



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

This week's Topic: Abortion in the Inner City



Education: In 1980, 30% of U.S. pregnancies (discounting miscarriages) ended in abortion. In 2008, that number had declined to 22%. The rate in New York City, for 2012, however, was 37.5%, a decline from past years. New York has few restrictions on abortion, but they also have a large population of minority ethnic groups. (Among women of child-bearing age, 30% are Hispanic and 23% are Black). Among non-Hispanic black women, there were 24,758 births that year, and 31,328 abortions. That's right, over 55% of pregnant black women in New York City chose to abort their babies. Among black teens (age 15-19) **71%** chose abortions. In every ethnic group, the % of pregnancies ending in abortion was significantly higher among teens than adults, and in every teen group, there were more abortions than births. 38% of pregnant Hispanic women chose abortion, compared to 20% for White women, but 58% of white teens chose abortion compared to 51% for Hispanic teens. (1) Among Asians and Pacific Islanders, women in general were less likely to choose abortion (17.5%) than the general population of New York City, but Asian teens were very likely to choose abortion, with 62% of pregnancies being terminated.

What about Houston? I was not able to obtain data from the City of Houston, but Harris County definitely has an abortion rate higher than Fort Bend County, and higher than Texas as a whole. Discounting miscarriages, about 14.5% of pregnant women chose abortion in 2012 in both Texas and Fort Bend County, but over 20% chose abortion in Harris County. In Texas as a whole, about 15% of pregnancies end in abortion, while that number is 13% for Whites, 12% for Hispanics, and 28% for Blacks.

1. Summary of Vital Statistics 2012, City of New York, Pregnancy Outcomes, Table 1, p.6. Retrieved 1/15/15 from <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/vs/vs-pregnancy-outcomes-2012.pdf>
2. 2012 Texas Vital Statistics Annual Report, Table 35, retrieved 10/14/14 from <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/vstat/vs12/data.shtm#abort>



Prayer: Dear Father God, Please help women in the inner cities of our nation to find the information, support, and practical help that will help them choose life for their babies. Bless those who work hard to maintain pregnancy help centers in inner cities in spite of high rents and difficult conditions. Please help the African-American community and inner city Hispanics to resist the influences that are leading them to choose (or be coerced to "choose") abortion at disproportionately higher rates than other ethnic groups. May every child, no matter what the circumstances, be welcomed into the world as the precious human being that you have created them to be.



Action: Please pray faithfully for an end to abortion. Consider what you can do in 2015 to help reduce abortions in our own community or around the world. [Houston Pregnancy Help Centers](#) has three locations, including Downtown and Fifth Ward. If you work downtown, perhaps you could get involved or help them in some way.