



2026

# ABORTION FACTS

*American Statistics on Abortion*

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This report includes the most recent trends concerning abortion in the United States. From 1973 to 2021, more than 65 million lives have been lost to abortion.<sup>1</sup> Data from 2023 indicates that there has continued to be an increase in the number of abortions, despite legislation passed across many states, with many of those abortions being self-managed.<sup>2</sup> Almost all abortions occur during the first trimester -- 93 percent at or before 13 weeks.<sup>3</sup>

With the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*, it was expected that abortion rates would decrease. In 2024, it was reported that 1,038,000 abortions were conducted in states without bans, a 1 percent increase since 2023, but a 12 percent increase since 2020.<sup>4</sup> Revenue for the abortion industry continues to grow. In 2025, the abortion industry is reported to have had \$4.7 billion in revenue, a 3.5% increase in the last 5 years, and is projected to remain within that range for 2026. Planned Parenthood remains the leading corporation in this industry and is projected to profit millions of dollars from abortion services each year.<sup>5</sup>

Since the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*, the laws on abortion have now also been given to the states to regulate. This has been a drastic and unprecedented change for everyone since the first court ruling over 50 years ago. The landscape of the country now displays 13 states with total abortion bans and up to 19 total states with restrictions up to 15 weeks.<sup>6</sup> Many states support the travel of women to various other states to receive abortions or obtain the medication to self-manage at home.<sup>7</sup> At least 10 states at this time have full state protections in place for abortion rights.<sup>8</sup>

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1 National Right to Life. (2024, May). ABORTION statistics United States Data and Trends. Retrieved August 6, 2024, from <https://nrlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/AbortionStatsFS.pdf>

2 Guttmacher Institute (2024, March). Medication Abortion Accounted for 63% of All US Abortions in 2023—An Increase from 53% in 2020. Retrieved January 26, 2026, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/2024/03/medication-abortion-accounted-63-all-us-abortions-2023-increase-53-2020>

3 Guttmacher Institute (2025, April). Abortion in the United States. Retrieved January 30, 2026, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states>

4 Ibid.

5 IBISWorld. Fine, Tina. (July 2025). Family Planning & Abortion Clinics in the US - Market Research Report (2015-2030). IBISWorld Industry NAICS 62141, retrieved January 30, 2026, from <https://www.ibisworld.com/united-states/industry/family-planning-abortion-clinics/1567/>

6 Guttmacher Institute (2026, January 30). Interactive Map: US Abortion Policies and Access After Roe. Retrieved January 30, 2026, <https://states.guttmacher.org/policies?bans=total-abortion-ban%2C6-week-ban%2C12-week-ban%2C15-week-ban>

7 Gomez, Ivette, Salganicoff, Alina, Sobel, Laurie (2024, February 21). Abortions Later in Pregnancy in a Post Dobbs-era. Retrieved August 7, 2024, from <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/issue-brief/abortions-later-in-pregnancy-in-a-post-dobbs-era/>

8 Guttmacher Institute (2026, January 30). Interactive Map: US Abortion Policies and Access After Roe. Retrieved January 30, 2026, <https://states.guttmacher.org/policies?bans=total-abortion-ban%2C6-week-ban%2C12-week-ban%2C15-week-ban>

Autonomy has become one of the leading topics in the debates against the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*. Physicians in support of the overturn have much to say about this issue, as stated here:

“Abortion is not only about autonomy but also about non-maleficence. In the case of pregnancy, we, as physicians, have two patients. Abortion sometimes harms the woman; abortion always ends the life of our second patient.”<sup>9</sup>

In the pages following, we will take a closer look at the state of abortion in the United States: who is having abortions, why, what the next generation is thinking about abortion, and much more. The studies cited are the most up-to-date data at the time of publication.

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9 Cirucci MD, Christina A., Valley MD, Micheal (2024. August 2). A Statement on Abortion by 170 Obstetricians/ Gynecologist after the Reversal of Roe V Wade Volume 39, Issue 2. Retrieved March 17, 2026, from <https://issuesinlawandmedicine.com/articles/a-statement-on-abortion-by-170-obstetricians-gynecologists-after-the-reversal-of-roe-v-wade/>

# FACTS ON ABORTION

2026

## RATES AND TOTALS

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The abortion rate has continued to change alongside the landscape.

- From 2013-2022, the abortion rate declined overall by 10%.
- Approximately 642,700 **legally** induced abortions were performed in 2023.<sup>10</sup>
- In 2024, it was reported that 1,038,000 abortions were conducted in states without bans, a 1 percent increase since 2023, but a 12 percent increase since 2020.<sup>11</sup>
- In the first 6 months of 2025, there were 591,770 abortions reported.<sup>12</sup> Following trends of previous years and the increase presented in these first 6 months, it can be deduced that there will be a significant increase in the total number of abortions recorded.
- Unfortunately, being able to obtain accurate data has become increasingly difficult with the increase in access to mail-order abortion medications, with 63% of all abortions in 2023 being attributed to medication abortions. That's a 10% increase since 2020.<sup>13</sup>
- In the first few months of 2025, 27 percent of the abortions reported were recorded as being provided by telehealth.<sup>14</sup>
- Unintended pregnancy rates for ages 15-19 declined by more than half in 2019(52%). There was also a decrease in pregnancies across racial demographics.<sup>15</sup>

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10 Guttmacher Institute (2024, March). Medication Abortion Accounted for 63% of All US Abortions in 2023—An Increase from 53% in 2020. Retrieved January 26, 2026, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/2024/03/medication-abortion-accounted-63-all-us-abortions-2023-increase-53-2020>

11 Ibid.

12 Society of Family Planning (2025, December 9). #WeCount report, April 2022 to June 2025. Retrieved February 10, 2026 from <https://societyfp.org/research/wecount/wecount-june-2025-data/>

13 Guttmacher Institute (2024, March). Medication Abortion Accounted for 63% of All US Abortions in 2023—An Increase from 53% in 2020. Retrieved January 26, 2026, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/2024/03/medication-abortion-accounted-63-all-us-abortions-2023-increase-53-2020>

14 Society of Family Planning (2025, December 9). #WeCount report, April 2022 to June 2025. Retrieved February 10, 2026 from <https://societyfp.org/research/wecount/wecount-june-2025-data/>

15 CDC, National Center for Health Statistics (2023, April 12). US Pregnancy Rates Drop during the Last Decade. Retrieved March 17, 2026, from [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/releases/20230412.html?CDC\\_AAref\\_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs\\_press\\_releases/2023/20230412.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/releases/20230412.html?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2023/20230412.htm)

- The abortion rate in 2024 was 15.4 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15–44. This is a decrease of 1% from 2023, when the abortion rate was 15.5, and an 7% increase from the 2020 rate.<sup>16</sup> As of July of 2022, the majority of women who have an abortion have one in their 20s (61%), 33 percent of those are between the ages of 20-24, and 28% were 25-29.<sup>17</sup>
- Data presented in 2022 shows that 40 percent of abortions were obtained at six weeks’ gestation or earlier, 53 percent at 7–13 weeks’ gestation, and 7 percent at 14 weeks’ gestation or later, according to the CDC.<sup>18</sup>
- One in four women are projected to have an abortion by the age of 45, given the data seen in the 2020 abortion rates.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2023, data shows that 1 percent of those accessing abortions identified as something other than female/woman.<sup>20</sup> While this sounds like a relatively small number, that would equate to over 6,000 individuals a year. This is a shift that hasn’t been addressed in previous years.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

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Most abortion patients are in their 20s and have already had at least one previous child. African American women were more likely to experience an abortion than white women. Additionally, over 41 percent of women experiencing abortion are below the poverty line.<sup>21</sup>

- In a project done by the CDC, married women represented roughly 12 percent of abortions in this 2022 research, while those who were unmarried accounted for over 87 percent of abortions.<sup>22</sup>
- 55% of women who had abortions in 2022 had already had at least one previous birth.
- In 2022, the majority of abortion patients were in their 20s, with the largest number (33%) being 20-24.

16 Guttmacher Institute (2025). Special tabulations of data from the Monthly Abortion Provision Study. Retrieved February 04, 2026, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/monthly-abortion-provision-study>

17 Guttmacher Institute (2025, April). Abortion in the United States. Retrieved January 30, 2026, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states>

18 Kortsmit K et al., Abortion surveillance—United States, 2021, MMWR Surveillance Summaries, 2023, Vol. 72, No. 9, retrieved February 6, 2026 from [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/ss/ss7209a1.htm?s\\_cid=ss7209a1\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/ss/ss7209a1.htm?s_cid=ss7209a1_w).

19 Guttmacher Institute (2024, June). Induced Abortion in the United States. Retrieved February 04, 2026, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states>

20 Guttmacher Institute (2025, April). Abortion in the United States. Retrieved January 30, 2026, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states>

21 Ibid.

22 Ramer S, Nguyen AT, Hollier LM, Rodenhizer J, Warner L, Whiteman MK. Abortion Surveillance — United States, 2022. MMWR Surveill Summ 2024;73(No. SS-7):1–28. Retrieved on February 6, 2026 from DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.ss7307a1>.

- Women in households with incomes under the federal poverty line experience more than 41% of all legal abortions in the United States.<sup>23</sup>
- In raw numbers, African Americans were more likely to receive an abortion as of July of 2022. Overall, 32% were white, 40% black, 21% Hispanic, and 7% of other backgrounds.<sup>24</sup>

## TYPE

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Abortions continued to be fairly steady in the stage in which abortions are being performed; 93 percent in the first 13 weeks or earlier.<sup>25</sup> While women still traveled for in-person abortions in early 2025, the rate of telehealth abortions has increased from 5 percent in 2022 to 27 percent in early 2025.<sup>26</sup>

- Medical abortions have increased to 63% of all abortions in 2023. That's a 10% increase since 2020, at least for those that have been reported.<sup>27</sup> Data shows that the average gestational age at which abortion occurs has shifted to earlier within the first trimester; likely due, in part, to the increased availability of medication abortions. In 2022, 40 percent of abortions occurred by six weeks of gestation, another 39 percent occurred between seven and nine weeks, and 53 percent at 10-13 weeks. Sadly, 7 percent of abortions occurred after the first trimester.<sup>28</sup>
- An estimated 591,770 abortions were tracked in states without total bans in the first 6 months of 2025. These counts only include information that has been available to track.<sup>29</sup>
- This increase in national totals appears to be driven by the increase in telehealth abortions or self-administered abortions. It is being reported that

23 Guttmacher Institute (2024, June). Induced Abortion in the United States. Retrieved February 04, 2026, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states>

24 Usha Ranji, Karen Diep, Bryana Castillo Sanchez, and Alina Salganicoff (2026, January 07). Key Facts on Abortion in the United States. Retrieved February 10, 2026, from <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/key-facts-on-abortion-in-the-united-states/?entry=table-of-contents-what-is-abortion>

25 Guttmacher Institute (2024, June). Induced Abortion in the United States. Retrieved February 10, 2026, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states>

26 Usha Ranji, Karen Diep, Bryana Castillo Sanchez, and Alina Salganicoff (2026, January 07). Key Facts on Abortion in the United States. Retrieved February 10, 2026, from <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/key-facts-on-abortion-in-the-united-states/?entry=table-of-contents-what-is-abortion>

27 Guttmacher Institute (2024, March). Medication Abortion Accounted for 63% of All US Abortions in 2023—An Increase from 53% in 2020. Retrieved January 26, 2026, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/2024/03/medication-abortion-accounted-63-all-us-abortions-2023-increase-53-2020>

28 Guttmacher Institute (2025, April). Abortion in the United States. Retrieved January 30, 2026, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states>

29 Society of Family Planning (2025, December 9). #WeCount report, April 2022 to June 2025. Retrieved February 20, 2026 from <https://societyfp.org/research/wecount/wecount-june-2025-data/>

1 in 4 abortions is now done through telehealth.<sup>30</sup> These numbers exclude shield laws (Abortion shield laws are state laws that protect abortion access by protecting abortion providers and patients from legal consequences in states where abortion is restricted or banned.).<sup>31</sup>

## AVAILABILITY

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The number of abortion facilities has declined, as well as the overall number of abortion providers. The increase of telehealth/self-administered abortions and shield laws has changed what the availability of abortion by pill looks like across the country.

- As of 2022, 53% of abortions are happening between 7-13 weeks gestation and 40% at 6 weeks gestation or earlier.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2022, it was estimated that over 60,000 abortions that year would happen after 15 weeks gestation (the period in which it has been shown that pain can be felt by the child in the womb).<sup>33</sup>
- The number of U.S. abortion-providing facilities declined 2% between 2024 and 2025 (from 765 to 753).
  - During 2025, the absolute overall number of abortion clinics decreased by 12 clinics.
  - As of February 2026, there are a total of 25 online-only clinics that provide services to 28 different states and the DC area.<sup>34</sup>
- In 2024, nearly 155,00 women seeking an abortion traveled out of state to have their abortions, a decrease of 15,000 women since the previous year. However, this number is still nearly double the number of those traveling since 2020.<sup>35</sup>

The number of interstate travel-related abortions has continued to increase in the states directly bordering states that have stricter abortion bans.<sup>36</sup>

As of February 2025, 22 states and D.C. have shield laws in place to aid in the

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30 Usha Ranji, Karen Diep, Bryana Castillo Sanchez, and Alina Salganicoff(2026, January 07). Key Facts on Abortion in the United States. Retrieved February 10, 2026, from <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/key-facts-on-abortion-in-the-united-states/?entry=table-of-contents-what-is-abortion>

31 Society of Family Planning. #WeCount Report April 2022 to March 2024, Released August 7, 2024, doi:<https://doi.org/10.46621/878086iuzegt>

32 Guttmacher Institute (2025, April). Abortion in the United States. Retrieved March 10, 2026, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states>

33 Charlotte Lozier Institute (2025, November 20). Questions and Answers on Late-Term Abortions. Retrieved March 10, 2026, from [https://lozierinstitute.org/questions-and-answers-on-late-term-abortion/#\\_ftn4](https://lozierinstitute.org/questions-and-answers-on-late-term-abortion/#_ftn4)

34 Guttmacher Institute (2026, February). Number of Brick-and-Mortar Abortion Clinics Declined Slightly Between 2024 and 2025. Retrieved February 20, 2024, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/abortion-clinics-united-states-2024-2025>

35 Society of Family Planning (2025, December 9). #WeCount report, April 2022 to June 2025. Retrieved February 20, 2026 from <https://societyfp.org/research/wecount/wecount-june-2025-data/>

36 Ibid.

protection of those providing this service. 12 states also require state-regulated private insurance plans to cover abortion.<sup>37</sup>

There are currently no federal mandatory reporting requirements in the United States.

## REVENUE AND COSTS

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Despite the difficulty in tracking the true cost of abortions, a few key reports show revenue for the abortion industry has continued to rise.

- In 2025, Planned Parenthood released a report for the years 2023-2024. The data indicated that Planned Parenthood generated over 2 billion dollars in income, and 2 million dollars of profit per year.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2025, Planned Parenthood states that the cost of an abortion ranged from \$580 to \$2,000 out-of-pocket, depending on the trimester of the abortion.<sup>39</sup>
  - Since the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*, a great number of abortion funds and independent organizations have grown or have been created. These funds pay for the costs of abortion services. The funds assist with the costs of medical care, travel, and accommodations if needed. This includes travel out of state.
  - Medicare and private insurance provide coverage for some abortions in 12 states. Insurance is also regulated by the laws currently in effect in the state providing the service.<sup>40</sup>
  - The cost of ordering a mail-ordered abortion pill ranges from \$0 through organizations like HeyJane (which bills insurance) and up to \$200 through Planned Parenthood, depending on state laws. However, if you cannot receive the mail-ordered medication in your state, due to the laws currently in place, sites like HeyJane provide information on how to obtain the medication around those laws.<sup>41</sup>

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37 Karen Diep, Bryana Castillo Sanchez, Usha Ranji, and Alina Salganicoff (2026, January 7). Abortion Trends Before and After Dobbs, retrieved March 10, 2026, from <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/abortion-trends-before-and-after-dobbs/>.

38 Charlotte Lozier (2025, May 12). Fact Sheet: Planned Parenthood's 2023-24 Annual Report. Retrieved March 10, 2026, from <https://lozierinstitute.org/fact-sheet-planned-parenthoods-2023-24-annual-report/>

39 Planned Parenthood, Attia (2025, April 13). How much does an abortion cost? Retrieved March 10, 2026, from <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/blog/how-much-does-an-abortion-cost>.

40 Karen Diep, Bryana Castillo Sanchez, Usha Ranji, and Alina Salganicoff (2026, January 7). Abortion Trends Before and After Dobbs, retrieved March 10, 2026, from <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/abortion-trends-before-and-after-dobbs/>.

41 HeyJane(2026). Find Abortion Care in Your State, retrieved March 10, 2026, from <https://www.heyjane.com/find-abortion>

## FERTILITY AND ABORTION

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Forty-three percent of abortions in 2023 were reported as “unwanted”, while forty-seven percent were considered to have happened too soon. The overall birth rate has also continued to decline.<sup>42</sup>

The total pregnancy rate continues to decline, as seen in data from 2024. The average woman is reported to have 1.6 births, ages 15–44. This is the lowest birth rate the United States has ever recorded.<sup>43</sup>

In 2021, an average of 25.5% of pregnancies were considered unintended (either too early or unwanted) across the United States.<sup>44</sup>

## THE ABORTION DECISION

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The average woman choosing abortion makes the decision within a day of confirming her pregnancy and obtains an abortion within the next week. The most frequently cited reason for abortion was financial.

- According to a study by abortion researchers, 4 days passed on average between the time a woman was first suspected of pregnancy and the time she confirmed the pregnancy. The median time from confirming the pregnancy to deciding to have an abortion happened in less than a 24 hour period, and the median time from deciding to have an abortion to first attempting to obtain abortion services was 2 days.<sup>45</sup> This means that on average, women have already made up their minds to have an abortion before confirming their pregnancy.
- Minors took a week longer to suspect pregnancy than adults did.
- 58% of women reported that they would have liked to have had the abortion earlier. The most common reasons for delay were that it took a long time to make arrangements (59%), to decide (39%), and to find out about the pregnancy (36%). Poor women were about twice as likely to be delayed by difficulties in making arrangements.<sup>46</sup>

While finances is still the highest cause for seeking an abortion (40%), timing

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42 Guttmacher Institute (2025, March). Pregnancy Trends in the United States. Retrieved March 11th, 2026, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/pregnancy-trends-united-states>.

43 Walsh, Rachel (January, 2026). Does the U.S. Have a Fertility Crisis?. Retrieved March 11, 2026, from <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2026/is-the-us-birth-rate-declining>.

44 America’s Health Rankings analysis of U.S. Department for Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Reproductive Health, Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), United Health Foundation, AmericasHealthRankings.org, accessed 2026, from [https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/unintended\\_pregnancy](https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/unintended_pregnancy).

45 Finer, L.B., Frohworth, L.F., Dauphinee, L.A., Singh, S. & Moore, A.M. (2018, October). Timing of steps and reasons for delays in obtaining abortions in the United States, *Contraception*, (74)(4):334-344, doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.contraception.2006.04.010>

46 Ibid

considerations seem to have grown as a cause over the last several years (36%).<sup>47</sup>

- Women’s reasons for seeking abortion included Rape and incest (0.4%), risk to the woman’s life or a major bodily function (0.3%), other physical health concerns (2.2%), abnormality in the unborn baby (1.2%), and elective and unspecified reasons (95.9%). This means that common exceptions to abortion limits are estimated to account for less than 5% of all abortions.<sup>48</sup>
- 38% of women indicate that the father of the baby was the most influential person in their abortion decision, making him the most common answer to the question of who influenced the woman’s decision.<sup>49</sup>
- 57% of women who obtained an abortion experienced a potentially traumatic life event in the 12 months leading up to their abortion. The most common factors included unemployment, a breakup, or falling behind on rent or mortgage.<sup>50</sup>

## MILLENNIALS

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The number of millennials that find themselves with less restrictive views on abortion has been rising for cases of first-trimester abortions, (69%).<sup>51</sup>

- In 2017, 49% of Millennials said they would support a ban on abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy if it were enacted in their state.<sup>52</sup>

However, in 2026, 61% of millennials said they believed abortion should be legal in all or most cases, while only 38% said it should be illegal or restricted in all or most cases.<sup>53</sup>

Also, 51% of Americans would consider themselves “pro-choice”, while 43% would consider themselves “pro-life”. This is a change that seems to have occurred starting in or around the year 2021.<sup>54</sup>

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47 Nichols, Hannah, Medical News Today (2025, February). What are the different reasons to have an abortion?, retrieved March 11, 2026, from <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/reasons-for-abortions>.

48 Elyse Gaitan, Mia Steupert, M.A., and Tessa Cox (May, 2024). Fact Sheet: Reasons for Abortion. Retrieved August 15, 2024, from <https://lozierinstitute.org/fact-sheet-reasons-for-abortion/>.

49 Lifeway Research (2015, November). Care Net Study of Women who have had an abortion and their views on the church (Rep.). Retrieved August 15, 2024, from <https://research.lifeway.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Care-Net-Final-Presentation-Report-Revised.pdf>

50 Jones, R. K., Frohwirth, L., & Moore, A. M. (2012). More than poverty: Disruptive events among women having abortions in the USA. *Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care*, 39(1), 36-43. doi:10.1136/jfprhc-2012-100311

51 Lydia Saad. (June 14, 2023). Broader Support for Abortion Rights Continues Post-Dobbs. Retrieved August 16, 2024, from <https://news.gallup.com/poll/506759/broader-support-abortion-rights-continues-post-dobbs.aspx>

52 Scott, E. (2018, January 31). Millennials have a surprising view on later-term abortions. Retrieved February 16, 2018, from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2018/01/31/millennials-have-a-surprising-view-on-later-term-abortions/>

53 Pew Research Center (2026, March 12). Fact Sheet: Public Opinion on Abortion. Retrieved March 17, 2026, from <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/fact-sheet/public-opinion-on-abortion/>

54 Gallup, (2025, October 7). Where Do Americans Stand on Abortion? Retrieved on March 11, 2026, from <https://news.gallup.com/poll/321143/americans-stand-abortion.aspx>

## GENERATION Z

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- 34% of Gen Z believe that abortion is illegal in all or most cases, and 66% believe that abortion should be legal in all or most cases.<sup>55</sup>
- In 2021, 30% of teens nationwide had never engaged in sexual intercourse. This is nearly a 20% decrease over the last several decades.<sup>56</sup>
- Reports in 2021 state that there is a decrease of Gen Z students having unprotected sex (7.9% vs. 12.7% previously).<sup>57</sup>

21% of Gen Z believe that sex before marriage is morally wrong; an increase from 19% of Millennials.<sup>58</sup>

Numbers continue to increase in the acceptance of cohabitating households and decrease in beliefs that marriage leads to a healthy environment for children to be raised in.<sup>59</sup>

Only 67% of Gen Z believe that marriage is important in raising children and 74% of this group believe that you can have a fulfilling life without children.<sup>60</sup>

## ADOPTION

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Adoption continues to decline as an option for many facing an unplanned pregnancy.

Intercountry adoptions have continually shown a decrease of 57% from 2019-2023.<sup>61</sup>

Looking at the landscape of adoption in America, there were over 3,000 fewer adoptions from 2023-2024.<sup>62</sup>

In one study, it was found that participants said that choosing adoption would mean abandoning their parental duty. In one interviewee's words, "I don't think

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55 Pew Research Center (2026, March 12). Fact Sheet: Public Opinion on Abortion. Retrieved March 17, 2026, from <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/fact-sheet/public-opinion-on-abortion/>

56 Gecker, Jocelyn, The Associated Press (2023, May 12). From "Sneaky Links" to "Situationships," Here's how Gen Z is Redefining Sex. Retrieved on August 16, 2024, from <https://fortune.com/well/2023/05/12/are-teenagers-having-sex-cdc-gen-z-situationships-sneaky-links/>

57 Bunnell, Rebecca, Houry, Debra, Walensky, Rochelle, et al. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance – United States, 2021. MMWR Suppl 2023; 72(1): 1-102. Retrieved on August 23, 2024, doi: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/su/pdfs/su7201-H.pdf>

58 Stone, R., Hempell, B., Hawkins, A., & Kinnaman, D. (2018). Gen Z The Culture, Beliefs and Motivations Shaping the Next Generation. Available from <https://www.barna.com/product/gen-z/>

59 U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 1940, and Current Population Survey, March and Annual Social and Economic Supplements, 1947 to 2025, retrieved March 17, 2026 from <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/visualizations/time-series/demo/families-and-households/hh-1.pdf>

60 Barna (2025, November). Marriage and Divorce in 2025: Five Trends Shaping Today's Families. Retrieved on March 17, 2026, from <https://www.barna.com/trends/marriage-divorce-trends-2025/>

61 Drumm, A. R., Davi, N., & Hanlon, R. (2025). Adoption by the numbers: 2021 & 2022. National Council For Adoption. Alexandria, VA. Retrieved on March 17, 2026, from <https://adoptioncouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Adoption-by-the-Numbers-2025-Highlights.pdf>

62 Davi, Nicole (2025, September 30). Foster Care and Adoption Statistics – AFCARS 2025 Update. Retrieved April 1, 2026, from <https://adoptioncouncil.org/article/foster-care-and-adoption-statistics/>

I could carry a child to term, deliver it and then kind of just hand it to someone else. I think at that time, if I am making that decision to keep the baby [instead of having an abortion], I think it's then up to me to be the parent."<sup>63</sup>

## ATTITUDES TOWARDS ABORTION

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The majority of Americans continue to view abortion as something that should be legal in most, if not all circumstances. A little over half of Americans state that it is still easy to get an abortion despite what laws are in place in their particular state.

- In 2026, 52% of people said, "The decision to have an abortion should belong solely to the pregnant woman". 60% of Americans also expressed the opinion that abortion should be legal in all or most circumstances in 2026. 11% said it should be illegal in all circumstances (which has declined over recent years).<sup>64</sup>
- Gestational age plays a large role in Americans' view of abortion legality. In 2023, 69% of Americans felt abortion should be "generally" legal in the first trimester, but that percentage dropped to 37% for the second trimester and 22% for the third trimester.<sup>65</sup>
  - o 57% of women and 40% of men think that abortion is morally acceptable.<sup>66</sup>
  - o In 2025, 60% of individuals ages 18-29; 52% of individuals ages 30-49; 48% of individuals ages 50 and older would call themselves "pro-choice".<sup>67</sup>

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63 Gutmacher (February 28, 2023). Pregnant People in the United States Seeking Abortion Do Not See Adoption as an Alternative. Retrieved on October 11, 2024, from <https://www.gutmacher.org/news-release/2023/pregnant-people-united-states-seeking-abortion-do-not-see-adoption-alternative>

64 Pew Research Center (2026, March 12) Majority of Americans Continue to Say Abortion Should Be Legal in All or Most Cases. Retrieved on March 17, 2026, from <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2026/03/12/majority-of-americans-continue-to-say-abortion-should-be-legal-in-all-or-most-cases/>

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## ABORTION & THE CHURCH

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More than 4 in 10 women who have had an abortion were churchgoers when they ended a pregnancy. “That’s a huge opportunity for the church to have an impact on those decisions,” said Scott McConnell, Executive Director of Lifeway Research. But only 7 percent of women discussed their abortion decision with anyone at church. Three-fourths (76 percent) say the church had no influence on their decision to terminate a pregnancy.<sup>68</sup>

- As of 2025, 54% of Christians said that their religious views should not influence their political decisions.<sup>69</sup>
  - 70% of women who have had an abortion indicate their religious preference is Christian, 27% were Catholics, 26% were protestant, and 15% were non-denominational.<sup>70</sup>
  - 35% of Christian women who have had an abortion indicate they currently attend church once a week or more.<sup>71</sup>
  - 36% of women were attending a Christian church once a month or more at the time of their first abortion.<sup>72</sup>
  - As women considered their abortion decision, the most typical reactions/expectations from a local church were “judgmental” (33%) or “condemning” (26%).<sup>73</sup>
  - 51% of women agree that churches do not have a ministry prepared to discuss options during an unplanned pregnancy.<sup>74</sup>
- According to a 2021 study on men and abortion:
  - A total of 51% of men were attending a Christian church once a month or more at the time of at least one of their partner’s abortions.
  - 72% of men whose partner has had an abortion believe church members judge unmarried couples who are pregnant.
  - 62% of men whose partner has had an abortion believe that churches are prepared to provide support to couples who choose to keep a child resulting from an unplanned pregnancy.

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69 Ligonier Ministries (2025). The State of Theology. Retrieved March 17, 2026, from <https://thestateoftheology.com/>

70 Lifeway Research (2015, November). Care Net Study of Women who have had an abortion and their views on the church (Rep.). Retrieved December 2, 2016, from <http://www.lifewayresearch.com/files/2015/11/Care-Net-Final-Presentation-Report-Revised.pdf>

71 Ibid.

72 Ibid.

73 Ibid.

74 Ibid.

- 49% of men whose partner has had an abortion would not recommend that someone discuss an unplanned pregnancy decision with someone at a local church.<sup>75</sup>
  
- In 2025, 32% of self-identified evangelicals who reported that they attend church at some point throughout the year, strongly agree with the statement “Abortion is a Sin.” This is a 2% decrease from the report in 2022. 67% of those who have reported that they attend church multiple times per week, strongly agree with the above statement.<sup>76</sup>
- In a survey completed across 2023-2024, American religious groups vary widely in their views of abortion. 47% of those who are part of the mainline Protestant tradition say abortion should be illegal in all or most cases, with 52% in support of keeping abortion legal.<sup>77</sup>
- “About three-quarters of White evangelical Protestants (74%) think abortion should be illegal in all or most cases. By contrast, 82% of religiously unaffiliated Americans say abortion should be legal in all or most cases, as do 68% of Black Protestants, 63% of White non-evangelical Protestants, and 57% of Catholics.”<sup>78</sup>

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