

# Study of Women who have had an Abortion and Their Views on Church

## QUANTITATIVE REPORT

**Sponsored by Care Net**



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# Executive Summary

## Church Involvement

- A total of 43% of women who have had an abortion were attending a Christian church once a month or more at the time of one of their abortions.
- 36% of women were attending a Christian church once a month or more at the time of their first abortion.
- Among women who were attending less often, 11% were attending a Christian church once a month or more at the time of a subsequent abortion.
- As women considered their abortion decision, the most typical reactions/expectations from a local church were judgmental (33%) or condemning (26%).
- 36% of women did not receive any reaction nor had any expectations from a local church while considering their abortion decision.

## Influences on the Decision

- Women are most likely to discuss their decision to terminate their pregnancy with the father of the baby or a medical professional.
- 76% of women indicate local churches had no influence on their decision to terminate their pregnancy.
- More than one-third (38%) of women indicate the father of the baby was most influential on their abortion decision.
- 30% of women who have had an abortion indicate they have had more than one pregnancy termination or abortion.

## Perceptions of Pastors

- 43% of women who have had an abortion agree that it is safe to talk with a pastor about abortion.
- 49% of women who have had an abortion agree that pastors' teachings on forgiveness don't seem to apply to terminated pregnancies.
- 39% agree that pastors are sensitive to the pressures a woman faces with an unplanned pregnancy.
- More than 4 in 10 (42%) agree that pastors teach that God is willing to forgive past abortion decisions.

## Perceptions of the Church

- 38% of women who have had an abortion agree that churches are a safe place to talk about pregnancy options.
- Over half (54%) of women who have had an abortion agree that churches over-simplify decisions about pregnancy options.
- 30% of women who have had an abortion agree that churches give accurate advice about pregnancy options.
- More than half (51%) agree that churches are prepared to provide support to women who chose to keep a child from an unplanned pregnancy.

- 41% of women who have had an abortion agree that churches are prepared to help women with their decisions about unwanted pregnancies.
- Two-thirds (65%) of women who have had an abortion agree that church members judge single women who are pregnant.
- 64% agree that church members are more likely to gossip about a woman considering abortion than help her understand options.
- Half (51%) agree that churches do not have a ministry prepared to discuss options during an unplanned pregnancy.
- Twice as many women would not recommend to someone close to them that they discuss their decision regarding an unplanned pregnancy with someone at a local church.

### **Religious Preference**

- Seven in 10 (70%) women who have had an abortion indicate their religious preference is Christian.
- One-third (33%) of Protestant women who have had an abortion are Baptist.
- While another 31% indicate they affiliate with the Lutheran, Methodist or Presbyterian denominations.
- 35% of Christian women who have had an abortion indicate they currently attend church once a week or more.
- 52% of churchgoers who have had an abortion have no one at church who knows they have had a pregnancy terminated.
- 23% of Christian women who have had an abortion consider themselves to be an evangelical Christian.

## Methodology

The Study of Women who have had an Abortion and Their Views on Church was conducted by LifeWay Research and sponsored by Care Net. The objectives of this quantitative study were:

- To measure specifically what percentage of women who have had an abortion in the U.S. were attending church at that time, and
- To understand the experience of women who have had an abortion regarding how safe, open, and helpful churches are when making a decision about an unwanted pregnancy.

The online survey was conducted May 6-13, 2015. A demographically balanced online panel was used for interviewing American women age 18+. Quotas and slight weights were used to ensure the sample matched national totals for ethnicity, age, income, and region.

This nationally balanced sample was screened to only include those women who indicated that they had ever had a pregnancy termination/abortion medical procedure (see question below). The completed sample is 1,038 surveys.

Have you ever had any of the following medical procedures? (select all that apply)

- Hysterectomy
- Tubal ligation (tubes tied)
- Pregnancy termination/abortion
- Cesarean section
- None of these

While national statistics indicate the actual numbers are higher, 14% of American women are willing to admit they have had a pregnancy termination/abortion on a confidential survey. White women (12%) are less likely to select than Hispanic (19%), African-American (17%), and Asian (16%) women.

## Quantitative Findings

### Church Attendance of Women Having an Abortion

The demographically representative sample of adult women who indicated that they have had a pregnancy termination/abortion was asked if they were attending religious services at a Christian church at that time. If not, they were asked if they were attending once a month or more at the time of a subsequent abortion. A total of 43% of women who have had an abortion were attending a Christian church once a month or more at the time of one of their abortions.

### 36% of women were attending a Christian church once a month or more at the time of their first abortion

Table 1 – “At the time of your first pregnancy termination/abortion how often were you attending religious services at a Christian church? (Select One)”

More than once a week	6%
About once a week	20%
Once or twice a month	11%
Only on religious holidays	8%
Rarely	24%
Never	30%
Don't Know	3%

Those age 18-34 are most likely to have been attending church once a month or more at the time of their first pregnancy termination/abortion. Those classifying themselves as White (30%) are less likely than Asians (46%), African Americans (47%), and Hispanics (44%) to have been attending a Christian church once a month or more at the time of their first abortion.

Those in the South (41%) are more likely than those in the Northeast (29%) to have been attending church once a month or more at the time of their first pregnancy termination/abortion. Those who earn less than \$25,000 in household income (21%) are least likely to have been attending church once a month or more at the time of their first pregnancy termination/abortion, while those who earn \$75,000-99,999 (54%) in household income are most likely.

Christians (44%) are more likely to have been attending church once a month or more at the time of their first pregnancy termination/abortion than Other Religions (24%), who are more likely than Nonreligious (12%). Self-identified evangelical Christians are more likely to have been attending church once a month or more at the time of their first pregnancy termination/abortion (65% vs. 30%).

Those currently attending church more than once a week (77%) and about once a week (75%) are more likely to have been attending church once a month or more at the time of their first pregnancy termination/abortion than those currently attending once or twice a month (54%), who

are more likely than those currently attending Only on religious Holidays (19%), Rarely (19%), or Never (15%).

**Among women who were attending less often, 11% were attending a Christian church once a month or more at the time of a subsequent abortion**

Table 1a – “Were you attending a Christian church once a month or more at the time of any of these pregnancy terminations/abortions? (Select one)” Asked of women who were attending less than once a month at the time of their first pregnancy termination/abortion. n=663

Yes	11%
No	85%
Don't Know	5%

**Yes**

Women who are 18-34 (17%) are more likely to select than those age 50-64 (9%) or those who are 65+ (3%). Women who classify themselves as White (8%) are least likely to select. Those women with household income less than \$25,000 (4%) and those who earn \$35,000-49,999 (4%) are less likely to select than those who earn \$25,000-34,999 (13%), \$50,000-74,999 (12%), \$75,000-99,999 (18%) or \$100,000 or more (15%). Women choosing Atheist, Agnostic, or No Preference (4%) as their religious preference are least likely to select. Self-identified evangelical Christians (22%) are more likely to select than those who are not (10%).

**No**

Women who are 18-34 (78%) are most likely to select. Those women who classify themselves as White (88%) are more likely to select than African Americans (76%) or Hispanics (80%).

**Don't Know**

Women from the Midwest (9%) are more likely to select than those from the West (2%). Women who earn less than \$25,000 (8%) are more likely to select than those earning \$75,000-99,999 (1%) or \$100,000 or more (3%). Those women choosing Christian (6%) as their religious preference are more likely to select than those choosing Atheist, Agnostic, or No Preference (2%).

**As women considered their abortion decision, the most typical reactions/expectations that women received from a local church were judgmental or condemning. However, 36% did not receive any reaction nor had any expectations about how a church would respond**

Table 2 – “At that same time, which of the following describe the reaction you received or would have expected to receive from a local church as you considered this decision? (Select all that apply)”

**The reaction I received or expected was...**

Loving	13%
Cold	16%
Caring	16%
Judgmental	33%
Condemning	26%
Helpful	14%
Informative	9%
Indifferent	8%
Did not receive any reaction nor expectations	36%
None of these	5%

Women who were attending church at least once a month are more likely to describe the reaction at church as Loving (25% compared to 6% for those attending less), Caring (31% vs. 7%), Informative (17% vs. 5%) and Helpful (28% vs. 7%). However, these churchgoers are just as likely to describe the reaction as Cold (18% vs. 15%), Judgmental (34% vs. 33%), Condemning (27% vs. 25%), and Indifferent (11% vs. 7%). Those women who were attending church at least once a month are half as likely to say they did not receive any reaction nor had any expectations about how a church would respond (21% vs. 44%).

**Loving**

Women age 18-34 (20%) are more likely to select than those age 50-64 (6%) and 65+ (8%). Those age 35-49 (14%) are more likely to select than those age 50-64 (6%). Those women classifying themselves as Asian (36%) are the most likely to select. Those classifying themselves as African American (17%) or as Hispanic (18%) are more likely to select than White (8%). Women in the Northeast (8%) and Midwest (8%) are less likely to select than those in the South (16%) and West (15%).

Those women who earn \$75,000-99,999 (20%) in household income are more likely to select than those earning less than \$25,000 (7%) or those earning \$25,000-34,999 (10%). Women choosing Atheist, Agnostic or No Preference (3%) as their religious preference are less likely to select than Christian (15%) or Other Religions (12%). Catholic women (20%) are more likely to select than Protestants and nondenominational (13%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (32%) are more likely to select than those who are not (9%).



## **Cold**

Women age 18-34 (22%) are more likely to select than those age 50-64 (13%). Those age 35-49 (18%) are the least likely to select. Those women age 65+ (1%) are less likely to select than those age 50-64 (13%). Women classifying themselves as Hispanic (23%) are more likely to select than White (14%) or African American (13%). Those women who earn less than \$25,000 (11%) in household income are less likely to select than those earning \$25,000-34,999 (19%) or those earning \$75,000-99,999 (19%).

## **Caring**

Women age 18-34 (26%) are more likely to select than those age 35-49 (17%) and those age 50-64 (7%). Those age 65+ (9%) are more likely to select than those age 50-64 (7%). Those women classifying themselves as Asian (34%) are most likely to select. Those classifying themselves as African American (20%) or as Hispanic (21%) are more likely to select than White (11%).

Women who earn \$75,000-99,999 (29%) in household income are most likely to select. Those women choosing Atheist, Agnostic or No Preference (5%) as their religious preference are least likely to select. Catholic women (24%) are more likely to select than Protestants and nondenominational (16%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (34%) are more likely to select than those who are not (12%).

## **Judgmental**

Women age 65+ (15%) are least likely to select. Those women classifying themselves as Hispanic (42%) are most likely to select. Women who earn less than \$25,000 (24%) in household income are least likely to select.

## **Condemning**

Those women age 65+ (17%) are least likely to select. Women classifying themselves as Asian (19%) are less likely to select than Hispanics (32%). Those women who earn less than \$25,000 (19%) in household income are less likely to select than those earning \$25,000-34,999 (29%) or those earning \$100,000 or more (28%).

## **Helpful**

Women age 18-34 (26%) are most likely to select. Women classifying themselves as Asian (38%) are most likely to select. Those women classifying themselves as White (8%) are less likely to select than African American (22%) or Hispanic (19%). Those women in the Midwest (10%) are less likely to select than those in the South (18%). Women who earn \$75,000-99,999 (25%) are most likely to select. Women choosing Atheist, Agnostic or No Preference (6%) as their religious preference are least likely to select. Catholic women (21%) are more likely to select than Protestants and nondenominational (13%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (28%) are more likely to select than those who are not (12%).

## **Informative**

Women age 18-34 (18%) are most likely to select. Women age 35-49 (7%) and those age 50-64 (5%) are more likely to select than those age 65+ (1%). Those women classifying themselves as Asian (22%) are most likely to select. Women classifying themselves as African American

(13%) are more likely to select than those classifying themselves as Hispanic (11%) or White (6%).

Those women who earn \$75,000-99,999 (17%) in household income are most likely to select. Women who earn less than \$25,000 (5%) are less likely to select than those who earn \$25,000-34,999 (7%), \$35,000-49,999 (11%) \$50,000-74,999 (7%) and \$100,000 or more (8%). Women choosing Christian (11%) as their religious preference are more likely to select than Atheist, Agnostic or No Preference (4%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (18%) are more likely to select than those who are not (7%).

### **Indifferent**

Women age 18-34 (13%) are most likely to select. Those women age 35-49 (9%) are more likely to select than those age 50-64 (4%) or those 65+ (4%). Women classifying themselves as White (6%) are less likely to select than African Americans (11%) or Hispanics (14%). Those women who earn \$25,000-34,999 (18%) are most likely to select. Self-identified evangelical Christian women (15%) are more likely to select than those who are not (7%).

### **I did not receive any reaction nor had any expectations about how a church would respond.**

Women age 18-34 (19%) are least likely to select. Those women age 50-64 (47%) and those age 65+ (53%) are more likely to select than those age 35-49 (37%). Women classifying themselves as White (42%) are more likely to select than those who classify themselves as Asian (19%), African American (31%) or Hispanic (24%).

Those women earning less than \$25,000 (46%) are most likely to select. Women who earn \$75,000-99,999 (25%) are less likely to select than those who earn \$50,000-74,999 (35%) and those who earn \$100,000 or more (36%). Those women who earn \$35,000-49,999 (35%) are least likely to select. Women choosing Atheist, Agnostic or No Preference (49%) as their religious preference are most likely to select. Protestants and nondenominational women (37%) are more likely to select than Catholic women (27%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (22%) are less likely to select than those who are not (38%).

### **None of these**

Women age 65+ (13%) are most likely to select. Women with household income less than \$25,000 (11%) are most likely to select.

## Influences on the Decision

### Women are most likely to discuss their decision to terminate their pregnancy with the father of the baby or a medical professional

Table 3 – “With whom did you discuss this pregnancy termination/abortion decision?”

A medical professional	48%
The father of the baby	61%
Friend(s)	29%
My mother	32%
My father	10%
Other family member	15%
Someone at a local church	7%
A counselor	10%
An abortion provider	27%
A pregnancy care center worker	7%
Other	2%
I did not discuss it with anyone	8%

Women who were attending a Christian church once a month or more are more likely to have discussed the pregnancy termination with A Medical Professional (55% vs. 44%) and An Abortion Provider (30% vs. 21%). Less than 1 in 6 women who attended church once a month or more at the time of their first abortion discussed the decision with Someone at a Local Church (16% vs. 2%).

#### A Medical Professional

Women age 50-64 (45%) are less likely to select than those age 65+ (56%). Those classifying themselves as African American (41%) are less likely to select than those classifying themselves as White (51%). Those women in the Northeast (57%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (43%) or the South (43%). Women who earn less than \$25,000 (36%) are least likely to select. Women who earn \$75,000-99,999 (58%) are most likely to select. Those women who earn \$25,000-34,999 (45%) and those who earn \$50,000-74,999 (46%) are less likely to select than those who earn \$35,000-49,999 (52%) and those who earn \$100,000 or more (50%).

#### The father of the baby

Women classifying themselves as African American (52%) are less likely to select than those classifying themselves as White (64%). Those women who earn less than \$25,000 (52%) are least likely to select.

#### Friend(s)

Those women age 65+ (13%) are least likely to select. Women who earn less than \$25,000 (21%) are least likely to select.

**My mother**

Women age 18-34 (42%) are most likely to select. Those women age 35-49 (32%) are more likely to select than those who are 50-64 (26%) and those who are 65+ (22%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (40%) are more likely to select than those who are not (31%).

**My father**

Women age 18-34 (14%) are more likely to select than those ages 50-64 (8%) or 65+ (5%).

**Other family member**

Women age 18-34 (20%) are more likely to select than those age 35-49 (13%) or 65+ (7%). Women age 50-64 (15%) are more likely to select than those age 65+ (7%). Those women classifying themselves as African American (21%) are more likely to select than those classifying themselves as White (13%). Women who earn \$35,000-49,999 (21%) are more likely to select than those who earn \$50,000-74,999 (11%) or \$100,000 or more (13%).

**Someone at a local church**

Women age 18-34 (10%) are more likely to select than those age 65+ (3%). Those women from the South (11%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (3%) or West (4%). Those women choosing Atheist, Agnostic or No Preference (2%) as their religious preference are least likely to select. Self-identified evangelical Christians (11%) are more likely to select than those who are not (6%).

**A counselor**

Women classifying themselves as Hispanic (15%) are more likely to select than Whites (9%).

**An abortion provider**

Women age 35-49 (32%) are more likely to select than those age 18-34 (24%) or 65+ (18%). Those women classifying themselves as Asian (17%) are more likely to select than White (30%). Women who earn \$35,000-49,999 (38%) are more likely to select than less than \$25,000 (23%), \$75,000-99,999 (23%) and \$100,000 or more (23%). Women choosing Atheist, Agnostic or No Preference (36%) as their religious preference are most likely to select. Self-identified evangelical Christians (18%) are less likely to select than those who are not (28%).

**A pregnancy care center worker**

Women age 65+ (0%) are least likely to select. Those who classify themselves as Hispanic (12%) are more likely to select than Whites (6%). Those from the Midwest (4%) are less likely to select than those in the Northeast (9%) or South (9%).

**Other**

Women age 18-34 (0%) are least likely to select. Those women who classify themselves as Asian (0%) are least likely to select.

**I did not discuss it with anyone**

Women who earn less than \$25,000 (16%) are most likely to select. Those who earn \$35,000-49,999 (10%) are more likely to select than those who earn \$25,000-34,999 (5%), \$50,000-74,999 (6%) and \$100,000 or more (7%). Those choosing Atheist, Agnostic or No Preference (13%) as their religious preference are more likely to select than Christians (7%).

**Three-fourths of women (76%) indicate local churches had no influence on their decision to terminate their pregnancy**

Table 4 – “Did a local church influence your decision in any of the following ways?”

Local churches had no influence on my decision	76%
Provided information on alternatives to abortion	8%
Encouraged me not to have the procedure	7%
Referred me to a counselor	7%
Referred me to a pregnancy care center	5%
Paid for the termination/abortion	4%
Drove me to the pregnancy termination/abortion	4%
Referred me to an abortion provider	4%
Encouraged me to have the procedure	2%
Other	2%

Table 4a – “Did a local church influence your decision in any of the following ways?”

<b>By Christian church attendance at the time of first pregnancy termination/abortion</b>	<b>Once a month+</b>	<b>&lt; Once a month</b>
Local churches had no influence on my decision	52%	89%
Provided information on alternatives to abortion	19%	2%
Encouraged me not to have the procedure	13%	5%
Referred me to a counselor	16%	2%
Referred me to a pregnancy care center	10%	2%
Paid for the termination/abortion	10%	1%
Drove me to the pregnancy termination/abortion	9%	1%
Referred me to an abortion provider	9%	1%
Encouraged me to have the procedure	6%	0%
Other	3%	2%

**Paid for the termination/abortion**

Women age 18-34 (11%) are most likely to select. Those age 35-49 (3%) are more likely to select than those age 50-64 (<1%) and those age 65+ (0%). Women classifying themselves as Asian (11%) or Hispanic (9%) are more likely to select than African American (3%) or White

(2%). Those from the South (3%) are less likely to select than those from the West (7%). Women who earn \$75,000-99,999 (10%) are most likely to select. Those women choosing Atheist, Agnostic or No Preference (1%) as their religious preference are least likely to select. Catholic women (8%) are more likely to select than Protestant, Non-denominational (2%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (15%) are more likely to select than those who are not (2%).

### **Drove me to the pregnancy termination/abortion**

Women age 18-34 (9%) are most likely to select. Those age 35-49 (3%) are more likely to select than those age 50-64 (0%) and those age 65+ (0%). Those classifying themselves as White (2%) are less likely to select than those classifying themselves as Asian (9%), African American (5%), or Hispanic (7%). Those from the Northeast (2%) are less likely to select than those from the West (6%).

Those who earn \$75,000-99,999 (9%) are more likely to select than those earning less than \$25,000 (3%), \$50,000-74,999 (2%), or \$100,000 or more (3%). Women choosing Atheist, Agnostic or No Preference (<1%) as their religious preference are least likely to select. Catholic women (6%) are more likely to select than Protestant, Non-denominational (2%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (13%) are more likely to select than those who are not (2%).

### **Provided information on alternatives to abortion**

Women age 18-34 (17%) are most likely to select. Those age 35-49 (9%) are more likely to select than those age 50-64 (1%) and those age 65+ (1%). Those women classifying themselves as White (4%) are least likely to select. Those who earn \$75,000-99,999 (15%) are more likely to select those earning \$25,000-34,999 (6%) and 100,000 or more (8%). Those who earn less than \$25,000 (3%) are least likely to select. Catholic women (13%) are more likely to select than Protestant, Non-denominational (6%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (20%) are more likely to select than those who are not (6%).

### **Referred me to an abortion provider**

Women age 18-34 (10%) are most likely to select. Those women age 35-49 (4%) are more likely to select than those age 50-64 (1%). Women classifying themselves as Asian (20%) are most likely to select. Those classifying themselves as White (2%) are less likely to select than Hispanic (5%). Women who earn \$75,000-99,999 (11%) are most likely to select. Those who earn less than \$25,000 (1%) are less likely to select than those earning \$25,000-34,999 (4%). Those women choosing Other Religions (13%) as their religious preference are most likely to select. Catholic women (5%) are more likely to select than Protestant, Non-denominational (2%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (10%) are more likely to select than those who are not (3%).

### **Referred me to a counselor**

Women age 18-34 (15%) are most likely to select. Those women age 50-64 (2%) and those age 65+ (1%) are less likely to select than those age 35-49 (7%). Women classifying themselves as Asian (19%) are most likely to select. Those classifying themselves as Hispanic (12%) are more likely to select than those classifying themselves as African American (8%) or White (5%). Those who earn less than \$25,000 (2%) are least likely to select. Women choosing Atheist,

Agnostic or No Preference (2%) as their religious preference are least likely to select. Self-identified evangelical Christians (12%) are more likely to select than those who are not (6%).

### **Referred me to a pregnancy care center**

Women age 18-34 (11%) are most likely to select. Those women classifying themselves as White (2%) are least likely to select. Women who earn less than \$25,000 (1%) are least likely to select. Those who earn \$50,000-74,999 (8%) and \$75,000-99,999 (7%) are more likely to select than those who earn \$25,000-34,999 (5%) and \$100,000 or more (5%). Those women choosing Other Religions (9%) as their religious preference are most likely to select. Catholic women (7%) are more likely to select than Protestant, Non-denominational (3%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (8%) are more likely to select than those who are not (4%).

### **Encouraged me to have the procedure**

Women age 18-34 (6%) are most likely to select. Those choosing Other Religions (5%) as their religious preference are more likely to select than those choosing Atheist, Agnostic or No Preference (<1%). Catholic women (4%) are more likely to select than Protestant, Non-denominational (1%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (6%) are more likely to select than those who are not (2%).

### **Encouraged me not to have the procedure**

Women who are 18-34 (13%) are most likely to select. Those women who are 35-49 (8%) are more likely to select than those who are 50-64 (4%) and those who are 65+ (0%). Those who classify themselves as White (5%) are more likely to select than African Americans (10%) or Hispanics (14%).

Those who earn less than \$25,000 (4%) are less likely to select than those earning \$35,000-49,999 (10%) or \$75,000-99,999 (12%). Those choosing Christian (9%) as their religious preference are more likely to select than those choosing Atheist, Agnostic or No Preference (4%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (13%) are more likely to select than those who are not (6%).

### **Other**

Women who are 18-34 (1%) are less likely to select than those age 65+ (6%). Women who earn less than \$25,000 (5%) are most likely to select. Those who earn less than \$25,000 (5%) are more likely to select than those earning \$75,000-99,999 (1%) or \$100,000 or more (1%).

### **Local churches had no influence on my decision**

Women age 18-34 (54%) are least likely to select. Those age 50-64 (90%) are more likely to select than those who are 35-49 (78%). Women classifying themselves as Asian (52%) and those who classify themselves as Hispanic (59%) are less likely to select than African American (71%) or White (85%).

Women who earn less than \$25,000 (85%) are most likely to select. Those women who earn \$75,000-99,999 (62%) are least likely to select. Women choosing Atheist, Agnostic or No Preference (90%) as their religious preference are most likely to select. Catholic women (66%)

are less likely to select than Protestant, Non-denominational (78%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (51%) are less likely to select than those who are not (80%).

**More than one-third (38%) of women indicate the father of the baby was most influential on their abortion decision**

Table 5 – “Which of these was **most** influential on your decision to terminate the pregnancy? (Select One)”

The father of the baby	38%
A medical professional	26%
My mother	14%
Friend(s)	8%
An abortion provider	5%
Other family member	3%
A counselor	2%
My father	2%
Other	1%
Someone at a local church	1%
A pregnancy care center worker	0%

Women who were attending church once a month or more at the time of their first abortion are more likely to say a medical professional was most influential on their decision (34% vs. 20%). They are less likely to say the father of the baby was the most influential (32% vs. 42%).

**The father of the baby**

No significant differences.

**A medical professional**

Women age 65+ (42%) are most likely to select. Those who earn less than \$25,000 (19%) and those who earn \$25,000-34,999 (17%) are less likely to select than those who earn \$75,000-99,999 (32%) and those who earn \$100,000 or more (31%).

**A friend**

Women age 65+ (0%) are least likely to select. Self-identified evangelical Christians (13%) are more likely to select than those who are not (7%).

**My mother**

Women who earn less than \$25,000 (21%) are more likely to select than those earning \$35,000-49,999 (9%), \$50,000-74,999 (10%), and \$100,000 or more (12%).



**My father**

Women age 50-64 (<1%) are less likely to select than those age 65+ (4%). Those women who classify themselves as African American (5%) are most likely to select.

**Other family member**

Those women with household income of \$100,000 or more (1%) are less likely to select than those who earn less than \$25,000 (5%), \$25,000-34,999 (6%) or \$50,000-74,999 (4%).

**A counselor**

Women who classify themselves as White (1%) are less likely to select than those who classify themselves as African American (4%) or Hispanic (5%). Those women who make \$100,000 or more (5%) are more likely to select than those making less than \$25,000 (0%) or \$75,000-99,999 (1%).

**An abortion provider**

Women who earn \$25,000-34,999 (9%) are more likely to select than those who earn \$75,000-99,999 (2%) or \$100,000 or more (2%). Those who earn \$35,000-49,999 (8%) and those who earn \$50,000-74,999 (7%) are more likely to select than those who earn \$100,000 or more (2%). Those women choosing Christian (4%) as their religious preference are less likely to select than those choosing Atheist, Agnostic, No Preference (10%).

**Other**

Women age 50-64 (3%) are more likely to select than those age 18-34 (0%).

**30% of women who have had an abortion indicate they have had more than one pregnancy termination or abortion**

Table 6 – “In total, how many pregnancy terminations/abortions have you had?”

One	66%
Two	20%
Three	6%
Four	2%
Five	1%
More than five	2%
Don't know	3%

**One**

Women who live in the South (71%) are more likely to select than those who live in the West (61%). Those who earn \$100,000 or more (71%) are more likely to select than those earning \$25,000-34,999 (59%) or \$50,000-74,999 (62%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (55%) are less likely to select than those who are not (68%).

## **Two**

Women age 18-34 (14%) are most likely to select. Those women choosing Other Religions (10%) as their religious preference are least likely to select. Self-identified evangelical Christians (27%) are more likely to select than those who are not (19%).

## **Three**

Women age 65+ (1%) are less likely to select than those age 18-34 (8%) or 50-64 (7%). Those who live in the West (9%) and in the Northeast (9%) are more likely to select than those who live in the Midwest (3%) and in the South (4%). Those women choosing Atheist, Agnostic or No Preference (3%) as their religious preference are less likely to select than Christians (7%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (10%) are more likely to select than those who are not (5%).

## **Four**

Women who classify themselves as African American (4%) are more likely to select than those who are White (2%).

## **More than five**

Women age 50-64 (<1%) are less likely to select than those who are 18-34 (2%) or those who are 35-49 (2%). Those who classify themselves as White (1%) are less likely to select than those who classify themselves as Asian (3%), or African American (3%). Those women who earn \$25,000-34,999 (3%) are more likely to select than those who earn \$75,000-99,999 (0%). Women choosing Christian (1%) as their religious preference are less likely to select than those choosing Other Religions (5%).

## **Don't Know**

Women who classify themselves as Asian (6%) are more likely to select than those who classify themselves as African American (1%). Those women who earn \$100,000 or more (1%) are less likely to select than those earning less than \$25,000 (4%), \$35,000-49,999 (4%), or \$50,000-74,999 (5%).

## Perceptions of Pastors

### American women who have had an abortion are split on pastors’ teachings and approachability on abortion

- Forty three percent (43%) of women who have had an abortion agree that it is safe to talk with a pastor about abortion.
- Forty nine percent (49%) of women who have had an abortion agree that pastors’ teachings on forgiveness don’t seem to apply to terminated pregnancies.
- Thirty nine percent (39%) agree that Pastors are sensitive to the pressures a woman faces with an unplanned pregnancy.
- More than 4 in 10 (42%) agree that pastors teach that God is willing to forgive past abortion decisions.

Table 7 – “For each of the following statements, please indicate your level of agreement.”

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree	Don’t Know
It is safe to talk with a pastor about abortion	19%	17%	25%	18%	21%
Pastors’ teachings on forgiveness don’t seem to apply to terminated pregnancies/abortion.	15%	12%	24%	25%	24%
Pastors are sensitive to the pressures a woman faces with an unplanned pregnancy	19%	21%	25%	13%	22%
Pastors teach that God is willing to forgive past abortion decisions	15%	17%	22%	20%	26%

#### **It is safe to talk with a pastor about abortion.**

Women age 18-34 (48%) are most likely to agree than those age 65+ (37%). Those who classify themselves as Asian (56%) are more likely to agree than those classify themselves as White (39%). Those women who classify themselves as White (39%) are less likely to agree than those who are Asian (56%), African American (48%), or Hispanic (48%).

Those women from the Northeast (38%) are less likely to agree than those from the South (47%). Women who make less than \$25,000 (35%) are less likely to agree than those earning \$50,000-74,999 (46%) or \$75,000-99,999 (52%). Those choosing Christian (51%) as their religious preference are most likely to agree. Catholic women (44%) are less likely to agree than Protestant, Non-denominational (56%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (71%) are more likely to agree than those who are not (38%).

#### **Pastors’ teachings on forgiveness don’t seem to apply to terminated pregnancies abortion.**

Those age 18-34 (54%) are more likely to agree than those age 50-64 (44%) or 65+ (41%). Those who classify themselves as Asian (62%) are most likely to agree than African Americans (39%) or Whites (48%). Those who classify themselves as White (48%) are less likely to agree than Hispanics (53%). Those who make \$75,000-99,999 (63%) are most likely to agree. Catholics (55%) are more likely to agree than Protestant, Non-denominational (43%).

**Pastors are sensitive to the pressures a woman faces with an unplanned pregnancy.**

Women age 18-34 (47%) are most likely to agree. Those who classify themselves as White (33%) are less likely to agree than those who classify themselves as Asian (48%), African American (50%) or Hispanic (46%). Women who are from the South (44%) are more likely to agree than those from the Northeast (32%) or West (35%).

Those women who make \$75,000-99,999 (49%) are more likely to agree than those earning less than \$25,000 (34%), \$25,000-34,999 (35%), \$35,000-49,999 (37%), or \$100,000 or more (36%). Women choosing Christian (45%) as their religious preference are most likely to agree. Self-identified evangelical Christians (70%) are more likely to agree than those who are not (32%).

**Pastors teach that God is willing to forgive past abortion decisions.**

Women age 18-34 (49%) are most likely to agree. Those women who classify themselves as African American (57%) are more likely to agree than those who classify themselves as Hispanic (44%) or White (36%). Women who classify themselves as Asian (52%) are more likely to agree than those who classify themselves as White (36%).

Those who earn \$75,000-99,999 (54%) are most likely to agree. Women choosing Christian (51%) as their religious preference are the most likely to agree. Catholic women (44%) are less likely to agree than Protestant, Non-denominational (55%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (76%) are more likely to agree than those who are not (35%).

## Perceptions of the Church

### American women who have had an abortion are also skeptical of churches and their handling of women who have had an abortion

- 38% of women who have had an abortion agree that churches are a safe place to talk about pregnancy options.
- Over half (54%) of women who have had an abortion agree that churches over-simplify decisions about pregnancy options.
- 30% of women who have had an abortion agree that churches give accurate advice about pregnancy options.
- More than half (51%) agree that churches are prepared to provide support to women who chose to keep a child from an unplanned pregnancy
- 41% of women who have had an abortion agree that churches are prepared to help women with their decisions about unwanted pregnancies.
- Two-thirds (65%) of women who have had an abortion agree that church members judge single women who are pregnant
- 64% agree that church members are more likely to gossip about a woman considering abortion than help her understand options.
- Half (51%) agree that churches do not have a ministry prepared to discuss options during an unplanned pregnancy.

Table 8 – “For each of the following statements, please indicate your level of agreement.”

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
Churches are a safe place to talk about pregnancy options including parenting, abortion, and adoption.	24%	23%	24%	14%	16%
Churches over-simplify decisions about pregnancy options.	8%	14%	30%	24%	23%
Churches give accurate advice about pregnancy options including parenting, abortion, and adoption.	22%	23%	20%	11%	25%
Churches are prepared to provide material, emotional, and spiritual support to women who chose to keep a child resulting from an unplanned pregnancy.	13%	15%	32%	19%	21%
Churches are prepared to help women with their decisions about unwanted pregnancies.	21%	20%	29%	12%	19%
Church members judge single women who are pregnant.	8%	12%	33%	32%	16%
Church members are more likely to gossip about a woman considering an abortion than help her understand her options.	7%	11%	30%	34%	18%
Churches do not have a ministry prepared to discuss options during an unplanned pregnancy.	8%	17%	28%	23%	25%

**Churches are a safe place to talk about pregnancy options including parenting, abortion, and adoption.**

Women age 18-34 (44%) are most likely to agree. Those who classify themselves as Asian (52%), African American (49%) or Hispanic (41%) are more likely to agree than those who classify themselves as White (32%). Those women who live in the South (44%) are most likely to agree.

Women who earn less than \$25,000 (30%) are less likely to agree than those earning \$25,000-34,999 (42%), \$50,000-74,999 (42%), or \$75,000-99,999 (48%). Those who earn \$100,000 or more (33%) are less likely to agree than those who earn \$50,000-74,999 (42%) or \$75,000-99,999 (48%). Women choosing Christian (46%) as their religious preference are most likely to agree. Self-identified evangelical Christians (70%) are more likely to agree than those who are not (31%).

**Churches over-simplify decisions about pregnancy options.**

Women who are 18-34 (60%) are more likely to agree than those age 35-49 (51%). Those women who classify themselves as African American (46%) are more likely to agree with than Hispanics (57%) or Whites (56%). Women who earn \$75,000-99,999 (70%) and those who earn \$100,000 or more (62%) are most likely to agree. Catholic women (62%) are more likely to agree than Protestant, Non-denominational (49%).

**Churches give accurate advice about pregnancy options including parenting, abortion and adoption.**

Women age 18-34 (38%) are most likely to agree. Those who classify themselves as White (24%) are less likely to agree than those who classify themselves as Asian (48%), African American (41%) or Hispanic (36%). Women who live in the Northeast (24%) are less likely to agree than those in the South (35%). Those women who earn less than \$25,000 (24%) are less likely to agree than those earning \$75,000-99,999 (39%). Those choosing Christian (37%) as their religious preference are most likely to agree. Self-identified evangelical Christians (59%) are more likely to agree than those who are not (25%).

**Churches are prepared to provide material, emotional, and spiritual support to women who chose to keep a child resulting from an unplanned pregnancy.**

Women age 18-34 (57%) are more likely to agree than those age 50-64 (48%) or 65+ (44%). Those who classify themselves as Asian (60%) or as African American (58%) are more likely to agree than those classifying themselves as Hispanic (55%) or White (47%).

Women who live in the South (59%) are more likely to agree than those in the Northeast (44%) or West (45%). Those women who earn less than \$25,000 (46%) or \$100,000 or more (46%) are less likely to agree than those who earn \$35,000-49,999 (58%) or \$75,000-99,999 (59%). Those choosing Christian (59%) as their religious preference are most likely to agree. Self-identified evangelical Christians (73%) are more likely to agree than those who are not (47%).

**Churches are prepared to help women with their decisions about unwanted pregnancies.**

Women age 18-34 (47%) are more likely to agree than those age 50-64 (36%) or 65+ (35%). Women who classify themselves as Asian (50%), African American (54%) or Hispanic (45%) are more likely to agree than those who classify themselves as White (35%). Those women who live in the South (46%) are more likely to agree than those in the Midwest (36%) or West (36%).

Those who earn \$50,000-74,999 (45%) or \$75,000-99,999 (49%) are more likely to agree than those who earn \$100,000 or more (36%). Women who earn less than \$25,000 (36%) or \$25,000-34,999 (35%) are less likely to agree than those earning \$75,000-99,999 (49%). Those choosing Christian (47%) as their religious preference are most likely to agree. Catholic women (42%) are less likely to agree than Protestant, Non-denominational (51%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (65%) are more likely to agree than those who are not (36%).

**Church members judge single women who are pregnant.**

Women who are age 65+ (54%) are less likely to agree than those age 18-34 (69%) or 35-49 (65%). Those who classify themselves as Hispanic (75%) are more likely to agree Asians (59%), African Americans (63%), or Whites (63%). Women who earn less than \$25,000 (59%) are less likely to agree than those earning \$75,000-99,999 (70%).

**Church members are more likely to gossip about a woman considering an abortion than help her understand her options.**

Women who classify themselves as Hispanic (75%) are more likely to agree than Asians (52%), African Americans (64%), or Whites (62%). Those who earn \$75,000-99,999 (74%) are more likely to agree than those who earn less than \$25,000 (56%), \$35,000-49,999 (63%) or \$50,000-74,999 (62%). Women who earn \$100,000 or more (66%) are more likely to agree than those who earn less than \$25,000 (56%).

**Churches do not have a ministry prepared to discuss options during an unplanned pregnancy.**

Women age 18-34 (58%) are more likely to agree than those age 35-49 (49%) or 65+ (40%). Those who classify themselves as Hispanic (60%) are more likely to agree than those who classify themselves as White (48%). Those who earn \$75,000-99,999 (59%) are more likely to agree than those earning less than \$25,000 (47%) or \$50,000-74,999 (47%).

Women choosing Christian (53%) as their religious preference are more likely to agree than those choosing Atheist, Agnostic, or No Preference (44%). Catholic women (57%) are more likely to agree than Protestant, Non-denominational (49%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (61%) are more likely to agree than those who are not (49%).

**Twice as many women would not recommend to someone close to them that they discuss their decision regarding an unplanned pregnancy with someone at a local church**

Table 9 – “If you or someone close to you had an unplanned pregnancy, would you recommend they discuss the decision with someone at a local church?”

Yes	25%
No	54%
Don't Know	21%

Those who are 18-34 (35%) are most likely to recommend. Those who classify themselves as Asian (44%) are more likely to recommend than those who classify themselves as White (18%). Those who classify themselves as African American (33%) or as Hispanic (34%) are more likely to recommend than those who classify themselves as White (18%). Those from the Northeast (19%) and those from the Midwest (19%) are less likely to recommend than those from the South (30%) and those from the West (28%).

Those whose household income is less than \$25,000 (18%) are less likely to recommend than those earning \$25,000-34,999 (29%), \$50,000-74,999 (28%), or \$75,000-99,999 (31%). Those choosing Atheist, Agnostic or No Preference (6%) as their religious preference are least likely to agree. Self-identified evangelical Christians (62%) are more likely to agree than those who are not (18%).



## Perceptions of the Church

Seven in 10 (70%) women who have had an abortion classify themselves as Christian

Table 10 – “What is your religious preference?”

Christian – Catholic	27%
Christian – Orthodox (Russian, Armenian, Greek)	2%
Christian – Protestant (including Adventist, Baptist, Church of Christ, Church of God, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodists, Presbyterian, etc.)	26%
Christian – Non-denominational	15%
Jewish	3%
Mormon/Latter Day Saints	1%
Muslim	2%
Hindu	1%
Buddhist	1%
Christian Scientist	0%
Jehovah’s Witnesses	1%
Unity/Unitarian	0%
Atheist	4%
Agnostic	8%
No Preference	7%
Other	3%

**Among Protestant women who have had an abortion their denominational affiliation is similar to the Protestant population.**

One third (33%) indicate they are Baptist. Another third (33%) indicate their specific denomination or affiliation is Methodist (11%), Presbyterian (10%), and Lutheran (9%).

Table 11 – “What specific denomination or affiliation do you prefer? (Select One)” Asked of those whose religious preference is Christian—Protestant. n=274

African Methodist Episcopal (AME) or AME Zion	1%
Anglican	1%
Apostolic	1%
Assemblies of God	2%
Baptist	33%
Brethren	0%
Calvary Chapel	0%
Christian & Missionary Alliance	1%

Christian Methodist Episcopal	2%
Church of Christ	4%
Church of God	1%
Church of God in Christ	1%
Congregational	1%
Disciples of Christ	0%
Episcopal	6%
Evangelical Free	0%
Friends/Quaker	1%
Foursquare Gospel	1%
Lutheran	9%
Mennonite	0%
Methodist	11%
Nazarene	1%
Pentecostal/Charismatic/Word/Full Gospel	4%
Presbyterian	10%
Reformed, Dutch Reformed, or Christian Reformed	0%
Seventh Day Adventist	1%
Vineyard Church	0%
Wesleyan	0%
Other _____	4%
None/No particular preference	3%

**One-third (35%) of Christian women who have had an abortion indicate they currently attend a Christian church once a week or more**

Table 12 – “How often do you attend religious services at a Christian church? (Select One)”  
 Asked of those with a Christian religious preference. n=721

More than once a week	8%
About once a week	27%
Once or twice a month	17%
Only on religious holidays	10%
Rarely	28%
Never	9%
Don't know	0%

This translates to 36% of women who have had an abortion currently attending church once a month or more. This includes 24% who attend church once a week or more.

**More than once a week**

Women who are 18-34 (14%) are most likely to select. Those who classify themselves as White (4%) are less likely to select than African Americans (15%) or Hispanics (10%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (22%) are more likely to agree than those who are not (3%).

**About once a week**

Women who are 18-34 (33%) are more likely to select than those age 35-49 (24%) or 50-64 (23%). Those who classify themselves as White (23%) are less likely to select than those who classify themselves as Asian (42%) or African American (36%). Those women with household income less than \$25,000 (22%) are less likely to select than those who earn \$75,000-99,999 (34%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (40%) are more likely to agree than those who are not (24%).

**Once or twice a month**

Women who are 35-49 (20%) are more likely to select than those age 50-64 (13%). Those with household income of \$75,000-99,999 (26%) are more likely to select than those who earn less than \$25,000 (14%) or \$35,000-49,999 (12%).

**Only on religious holidays**

Women who classify themselves as African American (3%) are less likely to select than those who classify themselves as Asian (12%), Hispanic (13%), or White (11%). Those with household income less than \$25,000 (5%) are less likely to select than those who earn \$100,000 or more (13%). Women choosing Catholic (14%) as their religious preference are more likely to select than Protestant, Non-Denomination (8%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (3%) are less likely to select than those who are not (12%).

**Rarely**

Women who are 18-34 (17%) are most likely to select. Those who classify themselves as White (34%) are more likely to select than those who classify themselves as Asian (9%), African American (21%), or Hispanic (24%). Those women who earn \$75,000-99,999 (14%) are least likely to select. Self-identified evangelical Christians (11%) are less likely to agree than those who are not (33%).

**Never**

Women who classify themselves as White (23%) are most likely to select. Those with household income less than \$25,000 are most likely to select (14%). Those women who earn \$100,000 or more (7%) are more likely to select than those who earn \$35,000-49,999 (6%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (3%) are less likely to agree than those who are not (11%).

**52% of churchgoers who have had an abortion have no one at church who knows they have had a pregnancy terminated**

Table 13 – “Does anyone at your church know that you have had a pregnancy termination/abortion?” Asked of those who currently attend a Christian church once a month or more. n=381

Yes	38%
No	52%
Don't Know	10%

Women who are 18-34 (57%) are most likely to answer “Yes.” Those who are 65+ (7%) are least likely to answer “Yes.” Women who are 35-49 (51%) are less likely to answer “No” than those who are 50-64 (70%) or 65+ (73%). Those women who classify themselves as Hispanic (59%) are more likely to answer “Yes” than African Americans (28%) or Whites (31%).

Women who are from the Midwest (29%) are less likely to answer “Yes” than those who are from the West (47%). Those with household income less than \$25,000 (22%) are less likely to answer “Yes” than those with household income of \$75,000-99,999 (45%) or \$100,000 or more (41%). Catholic women (44%) are more likely to answer “Yes” than Protestant, Non-denominational (32%). Self-identified evangelical Christians (55%) are more likely to answer “Yes” than those who are not (28%).

**23% of Christian women who have had an abortion consider themselves to be an evangelical Christian.**

Table 14 – “Do you consider yourself to be an evangelical Christian? (Select One)” Asked among those with a Christian religious preference. n=721

Yes	23%
No	62%
Don't Know	15%

This translates to 16% considering themselves an evangelical Christian among all women who have had an abortion.