

# 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.



## Diary of an Unborn Baby

### Day 1

\* fertilization: all human chromosomes present; unique human life begins

### Day 6

\* embryo begins implanting in the uterus

### Day 22

\* heart begins to beat with the child's own blood, often a different blood type than the mother's

### Week 5

\* eyes, legs, hands begin to develop

### Week 6

\* brain waves detectable;<sup>1</sup> mouth, lips present; fingers forming<sup>2</sup>



### Week 7

\* eyelids, toes form; nose distinct, baby kicking and swimming<sup>3</sup>

### Week 8

\* every organ in place;<sup>4</sup> bones,<sup>5</sup> fingerprints<sup>2</sup> begin to form

### Weeks 9 and 10

\* teeth begin to form, fingernails develop;<sup>5</sup> baby can turn head,<sup>5</sup> frown<sup>2</sup>



### Week 11

\* baby can grasp objects placed in hand<sup>2</sup>

### Week 17

\* baby can have dream (REM) sleep<sup>1</sup>

Unless otherwise noted, information on fetal development taken from Keith L. Moore and T.V.N. Persaud, *The Developing Human*, 5th ed. (Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Co., 1993).

1. Hamlin, *JAMA*, 10/12/64. 2. Flanagan, *The First Nine Months*, 1965. 3. Valman & Pearson, *BMJ*, 1/26/80. 4. Nilsson, *A Child is Born*, 1990. 5. Rugh & Shettles, *From Conception to Birth*, 1971. 6. P.E. Rockwell, *Markle v. Abele*, U.S. Supreme Court, 1971. 7. *AMA News*, 2/1/83. Full citations available upon request.

## 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.

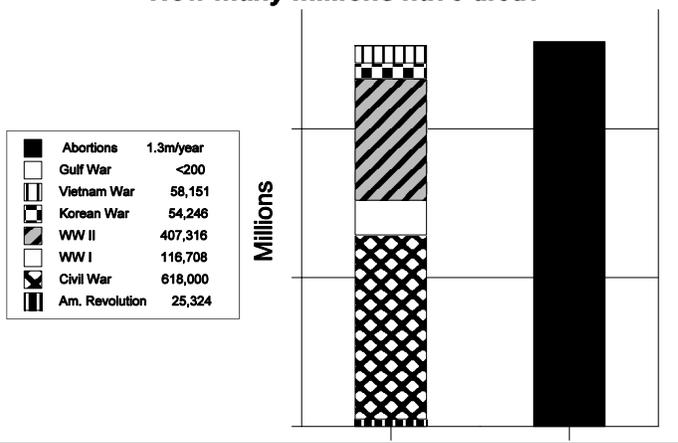
For every **1,000 live births**, there were **319 abortions in 2002**.

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.

## The War on the Unborn

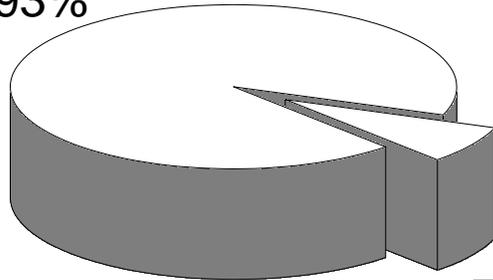
*How many millions have died?*



## Why do women have abortions?

### Social Reasons

93%



7%

### "Hard Cases"

Data from Lawrence Finer, et al, "Reasons U.S. Women Have Abortions: Quantitative and Qualitative Perspectives," *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, Vol. 37, No. 3 (Sept., 2005), p. 110.

### 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%

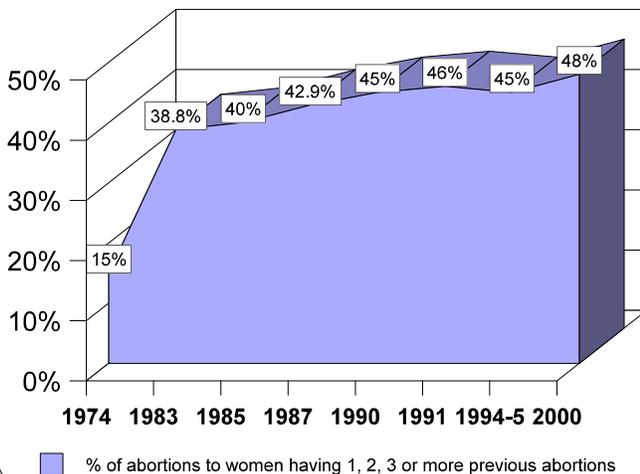
## Poll Fact

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.

## REPEAT BUSINESS



*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.<sup>00</sup>**

\* 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.

DATA SOURCES: Quote of Hickman from NARAL 20th Anniversary Conference, October, 1989. Number of annual abortions based on figures from the Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI). Number of total abortions from 1973 to 2002 based on figures from AGI, with estimates of 1.293 million abortions for 2003-2005, and a 3% correction for undercounting (AGI has estimated a 3-6% undercounting rate). Ratio of abortions to live births and number of abortions at 13 weeks and beyond taken from AGI figures, Finer, LB and Henshaw, SK, "Estimates of U.S. Abortion Incidence in 2001 and 2002," Alan Guttmacher Institute, ., 2005, [http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/2005/05/18/ab\\_incidence.pdf](http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/2005/05/18/ab_incidence.pdf), accessed May 17, 2005, and AGI Fact Sheet, "Facts on Abortion in the United States," [http://guttmacher.org/pubs/fb\\_induced\\_abortion.html](http://guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_induced_abortion.html), accessed May 25, 2006. Average cost of a first trimester abortion taken from *Perspectives on Sexual and Repro Health*, Jan/Feb 03. Repeat abortion figures for 1983 and 1987 from *Family Planning Perspectives (FPP)*, Vol. 20, No. 4 (July/August 1988), p. 159. Repeat abortion figures for 1985, 1990, and 1991 from S.K. Henshaw and J. Van Vort, "Abortion Services in the United States, 1991 and 1992," *FPP*, Vol. 26, (1994) p. 100. Repeat abortion figures for 1994-1995 from S.K. Henshaw and K. Kost, "Abortion Patients in 1994-1995: Characteristics and Contraceptive Use," *FPP*, Vol. 28, No. 4 (July/August 1996), p. 143. Repeat abortion figures for 2000 from R.K. Jones, J.E. Darroch & S.K. Henshaw, *FPP*, Vol. 34, No. 5 (Sept. - Oct. 2002) p. 230. Planned Parenthood data developed from PPFA 2004 on-line Service Report, <http://www.plannedparenthood.org/pp2/portal/files/portal/medicalinfo/birthcontrol/fact-pp-services-2003.xml>, accessed 5/26/06. 1963 quote from 1963 PPFA pamphlet. All sources on file.

