

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding an open book. The person is wearing a maroon shirt with a small white geometric pattern. The book's pages are slightly aged and yellowed. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

2019 ABORTION FACTS FOR PASTORS

THIS SUMMARY INCLUDES ESSENTIAL INFORMATION TO PREPARE YOUR CHURCH FOR A CHRIST-CENTERED RESPONSE TO ABORTION:

- From 1973 to 2017 more than 60 million lives have been lost to abortion. Annually, an estimated one million abortions are performed in the US.ⁱ Further, the Guttmacher institute also estimates that “during 2010–2014, an estimated 56 million induced abortions occurred each year worldwide.”ⁱⁱ
- 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.ⁱⁱⁱ
- 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.^{iv}
- Nine out of ten abortions are performed in the first 13 weeks of pregnancy.^v
- As the birth rate continues to slowly decline, nearly half of pregnancies are reported as “unplanned.”^{vi}
- Most abortion patients are in their 20s and have already had at least one child.^{vii}
- Per capita, African-American women were nearly three times more likely to experience abortion than white women.^{viii}
- 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 cited reason for abortion was financial.^{ix}
- Fewer Americans view abortion as a moral issue and the percentage who consider it morally wrong has also declined. In fact, 43% of American adults believe abortion is morally acceptable. ^x

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.^{xi}
- 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.”^{xii}

REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF MARRIAGE AND FATHERS:

- In 2014, 86% of women who had an abortion were unmarried. Nearly four in ten women indicate that the father of the baby was the most influential person in their abortion decision.^{xiii}

REGARDING STUDENTS AND YOUTH:

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

ENDNOTES:

- i. <https://nrlc.org/uploads/factsheets/FS01AbortionintheUS.pdf>
- ii. <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-worldwide>
- iii. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2016/10/27/abortion-late-term-legal-donald-trump-column/92778238/>
- iv. Jones, R.K. & Jerman, J. (2017, January 17). Abortion incidence and service availability in the United States, 2014, *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*. 49(1):17–27, doi: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1363/psrh.12015>
- v. Jatlaoui TC, Boutot ME, Mandel MG, et al. Abortion Surveillance — United States, 2015. *MMWR Surveill Summ* 2018;67(No. SS-13):1–45. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.ss6713a1>.
- vi. Finer, L.B. and Zolna, M.R. (2016, March 3). Declines in unintended pregnancy in the United States, 2008–2011, *New England Journal of Medicine*. 374(9):843–852, doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1056/NEJMsa1506575>
- vii. Ibid.
- viii. Jones, R. K., & Jerman, J. (2017). Population Group Abortion Rates and Lifetime Incidence of Abortion: United States, 2008–2014. *American Journal of Public Health*, 107(12), 1904–1909. doi:10.2105/ajph.2017.304042
- ix. Finer, L.B., Frohworth, L.F., Dauphinee, L.A., Singh, S. & Moore, A.M. (2018, October). Timing of steps and reasons for delays in obtaining abortions in the United States, *Contraception*, (74)(4):334–344, doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.contraception.2006.04.010>
- x. Jones, J., & Saad, L. (2018, May 10). Gallup Poll Social Series: Values and Beliefs. Retrieved March 21, 2019, from https://news.gallup.com/poll/235454/americans-views-abortion-pro-choice-prolife-legality-moralitytrends.aspx?g_source=link_newsv9&g_campaign=item_235445&g_medium=copy
- xi. <https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-DU1p0rAuBIU/XZyA7lpmHWI/AAAAAAAAAyk/PHUi2GJEzWguIJPI4-9vdtEB9XcRalvjQCK8BGAsYHg/s0/Coleman%2Bstudy.PNG>
- xii. Condon, G., & Hazard, D. (2001). *Fatherhood aborted* (p. 27). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House.
- xiii. Jerman, J., Jones, R.K. & Onda, T. (2016). *Characteristics of U.S. Abortion Patients in 2014 and Changes Since 2008*, New York: Guttmacher Institute. Retrieved February 8, 2018 from <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/characteristics-us-abortion-patients-2014>
- xiv. *Public Opinion on Abortion*. (2018, October 15). Retrieved from <https://www.pewforum.org/factsheet/public-opinion-on-abortion/>
- xv. 47. Kann L, McManus T, Harris WA, et al. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 2017. *MMWR Surveill Summ* 2018;67(No. SS-8):1–114. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.ss6708a1>.
- xvi. Stone, R., Hempell, B., Hawkins, A., & Kinnaman, D. (2018). *Gen Z The Culture, Beliefs and Motivations Shaping the Next Generation*. Available from <https://www.barna.com/product/gen-z/>