



### Reasons for Seeking Abortion

People seek abortions for a range of reasons. Most people gave more than one reason. Top reasons from the Turnaway Study:

Not financially prepared	40%
Not the right time for a baby	36%
Partner-related reasons	31%
Need to focus on existing children	29%
Interferes with future opportunities	20%

Note that 60% of Turnaway participants were already mothers, and of these, half cited the need to focus on existing children as a reason for seeking abortion.

Outcomes from the Turnaway Study show that, for people who were denied abortion, all these concerns were borne out. Pregnant people know what having a child will mean for them and their life. We can trust pregnant people to make the decision that is best for them and their family.

### Emotions and Decision Rightness

- **People who are pregnant can and do make the right decision for themselves.**
  - People are more sure of an abortion decision than they are of other common medical procedures like knee surgery or prenatal testing.
- **Overwhelmingly, the most common emotion following abortion is relief (90%).**
  - Relief remained by far the most commonly reported emotion about the abortion five years later.
- **Over 95% of women reported that having the abortion was the right decision for them.**
  - This percentage was consistent at every interview over five years after the abortion.

### Health and Safety

- **Pregnancy is riskier than abortion; people should have the right to choose when to take on that risk. Note that the following data on complications and mortality are not from the Turnaway Study; nevertheless are extremely reliable.**
  - Complications occur after 2% of abortions – lower than the risk of wisdom tooth extraction (7%), tonsillectomy (8-9%), and childbirth (29%).
  - The vast majority of these post-abortion complications are minor. The risk of a major complication – one requiring surgery, blood transfusion, or hospitalization – is less than 0.25% (one quarter of 1%).
  - A pregnant person in the U.S. is 14 times more likely to die from carrying the pregnancy to term and delivering than from having an abortion.
  - Black and Native American women are 3x more likely to die from pregnancy and childbirth than white women.

- **Being forced to carry a pregnancy to term results in major health harms.**
    - In Turnaway, 6.3% of women who gave birth reported potentially life-threatening health conditions, compared to 0.5-1% of women who received the abortion they sought. E.g., Those who gave birth were more than 5X more likely to experience potentially life-threatening health conditions.
  - **The major negative health harms of being forced to carry a pregnancy to term last for years to come.**
    - Five years later, those who gave birth reported higher rates of chronic pain, migraines, joint pain, and gestational hypertension compared to those who received the abortion.
    - Self-reported physical health (a proven strong predictor of future health and mortality) was worse after 5 years among those who gave birth by 6-7% points compared to those who had an abortion (27% “fair” or “poor” among those who gave birth; 20-21% among those who received an abortion).
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## Economic Security and Future Success

- **When people make their own decisions about when to have children, they and their children are more financially stable.**
    - Over half of women in the Turnaway Study were living below the poverty level at the time they sought abortion.
    - Six months later, 61% of those denied abortion were living below the poverty level, compared to 45% of those who received the abortion.
    - Those denied abortion remain significantly more likely to be living in poverty for the next four years.
  - **At every interview from 6 months to 5 years after abortion-seeking, people who were denied abortion care reported having a harder time covering basic expenses like food and housing, compared to those who received the abortion.**
  - **In the five years after abortion-seeking, people denied an abortion were 81% more likely to experience negative financial events such as debt, eviction, or bankruptcy, compared to those who received the abortion they sought.**
  - **People who received a wanted abortion are much more likely than women who were denied an abortion to both set and achieve aspirational life plans, such as earning more money, moving, getting a better job (48% vs 30%).**
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## Children and Family

- **When people can't get a wanted abortion, it's worse for their families too.**
- **Existing children of women who were denied an abortion are more likely to live in poverty over the next four years, compared to those whose mothers got the abortion (72% vs 55%).**
- **Existing children of women who were denied an abortion are more likely to miss developmental milestones (77% vs 72% - a small but significant difference).**
- **People who received an abortion were more likely to have an intended pregnancy later, when the time was right for them – 7.5% per year (over of the subsequent five years), compared to 2.2% per year for those who were denied abortion and went on to give birth.**