



## Abortion Statistics

By Jerry Price, Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Jan. 9, 2006

### Who Has Abortions?

- Fifty-two percent of U.S. women obtaining abortions are younger than 25: Women aged 20-24 obtain 33 percent of all abortions, and teenagers obtain 19 percent.
- Black women are more than 3 times as likely as white women to have an abortion, and Hispanic women are 2 1/2 times as likely.
- Forty-three percent of women obtaining abortions identify themselves as Protestant, and 27 percent identify themselves as Catholic.
- Two-thirds of all abortions are among never-married women.
- Over 60 percent of abortions are among women who have had 1 or more children.
- On average, women give at least 3 reasons for choosing abortion: 3/4 say that having a baby would interfere with work, school or other responsibilities; about 2/3 say they cannot afford a child; and 1/2 say they do not want to be a single parent or are having problems with their husband or partner.

*[Facts In Brief: Induced Abortion](#) [Accessed August 25, 2005]*

The following facts are given by the Guttmacher Institute (Planned Parenthood) concerning abortion in America.

- Forty-nine percent of pregnancies among American women are unintended; 1/2 of these are terminated by abortion.
- In 2002, 1.29 million abortions took place, down from an estimated 1.36 million in 1996. From 1973 through 2002, more than 42 million legal abortions occurred.
- Each year, 2 out of every 100 women aged 15-44 have an abortion; 48 percent of them have had at least one previous abortion.

*Adapted from [Facts in Brief: Induced Abortion](#) [Accessed August 26, 2005]*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in its latest statistics on abortions in America, reveals that the abortion industry is still in high demand.

A total of 853,485 legal induced abortions were reported to CDC for 2001 from 49 reporting areas, representing a 0.5 percent decrease from the 857,475 legal induced abortions reported by the same 49 reporting areas for 2000. The abortion ratio, defined as the number of abortions per 1,000 live births, was 246 in 2001, compared with 245 reported for 2000. This represents a 0.4 percent increase in the abortion ratio. The abortion rate was 16 per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years for 2001, the same as for 2000. For both the 48 and 49 reporting areas, the abortion rate remained relatively constant during 1997-2001.

The highest percentages of reported abortions were for women who were unmarried (82 percent), white (55 percent), and aged <25 years (52 percent). Of all abortions for which gestational age was reported, 59 percent were performed at <8 weeks' gestation and 88 percent at <13 weeks. From 1992 (when detailed data regarding early abortions were first collected) through 2001, steady increases have occurred in the percentage of abortions performed at <6 weeks' gestation. A limited number of abortions were obtained at >15 weeks' gestation, including 4.3 percent at 16-20 weeks and 1.4 percent at >21 weeks. A total of 35 reporting areas submitted data stating that they performed medical (nonsurgical) procedures, making up 2.9 percent of all reported procedures from the 45 areas with adequate reporting on type of procedure. In 2000 (the most recent year for which data are available), 11 women died as a result of complications from known legal induced abortion. No deaths were associated with known illegal abortion.

*[Fact Sheet: Abortion Surveillance, 2001](#) [Accessed August 25, 2005]*

"Abortions in Pennsylvania are still on the decline, following a national trend showing abortions at their lowest point in some states since the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision allowed virtually unlimited abortions. The new Pennsylvania figures show a decline of 2.4 percent in 2004.

"According to new data from the state's health department, Pennsylvania abortions went down from 36,030 in 2003 . . . The all time high for the number of abortions was in 1980, when there were 65,777 abortions. That's twice as many as occurred in 1999 . . . Looking at other states, Minnesota's abortion numbers are down to their lowest totals since 1975. The number of abortions performed on Kansas women has declined 10 percent since 1996 and abortions in Kentucky have been steadily dropping for more than a decade with 3,502 in 2002 and 9,590 in 1991.

"New statistics in the state of Illinois show a whopping 10 percent drop in the number of abortions performed last year. The new numbers take the state to its lowest number of annual abortions in thirty years.

"Since 1988, abortions have dropped a whopping 53 percent in South Carolina. After peaking at 8,814 in 1991, the number of abortions in 2002 in Mississippi fell to just 3,605."

*Steven Ertelt, [Pennsylvania Abortions Continue to Decline, Pregnancy Help Cited](#) (LifeNews.com), August 17, 2005*