generally a positive option.

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