




**TOP 25
ABORTION STATISTICS
IN AMERICA**



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ABORTION AT-A-GLANCE

From 1973 to 2014, more than 56 million abortions have been performed.ⁱ

FERTILITY AND ABORTION

- 18% of all pregnancies in the US end in abortion.ⁱⁱ
- 60% of women who report their pregnancy as unintended choose life (up from 53% in 2001). Nearly half (51%) of all pregnancies are reported as unintended by American women.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Researchers continue to debate the economic consequences of declining fertility rates.^{iv} The replacement fertility rate for developed countries is a lifetime total of 2.1 births per woman.^v The U.S. fertility rate has remained steady for the last several decades, holding at 1.9 from 2010-2012.^{vi} However, the U.S annual birthrate decreased by 9% between 2008 and 2011.^{vii}

TYPE

- An estimated 239,400 early (up to 9 weeks) medication abortions were performed in 2011, which accounts for 23% of all abortions, a 20% increase from 2008.^{viii}
- In 2011, 1.4% of abortions (about 14,840) were performed after 20 weeks of pregnancy.^{ix}

RATE

- Across measures, abortions have decreased dramatically. In 2011, there were 1.06 million abortions, a nearly 34% reduction since 1990 (1.6 million).^x
- The abortion rate has dropped to 16.9% per 1000 women of child-bearing age (15-44). This rate is a 13% decrease from 2008, and now is the lowest abortion rate since 1973.^{xi}

AVAILABILITY

- In 2009, 95% of offering facilities supplied abortions through 8 weeks gestation.^{xii}
- More facilities supplied later second trimester abortions in 2012 (34% at 20 weeks and 16% at 24 weeks) than in 2009 (23% and 11% respectively).^{xiii}
- While 89% of counties had no abortion clinic in 2011,^{xiv} the majority of the reproductive age population lives within 50 miles of a clinic that primarily provides abortions^{xv} and more than two-thirds of women who aborted in 2008 traveled less than 25 miles to do so.^{xvi}
- As of 2011, 1,720 facilities supplied abortions, a 4% reduction from the 2008 number (1,793). This includes clinics whose primary service is abortion, those where abortion is one of several services offered, hospitals, and physician's offices.^{xvii}

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. It is important to note that these numbers include non-abortion products and services. Planned Parenthood has the greatest market share with 74.9% of profits.^{xviii}
- The average charge for a non-hospital surgical abortion at 10 weeks gestation is \$480. The average charge for a non-hospital Mifepristone abortion at 10 weeks gestation is \$504.^{xix}
- The median charge for an abortion at 20 weeks was \$1,350.^{xx}

ABORTION DEMOGRAPHICS

- 61% of women experiencing abortion are already mothers and half have had a previous abortion.^{xxi}
- Of women experiencing abortion in 2010, 15% were teenagers, 57% were age 20-29, 24% were age 30-39, and just 3% were age 40 or older.^{xxii}
- 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.^{xxiii}
- 85.5% of all women who experienced abortions were not married.^{xxiv}
- Women in households with incomes under the federal poverty line experience more than 50% of all legal abortions in the US. More than 80% of these women are unmarried.^{xxv}
- In 2010, 36.8% of the legal abortions in the U.S. were experienced by women who identified themselves as white, 35.7% of the abortions were by self-identified black women, 21% by Hispanic women, and 6.5% were by those who identified themselves with another race.^{xxvi} In 2010, the female population was 63.8% non-Hispanic White, 12.7% non-Hispanic black, and the Hispanic female population was 15.9%, while other or multiple race women totaled 7.6%.^{xxvii}

THE ABORTION DECISION

- According to a study by abortion researchers, 8 days passed on average between the time a woman first suspected pregnancy to having a positive test. Four days passed between a woman receiving a positive pregnancy test and deciding to abort. Teenagers, high school graduates, and women with one child or no children took slightly longer than the average time to decide on abortion. Women who were ages 25-29, black, Hispanic, a college graduate, had 2 or more children, or were below the poverty line took less than the average time to decide on abortion.^{xxviii}
- 60% of women experiencing abortion involved another person in their decision. 45% involved their partner or spouse, 23% a friend, and 14% (including 40% of minors) involved a parent.^{xxix}

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.^{xxx}
- 15% of US adults believe that having an abortion is morally acceptable.^{xxxi}
- In a 2013 USA Today/Gallup conducted poll of Americans, showing the following groups view themselves as pro-life.^{xxxii}
 - ▶ 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.

ⁱ “Based on actual abortions reported through 2011 and an estimate of at least 1 million abortions per year since.” Jones RK and Jerman J, *Abortion Incidence and Service Availability in the United States*, 2011, Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2014, 46(1):3-14. Accessed on Dec. 20, 2014 at www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/psrh.46e0414.pdf

ⁱⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Abortion Surveillance - United States* (2011). MMWR 2013;63 (SS11); 1-41. Accessed on Nov. 28, 2014 at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6311a1.htm>

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^{viii} *ibid*

^{ix} Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Abortion Surveillance - United States* (2011). MMWR 2013;63 (SS11); 1-41. Accessed on Nov. 28, 2014 at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6311a1.htm>

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