
The Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI)
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The annual number of legal abortions increased through the 1970s, leveled off in the 1980s and fell in the 1990s.

Number of abortions (in 000s)

* By the end of 1970, four states had repealed their antiabortion laws, and 11 states had reformed them. The pre-1973 numbers listed are LEGAL abortions.

Deaths from abortion declined dramatically after legalization.

*By the end of 1970, four states had repealed their antiabortion laws, and 11 states had reformed them. The pre-1973 numbers listed are LEGAL abortions.

The abortion rate rose following nationwide legalization, but began to decline in the 1980s.

Note: Prior to the nationwide legalization of abortion, information on the number and rate of abortions was not gathered, and estimates of illegal and self-induced abortions varied widely. In the years immediately following the Roe v Wade decision, the number of LEGAL abortions grew rapidly for several reasons. The number of physicians trained and experienced in the procedure increased, and a nationwide network of outpatient abortion clinics developed that enabled women who would previously have had an illegal abortion, or would not have been able to obtain one at all, to do so legally in a medical facility.

The abortion rate among teenagers has been declining since the late 1980s.

White women account for the majority of abortions, but the proportion of abortions that are provided to white women has declined steadily.

Note: In 1989, the survey wording changed, and the nonwhite category was further refined into black and other.

The proportion of abortions that are obtained by Hispanic women has increased over the past decade.

Note: In 1991, the survey wording changed, and women were asked to identify themselves as white non-Hispanic, black non-Hispanic, Asian or Pacific Islander, or Native American.

Abortion rates are highest among black and Hispanic women.

Poor and low-income women account for more than half of U.S. abortions.

% of abortions

1987 1994 2000

% of poverty

More than 80% of women having abortions are unmarried.

Since 1990, a majority of women having abortions have been mothers.

Many women obtaining abortions have had a previous abortion, but the proportion has stabilized over time.

Nearly 90% of abortions occur in the first three months of pregnancy.

The number of U.S. abortion providers rose until 1982 and has declined since.

Number of providers

- Hospital providers
- Small nonhospital providers*
- Large nonhospital providers†

*Sites providing fewer than 400 abortions per year.
†Sites providing 400 or more abortions per year.

The percentage of U.S. counties with no abortion provider has remained high.

About one-third of women live in a county with no abortion provider.

After remaining stable for many years, the inflation-adjusted cost of an abortion has begun to rise.

Note: Also known as the cost-of-living index, the government’s consumer price index measures changes in the price of typical consumer goods.

The number of states paying for medically necessary abortions for women on Medicaid has not changed greatly over the past 20 years.

Number of states (including DC)

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* Arkansas funded only from January 1, 1998, to June 30, 1998.

Increasingly, states mandate parental involvement in a minor’s decision to have an abortion.

Note: Some state courts have enjoined the enforcement of laws whose restrictions they say violate their states’ constitutions.