

The Eye on Abortion

January 2008



USED AND ABUSED: HOW WOMEN ARE MISTREATED BY THE ABORTION INDUSTRY PART 3

Dear Pro-life Friends,

Women are dying due to "safe, legal abortion." Pro-aborts would like to convince you that because abortion is *legal*, it is *safe* for women. They regurgitate worn out references to abortions being done with "rusty coat hangers in back alleys" before *Roe v. Wade* and say women were "dying by the thousands." But is that true?

We have looked at Post-Abortion Stress Disorder and some other reasons why abortion is not safe for women, but I can't leave this topic until I touch on the **actual deaths of women from legal abortion**. The facts regarding the *lack* of safety involved with abortion have been withheld from women because the pro-abortion spin machine has been hard at work, right from the beginning.

DEATHS BEFORE ROE

Bernard Nathanson, one of the founders of NARAL Pro-Choice America, who has since turned *pro-life*, revealed the truth about how the lies began regarding women dying in droves prior to *Roe*. "In NARAL we generally emphasize the drama of the individual case, not the mass statistics, but when we spoke of the latter **it was always 5,000 to 10,000 deaths each year. I confess that I knew the figures were totally false...**But in the 'morality' of our revolution, it was a useful figure, widely accepted, so why go out of our way to correct it with honest statistics?" said Nathanson, who once directed the busiest abortion clinic in the Western world.



By 1972, the year before the Supreme Court legalized abortion-on-demand nationwide, **the Centers for Disease Control counted 24 deaths from legal abortions and only 39 deaths from illegal abortions** based on surveys of health care providers, medical examiners' reports, state and national records, and news reports. (Centers for Disease Control Abortion Surveillance, Annual Summary, 1978)

There was a greater number of abortion related deaths before 1972. However, with the availability of better antibiotics such as penicillin, the establishment of intensive care units and better surgical techniques, that number reduced dramatically. As you can see, it was NOT the *legalization* of abortion that brought about fewer deaths, as pro-aborts assert, since the death count was already so low in 1972. Yet, pro-aborts still continue to claim that at least 5000 women died per year before *Roe v. Wade*.

It is also important to note that **licensed medical doctors were secretly performing a majority of the illegal abortions prior to *Roe***. The "back alley abortion" is a fallacy, made up by pro-aborts who are simply trying to scare women into supporting legal abortion.

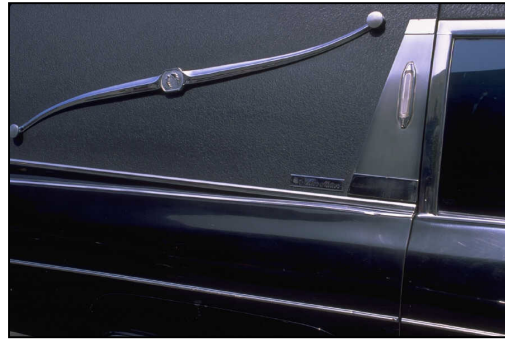
ABORTION 3X MORE LIFE THREATENING THAN CHILDBIRTH

Planned Parenthood (PP) states on their website, "Overall, **the risk of death from childbirth is 11 times greater than the risk of death from abortion** up to 20 weeks of pregnancy." Many abortion advocates take PP's word for it and repeat the same faulty statistic. So where are these bad statistics coming from? Before we can answer that question, you have to gain an understanding of how a *credible* study is conducted.

The Elliot Institute explains in an article on their website:¹

Springfield, IL (Sept 9, 2005) - International health experts have published a new study disclosing that **94 percent of maternal deaths associated with abortion are not identifiable from death certificates alone.** (Emphasis added) Proper tracking of pregnancy-associated deaths, they report, requires the linking of death certificates to the deceased women's medical records. Only in this way, they conclude, can accurate information about recent pregnancies be determined--information that is frequently missing from death certificates and autopsies.

The study, completed by researchers from the National Research and Development Center for Welfare and Health in Finland, shows that the long held presumption that abortion is associated with fewer deaths than childbirth does not hold up once the pregnancy history of women is actually investigated using record linkage. Previously, it has been widely assumed that the mortality rate associated with abortion was only one-sixth that of childbirth. But those estimates were based primarily on information gathered only from death certificates or other public records. **Proper identification of pregnancy history, the researchers found, reveals that the death rate associated with abortion is actually three times higher than that of childbirth.**



This recent study is just one of a series of studies done among women in Finland and California demonstrating an elevated risk of death following abortion, a risk that exceeds that of both non-pregnant women and women whose pregnancies are allowed to follow their natural course.

The argument over risks of death following abortion versus childbirth won't be settled overnight, however. **Planned Parenthood and the closely allied Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI) continue to promote the message that abortion is safer than childbirth.** (Emphasis added) Their argument is based on comparing the nationally reported rates of death for childbirth to the rate of death associated with abortion that is reported by the National Institutes of Health's Centers for Disease Control (CDC). But both sets of numbers are drawn principally from death certificates...

...A recent law review article examining the implications (sic) new data on elevated death rates following abortion also criticizes the CDC's resistance to adopting the new record linkage techniques. According to the lead author, David Reardon of the Elliot Institute, the CDC abortion surveillance team has yet to apologize for and repudiate a blatantly misleading study its team authored in 1982, which asserted they were successfully identifying at least 90 percent of deaths associated with abortion. This report was particularly dishonest in that **they misappropriated a little known**

¹ "Women Are Three Times More Likely To Die After An Abortion, New Study," Elliot Institute, PO Box 7348, Springfield, IL 62791-7348. Additional material is posted at www.afterabortion.org.

statistical comparison test, and violated each of the tests three preconditions for validity, simply to dismiss calls for better investigations...(Emphasis added)

Reardon says that the work of Kevin Sherlock, a writer and reporter who specializes in public record research, proves that the CDC's abortion mortality statistics are essentially meaningless. Sherlock's independent review of death certificates, with cause of death verified by autopsies and court records regarding malpractice claims, **confirmed at least 140 abortion related deaths for the decade of the 1980s, which is thirty percent more than the total reported by the CDC.** (Emphasis added)

In response to a letter from Walter Weber questioning the appropriateness of comparing maternal mortality statistics for childbirth with CDC's reported mortality statistics for abortion, **Dr. Julie Louise Gerberding, director of the CDC, wrote in July of 2004, that maternal mortality rates and abortion mortality rates are conceptually different and are used by the CDC for different public health purposes. In other words, the CDC numbers relied upon by Planned Parenthood and AGI are not truly comparable.**

The last fact cited above should be shouted from the rooftops! I don't know how many times abortion advocates have defended abortion by using the faulty CDC statistical comparison, claiming abortion is safer than childbirth. PP is willingly, and I can only assume, knowingly, using skewed, incomparable statistics in order to continue to promote abortion...at the cost of women's health and lives.

ABORTION DEATHS NOW

The pro-life group, Life Dynamics, has put together a listing of women on their website (www.lifedynamics.com) who have been killed by legal abortion. They have ironically entitled it **"The Blackmun Wall,"** in "honor" of Justice Harry Blackmun who wrote the Roe v, Wade decision which legalized abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy in our country.

There are **347 women** listed on the wall so far, but Life Dynamics says that is only the tip of the iceberg of abortion deaths that have occurred. There are many others they are aware of, but could not list due to lack of details. Their research has also shown that the overwhelming majority of abortion-related deaths remain undiscovered.



This is a very large group of very confused people, who clearly do NOT know the facts about legal abortion and women's health!

Not only are the names listed, but you can click on the names and the details of their deaths pop up, explaining exactly how abortion has killed each of these women. Here is just one example of a woman on the website who died following her abortion:

Name: Diana Lopez

Death: On the morning of February 28, 2002, this 25-year-old woman went to her local Los Angeles Planned Parenthood clinic to have an 18-week abortion. Immediately following the D & E procedure, she began bleeding very heavily. She was taken by ambulance to USC Women's and Children's Hospital where an emergency

hysterectomy was performed to stop the hemorrhaging that was caused by a tear in her cervix. Unfortunately, their efforts were unsuccessful. Diana was pronounced dead exactly three hours after her abortion began at the Kingston Avenue clinic. She is survived by a 1-year-old and a 3-year-old. (Los Angeles County Coroner's Office, Autopsy Report #2002-01721)

Each of these women died horrible, painful deaths because they trusted their abortionists to give them "safe, legal abortions." If these women had known what would happen to them following their abortions, they never would have gone through with the procedures. But most women do **not** realize what danger abortion holds for them...until it's too late.

PROGRESS!

Despite all of this bad news, as we approach the 35th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, there is an encouraging statistic I want to share with you. According to Life Dynamics, **there used to be 2000 abortion clinics, and now there are only 752 left!** We ARE seeing progress! Let's pray they ALL shut down!

"THE FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN"

Please pray that these truths would become well known. Pray that women as a whole would begin to reject abortion, realizing that no matter how it affects them, it is still killing their babies, and that is a serious moral wrong.

May the Lord cause these truths to prick the hearts and consciences of women (and men) in America so they would choose life! May abortion become a much-hated plague that women would avoid at all costs! May the nearly 50 million abortions that have occurred in America since 1973 come to a screeching halt! May all who bear the name of Christ rise against this holocaust of the innocents to defend the unborn!

For Christ and His creation,

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