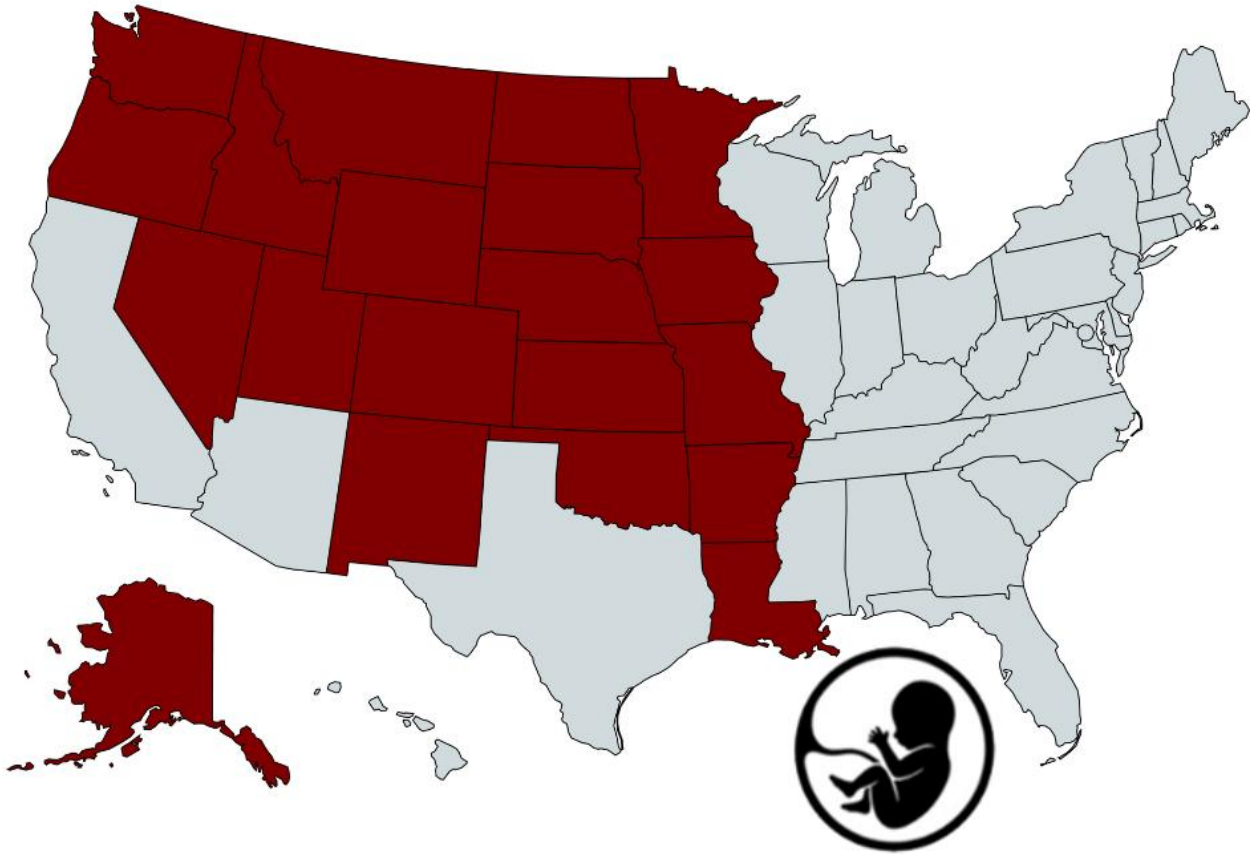


The Truth About Abortion



*The population of these 20 shaded states * equals the approximate number of babies killed in the 64,000,000 reported surgical abortions since 1973. However, this does not include chemical abortions.*

*According to the U.S. Census Bureau

“For you [God] created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”
Psalm 139:13-14

Warning: The following content contains graphics that may be disturbing to some readers.

Table of Contents

Stages of Pregnancy3

Types of Abortions4

Abortion Statistics5

Who Is Having Abortions?6

Reasons Women Give for Having an Abortion.....7

Health Risks Associated with Abortion8

Key Cases Involving the Previous Federal Legalization of Abortion11

The Case That Revoked the “Constitutional Right to Abortion”.....12

State Legislation Regarding Abortion.....13

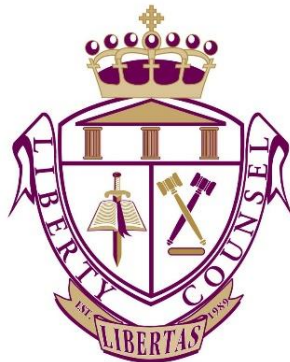
Agenda of Planned Parenthood14

Liberty Counsel and the Sanctity of Human Life15

Frequently Asked Questions About Abortion15

Pro-life Action Steps16

Glossary17



Stages of Pregnancy

Fertilization	Fertilization normally takes place within one day of intercourse but can occur up to six days later. Genetic information such as gender, eye color, hair color, and facial features are determined. ¹
<i>First Trimester</i> 4 weeks (Embryo)	Vital organs are forming, and signs of the brain and the beginning of the spine are evident. ²
5 Weeks	Heart begins to beat and circulate blood. Arm and leg buds emerge. Brain, spinal cord, and nervous system are established. ³
6 Weeks	Digestive system, eyes, and ears are forming, and arms and legs continue to grow. Neural systems are more defined, and heartbeat can be detected by ultrasound. ⁴
8 Weeks (Fetus)	Face, fingers, toes, elbows, knees, eyelids and bone cells are forming. ⁵
12 Weeks	Fingers and toes are moving, teeth buds are present, and the kidney and bladder form. Baby is 4 inches long and weighs about one ounce. ⁶
<i>Second Trimester</i> 16 Weeks	Baby moves and kicks, sleeps and wakes, and swallows. Hair forms and digestion becomes active. Sex determination is possible. ⁷
18 Weeks	Spurt in baby's growth, internal organs are maturing, and hair, eyebrows and lashes are present. Baby increases storage of iron. ⁸
24 Weeks	If born prematurely, survival with medical treatment is possible at this point in development.
<i>Third Trimester</i> 28 Weeks	Most rapid growth and increase of baby's weight. Begins to respond to outside stimulus like sound and light. ⁹
31 Weeks	Weight gain and rapid growth; settles into favorite position; valuable fat increases. ¹⁰
33 Weeks	Nails on fingers and toes can be seen. Bones are hardening throughout the body, but head remains soft and flexible. ¹¹
Birth (38–40 Weeks)	Baby is ready to be born with developed organs and mature respiratory system.

Fetal Growth From 8 to 40 Weeks



Types of Abortions

Vacuum Aspiration:

A method of abortion performed during the first trimester, in which the contents of the uterus are withdrawn by suction through a narrow tube. Also called *suction curettage*, *vacuum curettage*.¹²

Dilation and Curettage:

A medical procedure in which the uterine cervix is dilated and a curette is inserted into the uterus to scrape away tissue (as for the diagnosis or treatment of abnormal bleeding) or for surgical abortion during the early part of the second trimester of pregnancy—also called D&C.¹³

Dilation and Evacuation:

A surgical abortion that is typically performed midway during the second trimester of pregnancy and in which the uterine cervix is dilated and “fetal tissue” (i.e., the baby) is removed using surgical instruments (such as forceps and a curette) and suction—also called D&E.¹⁴

Dilation and Extraction:

A surgical abortion that is typically performed during the third trimester or latter part of the second trimester of pregnancy. The uterine cervix is dilated, and delivery of the baby is induced feet-first through the birth canal. Surgical instruments are used to pierce the skull of the mostly-born child—also called D&X, or partial-birth abortion.¹⁵

Partial Birth Abortion:

This late-term abortion is now legal in some states.¹⁶ Guided by ultrasound, the abortionist reaches into the uterus, grabs the unborn baby’s leg or arm with forceps, and pulls the baby into the birth canal, except for the head, which is deliberately kept just inside the womb. (At this point in a partial-birth abortion, the baby is alive.) Then the abortionist jams scissors or a sharp implement into the back of the baby’s skull and spreads the tips of the scissors apart to enlarge the wound. After removing the scissors, a suction catheter is inserted into the skull and the baby’s brains are sucked out. The collapsed head and the rest of the baby are then removed from the uterus. Also known as Dilation and Extraction, or D&X.¹⁷

Chemical Abortion:

Mifepristone (formerly known as RU-486) is an anti-progesterone drug, and when used in combination with misoprostol, forms a two-drug regimen to procure an early abortion (up to the tenth week in pregnancy). Mifepristone blocks the natural hormone progesterone, which is necessary for pregnancy, and cuts off blood and nutrients to the unborn baby, slowly starving it to death over one to two days. Then, misoprostol induces contractions necessary to induce labor and causes severe cramping, contractions, and bleeding to expel the baby from the womb. In some states, the regimen is only administered in hospitals or recognized clinics. However, some states allow doctors to prescribe the abortion pill over a video call. This is called a telemedicine abortion.^{18, 19} In January 2023, the FDA made regulatory changes in an effort to make the abortion pill available by mail and through retail pharmacies. However, these changes, along with the drug’s FDA approval, have all been challenged in federal court and the legal ramifications are uncertain. Currently, chemical abortions account for more than half of all abortions in the U.S.²⁰

Saline Amniocentesis:

Also known as “hypertonic saline” abortion, this method is utilized when the amniotic fluid sac has formed around the baby at 16 weeks of pregnancy. “A needle is inserted through the mother’s abdomen and 50-250 ml (as much as a cup) of amniotic fluid is withdrawn and replaced with a solution of concentrated salt. The baby breathes in, swallowing the salt, and is poisoned. The chemical solution also causes painful burning and deterioration of the baby’s skin. Usually, after about an hour, the child dies. The mother goes into labor about 33 to 35 hours after instillation and delivers a dead, burned, and shriveled baby. About 97 percent of mothers deliver their dead babies within 72 hours.”²¹

Abortifacients:

Pills and other forms of birth control are often described as contraceptives even though they often take effect after fertilization, the moment life begins. Hormones such as progesterone are found in birth control pills, implants, or injections that potentially thin uterine walls inside a woman and stop a conceived baby from developing. Other drugs such as Plan B One-Step work directly to prevent development after conception.²² The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) renamed these abortifacients as contraceptives, even though the FDA acknowledges that these drugs often work after fertilization.²³

“If we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people to not kill one another?... Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want.”

— Mother Teresa²⁴

Abortion Statistics

Since the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*, there have been more than **64 MILLION ABORTIONS in the United States.**²⁵

In 2020 alone, there were nearly 77,000 abortions per month, about 2,548 abortions per day, about 106 abortions per hour, and about one abortion every 34 seconds.²⁶

That means due to *Roe v. Wade* approximately 20 percent of all U.S. pregnancies ended in abortion.²⁷

After *Roe v. Wade* was reversed on June 24, 2022, there was an average of 5,377 fewer abortions monthly in the U.S in the six months following the decision.²⁸ An estimated 60,000 lives have been saved in states where abortion is banned or restricted since June 2022.²⁹



“...Is it surprising that today we have become so morally blind (for wickedness blinds) that we save the baby whales at great cost, and murder millions of unborn children?”

—Alice von Hildebrand, *The Privilege of Being a Woman*³⁰

Who Is Having Abortions?

Race:

- While Caucasian women obtain about 33 percent of all abortions, their abortion rate is well below that of minority women. Black women are *3.7 times* more likely as white women to have an abortion, and Hispanic women are approximately *1.8 times* more likely.³¹
- According to the most recent census data³², black women make up 12.7 percent of the female population in America, but account for 38 percent of all U.S. abortions. Hispanic women account for 21 percent of all U.S. abortions, though they make up just 16.2 percent of the female population. Non-Hispanic, white women, who make up 63.4 percent of America's female population, account for nearly 33 percent of all U.S. abortions.³³

Age:

- 57 percent of U.S. women having abortions are *in their 20s*.
- Women aged 20-24 obtain 28 percent of all U.S. abortions and teenagers obtain about 9 percent.
- Adolescents under 15 years account for less than 1 percent of all abortions, but have the *highest abortion ratio*, 873 abortions for every 1,000 live births.³⁴

Marital Status:

- In 2019, 86 percent of all abortions were performed on unmarried women.
- The abortion rate for unmarried women is 394 abortions for every 1,000 live births. For married women, it is 46 abortions for every 1,000 live births.³⁵

Economic Status:

- Women living with low household incomes account for three-fourths of abortion patients.
- The abortion rate of women with Medicaid coverage is three times as high as that of other women.³⁶

Religion:

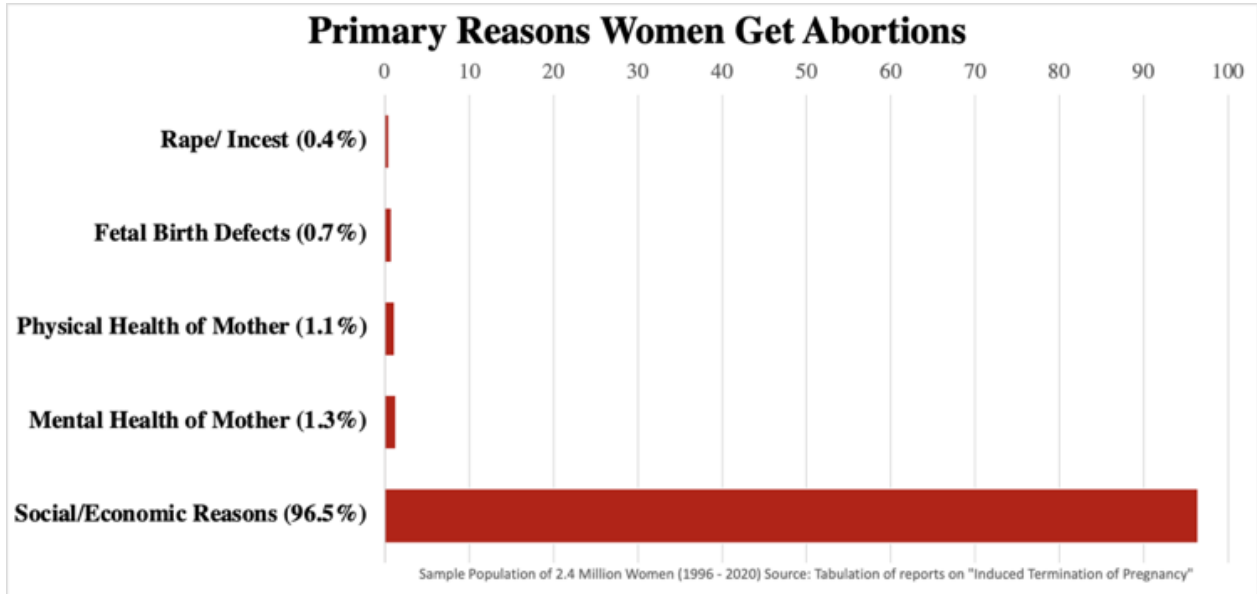
- Women who consider themselves Protestants account for 30 percent of all abortions, and Catholics account for 24 percent in the United States. Women of other faiths (Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, etc.) are responsible for 8 percent, while 38 percent have no religious affiliation.³⁷

Frequency:

- 42 percent of women who have abortions had at least one previous abortion.
- 60 percent of females choosing abortion have already carried and given birth to at least one child before their abortion.³⁸

Reasons Women Give for Having an Abortion

While various reasons are cited for women getting an abortion, the majority of women get an abortion because it is most convenient for them. This graph points out that only 0.4 percent of all abortions reportedly occur because of rape or incest.³⁹ About **97 percent of all abortions occur for social/economic reasons (i.e., the child is unwanted, or the woman believes the circumstances are insurmountable).**



Social and Economic Reasons

Almost 97 percent of women explain that they had an abortion because the child was not convenient for them at the time. For example, some women opt for abortion if they think they are financially unstable, it is not the “right time” for her to have a baby, the baby may interfere with her career or education, and/or she is fearful of being a single mother due to relationship issues.

Mental Health of Mother

The mental health of the mother is another reason that is commonly used for abortion. The definition of “mental health” is vague within patient reports. For instance, women have stated on patient forms that: “The mother’s mental health was at risk”; “Emotional health at stake”; and “Mental health.”^{40 41 42}

Physical Health of Mother

Approximately, one percent of abortions are done to preserve or save the mother’s life when there are possible unwanted health conditions that *may* occur by carrying the baby to term. Options women stated on patient health forms in this category range from “Physical health at stake” to “Will suffer substantial and irreversible impairment of major bodily function if pregnancy continues.”

Fetal Defect or Abnormality

Less than one percent (0.7 percent) of abortions are performed due to serious genetic fetal abnormalities/defects. An option given on the Minnesota Induced Abortion report reads, “Pregnancy resulted in fetal anomalies,” which includes but is not limited to congenital heart defects, Down syndrome, cleft lip/ palate, or spina bifida. Birth defects are most often detected through blood screenings and ultrasounds done throughout the pregnancy. However, ultrasounds can be misclassified, and it is possible for genetic blood tests to read false positives.⁴³

Rape/Incest

The most common and usually compelling argument that those in favor of abortion use is, “What about if a woman is raped or involved in incest?” However, only **0.4 percent** of abortions are performed on victims of rape or incest. Compare that to the **97 percent** of women who are obtaining abortions for social reasons.⁴⁴

About 97% of abortions are done because the baby is an “inconvenience!”

Health Risks Associated with Abortion

“In medical practice, there are few surgical procedures given so little attention and so underrated in its potential hazards as abortion. It is a commonly held view that complications are inevitable.”

*- Dr. Warren Hern, **Abortionist**⁴⁵*

Planned Parenthood’s “Promise” ...

Despite all the research and scientific evidence, Planned Parenthood’s website claims: “There’s no risk to your future pregnancies or to your overall health. Having an abortion doesn’t increase your risk for breast cancer or affect your fertility. It doesn’t cause problems for future pregnancies like birth defects, premature birth or low birth weight, ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage, or infant death.” Planned Parenthood also affirms, “Serious, long-term emotional problems after an abortion are rare, and about as uncommon as they are after giving birth.”⁴⁶

Physical Health Risks⁴⁷

Surgical Risks

There are many surgical risks associated with abortion, including hemorrhaging, infection, cervix laceration, and uterus perforation. If a woman hemorrhages during or from an abortion, she may require a blood transfusion and risks getting hepatitis. Cervix laceration increases a woman’s risk of miscarriage in future pregnancies, and uterus perforation can cause peritonitis. Peritonitis is a condition where the abdominal lining is inflamed and becomes infected; it is “similar to having a ruptured appendix.”⁴⁸

Breast Cancer

Females who have undergone an abortion procedure may increase their risk of developing breast cancer later in life. Since the national legalization of abortion in 1973, rates for breast cancer have risen 50 percent.⁴⁹

Ectopic (Tubal) Pregnancy

This condition happens when a fertilized egg attaches, and the embryo begins development outside the uterus. This abnormality is dangerous and can cause the mother to bleed to death if a rupture occurs and emergency medical treatment is not obtained quickly. Abortion increases the risk of ectopic pregnancy anywhere from 8 to 20 times. Research has proven that one abortion procedure increases a woman's risk for having an ectopic pregnancy by 30 percent and having two or more abortions raises the risk 160 percent.⁵⁰

Other Consequences for Future Pregnancies

Having an abortion puts both the mother and her future children in risk of various complications during a future pregnancy and delivery. Besides risk of an ectopic pregnancy, there is a higher probability that bleeding will occur in the first trimester and delivery by Cesarean is more likely to be needed. Women who have had two or more abortions are also at a higher risk of miscarrying in the future.

The baby is at an increased risk with a higher chance to be underweight or born prematurely. This can result in various physical problems. These babies (born from a womb which has undergone an abortion in the past) are twice as likely to die a few months after birth.⁵¹

The Journal of Reproductive Medicine cited that multiple studies (59) had established a statistical connection the risk of premature births in women who had aborted a previous pregnancy. The results from these studies also show that the risk is even higher if the mother has undergone multiple procedures. Premature babies (born before 32 weeks) often require intensive care after birth and suffer various health complications due to underdevelopment.⁵²

Infertility

Approximately 2 to 5 percent of women are rendered sterile after having an abortion as part of her body's response to the procedure or physician error. Secondary infertility is three to four times more likely after an abortion.⁵³

Sexual Dysfunction

“Thirty to fifty percent of aborted[abortive] women report experiencing sexual dysfunctions, of both short and long duration, beginning immediately after their abortions. These problems may include one or more of the following: loss of pleasure from intercourse, increased pain, an aversion to sex and/or males in general, or the development of a promiscuous lifestyle.”⁵⁴

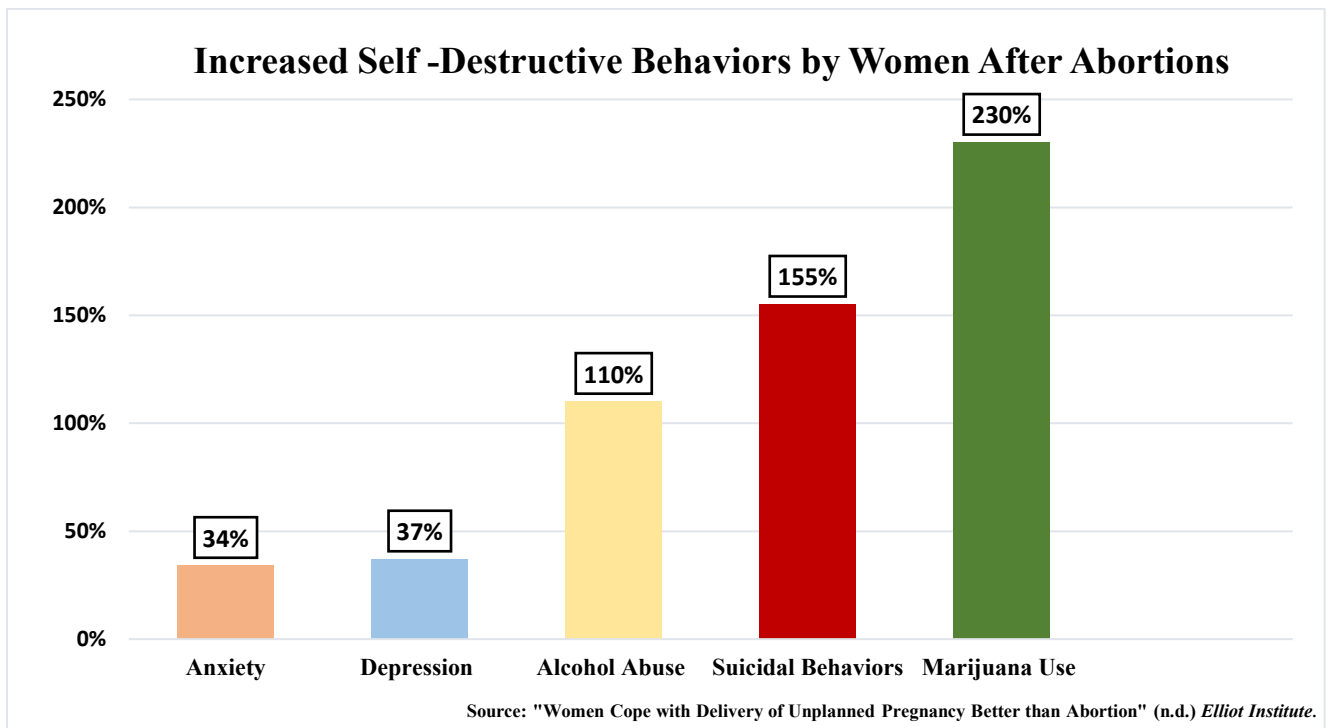
Mental Health Risks

Post Abortion Syndrome (PAS):

Professional psychiatrists and counselors who have interacted with women after their decision to undergo an abortion can identify strong parallels between the suffering of their patient compared to dealing with PTSD or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. This disorder is a mental and emotional illness as the result of a traumatic experience and can inhibit the daily functions of an individual.

As a result of having an abortion, many women have needed professional help to cope with various issues, including “intense fear, anxiety, sense of helplessness, feeling of loss of control, emotional numbing, difficulty recalling event, guilt, pain, grief, depression, irritability, angry outbursts, aggressive behavior, sleep difficulties, sexual dysfunction, flashbacks, nightmares, anniversary reactions, withdrawal from relationships, avoidance of children, pessimism regarding future, drug and/or alcohol abuse, and suicidal thoughts.”⁵⁵

A new study published in the journal *Frontiers in Neuroscience* provides additional evidence of the harmful biological and behavioral effects of drug-induced abortion. Traditionally, Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers have claimed that the abortion pills are safe and have no adverse effects. The Franciscan University three-year study, which was conducted by a team of behavioral neuroscientists who do not have ties to the abortion industry, clearly indicates that there are negative consequences such as depression, anxiety, loss of appetite and decreased self-care after terminating a viable pregnancy using mifepristone and misoprostol (the two abortion pills commonly used).^{56 57}



A British study in 2011 at the Royal College of Psychiatricians found correlations between abortion and destructive behavior, determining that women who chose abortion are 81 percent more likely to experience mental health issues. By comparing women who had undergone an abortion procedure with those who had not, the post-abortive women had a 34 percent higher rate for anxiety, 37 percent higher for depression, 110 percent more likely to abuse alcohol, 230 percent more likely to use marijuana, and 155 percent more had experimented with suicidal actions.⁵⁸

Key Cases Involving the Previous Federal Legalization of Abortion

***Roe v. Wade* (1973)**

Facts of the Case:

A Texas woman, under the alias of “Jane Roe” to protect her identity, sought to terminate her pregnancy by abortion. Texas law prohibited abortions except to save a pregnant woman’s life. After granting certiorari, the Supreme Court heard arguments twice. The first time, Roe’s attorney, Sarah Weddington, could not locate the constitutional hook of her argument for Justice Potter Stewart. Her opponent, Jay Floyd, misfired from the start. Weddington sharpened her constitutional argument in the second round. Her new opponent, Robert Flowers, came under strong questioning from Justices Potter Stewart and Thurgood Marshall.

Question:

Does the Constitution embrace a woman’s right to terminate her pregnancy by abortion?

Conclusion:

The Court held that a woman’s right to an abortion fell within the right to privacy (recognized in *Griswold v. Connecticut*) protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. The decision gave a woman total autonomy over the pregnancy during the first trimester and defined different levels of state interest for the second and third trimesters. As a result, the laws of 46 states were affected by the Court’s ruling.⁵⁹

***Doe v. Bolton* (1973)**

Summary:

Doe v. Bolton is the companion case for *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark Supreme Court case that established a “substantive due process” right to abortion. In *Roe*, Justice Harry Blackmun wrote that *Roe* and *Doe* “are to be read together.” In the *Doe* 7-2 opinion by Justice Blackmun, the Court elaborated on the “health exception” established in *Roe*. In cases where an abortion is necessary in order to preserve the life or health of the mother, the state must permit an abortion even after viability. According to the majority, the doctor’s medical judgment as to the health of the mother may be “exercised in the light of all factors—physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman’s age—relevant to the wellbeing of the patient.”⁶⁰

***Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992)**

Facts of the Case:

The Pennsylvania legislature amended its abortion law in 1988 and 1989. Among the new provisions, the law required informed consent and a 24-hour waiting period prior to the procedure. A minor seeking an abortion required the consent of one parent (the law allows for a judicial bypass procedure). A married woman seeking an abortion had to indicate that she notified her husband of her intention to abort the child. Several abortion clinics and physicians challenged these provisions. A federal appeals court upheld all the provisions except for the spousal notification requirement.



Question:

Can a state require women who want an abortion to obtain informed consent, wait 24 hours, and, if minors, obtain parental consent, without violating their right to abortion as guaranteed by *Roe v. Wade*?

Conclusion:

In a 5-4 decision, the Court reaffirmed the basic holding of *Roe*, but upheld the majority of the Pennsylvania provisions. “For the first time, the justices imposed a new standard to determine the validity of laws restricting abortions. The new standard asks whether a state abortion regulation has the purpose or effect of imposing an ‘undue burden,’ which is defined as a ‘substantial obstacle in the path of a woman seeking an abortion before the fetus attains viability.’ Under this standard, the only provision to fail the undue-burden test was the husband notification requirement.” The opinion for the Court was unique: The plurality opinion was authored by only three Justices.⁶¹

The Case That Revoked the “Constitutional Right to Abortion”

Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization (2022)

Facts of the Case: In 2018, Mississippi passed a law called the “Gestational Age Act,” which prohibits all the abortions, with few exceptions, after 15 weeks’ gestational age. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, the only licensed abortion facility in Mississippi, and one of its doctors filed a lawsuit in federal district court challenging the law and requesting an emergency temporary restraining order (TRO). After a hearing, the district court granted the TRO while litigation proceeded to discovery. After discovery, the district court granted the clinic’s motion for summary judgment and enjoined Mississippi from enforcing the law, finding that the state had not provided evidence that a fetus would be viable at 15 weeks, and the Supreme Court precedent prohibits states from banning abortion prior to viability. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit affirmed.⁶²

Question: Is Mississippi’s law banning nearly all abortions after 15-weeks’ gestational age unconstitutional?

Conclusion: On June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court voted 5-4 to overturn the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* and 1992 *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey* abortion decisions. Justice Alito authored the opinion of the Court, overturning *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. Justice Samuel Alito was joined by Justices Thomas, Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, and Barrett. Chief Justice Roberts authored a concurring opinion saying he agreed that the viability standard had no basis in the Constitution and that it should be discarded, but he did not vote to overturn *Roe* and *Casey*. Justices Breyer, Sotomayor, and Kagan jointly authored a dissent to the opinion.⁶³

“We end this opinion where we began. Abortion presents a profound moral question. The Constitution does not prohibit the citizens of each State from regulating or prohibiting abortion.

Roe and *Casey* arrogated that authority. We now overrule those decisions and return that authority to the people and their elected representatives.”⁶⁴

State Legislation Regarding Abortion

The issue of abortion has now been turned over to the states. Most blue states will go on to expand on “abortion rights” and work to codify *Roe v. Wade* through their state legislature. Meanwhile, many red states had trigger laws that were set to go into place if/when *Roe* was overturned. These trigger laws work to completely ban abortion except in cases such that a mother’s life is at risk, or the mother was a victim of rape or incest. Other red states had Pre-*Roe* laws that have been reenacted with the overturning of *Roe*. Lastly, there are states that are somewhat in the middle of this issue. These states may or may not move to restrict or protect abortion. This mostly has to do with the current and potential future legislators and executives in office. That is why it is important to stay informed on the current legislation of each individual state.

Learn more from resources such as:

Liberty Counsel’s [Website](#)⁶⁵

Concerned Women for America’s “Post-Roe State of States” Interactive [Map](#)⁶⁶

The Washington Post Interactive [Map](#)⁶⁷

Hopefully, the developing legislation in red states, and the continuing perseverance in purple and blue states, will lead to ending abortions and the slaughtering of innocent children.

“Life, no matter how young, is not expendable and, no matter how ill or aged, is not to be weighed on a cost-benefit scale.”

*—Mat Staver, Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel*⁶⁸

Agenda of Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) boasts on its website’s “About Us” page: “Planned Parenthood is a trusted health care provider, an informed educator, a passionate advocate, and a global partner helping similar organizations around the world. Planned Parenthood delivers vital reproductive health care, sex education, and information to millions of people worldwide.”⁶⁹ However, “parenthood” is least on their list of priorities. Planned Parenthood is a billion-dollar abortion chain that kills more unborn babies in abortions than any other group in the U.S. According to Planned Parenthood’s 2019-2020 Annual Report, it reported a record number 395,000 abortions, while providing fewer actual health care services and seeing fewer patients than years prior.⁷⁰

The Political Agenda

Planned Parenthood is the nation's largest advocate for abortion in state and federal legislatures, challenging "right to know" laws, parental involvement laws, partial-birth abortion bans, and demanding taxpayer funding of abortion.

Targeting Minorities

Planned Parenthood founder, Margaret Sanger once wrote, "We do not want the word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population."⁷¹

Planned Parenthood has 86 percent of its abortion facilities in or near minority neighborhoods in the 25 U.S. counties with the most abortions. These 25 counties contain 19 percent of the U.S. population and are home to 28 percent of the U.S. black population and 37 percent of the U.S. Hispanic/Latino population. In 12 of these counties, blacks and Hispanics/Latinos are more than 50 percent of the population. In contrast, blacks are only 12.6 percent of the U.S. population and Hispanics, and Latinos are 16.3 percent.⁷²

Unethical Profit Motive

Planned Parenthood officials have been caught on videotape discussing their trafficking of the body parts of aborted babies. As a result, Planned Parenthood and its government allies are attacking Sandra Merritt, a courageous pro-life grandmother who exposed the abortion giant's horrific selling of baby body parts. Sandra and her co-defendant, David Daleiden, the founder of the Center for Medical Progress, are the first undercover journalists to be charged with a crime for undercover recordings made in the public interest in the history of California. The weight of the evidence demonstrates that the prosecution against Sandra is politically motivated, selective and discriminatory.

Liberty Counsel is defending Sandra in both criminal and civil cases against the vicious two-front attack launched against her by California's attorney general and Planned Parenthood.⁷³



(Picture of baby's body after abortion in first trimester)

Liberty Counsel and the Sanctity of Human Life



Liberty Counsel is a nonprofit litigation, education, and policy organization dedicated to advancing religious freedom, the sanctity of human life, and marriage and the family. We accomplish this mission through litigation, education, and public policy. We have been involved in defending human life from fertilization to natural death.

Frequently Asked Questions About Abortion

When does human life begin?

According to standard biology books used even in public schools: “Human development begins at fertilization, the process during which a male gamete or sperm unites with a female gamete or oocyte (ovum) to form a single cell called a zygote. This highly specialized, totipotent cell marked the beginning of each of us as a unique individual” (pg. 16). “A zygote is the beginning of a new human being” (pg. 2).⁷⁴

After how many weeks of development is a baby able to survive outside the mother’s womb?

Generally, 24 weeks is considered the viability point of the fetus. However, with technology and neonatal intensive care, it has been known that babies born as early as 22 weeks’ gestation point have survived. Survival for early premature births is rare, however, and the babies are high risk for various conditions and disabilities.⁷⁵ Babies born at 24 weeks have a 60-70% chance of survival; babies born at 28 weeks have an 80-90% chance of survival and a low chance of having health issues.⁷⁶

When does the unborn baby’s heart begin to beat?

The heartbeat begins about 21 days after conception.⁷⁷

When does the baby’s brain begin to function?

Electrical brain waves have been recorded as early as 40 days.⁷⁸

When do most abortions occur?

Eighty-nine percent of all abortions happen during the first trimester, prior to the 13th week, despite the growth and development of organs that occur early on.⁷⁹

What does the Bible say about abortion?

While the Bible never uses the term “abortion,” these verses reflect His care for His creation (even in the womb) and His righteous anger at the murder of the innocent:

Exodus 20:13 “You shall not murder.”

Psalms 139:13-16 “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

Psalm 106:35-38 “But they mingled with the nations and adopted their customs. They worshiped their idols, which became a snare to them. They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to false gods. They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was desecrated by their blood.”

Psalm 127:3 “Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him.”

Pro-life Action Steps

Now that you know the facts regarding the tragedy of abortion in our country, it is important to take a stand against this atrocious act of killing our innocent unborn. Let us not abandon those who cannot yet defend themselves. Let us stand up for their right to life.

Simple tips and resources to help you get involved:

- Pray for those who have been affected by abortion.
- Educate yourself in advocating for the sanctity of human life.
- Find and support organizations in your state that are involved in the pro-life movement.
- Organize a rally with other pro-life organizations.
- Vote only for candidates who stand for the sanctity of human life.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper or magazine.
- Contact your local representatives and encourage them to introduce and vote for laws that uphold life.
- Share your views on social media.
- Volunteer at a local pregnancy resource center.
- Volunteer as a sidewalk counselor outside an abortion center.
- Educate yourself about adoption alternatives.



The key is to stay informed and actively involved. Discuss the facts with your family and friends and inform your pastors and local government of the importance of taking a stand for the sanctity of human life.

Contact Liberty Counsel at liberty@lc.org or (407) 875-1776 for more information.

Glossary

Definitions taken from Merriam-Webster Dictionary unless otherwise noted⁸⁰

Abortion:

The termination of a pregnancy after, accompanied by, resulting in, or closely followed by the death of the embryo or fetus, such as a spontaneous expulsion of a human fetus during the first 12 weeks of gestation.

Conception:

The process of becoming pregnant by fertilization or implantation or both.

Curettage:

A surgical scraping or cleaning by means of a curette.

Curette:

A surgical instrument that has a scoop, ring, or loop at the tip and is used in performing curettage.

Embryo:

The developing human individual from the time of implantation to the end of the eighth week after conception.

Feticide:

The act of causing the death of a fetus.

Fetus:

A developing human from usually two months after conception to birth.

Genocide:

The deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political, or cultural group.

Infanticide:

The killing of an infant.

Planned Parenthood:

The collective name of global members of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). The Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) is the U.S. affiliate of IPPF and one of its larger members. PPFA provides “reproductive healthcare,” maternal, and child health services. The organization’s status as the United States’ leading provider of surgical abortions has put it at the forefront of national debate over that issue. Planned Parenthood Action Fund Inc. (PPAF) is a related organization that lobbies the U.S. political system for pro-abortion legislation, comprehensive sex education, and access to affordable health care.*⁸¹

Selective Reduction/Termination:

Abortion of one or more but not all embryos in a pregnancy with multiple embryos

Therapeutic Abortion:

Abortion induced when pregnancy constitutes a threat to the physical or mental health of the mother. (Note: What the law constitutes as being a “threat to the mental health of the mother” can even include reasons such as a woman not wanting to work to care for her child. In other words, “therapeutic” abortions may occur for the mother’s personal convenience.)

Trimester:

A period of three or about three months; especially any of three periods of approximately three months each into which a human pregnancy is divided

Zygote:

The result of the sperm successfully fertilizing the ovum. The zygote is a single cell that contains the genetic material of both the mother and the father.⁸²

All Bible verses used are the NIV translation.

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