



## SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY (SOHLS) 2019 FACT SHEET

### **In the Nation**

- Advocates estimate that since 1973 (Roe v. Wade), more than 60 million legal abortions have occurred in the United States. That is more lives than the combined populations of the 19 states.
- Nationally, more than 1 in 5 pregnancies (excluding miscarriages) end in abortion.
- 1 in 4 women in the U.S. will have an abortion by age 45.
- Nationwide, 12% of abortions are performed on adolescents (17 years of age and younger) and 61% on women in their 20s.
- In 2014, 75% of women obtaining abortions were poor or low-income.
- Minorities are at a disproportionately high risk of being targeted for abortion:
  - Nationally, 79% of abortion facilities are located within walking distance of black and Hispanic neighborhoods
  - In New York City, Black women access abortion at a rate 5 times higher than white women and twice as high as Hispanics – more black babies are aborted than are born alive.
- Reasons American women give for choosing to have an abortion:
  - 75% concern or responsibility for other individuals
  - 75% say they cannot afford a child
  - 75% say that having a baby would interfere with work, school, or the ability to care for their other dependents.
  - 50% say they do not want to be a single parent or are having problems with their husband or partner.

### **In Alaska**

- Abortion has been legal in Alaska since 1970. That is nearly 3 years before Roe v. Wade made abortion legal in all 50 states.
- Almost 70,000 babies have been aborted in Alaska since it became legal in the state in 1970.
- In 2017, the most recent year on record, there were 1255 abortions in Alaska.
  - That is a decrease of 5 from 2016's total of 1260
  - That is the lowest number of reported abortions since 1978

- Alaska is one of 9 states and the District of Columbia that allow abortion during all 9 months of pregnancy.
- 38.6 percent of abortions in Alaska in 2017 were by women less than 25 years of age.
- Young teens (age 15 to 17 years) accounted for 3.6 percent of all abortions in Alaska during 2017, a decrease of 19.3 percent from 2016.
- Teens (age 15 to 19 years) accounted for 10.4 percent of the abortions in 2017.
- In Alaska, 75.2 percent of women (excluding unknown responses) who had an abortion in 2017 were unmarried.
- In 2017, 57.6 percent of women who had an abortion in Alaska reported they had one or more previous live births.

## **In the Church**

- Seven out of 10 indicate their religious preference is Christian.
- More than a third of these women were attending a Christian church once a month or more at the time of their first abortion.
- More than half (52%) of church goers report that no one in the church knows about their abortion.
- Two-thirds (65%) agree that church members judge single women who are pregnant.
- More than half (51%) agree that churches do not have a ministry prepared to discuss options during an unplanned pregnancy.
- Half (49%) agree that pastors' teachings on forgiveness don't seem to apply to terminated pregnancies.

## REFERENCES

2017 Induced Termination of Pregnancy Statistics. (Feb 2017) AK Division of Public Health

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