

Some info about abortion, as of April 16, 2022

I have been thinking about changes in laws regarding abortion. So, I took an online journey (WaveBrowser Copyright 2022 Wavesor Software). The charts and graphs that are included are from <https://images.search.yahoo.com/>. I made every effort to select information that was published by reputable agencies. This being such a highly emotional and controversial subject, it was difficult to find or even recognize unbiased information. nl

- **Selected, from Wikipedia** condensed

Roe v. Wade: In January 1973, the Supreme Court issued a 7–2 decision in McCorvey's favor ruling that the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides a "right to privacy" that protects a pregnant woman's right to choose whether to have an abortion. But it also ruled that this right is not absolute and must be balanced against governments' interests in protecting women's health and prenatal life. The Court resolved this balancing test by tying state regulation of abortion to the three trimesters of pregnancy: during the first trimester, governments could not prohibit abortions at all; during the second trimester, governments could require reasonable health regulations; during the third trimester, abortions could be prohibited entirely so long as the laws contained exceptions for cases when they were necessary to save the life or health of the mother. The Court classified the right to choose to have an abortion as "fundamental", which required courts to evaluate challenged abortion laws under the "strict scrutiny" standard, the highest level of judicial review in the USA.

CDC surveillance reports

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention began abortion surveillance reports in 1969 to document the number and characteristics of women obtaining legal induced abortions. CDC compiles the information that the states and the District of Columbia collect to produce national estimates. The CDC numbers, published annually, are derived from actual counts of every abortion reported to state health departments. Some states choose not to report abortions to the CDC, and different states fail to report in different years. The CDC's surveillance system compiles information on legal induced abortions only. Because reporting is voluntary, CDC surveillance reports undercount the actual number of abortions in the United States.

What is the Guttmacher institute:

The Guttmacher Institute is a leading research and policy organization committed to advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) worldwide. The Guttmacher Institute envisions a future in which all people can realize their rights and access the resources they need to achieve sexual and reproductive health. This vision is aligned with a progressive and evidence-based definition of SRHR, grounded in human rights, which holds that sexual and reproductive health is not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction or infirmity but a state of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being in all aspects of sexuality and reproduction. The Guttmacher Inst. does not collect abortion data for every year. Currently, it skips every third year and estimates data for missing years by interpolation.

Trends in abortion statistics:

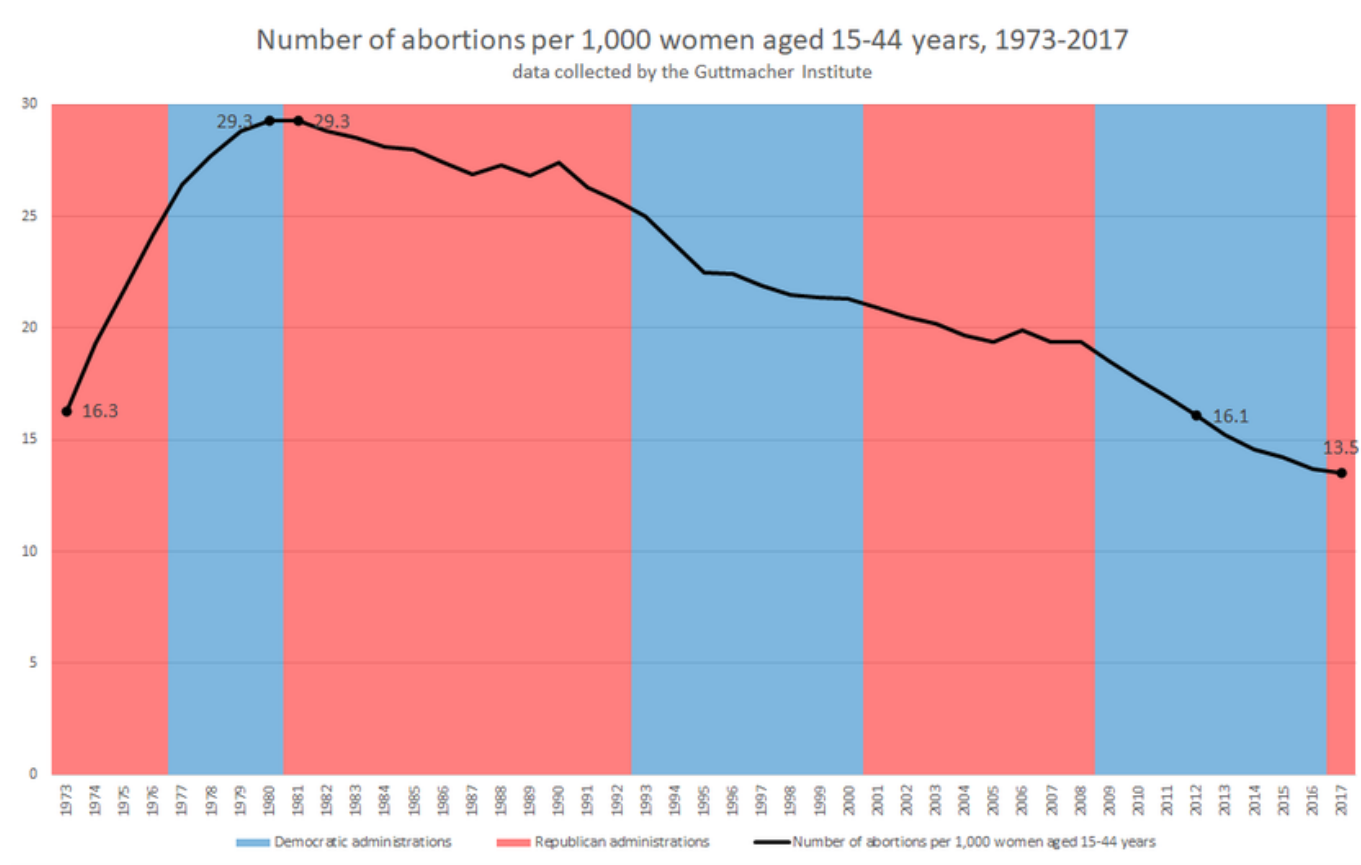
The Guttmacher Institute has always found a higher abortion rate than the CDC.

- In 1973, the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalized abortion in all 50 states. From 1973 to 1980, the abortion rate rose almost 80%, peaking at 29.3 abortions per 1,000 women of childbearing age according to the Guttmacher Inst. and at 25 abortions per 1,000 women of childbearing age according to CDC.
- From 1981 through 2017, the abortion rate fell approximately in half. It did not fall every single year, but it has not risen two years in a row since 1979 and 1980. The abortion rate fell below the 1973 rate in 2012 and continued to fall through 2017.

Demographic Statistics:

Ethnicity: Abortion rates tend to be higher among minority women in the U.S. In 2000–2001, due to lower access to health care and contraception, the rates among black and Hispanic women were 49 per 1,000 and 33 per 1,000, respectively, vs. 13 per 1,000 among non-Hispanic white women. Note that this figure includes all women of reproductive age, including women that are not pregnant. In other words, these abortion rates reflect the rate at which U.S. women of reproductive age have an abortion each year.

Religion: A study by the National Institute of Health in the United States found that of the Obstetrician-Gynecologists that provide abortions, more identified as Protestant than Catholic. The Guttmacher report of 1987 found Protestants accounted for 41.9% of abortions while Catholics accounted for 31.5%. The Guttmacher report of 2014 found Protestants accounted for 30% of abortions while Catholics accounted for 24%.



➤ **Reasons cited by women for abortion** Note: There are many studies listing reasons for abortion. nl

Understanding why women seek abortions in the US - PMC (nih.gov): (n=954) Respondents gave multiple reasons under 11 themes. Condensed.

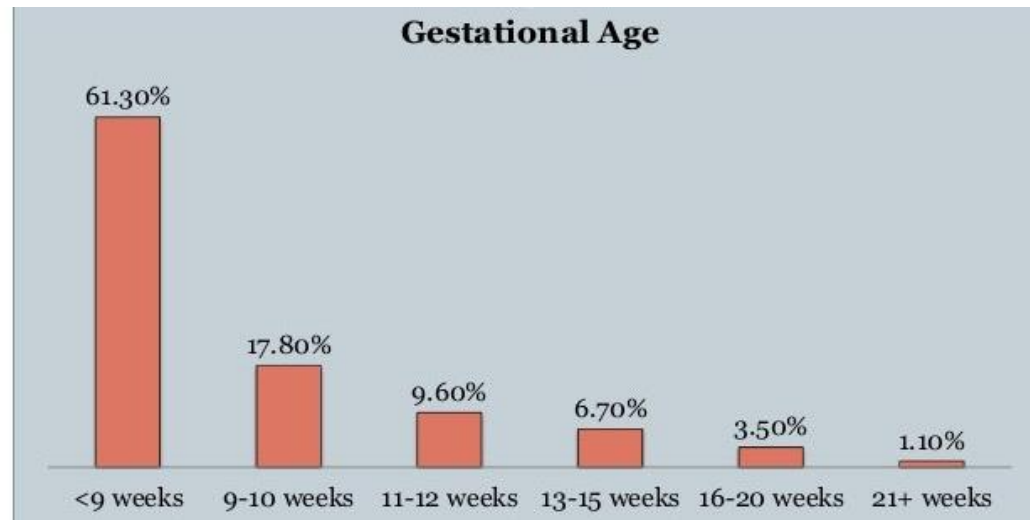
	Freq.	Percent
Not financially prepared	386	40%
Not the right time for a baby	347	36%
Partner related reasons	298	31%
Need to focus on other children	275	29%
Interferes with future opportunities	194	20%
Not emotionally or mentally prepared	180	19%
Health related reasons	114	12%
Want a better life for the baby than she could provide	119	12%
Not independent or mature enough for a baby	64	7%
Influences from family or friends	48	5%
Don't want a baby or place baby for adoption	38	4%
Other	11	1.2%
Total	954	100%

• **Rape-related pregnancy: Estimates and descriptive characteristics from a national sample of women** Am J Obstet Gynecol 1996 Aug

- **Objective:** We attempted to determine the national rape-related pregnancy rate and provide descriptive characteristics of pregnancies that result from rape.
- **Study design:** A national probability sample of 4008 adult American women took part in a 3-year longitudinal survey that assessed the prevalence and incidence of rape and related physical and mental health outcomes.
- **Results:** The national rape-related pregnancy rate is 5.0% per rape among victims of reproductive age (aged 12 to 45); among adult women an estimated 32,101 pregnancies result from rape each year. Among 34 cases of rape-related pregnancy, the majority occurred among adolescents and resulted from assault by a known, often related perpetrator. Only 11.7% of these victims received immediate medical attention after the assault, and 47.1% received no medical attention related to the rape. A total 32.4% of these victims did not discover they were pregnant until they had already entered the second trimester; 32.2% opted to

keep the infant whereas 50% underwent abortion and 5.9% placed the infant for adoption; an additional 11.8% had spontaneous abortion.

- **Conclusions:** Rape-related pregnancy occurs with significant frequency. It is a cause of many unwanted pregnancies and is closely linked with family and domestic violence. As we address the epidemic of unintended pregnancies in the United States, greater attention and effort should be aimed at preventing and identifying unwanted pregnancies that result from sexual victimization.



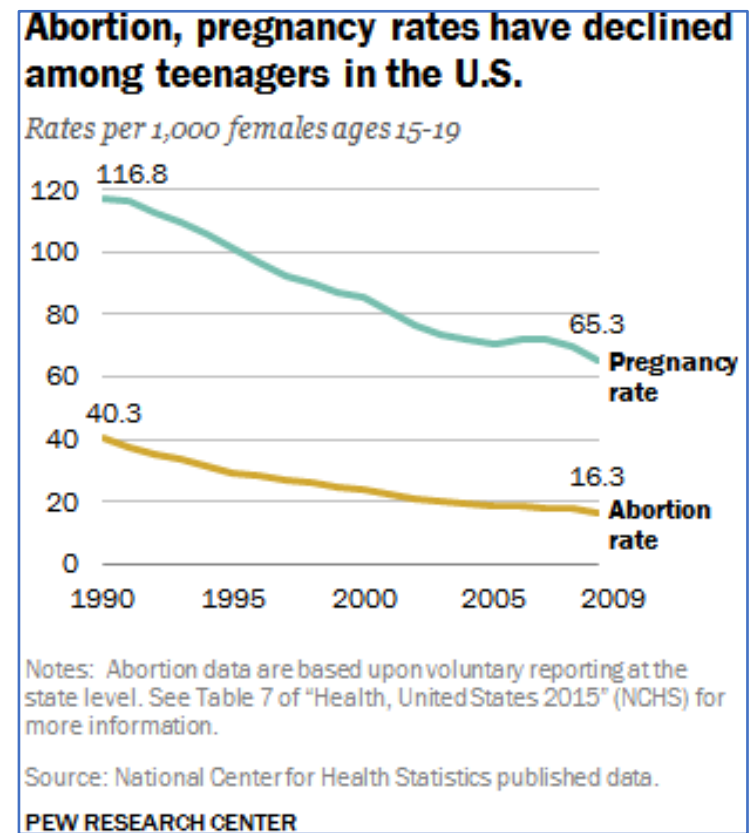
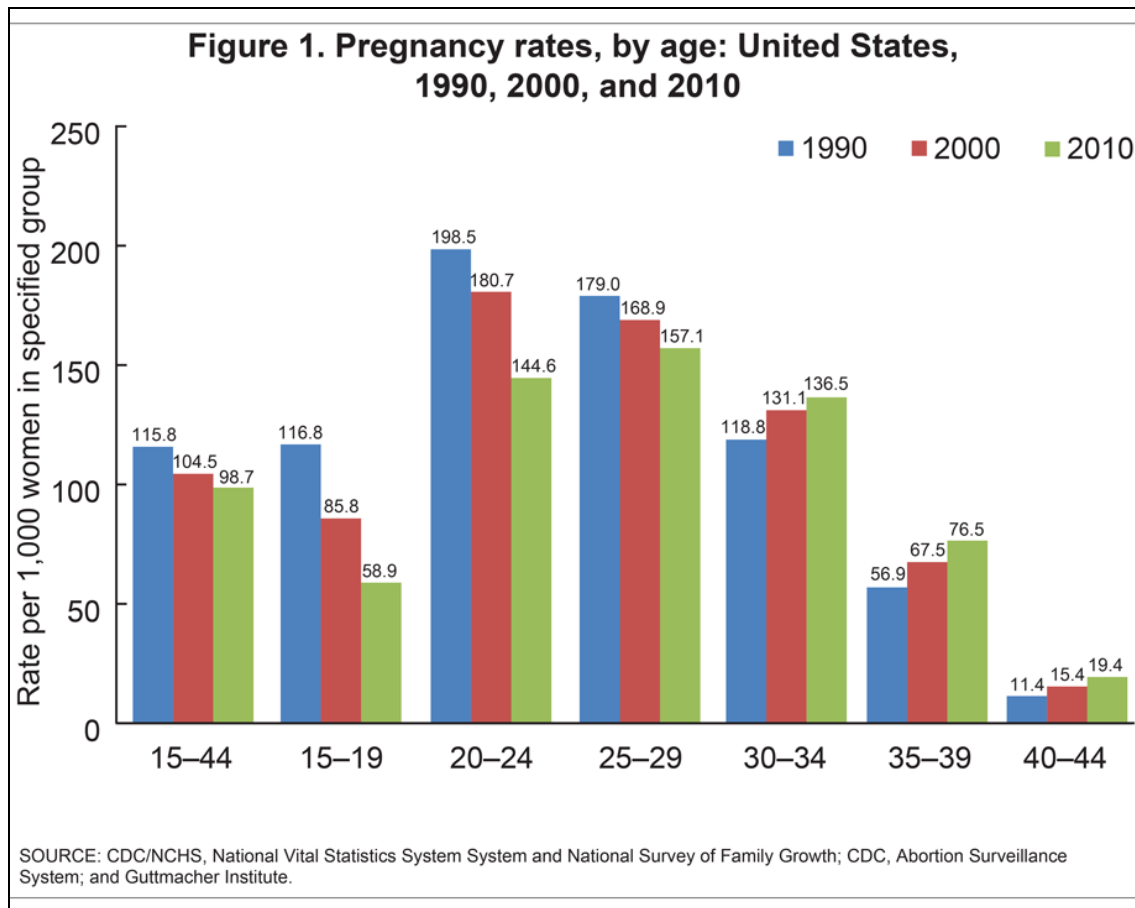
How many abortions are performed at each stage of pregnancy Guttmacher

Note: 4.6% of abortions in the USA are performed after 15 weeks. nl

COMPLETED WEEKS OF GESTATION AT BIRTH (using last menstrual period)	CHANCE OF SURVIVAL
21 weeks and less	0%
22 weeks	0-10%*
23 weeks	10-35%
24 weeks	40-70%
25 weeks	50-80%
26 weeks	80-90%
27 weeks	>90%
30 weeks	>95%
34 weeks	>98%

Guttmacher?

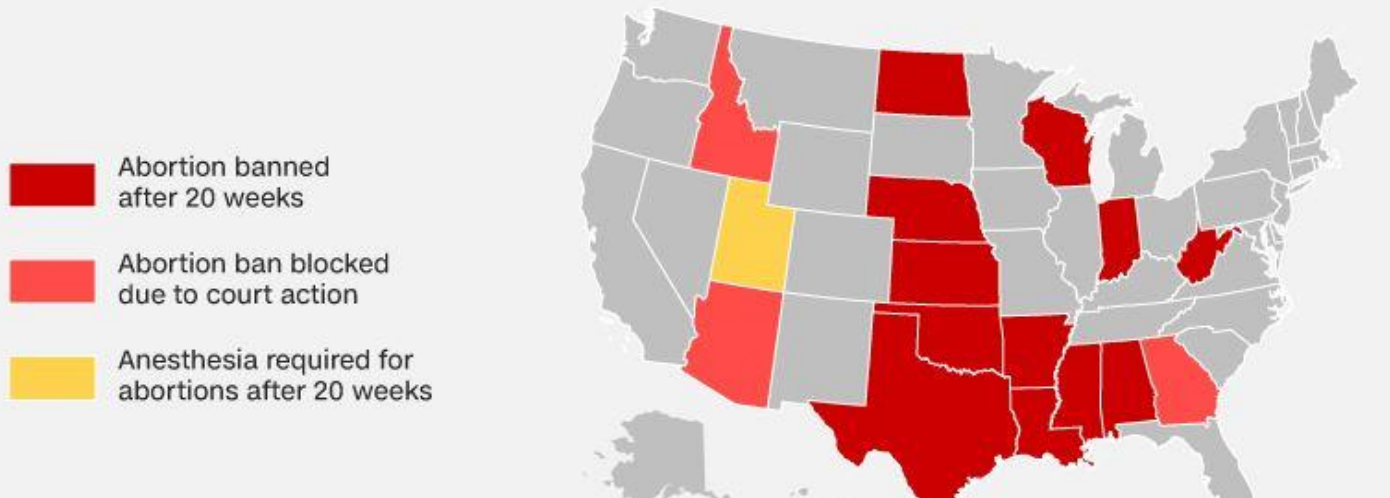
Note: This chart was posted in 2015. Chances of survival have improved over the years. nl



Changes in birth rate by age and abortions in teenagers.

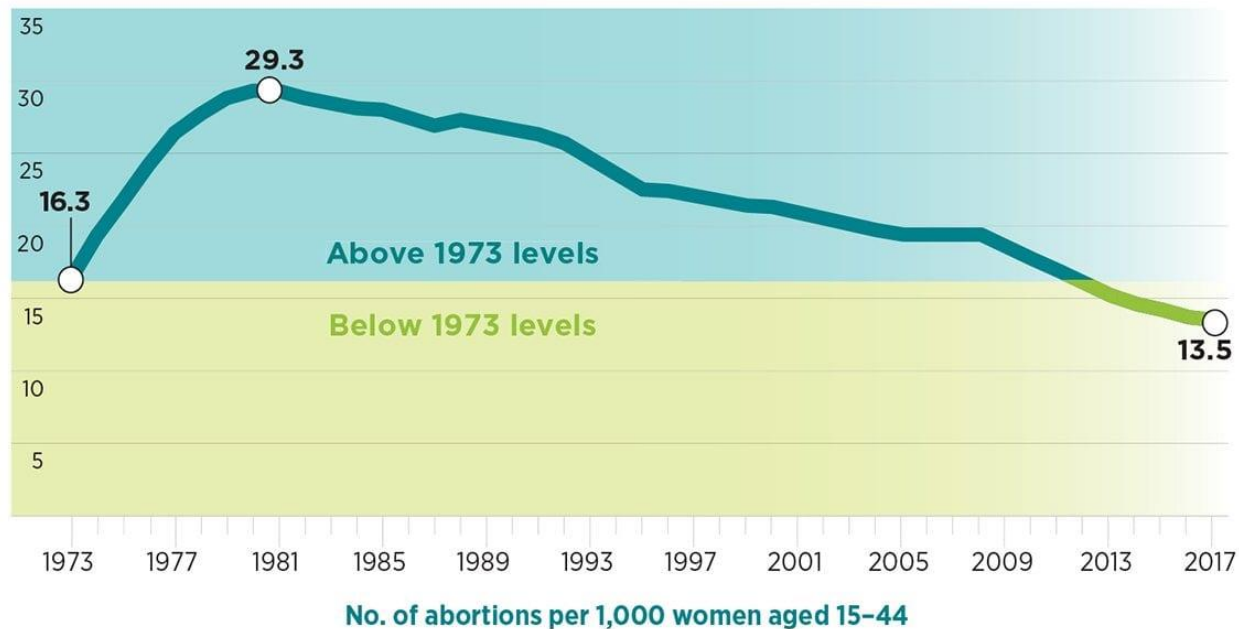
Fetal pain abortion laws

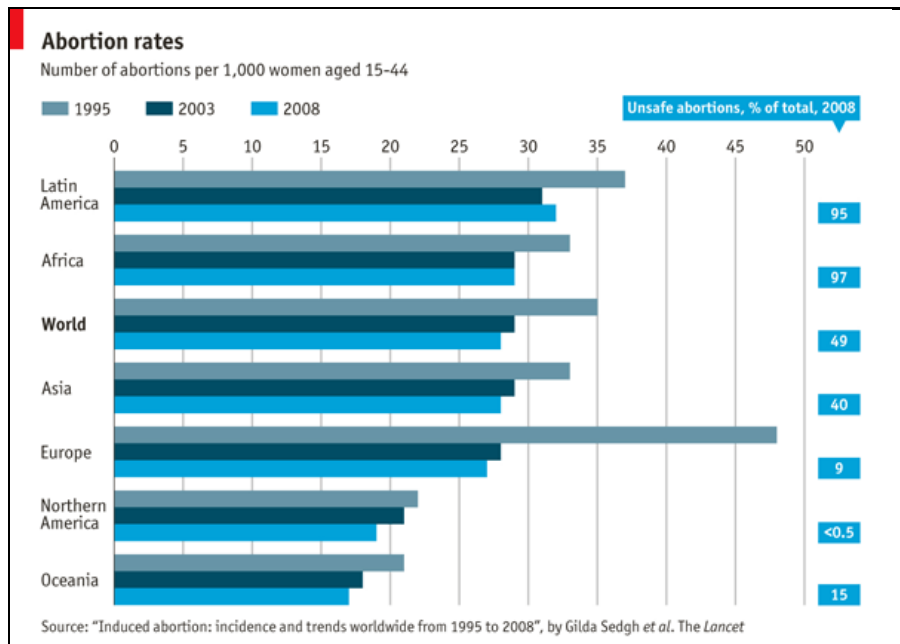
States where abortion is banned after 20 weeks, citing fetal pain



Both charts by Guttmacher

The U.S. abortion rate reached a historic low in 2017.





Lancet

Table 1. Mortality from unsafe abortions (3)

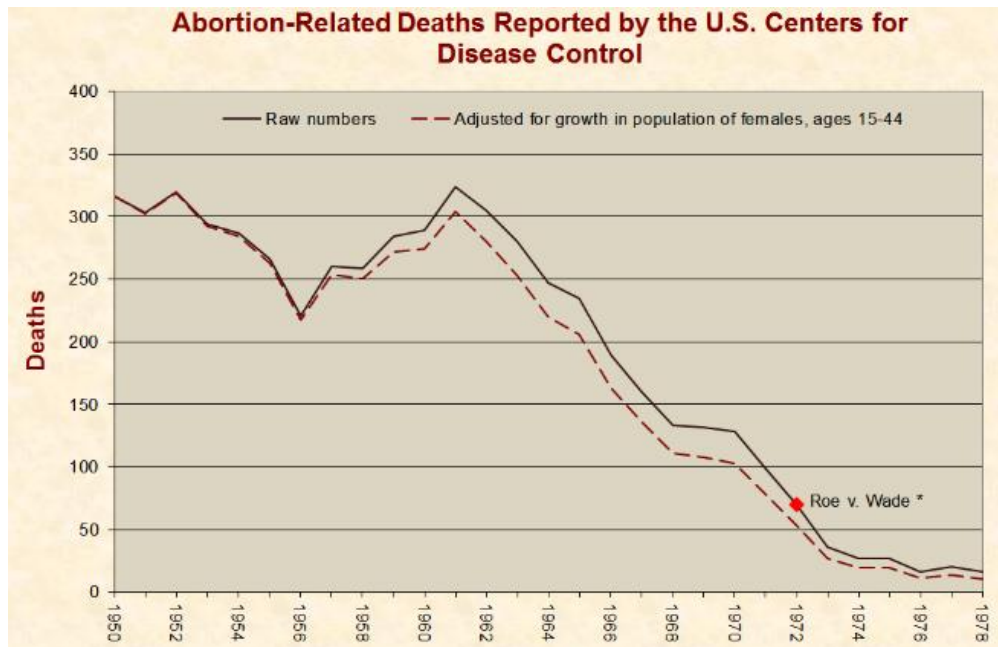
Region	Mortality per 100 000 abortions
Latin America	119
South and South-East Asia	283
Africa	680
Developing countries	400
Developed countries	0.2–1.2

WHO

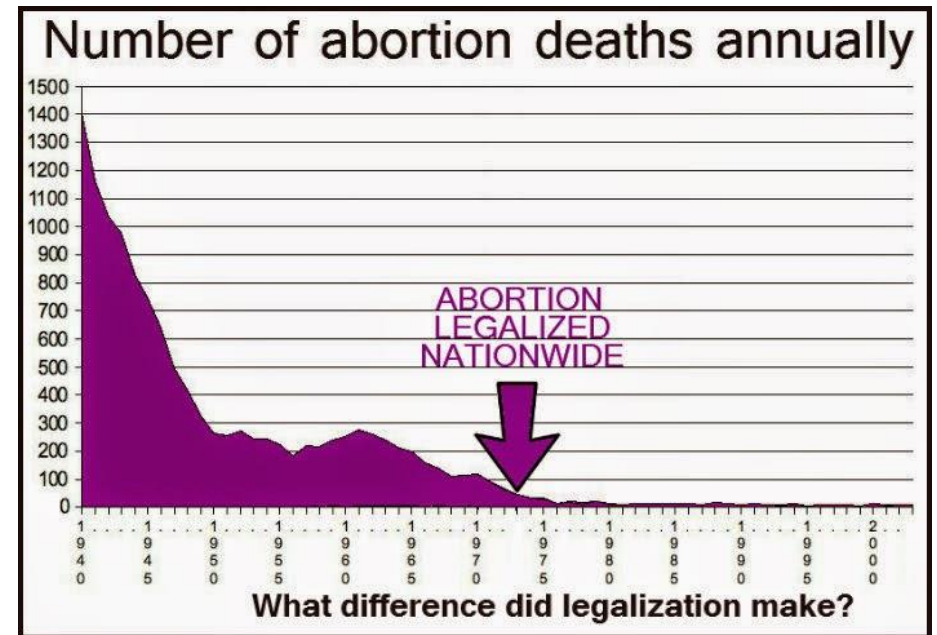
- WHO estimates that about 25% of all pregnancies worldwide end in an induced abortion**, approximately 50 million each year. Of these abortions, 20 million are being performed under dangerous conditions, either by untrained providers or using unsafe procedures, or both. Deaths as a result of unsafe abortions in developing countries are estimated at 80 000 annually, i.e. 400 deaths per 100 000 abortions. This figure hides substantial regional variation, however, with unsafe abortions in Africa being at least 700 times more likely to lead to death than safe abortions in developed countries (**Table 1** above). Although over the past 10 years there have been improvements in the safety of the abortion procedures used and access to treatment for complications for some women in developing countries, the number of women requiring treatment for serious complications of unsafe abortion remains very high and many women never receive care at all.
- Abortion Before and After Legalization (USA)** In a 1976 article, researchers from the Center for Disease Control examined national abortion data from the three years surrounding the rulings and estimated that the number of illegal procedures in the country plummeted from around 130,000 to 17,000 between 1972 and 1974. The number of deaths associated with illegal abortion decreased from 39 to five in that same time period; women who died as a result of illegal abortions were more than 12 weeks pregnant and had self-induced in their own community. The researchers concluded that abortion services need to be improved and available more widely, especially for women at high risk for seeking illegal abortions, because "any actions which impede their access to legal abortion may increase their risk of death." More than 40 years later, their words are a potent reminder of the dangers of restricting abortion access. Guttmacher Institute

Comment: Things I hadn't really thought about: (In addition to Roe vs Wade in 1973) the availability of antibiotics beginning in the 40's, the hippie movement of the 1960's and the birth control pill in 1960, affected (positive and negative) the number and outcome of abortions.

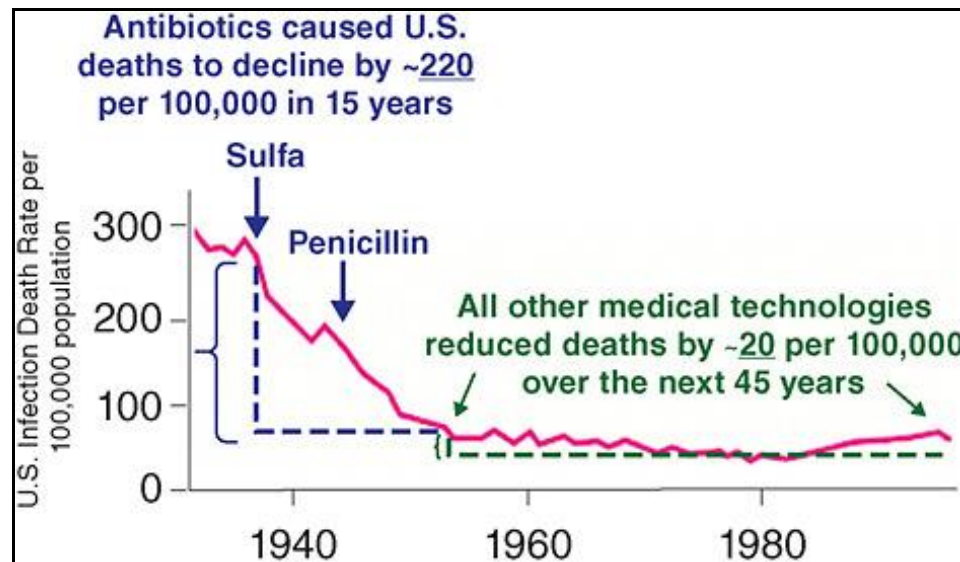
<https://medicine.wustl.edu/news/access-to-free-birth-control-reduces-abortion-rates/> <https://www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna19053382> nl



(USA)



(USA) Can't find the origin of this chart, but there are others that are similar. nl



Note: The use of antibiotics resulted in a reduction in deaths from many infections, including septic abortion. The CDC chart above left, only goes back to 1950, but shows the effect of improved treatment between that year and Roe vs Wade. Note the change between 1940 and 1950 on the chart on the top right. nl

- **Did abortion legalization reduce the number of unwanted children? Evidence from adoptions:**

Welcome to NCBI The National Center for Biotechnology Information advances science and health by providing access to biomedical and genomic information.

Context: The legalization of abortion in the United States led to well-known changes in reproductive behavior, but its effect on adoptions has not been investigated.

Methods: Variation across states in the timing and extent of abortion legalization is used to identify the effects of changes in the legal status of abortion on adoption rates from 1961 to 1975. These effects are estimated in regression analyses that control for states' economic, demographic and political characteristics, as well as for health care availability within states.

Results: The rate of adoptions of children born to white women declined by 34-37% in states that repealed restrictive abortion laws before Roe v. Wade. The effect was concentrated among adoptions by petitioners not related to the child. Legal reforms resulting in small increases in access, such as in cases of rape and incest, were associated with a 15-18% decline in adoptions of children born to nonwhite women; however, this decline may have been due to other changes in the policy environment for such adoptions. Rates of adoption of children born to white women appear to have declined after Roe v. Wade, but this association is not statistically significant.

Conclusions: The estimated effect of abortion legalization on adoption rates is sizable and can account for much of the decline in adoptions, particularly of children born to white women, during the early 1970s. These findings support previous studies' conclusions that abortion legalization led to a reduction in the number of "unwanted" children; such a reduction may have improved average infant health and children's living conditions.

Examples of current articles on abortion (as of April 15,2022, condensed)

By Gabriella Borter April 13 - 2022

April 15, 2022 1:15 PM CDT Last Updated a day ago www.reuters.com *Kentucky lawmakers block abortion access with new law, effective immediately*

Kentucky effectively suspended legal abortion access on Wednesday as the legislature enacted a sweeping anti-abortion law that took effect right away and forces providers to stop offering abortions until they can meet certain requirements. The impact of the law makes Kentucky the first U.S. state without legal abortion access since the 1973 Supreme Court case Roe v. Wade established the right to end a pregnancy before the fetus is viable, abortion providers say. Abortion rights advocacy groups have said they will challenge the bill in court.

The law imposes requirements that the state's clinics say make it too logistically difficult and expensive to operate, including a provision requiring that fetal remains be cremated or interred. It calls for a combination birth-death or stillbirth certificate to be issued for each abortion, and it bans abortions after 15 weeks.

Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear, a Democrat, vetoed the bill on Friday, but the Republican-majority House and Senate overrode his veto on Wednesday evening. In his veto letter, Beshear expressed concern that the bill did not include exceptions for abortions in cases of rape or incest and said it was "likely unconstitutional" because of the requirements it imposed on providers. "Rape and incest are violent crimes. Victims of these crimes should have options," Beshear wrote. The legislature overrode several other of Beshear's vetoes on Wednesday, including a bill banning trans girls from playing girls' sports.

Two provisions in the abortion legislation hinder the state's abortion clinics from operating, according to Planned Parenthood's Kentucky state director Tamarra Wieder. The first is a requirement that the state's Cabinet for Health and Family Services certify providers who dispense abortion pills. Until abortion providers are certified, they are prevented from offering medication abortions. The second is a requirement that fetal remains be cremated or interred, which places logistical and cost burdens on the clinics that they cannot sustain. The bill also bans telehealth for medication abortions, requiring an in-person doctor visit for patients seeking to end their pregnancy by pill.

(The Supreme Court is expected to rule by the end of June on a case involving a Republican-backed Mississippi law that gives its conservative majority a chance to undermine or even repeal the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion nationwide. During arguments in the case, the conservative justices signaled a willingness to dramatically curtail abortion rights in the United States.)

- **4 states moved to restrict abortion access this week**

By Veronica Stracqualursi, (CNN)

Four states moved to curtail abortion access this week, with two of them advancing their own versions of a ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy

Kentucky abortion providers suing to block restrictive new law: The only two clinics in Kentucky in which abortions are performed, Planned Parenthood and EMW Women's Surgical Center, are separately suing to block a new state abortion law, saying it amounts to a de facto ban on abortions in Kentucky. The law bans most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, restricts access to medication abortion and enforces more requirements for minors to obtain abortions in the state. The plaintiffs argue they can't comply with the new law, claiming Kentucky hasn't yet set up a system to meet its reporting requirements.

"It is arbitrary and unconstitutional to enforce penalties for noncompliance while failing to provide a means of immediate compliance. Plaintiff, in fairness, must be granted time to comply with these sweeping changes to the provision of abortion care," said the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU of Kentucky, on behalf of the EMW Women's Surgical Center, in its lawsuit, adding that patients will now be unable to obtain abortions in Kentucky or forced to seek them out of the state, unless the court intervenes.

The measure went into effect this week after Kentucky's Republican-controlled legislature on Wednesday overrode Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear's veto of the bill. The governor had said the bill was "likely unconstitutional," noting its lack of exceptions for pregnancies caused by rape and incest and arguing it would cost the state an estimated near \$1 million to enforce.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis holds up a 15-week abortion ban law after signing it on April 14, 2022: Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a measure into law on Thursday that bans abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy without exemptions for rape, incest or human trafficking. The bill allows exemptions in cases where pregnancy poses "serious" health risks or fatal fetal abnormalities are detected if two physicians confirm the diagnoses in writing. It goes into effect July 1.

Oklahoma governor signs near-total ban: Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt holds up the bill he signed, making it a felony to perform an abortion, punishable by up to 10 years in prison on April 12, 2022. Oklahoma GOP Gov. Kevin Stitt on Tuesday signed a bill into law that makes performing an abortion illegal in the state, with an exception only in the case of a medical emergency. The law will take effect this summer, barring any legal challenge. Senate Bill 612, which cleared the state Senate last year and the House earlier this month, makes performing an abortion or attempting to perform one a felony punishable by a maximum fine of \$100,000 or a maximum of 10 years in state prison, or both.

Tennessee House passes bill that would restrict medication abortion: The Tennessee Republican-led House passed a bill on Thursday that would allow only physicians to provide drugs used in medication abortions and bar the drugs from being sent via mail. The legislation, House Bill 2416, would establish criminal penalties and civil liability for offenders that would not apply to the patient who was provided the abortion drugs. It would also require physicians to examine patients in person before providing the abortion drugs and to schedule follow-up visits for the patients. The bill passed the House by 68-20 on Thursday. It now heads to the state Senate, where Republican lawmakers also have a majority.

Comment: I am responsible for the information included in this compilation, opinions and otherwise. I don't know what will happen in the coming months or year(s). Given all the circumstances, the freedom to terminate a pregnancy may be eliminated throughout the US. It looks like it already has been in several cases. I believe that those who will be affected are in for misery and trouble. This includes patients, their families, those individuals elected by the people, appointed by those elected, law enforcement and interested citizens. In my years as a medic and medical technologist (1960-2007), I cared for patients who died from septic abortion and much later, assisted in the opening of a neonatal special care unit, primarily caring for premature infants. It is my belief that when the reason to terminate is for the convenience of the patient or family, that education, including the decision to surrender for adoption, should be provided.

Nancy Larsen nklarsen42@msn.com April, 2022