

ABORTION & THE CHURCH

More than one third of abortion recipients reported they attended church at least once a month at the time of their first abortion.

- American religious groups vary widely in their views of abortion. 35% of those who are part of the mainline Protestant tradition say abortion should be illegal in all or most cases, with 60% in support of keeping abortion legal. Members of the Episcopal Church (79%) and the United Church of Christ (72%) are especially likely to support legal abortion, while most members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the mainline Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (65%) also take this position. Unitarian Universalists (90%) and American Jews (83%) were much more supportive of legal abortion than the general population. And most people who have no religious affiliation – particularly atheists and agnostics (87% each) – also support abortion rights.⁵⁷
- Only 48% of self-identified evangelicals who attend church once or twice per month strongly agree the statement “Abortion is a Sin.”⁵⁸
- 70% of women who have had an abortion indicate their religious preference is Christian.⁵⁹
- 35% of Christian women who have had an abortion indicate they currently attend church once a week or more.⁶⁰
- 36% of women were attending a Christian church once a month or more at the time of their first abortion.⁶¹
- Among patients that had an abortion in 2014, there was a decrease among those who reported a religious affiliation—24% were Catholic, 17% were mainline Protestant, 13% were evangelical Protestant and 8% identified with some other religion. Thirty-eight percent of patients had no religious affiliation.⁶²
- As women considered their abortion decision, the most typical reactions/expectations from a local church were “judgmental” (33%) or “condemning” (26%).⁶³
- 51% of women agree that churches do not have a ministry prepared to discuss options during an unplanned pregnancy.⁶⁴