

Studies Show Legal Abortion Causes Handicapped and Dead Children from Following Pregnancies

Life Research Institute

Many people favor legal abortion of handicapped or allegedly handicapped preborn babies. But did you know that legal abortion can cause handicapped and dead children who were conceived after an abortion? Consider this case: A woman gets pregnant and has a legal abortion for any reason including just plain choice birth control. Then she gets pregnant again. The baby born from this second pregnancy is much more likely to have cerebral palsy than if her mother had never aborted. Actually, there are more than 185 diseases, conditions, and other problems of babies that can result from legal abortion. Death is one of them.

There are direct and indirect ways that these problems arise. The direct way is already described. The indirect way is where abortion leads to low birth weight, and low birth weight leads to handicap or death. Low birth weight is the leading cause of handicaps and deaths of newborns in the U.S.¹

This information doesn't come just from this one anti-abortion pro-life researcher and author, but from neutral authors of 107 published statistical studies. Twenty four of the studies show that legal abortion leads to low-birth weight; none show that it doesn't. Seventy show that low-birth weight leads to handicap and/or death; none show that it doesn't. Thirteen show that legal abortion leads directly to handicap and/or death; none show that it doesn't. Even Planned Parenthood, which does more abortions than any organization in the U.S. and in the world, admits that legal abortion leads to preterm births and that low birth weight leads to handicap. They reported² that women with one previous abortion were 1.9 times as likely to have a preterm birth compared with women giving birth from their first pregnancy, those with two previous abortions were 2.7 times as likely, and those with three or more previous abortions were 2.0 - 2.2 times as likely. In this study 92 percent of the abortions were vacuum-aspirations, by far the most common type of abortion done.

Cerebral palsy is the problem that occurs most often. How many extra cases of cerebral palsy are there in the U.S. annually?³ If 20 percent (a statistically reasonable number) of U.S. women who give birth annually had previous induced legal abortions, that represents 800,000 women. A 1999 Danish study reported that a previous induced legal abortion doubles the odds of a very preterm baby. Although a very preterm baby is not necessarily very low birth weight, it is reasonable to assume that the risk of very low birth weight is also doubled. The 800,000 women will give birth to approximately 19,360 very low-birth-weight (VLBW, less than 3.3 pounds) newborns, half (9,680) due to a previous induced legal abortion. The odds of a VLBW newborn having cerebral palsy are about 9.3 percent. This yields 904 VLBW newborns with cerebral palsy due to a mother's previous induced legal abortion. A similar calculation for moderately low-birth-weight (LBW, between 3.3 and 5.5 pounds) births yields an additional 371 newborns with cerebral palsy to mothers with prior induced legal abortions. Grand total: 1,275 more cases ANNUALLY in the U.S. This is an estimate. If anything, the estimate is low.

If one assumes the generally accepted estimate of the incidence of cerebral palsy in the general population to be two per 1,000 live births or neonatal (within six weeks after birth) survivors, then the relative risk for cerebral palsy among surviving U.S. VLBW newborns would be 148 times that of normal birth-weight newborns.⁴ People get excited about the increased risk of lung cancer due to smoking. That risk is "only" 11 fold. How much greater people should get excited about the cerebral palsy risk from having abortions!

The risk of cerebral palsy declines with each completed gestational week. Children born at 27 weeks or earlier were 70 times more likely to have cerebral palsy than those born at 40 weeks or more.⁵ Forty weeks is the normal pregnancy length for humans.

A few of the other 184 post-birth diseases, conditions, and other problems caused by legal abortion are blindness, deafness, cerebral dysfunction, convulsions, epilepsy, feeble mindedness, heart disease, hyperactivity, mental retardation, organic brain damage, psychopathy, schizophrenia, spastic quadriplegia, stroke, and sudden infant death syndrome. The list shown below lists all of the 185 problems.

Following are what various researchers say about some of the problems.

"On global measures of intelligence and other neurodevelopmental assessments, LBW premature children perform more poorly than normal-birth-weight children. In addition, by school age, LBW children are at increased risk of learning disabilities, academic difficulties, and behavior problems even in the absence of global intellectual deficits."⁶

"Women who had weighed less than five pounds at birth were 1.5 times as likely as those who had weighed 7.0 - 8.5 pounds to experience nonfatal coronary heart disease or stroke."⁷

"Babies born weighing less than 5.5 pounds are almost four times less likely to graduate from high school by age 19 than their normal-birthweight siblings, according to a study in the June issue of the *American Sociological Review*."⁸

"Teacher ratings of school performance revealed 14% of the ELBW [extremely low birth weight, between 1.1 and 2.2 pounds] group to be performing far below grade level, compared with 2% of control children. Another 25% of ELBW children were rated somewhat below grade level, compared with 15% of control children. Only 10% of the ELBW children performed somewhat above grade level (and none far above grade level), compared with 21% of control children. The ELBW children were two and one-half times more likely to be performing 'far below grade level' and 'somewhat below grade level' at school than were control children."⁹

An article¹⁰ whose authors included at least two former abortionists mentioned a study which found that a subsequent baby of a woman who has had an induced abortion is 1.44 times as likely as babies from non-aborted mothers of having a congenital malformation. (Congenital means present at birth.)

"The risk of pregnancy complications related to induced abortion is not solely limited to simply having had an induced abortion. Women with a history of one or more induced abortions have been found to be more likely to smoke during subsequent pregnancies intended to be carried to full term."¹¹ Smoking can cause defects in the preborn.

"For birth weight under 2.5 kg [5.5 pounds] the crude relative risk (ratio of observed rate in abortion group to expected rate [in non-abortion group]) was 1.63. This excess low birth weight after legal, induced abortion was unlikely to have been due to chance. It was not explained by differences between the abortion and nonabortion groups in the distributions of maternal age, birth order and maternal origin. Controlling for these variables increased the relative risk to 1.72."¹²

What about death? Among Norwegian women who had a baby between 1981 and 1994, those who had babies weighing less than 4.6 pounds at birth were about twice as likely as others to experience the death of an infant within one week after delivery. A VLBW infant has more than a 90-fold elevated risk of dying before age one year compared with a normal-weight newborn.¹³

"In births following induced abortions, the relative risk of early neonatal death was doubled, while late neonatal deaths showed a 3- to 4-fold increase."¹⁴

"Very Low Birth Weight newborns have over 90 times the mortality risk in their first year of life compared to normal weight newborns."³

Endnotes

1. Marjorie R. Sable and Deborah Schild Silkinson, "Impact of Perceived Stress, Major Life Events And Pregnancy Attitudes on Low Birth Weight," *Family Planning Perspectives*, November/December 2000, 288.
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3. An unpublished article which Elliott Institute has. Phone 217 525 8202.
4. Personal communication with Brent Rooney, stopcancer@yahoo.com

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6. Cecelia M. McCarton, MD, "Results at Age 8 Years of Early Intervention for Low-Birth-Weight Premature Infants," *Journal of the American Medical Society*, 8 January 1997, 126.
7. "Birth Weight and Cardiovascular Risk," *Family Planning Perspectives*, Nov/Dec 1997.
8. *American Sociological Review*, June 2000, 246.
9. S. Saigal, P. Szatmari, P. Rosenbaum, S. King, D. Campbell, "Cognitive abilities and school performance of extremely low birth weight children and matched term control children at age 8 years: a regional study," *Journal of Pediatrics*, 1991; 118, 757.
10. Carol J. Rowland Hogue, Willard Cates, Jr., and Christopher Tietze, "The Effects of Induced Abortion on Subsequent Reproduction," *Epidemiology Review*, 4:66, 1982, Table 7.
11. "Induced Abortion as a Contributing Factor in Maternal Mortality or Pregnancy-Related Death in Women," *Association for Interdisciplinary Research In Values and Social Change Research Bulletin*, Vol. 10, No. 3, November/December 1996, 4.
12. Paul E. Slater, MD, MPH, A. Michael Davies, MC, Susan Harlap, MB, BS, "The Effect of Abortion Method on the Outcome of Subsequent Pregnancy," *The Journal of Reproductive Medicine*, March 1981, 125.
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There are the 185 diseases and handicaps which abortion increases the risk of.

Abnormal EEG's	Enuresis
Aborters are more likely to smoke during later pregnancies. This harms developing babies.	Epilepsy
Academic achievement problems	Explosiveness
Aggressiveness	Extreme irascibility
Amblyopia	Eye diseases
Anemia	Fear
Aphasia	Feeble-mindedness
Apnea requiring resuscitation	Fits
Asphyxia	Gastrointestinal diseases
Asthma	Greater tendency to be schizoid
Astigmatism	Gross perceptual disabilities
Attention problems	Guilt
Hemorrhage, intraventricular	Hallucinations
Cerebral ventriculomegaly	Hearing defects
Intraparenchymal periventricular echodensity	Heart disease
Periventricular leukomalacia	Hemiplegia
Autism	High school dropout
Bad temper	Homosexuality
Behavioral problems	Hostility
Bilateral blindness	Hydrocephalus
Bilateral cataracts	Hyperactivity
Birth defects can be passed on from generation to generation	Hyperkinesis
Bladder control development delay	Impaired abstract reasoning
Blindness	Impulsiveness
Bronchiolitis	Increased lower respiratory tract infections
Broncho pneumonia	Increased masturbation
Cerebral diplegia	Inguin hernia
Cerebral dysfunction	Insecurity
Cerebral palsy	Intercranial hemorrhage
Childhood accidents	Irritability
Concomitant strabismus	Jaundice
Confusion	Lack of concentration ability
Congenital anomalies	Lack of fusion
Congenital defects	Lack of stereoscopic sight
Congenital exposed intestines	Language development problems
Convulsions	Learning disability
Convulsive disorder	Less ability with arithmetic
Cortical epileptiform discharges	Less physical growth
Cryptic orchidism	Life-threatening infections
Cyanotic attacks	Little's Disease
Day dreaming	Low birth weight
Deafness	Low birth weight not only from pregnancies following abortion, but passed on through generations.
Death	Low gestational age
Delayed onset of speech	Lower abstract reasoning ability
Dislocated hips	Lower athletic ability
Disorganization	Lower comprehension ability
Disturbing dreams	Lower Developmental Quotient
Dull minds	Lower gross and fine motor patterning
Dwarfism	Lower height later
Encephalitis	Lower manual dexterity

Lower motility patterning
Lower oral language capabilities
Lower preservation trends
Lower reading ability
Lower scores on Griffiths Developmental Scale
Lower scores on measures of all levels of intelligence
Lower scores on measures of all levels of mental development
Lower social competence
Lower T.M.L. test scores
Lower test scores on concept of number
Lower test scores on concept of space
Lower test scores on concept of time
Lower test scores on Vineland Adaptive Behavior Test
Lower visuomotor competence
Lower weight later
Lower writing ability
Mental development problems
Meningitis
Microcephely
Mother more likely to abuse child
Mother more likely to neglect child
Motor behavior problems
Multiple handicaps
Myopia
Negativism
Neonatal sepsis
Nervousness
Neurological abnormalities
Neurological functioning problems
Neuropathy
Neurophysiological immaturity
Ocedema
Organic brain damage
Orthopedic problems
Otitis media
Over activeness
Pain
Passiveness
Patent ductus/cardiac failure
Patent ductus arteriosus (PDA)
Percepto-motor defects
Periventricular-intraventricular hemorrhage

Physical development problems
Pneumonia
Poly-syndactyly babies
Poor bonding
Poor sleep
Problems in 15 areas of oral language development
Psychopathy
Pulmonary hyaline membranes
Reading disorders
Respirator disease
Respirator distress syndrome
Respiratory distress syndrome
Retardation in learning to talk
Retardation in learning to walk
Retrolental fibroplasia
Schizophrenia
School readiness problems
School performance problems
Seizures
Severe growth stunting
Severe limitations in cognition
Severe limitations in self-care
Severe limitations in sensation
Shyness
Skin disease
Spastic dipelgia
Spastic double Hemiplegia
Spastic quadriplegia
Speech aberrations
Speech defects
Speech distortions
Speech omissions
Speech substitutions
Squint
Strabismus
Strauss syndrome
Strokes
Subcortical paroxysmal abnormalities
Sudden infant death syndrome
Talis equinovarus
Temperature anomalies
Unilateral blindness
Visual defects
Volitional disturbances

The following are excerpts from a book on the subject of abortion causing handicaps:

Abortion Damages or Kills Babies Conceived after Abortions

(This information is from only one of many resources.)
A Reference Document

FROM *every woman has a right to know the dangers of legal abortion* by Ann Saltenberger, Copyright 1982 by Ann Saltenberger, published by Air-Plus Enterprises, Glassboro, NJ:

FROM PAGES 173-180: in chapter COMPLICATIONS FOR OTHER CHILDREN IN THEIR FAMILY: "Unnatural termination of pregnancy affects the prenatal development of the child conceived afterward; it can alter the mechanism of natural pregnancy termination, adversely affecting the next baby's birth. It can also have an effect on children living at home with a woman, and on her children who survive subsequently."

"A woman who has experienced abortion is more likely than other mothers to batter her living children, according to a Maryland child psychiatrist who is studying the characteristics of potential child abusers."²⁰⁰

"CONGENITAL HANDICAP can be caused by faulty development of the placenta which was caused by damage to the endometrium during a legally induced abortion."⁶¹

"DAMAGE: The excessive number of babies born prematurely or dead in pregnancies following elective abortion has been linked to pathological changes in the uterine environment which influence implantation and the ability of the unborn to survive."³⁰

DEATH: "For those individuals who have had abortions, the incidence of abortion [miscarriage] and late fetal losses and prematurity in subsequent pregnancy continues to be a matter of concern, irrespective of the specific methodology utilized for the interruption of pregnancy."²⁶⁷

"Your chances of losing a wanted baby may double²⁵ or even quadruple⁷⁷ after a legally induced abortion."

LOW BIRTH WEIGHT: D&C abortion appears associated with reduced birth weight in subsequent pregnancies, a finding consistent with the [pro-abortion] World Health Organization's study of the effect of previous abortion on pregnancy."²³⁷

"PERINATAL MORTALITY: Death occurring in the period before, during or just after birth is 50% higher among infants whose mothers have had an abortion.^{95,201} Elsewhere the figure has been put at more than one hundred times the maternal mortality."⁶¹

"PREMATURE LABOR: 5% risk if you have never aborted; 14% risk after one abortion; 18% risk after two; 24% risk after three."^{43,44}

"PREMATURE DELIVERY: No fewer than ten research studies indicate that following induced abortion women deliver babies of a younger gestational age than normal.³⁰⁹ . .

'Prematurity has long been known to be associated with an increased incidence of cerebral palsy, mental retardation and forms of damage to the central nervous system such as learning disabilities.'⁶⁸ . .

Prematurity is the *leading* cause of mental and motor retardation in the United States.²⁰²

'Prematurity was a direct or contributory cause in over 50% of deaths during the first month of postnatal life. The death rate of premature babies ran about 30 times higher than among full-term infants. If premature infants survive, they face a higher frequency of mental retardation, neurologic diseases and blindness.'³²

"PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS OF CHILDREN WHOSE MOTHERS HAVE ABORTIONS include immediate reactions of anxiety attacks, nightmares, increased aggressiveness, stuttering, running away, death phobias, increased separation anxiety, sudden outbursts of fear or hatred of the mother, even suicide attempts. Late reactions range from isolated fantasies to pervading, crucial and disabling illness.⁴⁹

"RISK of DAMAGE to an INFANT'S CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM is 'much more than one hundred times the risk of damage to the mothers' in children conceived after a legal abortion."^{61,135}

Endnotes. (These are the identical numbers used by author Saltenberger.)

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61. Arthur Wynn and Margaret Wynn, "Some Consequences of Induced Abortion to Children Born Subsequently," Foundation for Education and Research in Child Bearing, London, 1972.
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