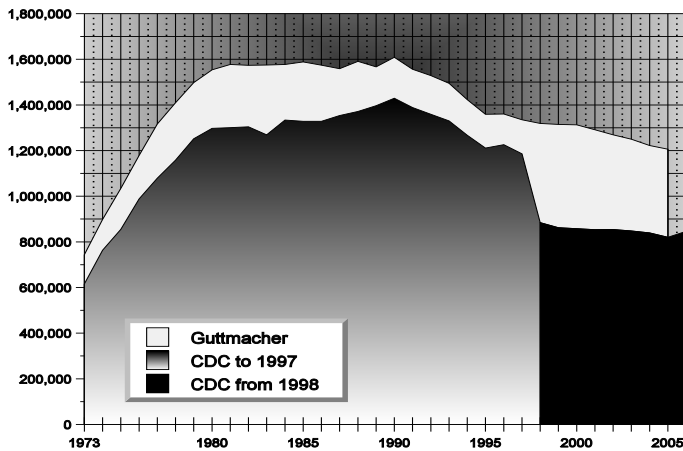


## Reported Annual Abortions 1973 - 2006



	GI	CDC
1973	744,600	615,831
1974	898,600	763,476
1975	1,034,200	854,853
1976	1,179,300	988,267
1977	1,316,700	1,079,430
1978	1,409,600	1,157,776
1979	1,497,700	1,251,921
1980	1,553,900	1,297,606
1981	1,577,300	1,300,760
1982	1,573,900	1,303,980
1983	1,575,000	1,268,987
1984	1,577,200	1,333,521
1985	1,588,600	1,328,570
1986	1,574,000	1,328,112
1987	1,559,100	1,353,671
1988	1,590,800	1,371,285
1989	1,566,900	1,396,658
1990	1,608,600	1,429,247
1991	1,556,500	1,388,937
1992	1,528,900	1,359,146
1993	1,495,000	1,330,414
1994	1,423,000	1,267,415
1995	1,359,400	1,210,883
1996	1,360,160	1,225,937
1997	1,335,000	1,186,039
1998	1,319,000	884,273*
1999	1,314,800	861,789*
2000	1,312,990	857,475*
2001	1,291,000	853,485*
2002	1,269,000	854,122*
2003	1,250,000	848,163*
2004	1,222,100	839,226*
2005	1,206,200	820,151*
2006	1,206,200 §	846,181*
2006-08	1,206,200 §	

§ NRIC base figure  
\*excludes NH, CA, and at least one other state

# ABORTION statistics

United States Data and Trends

## Downward Trend

After reaching a high of over 1.6 million in 1990, the number of abortions annually performed in the U.S. has dropped back to levels not seen since the late 1970s.

Two independent sources confirm this overall decline: the government's Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Guttmacher Institute (GI), which was once a special research affiliate of abortion chain Planned Parenthood.

The CDC ordinarily develops its annual report on the basis of data received from 52 central health agencies (50 states plus New York City and the District of Columbia). GI gets its numbers from direct surveys of abortionists.

Because of these different methods of data collection, GI has consistently obtained higher counts than the CDC. CDC researchers have admitted it probably undercounts the total number of abortions because reporting laws vary from state to state and some abortionists probably do not report or under-report the abortions they perform. Nevertheless, because increases and decreases in CDC and GI numbers have until recently roughly tracked each other, both sources are thought to provide useful information on abortion trends and statistics. The CDC stopped reporting estimates for some states in 1998, making the discrepancy larger.

Abortions from CA and NH have not been counted by the CDC since 1998, and other states have been missing from the totals during that time frame: OK in 1998, AK from 1998 to 2002, WV in 2003 and 2004, LA in 2005-6. For areas that did report, additional declines were seen in every year except 2002 and 2006, when small increases were reported.

GI's latest survey confirms a long term downward trend, showing just over 1.2 million abortions nationwide for 2005, a drop of 8% from its last full comprehensive survey in 2000. This is the lowest number reported by Guttmacher since 1976.

Using GI figures through 2005, estimating 1,206,200 abortions for 2006-2009, and factoring in the possible 3% undercount GI estimates for its own figures, the total number of abortions performed in the U.S. since 1973 equals 52,008,665.

## The Consequences of *Roe v. Wade*

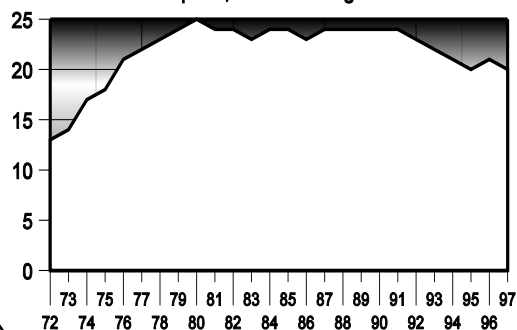
# 52,008,665

## Total abortions since 1973

Based on numbers reported by the Guttmacher Institute 1973-2005, with estimates of 1,206,200 for 2006-2009. GI estimates a possible 3% under reporting rate, which is factored into the total. 01/10

## U.S. Abortion Rate

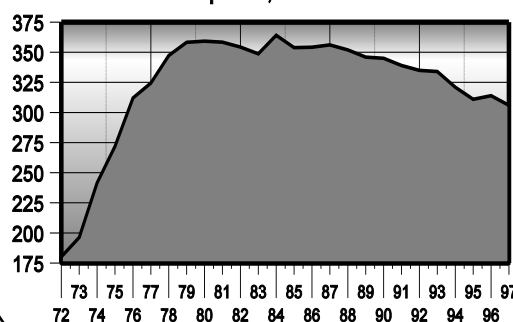
abortions per 1,000 women ages 15-44



□ CDC reported figures, 1972-1997

## U.S. Abortion Ratio

abortions per 1,000 live births



■ CDC figures, 1972-1997

## A Closer Look:

# Factors Involved in Abortion Decline

One thing CDC figures show is that the drop in annual abortions is not simply due to a drop in the overall population of women of childbearing age in the U.S. As the baby boom generation ages and is replaced by the more sparsely populated "Generation X" (the 40 million or so born between 1962 and 1978 who grew up with abortion on demand and whose ranks took the first big hit from *Roe v. Wade*), the numbers of abortions would be expected to decline even if the overall per-centage of pregnant women remained the same.

But a decline not only in the raw numbers of abortions, but also the rate and ratio of abortions, is a clear indication that something more than mere population shifts are involved.

The abortion **rate** refers to the number of abortions per 1,000 women of childbearing age in the U.S. each year. For 1997, the last year there was CDC data for all 50 states, there were 20 abortions per 1,000 women ages 15-44, five less per thousand than in 1980, when the highest rate was recorded. CDC data from 2004 yielded an abortion rate of 16, though this excluded California, New Hampshire, and West Virginia. For nearly 15 years (1978-1992), the abortion rate stayed around 23 or 24 per 1,000, so the drop back to the 1976 level is significant. Recent figures are an indication that, in the last few years, abortion has become a less common feature in the lives of women who could have gotten pregnant.

With a lowered rate alone, however, the argument could still be made that this drop was simply due to an overall decline in the number

of pregnancies, because of increased contraceptive use or a shift in the concentration of the fertile female population within the age bracket from younger to older less fertile women. Of those women who became pregnant, it would still be mathematically possible that the same percentage, or an even a higher percentage, had abortions as in previous years. That the abortion rate, and not just the abortion ratio, declined, indicates this was not the case.

The abortion **ratio** tells how many abortions there are for every 1,000 live births. Because this figure does not include miscarriages and stillbirths, it cannot give a strict percentage of those pregnancies ending in abortion. But it does give us some indication of abortion's prevalence among pregnant women.

According to the CDC, there were 306 abortions for every 1,000 live births in 1997. The ratio was even lower in the latest CDC report, at 238 per thousand births for 2004, but this excluded data from three states. Both figures are substantially lower than the average of 354 per 1,000 that held throughout the 1980's. Again, one has to go back to 1976 to find a lower yearly abortion ratio. What this means, if miscarriage and stillbirth rates remained stable, is that a substantially lower proportion of pregnant women are now choosing to abort their babies than was the case a few years ago.

Though some states stopped reporting abortions to the CDC after 1997, declines in abortion rates and ratios were still seen in areas

that continued to report after that date.

What accounts for this decline? Various reports have cited increased contraceptive use, "decreased access" to abortion services, or "harassment" as possible explanations, but one plausible factor, cited by the CDC itself, was "changes in attitudes concerning abortion."

Pro-life legislation has undoubtedly had an impact. Since 1989, twenty-three states have passed "right to know" legislation, making sure women know not only the risks and realities of abortion, but also of alternatives that are better for them and their unborn children.

Twenty-eight states now have substantive parental involvement laws in place, protecting teens from adolescent fears and exploitation from the abortion industry. Waiting periods and limits on taxpayer funding of abortion have also probably played significant roles.

Millions of pieces of pro-life educational literature illustrating fetal development have been distributed, confirming what more and more women are seeing for themselves in sonograms and hearing on fetal heartbeat stethoscopes -- that abortion stops a beating heart and ends the lives of children with hands, feet, and faces.



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