

What You Need to Know About Abortion and the Pro-Life Movement

- There are over **1.21 million abortions every year** in the United States, the highest abortion rate in North America. Nearly one in three pregnancies ends in abortion and one in three women will have suffered the violence of abortion by the age of 45. Currently, 47% of women who seek abortions have had at least 1 previous abortion. In addition, 58% of abortions are performed on women in their 20s.
- 90% of abortions happen prior to the 12th week of gestation, or during the first trimester. By 12 weeks, a child is able to open and close her hands, suck her thumb, and has active reflexes to react to outside activity. She also has vital organs, such as kidneys, intestines, brain, and liver in place and functioning.

Planned Parenthood is the Abortion Giant

- **Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion chain in the country.** In 2010 alone, Planned Parenthood performed 320,445 abortions. Abortions made up 91% of Planned Parenthood's pregnancy services, while prenatal care and adoption referrals accounted for only 8.6% and 0.2%, respectively. For every adoption referral, Planned Parenthood performed 392 abortions. By conservative estimates, abortion procedures account for 46% of Planned Parenthood's clinic revenue.
- During the fiscal year of 2009-2010, Planned Parenthood reported receiving over \$487 million in taxpayer funding in the form of government grants, contracts, and Medicaid reimbursements. Taxpayer funding consists of 46% of Planned Parenthood's overall annual revenue. Planned Parenthood reports over one billion in net assets.
- In the last two years, the legislatures in 9 states, including Florida, Indiana, Kansas, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin have defunded Planned Parenthood. And just last year, in 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to remove all funding to Planned Parenthood.

What You Can Do About It

- With life-saving votes such as the Defunding Planned Parenthood votes above and others, such as the Partial Birth Abortion Ban from 2003, it is essential that we continue that effort by voting and volunteering for pro-life candidates at the federal, state, and local levels. It is critical that we have strong pro-life leaders in office to advance life-saving legislation. Becoming more involved with elections will determine whether the unborn have a voice in government or not.
- Join pro-life organizations so that you will be the first to know about urgent pro-life action items. By assisting and supporting pro-life organizations, you will be able to get more involved in the pro-life movement and take a stand for Life.
- Write and call your state and federal representatives and tell them to defund Planned Parenthood in the states where it is not yet defunded and urge them to vote for life-saving, pro-woman legislation. Your voice does matter when calling or writing your representative.
- Work with Pregnancy Resources Centers to help pregnant women in need and get involved with local pro-life organizations.

Sources:

-Alan Guttmacher Institute
- Planned Parenthood's 2009-2010 Annual Report

- Center For Disease Control's 2007 Report
- Abort73.com

Pregnant? Considering Abortion?

If you or someone you know is considering having an abortion, assure them that there are people who will support and help her through this time. Many people close to a woman in a crisis pregnancy don't feel comfortable with the decision to abort, but they don't know what to say. They want to be supportive and non-judgmental, so they say something like, 'You're really in a bad situation and I'll support whatever you decide.' The helpful response, the right response should be, 'Don't have an abortion. I will not abandon you. Together we will find a way for you to have your baby.' Direct them to:

- Call Option Line (1-800-712-HELP), a free phone service that is available anytime, day or night that offers free, caring and confidential help. They can quickly connect you with the local assistance that you need.
- Visit your local Pregnancy Resource Center. They provide free assistance and options counseling. Just in 2010 alone, PRCs served over 2.3 million people with pregnancy assistance, counseling, and community outreach programs and referrals.
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Looking for help after an abortion?

You are not alone. One in three women (aged 15-45) in the U.S. have undergone an abortion. Sadly, many of these same women do not seek help for abortion-related problems until 5 to 12 years after the abortion. Various methods may be tried to manage the resulting pain: alcohol, prescription and illegal drugs, promiscuity, hyper-activity (workaholism), punishing oneself by being in an abusive relationship or developing eating disorders, for example. Others may attempt to replace the lost baby by becoming pregnant again, and others reenact both the pregnancy and abortion, hoping to make the experience routine and non-traumatic (or to punish themselves). Unfortunately, each of these strategies produces additional pain and problems.

Sometimes the reaction to abortion is very delayed. Counselors sometimes encounter elderly women overcome with grief from the loss of a child to abortion that occurred many decades earlier, a grief that has been buried, more or less successfully, until then.

If you or someone you love is suffering after an abortion, there are a number of organizations that can help them heal and give them hope.

Project Rachel: There are Project Rachel volunteers ready to counsel and talk with you in cities across the country. Call 888-456-HOPE for more information or go to <http://hopeafterabortion.com/> for more information.

Rachel's Vineyard: Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew and rebuild hearts that have been broken by the violence of abortion. Weekend retreats offer a safe, supportive, confidential environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post abortive emotions and begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing.

AfterAbortion.org: Provides information and further reading for post-abortion help and healing. Visit their website to find out more.