

7+ Myths about Abortion and the Pro-Life Movement

1. Pro-lifers only care about birth and not after



Why might people think this?

Pro-lifers talk about babies a lot. Women facing an unplanned pregnancy may think “You don’t care about me. You only talk about babies. You don’t know my difficult circumstances.”

PRCs help women before AND after birth.

Pro-life people care for women by volunteering and donating to pregnancy resource centers. PRCs outnumber abortion facilities 3 to 1 (Live Action) This is impressive, considering most PRCs are 501c3 charities and don’t receive any government funding.

Specific ways PRCs help

Heartbeat International has provided nearly 250,000 free ultrasounds for pregnant women and served 1.5 million clients each year. In the last 12 months, OCC has provided

- **10,836 diapers**
- **212 pack of wipes**
- **76 baby outfits**
- **115 other items** ranging from cribs and mattresses to towels, toys, and blankets.

In 2019, PRCs served nearly 2 million people, saving communities nearly \$270 million according to a Charlotte Lozier Institute (CLI) study. Services included almost \$27 million worth of material assistance.

Stats on Pro-lifers and adoption

It’s hard to find stats on Pro-lifers and adoption, but we have stats on Christians and adoption. 2% of US adults have adopted children and **over twice as many** (5%) of **Christians have adopted children.**



2. Women won't receive treatments for ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage

Medically, treating ectopic pregnancies is not abortion.

The CDC definition of abortion is ending a pregnancy that's IN the uterus. Ectopic pregnancies are OUTSIDE the uterus. Treating an ectopic pregnancy involves the medication methotrexate or laparoscopic surgery. The abortion pill uses different drugs and does not treat ectopic pregnancy, according to the FDA.

Legally, treating ectopic pregnancies is not abortion.

States that limit abortion legally define abortion. Each state's definition excludes treatments for ectopic pregnancies and miscarriages. They have exceptions for instances where the mother's life is in danger. Guttmacher charts existing state laws restricting abortion. Live Action compiled quotes of each state law: <https://www.liveaction.org/news/treatments-miscarriage> No one wants women to die. Removing a deceased baby (treating miscarriage) is not the same as aborting a healthy baby.

3. What if the life of the mother is in danger?

Thankfully, life-threatening complications are rare.

General complications (including ones that are not life-threatening) affect 8% of all pregnancies. Pro-Choice people like to bring up fringe arguments where abortion might be medically necessary. This fearmongering is a distraction from all the elective abortions that are NOT medically necessary.

Compassionate care includes early delivery or early C-section.

Non-violent treatment saves the mom and gives the baby a chance to live. Babies are viable at 22 weeks, and odds of survival are better at 26 weeks. Which is better? Intentionally trying to save the baby or intentionally terminating him or her? Humane treatment allows the baby to pass away peacefully instead of being ripped apart.

In a true emergency, a c-section can be done within the hour. It is faster than D&E or D&X which requires waiting overnight (or days) for the woman's cervix to dilate.



4. Is abortion safer than pregnancy?

To answer that question, we need accurate data on abortion.

There's one study everyone likes to cite by Raymond and Grimes, but it has data problems. People can't cite other studies because no other researchers can replicate this claim.

The CDC does not require states to report abortion data.

Specifically, Maryland, California, New Hampshire, Washington DC, and New York City don't report their data. Given the high population and permissive abortion laws in California, that's a huge gap in data.

The CDC requires pregnancy mortality reporting from all 50 states and DC. Comparing pregnancy data with spotty abortion data is comparing apples and oranges. The CDC admits they might overestimate pregnancy-related deaths.

Further reading: Equal Rights Insititute has a great article about the data problems.

4.5 Fetuses are alive but women can abort them anyway.

Pro-lifers often misunderstand "My body, my choice."

They think that pro-choice people deny that a baby is a separate body. (Some people do, but many take a different approach.) Ask clarifying questions to see if the person you're talking to acknowledges that a baby is a person.

"Do you mean that the embryo's body is literally just part of the mother's body, like a kidney or another organ? Or do you mean that because the embryo is in her body she has the right to kill it?"

The Bodily Autonomy argument, aka the violinist argument

If you're not familiar with the violinist argument, read about it. <https://secularprolife.org/2018/12/mcfall-v-shimp-and-t> Bodily autonomy is important and complex. You'll have to do your homework. Take 18 minutes and read **Autumn in the Sovereign Zone: Why "it's my body, I can do what I want" won't do** (ERI.)

A pregnant woman is the de facto guardian of her unborn child. In the movie *Up*, Carl the elderly man attaches balloons to his house and flies away. He's shocked when Russel knocks on his door, asking to come in rather than fall to his death. No one else can help Russel, so Carl reluctantly agrees to let him in. Should Carl have asserted his house autonomy and refused to help Russel? Then an innocent child would die.



5. More babies means more kids in foster care

Most women who were denied abortion raise and love their children.

75% of women denied abortion gave birth (the rest either got abortions somewhere else or miscarried.) Of the women who gave birth, 90% raised their children themselves (10% placed for adoption). (Turnaway).

Adoption is not the same as foster care.

Foster care is temporary with the goal of reunification with the child's biological family. Foster kids are almost never eligible for adoption. They are not unwanted.

There are more people waiting to adopt than there are available kids.

There's ~36 couples waiting to adopt for every 1 child placed for adoption. Adoptees are not unwanted.

Bonus points:

- Pro-choice people like to claim abortion restrictions won't decrease abortions. Then they say there will be a large increase in unwanted children. They're contradicting themselves.
- Abortion restrictions correlate with lower pregnancy rates.

6. Why don't you fix foster care, adoption, poverty, homelessness, etc?

This is a red herring distracting from the issue of abortion.

This demand to solve all the other problems isn't applied to other causes. We don't ask the American Cancer society to fix homelessness, or the homeless shelter to cure cancer. Supporting the human rights of the preborn is morally good. Without first ensuring the right to life, no other social justice cause can exist.

Pro-lifers support other causes, too.

Pro-lifers are the ones who foster, adopt, care for the homeless and support other agencies to make our world a better place. (We covered volunteering in the first myth, and adoption in myth 5.)

Religious people donate to charities more than any other group. As philanthropyroundtable.org puts it "In study after study, religious practice is the behavioral variable with the strongest and most consistent association with generous giving."



Many pro-life organizations address homelessness

The [National Maternity Housing Coalition](#) is a network of life-affirming housing services for homeless pregnant women.

[Heartbeat International](#) is a pro-life association of PRCs that tackles other issues. They have medical clinics, maternity homes, and nonprofit adoption agencies.

7. What about cases of rape or incest?

Would you support banning abortion except in the cases of rape/incest?

(If the person says “no, all abortion should be legal,” then it’s not really about the fringe cases.)

Just 1% of women get abortions because they were raped.

Less than 0.5% do so because of incest, according to the Guttmacher Institute.

Rape is violence against women, and so is abortion

(Feminists For Life articulate this point. Saying babies conceived in rape should be aborted is insulting to people who were conceived in rape. Ryan Bromberger is one such child conceived in rape but adopted in love.

Abortion in the case of rape is the only instance where someone other than the perpetrator is punished for the crime.



All links and sources are available at
friendsofwomenonline.org/abortion-myths
Scan the QR code

