

What's So Bad About Abortion?

Advocates of abortion sell it as a benefit to women. But more and more evidence leads to the conclusion that no such "benefit" has ever caused more damage to women's lives, health, and role in society.

It is widely admitted that abortion ends the life of a child. But what does it do to the mother?

1. Women die from abortion

Women still die from the abortion procedure, as well as from complications that occur afterwards.¹

Studies also show that women with abortion histories have an increased risk of dying from a variety of causes after abortion.²

2. Abortion creates physical problems

In the US, over 140,000 women a year have immediate medical complications from abortion such as hemorrhaging, infection, uterine perforation or continued pregnancy.³

Long-term health problems include an increased risk of breast, cervical and ovarian cancer. Abortion can also lead to infertility due to hysterectomies, pelvic inflammatory disease and miscarriage.⁴

Abortion can cause the following complications during future pregnancies: premature birth, placenta previa, and ectopic pregnancy.⁵

3. Abortion creates psychological problems

After an abortion many women find themselves dealing with increased use of drugs and/or alcohol, reoccurring insomnia and nightmares, eating disorders, suicidal feelings, and attempted suicide.

Women experience difficulty in maintaining or de-

veloping relationships, loneliness, isolation, anger, fear of the unknown, indecision and a sense of self-hatred.

Numerous studies reveal the psychological harm of abortion and show that aborting a child is more damaging than carrying the baby to term.

4. Abortion is a form of racism

Planned Parenthood identifies its core client as young, low-income women of color. Abortion clinics are located in urban areas. Black and Hispanic women represent only a quarter of American women of child-bearing age, yet account for more than half of all abortions in the US.⁶

5. Women are pressured and coerced

64% of American women report feeling pressured by others to abort the baby.⁸ Family, friends, employers, schools, and sexual predators often demand the woman have an abortion. In some cases, parents threaten to kick the girl out of the home. Boyfriends and husbands threaten abandonment. Women are told by friends that having a baby will ruin their lives and having an abortion will solve their problem.

6. Abortion increases violence against pregnant women

Coercion can lead to physical violence. Women who refuse to abort have been subjected to beatings, gunshots, stabbings and strangulation. Research shows the target of violence during pregnancy shifts from a woman's face and breasts to her pregnant belly. In one study of violent deaths among pregnant women, three out of every four were killed during their first 20 weeks of pregnancy.⁷ Women are literally being beaten and killed for refusing to abort. The leading cause of death during pregnancy is homicide.⁹

7. Abortion allows society to abandon women

Our culture has come to depend upon abortion so that individuals, social organizations, government, and churches don't have to get involved. It often frees many men from taking responsibility for their sexual promiscuity.



Though abortion is advertised as "freedom of choice," women end up aborting because they feel they have no freedom and no choice.

8. Abortion harms future relationships

Women struggle with issues of trust after an abortion. They ask "How can we trust those who said they loved us and then allowed us to go through the pain of abortion?"

It affects how women relate to future children. They have difficulty bonding and with them and often become over-protective.

Abortion is a secret women often keep from their spouses, children, or parents, because they fear being judged. Yet they know if they want to seek healing, they must tell them.

9. Abortion affects women spiritually

Many women turn away from God or fear a 'greater power' because deep down inside they know they have taken the life of another human-being, their baby.

10. Abortion compromises who we are as women

Abortion perpetuates the myth that women cannot handle motherhood and also fulfill their role in society.

Women are designed to give life and nurture it.

When mothers abort their children, they interfere with the natural process of pro-creation and it leaves an imprint on their heart that never goes away but is often denied.



Abortion is the most common medical procedure performed in America, but the experience is rarely discussed. That is why many of us are breaking our silence and sharing our stories through the Silent No More Awareness Campaign.

The Silent No More Awareness Campaign has three goals:

Reach out to people hurt by abortion, encouraging them to attend abortion after-care programs. Invite those who are ready to break the silence to join us in speaking the truth about abortion's negative consequences and the hope found in healing.

Educate the public that abortion is harmful emotionally, physically and spiritually to women, men and families, so that it becomes unacceptable for anyone to recommend abortion as a 'fix' for a problem pregnancy.

Share our personal testimonies of hurt and healing to help others avoid the pain of abortion.

Please help us get our message out by sharing the information contained in this brochure with others.



The Silent No More Awareness Campaign is a project of Priests for Life and Anglicans for Life.

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1. Pregnancy-associated mortality after birth, spontaneous abortion or induced abortion in Finland, 1987-2000." In the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, 2004 and "Deaths associated with pregnancy outcome: a record linkage study of low income women." Southern Medical Journal, August 2002, 95(8):834-841

2. Goldner TE, Lawson HW, Xia Z, Atrash HK. Surveillance for ectopic pregnancy—United States, 1970-1989. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, Centers for Disease Control Surveillance Summary 1993 December; 42((SS-6)):73-85.* Council on Scientific Affairs AMA. Induced termination of pregnancy before and after Roe v Wade. Trends in the mortality and morbidity of women. Journal of the American Medical Association 1992 December 9;268(22):3231-9.* Council of Scientific Affairs AMA. Induced termination of pregnancy before and after Roe v Wade. Trends in the mortality and morbidity of women. Journal of the American Medical Association 1992 December 9;268(22):3231-9.

3. This is based on a complication rate of 11% and assuming the yearly abortion rate is 1.3 million US women a year. Most abortion advocates claim the complication rate is only 1%, but this is inaccurate when the data is analyzed. According to the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in the UK, the immediate physical complication rate from abortions is at least 11%, primarily infections that can lead to a host of other problems including pain and infertility. The UK statistics have been recently published in January of 2001. See: Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (UK). The care of women requesting induced abortion: 4. Information for women. 2000. You can quickly find the data at: www.rcog.org.uk/guidelines.asp?PageID=108&GuidelinesID=31. On the web page click on Induced Abortion—Care of Women. This number is probably greater because complications are underreported, but due to the magnitude of abortions in the US many women suffer.

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6. Centers for Disease Control Website, 2007 Abortion Surveillance --- United States, 2004, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss5511a1.htm>.

7. About: Pregnancy & Childbirth Website, Article: Domestic Violence in Pregnancy, <http://pregnancy.about.com/cs/domesticviolence/a/domesticviol.htm>

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9 I.L. Horton and D. Cheng. "Enhanced Surveillance for Pregnancy-Associated Mortality-Maryland, 1993-1998," JAMA 285 (11): 1455-1459 (2001); see also J. McFarlane et. al., "Abuse During pregnancy and Femicide: Urgent Implications for Women's Health," Obstetrics & Gynecology 100: 27-36 (2002)

This brochure was written by Georgette Forney, a woman with personal abortion experience.

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