The Basics

A compilation of recent and noteworthy information on the abortion issue

“Probably nothing has been as damaging to our cause as the advances in technology which have allowed pictures of the developing fetus, because people now talk about the fetus in much different terms than they did 15 years ago. They talk about it as a human being, which is not something that I have an easy answer on how to cure.”

-- Harrison Hickman, pollster for the National Abortion Rights Action League.

Not Just Numbers

In the United States...

There have been more than 47 million abortions since 1973.

There were nearly 1.3 million abortions in 2002.

There were over 3,500 abortions per day, 147 per hour, about one every 25 seconds in 2002.

For every 1,000 live births, there were 319 abortions in 2002.

There were more than 148,000 second and third trimester abortions 2001.

Every year, more unborn children die from abortion than Americans died in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World Wars I and II, the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf Wars combined.
Why do women have abortions?

Social Reasons

Social Reasons

93%

7%

“Hard Cases”


Social Reasons

given as primary reason

- Feels unready for child/responsibility 25%
- Feels she can’t afford baby 23%
- Has all children she wants/other family responsibilities 19%
- Relationship problem/single motherhood 8%
- Feels she isn’t mature enough 7%
- Interference with education/career plans 4%
- Parents/partner wants abortion >1%
- Other reasons >6.5%

TOTAL approx 93%

“Hard Cases”

given as primary reason

- Mother’s health 4%
- Baby may have health problem 3%
- Rape >0.5%

TOTAL approx 7%

Poll

An April 2004 Zogby poll found that 56% of Americans support legal abortion in only three or fewer circumstances: when the pregnancy results from rape or incest or when it threatens the life of the mother.

Abortion as Big Business

Using an average cost of $372 per abortion,* the abortion business is at least a $400 million a year industry.

How things change...

Planned Parenthood, 1963

“An abortion kills the life of the baby after it has begun.”

Planned Parenthood, 2004

Now the “industry leader” in the abortion business, responsible for over 250,000 annual abortions, nearly 17% of all abortions performed in the U.S.

--- ESTIMATED 2004 PLANNED PARENTHOOD ---

REVENUES* FROM ABORTION:

$94,865,580.00

* This takes into consideration the average cost of first trimester abortions only. Second and third trimester abortions, which usually account for 10-12% of the annual total abortions, typically cost considerably more ($400-1500+). These estimates count all abortions as first trimester abortions and are, therefore, extremely conservative.