Note: These slides were updated in January 2011 to reflect new national abortion rates and numbers.
*By the end of 1970, four states had repealed their antiabortion laws, and 11 states had reformed them. The pre-1973 numbers listed are *legal* abortions.

By the end of 1970, four states had repealed their antiabortion laws, and 11 states had reformed them.

Note: Prior to the nationwide legalization of abortion, information on the number and rate of abortions was not gathered, and estimates of illegal and self-induced abortions varied widely. In the years immediately following the *Roe v. Wade* decision, the number of legal abortions grew rapidly for several reasons. The number of physicians trained and experienced in the procedure increased, and a nationwide network of outpatient abortion clinics developed that enabled women who would previously have had an illegal abortion, or would not have been able to obtain an abortion at all, to have a legal procedure in a medical facility.

The abortion rate among teenagers declined in the late 1980s and 1990s, and is now stable


White women account for the majority of abortions, but the proportion of abortions that are provided to white women has declined steadily.

\[\text{% of abortions} \]

\begin{table}
\begin{tabular}{cccccccc}
\hline
Year & White & Nonwhite & Black & Other \\
\hline
1973 & & & & \\
1976 & & & & \\
1979 & & & & \\
1982 & & & & \\
1985 & & & & \\
1988 & & & & \\
1991 & & & & \\
1994 & & & & \\
1997 & & & & \\
2000 & & & & \\
2003 & & & & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

\textbf{Note:} In 1989, the survey wording changed, and the nonwhite category was further refined into "black" and "other."

Note: In 1991, the survey wording changed, and women were asked to identify themselves as white non-Hispanic, black non-Hispanic, Asian or Pacific Islander, or Native American.

More than 80% of women having abortions are unmarried

Many women obtaining abortions have had a previous abortion, but the proportion has stabilized over time

Nearly 90% of abortions occur in the first three months of pregnancy

![Graph showing percentage of abortions by weeks since last menstrual period from 1973 to 2006. The graph indicates that the majority of abortions occur in the first three months.]  

Note: numbers may not add to 100% due to rounding.

**1989–2006:** Special distributions published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, adjusted for year-to-year changes in the reporting states.

### Incidence of early medication abortion, 2008

- Early medication abortion accounted for 17% (199,000) of all abortions performed in nonhospital facilities, an increase from 6% in 2001.
- An estimated one-quarter of eligible abortions (those performed up to nine weeks) were early medication abortions.
- 59% of all known providers offered this service, compared with 33% in early 2001.

The number of U.S. abortion providers declined steadily between 1982 and 2000, but appears to have been stable in recent years.

*Sites providing fewer than 400 abortions per year.
†Sites providing 400 or more abortions per year.


Facilities providing only medication abortion had a significant impact

- A minimum of 9% of all providers (164) offered only early medication abortion; most were nonspecialized clinics or physicians’ offices with small caseloads.

The percentage of U.S. counties with no abortion provider remains high

% of counties with no provider


About one-third of women live in a county with no abortion provider

% of women aged 15–44 with no provider in their county

The inflation-adjusted cost of an abortion has remained relatively stable over time, despite increased restrictions and a decline in demand.


*Source Presentation: Trends in Abortion in the United States, 1973–2008*
*Arkansas funded only from January 1, 1998, to June 30, 1998.

**Includes 50 states and the District of Columbia.


Note: Some state courts have enjoined the enforcement of laws whose restrictions they say violate their states' constitutions.

*Includes all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

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