

The Second Look Project

Statistics

Why

Women who have had abortions cite the following reasons: ^{1,2}

- 21% can't afford a baby
- 21% are unready for responsibility
- 16% concerned about how having a baby could change their lives
- 12% have problems with relationship or want to avoid single parenthood
- 11% are not mature enough/are too young to have children
- 8% have all the children they want/have all grown-up children
- 3% possible fetal health problem
- 3% maternal health problem
- 1% pregnancy resulted from rape or incest
- 1% husband/partner wants them to have abortion
- 1% don't want others to know they had sex or are pregnant

When

Abortions occur at the following gestational times: ^{3,4}

- 23% in the first 6 weeks - 301,300 annually
- 34.5% in the seventh or eighth week - 451,950 annually
- 19.5% in the ninth or tenth week - 255,450 annually
- 10% in the eleventh or twelfth week - 131,000 annually
- 6.0% in the thirteenth through fifteenth weeks - 78,600 annually
- 4.5% in the sixteenth through twentieth weeks - 58,950 annually
- 1.5% at twenty-one weeks or more - 19,650 annually

How Many

Current abortion rates

- There are 1.31 million abortions in the U.S. each year. ⁵
- 48% of women now seeking abortion have had at least one previous abortion. ⁶
- The U.S. abortion rate is among the highest of developed countries. ⁷
- The U.S. abortion rate per 100 pregnancies is 24.5. ⁸

Notes

1. The Alan Guttmacher Institute, "Reasons Why Women Have Induced Abortions: Evidence from 27 Countries" *Family Planning Perspectives*, Vol. 24 (August 1998).
2. The Alan Guttmacher Institute, "U.S. Women Who Obtain Abortions: Who and Why?" *Family Planning Perspectives*, Vol. 4, (July/August 1988).
3. The Alan Guttmacher Institute, "An Overview of Abortion in the United States" (2003).
4. Elam-Evans L et al., "Abortion surveillance—United States, 2000", *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 2003, 52(SS 12).
5. The Alan Guttmacher Institute, "Induced Abortion" *Facts in Brief* (2003).
6. Ibid.
7. The Alan Guttmacher Institute, "Abortion in Context: United States and Worldwide" *Issues in Brief*, 1999 No. 1 (1999).
8. The Alan Guttmacher Institute, "Abortion Incidence and Services In the United States in 2000." *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, Vol. 35, (Jan/Feb 2003)

ABORTION

Have We Gone Too Far?

THE SECOND LOOK PROJECT ➔

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