



Roe Reality Check #9

myth: U.S. abortion law has not encouraged the use of abortion as a method of birth control.

fact: Nearly half of all abortions are performed on women who have already had at least one.

In 1973 *Roe v. Wade* legalized abortion throughout pregnancy, for virtually any reason.¹

Today, 48% of women having an abortion in the United States have had at least one previous abortion.²

In some states the rate of repeat abortions is much higher.

In Maryland, for example, 71.4% of those having an abortion have already had at least one.³ And 16.4% have had at least three prior abortions.⁴

¹ See *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), *Doe v. Bolton*, 410 U.S. 179 (1973), and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833 (1992).

² The Alan Guttmacher Institute, "Induced Abortion," *Facts in Brief* (2003), p. 1.

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Abortion Surveillance -- United States, 2001," *Surveillance Summaries*, Vol. 53 (November 26, 2004), Table 13.

⁴ *Id.*

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