



Roe Reality Check #8

myth: Most abortions are done before fetal organs are functioning.

fact: Actually, the vast majority are done after the fetal heart has begun beating.



A fetal heart begins to beat at about 21 or 22 days after fertilization.¹

That's at about 3 weeks of development.

77% of abortions in the United States are done well after this point.²



¹ Moore, Keith L. and Persaud, T.V.N. . The Developing Human. Clinically Oriented Embryology, 7th edition. Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Co., 2003, at 70.

² Only 23% are done before or during the 6th week of "gestational age" counting from the last menstrual period, or the 4th week of development. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Abortion Surveillance—United States, 2000," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 2003, 52(SS 12), Table 7.

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