

U. S. DEATHS: SOME COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

Total Deaths in the U.S.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports there were 2,626,418 deaths in the U.S. in 2014. These include deaths from all causes: disease, accidents, suicide and homicide. (See *National Vital Statistics Report*, Volume 65, Number 4. Government data are usually 2-4 years behind, and we focus on 2014 where we have comparable data for other statistics).

Legal Abortion Deaths

The government does not include induced abortion deaths in the above figure, however. The Alan Guttmacher Institute reports that there were 926,200 legal abortions in the U.S. in 2014. Hence, 3,552,618 human beings died in the U.S. in 2014, over one quarter of them (26.1%) by legal abortion.

The Guttmacher data also indicate that a total of 55,437,455 legal abortions occurred in the U.S. from its legalization by the Supreme Court in 1973 through 2014. Dividing that total by the number of days in this time span, you get an average of **3,616 abortions each day over this 42 year period**.

Capital Punishment

The U.S. Department of Justice reports that from 1930 through 2014, 5,413 persons were executed in the U.S. The average number executed over this period is **63.7 persons per year**. In 2014, with 926,200 abortions, on average, we killed that many unborn human beings **every 6 hours**.

U.S. War Casualties.

According to Wikipedia, the total **U.S. war deaths** (both combat and non-combat related) including every conflict from the American Revolutionary War through 2014 (and on all continents except Antarctica) totaled **1,354,663 over this 238 year period**. Based on the 2014 data, we currently kill as many innocent unborn human beings by legal abortion every **1.5 years**.

Abortion as "Health Care."

Abortion is not "reproductive health care." It is *anti-reproductive health endangerment*. The individual reproduced is killed, and his/her mother's physical, psychological and spiritual health are endangered. (See the handout, "Legal Abortion Harms Women" regarding abortion's physical and psychological hazards.)

Pro-Life Pregnancy Centers.

A major response of the pro-life movement to the legalization of abortion has been the development of pro-life pregnancy centers. There are currently some 2,500 such centers in the United States (see Wikipedia, "Crisis Pregnancy Center"). The vast majority of these centers are supported by private, non-governmental funds. Although all do not offer all of the services listed, the latter include peer counseling concerning pregnancy, abortion, childbirth and child-rearing, referral to legal and social service agencies including adoption, as well as pregnancy testing, sonograms and material help. While pro-choice organizations and others sometimes attack the centers by charging that they disseminate false medical information regarding the physical and mental health risks of abortion, these have been documented in professional journals over the past 40 years. (See the handout, "Legal Abortion Harms Women").

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