

Abortion fact sheet

Answering common questions and dispelling myths

- **Nearly one in four women in the United States will have an abortion** in her lifetime.
- Studies show **having an abortion does not increase a woman's risk of infertility, pregnancy-related hypertensive disorders, preterm birth, or breast cancer.**
- **Abortion is safer than childbirth in the US;** women are about 14 times more likely to die in childbirth than from an abortion.
- According to research, the most common emotion abortion patients report is relief. In one comprehensive study, **around 99% of abortion recipients said abortion was the right decision for them** — both immediately after their abortion and years later.
- **Many types of people have abortions for many reasons:** According to a 2014 study of nearly 8,400 American women who had abortions, almost 12% were under 20, about 60% were in their 20s, and 28% were at least 30; just under 60% of the recipients had at least one child already.
- While reasons for getting an abortion vary, they all revolve around the fact the individual is not ready to have a child. **Many opt for abortions to avoid bringing an unwanted child into the world, especially if they are already struggling to get by.**
- A 2018 investigation from the U.N. Human Rights Council noted a **"lack of access to abortion services traps many women in cycles of poverty,"** especially if they belong to marginalized racial or ethnic groups.
- Studies show **women have attained greater levels of education and increased their participation in the workforce as well as their earnings because of greater ability to control when or if they become pregnant.**
- Research also indicates **abortion access leads to better outcomes for children, with reductions in levels of child neglect and child poverty.**
- Per a 2012 report from the World Health Organization, **about 22 million unsafe abortions take place every year, resulting in the deaths of approximately 47,000 women and causing disabilities for 5 million more.**
- **Abortion remains necessary for some people, such as the 10-year-old in Ohio who had to travel to Indiana to obtain an abortion after becoming pregnant through rape.** To force a child to carry a pregnancy to term is simply cruel, to say nothing of the serious health risks.
- **Banning abortion doesn't stop abortions; it just forces people to turn to illegal and sometimes unsafe methods and increases the inequality between the haves and have-nots,** with a particularly devastating impact on people of color.
- **Everyone deserves body autonomy.** A decision as personal as this should come from the patient after consultation with medical experts; it certainly should not be made by politicians, many of whom have demonstrated profound ignorance about the female body and pregnancy.

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Further reading

- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277953619306999?via%3Dihub>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/maternal-mortality-2021/maternal-mortality-2021.htm>
- <https://www.umassmed.edu/news/news-archives/2019/05/who-are-the-1-in-4-american-women-who-choose-abortion/>
- <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/characteristics-us-abortion-patients-2014#>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK507237/>
- <https://www.ansirh.org/research/ongoing/turnaway-study>
- <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1629536?ln=en>
- <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2022/06/30/the-end-of-roe-will-create-more-inequality-of-opportunity-for-children/>
- <https://www.guttmacher.org/journals/psrh/2007/abortion-among-young-women-and-subsequent-life-outcomes>
- <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/abortion>
- https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/75173/WHO_RHR_12.01_eng.pdf;jsessionid=E05B1F242442874AD307EA68A3744F12?sequence=1
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK138200/?report=classic>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK430793/>