

## Life Matters

Abortion is the most frequently performed surgery in America; nearly one in four pregnancies, in the U.S., end in abortion (Murdahl n.p.) The century old argument for pro-life states that those numbers need to change. Advocates for anti-abortion and euthanasia argue that everyone, no matter the age or size, has a right to live a complete life.

The argument for pro-choice is that women have a right to make decisions that affect their own body. However, that right comes with the responsibility of understanding the risk of getting pregnant in the first place. The pro-life argument is that once the child is conceived, a new human being with the right to be born is created. Our science on reproduction and the beginning of life suggest that the human zygote, embryo, and fetus are indeed human beings. New scientific discoveries provide new evidence for advancements in our knowledge of reproduction, which can be used to promote the pro-life movement.

The pro-life versus pro-choice debate has been argued for almost two centuries. Abortion was widespread before 1840. It was a stigma-free experience for American women, although, post-quickening abortion was a crime. Quickening occurs when a pregnant woman can feel the fetus move. This was the only way to confirm a pregnancy, up until this point the fetus was considered only potential life. In the mid-nineteenth century the first right to life movement was held by physicians anxious about their professional status. By 1900, every state had a law forbidding abortion in any stage of the pregnancy. There was not much of an abortion movement between 1900 and 1965 because the state did its work enforcing the abortion law. Then in the 1960s, some women began to

demand change in their states, and the argument picked right up to bring us where we are today ( Holland n.p.).

The number of abortions was down nineteen percent from 2011 to 2017(Nash n.p.). In 2015, there were a total of 638,169 abortions in the United States reported to the CDC (“Abortion Surveillance-United States, 2015” n.p.). Women in their twenties accounted for the majority of abortions in 2016 (“Abortion Surveillance 2016” n.p.). United States abortion rate is among the highest of all developed countries (Murdahl n.p.).

The coronavirus ravages throughout the world and humanity struggles with the distribution of supplies, jobs, health care, and much more. Abortions are preventable deaths, whereas the deaths caused by COVID-19 are unpreventable. The death count in America continues to rise, so we should do everything in our power to minimise the death count.

Advocates for the pro-life movement say that once the child is conceived it is a human being with the right to be born. Everything, including the history, current world issues, and statistics, contribute to understanding the pro-life debate and the importance of life. Everyone has a beautiful life planned out by our Lord, and everyone should get a chance to live that life to its complete entirety.

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