

Key Messages

Abortion's injustice and injury to women

Before abortion ...

Many women were coerced, rushed, blackmailed or even violently forced into unwanted abortions. Many were given false information presented as fact and denied even the most basic support. Many endured severe abuse and discrimination while pregnant. Many suffered in assembly-line abortion clinics, which rarely screen for evidence of unwanted or forced abortion. Clearly, these injustices to women cannot fairly be called a “choice.” That’s why compassionate Americans are calling it *the un-choice*.

After abortion ...

Many women suffer pregnancy- or abortion-related violence, injury or death. Aftereffects range from immediate physical complications or long-term injury to ongoing psychological trauma. Rates of clinical depression, death and suicide after abortion are alarmingly high. Many grieve an unjust and traumatic abortion experience ... but above all, they grieve the loss of a child.

The rhetoric of choice hides the reality of coercion ...

It is ironic at best to deny women free, fair and fully informed choices, or even the most basic support and call it a “choice.” That’s not a choice ... it’s the un-choice.

- **64% report feeling pressured into abortion.¹ Coercion is significant, takes many forms and can escalate to violence.²** (Download *Portraits of Coercion* flyer and *Forced Abortion in America* pdfs at www.theunchoice.com/resources.htm)
- **Homicide is the number one killer of pregnant women.³**
- **False information presented as fact or refusing essential basic resources also constitutes coercion.⁴**
- **52% felt rushed and 54% uncertain, yet 67% received *no* counseling and 79% weren’t told about alternatives.¹**
- **Many women describe the experience as “a nightmare that won’t end.”⁵**
- **65% suffer trauma.¹ 60% said “part of me died.”¹**
- **Women are 3.5 times more likely to die after abortion than after giving birth.⁶**
- **Suicide rates are 6 times higher when women abort vs. giving birth.⁷**

Physical and psychological complications ...

- 31% of women suffered health complications after abortion.⁸
- 10% suffer immediate complications, one-fifth of which are life-threatening.⁹
- There is a 65% higher risk of clinical depression after abortion compared to women who give birth.¹⁰
- Studies comparing women with unintended pregnancies reveal that aborting women have more subsequent depression, anxiety and substance abuse.¹¹

Teens at risk ...

- Among teens with unplanned pregnancies, teens who aborted had more negative mental health outcomes vs. those who gave birth.¹²
- Teens who abort are up to 4 times more likely to commit suicide than adults who abort, and a history of abortion is likely to be associated with adolescent suicidal thinking.¹³

Abortion is destructive to everyone involved, often involving multiple injustices such as rape, domestic violence, professional negligence or malpractice, personal betrayal or heartbreaking ultimatums. There is no one-size-fits-all abortion motive or circumstance, but the aftershock is real. Compassionate Americans want to end the injustice, offer real choices, and open the door to healing.

Visit TheUnChoice.com to download quick-reference research, educational materials, and healing resources.

10 Fast Facts About Abortion's Injustice and Injury to Women

1. **64% of women having abortions felt pressured by others.¹ Coercion can escalate to violence or even murder.^{2, 3}**
2. **52% felt rushed and 54% were not sure about the decision at the time, yet an astounding 67% received *no* counseling beforehand.¹**
3. **84% reported that they did not receive adequate counseling.¹**
4. **79% were not informed about available alternatives.¹**
5. **31% of women suffered health complications after abortion.⁸ 10% suffer immediate complications, one-fifth of which are life-threatening.⁹**
6. **Women have a 65% higher risk of clinical depression after abortion compared to women who give birth.¹⁰**
7. **65% suffer multiple symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder after abortion.¹**
8. **Death rates from all causes are 3.5 times higher among women who abort, compared to women who give birth.⁶**
9. **60% said “part of me died,” according to a survey of women who aborted.¹**
10. **Suicide rates are 6-7 times higher compared to women who give birth.⁷**

Visit www.TheUnchoice.com to download quick-reference research, educational materials, and healing resources, including the Recent Research Summary, Teens at Risk Fact Sheet, and the “Hard Cases, New Facts, New Answers” booklet.

Citations

1. VM Rue et. al., “Induced abortion and traumatic stress: A preliminary comparison of American and Russian women,” *Medical Science Monitor* 10(10): SR5-16 (2004).
2. See the special report, *Forced Abortion in America*, at www.theunchoice.com/resources.htm.
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4. See Melinda Tankard Reist, *Giving Sorrow Words: Women’s Stories of Grief After Abortion* (Springfield, IL: Acorn Books, 2007) 167.
5. For more information, see www.theunchoice.com.
6. M Gissler et. al., “Pregnancy Associated Deaths in Finland 1987-1994 -- definition problems and benefits of record linkage,” *Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica* 76:651-657 (1997). See also DC Reardon et. al., “Deaths Associated With Pregnancy Outcome: A Record Linkage Study of Low Income Women,” *Southern Medical Journal* 95(8):834-41, Aug. 2002.
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10. JR Cogle, DC Reardon & PK Coleman, “Depression Associated With Abortion and Childbirth: A Long-Term Analysis of the NLSY Cohort,” *Medical Science Monitor* 9(4): CR105-112 (2003).
11. For studies, see the *Recent Research* fact sheet at www.theunchoice.com/resources.htm.
12. PK Coleman, “Resolution of Unwanted Pregnancy During Adolescence Through Abortion Versus Childbirth: Individual and Family Predictors and Psychological Consequences,” *Journal of Youth and Adolescence* (2006).
13. B. Garfinkel, et al., “Stress, Depression and Suicide: A Study of Adolescents in Minnesota,” *Responding to High Risk Youth* (University of Minnesota: Minnesota Extension Service, 1986).