

# FACTS & STATS RESOURCES



## Abortion

Flipbook and Downloadable



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FACTS

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**QUESTIONS?**

 888.725.8654

# Abortion in the United States

## Defining the Basics

**Abortion:** The termination of pregnancy [through] the death of the embryo or fetus (Webster's Medical Dictionary).

**Fertilization:** The moment life begins, when the egg and the sperm combine. A new and unique human being comes into existence with its own distinct genetic code. This includes sex, eye color, and other traits.

**Embryo:** the young of a viviparous animal, esp. of a mammal, in the early stages of development within the womb, in humans up to the end of the second month. Any multicellular animal in a developmental stage preceding birth or hatching. The beginning or rudimentary stage of anything.

**Fetus:** the young of an animal in the womb or egg, esp. in the later stages of development when the body structures are in the recognizable form of its kind, in humans after the end of the second month of gestation.

## Abortion Procedures: Surgical and Medical

<https://www.abortionprocedures.com/>

### **Aspiration Abortion or Suction D&C:** First Trimester

A suction, or aspiration, D&C abortion is a procedure in which a suction catheter is inserted into the mother's uterus to extract the preborn baby. Tools are then used to scrape the lining of the uterus to remove any remaining parts. This procedure is performed during the first trimester, typically during five and thirteen weeks of LMP (that is, five to thirteen weeks after the first day of the woman's last menstrual period).

### **Abortion Pills or Medical Abortion:** First Trimester

A medical (or chemical) abortion is a non-surgical form of abortion in which the woman takes pills containing Mifepristone (RU-486) and Misoprostol (or Cytotec) to end the life of the baby. This procedure is performed during the first trimester of pregnancy. The drugs are approved by the FDA for use up to ten Weeks From The First Day Of Her Last Menstrual Period (Lmp).

## **D & E Abortion:** Second Trimester

A dilation (dilatation) and evacuation abortion, D&E, is a surgical abortion procedure during which an abortionist first dilates the woman's cervix and then uses instruments to dismember and extract the baby from the uterus. The D&E abortion procedure is usually performed between thirteen and twenty-four weeks LMP (that is, thirteen to twenty-four weeks after the first day of the woman's last menstrual period).

## **Induction Abortion:** Third Trimester

A third-trimester induction abortion is performed at 25 weeks LMP (25 weeks since the first day of the woman's last period) to term. At 25 weeks, a baby is almost fully developed and is considered viable, meaning he or she could survive outside the womb. For this reason, the abortionist will usually first kill the baby in utero by injecting a substance that causes cardiac arrest and induces the mother's labor to deliver her baby stillborn.

## **How Abortion Stats are Collected**

Abortion statistics for the United States come from two primary sources: the **Guttmacher Institute** and the **Center for Disease Control (CDC)**. The numbers from Guttmacher come from surveys they send to abortion providers, which are done every three years. The CDC numbers, published annually, are derived from actual counts of every abortion reported to state health departments. Unfortunately, California, Maryland, and New Hampshire do not publicly report abortion totals. As such, Guttmacher's abortion numbers are more complete, but they are approximations. Since only 52% of queried providers responded to Guttmacher's latest survey, health department data was used for an additional 17%, and abortion totals were estimated for the remaining 31%.

## **How Many Abortions Occur?**

<https://www.hli.org/resources/statistics-on-abortion/>

- As of May 2023, there have been over 63 million legal abortions in the United States alone since 1973.
- There are over 73 million abortions worldwide each year
- An abortion mill that kills 2,500 babies every year would be equivalent to a fifty-child school bus crashing every week.

[https://abort73.com/abortion\\_facts/us\\_abortion\\_statistics/](https://abort73.com/abortion_facts/us_abortion_statistics/)

- Based on available state-level data and #WeCount estimates, approximately 924,000 abortions took place in the United States in 2022.
- In 2021, approximately 21% of U.S. pregnancies ended in abortion.
- In 2021, the highest percentage of pregnancies were aborted in the District of Columbia (31%), Illinois (28%), and Florida (27%). The lowest percentage of pregnancies were aborted in Missouri (0.2%), South Dakota (1.6%), and Wyoming (1.6%) (CDC).
- In 2021, approximately 29% of all pregnancies in New York City ended in abortion (CDC).

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/01/11/what-the-data-says-about-abortion-in-the-u-s-2/>

- The CDC reports there were 620,327 abortions nationally in 2020. Guttmacher's national total for 2020 was 930,160, a 1.5% *increase* from 916,460 in 2019.
- Guttmacher says that in 2020, there were 14.4 abortions in the U.S. per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44.
- The year 2020 marked the first time that a majority of legal abortions in the U.S. involved pills: 53%, according to both the CDC and Guttmacher. That was up from 44% in 2019 to 40% in 2018, according to the CDC.
- In 2020, there were 1,603 facilities in the U.S. that provided abortions, according to Guttmacher. This included 807 clinics, 530 hospitals, and 266 physicians' offices.
- The total number of abortion providers has declined dramatically since the 1980s. In 1982, according to Guttmacher, there were 2,908 facilities providing abortions in the U.S., including 789 clinics, 1,405 hospitals, and 714 physicians' offices.

## When Do Abortions Occur?

[https://abort73.com/abortion\\_facts/us\\_abortion\\_statistics/](https://abort73.com/abortion_facts/us_abortion_statistics/)

- In 2021, 81% of reported U.S. abortions occurred prior to the 10th week of gestation; 93% occurred prior to 14 weeks' gestation (CDC).

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/01/11/what-the-data-says-about-abortion-in-the-u-s-2/>

- In 2020, 93% of abortions occurred during the first trimester - that is, at or before 13 weeks of gestation, according to the CDC. An additional 6% occurred between 14 and 20 weeks of pregnancy, and 1% were performed at 21 weeks or more of gestation.

## Why Do Women Seek Abortion?

<https://www.hli.org/resources/statistics-on-abortion/>

- Most abortions are performed for reasons that have nothing to do with either the health of the mother or the baby. The top reasons for an abortion were:
  - 40% said they were not financially prepared.
  - 36% said the timing was bad, they were not ready, or the pregnancy was unplanned.
  - 29% said they wanted to focus on other children.
  - 20% said they wanted to focus on school or career
- Only 12% said they were concerned about their or the baby's health. Those reasons included drug addiction, alcohol use, tobacco use, or the use of medications.
- Just 1% of the women who have an abortion reported it was due because of rape.
- Fewer than 0.5% have an abortion because of incest.

## Who Has Abortions?

[https://abort73.com/abortion\\_facts/us\\_abortion\\_statistics/](https://abort73.com/abortion_facts/us_abortion_statistics/)

- In 2021, unmarried women accounted for 87% of all abortions (CDC)
- Among married women, 4% of 2021 pregnancies ended in abortion. Among unmarried women, 29% ended in abortion (CDC).
- Women in their 20s accounted for the majority of abortions in 2021 and had the highest abortion rates (CDC).
- Adolescents under 15 years obtained 0.2% of all 2021 abortions; women aged 15–19 years accounted for 8.1% (CDC).
- Women living with a partner to whom they are not married account for 25% of abortions but only about 10% of women in the population (NAF).
- In 2021, women who had not aborted in the past accounted for 57% of all abortions; women with one or two prior abortions accounted for 35%, and women with three or more prior abortions accounted for 8% (CDC).
- Among women who obtained abortions in 2021, 39% had no prior live births, 44% had one or two prior live births, and 17% had three or more prior live births (CDC).
- Among white women, 10% of 2021 pregnancies ended in abortion. Among black women, 33% ended in abortion (CDC).
- Black women were 4.5 times more likely to have an abortion in 2021 than white women (CDC).

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/01/11/what-the-data-says-about-abortion-in-the-u-s-2/>

- In the 46 states that reported data to the CDC in 2020, the majority of women who had abortions (57%) were in their 20s, while about three-in-ten (31%) were in their 30s. Teens ages 13 to 19 accounted for 8% of those who had abortions, while women in their 40s accounted for 4%.
- The vast majority of women who had abortions in 2020 were unmarried (86%), while married women accounted for 14%, according to the CDC.
- In the District of Columbia and 29 states that reported racial and ethnic data on abortion to the CDC, 39% of all women who had abortions in 2020 were non-Hispanic Black, while 33% were non-Hispanic White, 21% were Hispanic, and 7% were of other races or ethnicities.

## **How the Abortion Industry Targets Black Women to Control the Black Population**

<https://curepolicy.org/content/uploads/2022/01/CURE-Impact-of-Abortion-Report-DIGITAL-SPREADS.pdf>

- Black women made up 15 percent of the childbearing population in 2018, yet obtained 33.6 percent of reported abortions. Black women have the highest abortion ratio in the country, with 335 abortions per 1,000 live births.
- About 20 million black babies have been aborted since 1973.
- According to the CDC, states that report abortion by ethnicity show black women disproportionately lead in the numbers. For example, in Mississippi, 72 percent of abortions are obtained by black women; in Washington, D.C., 55 percent; in Michigan, 50 percent; in Alabama, 62 percent.
- Black women often are aborting at two or more times their presence in the population.
- A 2012 study released by Protecting Black Life, an outreach of Life Issues Institute, used 2010 Census data to conclude that 79% of Planned Parenthood's surgical abortion facilities are strategically located within walking distance of African-American and/or Hispanic communities.
- In 2017, the Life Issues Institute analyzed Planned Parenthood's placement of 25 new abortion mega centers and concluded that all of the facilities were within walking distance of minority neighborhoods. The Institute further stated that 80 percent target black communities.
- In an opinion article published in The New York Times on April 17, 2021, PPFA Director Alexis McGill Johnson acknowledged Planned Parenthood's racist roots and eugenic mission.

- Consider this: if those 16 million children had not been aborted, the black population at that point would have been 17 percent nationally rather than 13 percent. According to a study reported by the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), the prevalence of self-managed abortions (SMA) among Black women is nearly three times greater than among Non-Hispanic White women.

## **Abortion Pills: The Battle to Protect the Unborn has Shifted**

<https://curepolicy.org/content/uploads/2022/01/CURE-Impact-of-Abortion-Report-DIGITAL-SPREADS.pdf>

- In 1995, the Population Council gave the rights to distribute mifepristone (RU-486) to Danco Laboratories, a small company formed specifically for the U.S. market. Danco then sought FDA approval of the drug for distribution in the United States and ultimately received that approval near the end of the Clinton Administration in 2000.
- In 1980, the French company Roussel-Uclaf developed mifepristone – commonly known as RU-486.
- The Guttmacher Institute reports that in 2017, the abortion pill accounted for 39 percent of all abortions in the United States. In 2021, the percentage rose to 56.
- Abortion pills are increasing worldwide. The Washington Post reports that 93 percent of abortions in Sweden are medication abortions. In India, the abortion advocacy group Ipas reported in 2019 that the proportion was an estimated 73 percent.

## **Abortion Pills Lead to More Abortions**

<https://www.heritage.org/life/commentary/cdcs-latest-abortion-numbers-sobering-reminder-monumental-task-ahead>

- The number of abortions rose from 620,327 in 2020 to 625,978 in 2021. The key driver in this increase is the use of chemical abortion pills.
- Abortion pills were approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in the fall of 2000. In 2001, chemical abortions were a mere 3% of all abortions. But in 2021, that number skyrocketed to 56% of abortions.
- In early 2021, under the guise of containing the spread of COVID-19, the Food and Drug Administration dropped the rule that the abortion pill must be dispensed in person and could be shipped through the mail.

- Later, in 2021, the FDA announced that it would make this change permanent and set up a process for retail pharmacies, such as Walgreens and CVS, to distribute abortion pills, too.

## Since the 2021 Dobbs Decision

[https://www.dailysignal.com/2023/11/28/post-dobbs-us-birthrate-up-2-3-study-finds/?\\_gl=1\\*4k9eir\\*\\_ga\\*MjkzNTY4NTUwLjE3MDg3OTk1NjA.\\*\\_ga\\_W14BT6YQ87\\*MTcwOTIyNTE5MS4zLjEuMTcwOTIyNTIzNi4xNS4wLjA](https://www.dailysignal.com/2023/11/28/post-dobbs-us-birthrate-up-2-3-study-finds/?_gl=1*4k9eir*_ga*MjkzNTY4NTUwLjE3MDg3OTk1NjA.*_ga_W14BT6YQ87*MTcwOTIyNTE5MS4zLjEuMTcwOTIyNTIzNi4xNS4wLjA).

- Pro-life state laws have saved an estimated 32,000 babies' lives, new research claims.
- “The Effects of the Dobbs Decision on Fertility,” published by the Institute of Labor Economics, indicates that states with abortion bans experienced an average increase in births of 2.3 percent relative to states where abortion was not restricted.
- Researchers estimate that 20% to 25% of women seeking abortions “did not receive them due to bans.”

## Americans' Views on Abortion

<https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2023/04/26/nearly-a-year-after-roes-demise-americans-views-of-abortion-access-increasingly-vary-by-where-they-live/>

- Nearly a year and a half after the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark Dobbs ruling overturned the Roe v. Wade decision that had guaranteed a national right to abortion, overall public support for legal abortion remains largely unchanged.
- A 54% majority of Americans nationwide say it would be very easy or somewhat easy to get an abortion in the area where they live, down from 65% in 2019. About four-in-ten (42%) say it would be very or somewhat difficult to get an abortion in areas near them, up 10 percentage points from four years ago.
- About six in ten Americans (62%) continue to say abortion should be legal in all or most cases, compared with 36% who say it should be illegal in all or most cases.
- Around six in ten Americans (62%) say their greater concern is that some states are making it too difficult to get an abortion, while 35% say their greater concern is that some states are making it too *easy* to get an abortion.
- Democrats are more than twice as likely as Republicans (84% vs. 40%) to say abortion should be legal in all or most cases.
- Conservative Republicans are the ideological group most opposed to legal abortion, with 72% saying abortion should be illegal in all or most cases and 26%



saying abortion should be legal. By contrast, a majority of moderate and liberal Republicans (61%) say it should be legal in at least most cases.

- There continue to be wide differences by age, race, and ethnicity in views of legal abortion. Nearly three-fourths (73%) of adults ages 18 to 29 say abortion should be legal in all or most cases (including 39% who say it should be legal in all cases), compared with 62% of those 30 to 49 and 57% of those 50 and older.
- Nearly three-quarters of Black and Asian adults (73% each) say abortion should be legal in all or most cases. Around six in ten White (59%) and Hispanic (62%) adults say the same.

## Pro-life Resources

<https://www.liveaction.org/learn/resources/>

Abortion Pill Reversal

Help During an Unplanned Pregnancy

Adoption

Housing Help

Healing After an Abortion

Health Care Resources

Training and Education Resources

Top Pro-Life News Sites and Blogs

Song and Music Videos Promoting Pro-life Message

Abortion Survivors

Powerful Pro-life Movies and Videos

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