



United States Abortion Facts

Abortion in the U.S.

- About 45% of American women have experienced an unintended pregnancy. [1]
- Of these unintended pregnancies, 42% are aborted. [1]
- IN 2016, 88% of abortions occurred in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. [4]
- In 2017, 18% of all pregnancies were aborted. [4]
- Approximately 862,320 abortions were performed in 2017. [4]
- About 1 in 4 women will have an abortion by the age of 45. [3]
- In 2017, medication abortions (using drugs such as Mifepristone, also known as RU-486 or the abortion pill) accounted for 39% of all abortions. [2]

Who is having abortions?

Age of women in the U.S. who are having abortions: [4]

- 0.2% are under the age of 15
- 3% are 15-17 years old
- 8% are 18-19 years old
- 34% are 20-24 years old
- 27% are 25-29 years old

Nationality of women in the U.S. who are having abortions: [4]

- 28% are black women
- 39% are white women
- 25% are Hispanic women
- 9% are other nationalities

Religion of women in the U.S. who are having abortions: [4]

- 17% are mainline Protestant
- 13% are evangelical Protestant
- 24% are Catholic

- 38% claim no religious affiliation
- 8% reported some other religious affiliation

Socioeconomic factors of women in the U.S. who had abortions in 2014: [5]

- 59% had at least one child.
- 75% were poor or low-income.
- 14% were married.
- 31% were cohabitating.
- 46% were never married

Why U.S. women have abortions: [8]

Research collected between 2008 and 2010 revealed that women gave these reasons for having an abortion:

- Not financially prepared: 40%
- Bad timing, not ready, or unplanned: 36%
- Partner-related reasons (including the relationship is bad or new, she doesn't want to be a single mother, her partner is not supportive, does not want the baby, is abusive, or is the wrong guy): 31%
- Need to focus on her other children: 29%
- Interferes with educational or vocational plans: 20%
- Not emotionally or mentally prepared: 19%
- Health-related reasons (includes concern for her own health, the health of the fetus, use of prescription or non-prescription drugs, alcohol, or tobacco): 12%
- Want a better life for a baby than she could provide: 12%
- Not independent or mature enough for a baby: 7%
- Influences from family or friends: 5%
- Doesn't want a baby or to place the baby for adoption: 4%

Adolescents and Sexual/Reproductive Trends [6]

- 15-24 year-olds account for nearly half of the 20 million new STI cases annually in the United States.
- In 2017, 40% of 15-19 year-olds reported having had sexual intercourse.

Indiana Facts about Abortion: [7]

- 8,037 women had abortions in Indiana in 2018.
- 8.9% of pregnancies in Indiana ended in abortion in 2018.
- 99.58% of abortions performed in Indiana in 2018 occurred prior to 13 weeks gestation.
- 41% of abortions in Indiana in 2018 were medication abortions
- 85% of women who had abortions in Indiana in 2018 were unmarried.
- In 2018, there were 10 abortion providers across the state, 6 of which were clinics.

Restrictions on Abortions in Indiana in 2019 [7]

- A woman must receive state-directed counseling about abortion and then wait 18 hours before the abortion takes place.
- Abortion is covered in private insurance policies only in cases of life endangerment, rape, incest, or if the woman's health is severely compromised—unless an optional rider is purchased.
- Health plans offered in the state's health exchange can only cover abortion in cases of life endangerment, rape or incest.
- Abortion is covered in insurance policies for public employees only in cases of life endangerment, rape, incest, or if the woman's health is severely compromised—unless an optional rider is purchased.
- The use of telemedicine for the performance of medication abortion is prohibited.
- The parent of a minor must consent before an abortion can take place.
- Public funding is available for abortion only in cases of life endangerment, rape or incest, or if the woman's health is severely compromised.
- A woman must undergo an ultrasound before obtaining an abortion and must be given the option to view the image.
- An abortion cannot be performed at or after 20 weeks postfertilization (22 weeks after the woman's last menstrual period) unless the woman's life is endangered or her physical health is severely compromised.
- Abortion clinics must meet the same structural standards as other ambulatory surgical centers.

Sources

- [1] "Unintended Pregnancy in the United States" *Guttmacher Institute* January 2019
<https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/unintended-pregnancy-united-states>
- [2] "Abortion Incidence and Service Availability in the United States, 2017" *Guttmacher Institute* September 2019
<https://www.guttmacher.org/report/abortion-incidence-service-availability-us-2017>
- [3] "Abortion is a Common Experience for U.S. Women Despite Dramatic Decline in Rates" *Guttmacher Institute* October 2017
<https://www.guttmacher.org/news-release/2017/abortion-common-experience-us-women-despite-dramatic-declines-rates>
- [4] "Induced Abortion in the United States" *Guttmacher Institute* September 2019
<https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states>
- [5] "Characteristics of U.S. Abortion Patients in 2014 and Change Since 2008" *Guttmacher Institute* May 2016
<https://www.guttmacher.org/report/characteristics-us-abortion-patients-2014>
- [6] "Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health in the United States" *Guttmacher Institute* September 2019
<https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/american-teens-sexual-and-reproductive-health>
- [7] "Indiana Abortion Statistics" *Abort73.com*
https://abort73.com/abortion_facts/states/indiana/
- [8] "Why Do Women Have Abortions?" *Very Well Health* September 2021
<https://www.verywellhealth.com/reasons-for-abortion-906589>