

**ABORTION: SCIENTIFIC, ETHICAL
& BIBLICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

THE PROBLEM

Note the following statistics: recent issues of *Statistical Abstract of the United States* and the *World Almanac*:

U.S. ABORTION COMPARED TO OTHER CAUSES OF DEATH IN U.S. (all columns but 1 & 3 in 1000s)

YEAR	LEGAL ABORTIONS	/1000 BIRTHS	INFANT DEATHS	ACCIDENTAL DEATHS	MURDERS	FORCIBLE RAPES	ALL DEATHS
1973	744	239	56	116	19.6	51.4	1973
1974	898	282	53	105	20.7	55.4	1934
1975	1034	331	51	103	20.5	56.1	1893
1976	1179	361	48	101	18.8	57.2	1907
1977	1320	400	47	103	19.1	63.6	1900
1978	1410	417	46	106	19.6	67.7	1928
1979	1498	422	46	105	21.5	76.5	1914
1980	1554	428	46	106	23.0	83.1	1990
1981	1577	430	43	101	22.5	82.5	1978
1982	1574	428	42	94	21.0	78.8	1975
1983	1575	436	41	92	19.3	78.9	2019
1984	1577	423	40	93	18.7	84.2	2039
1985	1589	422	40	94	19.0	88.7	2086

U.S. ABORTIONS COMPARED TO U.S. WAR DEATHS (numbers in 1000s)

WAR	BATTLE	NON-BATTLE	TOTAL
Revolution	7	19	25
War of 1812	2	NA	2
Mexican	2	12	13
Civil (USA)	140	224	365
Civil (CSA)	75	59	134
Spanish	1	2	3
World War 1	54	63	117
World War 2	292	115	407
Korea	34	21	54
Vietnam	47	11	58
TOTALS	653	526	1178

ABORTIONS COMPARED TO MAJOR CAUSES OF ADULT DEATHS, 1985

Total deaths (1000s) 2086

Major causes of death:

1st: cardiovascular 978

2nd: cancer 462

Sum of 1st two: 1440

Abortions: 1589

ABORTIONS COMPARED TO JEWISH HOLOCAUST

Jewish victims (est. 1000s, *Encyc Judaica*, 8:889) 5821

U.S. legal abortions 1973-78 6585

Some Observations:

** Note US war deaths. Since 1976, there have been more US abortions *each year* than the total war deaths in US history.

** Compare rapes with abortions: the latter outnumber the former by about 20 to 1.

** Compare all deaths with abortion: the number who are killed before birth each year is more than 3/4ths the number of born people (babies thru elderly) who die each year; there are more deaths by abortion than by heart disease and cancer combined.

** If abortions are taken into account, life expectancy in the US drops from 75 to 53!

** Nazi holocaust surpassed by US abortions by middle of 1978. By end 1990, est. total US abortions almost 25 million, about 4 times Nazi total.

SCIENTIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

Safety to Mother:

Slightly safer to abort than to give birth
But why restrict consideration to mother?
Certainly not safer for child!

Is Fetus Human?

Not an onion!
What *scientific* warrant for a "no" answer?
Is rabbit fetus a rabbit?
How is fetus different from unfertilized egg?

Full vs half set of genetic material
What difference does "viability" make?
Partly a matter of technology

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Article by Peter J. Riga in *Washington Post*, 23 Aug 91, p A-19

What standard for behavior?

Golden rule: do unto others ...
Silver rule: don't do unto others ...
Kant's categorical imperative: universal rule

Personal rights

Where do one person's rights end and another's begin?

Compare with:

Slavery
Non-voluntary euthanasia
Murder, abandonment of unwanted children
Holocaust

BIBLICAL CONSIDERATIONS

God's Great Commandments:

1st: Love God with everything
2nd: Love neighbor as self

Sanctity of Human Life

Gen 9:3-6: distinguished from animal life
death penalty for murder
Ex 20:13: 6th of 10 Commandments

Specifics on Abortion: Ex 21:22-25

Even accidental abortion penalized

Care for the Helpless

Ex 22:22-24: command and threat
Dt 10:18: God's attitude
Jas 1:27: pure religion to care for widows, orphans
Matt 25:31-46: contrast abortion with action of righteous toward hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick, prisoners