

Pregnancy and Abortion Basics

Overview

<p>Pregnancy (Human Pregnancy)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The process of creating a new human offspring inside the womb (uterus) of a female body <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The process begins at fertilization and ends with either childbirth, abortion, or miscarriage During the process, the human embryo/fetus develops (gestates) in the female womb
<p>Abortion (Miscarriage)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The termination of a pregnancy <i>without</i> creating a live human offspring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An induced abortion (abortion), occurs in about ~20% of U.S. pregnancies using 1 of 3 methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medication (~60%): Methods include using the drugs mifepristone and misoprostol Surgery (~39%): Methods include using a suction device to remove the embryo/fetus from the uterus Other (~1%): Methods include using induced labor, herbs, abdominal pressure, or sharp instruments A spontaneous abortion (known as a miscarriage) occurs in about ~15% of U.S. pregnancies
<p>History of Abortion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout world history, abortions have been both repeatedly performed and often condemned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1550 BCE: The 1st recorded evidence of an induced abortion occurred in Ancient Egypt, using herbs 500 BCE: The Greek physician Hippocrates barred abortions using a pessary (tong-like instrument) 300s CE: Roman Law & the Early Church barred abortions after the "quickening" (fetal movement) 1869: The Catholic Church condemned abortions at any stage of pregnancy 1920: The Soviet Union became the first modern country to legalize abortion upon request 1967: The United Kingdom legalized abortion via the Abortion Act of 1967 1973: The U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion as a constitutional right via Roe v. Wade 2000: Abortion access expanded in the U.S. with the approval of the abortion pill (mifepristone) 2022: The U.S. Supreme Court ended the nation-wide right to an abortion via Dobbs v. JWHO

Timeline of Pregnancy and Abortion

- The timeline for a human **pregnancy** is typically **40 weeks** (approximately **9 months**)
 - Pregnancy** has historically been measured from the start of a woman's last **menstrual period (LMP)**
 - An estimated **91%** of U.S. abortions occur within **13 weeks of LMP**, while **99.9%** occur within **27 weeks**

NOTE: Both U.S. Citizenship & a Human's Age begin at Birth

Abortion Statistics in the United States

- The number of U.S. abortions has increased in recent years (2017 = **0.86M**, 2021 = **0.93 M**)
 - In 2021, **930,160** U.S. women had an abortion:
 - 70%** were non-white
 - 61%** had given birth before

Ethnicity of a Person Obtaining an Abortion (2021)

Ethnicity	Rate
Black (AA)	42%
White	30%
Hispanic	22%
Other	6%

Prior Births for a Person Obtaining an Abortion (2021)

Prior Births	Rate
0	39%
1	24%
2	20%
3	10%
4+	7%

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov>

Abortion Law & Morality																																									
<p>Abortion Law in the U.S. (Status)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2022, the right to an abortion is no longer guaranteed across the United States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Control: The authority to regulate abortion has been returned to each state government Divergent Laws: Some states impose strict bans or restrictions on abortions; other states have few limits Varying Access: Many women have limited access to abortion, even in states where it is legal Changing Laws: The legal status of abortion is changing, with ongoing ballot initiatives in several states Limited Federal Protection: The U.S. government currently only provides access to abortion medication 																																								
<p>U.S. Supreme Court Rulings</p> <p>• NOTE: U.S. law operates on the principle of precedent, which means that in order to ensure consistency, past court rulings should guide future decisions whenever possible (known as "stare decisis" in Latin).</p> <p>The Dobbs v. JWHO ruling is a significant change in legal precedent that could affect other past rulings (those highlighted with an orange bullet).</p> <p>Read a summary of the judicial opinions in Dobbs v. JWHO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The U.S. Supreme Court has issued the following past rulings on pregnancy and abortion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Griswold v. Connecticut (1965): Struck down a Connecticut law that prohibited the use of contraceptives by married couples, based on the right to privacy that is implied in the U.S. Constitution Roe v. Wade (1973): <i>Legalized</i> abortion based on the right to privacy and the 14th Amendment, while also establishing a framework for the government to regulate abortion by the trimester of pregnancy Planned Parenthood v. Danforth (1976): Struck down a Missouri anti-abortion law that required: 1) spousal consent for married women to get an abortion, 2) parental consent for minors Carey v. Population Services International (1977): Struck down a New York law that restricted the sale of contraceptives to minors, based on the right to privacy implied in the U.S. Constitution Harris v. McRae (1980): Upheld the Hyde Amendment, which bars the use of federal funds for abortions (with exceptions for the life of the mother, rape, or incest) Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992): <i>Upheld Roe v. Wade</i>, but modified the "trimester" framework to focus more on "viability" and allow government restrictions on abortion that weren't an "undue burden" Stenberg v. Carhart (2000): Struck down a Nebraska law banning "partial-birth abortions" because it did not include an exception for the health of the mother Gonzales v. Carhart (2007): Upheld the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003, which prohibits partial-birth abortions in the U.S. (unless they are necessary to save the life of the mother) Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt (2016): Struck down a Texas law requiring abortion clinics to meet restrictive surgical standards, because they imposed an "undue burden" with no health benefit Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Org (2022): <i>Overtured Roe v. Wade</i> and <i>PP v. Casey</i>, ruling that the U.S. Constitution did not provide a legal right to abortion, and allowed each state to regulate the issue 																																								
<p>Abortion Law in the U.S. (by State)</p> <p>Potential Restrictions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waiting Period (20%) Ultrasound (4%) Mandatory Counselling (20%) Parental Notification (20%) Parental Consent (18%) <p>Potential Exceptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life of the Mother (100%) Health Risk to Mother (84%) Rape (36%) Incest (34%) Fetal Anomalies (14%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abortion is legal in 32 U.S. states (64%), but is banned or highly restricted in 18 states (36%) <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>LEGAL STATUS OF ABORTION</th> <th>GESTATION LIMIT</th> <th>STATES</th> <th>%</th> <th>STATES</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Illegal (with Exceptions)</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>14</td> <td>28%</td> <td>AL, KY, MS, TN, WV, AR, LA, OK, TX, IN, MO, ND, SD*, ID</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Highly Restricted (with Exceptions)</td> <td>6 weeks</td> <td>4</td> <td>8%</td> <td>FL*, GA, SC, IA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Restricted (with Exceptions)</td> <td>12-18 weeks</td> <td>4</td> <td>8%</td> <td>NC, AZ*, UT, NE*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Limited (with Exceptions)</td> <td>19-24 weeks</td> <td>7</td> <td>14%</td> <td>NV, OH, WI*, KS, MA, NH, PA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Until Viability (with Exceptions)</td> <td>~24 weeks</td> <td>14</td> <td>28%</td> <td>MD, VA, CA, IL, MI, HI, MT*, WA, WY*, CT, DE, ME, RI, NY</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At All Stages</td> <td>~40 weeks</td> <td>7</td> <td>14%</td> <td>NM, MN, AK, CO, OR, NJ, VT</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <td>17 weeks (avg)</td> <td>50</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>NOTE: Colors indicate the region of the U.S. (SE, SW, MW, W, NE) * Indicates where existing state laws are currently being challenged</p>	LEGAL STATUS OF ABORTION	GESTATION LIMIT	STATES	%	STATES	Illegal (with Exceptions)	N/A	14	28%	AL, KY, MS, TN, WV, AR, LA, OK, TX, IN, MO, ND, SD*, ID	Highly Restricted (with Exceptions)	6 weeks	4	8%	FL*, GA, SC, IA	Restricted (with Exceptions)	12-18 weeks	4	8%	NC, AZ*, UT, NE*	Limited (with Exceptions)	19-24 weeks	7	14%	NV, OH, WI*, KS, MA, NH, PA	Until Viability (with Exceptions)	~24 weeks	14	28%	MD, VA, CA, IL, MI, HI, MT*, WA, WY*, CT, DE, ME, RI, NY	At All Stages	~40 weeks	7	14%	NM, MN, AK, CO, OR, NJ, VT			17 weeks (avg)	50	100%
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<p>Abortion Law in the World</p> <p>Additional Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health Socio-economic Conditions Approval of 2 Doctors <p>NOTE: The United Nations advocates for women's reproductive rights, but has stopped short of declaring abortion to be a universal human right.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abortion is legal in most developed countries, but is illegal in 6 countries with no exceptions <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>LEGAL STATUS OF ABORTION</th> <th>GESTATION LIMIT</th> <th>COUNTRY</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Illegal (no Exceptions)</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>El Salvador, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Malta</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Illegal (with Exceptions)</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>Iraq, Philippines, Yemen, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Nigeria, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Restricted (with Exceptions)</td> <td>10-18 weeks</td> <td>Argentina, Chile, Iran, Russia, South Africa, Turkey, Denmark, Germany, France, Finland, Italy, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Sweden</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Limited (with Exceptions)</td> <td>19-24 weeks</td> <td>Colombia, India, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At All Stages</td> <td>~40 weeks</td> <td>North Korea, Vietnam, China, Canada (NOTE: access in Canada can be further limited in each province)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Variable (different in each state)</td> <td>0 – 40 weeks</td> <td>Mexico, Australia, United States</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>NOTE: Colors indicate economic development (Low Income, Developing, Developed)</p>	LEGAL STATUS OF ABORTION	GESTATION LIMIT	COUNTRY	Illegal (no Exceptions)	N/A	El Salvador, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Malta	Illegal (with Exceptions)	N/A	Iraq, Philippines, Yemen, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Nigeria, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela	Restricted (with Exceptions)	10-18 weeks	Argentina, Chile, Iran, Russia, South Africa, Turkey, Denmark, Germany, France, Finland, Italy, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Sweden	Limited (with Exceptions)	19-24 weeks	Colombia, India, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom	At All Stages	~40 weeks	North Korea, Vietnam, China, Canada (NOTE: access in Canada can be further limited in each province)	Variable (different in each state)	0 – 40 weeks	Mexico, Australia, United States																			
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