



Do the Unborn Have Rights?

Luke 1:44: (NASB) *For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.*



A woman's right to choose. A woman's right to privacy. Lose your choice and lose your freedom. A woman's body is her most prized possession. All of these slogans are centerpieces of the unending controversy surrounding abortion, a legal procedure. But *should* it be legal and so accessible? Are there reasons to doubt its place in our world, for the sake of the unborn *and* the sake of the potential mothers? Stay with us as we look into this very difficult subject and try and establish a biblical perspective on rights, life and courage in the face of great challenge.

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, New York, February 2011

- *These bills show a heinous disregard for the health and well-being of women in America. It is a tax on women who want access to reproductive health care. They undermine a woman's ability to make the most important decisions in her life with her and her doctor.*

(Source: www.abortionfacts.com, selected quotes)

I am pro-choice. I am not one person, but many. Here is what I believe:

- The fetus is not a human, just a mass of tissue.
- Abortion is safe.
- Every child should be a wanted child.
- The number of abortions is relatively small.
- Nobody has the right to impose their morals on me.
- A woman should be able to control her own body.
- Abortion must be kept legal, especially for all the rape and incest pregnancies.
- If abortion is outlawed, women will be forced to go to back-alley abortion clinics.
- Aborting unwanted children reduces the number of abused children.



Muriel regrets her abortion, felt effects within weeks, youtube.com

- *Within three weeks from the abortion I suffered from illnesses and needed to take prednisone...Later I became pregnant again and had the baby and my illnesses were healed, maybe it was the hormones...I realized what joy of motherhood I robbed myself of.*

Is it a baby, or just a "mass of tissue?"

15-17 days - circulatory system begins to develop.

20 days - brain and nervous system established.

21 days - heart begins beating.

28 days - back bone and muscles are forming; arms, legs, eyes have begun to show.

35 days - brain-wave activity recorded.

42 days - brain begins to control movement of muscles and organs.

63 days - fingerprints are already evident on skin.

At 8 weeks - all organs and systems are present. The time from 8 weeks until birth will be spent growing and maturing.

At 10 weeks - squints if face is stroked, tries to grasp object placed in hand.

Psalms 139:13-14: (NASB) ¹³*For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well.*



Deuteronomy 12:22-23: (NKJV) ²²Just as the gazelle and the deer are eaten, so you may eat them; the unclean and the clean alike may eat them. ²³Only be sure that you do not eat the blood, for the blood is the life; you may not eat the life with the meat.

The life is in the blood. A mother's blood nourishes her own body - every one of her organs depend upon her blood to keep it alive and any "blob of tissue" in her body is nourished by her blood. A mother's blood never nourishes an embryo directly, rather the embryo develops its own blood and any mixture of the two can be deadly! So, for a woman to say that she should control her own body is technically excluding the embryo.

- Abortion is safe.
- Every child should be a wanted child.



Blood Money, Carol Everett, is it really "pro choice," bloodmoneyfilm.com

- *In most cases it's not a choice at all...Other options are not presented and a deadly course of action is forced on a woman...The #1 slogan for abortion is pro-choice. The ironic thing about that slogan is that when you ask women who had abortions, why did you have that abortion? The number one response is, "I felt that I had no choice."*

(Source: Abbreviated chart from www.abortion-not.org)

	ABORTION	ETHICAL SURGERY
Payment	Cash at door	Pay later
Pathologic exam	Seldom	Routine
Advertising	Routine	Rare
Counseling	Usually a farce	Done if needed
Second opinion	Never	If needed
Informed consent	Legally not required	Always
Record Keeping	Sketchy	In detail
Pre-op exam	Often not done until mandatory and she is on the table	Detailed
Follow-up exam	None	Mandatory and detailed
Correct Diagnosis	10-15% done on non-pregnant women	Surgeon is disciplined if he does many wrong operations
Husband's consent	Not needed	Expected
Husband informed	Not necessary	Always
Consent of parents of minor	Not needed	Legally required
Parents informed	Seldom	Legally required
Tissue disposal	In garbage	In humane and dignified manner
Burial In garbage	Yes, if large enough	In humane and dignified manner
Surgical training	Not required	Absolutely required
Non-medical reasons	99%	About 1%



Melissa Ohden, abortion survivor, CBN.com

- *She was 14 when her older sister was considering an abortion when her mother told her daughters the shocking circumstances of Melissa's birth... "Your mother had an abortion during her 5th month of pregnancy with you and you survived it..."*

Scriptures and science show value and individuality long before birth! This is far different than the "mass of tissue" idea.

The account of the prophesied birth of Sampson:

Judges 13:3-5: (NRSV) ³And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, Although you are barren, having borne no children, you shall conceive and bear a son. ⁴Now be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, or to eat anything unclean, ⁵for you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor is to come on his head, for the boy shall be a nazirite to God from birth. It is he who shall begin to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines.

This text shows us the sacredness of pregnancy and helps us understand that what the mother does while pregnant will affect the unborn child. Again, we see value in the unborn. They are not some mass of cells, but they are a developing personality.

- The number of abortions is relatively small.
- Nobody has the right to impose their morals on me.

PLEASE REFER TO TABLE 2 AT THE END OF THIS REWIND FOR THE RATIO OF LEGAL ABORTIONS BY YEAR REFERENCED IN THE AUDIO PROGRAM.

 Post Abortion Syndrome, Introduction, *Dr. Karen Hunter*

- *Guilt, anxiety, depression, heartache, nightmares, attempted suicide - Post Abortion Syndrome is a very real phenomenon to the woman who experiences it and they deal with it on a daily basis.*

The Bible does not *directly* deal with abortion, but this next text comes close to dealing with the issue:

Exodus 21:22-25: (KJV) ²²If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her **fruit depart** from her, and yet no **mischief** follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. ²³And if any **mischief** follow, then thou shalt give life for life, ²⁴Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, ²⁵Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

Let's look into what this text is saying:

Fruit: something born Depart: 1) to go out, come out, exit, go forth Mischief: hurt

The above scripture is too ambiguous to clearly determine that death was the penalty for causing the death of a pregnant woman's child. "**Mischief**" can easily apply only to the mother and seeing that this is the only text that deals with such a matter it, is too difficult to be sure of the exact meaning. What we can clearly determine that the life in the womb was of considerable value. Interference brought consequences.

 Melissa Ohden, abortion survivor, joy of adoption, CBN.Com

- *There is no greater gift that a woman can give than life to a child and if she doesn't believe that she can provide for that child forever, then the next best thing she could do for that child is to give them the joy of being with another family for adoption.*



Examples of those “called from their mother’s womb” show the great value of the unborn in the eyes of God:

Jeremiah 1:5: *Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.*

Isaiah 49:1: *Listen to Me, O islands, And pay attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called Me from the womb; From the body of My mother He named Me.*

))) NARAL Pro-Choice America commercial, Ashley Judd

- *Many Americans can't conceive of living in a country where they don't have freedom over their own choices. As Americans we can scarcely imagine that once a freedom is gained, it could ever be taken away. But that is by no means guaranteed. When 87% of counties in the U.S. have no abortion provider, 1 in 4 young women has a sexually transmitted infection and women with valid birth control prescriptions are being turned away, we have hard work before us to insure the right to choose in not a right in name only.*
- **A woman should be able to control her own body.**

Luke 1:39-44: (NASB) ³⁹Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²And she cried out with a loud voice and said, Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.

))) Blood Money, Carol Everett, abort for emotional health, bloodmoneyfilm.com

- *Abortions can be done through all nine months of pregnancy for the sake of “mental health.” We would say to this a scared young woman, “You would have problems with this pregnancy should you carry it to term, wouldn't you?” She'd say yes and we'd chart it “emotional health.”*

reason	% of abortions, most important reason	% of abortions, all reasons
rape	<0.5	(1)
incest		(<0.5)
mother has health problems	4	(12)
possible fetal health problems	3	(13)
unready	25	(32)
is too immature or young to have child	7	(22)
woman's parents want her to have abortion	<0.5	(6)
has problems with relationship or wants to avoid single parenthood	8	(48)
husband or partner wants her to have abortion	<0.5	(14)
has all the children she wanted or all children are grown	19	(38)
can't afford baby now	23	(73)
--unmarried		(42)
--student or planning to study		(34)



--can't afford baby and child care		(28)
--can't afford basic life needs		(23)
concerned about how having baby would change her life		(74)
--would interfere with education plans	4	(38)
--would interfere with career plans		(38)
--would interfere with care of children or dependents		(32)
doesn't want others to know she had relations or is pregnant	<0.5	(25)
other	6	

Recent AGI literature has given figures of abortions following rape or incest. For example, an April 2005 information sheet [7] states that about 13,000 women have abortions following rape or incest. This is 1.0% of AGI-estimated annual abortions in 2000-2002. This figure appears to be derived from the 1987 survey percentage (or from preliminary results of the 2004 survey).

Issues with rape-related statistics: The AGI-based figure of 1% of abortions for cases of rape or incest is widely cited. However, it is the product of a limited survey by an organization with a stated objective of advocating unlimited access to abortion services. It is thus desirable to seek an independent source of such figures, such as that provided by the state reported statistics reviewed below. Evaluating this claim involves issues of reliability of rape-related statistics.

If the AGI figure for 1987 is correct, it would imply that 15,600 abortions in 1987 were for such cases.[8] Since the FBI only reported 91,110 forcible rapes in the U.S. in that year[9], this would imply that one out of six rapes resulted in pregnancy. This is higher fraction than appears to be supported by medical research--although the degree to which rapes go unreported is an issue here.

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- Abortion must be kept legal, especially for all the rape and incest pregnancies.
- If abortion is outlawed, women will be forced to go to back-alley abortion clinics.

 **Post Abortion Syndrome, PTSD women are wounded, Dr. Karen Hunter**

- *Post Abortion Syndrome is a form of Post Traumatic Stress disorder. It's coping with a trauma. 43% of American women are post-abortive...(note: this is unverified) women are broken, they hide, it's a secret, women are so wounded.*

See previous chart for discussion on instances of rape and incest regarding abortion. Less than 1/2 of 1% is because of rape and incest.

Galatians 1:15-16: (NASB) ¹⁵But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased ¹⁶to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood.

The Apostle Paul was chosen from his mother's womb.

 **The Dark Secret, shame especially in the church, 100 Huntley Street, Canadian TV**

- *Shame is a common emotion after an abortion. This kind of grief is particularly difficult because it is our own child that is lost at our own hand. Pro-life people hate what we have done, but believe me, they don't hate what we have done as much as we hate what we have done.*

Job laments his misfortunes and uses the example of the death of an infant, both before and after birth:

Job 3:11-17: (KJV) ¹¹Why died I not from the womb? why did I not give up the ghost when I came out of the belly? ¹²Why did the knees prevent me? or why the breasts that I should suck? ¹³For now should I have lain still and been quiet, I should have slept: then had I been at rest, ¹⁴With kings and counselors of the earth, which built desolate places for themselves; ¹⁵Or with princes that had gold, who filled their houses with silver: ¹⁶Or as an hidden untimely birth I had not been; as infants which never saw light. ¹⁷There the wicked cease from troubling; and there the weary be at rest.



Job 10:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸Why then have You brought me out of the womb? Would that I had died and no eye had seen me! ¹⁹I should have been as though I had not been, carried from womb to tomb.

- **Aborting unwanted children reduces the number of abused children.**

Child abusers are most typically children of child abusers (30%+). Over the last 25 years the instance of abortions have dipped (down to 1.2 million per year vs. 1.5 million), yet the instances of abuse have dramatically skyrocketed (up over 130% 1.4 million to 3.3 million). There is no correlation between the two - see the **Full Edition Bonus Material** for details.

What if you aborted your child? What do you do?

Psalms 103:8-13: (NASB) ⁸The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. ⁹He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. ¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. ¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. ¹³Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.

1 Corinthians 10:13: (NASB) ¹³No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

We come to God through Jesus. Forgiveness from God is available. We need to ask and then live as though we are forgiven. We need to learn from our mistakes and live differently.



"Song of the Child"

I can hear her talking with a friend, I think it's all about me... About how she can't have a baby now, my mommy doesn't see...That I feel her breath, I know her voice, her blood it flows through my heart...Lord you know my greatest wish is that, we never be apart...

Sometimes life is difficult. Sometimes you may get yourself into situations, such as an unwanted pregnancy that will ruin your plans, change your course and permanently redirect your life. Whether this pregnancy was caused by foolishness or violence, the trauma is still present. According to the law, you have choices. No matter which option you choose, you must realize that it WILL affect you for the rest of your life.

What should you do? End the pregnancy to avoid the changes and inconveniences that are sure to follow? By law, you could do that. But what are the *lasting results* of such an action? You see, we never know. Suicide, depression and guilt have been reported as possible outcomes. Worse than those difficulties, there is now a life that can no longer be lived.

Abortion is a basic moral matter. If you would be courageous and take the time to simply look at pictures of fetal development and understand the miraculous time-line of growth within the womb, the presence of precious life



is undeniable. If you are very brave, you can view the barbaric, graphic and mournful results of abortion on the web.

- Don't live your life out of convenience - it will inevitably make you unhappy.
- Don't live your life wishing some things did not happen - that simply destines you to relive the past, rather than embracing the present.
- Don't live your life having to hide your decisions - such actions will swallow you in guilt.
- Instead - do the right thing - take full responsibility - press forward in spite of the odds.
- It is scary and it is difficult - you will be laughed at and you will miss out on lots of things.
- You will also save a life, a precious human life with untapped potential!
- In so doing, you will begin to find yourself; you will begin to find happiness, a clear conscience and a sense of well-being that can only come to those who preserve life!

Choose life!

Matthew 12:20: (NASB) *A battered reed He will not break off, And a smoldering wick He will not put out, Until He leads justice to victory.*

***Do the unborn have rights?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!***



Source: Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov)

Year	Number of Abortions reported to CDC	induced abortion ratio per 1,000 live births
1970	193,491	52
1971	485,816	137
1972	586,760	180
1973	615,831	196
1974	763,476	242
1975	854,853	272
1976	988,267	312
1977	1,079,430	325
1978	1,157,776	347
1979	1,251,921	358
1980	1,297,606	359
1981	1,300,760	358
1982	1,303,980	354
1983	1,268,987	349
1984	1,333,521	364
1985	1,328,570	364
1986	1,328,112	354
1987	1,353,671	356
1988	1,371,285	352
1989	1,396,658	346
1990	1,429,247	345
1991	1,388,937	339
1992	1,359,145	335
1993	1,330,414	321
1994	1,267,415	334
1995	1,210,883	311
1996	1,221,585	314
1997	1,186,039	274
1998	884,273	264
1999	861,789	256
2000	857,475	246
2001	853,485	246
2002	854,122	246
2003	848,163	241
2004	839,226	238
2005	820,151	233
2006	846,181	236
2007	827,609	231
2008-2010	not yet published	
Total	48,106,910	

* Number of abortions per 1,000 live births.
 † Number of abortions per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years.
 ‡ State health departments and the health departments of New York City and the District of Columbia.
 § Hospitals or other medical facilities in state.
 ¶ Beginning in 1996, the ratio was based on births reported by the National Center for Health Statistics, CDC.
 †† Without estimates for Alaska, California, New Hampshire, and Oklahoma, which did not report number of legal abortions for 1998–1999.
 ‡‡ Without estimates for Alaska, California, and New Hampshire, which did not report number of legal abortions for 1998–2002.
 §§ Without estimates for California, New Hampshire, and West Virginia, which did not report number of legal abortions for 2003 and 2004.
 ¶¶ Without estimates for California, New Hampshire, and Louisiana, which did not report for 2005.
 ††† Without estimates for Alaska, which did not report number of legal abortions for 1998–2002; for California and New Hampshire, which did not report for 1998–2004; for Oklahoma, which did not report for 1998–1999; for West Virginia, which did not report for 2003–2004; and for Louisiana, which did not report for 2005.



And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition of CQ Rewind!**



(Source: WHY CAN'T WE LOVE THEM BOTH by Dr. and Mrs. J.C. Willke CHAPTER 6 "TWO INFAMOUS DAYS IN THE U.S.A." MARCH 6, 1857 JANUARY 22, 1973)

1857: On March 6, 1857 the U.S. Supreme Court finally decided a very vexing question which had troubled the citizens of the United States for many years. In the landmark Dred Scott Decision the court ruled once and for all that black people were not legal "persons" according to the U.S. Constitution. A slave was the property of the owner and could be bought and sold, used, or even killed by the owner at the owner's discretion. The ruling was final. It was by the highest court in the land.

Those who opposed slavery protested, but were met with the retort: "So you oppose slavery? It is against your moral, religious, and ethical convictions? Well, you don't have to own a slave, but don't impose your morality on the slave owner. He has the right to choose to own a slave. The Supreme Court has spoken. Slavery is legal." But not for long. It took a bloody civil war to stop slavery. It took the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution to legally grant freedom, civil rights, and voting rights. From a socioeconomic view, we are still striving for full equality.

1973: On January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court finally decided a very vexing question which had troubled the citizens of the United States for many years. In a landmark Decision, the court ruled once and for all that unborn humans were not legal "persons" according to the U.S. Constitution. An unborn baby was the property of the owner (mother), and she could have the baby killed at her request because of her health (social distress). This could be done at any time until birth. The ruling was final. It was by the highest court in the land.

Those who opposed abortion protested but were met with a retort that seemed an echo of slavery days. "So you oppose abortion? It is against your moral, religious, and ethical convictions? Well, you don't have to have an abortion, but don't impose your morality on the mother (the owner). She has the right to choose to have an abortion. The Supreme Court has spoken. Abortion is legal."

The goal of a Constitutional Amendment or reversal by the Court is still ahead. But the pro-life movement continues to grow. It is now the largest grass roots movement in the history of the U.S.A. Then, the discrimination was on the basis of skin color. Now, it is on the basis of age and place of residence (living in the womb).

SLAVERY

Dred Scott 1857 7-2 Decision
Property of Owner
Black
Non-person
Choose to Buy-Sell-Kill
Abolitionists Should Not Impose Morality
on Slave owners
Was Legal

ABORTION

Roe vs. Wade 7-2 Decision
Property of Owner (Mother)
Unborn
Non-person
Choose to Keep or Kill
Pro-lifers Should Not Impose Morality on
Mother
Abortion Is Legal



Regarding Partial Birth abortions:
REASONS FOR ABORTIONS: COMPILED ESTIMATES

rape	0.3 % (0.1-0.6 %)
incest	0.03 % (0.01-0.1 %)
physical life of mother	0.2 % (0.1-0.3 %)
physical health of mother	1.0 % (0.1-3 %)
fetal health	0.5 % (0.1-1.0 %)
mental health of mother	depends on definition
"personal choice" --too young/immature/not ready for responsibility --economic --to avoid adjusting life --mother single or in poor relationship --enough children already --sex selection	98% (78-99 %) --(32 %) --30% (21-36 %) --(16 %) --(12-13 %) --(4-8 %) --(<0.1 %)

Quantifying cases involving the "mental health" of the mother is difficult due to the highly subjective use of this term (as demonstrated by the wide range in percentage of abortions reported for this reason). It is likely that the number of cases involving clinical mental illness falls towards the low end of the range given above.

These official state statistics suggest that the commonly cited AGI figures for the "hard cases" are high, perhaps by a factor of three. In any case, however, there appears to be consensus that the hard cases--rape, incest, life/health of mother or baby--are a very small fraction of cases. They are arguably a poor premise for formulating general public policy regarding abortion. At the other extreme, AGI's surveys of 1987 and 2004 (as well as the detailed statistics from Minnesota) suggest that a significant fraction of abortions are obtained by mothers who have the means to care for a child but do not want their lives inconvenienced. This is an example of the consequences of the current extreme policy in the United States regarding abortion.

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(Source: www.abortionfacts.com) But don't many unwanted pregnancies become battered children?

- Not so. The landmark study on this was done at the University of Southern California. Professor Edward Lenoski studied 674 consecutive battered children who were brought to the in- and out-patient departments of that medical center. He was the first to go to the parents and study to what extent they wanted and planned the pregnancy. To his surprise, he found that 91% were planned and wanted, compared to 63% for the control groups nationally. Further, the mothers had begun wearing, on the average, pregnancy clothes at 114 days compared to 171 days in the control, and the fathers named the boys after themselves 24% of the time compared to 4% for the control groups. E. Lenoski, *Heartbeat*, vol. 3, no. 4, Dec. 1980

- Both parents (or parent figures) lived in 80% of the homes. Two-thirds of the mothers were "house-wives" and presumably were at home. Almost all mothers were in the 20-30 age group, and fathers were in the 20-35 age bracket. No special social, racial, or economic class predominated. Francis, "Child Abuse, A Nationwide Study," *Amer. Humane Assn. & Child Welfare League*, 1963

- The parents commonly "...grew up in a hostile environment, and were themselves abused. When the children fail to satisfy their [unrealistic, neurotic expectations of perfection]



emotional needs, the parents react with the same violence they experienced as children." 258 J. Walsh, IL Dept. of Child and Family Services *Newsweek*, July 24, 1972 Not much has changed since these earlier investigations.

There is much that we still do not know about the sick psychology that leads to child abuse. One thing does stand out, however: *Prenatally, these were not unwanted pregnancies, they were super-wanted pregnancies.*

(Source: www.prevent-abuse-now.com)

Survey Shows Dramatic Increase in Child Abuse and Neglect, 1986-1993, Excerpts from HHS Release, September 18, 1996

The Department of Health and Human Services released a survey estimating that child abuse and neglect in the United States nearly doubled during the seven years between 1986 and 1993.

According to the HHS study, the number of total child maltreatment instances that were investigated by state agencies remained constant from 1986 to 1993; however, the percentage of cases investigated declined dramatically.

"It is shameful and startling to see that so many more children are in danger and that proportionately fewer incidents are investigated," HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala said. "Now states, schools, health care professionals -- all of us -- must commit ourselves to investigating and preventing child abuse with far greater effectiveness than we have seen in the past."

The report estimated the number of abused and neglected children increased from 1.4 million in 1986, to over 2.8 million in 1993. The number of children who were seriously injured quadrupled from about 143,000 to nearly 570,000

Composition of substantiated child abuse in 2000:

- 879,000 children were victims of child maltreatment.
- Neglect - 63%
- Physical - 19%
- Sexual - 10%
- Psychological - 8%

(Source: www.childhelpinfocenter.org) Victims

NOTE: The following rates are per 1,000 children of the same age group, ethnicity or gender respective to the category being addressed.

The rate of victimization per 1,000 children in 2009 was 9.3, a decrease from the rate of 10.5 children per 1,000 victimized in 2001. In 2009, out of over 3.3 million reports of child abuse and neglect, only 702,000 children were substantiated as victims of at least one account of child maltreatment. An estimated 1,770 children died as a result of being neglected or abused during 2009, an increase from the 2008 estimates. The gender of maltreatment victims was almost split evenly in 2009 (about 48% male, 52% female).

Regarding the debate about the after-effects of abortion on women: Many extremely conflicting reports exist and I found it very difficult to find what was "real and complete" vs. incomplete. The following website and article seems to be thorough and relatively up to date on the matter:

<http://www.deveber.org/text/whealth.html>

Women's Health after Abortion: The Medical and Psychological Evidence



(Source: www.abortionfacts.com)

Milestones of Early Life: At no time in your life does more growth and change occur than in the first nine months before birth. Here are the amazing milestones of that time in your life:

Day 1: Conception: Of the 200,000,000 sperm that try to penetrate the mother's egg cell, only one succeeds. The first cell soon divides in two. Each of these new cells divides again and again as they travel toward the womb in search of a protected place to grow.

Day 6-14: The new individual at first attaches loosely to the wall of the womb, then burrows deeply and attaches securely to it over the next week. Sensitive pregnancy tests can now show positive, but this depends on the level of hormone produced by the new life. By the end of the second week, the mother's menstrual period is suppressed by this hormone (hCG) which is produced by her child.



Day 17: Blood vessels begin to form. Remarkably, the future sex cells that will give rise to sperm or eggs for a new generation begin to group together - only 17 days after this new life is alive itself.

Day 18-20: The foundations of the brain, spinal cord, and nervous system are laid.

Day 21: The heart begins to beat, unsurely at first, gaining strength day by day. The heart beats 70 times per minute at first, reaching a maximum of 170-190 at seven weeks, and slowing a bit to 160-180 at 9 weeks. A day later the eyes begin to develop. The earliest stages of the ears are now present.

Day 26-27: The lungs now begin to form.

Day 28-32: Two tiny arms make their appearance and budding legs follow two days later. The beginnings of the mouth take shape. The nose starts to develop. The thyroid gland begins to grow. Blood flows in the baby's veins but stays separate from the mother's blood. The tongue now begins to form. The face now makes its first appearance.

It is around this time that most women find out that they are pregnant!

Day 36: The baby's eyes develop their first color in the retina.

Day 40: The baby makes her first reflex movements. Touching around the mouth with a fine bristle causes her to flex her neck.

Day 41: The fingers begin to form, followed by the toes a few days later.

Day 42: The baby develops nerve connections that will lead to a sense of smell. The brain is now divided into 3 parts - one to experience emotion and understand language, one for hearing and one for seeing. Joints begin to form.

Day 44: Buds of milk teeth appear. Facial muscles develop. Eyelids begin to form, protecting the developing eyes. Elbows take shape. Internal organs are present, but immature. 99% of muscles are present; each with its own nerve supply. Electrical activity is detectable in brain.

Day 52: Spontaneous movement begins. The baby then develops a whole collection of moves over the next four weeks including hiccupping, frowning, squinting, frowning the brow, pursing the lips, moving individual arms and legs, head turning, touching the face, breathing (without air), stretching, opening the mouth, yawning, and sucking.



8 Weeks: The baby is now well-proportioned, and about the size of a thumb. Every organ is present. The liver is making blood, the kidneys function, and the heart beats steadily. The skull, elbows, and knees are forming. Of the 4500 structures in the adult body, 4000 are already present. The skeleton of the arms and legs and the spine begins to stiffen as bone cells are added.



9 Weeks: If prodded, the baby's eyelids and hands close. Genitalia that were forming in the seventh week now become visible, indicating whether it's a boy or girl. However, the doctor won't be able to tell by ultrasound until the twelfth to twentieth week. Early muscular movements begin. The thyroid gland turns on.

10 Weeks: Fingerprints begin their seven-week long formation. The fingernails begin to develop. The eyelids now fuse together until month seven, protecting the delicate eyes. The number of connections between nerves and muscles has tripled since last week.

11 Weeks: The baby now "practices" breathing, since she will have to breathe air immediately after birth. The baby urinates. Her stomach muscles can now contract. Vocal chords and taste buds form. She can make complex facial expressions and even smile.



12 Weeks: Fine hair begins to grow on the upper lip and chin and eyebrows. The baby swallows and responds to skin stimulation.

13 Weeks: The face is prettier, and facial expressions may resemble the parents'. The baby is active, but mom doesn't feel anything yet.

15 Weeks: A wild production of nerve cells begins and continues for a month. A second surge will occur at 25 weeks.

4 Months: Nostrils and toenails become visible. The baby may suck her thumb, turn somersaults and has a firm grip. The ovaries of girls contain beginnings of eggs. She begins to develop sleeping habits. At about 4 ½ months she is able to experience pain.



5 Months: The testes descend in boys. Mom may feel the baby kick, turn or hiccup and may be able to identify a bulge as an elbow or head. Each side of the brain has a billion nerve cells now.

6 Months: The baby will be able to hear by next week. The child sleeps and wakes, nestling in her favorite positions to sleep, and stretches upon waking up.



7 Months: The eyelids begin to reopen, preparing to see the outside world. Eyelashes have now become well developed.

8 Months: Skin becomes pink and smooth. The pupils of eye respond to light. Fingernails reach to the tip of the finger. The baby is really getting cramped now.

9.5 Months: The child triggers labor and birth occurs, an average of 264-270 days after conception.

And not until the baby has gone through all these events on the inside can we see the new child on the outside.

