

Chapter 1 : RealChoice: Abortion Deaths in the s

Abortion was a sore spot for many Americans during the s. With the women's right movement making a more prominent appearance in the 70s, general topics that involved women's rights started to become topics of discussion.

Rich women who knew where to go could get relatively safe abortions. Untrained, greedy operators – the classic image of a backyard abortionist – preyed on poorer women. They were let out the back door in the dead of the night, still groggy from anaesthesia, and told not to come back if they were in trouble. Abortions were performed under a cruel and degrading lottery system: Women were subjected to humiliating interviews, in which they had to demean themselves by claiming that they could not mentally cope with pregnancy. Denise White, recalling her experience in the Abortion Information Service AIS , says, "A significant number of doctors took an approach by a woman for an abortion as an opportunity to abuse them. These doctors would often have the hide to expect payment for the abuse. The following accounts are from and A year-old woman who suspected she was pregnant went to the public hospital. She had to wait three hours before the doctor would see her. She was asked a range of routine questions by a medical student, including what contraception she was using, and who had got her pregnant. She was told that the availability of abortion depended on the day and the doctor. After the examination was over, the gynaecologist ripped into the young woman with a violent fury: The doctor to whom she was referred did not speak to her in any way as he approached the examination table. He handled her breasts very roughly. Then he re-examined me it was very painful and told the student to do it again. He remarked that I was going to have a rotten obstetrical future anyway. They approached their own or a local doctor, asked for an abortion and then reported back to me. Counsellors were trained, who would take women into their homes, or speak to them over the phone about where they could go if they wanted an abortion. The public launch, in September , got excellent media coverage, and 67 women called the service in the first week. Members of parliament, the Labor Party executive, student guilds pledged their support. There is the crux of it:

Chapter 2 : Nine women share their personal stories of abortion | Life and style | The Guardian

Abortion was very easily obtained in Texas in the s up through the early s. And it was very common for high school and college girls to get them. Things have changed a lot, obviously.

Today, that death toll is believed to be in the neighborhood of 1. All told, NRLC projects that there have been over 43 million unborn babies that have lost their lives since the U. Supreme Court made Roe v. Wade and its companion case Doe v. Bolton the law of the land. These lost lives are the numbers that matter most in the end. An examination of that data in more detail, however, tells us not only how we got here, but where we might be going in the future. And what it suggests is that the long dark night may be coming to an end. How many there were and under what conditions has always been in dispute. There is no evidence that supports either assertion. As to the latter figure, Dr. Nathanson, now a pro-life stalwart but in the s and s a key player in the effort to eliminate all protective abortion statutes, wrote in *Aborting America*, "I knew the figures were totally false. In fact, what is clear is that Roe ignited a huge increase in the number of abortions. Rather than discourage abortion, many states actually went on to fund abortion, as did the federal government prior to passage of the Hyde Amendment in , not only paying for the decision to take life, but also lending their tacit moral blessing. Under the circumstances, the skyrocketing numbers of abortions in these early years are not surprising. Abortion rates the number of abortions per 1, women aged and ratios the number of abortions per 1, live births also exploded in the immediate aftermath of Roe. The ratio of abortion to live births stood at abortions to 1, live births in and almost doubled by , reaching per 1, live births. For example, while the female population of reproductive age grew by Cultural factors, such as the sexual revolution ignited in the s, surely contributed to the increase, but what fueled the explosion was probably the availability of abortion itself as an automatic "solution" if an unplanned pregnancy occurred. Pro-life victories toward the end of the s helped slow the increase, but the Supreme Court kept stronger protections from being enacted. The Hyde Amendment, prohibiting the use of federal funds to pay for abortions, was upheld by the Court in , the first real limit on abortion to clear the Supreme Court hurdle. According to AGI, abortion crossed the 1. The CDC reported its highest abortion rate at the beginning of the decade 25 abortions per 1, women of reproductive age in , though rates throughout the rest of the s never dipped below 23 per 1, After dropping into the s for a couple of years, that ratio began a steady decline in that lasted throughout the s. More Truth, Fewer Abortions Annual abortion totals reached their peak in , topping the 1. In theory, part of the decline in raw annual totals may have been due to population shifts as the population bubble of the baby boom generation aged and moved beyond their reproductive years. This would mean fewer women in the reproductive age range and fewer pregnancies and fewer abortions if all other factors stayed the same. In the same way, any behavioral or cultural factors that impacted the basic number of pregnancies could have effected the number of subsequent abortions. Available data indicate that such factors may have been responsible for some, but not all of the decline. The drop in the abortion ratio from per every thousand live births to less than per thousand in just 10 years shows the decline in raw numbers was due not merely to there being fewer pregnancies, but to the fact that a substantially smaller proportion of pregnant women were choosing to abort their babies. So what made the difference? Pro-life legislation, pro-life education, and pro-life alternatives. Pro-life legislation passed during the decade certainly contributed to the decline. Eighteen states passed informed consent or "right to know" laws since , most of them still in effect despite vigorous legal challenges. Other states have put waiting periods in place. Many of these laws were passed in the early s. Congress voted three times to ban the procedure but vetoes and threats of vetoes by pro-abortion President Bill Clinton assured that no partial-birth abortion ban became law. Though the Supreme Court struck down these state bans in June , the debate and passage of these laws was enormously effective in drawing attention to the humanity of the unborn and the inhumanity of those who defend this barbaric procedure. The educational programs of 3, right to life chapters throughout the nation have taught the truth about abortion and the humanity of the unborn child wherever an audience has gathered in venues as diverse as a school or a church or a fair booth. This has certainly been a major factor in turning countless women and men away from abortion. This continual grassroots educational

effort has also helped keep abortion from gaining cultural acceptance, as its proponents had predicted in The phenomenal growth and increasing sophistication of pregnancy care centers across the U. While there were just a handful in operation when Roe became the law of the land, current estimates are that there were some 3, such centers in operation by Pregnancy care centers offer women real alternatives to abortion, giving information, encouragement, and practical assistance that allow both woman and child a better life. Ultrasounds, considered a technology of unknown safety and efficacy by the National Institutes of Health as late as , became commonplace in the s, so that nearly every woman or man in the country with a pregnant relative, friend, or office mate saw for themselves the humanity of the developing child. Detailed sonograms, showing the baby active and moving, along with fetal heartbeat stethoscopes, picking up the "whoosh-whoosh" of a heart that began beating as early as the third week of pregnancy, exposed truths the abortion industry had suppressed for years. While the decade began with the highest annual figure of abortions ever recorded in the U. Trends have improved in recent years, but there is concern that the decline could be stalling. Abortion totals dropped by over , from to , an average of about 40, fewer abortions per year. Better than an increase, to be sure, but not as good as what was happening in the mids. Over 6 in 10 This indicates abortions being done less to avoid shame or discovery and more because a woman simply feels overwhelmed by the prospect of bearing and caring for another child. This is a trend that will need to be addressed. According to the CDC, This is due to the promotion of new surgical techniques such as manual vacuum aspiration and new chemical abortion methods such as RU and methotrexate, all of which work only in the early weeks of pregnancy. Stung by understated but fully accurate drawings that show how partial-birth abortions take the lives of unborn babies, abortionists have been anxious to move the debate to earlier stages of pregnancy. Approval by the federal government of RU, the French abortion pill, in during the last year of the Clinton Administration may give further impetus to this shift. Pro-lifers will need to be prepared to continue their vigorous defense of the sanctity of life at all stages of development. The election of President George W. Bush, a compassionate man who has respect for human life at all stages, provides an inspiration for pro-lifers to carry on their vitally important work. Ascertaining the precise abortion rate for the U. That rate was 20 in , the last year for which data was available from all reporting areas, though data from the remaining 48 reporting areas 46 states plus New York City and the District of Columbia show a figure of 17 per 1, reproductive age women for through As with the abortion rate, data for the calculation of the abortion ratio was truncated by the loss of reporting data from California, Oklahoma, Alaska, and New Hampshire in The abortion ratio with those states was per 1, live births in , but per thousand with those states subtracted for the same year. Figures for those 48 remaining reporting areas continued to decline in subsequent years, dropping to just abortions per thousand in While their numbers do not always match up, they do roughly track each other, and differences in the data reported mean valuable information can be gained from both sources. Because reporting requirements and enforcement of those requirements differ from state to state, a lot of abortions are missed. AGI bases its numbers on direct surveys of "abortion providers," making their figures the generally more accepted ones. AGI, however, does not perform its surveys every year, and does not always collect or publish the data the CDC does on method, weeks of gestation, state of residence, etc. This means the two sources are best used together to obtain a more complete picture of abortion in America. The reason for the omission of Oklahoma, Alaska, New Hampshire, and California one of the states reporting the highest figures in past surveys has never been given. However, because of these gaps, just looking at a graph plotting the numbers gives the appearance of a much larger drop off than actually occurred between and Nonetheless, because we have numbers for the remaining states both before and after the change, we do have every reason to believe that the national decline seen prior to continued on in and

Chapter 3 : America in the s

"In the '70s for example, abortion clinic directors have told me women felt incredibly lucky to have access to an abortion â€” remembering the disasters of the illegal period â€” and felt little.

For complete information and resources, we recommend that you consult the chapter and the book in its entirety. Until the late s, women healers in Western Europe and the U. In , Britain first passed antiabortion laws, which then became stricter throughout the century. By , most abortions were illegal in the U. Abortion became a crime and a sin for several reasons. A trend of humanitarian reform in the midth century broadened liberal support for criminalization, because at that time abortion was a dangerous procedure done with crude methods, few antiseptics, and high mortality rates. But this alone cannot explain the attack on abortion. At the same time, male doctors were tightening their control over the medical profession. Doctors considered midwives, who attended births and performed abortions as part of their regular practice, a threat to their own economic and social power. The medical establishment actively took up the antiabortion cause in the second half of the 19th century as part of its effort to eliminate midwives. Finally, with the declining birth rate among whites in the late s, the U. Budding industrial capitalism relied on women to be unpaid household workers, low-paid menial workers, reproducers, and socializers of the next generation of workers. Without legal abortion, women found it more difficult to resist the limitations of these roles. Then, as now, making abortion illegal neither eliminated the need for abortion nor prevented its practice. In the s, doctors estimated that there were two million abortions a year in the U. Women who are determined not to carry an unwanted pregnancy have always found some way to try to abort. All too often, they have resorted to dangerous, sometimes deadly methods, such as inserting knitting needles or coat hangers into the vagina and uterus, douching with dangerous solutions like lye, or swallowing strong drugs or chemicals. The coat hanger has become a symbol of the desperation of millions of women who have risked death to end a pregnancy. When these attempts harmed them, it was hard for women to obtain medical treatment; when these methods failed, women still had to find an abortionist. Illegal Abortion Many of us do not know what it was like to need an abortion before legalization. Women who could afford to pay skilled doctors or go to another country had the safest and easiest abortions. Most women found it difficult if not impossible to arrange and pay for abortions in medical settings. With one exception, the doctors whom I asked for an abortion treated me with contempt, their attitudes ranging from hostile to insulting. Although there were skilled and dedicated laywomen and doctors who performed safe, illegal abortions, most illegal abortionists, doctors, and those who claimed to be doctors cared only about being well rewarded for their trouble. Some male abortionists insisted on having sexual relations before the abortion. Abortionists emphasized speed and their own protection. Some abortionists were rough and sadistic. Almost no one took adequate precautions against hemorrhage or infection. Typically, the abortionist would forbid the woman to contact him or her again. If a complication occurred, harassment by the law was a frightening possibility. The need for secrecy isolated women having abortions and those providing them. In the s, about a million illegal abortions a year were performed in the U. Women who were victims of botched or unsanitary abortions came in desperation to hospital emergency wards, where some died of widespread abdominal infections. Many women who recovered from such infections found themselves sterile or chronically and painfully ill. The enormous emotional stress often lasted a long time. Poor women and women of color ran the greatest risks with illegal abortions. The Push for Legal Abortion In the s, inspired by the civil rights and antiwar movements, women began to fight more actively for their rights. Rage, pain, and fear burst out in demonstrations and speakouts as women burdened by years of secrecy got up in front of strangers to talk about their illegal abortions. Women marched and rallied and lobbied for abortion on demand. Civil liberties groups and liberal clergy joined in these efforts to support women. A few states liberalized abortion laws, allowing women abortions in certain circumstances e. Costs were still high and few women actually benefited. In , New York State went further, with a law that allowed abortion on demand through the 24th week from the LMP if it was done in a medical facility by a doctor. A few other states passed similar laws. Women who could afford it flocked to the few places where abortions were legal. Feminist networks

offered support, loans, and referrals and fought to keep prices down. But for every woman who managed to get to New York, many others with limited financial resources or mobility did not. Illegal abortion was still common. The fight continued; several cases before the Supreme Court urged the repeal of all restrictive state laws. On January 22, 1973, the U. Supreme Court, in the famous *Roe v. Wade* left a lot of power to doctors and to government, it was an important victory for women. For the women who had access to legal abortions, severe infections, fever, and hemorrhaging from illegal or self-induced abortions became a thing of the past. Women health care workers improved their abortion techniques. Some commercial clinics hired feminist abortion activists to do counseling. These efforts turned out to be just the beginning of a longer struggle to preserve legal abortion and to make it accessible to all women. Although legalization greatly lowered the cost of abortion, it still left millions of women in the U. State regulations and funding have varied widely, and second-trimester abortions are costly. During the late 60s and early 70s, feminist health centers around the country provided low-cost abortions that emphasized quality of care, and they maintained political involvement in the reproductive rights movement. Competition from other abortion providers, harassment by the IRS, and a profit-oriented economy made their survival difficult. By the early 80s, only 20 to 30 of these centers remained. When the Supreme Court legalized abortion in 1973, the antiabortion forces, led initially by the Catholic Church hierarchy, began a serious mobilization using a variety of political tactics including pastoral plans, political lobbying, campaigning, public relations, papal encyclicals, and picketing abortion clinics. The Church hierarchy does not truly represent the views of U. Catholics on this issue or the practice of Catholic women, who have abortions at a rate slightly higher than the national average for all women. Other religious groups, like the Mormons and some representatives of Jewish orthodoxy, have traditionally opposed abortion. These antiabortion groups talk as if all truly religious and moral people disapprove of abortion. This is not true now and never has been. The long-range goal of the antiabortion movement is to outlaw abortion. Their short-range strategy has been to attack access to abortion, and they have had successes. The most vulnerable women--young women; women with low incomes, of whom a disproportionate number are women of color; all women who depend on the government for their health care--have borne the brunt of these attacks on abortion rights. The result was immediate in terms of harm and discrimination against women living in poverty. In October 1975, Rosie Jimenez, a Texas woman, died from an illegal abortion in Mexico, after Texas stopped funding Medicaid abortions. It is impossible to count the number of women who have been harmed by the Hyde Amendment, but before Hyde, one-third of all abortions were Medicaid funded: Another 100,000 Medicaid-eligible women who needed abortions were unable to gain access to public funding for the procedure. Without state funding, many women with unwanted pregnancies are forced to have babies, be sterilized, or have abortions using money needed for food, rent, clothing, and other necessities. Although a broad spectrum of groups fought against the Hyde Amendment, countering this attack on women who lack financial resources was not a priority of the pro-choice movement. There was no mass mobilization or public outcry. Parental involvement laws, requiring that minors seeking abortions either notify their parents or receive parental consent, affect millions of young women. As of early 1990s, 35 states have these laws; 23 states enforce them. In some states, a physician is required to notify at least one parent either in person, by phone, or in writing. Health care providers face loss of license and sometimes criminal penalties for failure to comply. Antiabortion forces have also used illegal and increasingly violent tactics, including harassment, terrorism, violence, and murder. Since the early 80s, clinics and providers have been targets of violence. Doctors and other workers have been the object of death threats, and clinics have been subject to chemical attacks for example, butyric acid, arson, bomb threats, invasions, and blockades. In the late 80s, a group called Operation Rescue initiated a strategy of civil disobedience by blockading clinic entrances and getting arrested. There were thousands of arrests nationwide as clinics increasingly became political battlefields. Over 100 clinics have been bombed. After 1990, the violence became deadly. The murder of two doctors and an escort at a clinic in Pensacola, Florida, was followed by the murder of two women receptionists at clinics in Brookline, Massachusetts. A health care provider spoke about the impact of the violence: The fear of violence has become part of the lives of every abortion provider in the country. As doctors, we are being warned not to open big envelopes with no return addresses in case a mail bomb is enclosed. I know colleagues

who have had their homes picketed and their children threatened. Some wear bullet-proof vests and have remote starters for their cars. Even going to work and facing the disapproving looks from co-workers--isolation and marginalization from colleagues is part of it. The antiabortion movement continues to mount new campaigns on many fronts. Most recently, it has aggressively put out the idea that abortion increases the risk of breast cancer. In January , the results of a Danish study, the largest to date involving one and a half million women , showed that there is no connection.

abortions--known or estimated legal abortions occurring in the U.S. ratio--abortions per live births percentage--abortions as percentage of total pregnancies (live births+abortions).

Zoe Gillard, 32 Academic administrator Fifteen years ago, when I was 17, I had to have a late-term abortion at 21 weeks. This was obviously hugely upsetting, but particularly because I had always been very conscientious about contraception. I had been taking the pill throughout my relationship with my boyfriend, and when I missed a period, I went straight to my doctor to have a pregnancy test. It came back negative. I was hugely relieved. My boyfriend was going away to university, so we split up and I came off the pill. Weirdly, I was still missing periods. I returned to my doctor, who said that I had nothing to worry about - it was probably due to the hormonal changes of stopping my oral contraception. A short while later, I met someone a few years older than me who had a child, and she confided that she had found out about her pregnancy too late to have an abortion. I did another pregnancy test then, which came back positive. I was 18 weeks along. I was at the start of my upper sixth, I was doing my A-levels, and it just seemed impossible for me to have a child. I had very supportive friends, and my ex-boyfriend came to see me and said he would help me with whatever I decided. For me though, the decision was made as soon as I heard that I was pregnant. I arranged the abortion myself and my GP was very helpful - I think that she felt quite guilty. It took about two weeks to set up an appointment and I told my parents the night before I went into hospital. They were shocked, but supportive too. I went in on a Tuesday and the doctors administered a pessary to induce dilation and labour - but nothing happened. They waited and tried again, but still nothing. It got to the point where different doctors were streaming in and out of the room to see how many fingers they could put in. They administered three pessaries and none worked. It was Thursday by this point and they decided to send some sort of psychologist in to see me. I was stuck in a room just off the maternity ward, too, so all I could hear was families with their new babies. Eventually though, on the Saturday, it worked. My breasts swelled up, I started producing milk, my waters broke, and I had contractions - it was terrifying. It was visiting time in the maternity ward and so the doctor told me to shut up. They anaesthetised me and then took me away to remove the placenta. When I woke up, I was on my own in a bed full of blood. I felt physically empty in a way that I have never felt since. Despite the trauma of the experience, I have still always known it was the right thing for me to have done and have never regretted it. The fact is that, for me, it was the only thing I could have done. I knew immediately that I wanted an abortion then - in my particular circumstances, it was a very easy decision to make. I was naturally feeling really vulnerable and he kept asking me all these probing questions about how I had got pregnant. He also kept asking me to consider my options and to have counselling and to think about whether I was really sure. Everything he did was obstructive until eventually he just told me to go away and think about it. I was hugely put off - despairing, really - but a friend encouraged me to see another doctor, who was much better. I was referred to a really good clinic on the outskirts of Leamington, where I had the abortion under general anaesthetic. It was very straightforward, not painful at all, and afterwards my overwhelming feeling was relief. The pregnancy was a moment when my life could have gone in one direction or another and I feel really happy with the decision I came to.

Alison Boyd, 31 Nurse specialist I became pregnant in very unfortunate circumstances. On what must have been the last occasion that we had sex though - just before we broke up - I became pregnant. I found out two weeks later. Setting up the procedure was fairly straightforward and I had an early medical abortion at six weeks - the process is that you go in on the first day and take a tablet, and a few days later you insert a tampon that is infused with another drug. That empties your womb. This procedure was quite simple, but not without its problems - you go through much of it at home, and I did feel very numb and alone.

Mary Pimm, 56 Retired civil servant I had an abortion in the early 70s when I was 23, just a few years after legalisation. At the time I was in a relationship with a man who was black, and the pregnancy was the result of a contraceptive failure. The relationship was over by the time I found out about the pregnancy, I had no way of supporting a child, and I knew that, if I went ahead, a mixed-race child was very unlikely to be adopted. I discovered I was pregnant fairly early on, but I was just under 12 weeks when I

had the procedure and I have never regretted it. Cath Elliott, 41 Community librarian I had an abortion back in , when I was My husband and I had felt so happy during my earlier pregnancies, but when we discussed this one, both of us were thinking the same thing: I went to my GP when I was a couple of weeks pregnant, expecting the process to be straightforward. My doctor kept stalling the process, though. At this point I was in a really emotional state - I had started experiencing morning sickness and I just wanted the whole process to be over. For that, I had to travel to Leamington Spa. Overall then, despite visiting the doctor in the first few weeks of pregnancy, it was about 10 weeks later that the abortion took place. I had a surgical abortion under general anaesthetic, on the NHS, and it just took a couple of hours. For me, the whole thing was an absolute relief and I have never regretted my decision. Rachel Gasston, 30 Student I had an abortion in , when I was 26 years old and studying for extra A-levels. I was all set to attend university, and had been offered a conditional place at Oxford, so I was working really hard. Living with my parents, I had been feeling very ill, and thought that it must just be a general malaise. I mentioned it to my mother though, and she asked whether I could be pregnant. After a couple of pregnancy tests, though, the doctor confirmed that my mother had been right. That was weird, because I had actually been quite anti-abortion before. I knew one woman who had had an abortion and I had been quite disapproving. As soon as I knew that I was pregnant, though, my only thought was that this had to be over as soon as possible. Setting up the abortion was fairly straightforward and I had a surgical procedure at a Marie Stopes clinic paid for by the NHS at eight weeks pregnant. I am from South Africa and there it is illegal to have an abortion. In fact, I actually think that the abortion saved my life. Lynne Miles, 26 Economist I had an abortion about two and a half years ago. I had been seeing my ex-boyfriend still a good friend of mine casually for about six years and when I found out I was pregnant it was a huge shock. I talked to him about it and he was very supportive. I had a surgical abortion privately, at a Marie Stopes clinic, when I was eight weeks pregnant. The day afterwards I was sore, but I also felt bizarrely euphoric. It makes for good drama. It is really important for people to hear from women who have had abortions and who really feel fine about it though. Irina Lester, 30 Librarian I had an abortion when I was 22 and in my final year of university. I had just split up with my boyfriend, which had been depressing in itself, and when I found out I was pregnant it felt like an utter catastrophe. My family was supportive of my choice to have an abortion - actually, I never felt it was a choice in the true sense, it absolutely felt like the only thing I could do. And when I told my ex-boyfriend, he was also supportive. He actually offered to look after me after I had the termination, so eventually we got back together and we have now been married for eight years. I had a surgical abortion at four weeks pregnant. People talk about abortion being a trauma, but for me the unwanted pregnancy was a trauma and the abortion itself was a huge relief. I had got to that age without ever having to face this issue - I had always taken responsibility for contraception myself. I had been lied to by the man I had been seeing though, who said that he was infertile. At the time, I had decided to go back into education and I had my life mapped out - I was desperate to escape the poverty trap myself and my children were in. The man I had been seeing gave me the money for the procedure, and so I travelled to the mainland and had a surgical abortion. Then there is the emotional cost of travelling alone. Very few women can afford to have someone accompany them.

Chapter 5 : 26 Women Share Their Abortion Stories -- New York Magazine

HISTORY OF ABORTION. Over several centuries and in different cultures, there is a rich history of women helping each other to abort. Until the late s, women healers in Western Europe and the U.S. provided abortions and trained other women to do so, without legal prohibitions.

During the first trimester , you will usually have the option of having a medical abortion procedure or a surgical abortion procedure. Before considering the options, it is recommended that you obtain a sonogram to determine if the pregnancy is viable uterine, non-ectopic pregnancy and for accurate pregnancy dating. Need to Talk About Your Options? For information about abortion you may call the APA toll-free helpline at , or search locally by zip code below. Find a Abortion Alternative Specialist in your area What abortion procedures are used during the first trimester? In most cases, you will have a choice between medical or surgical abortion procedures during the first trimester. Medical abortions are only available up through nine weeks gestation. The types of abortion procedures performed during the first trimester are: This medication combination is not as commonly used in the U. Considered less invasive with only a local anesthesia being used on the cervix. What abortion procedures are used during the second trimester? Medication- based abortion procedures are not an option during the second trimester. The types of abortion procedures performed during the second trimester are: It is also referred to as suction curettage or vacuum aspiration. What abortion procedures are used during the third trimester? Third trimester or late term abortions are not legal in a number of states except in certain medical situations. Most medical communities establish 24 weeks gestation, the later part of the second trimester, as the earliest time of viability. Therefore, the availability of any procedure used in the third trimester is based on the laws of that state. The procedures that can be done in the third trimester include: Find a Abortion Alternative Specialist in your area Last updated: April 7, at Alternatives to mifepristone regimens for medical abortion. American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, 2: Paul M, et al. Creinin MD, et al. Medical management of abortion. Goldberg ab, et al. New England Journal of Medicine, 1: State Policies in Brief: In RA Hatcher et al. Spitz IM, et al. Early pregnancy termination with mifepristone and misoprostol in the U. New England Journal of Medicine, Reproductive Health Technologies Project.

Chapter 6 : Abortion in the s

Abortion Deaths in the s In response to a comment about *Abortion Deaths in , I'm gathering the entire decade in one place. Here, to place the mortality trends in their accurate context, is a chart showing abortion deaths from*

As the war in Vietnam came to an end, new social causes came to the fore, especially environmentalism. Activists triumphed, for instance, when plans for SST Supersonic Transport planes were scrapped because of noise pollution and danger to the ozone level. Besides continued activism on several fronts, the United States also faced significant changes in its demographic portrait because of the economic problems the country faced and changes in immigration laws. Meanwhile, in the landmark *Roe v. Wade*, Congress cut off Medicaid funding for most abortions in , limiting the access of poor women to the procedure. Economic equality of the sexes still proved an elusive goal. At the same time, gender stereotyping began to wane. The status of minorities. With Jim Crow discrimination essentially eliminated through civil rights legislation and court decisions, the issue for minorities in the s was how to combat inequality not rooted in laws and how the impact of past discrimination could be remedied. The reliance on busing to achieve racial balance in Los Angeles and Boston generated considerable controversy, and the Supreme Court ruled in *Morgan v. United States* that requiring the transfer of students from city to suburban schools to achieve integration was unconstitutional. Through affirmative action programs, employers were expected to make every effort to hire and promote minority workers, and a similar approach was taken to increase minority enrollment in higher education. Critics maintained that such programs were tantamount to reverse discrimination, or discrimination against the dominant group in the population, especially white males. In *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*, the Supreme Court limited the use of numerical quotas but recognized that race could be used as one of the factors in admissions policies of colleges and universities. The case involved a white applicant who was not accepted to a medical school that set aside a specific number of places for nonwhite candidates. The tribes also became more active in legal action pressing for the treaty rights to land, mineral resources, water, and fisheries. The census revealed that the composition and distribution of American society was changing. The population was getting older, and the mandatory retirement age had been raised from 65 to 70 in New York State actually lost population during the decade, and population growth was extremely modest in the industrial states of the East and Midwest, causing them to be known as the Rust Belt. The fall of South Vietnam created a refugee crisis of major proportions, and , South Vietnamese entered the country in the last half of the decade. The same factors accounted for increasing illegal immigration during the decade, particularly from Mexico and Central and South America, a trend that continued into the s.

Chapter 7 : Abortion in the United States - Wikipedia

the seventies: warren m hern, bonnie, abortion in the seventies is the edited proceedings of the western regional conference on abortion held in denver, colorado from february 27 29,

Abortion The abortion debate most commonly relates to the "induced abortion" of an embryo or fetus at some point in a pregnancy, which is also how the term is used in a legal sense. In medical parlance, "abortion" can refer to either miscarriage or abortion until the fetus is viable. After viability, doctors call an abortion a "termination of pregnancy". Rise of anti-abortion legislation[edit] Abortion laws in the U. This meant it was not permitted after quickening , or the start of fetal movements , usually felt 15â€”20 weeks after conception. In , a Connecticut law targeted apothecaries who sold "poisons" to women for purposes of inducing an abortion, and New York made post-quickening abortions a felony and pre-quickening abortions a misdemeanor in . However, some legal theorists point out that this theory is inconsistent with the fact that abortion was punishable regardless of whether any harm befell the pregnant woman and the fact that many of the early laws punished not only the doctor or abortionist, but also the woman who hired them. Physicians , who were the leading advocates of abortion criminalization laws, appear to have been motivated at least in part by advances in medical knowledge. Science had discovered that conception inaugurated a more or less continuous process of development, which would produce a new human being if uninterrupted. Moreover, quickening was found to be neither more nor less crucial in the process of gestation than any other step. Many physicians concluded that if society considered it unjustifiable to terminate pregnancy after the fetus had quickened, and if quickening was a relatively unimportant step in the gestation process, then it was just as wrong to terminate a pregnancy before quickening as after quickening. For one, abortion providers tended to be untrained and not members of medical societies. In an age where the leading doctors in the nation were attempting to standardize the medical profession, these "irregulars" were considered a nuisance to public health. Despite campaigns to end the practice of abortion, abortifacient advertising was highly effective in the United States , though less so across the Atlantic. Before the start of the 19th century, most abortions were sought by unmarried women who had become pregnant out of wedlock. Though the medical profession expressed hostility toward feminism, many feminists of the era were opposed to abortion. Anthony , an anonymous contributor signing "A" wrote in about the subject, arguing that instead of merely attempting to pass a law against abortion, the root cause must also be addressed. Simply passing an anti-abortion law would, the writer stated, "be only mowing off the top of the noxious weed, while the root remains. It will burden her conscience in life, it will burden her soul in death; But oh! Criminalization of abortion accelerated from the late s, through the efforts of concerned legislators, doctors, and the American Medical Association. Later that year, Comstock successfully influenced the United States Congress to pass the Comstock Law , which made it illegal to deliver through the U. It also prohibited producing or publishing information pertaining to the procurement of abortion or the prevention of conception or venereal disease , even to medical students. The American Birth Control League was founded by Margaret Sanger in to promote the founding of birth control clinics and enable women to control their own fertility. Born in the area of Phoenix, Arizona , Sherri had 4 very healthy children. However, during her pregnancy with her 5th child, she had found that the child had many different deformities. Finkbine strongly wanted an abortion, however the abortion laws of Arizona limited her decision. She met with a reporter from The Arizona Republic and told her story. While Sherri Finkbine wanted to be kept anonymous, the reporter disregarded this idea. On August 18, , Finkbine traveled to Sweden in order to continue with the abortion, as the laws applied for her in that location. It was later determined, during the time at which she had the abortion, that the child would have been very much deformed. Sherri Finkbine, unlike many other women was able to afford going overseas to have the abortion. However, for the women who have pregnancies that are actually unintended, they may not be able to afford traveling, leading them to seek more illegal forms of abortion. Pre-Roe precedents[edit] In , Gerri Santoro of Connecticut died trying to obtain an illegal abortion and her photo became the symbol of the pro-choice movement. As an example, in Chicago, a group known as " Jane " operated a floating abortion clinic

throughout much of the s. Women seeking the procedure would call a designated number and be given instructions on how to find "Jane". Supreme Court case *Griswold v. Connecticut* struck down one of the remaining contraception Comstock laws in Connecticut and Massachusetts. However, *Griswold* only applied to marital relationships. *Baird* extended its holding to unmarried persons as well. Following the *Griswold* case, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists ACOG issued a medical bulletin accepting a recommendation from 6 years earlier which clarified that conception is implantation, not fertilization; and consequently birth control methods that prevented implantation became classified as contraceptives, not abortifacients. In , Colorado became the first state to decriminalize abortion in cases of rape, incest, or in which pregnancy would lead to permanent physical disability of the woman. Similar laws were passed in California, Oregon, and North Carolina. In , Hawaii became the first state to legalize abortions on the request of the woman, [31] and New York repealed its law and allowed abortions up to the 24th week of pregnancy. Similar laws were soon passed in Alaska and Washington. In , Washington held a referendum on legalizing early pregnancy abortions, becoming the first state to legalize abortion through a vote of the people. The court upheld the law, deeming that "health" meant "psychological and physical well-being", essentially allowing abortion in Washington, D. In order to obtain abortions during this period, women would often travel from a state where abortion was illegal to states where it was legal. The legal position prior to *Roe v. Wade* was that abortion was illegal in 30 states and legal under certain circumstances in 20 states. McHugh to document efforts to reform abortion laws, and anti-abortion groups began forming in various states in Prior to *Roe v. Wade*, 30 states prohibited abortion without exception, 16 states banned abortion except in certain special circumstances e. *Wade* invalidated all of these laws, and set guidelines for the availability of abortion. *Roe* established that the right of privacy of a woman to obtain an abortion "must be considered against important state interests in regulation". In deciding *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court ruled that a Texas statute forbidding abortion except when necessary to save the life of the mother was unconstitutional. The Court arrived at its decision by concluding that the issue of abortion and abortion rights falls under the right to privacy in the sense of the right of a person not to be encroached by the state. In its opinion, it listed several landmark cases where the court had previously found a right to privacy implied by the Constitution. The Court did not recognize a right to abortion in all cases: State regulation protective of fetal life after viability thus has both logical and biological justifications. If the State is interested in protecting fetal life after viability, it may go so far as to proscribe abortion during that period, except when it is necessary to preserve the life or health of the mother. The court found that a mother had a right to abortion until viability, a point to be determined by the abortion doctor. After viability a woman can obtain an abortion for health reasons, which the Court defined broadly to include psychological well-being. A central issue in the *Roe* case and in the wider abortion debate in general is whether human life or personhood begins at conception, birth, or at some point in between. The Court declined to make an attempt at resolving this issue, noting: So, rather than asserting that human life begins at any specific point, the court simply declared that the State has a "compelling interest" in protecting "potential life" at the point of viability. Bolton[edit] Main article: Bolton Under *Roe v. Wade*, state governments may not prohibit late terminations of pregnancy when "necessary to preserve the life or health of the mother", even if it would cause the demise of a viable fetus. *Wade* lawsuit, whose real name is Norma McCorvey, became a pro-life advocate later in her life. McCorvey writes that she never had the abortion and became the "pawn" of two young and ambitious lawyers who were looking for a plaintiff who they could use to challenge the Texas state law prohibiting abortion. However, attorney Linda Coffee says she does not remember McCorvey having any hesitancy about wanting an abortion. Bolton lawsuit, the mother of three whose real name is Sandra Cano, maintains that she never wanted or had an abortion and that she is "ninety-nine percent certain that [she] did not sign" the affidavit to initiate the suit. Casey instead adopted the lower, undue burden standard for evaluating state abortion restrictions, [51] but re-emphasized the right to abortion as grounded in the general sense of liberty and privacy protected under the constitution: On April 18, , it issued a ruling in the case of *Gonzales v. Bush* had signed into law. The law banned intact dilation and extraction, which opponents of abortion rights referred to as "partial-birth abortion", and stipulated that anyone breaking the law would get a prison sentence up to 2. The United States Supreme Court upheld the ban

by a narrow majority of , marking the first time the Court has allowed a ban on any type of abortion since *Hellerstedt* , the Supreme Court in a decision on June 27, swept away forms of state restrictions on the way abortion clinics can function. The Texas legislature enacted in restrictions on the delivery of abortions services that created an undue burden for women seeking an abortion by requiring abortion doctors to have difficult-to-obtain "admitting privileges" at a local hospital and by requiring clinics to have costly hospital-grade facilities. The Court struck down these two provisions "facially" from the law at issue "that is, the very words of the provisions were invalid, no matter how they might be applied in any practical situation. House of Representatives and U. Senate have moved several times to pass measures banning the procedure of intact dilation and extraction , commonly known as partial birth abortion. Such measures passed twice by wide margins, but President Bill Clinton vetoed those bills in April and October on the grounds that they did not include health exceptions. Congressional supporters of the bill argue that a health exception would render the bill unenforceable, since the *Doe v. Bolton* decision defined "health" in vague terms, justifying any motive for obtaining an abortion. Congress was unsuccessful with subsequent attempts to override the vetoes. It asserts the human rights of infants born after a failed attempt to induce abortion. A "born-alive infant" is specified as a "person, human being, child, individual". On October 2, , with a vote of , the House approved the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act to ban partial-birth abortion, with an exemption in cases of fatal threats to the woman. Through this legislation, a doctor could face up to two years in prison and civil lawsuits for performing such a procedure. A woman undergoing the procedure could not be prosecuted under the measure. On October 21, , the United States Senate passed the bill by a vote of , with a number of Democrats joining in support. The bill was signed by President George W. Bush on November 5, , but a federal judge blocked its enforcement in several states just a few hours after it became public law. The Supreme Court upheld the nationwide ban on the procedure in the case *Gonzales v. The current judicial interpretation of the U. Wade, and subsequent companion decisions, is that abortion is legal but may be restricted by the states to varying degrees. States have passed laws to restrict late-term abortions, require parental notification for minors, and mandate the disclosure of abortion risk information to patients prior to the procedure.*

Chapter 8 : List of songs about abortion - Wikipedia

Never again: women's experiences before the '70s. By Sarah Stephen. PERTH — Denise White was the honorary secretary of the WA Association for the Legal Right to Abortion during the s and early '80s and a founder of the Abortion Information Service in

Women made the right to abortion a central demand of their movement because they understood that women could never be equal with men without control over their reproductive lives. The right to abortion is especially necessary in a society that ultimately expects women to bear the financial and emotional responsibilities of raising children, but pays women much lower wages than men. When abortions were outlawed before *Roe v. Wade*, it did not stop them from happening at all. It just made them humiliating, unsafe, and too often fatal. It is estimated that approximately one million women had illegal abortions annually before the procedure was legalized in , which directly resulted in the deaths of some 5, women every year. There was no telling for sure whether an abortionist was a licensed practitioner that would use safe anesthesia and sterile instruments, or whether he or she knew how to perform an abortion safely. But in the dark and dangerous world of illegal abortions, women simply had to take whatever was available. Approximately a third of the million women having illegal abortions each year had to be hospitalized for complications ii. When complications inevitably developed, women would often delay medical treatment for fear of criminal charges. So when she developed complications, she tried to take care of it herself. She locked herself in the bathroom between two dorm rooms and quietly bled to death. Rich women, though, could afford safe abortions by paying a private doctor exorbitant fees or traveling to a country where abortion was legal. To give some examples, it was conventional wisdom at the time that women who were raped had invariably asked for it. As late as , marital rape was illegal in only three states. Incest, domestic violence, and sexual harassment occurred all too often but were never discussed. The median income of working women in was only about one-third that of men iv. Of course, the oppression of women dates back to long before the s. World Wars I and II, and the massive post-war economic expansion, drew record numbers of women into the workforce. However, millions of women did not want to return to the often imprisoning isolation of housework and motherhood, especially housewives who lived in recently expanded suburbia, which many found stale and empty. However, many women only found doors slammed in their faces by elitist, sexist men. A new generation of young women vowed never to live what they saw as the stifling lives of their mothers, who had given up their own dreams to live through their husbands and children. Women became radicalized as they participated in mass protests and began to ask themselves: That year, the radical and socialist ideas that inspired the worldwide student revolt, the French general strike, the Prague Spring, and colonial revolutions had an impact on women and other oppressed people in the U. NOW members organized protests and filed over 1, lawsuits against corporations for sex discrimination, many of which were victorious. They also popularized demands for more childcare centers, equal tax and divorce laws, non-sexist textbooks, abortion rights, and an end to sexist stereotypes in ads, employment, and TV programs. Consciousness-raising groups came together to question unequal gender roles and to talk frankly about sexual issues which had long been hidden causes for shame and embarrassment, turning depression into anger and building self-confidence and strength together. They also debated issues and strategies to focus their movement around and how to eradicate sexism and overthrow capitalism. Anything that degraded women became a target for protest. In a group called Radical Women attracted national attention when they protested the Miss America contest. The movement seemed unstoppable as it scored victory after victory, forcing numerous institutions to change their sexist practices. But each victory embittered the right-wing anti-feminist opposition, spearheaded by the Catholic Church hierarchy along with the leaders of various Protestant religious organizations. They scored a major victory when President Nixon vetoed the Comprehensive Child Development Act of , which would have made the government responsible for providing childcare for all children. The liberal, middle-class wing of the movement limited their demands to the legal right to abortion, childcare, and equal employment opportunities. The more radical wing, in contrast, thought these demands were steps in the right direction, but unless they demanded free abortion on demand,

free hour community-controlled childcare and equal pay for equal work, the demands would fall short of what working women and their families needed to be able to truly exercise these rights. Socialists had long argued for these demands. The Russian Revolution, for example, brought to power the first government in the world to establish free abortion, free community-run childcare, and equal pay for equal work, as well as free socialized healthcare and the decriminalization of divorce and homosexuality. Fifty thousand women marched, picketed, protested, and held teach-ins, skits, and domestic strikes across the country. Victory Hundreds of local protests demanding the legalization of abortion took place between and Court actions to do away with laws against abortion began in over 20 states between and In New York, feminists testified before the legislature distributing copies of their model abortion law “ a blank piece of paper. Women organized public speak-outs, admitting to illegal abortions and explaining why they had made the decision to have abortions. It brought abortion out of the closet where it had been hidden in secrecy and shame. It informed the public that most women were having abortions anyway. People spoke from their hearts. In New York, for example, the availability of abortion attracted women from all over the country, driving the price of abortion through the roof and making it less accessible for poorer women viii. Finally, on January 22, in the historic Roe v. Wade decision, the Supreme Court struck down state laws prohibiting abortion and permitted a woman and her doctor to make all decisions about reproduction during the first six months of pregnancy. Nixon had insisted only two years before: Further, unrestricted abortion policies, or abortion on demand, I cannot square with my personal belief in the sanctity of human life “ including the life of the yet unborn. Nixon the freedom to take care of his uterus if he will let us take care of ours. The ruling class felt that if they did not grant some reforms to pacify the growing outcry for radical change, there would be wider social upheaval, threatening the capitalist system itself. Ultimately, the courts and politicians had no choice but to accept that the political balance in society had shifted to the left, and they begrudgingly legalized abortion, pulled U. However, big business remained adamantly opposed to making abortion free, which would have cut into their profits and resulted in women and workers expecting even more radical reforms, such as free childcare and healthcare. Wade, were not handed down by enlightened judges or politicians from either party, but were won in spite of them. Women had to fight hard for these gains by building their own independent mass movement and large-scale protests. Women also multiplied the power of their movement by linking their struggles together with other social movements. Today we, too, can greatly strengthen different progressive movements by linking them together into a larger movement against our common enemy “ big business. But as the movement grew and learned through experience, the radical and socialist wings of the movement rapidly gained support. Although the movement did not succeed in achieving free abortion on demand, subsequent events have confirmed how correct the socialist feminists were to argue for it. The experience of the past 30 years since Roe has demonstrated beyond a doubt that the legal right to an abortion is not enough if abortion services are not also accessible and affordable. The religious right has seized on this by focusing its strategy on rolling back access to abortion services in order to make them more and more difficult to obtain. The experience of the past 30 years shows that reforms won under capitalism will always be temporary and partial. The ruling class can be forced to make certain concessions such as legalizing abortion under the pressure of mass movements, but as soon as these movements subside, the capitalists will move to claw back the reforms. We must fight for every reform possible, but clearly reforms are not enough. To secure real reproductive freedom and put an end to sexism, we must overthrow the capitalist system itself. Penguin, , p. HarperCollins Publishers, first edition, , p. University of California Press, , p. Bureau of Labor Statistics, www. Quadrangle, , p. Hole and Levine, p. Random House, , p.

Chapter 9 : Abortion Statistics and Trends over the Past Thirty Years

I started doing abortions as a fourth-year medical student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the early '70s. The laws in North Carolina changed in , before Roe v. Wade.

As PolitiChicks recently reported, the organization even published a pamphlet in titled: An abortion kills the life of a baby after it has begun. It is dangerous to your life and health. It may make you sterile so that when you want a child you cannot have it. Birth control merely post-pones the beginning of life. Some of its members and directors were anti-abortion. Planned Parenthood did not want to hurt their campaign to promote and legalize birth control by advocating legalized abortion. They were very cynical slogans then, just as all of these slogans today are very, very cynical. The number we constantly fed to the media was 10, These false figures took root in the consciousness of Americans, convincing many that we need to crack the abortion law. In summary, Planned Parenthood hopes that abortion will become even more available and supports the efforts of others in seeking reform and repeal of outdated laws. Planned Parenthood has never looked back. It began offering abortions in New York City while waiting for the court to make its decision on abortion on Roe. The 5, abortions Planned Parenthood is estimated to have performed in then represented only about 0. Performing 58, abortions in , the percentage grew to 4. It increased to 6. By , the percentage had climbed to Today, the , abortions performed at Planned Parenthood clinics in represent about However, it reveals something very significant about the organization that its numbers increased as abortions leveled off in the United Statesâ€”and even after the number of abortions began to drop. Planned Parenthood was grabbing a bigger and bigger market share. Owing to the complexity of federal and state budgets and somewhat confusing financial data from Planned Parenthood, it is difficult to tell precisely how much money the organization has gotten from the government over the years. This particular procedure is making abortionists very, very rich. In fact, professional public relations firms are often hired to come in and thoroughly train personnel on how to properly sell abortions to vulnerable women. Planned Parenthood may have begun as a small vision of its founder, Margaret Sangerâ€”to be a helpful service of providing birth control to women, and only performing abortions as absolutely necessary although Sanger has made many disturbing statements in the past, including her fondness for eugenics. Personally, I kind of miss vintage Planned Parenthood, the organization that once admitted in its own writings that: