

## Praise for Our Work

Pro-life and pro-family leaders applaud our research, our education and outreach initiatives, and our strategy for ending abortion with compassion. This pro-life/pro-woman strategy is built upon the pivotal truth that the welfare of a mother and her unborn child are inseparable.

“Abortion advocates have built their case for abortion on an elaborate system of misinformation . . . [Making Abortion Rare] is important reading for those who want to end the plague of abortion.”

Dr. Wanda Franz, President  
National Right to Life Committee

“[The Post-Abortion Review] is an objective publication dealing with a subject that the major media insists doesn’t exist.”

Judie Brown, President  
American Life League

“Dr. Reardon’s analysis and suggested pro-life strategy are right on the mark.”

Dr. Jack Wilke, President  
Life Issues Institute

“Under the old rules, the rights of women and the unborn were in opposition . . . But Reardon has changed the rules.”

Mark Crutcher, President  
Life Dynamics

“Reardon argues persuasively that we must use cultural momentum, not fight it, to build a solution on awareness of the damage abortion does to women.”

Frederica Mathewes-Green  
Author, *Real Choices*

“This research will be critical to the resolution of public policy on abortion.”

Paige Cunningham, President,  
Americans United for Life

## About the Director

**David C. Reardon, Ph.D.**, is a biomedical ethicist and an internationally known author, speaker, and researcher on post-abortion issues.

Dr. Reardon began researching abortion’s impact on women in 1983. He was propelled to center stage of the pro-life movement after the publication of his first book, ***Aborted Women, Silent No More***, in 1987. This book earned acclaim from numerous reviewers, including the Conservative Book Club, which said it “may be the most powerful book ever published on abortion.”

He is now recognized as one of the leading experts in the field of post-abortion research, and for the development of outreach efforts to promote post-abortion healing. Articles about his work have appeared in numerous magazines and newspapers, including *Newsweek*, and he is also a frequent speaker and radio guest on post-abortion issues. His subsequent books include:

- ***Making Abortion Rare*** – outlines a practical and comprehensive strategy for ending abortion.
- ***The Jericho Plan*** – a guide to fostering post-abortion healing within the church.
- ***Victims and Victors*** – in which women who have experienced sexual assault pregnancies reveal the truth about the “hard cases” and abortion.
- ***Forbidden Grief*** – explores the pain of abortion and the obstacles to healing.
- ***Reversing the Gender Gap*** – a guide to help pro-life political candidates win elections by addressing the concerns of 30 million post-abortive women.

Dr. Reardon has also served as the chief investigator on a number of original research projects. He and his wife, Kim, live in Springfield, Illinois, with their six children.

## For More Information

You can find out more about the Elliot Institute on our web sites at:

[www.afterabortion.org](http://www.afterabortion.org)  
[www.poorchoice.org](http://www.poorchoice.org)  
[www.makingabortionrare.com](http://www.makingabortionrare.com)

Learn about:

- Our pro-woman/pro-life strategy for ending abortion
- Our research
- The physical and emotional impact of abortion
- Post-abortion healing
- Educational materials and resources, including our books
- How you can get involved

### Stay Informed

Click on the JOIN LIST icon at [www.afterabortion.org](http://www.afterabortion.org) to sign up for our email newsletter, which includes updates on new post-abortion research, news, information and resources.



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# ELLIOT INSTITUTE

## OUR MISSION & MINISTRY

### Post-Abortion Research, Education and Advocacy

- BREAKTHROUGH RESEARCH
- HEALING STRATEGY
- PROACTIVE EDUCATION
- COMPASSIONATE OUTREACH
- PRO-WOMAN / PRO-LIFE

## The Elliot Institute

Founded in 1988, the Elliot Institute is a national non-profit organization dedicated to research, education and outreach regarding the effects of abortion on women, men, families and society. Our mission includes:

### Researching the Impact of Abortion

Studies verify that abortion is much more devastating to women than previously known. David C. Reardon, Ph.D., who founded and directs the Elliot Institute, has been on the forefront of post-abortion research since 1982.

### Speak Out Raising Awareness of Abortion Risks

We warn people about the risks of abortion, the epidemic of serious post-abortion complications, and the need to extend hope and healing to the millions of despairing women and men hurt by abortion.

### Promoting a Healing Strategy to End Abortion Sooner

Our three-pronged strategy, outlined in Dr. Reardon's book *Making Abortion Rare*, involves educational, pastoral, and political reform. It shows how to free wounded post-abortive women and men to speak out against abortion, how to hold abortionists fully liable for the injuries they cause, and how to erode public tolerance for abortion by exposing the truth about the harm abortion inflicts on women.

### Reframing the Debate

Our compassionate pro-woman/pro-life stand emphasizes our commitment to caring for *both* women and their unborn children. It also exposes the anti-woman agenda of poor-choice advocates who promote abortion by hiding its risks and conspire with those who are coercing women into unwanted abortions.

### Serving as a Resource for Pro-Life Groups and Others

We provide current research, information, and consultation for pro-life groups, healing ministries, and others seeking information on post-abortion issues. While we are not a counseling organization, we support and promote the work of post-abortion ministries.

## Education and Outreach

The Elliot Institute's projects involve research, education, and outreach to those struggling with a past abortion. New and ongoing projects include:

- **Hope and Healing Newspaper Insert**  
More than 2 million copies of our 12-page publication on post-abortion issues and healing have been distributed through college, community, and city papers, including the *Washington Post*. This insert shows the heartbreaking truth about abortion and encourages a compassionate response.
- **Operation Jericho Education and Outreach Program**  
Our expanded post-abortion education and outreach program is designed to bring down the walls that prevent women and men from seeking healing. We are networking with other pro-life groups to bring Operation Jericho to every city in the country.
- **Poor-Choice Campaign**  
We are raising awareness of abortion risks and exposing the deceptive rhetoric of "choice," through our Poor-Choice campaign. Visit [www.poorchoice.org](http://www.poorchoice.org) to view resources and materials which show that "pro-choice" advocates are really *poor-choice* advocates.
- **Book Publishing and Distribution**  
We have distributed hundreds of thousands of books, audio tapes, brochures, and other material on post-abortion issues and healing. Our publishing imprint is Acorn Books.
- **Internet Information and Outreach**  
Our web site at [www.afterabortion.org](http://www.afterabortion.org) includes information on research findings, abortion risks, personal testimonies, healing resources, and more.
- **The Abortion Case Study Project**  
This survey of women who have had abortions includes thousands of testimonies that help foster a greater understanding of this complex issue.

## Pro-Woman / Pro-Life Advocacy

The Elliot Institute works to promote pro-woman efforts such as legislation to make it easier for women to hold abortionists liable for failing to screen for the many risk factors associated with post-abortion problems and for the injuries caused by abortion. Our advocacy efforts include:

### Stand Up

#### Model Pro-Woman/Pro-Life Legislation

You can view our model legislation, "The Protection from High Risk and Coerced Abortion Act," at [www.afterabortion.org/leg](http://www.afterabortion.org/leg).

### Exposing Deceptive Abortion Practices (EDAP)

Through our EDAP project we collect information on deceptive counseling practices at abortion clinics, which can be used to investigate and prosecute clinics under the consumer protection laws.

### Petition for Public Hearings for Women Harmed by Rape and Incest Abortions

We have organized an ad hoc committee of women who have experienced sexual assault pregnancies to petition for public hearings about abortion in cases of rape or incest. These hearings would give women who have experienced sexual assault pregnancy a chance to testify about their experiences and the harm caused by abortion.

### Supreme Court Challenges to *Roe v. Wade*

Attorneys for Norma McCorvey (*Roe v. Wade*) and Sandra Cano (*Doe v. Bolton*) are using our research in their legal challenges asking the Supreme Court to reverse abortion on demand.

We also promote efforts to collect affidavits from women in support of these challenges to abortion laws. More than 1,000 affidavits have been collected so far. For more information about these efforts, please contact the Justice Foundation at 1-866-936-8827 or visit [www.operationoutcry.org](http://www.operationoutcry.org).

## Peer-Reviewed Research

The Elliot Institute's groundbreaking research on abortion's impact on women has been published in many of the most prestigious medical journals. Our research shows that compared to women who give birth, women who have abortions are at risk for:

- **Substance Abuse**  
Five times more likely to subsequently abuse drugs or alcohol. *American Journal of Drug & Alcohol Abuse, 2000*
- **Clinical Depression**  
Significantly higher risk of clinical depression. *British Medical Journal, 2002*  
  
65% more likely to be at risk of long-term clinical depression. *Medical Science Monitor, 2003*
- **Death**  
Elevated risk of death from all causes, including suicide. *Southern Medical Journal, 2002*
- **Psychiatric Illness**  
60% more likely to be hospitalized for psychiatric care. *Canadian Medical Association Journal, 2003*  
  
Significantly more likely to receive outpatient psychiatric care. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 2002*
- **Substance Abuse During Later Pregnancies**  
11 times more likely to use marijuana, 5 times more likely to use illicit drugs, and 2 times more likely to use alcohol *during* subsequent pregnancies. *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology, 2002*
- **Behavioral Problems in Subsequent Born Children**  
Negative effects of a prior abortion may impact mothering skills. The children of post-abortive women are significantly more likely to have behavioral problems and less supportive home environments. *Journal of Child Psychology & Psychiatry, 2002*