



TOP 40 ABORTION STATISTICS



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ABORTION AT-A-GLANCE

From 1973 to 2015, more than 57 million lives have been lost to abortion.¹

Fertility and Abortion

- 21% of all pregnancies in the US end in abortion.²
- 60% of women who report their pregnancy as unintended choose life (up from 53% in 2001). About half (51%) of all pregnancies are reported as unintended by American women.³
- Researchers continue to debate the economic consequences of declining fertility rates.⁴ The replacement fertility rate for developed countries is a lifetime total of 2.1 births per woman.⁵
- The general fertility rate (GFR) for the United States in 2015 was 62.8 births per 1,000 women aged 15-44.⁶ Since 2007, the fertility rate has declined, but, as with the number of births, the pace of decline has slowed since 2010.⁷
- The number of registered births in the United States for 2013 was less than 1% fewer births than in 2012.⁸

Rate

- In 2013, 664,435 legal induced abortions were reported to the CDC, a number that has been decreasing dramatically since 1990, when there were 1,429,577 abortions.⁹
- The abortion rate, as of 2013, has dropped to 12.5 abortions per 1000 women aged 15-44.¹⁰
- 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%, meaning that the percent of abortions accounted for adolescents has decreased 31%.¹¹

Type

- Medication abortions accounted for 43 percent of pregnancy terminations at Planned Parenthood clinics in 2014.¹²
- In 2013, 1.3% of abortions were performed after 20 weeks of pregnancy.¹³

Availability

- 95% of abortion facilities supply abortions through 8 weeks gestation.¹⁴
- More facilities supplied late second trimester abortions in 2012 (34% at 20 weeks and 16% at 24 weeks) than in 2009 (23% and 11% respectively).¹⁵
- The total number of abortion providers has declined by 4% since 2008, while the number of clinics offering abortion declined by just 1%.¹⁶
- In the first half of 2016, states enacted 30 new abortion restrictions.¹⁷

Revenues and Costs

- In 2013, the abortion and family planning industry reported revenue of \$2.1 billion dollars, with annual growth of 1.3% and a \$147.8 million profit. These numbers include non-abortion products and services. Planned Parenthood has the greatest market share in this industry with 74.9% of profits.¹⁸

- The average charge for a non-hospital surgical abortion at 10 weeks gestation is \$480. The average charge for a non-hospital Mifepristone (medical) abortion at 10 weeks gestation is \$504.¹⁹
- The median charge for an abortion at 20 weeks is \$1,350.²⁰

Abortion Demographics

- 59% of women who had abortions in 2014 had already had at least one previous birth.²¹
- Of women experiencing abortion in 2013, 11.7% were teenagers, 58.6% were age 20-29, 26% were age 30-39, and just 3.6% were age 40 or older.²²
- 1.7% of women of childbearing age (15-44) had an abortion in 2011. At current rates, approximately 30% of women will have an abortion by age 45.²³
- 86% of all women who experience abortions are not married.²⁴
- Women in households with incomes under the federal poverty line experience more than 49% of all legal abortions in the US.²⁵
- Between 2007 and 2011, abortion rates decreased substantially for all three major racial/ethnic groups. For non-Hispanic white women, the abortion rate decreased 15%, for non-Hispanic black women it decreased 12%, and for Hispanic women it decreased 18%.²⁶
- Among abortions in 2013, African American women were substantially overrepresented, accounting for 35.6% of abortions, even though they are only 13.3% of the population.²⁷

Adoption

- In 2014, there were 17.3 infant adoptions per 1,000 abortions, and 4.6 infant adoptions per 1,000 live births.²⁸

Millennials

- Millennials have had an average of 8 sexual partners—which is less than any generation since the 1960s—boomers had an average of 11 and Generation X an average of 10.²⁹
- 53 percent of Millennials (individuals between 18 and 31) think that abortion should be either illegal or legal only in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother.³⁰
- The percentage of high school students who are currently sexually active (meaning they had sex during the past three months) dropped from 38% in 1991 to 30% in 2015.³¹

The Abortion Decision

- According to a study by abortion researchers, 4 days passed on average between the time a woman first suspected pregnancy to confirming the pregnancy. The median time from confirming the pregnancy to deciding to have an abortion was 0 days; the median time from deciding to have an abortion to first attempting to obtain abortion services was 2 days; and the median time from first attempting to obtain abortion services to obtaining the abortion was 7 days.³²
- Minors took a week longer to suspect pregnancy than adults did.³³
- 58% 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%), to decide (39%), and to find out about the pregnancy (36%). Poor women were about twice as likely to be delayed by difficulties in making arrangements.³⁴

- 75% of women cite concern for, or responsibility to, other individuals as the reason for their abortion; 75% say they cannot afford a child; 75% say that having a baby would interfere with work, school, or the ability to care for dependents; and 50% say they do not want to be a single parent or are having problems with their husband or partner.³⁵
- 38% of women indicate that the father of the baby was most influential in their abortion decision.³⁶
- Only 12% of women included a physical problem with their health among reasons for having an abortion.³⁷
- 1% of aborting women reported that they were the survivors of rape.³⁸

Attitudes towards Abortion

- 23% of US adults do not consider abortion to be a moral issue, while 49% of US adults consider abortion to be morally wrong.³⁹
- A majority of Americans (56%) believe that abortion should be legal in all or most cases.⁴⁰
- In a 2013 USA Today/Gallup poll of Americans, the following groups viewed themselves as pro-life:⁴¹
 - 50% of Protestant Christians and 45% of Catholic Christians.
 - 43% of women and 44% of men.
 - 36% ages 18-29; 42% ages 30-49; 53% ages 50-64; and 45% of those ages 65 and older.

Abortion & The Church

- Only 48% of self-identified evangelicals who attend church once or twice per month strongly agree with the statement “Abortion is a Sin.”⁴²
- 70% of women who have had an abortion indicate their religious preference is Christian.⁴³
- 35% of Christian women who have had an abortion indicate they currently attend church once a week or more.⁴⁴
- 36% of women were attending a Christian church once a month or more at the time of their first abortion.⁴⁵
- Among patients that had an abortion in 2014, there was a decrease among those who reported a religious affiliation—24% were Catholic, 17% were mainline Protestant, 13% were evangelical Protestant and 8% identified with some other religion. Thirty-eight percent of patients had no religious affiliation.⁴⁶
- As women considered their abortion decision, the most typical reactions/expectations from a local church were “judgmental” (33%) or “condemning” (26%).⁴⁷
- 51% of women agree that churches do not have a ministry prepared to discuss options during an unplanned pregnancy.⁴⁸

Endnotes

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