



Roe Reality Check #13

myth: Abortion is standard medical practice; only religious hospitals and some physicians refuse to provide it.

fact: Even abortion advocates acknowledge that abortion is outside mainstream medicine.

The vast majority (86%) of all U.S. hospitals whether religious or secular, public or private, do not participate in abortions.¹

71% of abortions in the United States are performed in free-standing abortion-dedicated clinics. Only 5% are performed in hospitals, 2% in physicians' offices and 22% in other kinds of clinics.²

A *New York Times Magazine* article reports, "The overwhelming majority of abortions are performed by a small group of doctors. (Some 2 percent of OB-GYN's carry the burden, performing more than 25 per month)."³

The medical community's stigmatization of abortion is acknowledged by Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health, which says one of its "primary strategic goals is to eradicate the stigma that has become attached to abortion and abortion providers within mainstream healthcare."⁴

1 See Stanley K. Henshaw, "Abortion Incidence and Services in the United States, 1995-1996," 30 *Family Planning Perspectives* 263, 268 (Nov./Dec. 1998), available at www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/3026398.pdf.

2 See Lawrence B. Finer and Stanley K. Henshaw, "Abortion Incidence and Services in the United States in 2000," 35 *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* 6, 12 (table 5) (Jan./Feb. 2003), available at www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/3500603.pdf. (The other kinds of clinics are described as those where less than half of patients are obtaining abortions.)

3 Jack Hitt, "Who Will Do Abortions Here?," *The New York Times Magazine*, 20 at 23 (Jan. 18, 1998).

4 Physicians for Reproductive Health and Choice, 9 *Choice Notes* 1 (June 2004), available at www.prch.org/publications/choice_notes/June04_ChoiceNotes.pdf.

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