



# **Care Net Study of Men whose Partner has had an Abortion**

## **QUANTITATIVE REPORT**

**Lifeway** research

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# Executive Summary

## **Men's Influence on their Partner/Spouse**

- 38% of men whose partner later has an abortion say that they were the most influential on her decision followed by a medical professional (18%) and her mother (14%).
- 3 in 4 men who know of their partner's pregnancy also discussed it with their partner prior to the abortion decision.
- Men more often respond by influencing their partner to have an abortion (42%) than not to have one (27%).
- A sizeable portion of men (31%) do not give her any advice.
- Men who stay silent about the abortion decision primarily believed it was their partner's choice or were ready to support her either way.
- Among men who suggest their partner have an abortion, the most common reasons are that they could not afford a child (46%), was not ready to be a father (39%), and there were already enough kids (29%).

## **Influences on Men**

- Men whose partner later has an abortion often have varying reactions when they find out their partner is pregnant including being nervous (53%), scared (42%), happy (30%), and excited (28%).
- More than 4 in 10 men did not discuss the abortion decision with anyone before it occurred other than the woman he had gotten pregnant.
- The most common people for men to discuss the abortion decision with are medical professionals (29%), friends (29%), and his mother (27%).
- 95% of men indicate they did not discuss the abortion decision with anyone at a local church.
- 54% say they were aware of local pregnancy centers that offered help at the time of the first abortion but only 5% spoke with someone at one.
- 67% say that an abortion is the woman's choice, including 46% who say the man should have some input.
- 40% think society says men should handle an unplanned pregnancy by neither encouraging nor discouraging their partner's decision in any way.

## **Church Attendance of Men whose partner/spouse had an abortion**

- A total of 51% of men were attending a Christian church once a month or more at the time of at least one of their partner's abortions.
- 47% say they were attending religious services at a Christian church at least once a month at the time of the first abortion.
- Among men that were not attending church at the first abortion and whose partner had additional abortions, 30% say they were attending a Christian church once a month or more at the time of a subsequent abortion.
- At the time of this abortion, more men would have expected a negative reaction from a local church than positive including Judgmental (42%), Condemning (30%), or Cold (24%), rather than Helpful (24%), Caring (23%), or Loving (18%).

### **Perceptions of Pastors**

- 64% of men whose partner has had an abortion agree someone can talk to a pastor about abortion confidentially.
- 54% of men whose partner has had an abortion believe that pastors' teachings on forgiveness don't seem to apply to terminated pregnancies/abortion.
- 53% of men whose partner has had an abortion agree that pastors are sensitive to the pressures a man faces with an unplanned pregnancy.
- 51% of men whose partner has had an abortion believe that pastors teach that God is willing to forgive past abortion decisions.

### **Perceptions of the Church**

- 72% of men whose partner has had an abortion believe church members judge unmarried couples who are pregnant.
- 62% of men whose partner has had an abortion believe that churches are prepared to provide support to couples who choose to keep a child resulting from an unplanned pregnancy.
- 57% of men whose partner has had an abortion agree that churches over-simplify decisions about pregnancy options.
- 52% of men whose partner has had an abortion agree that churches are a safe place to talk about pregnancy options including parenting, abortion, and adoption.
- 49% of men whose partner has had an abortion would not recommend someone discuss an unplanned pregnancy decision with someone at a local church.

### **Current Religious Preference**

- 68% of men whose partner/ spouse has had an abortion indicate their religious preference is Christian including 36% who are Catholic, 17% Protestant, and 10% Non-denominational.
- 29% of Protestant men whose partner/ spouse has had an abortion indicate they are Baptist.
- 66% of Christian men whose partner has had an abortion say they currently attend religious services at a Christian church at least once a month .
- 45% of churchgoing men whose partner has had an abortion say nobody at their church knows their partner/spouse had an abortion.
- 46% of men whose partner/spouse has had an abortion indicate they are an evangelical or born-again Christian.

## Methodology

The Care Net Study of Men whose Partner has had an Abortion was originated and commissioned by Care Net. The objectives of this quantitative study were:

- To measure specifically what percentage of men were attending church at the time their partner/spouse had an abortion,
- To understand men's opinions about the unplanned pregnancy and the influence men have on their partner/spouse to have an abortion, and
- To understand the opinions of men whose partner/spouse has had an abortion regarding how safe, open, and helpful churches are when making a decision about an unwanted pregnancy.

The online survey was conducted by Lifeway Research February 25-March 26, 2021. A demographically balanced online panel was used for interviewing American men age 18+. Quotas and slight weights were used to ensure the sample matched national totals for ethnicity, age, education, and region. The completed sample is 1,000 surveys.

This nationally balanced sample was screened to include only men whose partner/spouse has had an abortion after he had made her pregnant, and he knew about the pregnancy before she had the abortion. (see question below).

Has a female partner or spouse of yours ever had any of the following medical procedures while you were together? (select all that apply)

- Hysterectomy
- Tubal ligation (tubes tied)
- Abortion (after you had made her pregnant)
- Breast enhancement or reduction
- Liposuction
- Cosmetic surgery
- None of these
- Prefer not to answer

Did you know about the pregnancy before she had the abortion?

- Yes (for at least one abortion)
- No, I didn't know she was pregnant until after the abortion
- Prefer not to answer

While national statistics indicate the actual numbers are higher, 10% of American men are willing to admit on a confidential survey a woman they have gotten pregnant has had an abortion.

Men ages 18-34 (14%) and 35-44 (15%) are more likely to say their partner/spouse has had an abortion than men ages 45-54 (9%) and 55+ (4%). Men with a Bachelor's Degree (14%) or a Graduate Degree (14%) are more likely to say their partner/spouse has had an abortion than those with a High School Degree or less (7%) or Some college (9%). African American (16%) and Hispanic (14%) men are more likely to say their partner/spouse has had an abortion than men who are White (8%) or Other Ethnicities (9%).

8% of American men indicate on a confidential survey they have had a partner or spouse who had an abortion, and he knew about the pregnancy prior to the abortion.

# Quantitative Findings

## Men’s Influence on their Partner/Spouse

### Men more often respond by influencing their partner to have an abortion than not to have one

Table 1 – “What was your advice to your partner/spouse regarding her abortion? If she had more than one, respond thinking of the first time.” n=983

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

I strongly urged her to have an abortion	12%
I suggested she have an abortion	30%
I did not give her any advice	31%
I suggested she not have an abortion	19%
I strongly urged her not to have an abortion	8%

Those age 55+ are the most likely to select “I did not give her any advice” (46%). Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (38%) are more likely to select “I suggested she have an abortion” than those who are High School Graduates or less (23%) or with Some college (26%). Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to select “I strongly urged her to have an abortion” (27%). Whites (32%) are more likely to select “I suggested she have an abortion” than African Americans (23%).

Religiously unaffiliated (42%) are more likely to select “I did not give her any advice” than Christians (27%). Catholics are more likely to select “I strongly urged her to have an abortion” than Protestants (18% v. 8%). Protestants are more likely to select “I suggested she not have an abortion” than Catholics (27% v. 19%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select “I strongly urged her to have an abortion” than Other Americans (21% v. 9%).

Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion (22%) are more likely to select “I suggested she not have an abortion” than those who never attended (15%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion are the least likely to select “I did not give her any advice” (20%) and the most likely to select “I strongly urged her to have an abortion” (17%).

**Men who stay silent about the abortion decision primarily believed it was their partner’s choice or were ready to support her either way**

Table 2 – “Why did you not give her any advice on this abortion decision? Select all that apply” n=273

Among men who gave their partner no advice regarding her abortion

I believed it was her choice	63%
I was ready to support her either way	61%
I didn’t feel like I could say anything	19%
We didn’t have that much of a relationship at that point	12%
I had no opinion	11%
Other	3%

**I had no opinion**

Those age 18-34 are the most likely to select (21%). African Americans (17%) and Hispanics (18%) are more likely to select than Whites (6%). Christians (16%) are more likely to select than Religiously unaffiliated (4%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (24% v. 7%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion (17%) are more likely to select than those who attended on holidays or rarely attended (7%).

**I believed it was her choice**

Those in the West (72%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (56%) Those age 55+ are the least likely to select (49%). Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (73%) are more likely to select than those with Some college (54%). Catholics are more likely to select than Protestants (75% v. 50%).

**I didn’t feel like I could say anything**

Christians (23%) are more likely to select than Religiously unaffiliated (13%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion (26%) are more likely to select than those who never attended (14%).

**I was ready to support her either way**

Religiously unaffiliated are the most likely to select (74%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are less likely to select than Other Americans (46% v. 65%).

**We didn’t have much of a relationship at that point**

Other religions (23%) are more likely to select than Religiously unaffiliated (8%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion (16%) and never attended (15%) are more likely to select than those who attended on holidays or rarely attended (6%).



## Reasons men suggest their partner have an abortion

Table 3 – “Which of the following were reasons you suggested the option of abortion? Select all that apply” n=439

Among men who suggested/urged their partner to have an abortion

We couldn't afford a child at the time	46%
I was not ready to be a father	39%
There were already enough kids in the picture	29%
I didn't expect the relationship with her to be long-term	24%
There was conflict in our relationship	23%
I had not completed my education	17%
I didn't want other to know she was pregnant	17%
I didn't want to pay child support	14%
Other: Child had medical problems	3%
Other: Partner's health	2%
Other: Didn't want the child	2%
Other	2%
Don't know	<1%

### I didn't expect the relationship with her to be long-term

Those age 45-54 (36%) are more likely to select than those 35-44 (21%). African Americans (41%) are more likely to select than Whites (21%) and Hispanics (24%). Protestants are more likely to select than Catholics (31% v. 18%).

### There was conflict in our relationship

Those age 18-34 (24%) and 35-44 (26%) are more likely to select than those 55+ (12%). Those with a Graduate Degree (32%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor's Degree (20%). African Americans (36%) are more likely to select than Whites (21%) and Hispanics (16%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (33% v. 18%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion (30%) and attended on holidays or never attended (21%) are more likely to select than those who never attended (8%).

### I was not ready to be a father

Religiously unaffiliated are the most likely to select (54%). Protestants are more likely to select than Catholics (46% v. 32%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church on holidays or rarely attended (48%) are more likely to select than those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more (34%).

### I didn't want to pay child support

Those in the West (22%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (10%) and South (12%). Those age 18-34 (19%) are more likely to select than those 55+ (7%).

Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (19% v. 11%).

### **I had not completed my education**

Those in the West (25%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (10%) and South (15%). Those age 18-34 (23%) and 45-54 (23%) are more likely to select than those 35-44 (10%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church on holidays or rarely attended at the time of the abortion (22%) are more likely to select than those who never attended (11%).

### **There were already enough kids in the picture**

Those age 35-44 (39%) are more likely to select than those 18-34 (23%) and 55+ (24%). Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to select (41%). Religiously unaffiliated are the least likely to select (14%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (38% v. 23%). Those who attended religious service at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion (34%) are more likely to select than those who never attended (18%).

### **We couldn't afford a child at that time**

Those with Some college (57%) are more likely to select than those with a Graduate Degree (38%). Religiously unaffiliated are the most likely to select (59%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church on holidays or rarely at the time of the abortion (56%) and never attended (53%) are more likely to select than those who attended once a month or more (39%).

### **I didn't want others to know she was pregnant**

Those age 18-34 (25%) are more likely to select than those 35-44 (14%) and 55+ (5%). African Americans (32%) are more likely to select than Whites (14%) and Hispanics (12%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (25% v. 12%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion (21%) are more likely to select than those who attended on holidays or rarely attended (10%).

**3 in 4 men who knew about the pregnancy also discussed it with their partner prior to the abortion decision.**

Table 4 – To the best of your knowledge, with whom did she discuss this with prior to making the abortion decision? Select all that apply” n=1,000

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

Me	74%
A medical professional	48%
Her mother	38%
Friend(s)	33%
Her father	17%
An abortion provider	17%
Other family member	13%
A pregnancy care center worker	7%
A counselor	5%
Someone at a local church	3%
Don't know	3%
She did not discuss it with anyone	2%
Other	<1%

**Me**

Whites are the most likely to select (78%). Religiously unaffiliated are the most likely to select (82%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are less likely to select than Other Americans (67% v. 77%). Those who never attended religious services at a Christian church at the time of the abortion (80%) are more likely to select than those who once a month or more (72%) and attended on holidays or rarely attended (71%).

**A medical professional**

Those age 35-44 are the most likely to select (55%). Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (54%) or a Graduate Degree (59%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (37%) or with Some college (46%). Other Ethnicities (62%) are more likely to select than African Americans (42%) and Hispanics (42%).

**Friend(s)**

Those in the South (35%) and West (37%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (25%). Those age 18-34 (37%) are more likely to select than those 55+ (26%). Protestants are more likely to select than Catholics (37% v. 28%).

**Her mother**

Those age 55+ are the least likely to select (13%). Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (46%) are more likely to select than those with some college (33%) or a Graduate Degree (31%). African Americans (45%) and Hispanics (43%) are more likely to select than Whites (34%). Christians (42%) are more likely to select than Religiously

unaffiliated (30%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion (44%) and attended on holidays or rarely attended (38%) are more likely to select than those who never attended (29%).

### **Her father**

Those age 18-34 are the most likely to select (23%). Those age 55+ are the least likely to select (5%). Those who are High School Graduates or less (19%) or with a Bachelor's Degree (20%) are more likely to select than those with Some college (12%). Hispanics (23%) are more likely to select than Whites (14%). Christians (19%) are more likely to select than Religiously unaffiliated (13%). Catholics are more likely to select than Protestants (21% v. 14%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (23% v. 14%). Those who attended a religious service at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion (22%) are more likely to select than those who attended on holidays or rarely attended (12%) and never attended (12%).

### **Other family member**

Those in the South (16%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (8%). Those age 55+ are the least likely to select (5%). African Americans (20%) are more likely to select than Whites (11%).

### **Someone at a local church**

Those with a Graduate Degree are most likely to select (8%).

### **A counselor**

Those with a Graduate Degree (10%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (3%).

### **An abortion provider**

Those age 18-34 (18%) and 35-44 (19%) are more likely to select than those 55+ (11%). Those with Some college (20%) or a Bachelor's Degree (20%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (13%). Hispanics (22%) are more likely to select than Whites (15%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion (20%) are more likely to select than those who never attended (14%).

### **A pregnancy care worker**

Those age 18-34 (7%) and 35-44 (8%) are more likely to select than those 55+ (3%). Those with a Graduate Degree (10%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (5%). Other Ethnicities (12%) are more likely to select than Whites (5%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion (8%) are more likely to select than those who never attended (4%).

### **She did not discuss it with anyone**

No significant differences

**38% of men whose partner later has an abortion say that they were the most influential on her decision**

Table 5 – “To the best of your knowledge, which of these were most influential to her abortion decision? Select all that apply” n=970

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

Me	38%
A medical professional	18%
Her mother	14%
Friend(s)	7%
An abortion provider	4%
Her father	3%
Other family member	2%
A pregnancy care center worker	1%
A counselor	1%
Someone at a local church	<1%
Don't know	12%

Those in the West (22%) are more likely to select “A medical professional” than those in the South (14%). Those age 55+ are least likely to select “Her mother” (5%) and most likely to select “Don’t know” (24%). Those with a Graduate Degree (45%) are more likely to select “Me” than those who are High School Graduates or less (35%).

Whites (42%) are more likely to select “Me” than African Americans (32%) and Hispanics (34%). African Americans (20%) are more likely to select “Her mother” than Whites (13%) or Other ethnicities (7%).

Religiously unaffiliated are the most likely to select “Don’t know” (22%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select “Me” than Other Americans (43% v. 36%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion (20%) are more likely to select “A medical professional” than those who never attended (14%).

## Influences on Men

**More than 4 in 10 men did not discuss the abortion decision with anyone before it occurred other than the women he had gotten pregnant.**

Table 6 – “With whom did you discuss the abortion decision before it occurred? Select all that apply” n=995

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

I did not discuss it with anyone (other than the woman I had gotten pregnant)	43%
A medical professional	29%
Friend(s)	29%
My mother	27%
My father	17%
Other family member	11%
Someone at a local church	5%
A counselor	5%
A pregnancy care center worker	5%
Other	1%

### **I did not discuss it with anyone (other than the woman I had gotten pregnant)**

Those age 55+ are the most likely to select (80%). Those age 18-34 are the least likely to select (29%). Those who are High School Graduates or less (47%) or with Some college (55%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s Degree (38%) or a Graduate Degree (28%). Whites (48%) and African Americans (44%) are more likely to select than Hispanics (32%).

Religiously unaffiliated are the most likely to select (61%). Protestants are more likely to select than Catholics (47% v. 36%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are less likely to select than Other Americans (30% v. 49%). Those who never attended religious services at a Christian church at the time of the abortion are the most likely to select (68%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion are the least likely to select (26%).

### **A medical professional**

Those age 18-34 (33%) and 35-44 (37%) are more likely to select than those 45-54 (15%) and 55+ (12%). Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to select (50%). Whites (32%) and Other Ethnicities (33%) are more likely to select than African Americans (21%). Religiously unaffiliated are the least likely to select (13%). Catholics are more likely to select than Protestants (35% v. 27%).

Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (42% v. 23%). Those who attended religious services at a

Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion are the most likely to select (41%). Those who never attended religious services at a Christian church at the time of the abortion are the least likely to select (13%).

### **Friend(s)**

Those age 55+ are the least likely to select (15%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (35% v. 27%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion are the most likely to select (37%).

### **My mother**

Those age 18-34 are the most likely to select (40%). Those age 55+ are the least likely to select (5%). Those who are High School Graduates or less (29%) or with a Bachelor's Degree (30%) are more likely to select than those with Some college (21%). Hispanics (39%) are more likely to select than Whites (22%) and Other Ethnicities (23%).

Religiously unaffiliated are the least likely to select (16%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (35% v. 24%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion are the most likely to select (36%). Those who never attended religious services at a Christian church at the time of the abortion are the least likely to select (14%).

### **My father**

Those age 18-34 are the most likely to select (26%). Those age 55+ are the least likely to select (2%). Those with a Bachelor's Degree (23%) are more likely to select than those with some college (13%). Hispanics (26%) are more likely to select than Whites (14%) and African Americans (17%). Christians (20%) are more likely to select than Religiously unaffiliated (10%).

Catholics are more likely to select than Protestants (23% v. 13%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (23% v. 15%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion are the most likely to select (24%). Those who never attended religious services at a Christian church at the time of the abortion are the least likely to select (7%).

### **Other family member**

Those age 55+ are the least likely to select (5%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (16% v. 9%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion (13%) are more likely to select than those who never attended (7%).

### **Someone at a local church**

Those in the West (8%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (2%) and the South (3%). Those age 18-34 (7%) and 35-44 (5%) are more likely to select than those 55+ (1%). Those with a Graduate Degree (8%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (3%). Religiously unaffiliated are the least likely to select (1%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (10% v. 3%). Those who attended a religious service at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion are the most likely to select (8%).

### **A counselor**

Those with a Bachelor's Degree (8%) or a Graduate Degree (9%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (2%) or Some college (3%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (8% v. 4%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion are the most likely to select (8%).

### **A pregnancy care center worker**

Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to select (11%). Those who attended a religious service at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion (7%) are more likely to select than those who never attended (3%).

### **Men whose partner later has an abortion often have varying reactions when they find out their partner is pregnant**

Table 7 – “What was your reaction when you found out your partner/spouse was pregnant? Select all that apply” n=997

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

I was nervous	53%
I was scared	42%
I was happy	30%
I was excited	28%
I was indifferent	15%
I was embarrassed	14%
I was angry	14%
Other	3%

### **I was excited**

Those in the West are the most likely to select (35%). Those age 18-34 (30%) and 35-44 (30%) are more likely to select than those 55+ (19%). Those with a Graduate Degree (34%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor's Degree (24%). Those who



attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion are the most likely to select (32%).

### **I was scared**

Those age 35-44 (46%) are more likely to select than those 55+ (35%). Those with a Bachelor's Degree (48%) are more likely to select than those with Some college (37%).

### **I was angry**

Those age 18-34 (18%) and 35-44 (16%) are more likely to select than those 45-54 (7%) and 55+ (7%). African Americans (20%) and Hispanics (17%) are more likely to select than Whites (12%). Christians (17%) are more likely to select than Religiously unaffiliated (8%). Catholics are more likely to select than Protestants (19% v. 13%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (21% v. 11%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion are the most likely to select (20%).

### **I was nervous**

Those in the South are the most likely to select (61%). Those with a Bachelor's Degree (59%) are more likely to select than those with Graduate Degrees (47%). Religiously unaffiliated are the most likely to select (62%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are less likely to select than Other Americans (44% v. 57%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion are the least likely to select (48%).

### **I was happy**

Those in the West (38%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (24%) and Midwest (27%). Those age 55+ are the least likely to select (19%). Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to select (43%). Other Religions are the most likely to select (41%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (35% v. 28%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion are the most likely to select (38%).

### **I was embarrassed**

Those in the Midwest (17%) and West (18%) are more likely to select than those in the South (10%). Those age 18-34 (18%) and 35-44 (15%) are more likely to select than those 55+ (7%). Those with a Bachelor's Degree (16%) or a Graduate Degree (23%) are more likely to select than those with Some college (9%). Christians (16%) are more likely to select than Religiously unaffiliated (9%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (20% v. 12%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion are the most likely to select (19%).

### **I was indifferent**

Those age 18-34 (19%) are more likely to select than those 35-44 (12%) and 45-54 (9%). Those with a Graduate Degree (20%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (13%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (23% v. 12%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion (17%) are more likely to select than those who never attended (11%).

### **34% say they were married to the woman, 29% say they were living together**

Table 8 – “At the time of this first abortion, which best describes your relationship with the woman you got pregnant?” n=1,000

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

Married	34%
Living together	29%
Seeing each other	29%
Knew each other but were not dating	3%
Had just met	2%
No longer together	3%

Those in the Northeast (37%) and Midwest (40%) are more likely to select “Married” than those in the South (29%). Those age 18-34 are the most likely to select “Living together” (35%). Those age 35-44 are the most likely to select “Married” (47%). Those age 45-54 (47%) and 55+ (40%) are more likely to select “Seeing each other” than those age 18-34 (26%) and 35-44 (20%).

Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to select “Married” (64%). Whites (43%) and Other Ethnicities (41%) are more likely to select “Married” than African Americans (15%) and Hispanics (27%). African Americans (38%) and Hispanics (33%) are more likely to select “Living together” than Whites (25%).

Christians (38%) and Other religions (44%) are more likely to select “Married” than Religiously unaffiliated (18%). Religiously unaffiliated (40%) are more likely to select “Seeing each other” than Christians (26%) and Other religions (21%). Catholics are more likely to select “Married” than Protestants (43% v. 29%). Protestants are more likely to select “Seeing each other” than Catholics (35% v. 21%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select “Married” than Other Americans (49% v. 28%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion are the most likely to select “Married” (46%).

#### 4 out of 10 of unmarried men say that neither they nor their partner wanted to get married

Table 9 – “Were either of you interested in getting married to each other at that time?”  
n=607

Among those not married at the time of this pregnancy

I wanted to get married and she didn't	13%
She wanted to get married and I didn't	11%
We both wanted to get married	29%
Neither of us wanted to get married	40%
Don't know	6%

Those in the South (44%) are more likely to select “Neither of us wanted to get married” than those in the West (33%). Those age 55+ (56%) are more likely to select “Neither of us wanted to get married” than those 18-34 (32%) and 35-44 (41%). Whites (45%) are more likely to select “Neither of us wanted to get married” than Hispanics (32%).

Religiously unaffiliated are the most likely to select “Neither of us wanted to get married” (51%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are less likely to select “Neither of us wanted to get married” than Other Americans (29% v. 43%). Those who never attended religious services at a Christian church at the time of the abortion are the most likely to select “Neither of us wanted to get married” (54%).

#### 67% say than an abortion is the woman's choice, with 46% saying the man should have some input

Table 10 – “What roles do you believe most people you know expect women and men to play in abortion decisions?” n=997

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

It is a woman's choice and the man has no role to play	21%
It is the woman's choice, but the man should have some input	46%
It is a choice that the woman and man should make together with equal input	29%
It is the man's choice and the woman should have some input	2%
It is the man's choice and the woman has no role to play	1%
Don't know	1%

Those age 18-34 (25%) are more likely to select “It is the woman's choice and the man has no role to play” than those age 45-54 (12%) and 55+ (16%). Those age 55+ (56%) are more likely to select “It is the woman's choice, but the man should have some input” than those 18-34 (44%) and 35-44 (43%). Those with a Graduate Degree (36%) are

more likely to select “It is a choice that the woman and man should make together with equal input” than those who are High School Graduates or less (25%).

Religiously unaffiliated (26%) are more likely to select “It is the woman’s choice, and the man has no role to play” than Christians (19%). Catholics are more likely to select “It is the woman’s choice, and the man has no role to play” than Protestants (24% v. 14%). Christians who attend a worship service once a month or more are less likely to select “It is the woman’s choice, but the man should have some input” than Other Americans (41% v. 48%).

**40% say that society thinks men should neither encourage nor discourage their partner’s decision in any way**

Table 11 – “Which of the following statements best reflects your view of how society thinks men should handle unplanned pregnancies?” n=995

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

They think I should encourage her to abort	14%
They think I should encourage her to have the baby	32%
They think I should neither encourage nor discourage her decision in any way	40%
Don’t know	14%

Those in the South (36%) are more likely to select “They think I should encourage her to have the baby” than those in the Midwest (26%). Those age 55+ (50%) are more likely to select “They think I should neither encourage nor discourage her decision in any way” than those 18-34 (37%) and 35-44 (36%). Those with Some college (46%) are more likely to select “They think I should neither encourage nor discourage her decision in any way” than those who are High School Graduates or less (38%) or with a Graduate Degree (31%). Those with a Graduate degree are the most likely to select “They think I should encourage her to abort” (24%).

Religiously unaffiliated are the most likely to select “They think I should neither encourage nor discourage her decision in any way” (48%). Catholics are more likely to select “They think I should encourage her to abort” (21% v. 9%). Protestants are more likely to select “They think I should neither encourage nor discourage her decision in any way” than Catholics (45% v. 35%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select “They think I should encourage her to have the baby” than Other Americans (42% v. 28%). Christians who attend a worship service once a month or more are more likely to select “They think I should encourage her to have the baby” than Other Americans (41% v. 28%).

**54% say they were aware of local pregnancy centers that offered help at the time of the first abortion**

Table 12 – “At the time of this first abortion, were you aware of any local pregnancy care centers that offered help to those with unplanned pregnancies in your area?” n=996

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

Yes	54%
No	40%
Don't know	6%

Those in the Northeast (58%) and the West (57%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those in the South (48%). Those age 18-34 (58%) and 35-44 (57%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those 55+ (40%). Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to select “Yes” (68%). Other Religions (61%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Religiously unaffiliated (49%). Catholics are more likely to select “Yes” than Protestants (59% v. 48%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select “Yes” than Other Americans (67% v. 48%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion are the most likely to select “Yes” (64%).

## Church Attendance of Men whose Partner/Spouse has had an Abortion

**A total of 51% of men were attending a Christian church once a month or more at the time of at least one of their partner’s abortions**

Table 13 – Combined Responses: “At the time of this first abortion how often were you attending religious services at a Christian church?”  
 “Were you attending a Christian church once a month or more at the time of any of these abortions?” n=995

Among men who whose partner has had an abortion

Attended religious services at a Christian Church once a month or more at the time of any of the abortions	51%
Attended less often/did not attend	49%

**47% say they were attending religious services at a Christian church at least once a month at the time of the first abortion**

Table 14 – “At the time of this first abortion how often were you attending religious services at a Christian church? Select one” n=995

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

More than once a week	10%
About once a week	20%
Once or twice a month	16%
Only on religious holidays	10%
Rarely	15%
Never	28%
Don’t know	<1%

Those in the West (25%) are more likely to select “About once a week” than those in the Midwest (15%) and South (18%). Those age 55+ are the most likely to select “Never” (57%). Those age 18-34 (37%) and 35-44 (37%) are more likely to select “About once a week” or “More than once a week” than those ages 45-54 (21%) and 55+ (9%). Those who are High School Graduates or less (35%) or with Some college (35%) are more likely to select “Never” than those with a Bachelor’s Degree (23%) or a Graduate Degree (14%).

Whites (33%) and Other Ethnicities (36%) are more likely to select “Never” than African Americans (21%) and Hispanics (19%). Religiously unaffiliated are the most likely to select “Never” (72%). Protestants are more likely to select “Never” than Catholics (16% v. 10%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are less likely to select “Never” than Other Americans (7% v. 38%).

**At the time of this abortion, more men would have expected a negative reaction from a local church than positive**

Table 15 – “At that same time, which of the following describe the reaction you think you would have received from a local church if they knew you were considering this decision? Select all that apply The reaction I would have expected:”  
n=1,000

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

Judgmental	42%
Condemning	30%
Helpful	24%
Cold	24%
Caring	23%
Informative	19%
Loving	18%
I don't now how a church would have responded	13%
Indifferent	12%
None of these	1%

**Loving**

Those age 18-34 (23%) and 35-44 (20%) are more likely to select than those 55+ (7%). Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to select (33%). Hispanics (22%) and Other Ethnicities (27%) are more likely to select than Whites (15%). Religiously unaffiliated are the least likely to select (7%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (28% v. 14%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion are the most likely to select (29%).

**Cold**

Those in the Northeast (27%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (19%). Those age 18-34 are the most likely to select (32%). Those with a Bachelor's Degree (29%) are more likely to select than those with Some college (21%). Hispanics (30%) are more likely to select than Whites (22%) and African Americans (19%). Catholics are more likely to select than Protestants (28% v. 15%).

**Caring**

Those age 18-34 (24%) and 35-44 (27%) are more likely to select than those 55+ (15%). Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to select (34%). Whites (25%) and African Americans (26%) are more likely to select than Hispanics (16%). Religiously unaffiliated are the least likely to select (11%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (35% v. 18%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion are the most likely to select (33%)

### **Judgmental**

Those age 45-54 (51%) are more likely to select than those 35-44 (39%). Those who are High School Graduates or less (46%) or with a Bachelor's Degree (45%) are more likely to select than those with a Graduate Degree (33%). Religiously unaffiliated are the most likely to select (49%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are less likely to select than Other Americans (30% v. 47%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion are the least likely to select (35%).

### **Condemning**

Whites (32%) and Hispanics (35%) are more likely to select than African Americans (22%). Religiously unaffiliated (35%) are more likely to select than Other Religions (22%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are less likely to select than Other Americans (26% v. 33%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion are the least likely to select (26%).

### **Helpful**

Those age 18-34 (25%) and 35-44 (31%) are more likely to select than those 55+ (12%). Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to select (40%). African Americans (30%) are more likely to select than Hispanics (21%). Religiously unaffiliated are the least likely to select (9%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (39% v. 18%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion are the most likely to select (36%).

### **Informative**

Those age 18-34 (23%) and 35-44 (20%) are more likely to select than those 55+ (8%). Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to select (36%). Religiously unaffiliated are the least likely to select (8%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (28% v. 15%). Those who attended religious services at a Christian church once a month or more at the time of the abortion are the most likely to select (30%).

### **Indifferent**

Those age 18-34 (16%) and 35-44 (14%) are more likely to select than those 45-54 (7%) and 55+ (3%). Those with a Graduate Degree (18%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (9%). Other Religions are the most likely to select (20%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select than Other Americans (18% v. 9%). Those who never attended religious services at a Christian church at the time of the abortion are the least likely to select (6%).



### **I don't know how a church would have responded**

Those age 55+ are the most likely to select (30%). Those with Some college are the most likely to select (20%). Hispanics are the least likely to select (6%). Religiously unaffiliated (23%) are more likely to select than Christians (9%). Protestants are more likely to select than Catholics (14% v. 7%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are less likely to select than Other Americans (8% v. 16%). Those who never attended religious services at a Christian church at the time of the abortion are the most likely to select (26%).

### **70% say that their partner or spouse has had only one abortion**

Table 16 – “In total, how many abortions has a partner or spouse of yours had in which you had made her pregnant? Select One” n=994

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

One	70%
Two – Four	21%
Five or more	6%
Don't know	3%

Those in the West (9%) are more likely to select “Five or more” than those in the Midwest (3%). Those age 55+ (75%) are more likely to select “One” than those 18-34 (66%). Those with Some college (73%) or a Bachelor's Degree (75%) are more likely to select “One” than those with a Graduate Degree (63%). Whites (74%) are more likely to select “One” than African Americans (65%) and Hispanics (64%). Religiously unaffiliated are the most likely to select “One” (78%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select “Two – Four” than Other Americans (28% v. 18%). Christians who attend a worship service once a month or more are less likely to select “One” than Other Americans (65% v. 72%).

### **Among men that were not attending church at the first abortion and whose partner had additional abortions, 30% say they were attending a Christian church once a month or more at the time of a subsequent abortion**

Table 17 – “Were you attending a Christian church once a month or more at the time of any of these abortions? Select one” n=117

Among men who attended church less than once a month at the time of the first abortion and whose partner(s) have had more than one abortion

Yes	30%
No	67%
Don't know	3%

No significant differences

## Perceptions of Pastors and the Church

### 64% believe someone can talk to a pastor about abortion confidentially

Table 18 – “One can talk with a pastor about abortion confidentially.” n=994

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

Strongly agree	30%
Somewhat agree	35%
Somewhat disagree	13%
Strongly disagree	14%
Don't know	9%

Those age 18-34 are the most likely to Disagree (32%). Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to Agree (80%). Other Ethnicities are the most likely to Disagree (45%). Christians are the most likely to Agree (72%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to Agree than Other Americans (82% v. 57%). Christians who attend a worship service once a month or more are more likely to Agree than Other Americans (79% v. 58%).

### 54% believe that pastors' teachings on forgiveness don't seem to apply to terminated pregnancies/abortion

Table 19 – “Pastors' teachings on forgiveness don't seem to apply to terminated pregnancies/abortion.” n=997

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

Strongly agree	23%
Somewhat agree	30%
Somewhat disagree	15%
Strongly disagree	12%
Don't know	19%

Those in the West (57%) are more likely to Agree than those in the Midwest (48%). Those age 18-34 (63%) and 35-44 (53%) are the most likely to Agree than those age 45-54 (40%) and 55+ (40%). Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to Agree (71%). Christians are the most likely to Disagree (31%). Religiously unaffiliated are the most likely to answer Not sure (30%). Catholics are more likely to Agree than Protestants (60% v. 44%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to Agree than Other Americans (60% v. 51%). Christians who attend a worship service once a month or more are more likely to Agree than Other Americans (61% v. 50%).

**53% say that pastors are sensitive to the pressures a man faces with an unplanned pregnancy**

Table 20 – “Pastors are sensitive to the pressures a man faces with an unplanned pregnancy.” n=999

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

Strongly agree	19%
Somewhat agree	34%
Somewhat disagree	17%
Strongly disagree	12%
Don't know	18%

Those age 55+ are the least likely to Agree (33%) and most likely to answer Not sure (38%). Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to Agree (73%) Religiously unaffiliated are the least likely to Agree (33%) and most likely to answer Not sure (36%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to Agree than Other Americans (72% v. 45%). Christians who attend a worship service once a month or more are more likely to Agree than Other Americans (75% v. 43%).

**51% believe that pastors teach that God is willing to forgive past abortion decisions**

Table 21 – “Pastors teach that God is willing to forgive past abortion decisions.” n=1,000

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

Strongly agree	21%
Somewhat agree	30%
Somewhat disagree	16%
Strongly disagree	13%
Don't know	20%

Those age 55+ are the least likely to Agree (35%) and most likely to answer Not sure (37%). Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to Agree (71%). Religiously unaffiliated are the least likely to Agree (25%) and the most likely at answer Not sure (41%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to Agree than Other Americans (73% v. 42%). Christians who attend a worship service once a month or more are more likely to Agree than Other Americans (74% v. 41%).

**52% say that churches are a safe place to talk about pregnancy options including parenting, abortion, and adoption**

Table 22 – “Churches are a safe place to talk about pregnancy options including parenting, abortion, and adoption.” n=998

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

Strongly agree	21%
Somewhat agree	31%
Somewhat disagree	19%
Strongly disagree	19%
Don't know	10%

Those age 35-44 (56%) are more likely to Agree than those 55+ (43%). Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to Agree (70%). Whites (54%) and African Americans (54%) are more likely to Agree than Other Ethnicities (39%). Christians are the most likely to Agree (62%). Religiously unaffiliated are the most likely to Disagree (56%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to Agree than Other Americans (75% v. 42%). Christians who attend a worship service once a month or more are more likely to Agree than Other Americans (72% v. 43%).

**57% say that churches over simplify decisions about pregnancy options**

Table 23 – “Churches over-simplify decisions about pregnancy options.” n=998

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

Strongly agree	22%
Somewhat agree	35%
Somewhat disagree	17%
Strongly disagree	11%
Don't know	15%

Those age 18-34 (62%) and 35-44 (60%) are more likely to Agree than those 55+ (45%). Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to Agree (74%). Those with Some college are the least likely to Agree (44%). Hispanics (32%) are more likely to Disagree than Whites (25%). Christians (31%) are more likely to Disagree than Religiously unaffiliated (20%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to Agree than Other Americans (64% v. 54%). Christians who attend a worship service once a month or more are more likely to Agree than Other Americans (66% v. 53%).

**62% believe that churches are prepared to provide support to couples who choose to keep a child resulting from an unplanned pregnancy**

Table 24 – “Churches are prepared to provide material, emotional, and spiritual support to couples who choose to keep a child resulting from an unplanned pregnancy.” n=999

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

Strongly agree	26%
Somewhat agree	36%
Somewhat disagree	13%
Strongly disagree	12%
Don't know	13%

Those age 18-34 (29%) are more likely to Disagree than those 35-44 (21%). Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to Agree (76%). Other Ethnicities (35%) are more likely to Disagree than Whites (23%). Religiously unaffiliated (31%) are more likely to Disagree than Christians (22%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to Agree than Other Americans (80% v. 54%). Christians who attend a worship service once a month or more are more likely to Agree than Other Americans (79% v. 54%).

**72% believe church members judge unmarried couples who are pregnant**

Table 25 – “Church members judge unmarried couples who are pregnant.” n=997

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

Strongly agree	33%
Somewhat agree	39%
Somewhat disagree	14%
Strongly disagree	6%
Don't know	8%

Those age 18-34 (23%) and 35-44 (21%) are more likely to Disagree than those 55+ (13%). Those who are High School Graduates or less (73%) or with a Bachelor's Degree (75%) are more likely to Agree than those with Some college (65%). Hispanics (26%) are more likely to Disagree than Whites (17%). Religiously unaffiliated (79%) are more likely to Agree than Christians (69%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to Disagree than Other Americans (26% v. 18%). Christians who attend a worship service once a month or more are more likely to Disagree than Other Americans (25% v. 18%).

**49% say they would not recommend someone discuss an unplanned pregnancy decision with someone at a local church**

Table 26 – “If someone close to you had an unplanned pregnancy, would you recommend they discuss the decision with someone at a local church?”  
n=992

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

Yes	36%
No	49%
Don't know	15%

Those age 55+ (58%) are more likely to select “No” than those 18-34 (45%) and 35-44 (47%). Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to select “Yes” (60%). Religiously unaffiliated are more likely to select “No” (77%). Catholics are more likely to select “Yes” than Protestants (48% v. 39%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select “Yes” than Other Americans (64% v. 24%). Christians who attend a worship service once a month or more are more likely to select “Yes” than Other Americans (63% v. 24%).

## Current Religious Preference

**68% of men whose partner/ spouse has had an abortion indicate their religious preference is Christian**

Table 27 – “What is your religious preference? Select one” n=1,000

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

Christian Catholic	36%
Christian Protestant	17%
Christian Non-denominational	10%
Christian Orthodox	5%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	2%
Atheist	7%
Agnostic	6%
No preference	10%

**29% of Protestant men whose partner/ spouse has had an abortion indicate are Baptist**

Table 28 – “What specific denomination or affiliation do you prefer? Select one” n=172

Among men whose religious preference is Protestant (including Adventist, Baptist, Church of Christ, Church of God, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, etc.)

African Methodist Episcopal (AME) or AME Zion	3%
Baptist	29%
Christian & Missionary Alliance	3%
Christian/Churches of Christ	12%
Church of God	5%
Episcopal	3%
Evangelical Free	3%
Lutheran	8%
Methodist	7%
Pentecostal/charismatic/Word/Full Gospel	5%
Presbyterian	4%
None/ no particular preference	4%

Anglican, Apostolic, Seventh Day Adventist 2%. Assemblies of God, Calvary Chapel, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Church of God in Christ, Nazarene, Reformed/Dutch Reformed/Christian Reformed 1%. Foursquare Gospel <1%

**66% of Christian men whose partner has had an abortion say they currently attend religious services at a Christian church at least once a month**

Table 29 – “At the beginning of 2020 (before COVID-19) how often were you attending religious services at a Christian church? Select one” n=668

Among men whose partner has had an abortion

More than once a week	16%
About once a week	32%
Once or twice a month	19%
Only on religious holidays	10%
Rarely	15%
Never	8%
Don't know	<1%

**45% of churchgoers say nobody at their church knows their partner/spouse had an abortion**

Table 30 – “Does anyone at your church know that your partner/spouse had an abortion?” n=459

Among men whose partner has had an abortion and who attend a Christian church once a month or more

Yes	48%
No	45%
Don't know	8%

Those age 55+ are the most likely to select “No” (68%). Those with Some college are the least likely to select “Yes” (31%). Catholics are more likely to select “Yes” than Protestants (52% v. 36%). Christians that consider themselves evangelical or born again are more likely to select “Yes” than Other Americans (63% v. 29%). Christians who attend a worship service once a month or more are more likely to select “Yes” than those who attend less often (53% v. 34%).



**46% of men whose partner/spouse has had an abortion indicate they are an evangelical or born-again Christian**

Table 31 – “Do you consider yourself to be an evangelical or born again Christian?”  
n=668

Among men with a Christian religious preference and whose partner has had an abortion

Yes	46%
No	52%
Don't know	2%