

**Myth:** Abortion in the United States is only legal during the first trimester.

**Fact:** Roe v. Wade and Doe V. Bolton, made abortion legal through the entire nine months of pregnancy.

In 2003, 23% (301,300) of abortions occurred during the first 6 weeks of pregnancy. 64% (838,400) were from 7-12 weeks. 10.5% (137,500) were from 13-20 weeks and 1.5% (19,650) were between 21-40 weeks.

---

**Myth:** The majority of abortions are due to rape or the health of the mother and baby.

**Fact:** According to a survey by the Allen Guttmacher Institute, a pro-abortion group, 1% of abortions were due to rape or incest, 3% were due to possible health problems with the baby, and 3% were for maternal health problems **93% of women indicated that their abortions were due to social reasons** such as financial issues, not wanting a child, being too young, concern about how a baby will change their lives, pressure from others, and relationship problems.

---

**Myth:** Abortions are rare.

**Fact:** Since 1973 when Roe vs. Wade legalized abortion in the United States **over 47, 400,000 babies in the United States have been killed by surgical abortion.** In the United States abortion ends the life of 4,400 babies every day – that’s one every 23 seconds.

---

#### **Other Facts:**

•In New Jersey a teenage girl cannot get her ears pierced without her parents permission. Yet it is legal for someone to take this same young girl to have an abortion without her parent’s knowledge.

---

**Myth:** Abortion helps women

**Fact:** Abortion can harm women, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Many women (as well as men) suffer greatly after having, or encouraging others to have, an abortion. A study in Finland analyzed medical records of 1,347 women of reproductive age in Finland who committed suicide between 1987 and 1994. They discovered the suicide rate in the 12 months following birth was a low 5.9 per 100,000 women, while the suicide rate in the 12 months following an abortion was 34.7 per 100,000 women — a rate nearly six times higher.

---

**Myth:** Abortion gives women a choice

**Fact:** While pro-abortion groups tell us that abortion is a “choice” the majority of women who have abortions do so because they feel that they have no choice. According to one survey 63% of women felt forced by others to have the abortion, while 74% felt forced by circumstances.

Abortion groups routinely try to block legislation that is meant to inform women about other options and any potential after effects of the abortion, as well as any requirements to have the woman or young girl wait even 24 hours before she can have an abortion.

---

Not all moral issues have the same moral weight as abortion and euthanasia. There may be legitimate diversity of opinion even among Catholics about waging war and applying the death penalty, but not... with regard to abortion and euthanasia.  
- Joseph, Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI