



What are Abortion Pills?

Most abortions are no longer done by surgery in clinics, but by taking pills. //

The rate of women taking abortion pills is increasing (and is at hundreds of thousands per year).

The first pill (mifepristone) kills preborn babies by cutting them off from blood and oxygen. A second pill (misoprostol) then helps push the babies' remains out. While these drugs can have other uses, they are a deadly combination for preborn children.

In addition to ending the lives of babies, abortion pills are dangerous for the mothers who take them. //

They have been found to cause four times as many complications as surgical abortions. A 2025 study found that 10 percent of women who take abortion pills need to get urgent treatment for problems afterward like infections, hemorrhages, or remains of the baby not having come out.

But the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has taken shortcuts over the years and removed guardrails around the pills. This allows the abortion industry to push the abortion pill more and more.

In 2021, the FDA made the abortion pill available even without an in-person doctor visit. //

That means a woman might be taking the pill dangerously late in her pregnancy, or during a complicated pregnancy where it would be unsafe, and a doctor wouldn't know.

Being able to get abortion pills by a "telehealth" video appointment and mailed to your home, or at your local pharmacy, also means abortions are now

happening everywhere and anywhere, often with women suffering through the trauma of delivering their dead baby alone.

This easier access to abortion pills also increases the chances of their being used by abusive partners or sex trafficking criminals against a woman's will. //

Because abortion pills can be sent through the mail, they are also often being sent from states with pro-abortion laws to women in states with pro-life laws. That means the pro-life states don't have the ability to protect life and women in need like they were supposed to after the Supreme Court finally overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022.

Some women who take the first abortion pill may have time to change their mind with an "abortion pill reversal" process, but some states are trying to block access to this last chance for life.

What can you do to help protect women and babies from abortion pills? //

1. Pray for women who are deceived by the abortion industry.
2. Share the risks of the abortion pill with your friends.
3. Sign up for Respect Life Prayer and Action to help protect women and babies from these dangerous drugs at respectlife.org/prayer-and-action.

If you or someone you know has participated in abortion, know that mercy, hope, and healing are available through diocesan Project Rachel Ministry. Learn more at HopeAfterAbortion.com.

For sources of data, see https://www.usccb.org/resources/What_Are_Abortion_Pills_Sources.pdf.
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