



/// FAST FACTS

ABORTION

ABORTION IN THE UNITED STATES

Roe v. Wade: Abortion-on-Demand

From 1973 to 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton decisions superseded all state laws prohibiting abortion. Because of the broad health definition in Doe v. Bolton, abortion was made legal through all nine months of pregnancy for any "health" reason an abortionist will agree to.

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/// FACT

Abortion was made legal through all nine months of pregnancy for any reason.

Abortion is one of the least regulated industries in our country. Reported complications and deaths from abortions are often far lower than the actual numbers.

Re-Defining the Health Exception

Abortion providers argue that second & third trimester abortions only happen when a mother's life and health are in danger. What they don't tell you is that they define health in infinitely broad terms, e.g. social well-being, as to make it virtually impossible to protect the unborn child even after the sixth or seventh month of pregnancy.

According to a study done by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, which supports abortion, "data suggest that most women seeking later terminations are not doing so for reasons of fetal anomaly or life endangerment."

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More than 62 Million Babies Aborted

Since the 1973 decisions, it is estimated that there have been more than 62 million induced abortions performed in the United States.

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The Coathanger Myth

Abortion advocates often use a coat-hanger to symbolize the "age of back-alley abortions" where women were forced to seek abortions from "unqualified butchers." The number of women who died from illegal "back-alley" abortions was often said to be in the thousands. However, according to the U.S. Bureau of Vital Statistics, there were 39 women who died from illegal abortions in 1972.

Doctors Performed Illegal Abortions

To describe illegal abortion providers as unqualified is hardly accurate. Former medical director of Planned Parenthood, Dr. Mary Calderone, described in a 1960 American Journal of Health article that a study in 1958 showed that 84 percent to 87 percent of all illegal abortions were performed by licensed physicians in good standing. Dr. Calderone concluded that "90 percent of all illegal abortions are presently done by physicians." So it seems that the "back-alley butchers" of January 21, 1973, became "caring doctors who believe in a woman's right to choose" on January 22, 1973.

STATISTICS

930,160 Abortions in U.S. in 2020

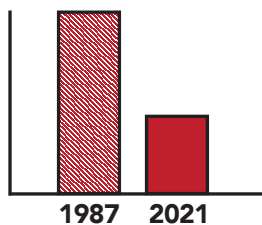
According to estimates from the Guttmacher Institute, there were 930,160 abortions performed during 2020 in the United States.

42% of Women had Multiple Abortions

42% of women who had abortions in 2019 had obtained an abortion previously in their life. 18% had at least two previous abortions.

Source: CDC (Centers for Disease Control)

38.7% Decrease in Michigan Since 1987



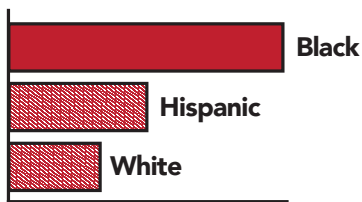
The number of abortions in Michigan has dropped 38.7% since 1987.

Source: Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services

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["MI Abortion Statistics" factsheet at RTL.org »](#)

Black Women are Disproportionately Affected



Black women had the highest abortion rates (23.8 abortions per 1,000 women and ratios (386 abortions per 1,000 live births). Source: CDC

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["Black Abortions by the Numbers" factsheet at RTL.org »](#)

Couples Waiting to Adopt

It is estimated that there are 30 to 40 couples waiting to adopt for every one infant who is being placed for adoption according to Allan Hazlett, then president of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys. In 1970, there were 89,200 American children placed in permanent homes to unrelated couples through adoption, but by 1975, only two years after the legalization of abortion, that number was down to 47,700.

FETAL DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ The sperm joins the ovum (egg) to form one cell. This one cell contains the complex genetic blueprint for every detail of human development—sex, eye color, height, skin tone, etc.
- ▶ Genetically, everything a person is and will ever be is present at the time of fertilization. All that is added is nutrition, an appropriate environment, and time.
- ▶ Abortion stops a beating heart—21 days after fertilization a baby's heart starts beating.

FACT

Abortion stops a beating heart.

- ▶ At 8 weeks, the brain develops 250,000 new neurons each minute. Facial features, including the ears, nose, lips and tongue, form with clarity during the second month.
- ▶ At eight weeks all body systems are present. From then on, changes will be primarily in size and refinement of body parts already formed.

CONSEQUENCES OF ABORTION

The Unborn Can Feel Pain

Research continues to accrue showing the unborn child not only feels pain at 20 weeks, but that she may well have the necessary physical "wiring" at 13 weeks to feel the excruciating pain of being ripped apart during an abortion.

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["The History of You" factsheet at RTL.org »](#)

Families Are Heartbroken

Women are not the only ones who feel the pain and suffering brought about by abortion. Studies show that abortion leaves families heartbroken. Fathers, grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings also feel the residual impact of abortion.

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["Abortion Leaves Families Heartbroken" factsheet at RTL.org »](#)

Destroying Our Future

Our children are our future. Society is made up of people of all ages, living together and helping each other to achieve a higher standard of living. By destroying a large part of our next generation, we are destroying our own future.

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