

Abortion Statistics

World - U.S. – Demographics

Abortion Statistics – World

- In 54 countries (61% of the world population) abortions are legal.
- In 97 countries (39% of the world population) abortions are illegal.
- There are approximately 46 million abortions conducted each year, 20 million of them obtained illegally.
- There are approximately 126,000 abortions performed each day.

Abortions Worldwide

- Number of abortions per year: Approximately 46 Million
- Number of abortions per day: Approximately 126,000

Where abortions occur:

- 78% of all abortions are obtained in developing countries and 22% occur in developed countries.

Legality of abortion:

- About 26 million women obtain legal abortions each year, while an additional 20 million abortions are obtained in countries where it is restricted or prohibited by law.

Abortion averages:

- Worldwide, the lifetime average is about 1 abortion per woman.

Abortion Statistics - U.S.

- Approximately 1,370,000 abortions occur annually in the U.S. according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute.
- 88% of abortions occur during the first 6 to 12 weeks of pregnancy.
- 60% of abortions are performed on women who already have one or more children.
- 47% of abortions are performed on women who have already had one or more abortions.
- 43% of women will have had at least one abortion by the time they are 45 years old.

Abortion Statistics - Demographics

- Age - The majority of women getting an abortion are young. 52% are younger than 25 years old and 19% are teenagers. The abortion rate is highest for those women aged 18 to 19 (56 per 1,000)
- Marriage - 51% of women who are unmarried when they become pregnant will receive an abortion. Unmarried women are 6 times more likely than married women to have an abortion. 67% of abortions are from women who have never been married.
- Race - 63% of abortion patients are white, however, black women are more than 3 times as likely to have an abortion, and Hispanic women are 2.5 times as likely.
- Religion - 43% of women getting an abortion claimed they were Protestant, while 27% claimed they were Catholic.

Abortion Statistics - Decisions to Have an Abortion (U.S.)

- 25.5% of women deciding to have an abortion want to postpone childbearing.
- 21.3% of women cannot afford a baby.
- 14.1% of women have a relationship issue or their partner does not want a child.
- 12.2% of women are too young (their parents or others object to the pregnancy.)
- 10.8% of women feel a child will disrupt their education or career.
- 7.9% of women want no (more) children.
- 3.3% of women have an abortion due to a risk to fetal health.
- 2.8% of women have an abortion due to a risk to maternal health.

Abortion Statistics - Using Contraception (U.S.)

- 54% of women having an abortion said they used some form of contraception during the month they became pregnant.
- 90% of women who are at risk for unplanned pregnancies are using contraception
- 8% of women having an abortion say they have never used contraception.
- It is possible that up to 43% of the decline in abortion from 1994-2000 can be attributed to using emergency contraception.

Abortion Statistics - Pro-Life vs. Pro-Choice

- According to a USA Today, CNN Gallup Poll in May, 1999 - 16% of Americans believe abortion should be legal for any reason at any time during pregnancy and 55% of American believe abortion should be legal only to save the life of the mother or in cases of rape or incest.
- According to a Gallup Poll in January, 2001 - People who considered themselves to be pro-life rose from 33% to 43% in the past 5 years, and people who considered themselves to be pro-choice declined from 56% to 48%.