

# SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY

## 2021 FACT SHEET

### IN THE NATION AND WORLD

- From 1973 to 2017 more than 60 million lives have been lost to abortion worldwide. Annually, an estimated one million abortions are performed in the US.
- Further, the Guttmacher institute also estimates that “during 2010–2014, an estimated 56 million induced abortions occurred each year worldwide.
- The US, along with North Korea, Canada, and China are the only four countries that allow abortion on demand at any time during all nine months of pregnancy.
- In 2014, nearly two in ten pregnancies in the US ended in abortion. Also, abortion rates from that same year indicate that one in four women will have an abortion by age 45 and one in five by age 30.
- Nine out of ten abortions are performed in the first 13 weeks of pregnancy.
- As the birth rate continues to slowly decline, nearly half of pregnancies are reported as “unplanned.”
- Most women who chose abortion are in their 20s and have already had at least one child.
- Per capita, African-American women were nearly 3 times more likely to experience abortion than white women.
- The average woman choosing abortion makes the decision within a day of confirming her pregnancy and obtains an abortion within the next week. The most frequently reason for abortion was financial.
- Fewer Americans view abortion as a moral issue and the percentage who consider it morally wrong has also declined. Currently, 43% of American adults believe abortion is morally acceptable.

### IN ALASKA

- Abortion has been legal in Alaska since 1970, nearly 3 years before Roe v. Wade made it legal in all 50 states.
- There were 1,270 abortions reported in Alaska in 2019, down from 1,283 reported the previous year.
- Alaska residents accounted for 98.1 percent of abortions in the state.
- Women under 25 years old accounted for 37.5 percent of induced terminations in Alaska, compared to 39.7 percent nationally.
- Among teens, 2.8 percent of induced terminations were young teens (age 15 to 17 years), and 9.7% were older teens (age 18 to 19 years).
- Patients with one or more previous live births accounted for 54.6 percent of induced terminations in Alaska, compared to 59.0 percent nationally.
- First-time abortions with no previous induced terminations accounted for 64.5 percent induced terminations. 21.3 percent of patients reported one previous induced termination, and 14.1 percent reported two or more previous induced terminations.
- Unmarried women accounted for 74.4 percent of induced terminations in Alaska, compared to 86.8 percent nationally.

- The majority of induced terminations (94.6 percent\*) in Alaska were performed within the 13th week of gestation, compared to 91.0 percent nationally.

## **ABORTION AND THE CHURCH**

- Seven out of 10 women who chose abortion indicate their religious preference is Christian.
- More than a third of these women attended a Christian church once a month or more at the time of their abortion, and 4 out of 10 (40%) state they attend at least two times per month.
- More than half (52%) of church goers who have had an abortion report that no one in the church knows.
- Two-thirds (65%) of these women feel church members would judge single women who are pregnant.
- More than half (51%) feel that churches do not have a ministry prepared to discuss options during an unplanned pregnancy.
- Half (49%) feel that pastors' teachings on forgiveness don't seem to apply to terminated pregnancies.

## **REGARDING THE POST-ABORTIVE**

- A study in 2017 evaluated nearly 1,000 women who had sought after-abortion support. The study found that 67.5% of the women surveyed visited a mental health professional after their first abortion, compared to just 13% who had visited before their abortion. Similarly, 51% of the women had used prescription drugs for psychological health after their first abortion, only 6.6% had used similar prescriptions before their abortion. While Dr. Coleman's statistical findings cannot be directly applied to all post-abortive women, since participants were self-selected and had contact with a pregnancy center, they indicate the significant need for after-abortion care.
- The male counterparts of these women experience similar struggles. Some pushed their partner to abort, thinking it the most practical decision at the time. Others went along with whatever she wanted, believing this would be the supportive thing to do. Some begged their significant other not to abort, even promising to take responsibility for the child. Still others never had an opportunity to express their feelings or desires - they were told of the abortion weeks, months, or years later. Men have opened up about the secrecy surrounding lost fatherhood, their sense of aloneness with a grief that is often not acknowledged by our culture. In *Fatherhood Aborted*, former Care Net President Guy Condon wrote: "Abortion can have a negative effect on every part of a man's life—his emotions, his soul, his relationships, his work and career, and most definitely his relationship with God."

## **REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF MARRIAGE AND FATHERS**

- In 2014, 86% of women who had an abortion were unmarried.
- Nearly 4 in 10 women say the baby's father was the most influential person in their abortion decision.

## **REGARDING STUDENTS AND YOUTH**

- Among Gen Z, 29% believe that abortion is wrong; a decrease from 33% of Millennials.
- In 2017, 39.5% of high school students had engaged in sexual intercourse, down from 41.2% in 2015.
- 21% of Gen Z believe that sex before marriage is morally wrong; an increase from 19% of Millennials.

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