

Effects of abortion

We know that abortion hurts women physically and emotionally. Abortion providers claim a complication rate of less than 1 percent, yet in one large American study, 17 percent of women reported physical complications, such as hemorrhaging and pelvic infections. The United Kingdom's Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists reports that over 11 percent of abortions involve immediate physical complications, e.g., retained tissue, infections, and pelvic inflammatory disease, which can lead to ectopic pregnancy and sterility. And women continue to die from "safe and legal" abortions in the United States and elsewhere.

The link between abortion and breast cancer continues to be challenged by abortion supporters, including some in the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Recently, however, a leading NCI researcher co-authored an article which acknowledges a 40 percent increased risk of breast cancer in post-abortive women.

Abortion supporters claim that the anxiety, depression, substance abuse, sleep disorders, and other mental health problems women may experience after abortion are rare and found mostly among women with pre-existing mental health problems. Dozens of large studies from countries maintaining a central database of health records prove otherwise. In Finland, for example, the suicide rate for women in the 12 months following abortion was 3 times that of women generally and 6 times that of women who had given birth in the previous 12 months. Another nationwide study found that, even after controlling for pre-existing conditions, post-abortive women experienced higher rates of substance abuse, anxiety disorders, and suicidal behavior than those who had not had an abortion. Fathers, too, are coming forward for help in dealing with the loss of a child in an abortion. Grandparents of an aborted child may also grieve their loss and have difficulty forgiving themselves or their child for what happened.

A woman's abortion can negatively impact her future children. Fifty-nine studies from 23 countries have found a significant risk of early pre-term birth (EPB, i.e., before 32 weeks) after one or more induced abortions. After two or more abortions, the increased risk of EPB is 180 to 520 percent.⁶ Pre-term birth contributes to cerebral palsy, lung disease, cognitive impairments, and infant mortality. Later children may also face problems if their mom struggles with depression or substance abuse from an abortion.

Our nation, too, suffers from the loss of 50 million uniquely talented persons whose contribution to society is essential, even in purely economic terms. Across the globe, life expectancy is increasing while fewer children are being born to take their place in the work force and contribute to pension and social security funds. An aging population and a shrinking work force will overwhelm national programs serving as safety nets for the elderly.