



Roe Reality Check #14

myth: *Roe v. Wade* empowers women to choose freely whether abortion is their best option.

fact: Legalized abortion has made it easy for others to pressure women into having abortions.

Not freedom, but “lack of control over one’s life” is associated with high abortion rates, as is “lack of financial and social resources.”¹

An on-line survey of women who had abortions showed that many women feel pressured by the baby’s father: 85% of fathers offered no encouragement to continue the pregnancy. When women said they wanted to continue the pregnancy, the fathers’ dominant reactions were; “Slightly Upset 60%, Mad 38%, Very Angry 43%”, compared to “Happy .7%.” 73% of fathers suggested an abortion.²

80% of the women surveyed experienced guilt, 83% regret, 79% loss, 62% anger, and 70% depression.

Even a website which encourages women to consider abortion “so they can freely decide if it is their choice”³ elsewhere posts personal stories describing pressure, coercion or abandonment by the baby’s father.⁴

1 Stanley K. Henshaw and Kathryn Kost, “Abortion Patients in 1994-1995: Characteristics and Contraceptive Use,” *Family Planning Perspectives*, vol. 28, no. 4, July/August 1996, pp. 140-158, at 147.

2 Survey conducted by host of www.afterabortion.com, a pro-choice, post-abortion support site. Survey available at www.geocities.com/Athens/Parthenon/1362/surveyresults1.html.

3 Feminist Women’s Health Center, “Abortion is OK – A Call to Action,” at fwhc.org/take-action/ok.htm.

4 See the stories of Serena, Barbara, and Natalee at www.fwhc.org/stories/story1.htm. For more, see www.afterabortion.com and www.hopeafterabortion.com/hope.cfm?se=C18L.

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