

## **Facts about Abortion in America\***

\*Unless specified otherwise, data presented here comes from the Guttmacher Institute surveys and fact sheets.

### **Why does the issue of abortion affect you?**

Nearly one in four women in the United States (24%) will have an abortion by age 45. Nearly half (45%) of all pregnancies among U.S. women in 2011 were unintended, and about four in 10 of these were terminated by abortion.

### **How many abortions are performed in America?**

Approximately 930,160 abortions were performed in 2020, an 8% increase from 862,320 in 2017, reversing a decades long decline in the number of abortions. In 2020, 1 in every 5 pregnancies in ended in abortion, about half the number of pregnancy terminations in 1981.

### **What is the breakdown by age of women who obtain abortions?**

The majority of women having abortions are in their 20s and account for approximately 60% of all abortions.

- Women ages 20–24 (34%)
- Women ages 25–29 (27%)

Teens account for 12% of all abortions (2014). Most have abortions in their older teens (18-19 - 8%). The number of teens having abortions has declined by about half since 2008. This difference is attributed to improved access to and use of contraception among adolescents.

### **What is the demographic profile of women who obtain abortions?**

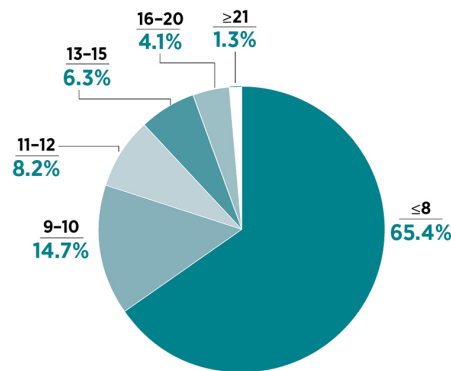
- White women account for 39%, African Americans 28%, Hispanics 25% and all other ethnicities 9%.
- In 2014, 1 in 10 abortion patients had incomes below the federal poverty line (\$11,670 for a single woman with no children).
- This same study found that 53% of patients paid out-of-pocket for their abortion and 24% used Medicaid.
- In 2014, 59% of women seeking abortion had at least one previous birth; 41% had no prior births.
- 5 out of 10 women who have abortions identify as being religiously affiliated (17% Mainline protestant, 13% Evangelical Protestant, 24% as Catholic, and 38% had no religious affiliation).
- Women who've never been married and are not cohabitating account for 46% of all abortions.
- In 2014, 51% of abortion patients were using a contraceptive method in the month they became pregnant.
- The survey asked about sexual identity and found that unintended pregnancy is not limited to heterosexual women (94% of abortion patients identified as heterosexual or straight, 4% as bisexual, 1% percent as “something else” and 0.3% as homosexual, gay or lesbian).

### **What are the reasons women have abortions?**

- Not ready for a(nother) child/timing is wrong (25%)
- Can't afford a baby now (23%)
- Have completed my childbearing/have other people depending on me/children are grown (19%)
- Don't want to be a single mother/am having relationship problems (8%)
- Don't feel mature enough to raise a(nother) child/feel too young (7%)
- Would interfere with education or career plans (4%)
- Physical problems with my health (4%)
- Possible problems affect the health of the fetus (3%)
- Was a victim of rape (0.5%)
- Husband or partner wants me to have an abortion (0.5%)
- Parents want me to have an abortion (0.5%)
- Don't want people to know I had sex or got pregnant (0.5%)
- Other (6%)

WHEN WOMEN HAVE ABORTIONS

**In 2016, two-thirds of abortions occurred at eight weeks of pregnancy or earlier, and 88% occurred in the first 12 weeks.**



[www.guttmacher.org](http://www.guttmacher.org)

**At what point in pregnancy do abortions occur?**

*Preliminary data from a 2020 study show that 54% of abortions occurring within the first 9 weeks are medical abortions.*

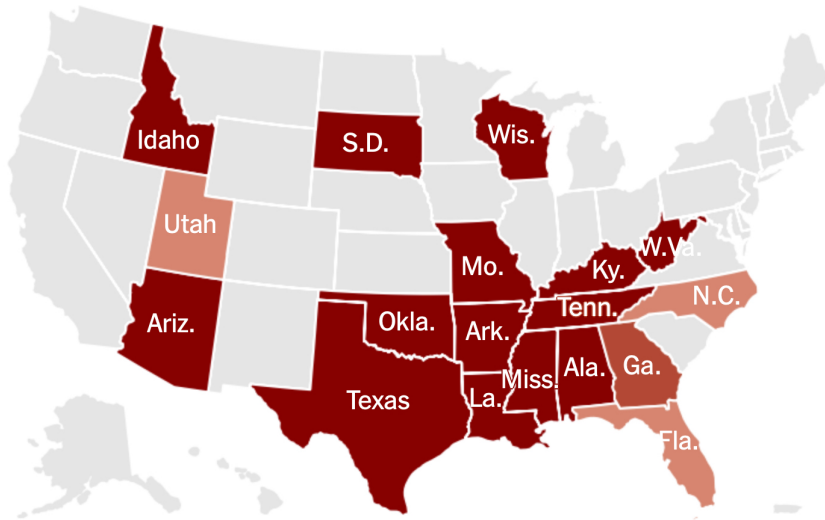
***Which States Ban Abortion?***

As of September 2022 these states had enacted abortion bans:\*\*

\*\*Source: **The New York Times**, Updated Sept. 23, 2022, 7:30 P.M. ET

## Banned

■ Full ban ■ Six weeks ■ 15, 18 or 20 weeks



### What happens when a woman is denied an abortion?\*\*\*

- Denying a woman an abortion creates economic hardship and insecurity which lasts for years.
- Women denied an abortion had almost 4 times greater odds of a household income below the federal poverty level and 3 times greater odds of being unemployed.
- Women denied an abortion are more likely to stay in contact with a violent partner. They are also more likely to raise the resulting child alone.

\*\*\* Source: The Turnaway Study, ANSIRH, University of California, San Francisco.