

Abortion (Overview)

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Compiled by Christian Voices for Life of Fort Bend County. www.ChristianVoicesforLife.org

- Definition: Abortion refers to the premature termination of a pregnancy, resulting in the expulsion of the baby (usually already deceased) from the womb before the baby is able to survive.
- Procedures: videos using drawings to describe abortion procedures are available at www.abortionprocedures.com
- Abortion has been practiced throughout history, but generally recognized as morally wrong. The classical Hippocratic oath (c 4th century B.C.E.) stated: **“I will not give a woman a pessary to cause an abortion.”** (1)
- **The Christian View:** Every child, no matter what the circumstances of his or her conception, is created by God in His image. “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.” Jeremiah 1:5. “Thou shalt not kill” applies to the preborn as well as those who have been born. The early Christian document, [Didache](#) (c. 150 A.D.), says: “...do not murder a child by abortion or kill a new-born infant.” (2)
- Abortion in our present world has become one of the most common surgical procedures ever done. Approximately 42 million per year worldwide make it the world’s leading cause of death. (3) While it is demanded as “health care” it does not cure any disease or repair any damage, but rather almost always kills a healthy child within the womb of a healthy mother.
- In the United States, abortion was legalized throughout the nation with the Roe v. Wade decision of the Supreme Court in 1973. As abortion providers increase, the number of abortions grew, and then reached a plateau. After 1.6 million abortions in 1990, the number slowly declined (probably due to the work of pregnancy centers, abstinence programs, and state laws requiring parental involvement and/or informed consent), to 862,000 abortions in 2019.(4) The ratio of abortions to births also steadily declined. (5) It is impossible to know how many children have been lost to the “morning after” pill, and hormonal contraception. In 2022, the Dobbs decision reversed Roe v. Wade to allow states to determine their own policies on abortion. The number of abortions unexpectedly increased after the Dobbs decision (6), probably due to an increase in abortion funding from liberal sources. (7)
- Abortion has become a highly contested political issue.

Pro-abortion: terms like “pro-choice” and “reproductive freedom”, along with referring to the embryo as “a clump of cells”, and other messages, conveyed the message that the embryo “wasn’t a baby yet” and that women “needed” abortion to avoid poverty and other possible consequences of sexual intimacy. As more and more abortions were done, it became clear that abortion was not being used only for a few extreme circumstances, but simply as a means to eliminate children who were unwanted for any reason. In more recent years, pro-abortion organizations and individuals have become more bold and vocal, demanding “Abortion without apology”, and presenting abortion as a woman’s right. Planned Parenthood actively sells abortions, as disclosed by Abby Johnson, a former director of Planned Parenthood’s affiliate in Bryan, TX. (8)

Mainstream media and many respected medical sources (such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, ACOG) (9) have chosen to follow political views rather than facts to blatantly or subtly endorse the pro-abortion view, which came to be perceived as the “politically correct” opinion.

The pro-life community on the other hand, has established a network of pregnancy help centers to help women to be informed about abortion, its possible consequence, and alternative solutions. They also

offer practical help, emotional support, and referrals to community resources. A large majority of centers now provide free ultrasounds to allow women to see the reality of their child in the womb. (10)

Pro-life organizations have also worked hard to educate the public about fetal development, the harm done to the mother, and logical arguments to show that abortion was wrong. (11)

- **Why do women choose to abort their children?** Single women (a large majority of those aborting) may want to conceal their sexual activity, or be unready to be a single parent. Poverty is another strong influence, along with a variety of other social reasons. **In many cases, it is NOT the mother's choice to abort**, but she is coerced or forced into the abortion by parents or her male partner who are unwilling to share in the consequences of the pregnancy. (12) Rape, incest, or serious danger to the mother's health account for only a very small percentage of abortions. (13)
- **Abortion harms women.** Millions of women suffer from depression, guilt, low self-esteem, substance abuse, and other psychological consequences, as well as increased risk of future pregnancy complications and breast cancer. (14) Men also suffer after their involvement with abortion, but healing ministries such as [Rachel's Vineyard](#) are helping women and men to find forgiveness and healing in Jesus Christ. See more information on physical risks and post-abortion trauma.

1. "The Hippocratic Oath". National Institute of Health. http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/greek/greek_oath.html.
2. Cyril Charles Richardson, ed (1953) [c. 150]. "Didache". Early Christian Fathers. Philadelphia: Westminster Press. OCLC 832987. <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/richardson/fathers.viii.i.iii.html>.
3. <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/over-41-million-abortions-estimated-in-2018-making-choice-worlds-leading-ca>
4. <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states>
5. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/185286/legal-abortion-per-100-live-births-in-the-us-since-2000/>
6. <https://www.guttmacher.org/2024/03/despite-bans-number-abortion-united-states-increased-2023>
7. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/abortion-funds-state-emergency-2-120022495.html>
8. Johnson, Abby, (2010) *Unplanned*, Tyndale / Focus on the Family. p.114.
9. <https://www.acog.org/womens-health/faqs/pregnancy-choices-raising-the-baby-adoption-and-abortion>, FAQ replies include describing abortion as "safe and essential health care"; another says that crisis pregnancy centers "share false information about abortion and birth control"
10. https://lozierinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Pregnancy-Center-Update_2022.pdf
11. <https://www.liveaction.org/> and <https://equalrightsinstitute.com/>
12. <https://theunchoice.com/resources.htm>, "Forced Abortion in America"
13. <https://www.hli.org/resources/why-women-abort/>
14. <https://theunchoice.com/resources.htm>, "Physical Risks of Abortion Fact Sheet" and "Psychological Risks of Abortion Fact Sheet"