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ABORTION
STATISTICS
ABORTION

Statistics

Abortion in the United States

Total number of abortions in the U.S. since 1973: 51 million +
Abortions per year: 1,200,000
Abortions per day: 3,288
Abortions per hour: 137
9 abortions every 4 minutes
1 abortion every 26 seconds

These statistics include only surgical and medical abortions. Because many contraceptive measures are abortifacients (drugs that induce or cause abortions), it is important not to overlook the number of children killed by chemical abortions. Since 1965, an average of 11 million women have used abortifacient methods of birth control in the United States at any given time. Using formulas based on the way the birth control pill works, pharmacy experts project that about 14 million chemical abortions occur in the United States each year, providing a projected total of well in excess of 610 million chemical abortions between 1965 and 2009.

When conducting research on abortion statistics, you may also encounter two different sets of numbers. One set is from the Centers of Disease Control (CDC) and the other is from the Guttmacher Institute, the "independent research arm" of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

The Guttmacher Institute totals are actually the more accurate since the Institute conducts private research on abortion providers throughout the country and because not all states are required to report to the CDC. In fact, California and New York, where high numbers of abortions occur, are not included in CDC figures.

See graphs and charts.

United States Abortion Statistics

50,766,331 abortions 1973–2008
Reported abortions in the United States, by year

The Alan Guttmacher Institute (a special affiliate to Planned Parenthood), which actively collects the abortion data directly from providers. All numbers reported are voluntary; there are no laws requiring abortionists to report to any national agency the numbers of abortions they perform. 2005–2008 are estimates of 1,206,200 annually.
Americans’ views concerning abortion:

- 75% do not support the current abortion-on-demand policy, saying abortion should be legal only in some circumstances (53%), or illegal in all circumstances (22%).
  Gallup Poll, May 2009
- 78% believe that women who have abortions commonly experience moderately severe to very severe negative emotional reactions to abortion.
  Medical Science Monitor, 2003
- 95% of women want to be informed of all risks of a medical procedure; 69% want to be informed of all alternatives.
  Journal of Medical Ethics, July 2006
- 64% of women who experienced one or more abortions “felt pressured by others” to have the abortion.
  Medical Science Monitor, Oct. 2004

Why do women have abortions?

- 74% say having a baby would interfere with work, school, or other responsibilities.
- 73% say they cannot afford to have a child.
- 48% say they do not want to be a single parent, or have relationship problems with husband or partner.
- Less than 2% say they became pregnant as a result of rape or incest.
  Source: The Alan Guttmacher Institute, Perspective on Sexual & Reproductive Health, Sept. 2005

The clock is ticking . . .

One baby is aborted every 26 seconds

137 babies are aborted every hour
3,304 babies are aborted every day
23,196 babies are aborted every week
100,516 babies are aborted every month
Stem Cell Research

In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)

Euthanasia

Organ Donation / Transplantation

Catholic Church/Teachings

Pro-Life Referrals

human embryo at the beginning of the process of fertilization, on first contact between his father's sperm and his mother's oocyte.

At that moment, a new human person, who carries with him as much information as 50 sets of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, is formed. This genetic information—DNA—will determine all of this little person's physical characteristics and much of his intelligence and personality.

Day 2

Our little friend is now three cells big. His cells will continue to divide as he grows down his mother's Fallopian tube towards her uterus (womb), where he will get the food and shelter he needs to grow and develop.

Days 6-7

Implantation into his mother's uterus begins and all the while he continues to grow. As his cells multiply, they differentiate to perform specific functions—circulatory, muscular, neural and skeletal.

Day 14

Implantation is completed around this time and his mother misses her first menstrual period.

Day 20

His heart, brain, spinal column, and nervous system are almost complete and his eyes begin to form.

Day 22

His heart begins to beat.

Day 28

This little boy is now approximately 1/4 inch long—10,000 times larger than he was only three weeks ago! The blood flowing in his veins is completely different than his mother's.

Week 4

His muscles are developing, and arms and leg buds are visible. His large, distinct head is clearly identifiable, along with the major outlines of brain and eye vesicles, the beginnings of his central nervous system, notochord, mouth and pharynx, body cavity, and the basis of his skeleton.

Week 5

Our little friend's face is taking shape; his forehead, eyes, nostrils and mouth are evident; external ears are beginning; hand and foot plates appear in his limb buds.

Week 6

The brainwaves of this little boy can be recorded. His different muscles begin working together.

Week 8

His fingers and toes are fairly well defined, and fingerprints, a unique and defining feature of every human being, are permanently engraved on his skin. All of his organs are present, complete, and functioning (except his lungs).

Weeks 9-10

All areas of his body are sensitive to touch. He sucks his thumbs, swallows, squints, frowns and puckers his brow. If his palm is stroked, he will make a tight fist.
Planned Parenthood 2009 Pregnancy Services

- Abortions: 332,278
- Prenatal care: 7,021
- Adoption referrals: 977

created by American Life League 2/2011
1997-2008 Planned Parenthood Federation of America Services to Pregnant Women

(graph: JillStanek.com, based on Planned Parenthood's own reports)
A Gallup poll shows abortion attitudes are closely divided, with 47% of Americans calling themselves "Pro Life" and 46% calling themselves "Pro Choice".

Source: Gallup Poll, 2009
1859: The American Medical Association (AMA) condemns abortion except as necessary to preserve the life of either the mother or child.

1875: Every state in the United States has adopted laws banning abortion.

1916: Margaret Sanger forms the Birth Control League (now Planned Parenthood) to promote contraception and abortion. Photo

1959: The American Law Institute (ALI) proposes the "Model Penal Code" urging that abortion be performed in licensed hospitals when necessary to preserve the mental or physical health of the mother or in cases of rape or incest.

1965: *Griswold v. Connecticut*. Supreme Court hands down decision that legalizes contraception and defines the "right to privacy."

1967: Colorado becomes the first state to allow abortion for cases of rape, incest or threat to the mother's life.

1970: Fourteen states were allowing abortion in certain circumstances.

1973: *Roe v. Wade*. Stating that a constitutional "right to privacy" exists that protects a woman's decision to have an abortion, the U.S. Supreme Court legalizes abortion on demand. The Court permits states to outlaw abortions from viability until birth (third trimester) except when necessary to preserve the mother's life or health. Norma McCorvey

1973: *Doe v. Bolton*. The Supreme Court defines "health" (of the mother) to include all factors - physical, emotional, psychological, familial and the woman's age. This basically allows a woman to have an abortion at any time during her pregnancy and for any reason.

1976: *Planned Parenthood Association of Central Missouri v. Danforth*. A Missouri abortion law, requiring the consent of parents in the case of minors, and husbands in the case of a married woman, is ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

1992: *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*. This decision outlaws any restrictions that "impose an undue burden" on a woman's "right" to an abortion.

1993: President Bill Clinton signs five executive orders into effect, allowing fetal tissue research and harvesting, RU486 research, abortion counseling in federally funded family planning clinics and abortion services in U.S. military hospitals.

1994: President Clinton signs into law the Freedom of Access to Clinics Entrance Act (FACE), which inhibits the first amendment rights of pro-lifers to peacefully protest, demonstrate and provide sidewalk counseling at abortion clinics. Joe Scheidler
Unborn babies can feel pain

Scientific evidence reveals that unborn babies do, indeed, feel pain

The evidence of fetal pain

With the advent of sonograms and live-action ultrasound images, neonatologists and nurses are able to see unborn babies at 20 weeks gestation react physically to outside stimuli such as sound, light and touch. The sense of touch is so acute that even a single human hair drawn across an unborn baby's palm causes the baby to make a fist. Surgeons entering the womb to perform corrective procedures on tiny unborn babies have seen those babies flinch, jerk and recoil from sharp objects and incisions.

"The neural pathways are present for pain to be experienced quite early by unborn babies," explains Steven Calvin, M.D., perinatologist, chair of the Program in Human Rights Medicine, University of Minnesota, where he teaches obstetrics.

Medical facts of fetal pain

Anatomical studies have documented that the body's pain network—the spinothalamic pathway—is established by 20 weeks gestation.

- "At 20 weeks, the fetal brain has the full complement of brain cells present in adulthood, ready and waiting to receive pain signals from the body, and their electrical activity can be recorded by standard electroencephalography (EEG)."
  — Dr. Paul Ranalli, neurologist, University of Toronto

- An unborn baby at 20 weeks gestation "is fully capable of experiencing pain. ... Without question, [abortion] is a dreadfully painful experience for any infant subjected to such a surgical procedure."
  — Robert J. White, M.D., PhD., professor of neurosurgery, Case Western University

Unborn babies have heightened sensitivities

Unborn babies at 20 weeks development actually feel pain more intensely than adults. This is a "uniquely vulnerable time, since the pain system is fully established, yet the higher level pain-modifying system has barely begun to develop," according to Dr. Ranalli.

"Having administered anesthesia for fetal surgery, I know that on occasion we need to administer anesthesia directly to the fetus, because even at these early gestational ages the fetus moves away from the pain of the stimulation," stated David Birnbach, M.D., president of the Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology and self-described as "pro-choice," in testimony before the U.S. Congress.

Did you know that this 20-week-old unborn child can feel pain?