

Forced Abortion in America

A Special Report

64% INVOLVE COERCION, WHICH CAN BECOME SEVERE

Women pay a high price for a choice that's not a choice.

- When his wife refused to abort, her husband jumped on her stomach until their baby died . . .
- A daughter was pushed into an abortion clinic at gunpoint by her mother . . .
- Outside a parking garage, a physician shouted, "I'm giving you an abortion!" as he injected the mother of his child with an abortifacient drug . . .
- A school counselor ridiculed the student and put her on the weekly bus to the abortion clinic . . .
- A homeless woman was denied shelter until she had an abortion . . .
- A 13-year-old was returned to her molester after he took her in for a cover-up abortion . . .
- 3 sisters were raped repeatedly and forced into repeat cover-up abortions for nearly a decade . . .
- A waitress was fired after refusing to abort . . .

65% SUFFER TRAUMA. SUICIDE 7X HIGHER.

The pain didn't go away. It just waited.

- PART I – THE COERCED ABORTION EPIDEMIC
Not Informed, COUNSELED or Screened for Coercion.
- PART II – COERCION CAN LEAD TO VIOLENCE
Pregnancy Places Women at Higher Risk of Attack
- PART III – VIOLENCE CAN LEAD TO MURDER
Murder: The #1 Cause of Death for Pregnant Women
- A NIGHTMARE THAT WON'T END
"I screamed that I did not want the abortion."

Elliot
INSTITUTE

www.afterabortion.org

Forced Abortion — Part I

Most involve coercion, which can become violent.

The Un-Choice:

64% involve coercion.¹ Pressure can become violent.² 67% not counseled.¹ 65% suffer trauma.¹ Suicide 6-7 times higher.³

Forced Non-Choice ... “I’ll blow her brains out.”

Intense pressure to abort can come from husbands, parents, doctors, partners, counselors, or close friends and family. They may threaten or blackmail a woman into abortion. These are not idle threats. Coercion can escalate to violence. Women who resist abortion have been beaten, tortured and killed. One husband jumped on his wife’s stomach to force an abortion. A mother forced her daughter at gunpoint to go to the abortion clinic. A woman was forcibly injected by the baby’s father with an abortifacient drug.² (Download the 22-page “Forced Abortion in America” Report at www.unchoice.info/resources.htm.)

Unwanted Non-Choice ... Their Choice, Not Hers.

Reasons women give for having abortions:⁴

- Forced by mother
- Husband or boyfriend persuaded me
- Would have been kicked out
- Lack of support from society
- Father opposed
- No other option given
- Loss of family’s support
- Clinic persuaded me
- In 95% of all cases, the male partner played a central role in the decision.⁵
- 45% of men interviewed at abortion clinics recalled urging abortion, including 37% of married men.⁶
- In the above study, men justified being the primary decision maker, regarding the abortion.⁶
- 64% of women who aborted felt pressured by others.¹

Coerced Choice ... Taken to the Clinic to Make Sure She Keeps the Appointment

A former abortion clinic security guard testified before the Massachusetts legislature that women were routinely threatened and abused by the boyfriends or husbands who took them to the clinics to make sure they underwent their scheduled abortions.⁷ Many women are also pressured by clinic staff financially rewarded for selling abortions.⁸

Forced Choice ... Threats Can Escalate to Violence or Murder — the Leading Killer of Pregnant Women

The pressure can escalate. Many pregnant women have been killed by partners trying to prevent the birth, and being pregnant places women at higher risk of being attacked.⁹ Murder is the leading cause of death among pregnant women.¹⁰ 92% of women surveyed list domestic violence and assault as the women’s issue that is of highest concern to them.¹¹

Uninformed Non-Choice ... “When I learned the truth, I can’t tell you how betrayed I felt.”

- 54% were unsure of their decision, yet 67% received no counseling beforehand.¹
- 84% received inadequate counseling beforehand.¹ 79% were not told about alternatives.¹
- Many were misinformed by experts about fetal development, abortion alternatives or risks.¹²
- Many were denied essential personal, family, societal or economic support.¹²

Unsafe Choice ... American Voters Concerned About Coercion and Risks; Support Research and Screening.

Nearly half of voters believe coerced abortion is common. They’ll support candidates who advocate legislation holding abortionists liable for failing to screen for evidence of coercion.¹³ Nearly 80% of abortions take place in non-hospital facilities, ill-equipped for emergency care.¹⁴ Americans are kept in the dark about unwanted abortions, risks and risk factors.

The Aftermath. Women Pay a High Price.

Trauma.¹ Injury.¹ Grief. Death from All Causes.¹⁷ 6-7 Times Higher Suicide.³

- 31% had health complications afterwards.¹
- 65% higher risk of clinical depression.¹⁵
- 3.5x higher risk of death from all causes.¹⁷
- 65% suffer multiple symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.¹
- 10% have immediate complications, some are life-threatening.¹⁶
- Suicide rates 6-7x higher if women abort vs. giving birth.³

Young Women Forced to Abort

By Parents, Husbands, Molesters . . . Even Pastors and School Officials

- **Mother Charged with Forcing 15-Year-Old at Gunpoint into Clinic**

In Florida, Glenda Dowis was charged with forcing her daughter at gunpoint to go to an abortion clinic, where clinic workers called police. According to a staff member, Glenda Dowis said that if Brittany did not have the abortion, “I’m going to blow her brains out.” Police said Glenda Dowis told staff to perform the abortion even though her daughter “may seem a bit teary.”

| She pleaded with her parents to let her have the baby.

- **Molester Buys Abortion—Twins Get Seven More Years of Rape**

In New Orleans, a 41-year-old man received two life sentences for raping his girlfriend’s twin daughters and using abortion to cover up his crimes. The victims testified that the assaults began when they were 10 and continued for seven years. One of the girls said she had two abortions after she became pregnant from the man when she was 15 and 17. She said the man paid for one abortion, unbeknownst to the mother. Her mother, who was told that the girl was raped by a date, paid for the second abortion.

- **Lawsuit: School Counselor Bypassed Parents, Law to Arrange Student’s Abortion**

Howard and Marie Carter accused Pennsylvania school guidance counselor William Hickey of coercing their 17-year-old daughter into undergoing an abortion, which was done out of state to avoid parental consent laws. The suit noted that when the teen expressed doubts, Hickey told her, “someday you’ll look back on this and laugh.”

- **13-Year-Old Returned to Molester After First Of Two Abortions**

In Arizona, a judge found Planned Parenthood negligent for failing to report an abortion performed on a 13-year-old girl who was sexually abused by her 23-year-old foster brother. Shawn Stephens took the girl to the clinic, but Planned Parenthood did not notify authorities until the girl returned six months later for a *second* abortion. A lawsuit alleged that the girl was subjected to repeated abuse and a second abortion because of the clinic’s failure to report suspected abuse. Stephens was sentenced to prison and lifetime probation.

| Counselor: “Someday you’ll look back on this and laugh.”

- **School Employees and Boyfriend’s Mother Charged in Teen’s Coerced Abortion**

In Oregon, investigators found that Dorothy Carr, Colleen Fettig, and Cynthia Frye took 18-year-old Lea Huber for an abortion without her parents’ knowledge. Lea accused Frye—her boyfriend’s mother—and Carr and Fettig, who worked at her school, of coercing her to abort by “threatening to turn her in for sex abuse” of her teenage boyfriend.

- **Judge Restrains Parents in Daughter’s Forced Abortion Case**

In Jackson, MS, a judge issued a temporary restraining order against the parents of a 16-year-old girl after they allegedly tried to force her into having an abortion. The girl said she pleaded with her parents to let her have the baby but they made an appointment for her at a local abortion clinic.

- **Mother Helps Son Use Abortion to Cover Up Statutory Rape of 12-Year-Old Girl**

Pennsylvania mother Joyce Farley began campaigning for a federal law to prevent anyone from taking a minor out of state for an abortion in order to circumvent parental consent laws—after her 12 year-old daughter was taken out of state for a secret abortion by Rosa Hartford, the mother of the 18-year-old who had impregnated her. Joyce learned of the abortion after her daughter began experiencing complications, including severe pain and bleeding. Hartford’s son was later convicted for interfering in the custody of a minor.

- **Parents Use At Least 10 Abortions to Cover Up Repeated Sexual Abuse of Daughters**

The parents of three teenaged girls pleaded guilty in Baltimore Circuit Court to three counts of first-degree rape and child sexual abuse. The father had repeatedly raped the three girls over a period of at least nine years, and the rapes were covered up by at least ten abortions. At least five of the abortions were performed by the same abortionist at the same clinic.

| She told them to do the abortion even if her daughter was “a bit teary.”

- **Juvenile Prison Sued Over Sexual Abuse, Coerced Abortions of Young Girls**

Nine women who had been detained at a state detention facility for juvenile girls in Chalkville, Alabama, filed a lawsuit alleging that male guards at the facility watched them take showers, strip-searched them, pressured or forced them into having sex, beat them, and pressured those who became pregnant into having abortions. More than three dozen girls reportedly made similar allegations, and attorneys said they received additional complaints from women who had been held at Chalkville up to 20 years earlier.

- **Men Charged With Molesting Several Girls; One Victim Testifies She Underwent Abortion at 13**

Two Indiana men—Billy Banks, Sr., 67, and his son, Jimmy Lou Banks, 40—were arrested and charged with sexually molesting several young girls. A 42-year-old woman told police that Billy Banks began molesting her in 1965 when she was 5 years old, and that she had an abortion at 13 after she became pregnant by him.

- **Woman: Abuser Punched Her in Stomach After Forced Abortion Doesn't Work; Causes Miscarriage**

Augencia Jasso of New Mexico was charged with physically and sexually abusing a young girl over a number of years, beginning when she was seven and living in Mexico. The woman told police that the abuse continued when she moved to New Mexico and that Jasso repeatedly threatened to kill her and her family if she told anyone. She also said that when she became pregnant, Jasso took her to a Planned Parenthood office for an abortion, but after finding that the office was closed, he punched her in the stomach, causing her to miscarry.

- **Abuser Poses as Father of 16-Year-Old Girl in Order to Obtain Abortion**

David A. Gillis, 36, was sentenced to 18 months to two years in prison for felony child abuse after he posed as the father of a 16-year-old girl whom he was sexually abusing and signed consent forms for an abortion at an Omaha abortion clinic. Gillis claimed he was remorseful about the situation, but prosecutors said he continued to write to the girl while in jail and filed frivolous protection orders against her parents.

- **Man Sentenced to Prison for Ten Years of Sexual Abuse; Victim Had Abortion Out of Fear**

Michael Paul Weber of Philadelphia was sentenced to 20-40 years for raping and physically abusing a young girl in his care over a period of ten years, beginning when she was 8 years old. The girl said that when she became pregnant, she had an abortion out of fear of being further abused by Weber.

Women Blackmailed into Abortion

Homelessness, Humiliation, Solitary Confinement or a Push Downstairs

- **Homeless Woman Reports Being Denied Shelter Until She Submits to Abortion**

Shontrese Otrely won a \$25,000 settlement from Emergency Shelters, Inc., of Richmond, VA, after she was coerced by staff members to get an abortion. Shontrese said she was told that the shelter did not provide services for pregnant homeless women. She stated that a staff member drove her to the bank to withdraw money for the abortion, then took her to the abortion clinic.

- **Actress Fired For Being Pregnant; TV Producer Wonders Why She Didn't "Just Abort"**

Actress Hunter Tylo won a pregnancy discrimination suit against the producers of the Fox TV show *Melrose Place* after she was fired from the cast because she was pregnant. Her lawsuit alleged that one of the show's producers remarked, "Why doesn't she just go out and get an abortion? Then she can work."

- **Woman Sues Prison After Forced Abortifacient Drug Kills Her Child**

In Hawaii, Ann Hose sued the Oahu Correctional Center for forcibly aborting her child. According to the lawsuit, a nurse injected a birth control drug into her abdomen, even though Hose informed them that she was pregnant. Hose had been imprisoned on a bank fraud conviction. She said she was told she would be put in solitary confinement and labeled a troublemaker if the intake process did not go smoothly.

| "Why doesn't she just get an abortion? Then she can work."

- **Medic Says She Aborted After Boss Threatened to Fire Her**

Three paramedics accused Washington, D.C. Assistant Emergency Medical Services Chief Samantha Robinson of pressuring them into having abortions by telling them they could be fired if they became pregnant their first year on the job. One woman told authorities she aborted despite her beliefs because she was afraid of losing her job. She said Robinson told her "she had a choice to make."

- **Law School Grad Uses Sex Videotape in Attempt to Blackmail Girlfriend into Abortion**

Nicholas Griffin, a Florida law school graduate, was sentenced for trying to force his ex-girlfriend to have an abortion. He hired friends to blackmail his girlfriend by threatening to mail copies of a videotape the couple had made of themselves having sex to the woman's family, friends, and employer unless she had the abortion. The woman later gave birth to a girl.

- **Basketball Coach Accuses School of Firing Her for Refusing to Have an Abortion**

Sharrona Alexander won a settlement against the University of California at Berkeley, accusing the head coach of firing her after she refused to quit or to have an abortion. Sharrona later gave birth to a son. She sued for sexual discrimination and breach of contract for forcing her to choose "between her child and a paycheck."

- **Restaurant Sued for Terminating Employee Who Became Pregnant**

Jennifer James filed a lawsuit against a Long Island restaurant, alleging that she was terminated when she became pregnant. Jennifer said she was told to "consider her options" when she told a supervisor she was pregnant. She later gave birth to a girl.

| Boss: "You have a choice to make."

- **Elite Model Agency Founder Accused of Sexually Abusing a Minor and Arranging Her Abortion**

John Casablancas, founder of Los Angeles' prestigious Elite modeling agency, was named in a sex abuse lawsuit. An aspiring model said he began sexually abusing her when she was 15 and arranged for her to have an abortion when she became pregnant.

- **Funeral Home Employee Wins Lawsuit Over Coerced Abortion**

In Florida, Nikki Schmitz filed a lawsuit against Fisher-Pou Funeral Home, saying that her supervisor badgered her into an abortion because her baby was biracial. Nikki and three other former employees accused Deborah Flannagan of pressuring Nikki to abort, making financial arrangements and taking Nikki for the abortion. Nikki said she was later fired from her job for interracial dating.

- **Woman Files Pregnancy Discrimination Lawsuit Against Maternity Clothing Retailer**

In Philadelphia, Cynthia Papageorge sued Mother's Work, a maternity clothing retailer, for firing her and other employees after they became pregnant. Cynthia, a former district manager, accused the vice-president of firing her during her 37th week of pregnancy after telling her she wouldn't be able to handle her job.

- **Woman Wins Settlement After Accusing Boss of Coerced Abortion and Threats**

Nicole Bergstrom Ek of Minnesota won an out-of-court settlement for an undisclosed amount from her employer, Duluth Little Stores, after her boss tried to pressure her to abort. Ek said her boss mistreated her while she was pregnant and threatened to push her down the stairs during her sixth month of pregnancy.

For More Examples

These are only a sampling of the pressures faced by girls and women whose unplanned pregnancies inconvenience others. For more information and examples of coerced abortion and pregnancy- and abortion-related violence, visit:

abortionviolence.com

sba-list.org

afterabortion.org

Forced Abortion — Part II

Coercion Can Lead to Violence

Coercion Can Escalate to Violence if Women Won't Abort

Pregnancy Places Women at Higher Risk of Attack⁹

64% of abortions involve coercion,¹ and this sometimes includes threats of physical abuse from partners—or even parents—who don't want the child. Girls have been physically pushed into clinics and restrained when they tried to escape their abortion.⁷ Women have endured violently forced miscarriages, which sometimes result in murder—the leading killer of pregnant women.¹⁰ Other women resort to abortion because they believe it is the only way to stop the abuse.

Men have forcibly performed abortions by switchblade, gunshot, and other violent methods

Coercion often involves direct or indirect threats of physical violence. Women who refuse to abort have been subjected to every manner of abuse, from forced injections to stabbings, beatings, bombings, gunshots, and strangulation.

According to one study of battered women, the target of battery during their pregnancies shifted to their pregnant abdomens.¹⁸ Indeed, the leading cause of death among pregnant women is murder.¹⁰ In many cases, it is known that these women were killed solely because their killers wanted to stop them from giving birth to their children.¹⁹

In a recent poll, 92% of women cited preventing domestic violence as their highest priority.¹¹

NOTE: Some of the cases below contain graphic descriptions of violence.

Women Who Choose Life Subjected to Violent Forced Abortions

- **Doctor Stabs Girlfriend with Syringe Outside Parking Garage to Force Abortion**

New York physician Stephen Pack was sentenced to prison after repeatedly stabbing his girlfriend, Joy Schepis, with a syringe filled with an abortion-inducing drug. A witness said that Pack shouted, “I’m giving you an abortion!” as he forced the woman to the ground near a hospital parking garage. Joy later gave birth to a healthy boy.

- **Three Hit Men Hired to Kill Unborn Baby After Woman Refuses Abortion**

In Arkansas, Shawana Pace was within days of giving birth when she was beaten and kicked in the abdomen by three men. She said she pleaded for her child’s life as her attackers told her: “Your child is dying tonight.” Her baby girl, Heaven, died. Shawana’s boyfriend, Eric Bullock, was convicted of planning the attack.

- **Man Beats Girlfriend For Refusing to Go into Abortion Clinic**

Andrew Jerome Gaither pleaded guilty to two counts of simple assault for beating up his girlfriend, Belinda Davis, outside an abortion clinic in Washington, DC. Witnesses said that Gaither beat Belinda after she refused to enter the clinic after speaking with pro-lifers outside the clinic. She later gave birth to a healthy baby.

- **Man Charged with Assaulting Wife Who Says She Had Refused Abortion—Unborn Child Dies**

In New Jersey, Drew Stauffenberg was charged with aggravated assault for allegedly attacking his wife. His wife said he squeezed and punched her abdomen and forced her out of the house. She also said that Stauffenberg had “expressed a wish for her to have an abortion” after he found out she was pregnant. Doctors determined that the 10-week-old unborn baby died as a result of injuries to the amniotic sac and uterus.

- **Boyfriend Breaks Into Home, Assaults Girlfriend Who Had Refused Abortion**

Jeremy Powell pleaded guilty to forcing his way into his girlfriend’s New York house and beating, kicking, and

punching her after she refused to have an abortion. The victim, who was three months pregnant, told police Powell said to her, “I’m going to beat that baby out of you.”

- **Pregnant Girlfriend Tied to Chair During Gas Explosion; Boyfriend Charged with Attempted Murder**

In Buffalo, NY, David Elersic was charged with the attempted murder of his pregnant girlfriend. Police said he tied Gloria Bush to a chair and disconnected the gas stove pipe after she told him she was pregnant and intended to keep the baby. Gloria and her unborn baby survived the explosion, although Gloria suffered severe burns.

- **Boyfriend Charged in Stabbing Pregnant Woman Who Says He Demanded an Abortion**

In Nevada, Jesus Villagomez was charged with manslaughter for repeatedly stabbing his pregnant girlfriend, Flora Solorio, in the abdomen, killing her 18-week-old unborn baby. Flora told police he had demanded she have an abortion. Villagomez was sentenced to 18 years in prison for causing the unborn child’s death, and ordered to pay Flora’s medical bills.

“Your child is dying tonight.”

- **Connecticut Man Demands Abortion, Rapes Girlfriend, Forces Abortifacient Drug**

Edward Sandoval was convicted of seven felony charges in Connecticut for raping his girlfriend and trying to abort her baby by forcing her to take misoprostol, a labor-inducing drug. The woman told police that he had demanded she have an abortion.

- **Pregnant Woman Blindfolded, Tied Up, and Injected in Forced Abortion**

Mark Redeker, a second-year ob/gyn resident in New York, was charged with assault and unauthorized practice of medicine for blindfolding his girlfriend, tying her up, and injecting her with a drug that left her unconscious and bleeding. She later suffered a miscarriage.

- **Man Hired to Forcibly Induce Miscarriage**

In Oklahoma, Andre Singleton told police that Erin Gardner’s boyfriend, Shawn Lawrence, hired him and another person to assault Erin and cause her to have a miscarriage. Erin was pistol-whipped and repeatedly kicked in the stomach.

- **Police Charge New Yorker for Beating, Raping, Attempting Forced Abortion on Girlfriend**

David Lyons was charged with sexual abuse, rape, stalking, and attempted abortion after police said he beat and sexually assaulted his pregnant girlfriend in an attempt to force an abortion.

- **Man Poisons Girlfriend’s Drink to Induce Miscarriage**

In Missouri, Michael T. Bullock was convicted after he put poison in his girlfriend’s drink in an attempt to induce a miscarriage. Police said he had told friends he poisoned his girlfriend because he didn’t want the baby. His 19-year-old girlfriend later delivered a healthy baby.

He poisoned his girlfriend because he didn’t want the baby.

- **19-Year-Old Loses Baby After Being Kicked in Abdomen**

In Pennsylvania, Sheena Carson, 19, suffered a miscarriage after being kicked in the abdomen by Corrine Wilcott, whose husband fathered Sheena’s baby. Wilcott was sentenced to seven to 14 years in prison for third-degree murder in the unborn child’s death. Witnesses said Wilcott screamed at Sheena that she hoped her baby died.

- **Man Arrested for Stabbing Pregnant Girlfriend, Killing Unborn Child**

In South Dakota, a man was arrested for stabbing his girlfriend in the abdomen, resulting in the death of her unborn child. Sundance Medicinehorn Keeble faced assault and fetal homicide charges. His girlfriend, who survived the attack, was 4 to 5 months pregnant. The prosecutor said that Keeble “intentionally stabbed the woman in the stomach, causing the death of the unborn child.”

- **Woman Testifies That Husband Beat Her with Log for Refusing Abortion; Newborn Dies**

Leah Hawkins of Missouri testified that her husband beat her with a log after she refused to have an abortion. Jason Hawkins was charged with second-degree murder after their son was born three months premature and died.

- **Man Charged with Beating Nine-Months-Pregnant Girlfriend Until Twins Were Stillborn**

In Norwood, NY, Anthony Puglia was charged with assault and forced abortion after he allegedly beat his pregnant girlfriend. Police said he kicked and punched Julia Harris in the abdomen. Her nine-month-old unborn twins were stillborn.

“I’m giving you an abortion!”

- **Man Laces Girlfriend’s Drink with Drug Used to Induce Labor in Farm Animals**

In New York, Danny Court was sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to lacing his pregnant girlfriend’s drink with a drug used to induce labor in farm animals. His 19-year-old girlfriend and her baby survived.

- **Man Charged with Kidnapping; Woman Says He Told Her He Was Taking Her for Abortion**

Usbaldo Palomino of Nevada was charged with kidnapping, domestic battery, aggravated stalking, and leaving the scene of an accident. According to Veronica Flores, who was eight months pregnant, he punched her in the face and forced her into the truck, which he then crashed into a house as he was leaving the area, causing Veronica to be knocked unconscious after her head struck the dashboard. Veronica also told police that Palomino struck her and that he told her he was taking her to Reno for an abortion.

- **Woman Refuses Abortion; Baby’s Father Kicks Her in Stomach in Attempt to Cause Miscarriage**

In Michigan, Justin Siekierk was charged with assaulting a pregnant woman and intending to cause a miscarriage or stillbirth. Kristin Gleason testified that she and a friend went to Siekierk’s apartment to talk about the baby, but after she refused to have an abortion, Siekierk threw her into some bushes and began punching her and kicking her in the abdomen with steel-toed boots.

“I’m going to beat that baby out of you.”

- **Boyfriend Charged After Shooting Pregnant Woman; Unborn Child Killed**

In Indiana, Victoria Henry was shot, killing her eight-month-old unborn baby boy. Her ex-boyfriend, Mark Joseph Griffin, 25, was charged with first degree feticide and three counts of attempted first degree murder. Police said Griffin shot Henry because he believed she was pregnant with another man’s baby.

- **Man Arrested Twice for Assault, Attempted Murder of Pregnant Woman**

In St. Louis, George Villarreal III was sentenced to five years in prison for assaulting his pregnant girlfriend and causing the death of his unborn twin daughters. He was released from prison after two years, but was arrested again for attempting to murder the same woman, who had married him and was five to six months pregnant at the time of the murder attempt.

- **Abortionist Charged with Raping and Forcing Abortion on His Wife**

Dr. Theodore Lehrer, a Florida abortionist, had his medical license suspended after he was charged with performing an abortion on his wife against her will. Lehrer was arrested after his wife told police that he handcuffed and gagged her, raped her, and then forcibly aborted her 11-week-old baby in the bathroom of their home. However, charges were dropped against Lehrer after his wife refused to take the stand against him, saying she was too ill to testify.

- **Man Charged With Assaulting Pregnant Girlfriend Told Police She Was Trying to Kill Herself**

Albert J. Danos of Louisiana was charged with assaulting his pregnant girlfriend, then telling police she tried to commit suicide. Danos’ girlfriend, who suffered multiple injuries, told police that he pushed her, knocked her to the floor, punched her, kicked her in the side and stomach, and tried to shoot her, telling her that her baby did not deserve to live.

- **Man Charged with Tearing Unborn Child from Wife's Womb**

Robert Hollis of Kentucky was charged with chasing his wife into a barn, shoving his hand into her womb, and tearing her seven-month old unborn child from the wall of the uterus. The 2-pound baby was delivered dead later that day.

- **Woman Beaten, Punched in Abdomen by Husband Days Before Delivery Date**

In Milwaukee, Tracy Marciniak was days away from her delivery date when her estranged husband beat her, grabbed her by her hair, and punched her in the abdomen. Her unborn son, Zachariah, died of bleeding caused by blunt force trauma. Glenndale Black was convicted of first degree assault and false imprisonment, but Wisconsin did not at that time allow prosecution for the death of the unborn child. Tracy later testified before Congress that Black said in an interview that if the state had a law protecting unborn children, he would not have attacked her child.

“Your baby doesn't deserve to live.”

- **Police: Woman Tried to Hire Hit Man to Kill Rival's Baby**

Melinda Ann Elem was indicted for attempting to hire a hit man to kill a woman who was seven months pregnant. Police said that Elem wanted the woman's baby killed because she believed the woman was pregnant by Elem's husband, and she did not care if the mother lived or died in the process.

- **Man Charged with Repeatedly Punching Pregnant Girlfriend in the Abdomen After She Refuses to Abort**

In Massachusetts, Richard Andrade was charged with repeatedly punching his pregnant girlfriend in the abdomen after she refused to abort. Andrade was charged with felony assault.

- **Pennsylvania Man Imprisoned for Punching Pregnant Girlfriend in Stomach**

Amber Bozack's boyfriend punched her in the stomach when she was three months pregnant. Ronald Loughney pleaded guilty to assault after prosecutors dropped charges for aggravated assault against the unborn child, who survived.

- **Pregnant Woman Miscarries After Being Punched and Kicked by Boyfriend**

Clayton R. Tucker of Malone, NY, pleaded guilty to second-degree abortion and was sentenced to two to four years in a state prison for repeatedly punching and kicking his pregnant girlfriend in the abdomen. His girlfriend suffered a miscarriage the next day. Prosecutors said Tucker shouted that he wanted to kill the baby.

She was beaten in the abdomen with a baseball bat.

- **New York Man Arrested for Stabbing of Pregnant Woman**

Sean Brown, of Albany, was convicted for repeatedly stabbing his pregnant girlfriend in the abdomen in what prosecutors said was an attempt to make her lose the pregnancy. Brown was sentenced to 11 years in prison for assault and up to three more years for attempting to kill the unborn child. His girlfriend and the baby both survived.

- **Caught on Tape: Doctor Tries to Abort Ex-Girlfriend's Baby with Abortifacient Drug**

Ohio police videotaped Dr. Maynard Muntzing slipping Cyrotec, an abortifacient drug, into his ex-girlfriend's drink. Michelle Baker went to police after she became ill several times after visiting Muntzing. She later miscarried. Muntzing received five years in prison for attempted abortion, and his wife, Tammy, who purchased the drug, was also convicted.

- **Hit Man Shoots Pregnant Woman; Mother and Wounded Baby Survive**

Angelique McKinney was 30 weeks pregnant when she was shot repeatedly by a masked gunman as she was walking home with children from a nearby elementary school in Chicago. Her 3-pound, 4-ounce baby daughter, Adriel, was delivered by Caesarean section and survived despite having been wounded in the attack. Doctors said Adriel helped save her mother's life because she stopped bullets from striking Angelique's vital organs. Jimmy Spencer, 32, faced murder charges. Police said that Spencer, who was not the baby's father, had been hired to shoot Angelique.

- **Man Charged with Beating Pregnant Girlfriend Because She Wouldn't Abort**

Authorities in Fayette, GA, charged Michael Antonio Glass with fetal homicide after he allegedly beat his girlfriend, causing the deaths of her four-month-old unborn twins. Police said that Glass had been angry at his girlfriend because she refused to have an abortion.

- **Man Charged in Beating of Woman and Death of Unborn Child**

In St. Louis, Lawrence Green, 26, was charged with beating Rashawn Peterson, causing her to go into premature labor. Rashawn's baby, Rosie, lived just eight minutes outside the womb. Green faced charges of involuntary manslaughter after the medical examiner ruled Rosie's death a homicide.

- **Pregnant Woman Loses Six-Month-Old Unborn Baby After Assault; Boyfriend Charged**

Marquita Evans of Troy, NY, lost her six-month-old unborn child after being beaten, allegedly by her boyfriend. Darren Jones was charged with assault and reckless endangerment, but no murder charges were filed because prosecutors said they could not prove the baby died as a result of the attack.

- **Attorney Tries to Hire Hit Man to Kill Girlfriend's Unborn Twins**

Florida attorney David Luskin was convicted for attempting to hire a hit man to beat his pregnant girlfriend in the stomach with a baseball bat after she refused to have an abortion. Kim Mascola, who was pregnant with twins, asked for leniency in Luskin's sentencing, but said later that she did so before she heard a tape of Luskin asking a prostitute how he could hire someone to kill Kim.

| The doctor drugged three women and forcibly aborted them.

- **Man Could Face Up to 65 Years for Charge of Kidnaping, Assaulting Pregnant Girlfriend**

Wisconsin police arrested Jake Perry after his pregnant girlfriend, Patricia Smith, told them that he held her against her will for four hours at her sister's home, where he slapped her, threw her into a box of plates, and jabbed her in the stomach, head, arms, and legs. Patricia, who was two months pregnant, later suffered a miscarriage.

- **Abortionist Convicted of Forcibly Aborting Women He Impregnated**

Bonnie Coffey-Meyers, Kathy Collins, and Carmen Hertzinger were three women who suffered at the hands of Indianapolis abortionist Pravin Thakkar, who seduced and impregnated them and then performed abortions on them without their consent. Carmen testified that Thakkar drugged her and aborted her eight-month-old baby at his home. She said she awoke briefly to hear a baby crying, but Thakkar told her the baby was stillborn. The child's body was never found. Thakkar was convicted in all three cases, and also found guilty of tax evasion and numerous counts of improper sexual behavior towards patients—including raping one woman in her home. He was sentenced to 16 years in prison.

- **Man Rapes and Tortures Pregnant Girlfriend, Her Baby Dies**

David A. Enis of Milwaukee was convicted of beating, raping, and torturing his pregnant girlfriend and holding her captive in his home for two days. His girlfriend, who was eight-and-a-half months pregnant, was tied to a bed, bitten, burned with cigarettes, and beaten with an electrical cord. She delivered a stillborn baby after Thompson finally summoned an ambulance for her. Thompson pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

- **Father Stages Carjacking, Has Mother and Unborn Child Shot**

In Ohio, Paul Nino Tarver II was convicted of arranging to have Keisha Lewis shot during a staged carjacking so he wouldn't have to be a father to her child. Keisha survived the shooting, but her 3-month-old unborn baby died.

- **Man Goes Missing After Being Charged in Shooting of Pregnant Girlfriend**

A Lansing, Michigan man fled from police after prosecutors authorized charges against him for allegedly pistol-whipping his pregnant girlfriend and shooting her in the abdomen, missing her 5-month-old unborn child by inches. The mother

was hospitalized and placed under police protection after her boyfriend disappeared. Prosecutors said he could face up to life in prison if convicted.

For More Examples

These are only a sampling of the pressures faced by girls and women whose unplanned pregnancies inconvenience others. Refer to these web sites for current news, information and more examples of coerced abortion and pregnancy- and abortion-related violence:

abortionviolence.com

sba-list.org

afterabortion.org

Forced Abortion — Part III

Violence Can Lead to Murder

Violence Can Escalate to Murder if Women Don't Abort

- Murder is the leading cause of death among pregnant women.¹⁰
- It is not unusual for a pregnancy to be wanted by the woman but unwanted by the man.
- He may not want the long-term costs of supporting a child, the loss of his “freedom” or being tied down with parental responsibilities, or a birth that might expose an affair, a rape, or the sexual abuse of a minor. Whatever the reason, some men will become increasingly pressuring, abusive, and violent until they get their way: a dead baby, even if it also requires killing the mother.
- If so, the woman can feel tremendous, often life-threatening, pressure to abort.

Life-Threatening Pressure to Abort

- Pregnancy places women at higher risk of being attacked.⁹
- Women understand that threats of violence are real. Preventing domestic violence is their top concern.¹¹
- According to one study of battered women, the target of battery during pregnancy shifted to their abdomens.¹⁸ The leading cause of death among pregnant women is homicide¹⁰ and in many cases it is known that the violence happened solely to prevent birth.¹⁹

NOTE: Some of the cases below contain graphic descriptions of violence.

Teens Who Refuse to Abort Have Been Murdered

- **Man Stabs 15-Year-Old Girl Who Refused Abortion, Frozen Body Found at Rest Stop**
The frozen body of Daphne Sulk, a pregnant 15-year-old girl, was discovered at a Wyoming rest stop. She had been stabbed multiple times. Kevin Robinson, 38, was sentenced to life in prison for killing her. Prosecutors said that Robinson had gotten Daphne pregnant and that he killed her for refusing to abort.
- **Man Charged with Shooting Teen in Head After She Refuses Abortion**
Tanika Rachelle Fox, 17, was shot in the head in her apartment in Greensboro, NC. Her boyfriend, 21-year-old Shawn Kristopher Holliman, was sentenced to life without parole for her murder. Police said he killed Tanika because she refused to have an abortion and he didn't want to pay child support.
- **Teen Charged with Shooting Pregnant Girlfriend; Sister Finds Her Half-Conscious on Park Bench**
In New York, 18-year-old Kalisha Bosier was shot in the head just two weeks before she was due to deliver her baby, allegedly by her boyfriend, Warren Teasley, 19. Kalisha's sister found her slumped on a park bench, bleeding and half-conscious. Kalisha and her unborn daughter died at the hospital.
- **16-Year-Old Girl Killed Because Boyfriend Thought She Was Pregnant and Didn't Want Baby**
In Georgia, Matthew Wiedeman and another teen stabbed and beat Wiedeman's girlfriend, Stephanie Burnett, to death. Police said Wiedeman, who pleaded guilty, believed Stephanie was pregnant and he didn't want her to have the baby. An autopsy showed she was not pregnant.
- **Pregnant 4th Grader Killed by Her Molester**
In Texas, Shakeisha Lloyd, a 10-year-old girl, had just finished fourth grade when she was killed by a man who

had been molesting her. Police said Edward LaGrone entered the home of Shakeisha's family and shot and killed her and two other women there. Shakeisha was 17 weeks pregnant and her mother had notified police that LaGrone had assaulted her. Police said LaGrone had offered to pay for Shakeisha to have an abortion and he wanted to stop the family from filing charges against him. He was sentenced to death for the murders.

- **Pregnant 15-Year-Old Rape Victim Killed and Burned**

Shannon Meschack of Dallas, TX, was arrested for killing 15-year-old Teshibra Bell and attempting to burn her body. Teshibra's family said Meschack, who was more than 10 years older than Teshibra, didn't want her to have the baby. Teshibra's unborn baby also died in the attack, but Meschack was not charged for the baby's death because the state's unborn victims law was not yet in effect.

| Shakeisha finished fourth grade the day before she was murdered.

- **Pregnant 15-Year-Old Shot to Death on School Bus—Boyfriend Charged**

In Missouri, a pregnant 15-year-old girl, Kyunia Taylor, was shot to death on a school bus. Police said 29-year-old Mark Boyd hired Malic J. Nettles, 20, to kill Kyunia because he already had two children and didn't want a third. Nettles allegedly boarded the school bus and opened fire, killing Kyunia and wounding the bus driver. Boyd was charged with murder for the deaths of Kyunia and her unborn baby.

- **16-Year-Old Taken to Deserted Field, Shot in Head, Left in Ditch—Boyfriend Charged**

Trevor Wayne Benson and Kelly D. McCarney of Oklahoma were charged in the murder of Benson's girlfriend, Vanessa Youngbear, 16, who was seven months pregnant. Police said that the two men took Vanessa, who had asked Benson to take a paternity test, to a deserted field and shot her in the head, leaving her body in a ditch. Benson and McCarney could be charged with murder for the unborn child's death under Oklahoma law.

- **15-Year-Old Pregnant Girl Jammed with Sticks, Beaten, Crushed with 30 Lb. Boulder**

Amanda Lynn Hanson, a Colorado Springs girl, was 15 weeks pregnant when she was killed by her 21-year-old boyfriend. Michael Baldwin confessed to luring her to a secluded area and assaulting her with sticks and a boulder. Police said Baldwin jammed a branch down Amanda's throat and jammed sticks into her other body cavities, then beat her and crushed her skull with a 30-pound boulder. Baldwin pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison under a plea bargain that allowed him to avoid the death penalty.

| Chauntae was probably still alive when she was buried.

- **Boyfriend Bludgeons Pregnant Girlfriend in Premeditated Murder**

Fifteen-year-old Brittni Pater of Arkansas was 12 weeks pregnant when she left a note for her parents and climbed out her bedroom window to meet her boyfriend for what she believed was a trip to an abortion clinic. Matthew Ryan Elliot confessed to police that he instead drove Brittni to a deserted area and bludgeoned her to death with a metal pipe. He was sentenced to life in prison. Another teenage boy was convicted of helping to plan the murder, including digging a grave and buying plastic sheeting to wrap Brittni's body.

- **Pregnant 14-Year-Old Stabbed in Abdomen, Neck, and Back; Believed to be Buried Alive**

Chauntae Jones, 14, was seven months pregnant when she and her unborn child were murdered. Boston police said the baby's father, Kyle Bryant, 21, and Lord Hampton, 24, blindfolded Chauntae, struck her over the head; stabbed her repeatedly in the neck, abdomen, and back, and then buried her in a shallow grave—probably while she was still alive. The two men were charged with double homicide.

- **Pregnant Teen Shot in Kentucky, Body Found in Park**

The body of 18-year-old Ashley Lyons was found in her car at a park in Kentucky. Ashley, who was 22 weeks

pregnant, had been shot and killed. Her family said that only hours before her death, they had watched an ultrasound video of Ashley's unborn son. Her ex-boyfriend, Roger McBeath, was charged in her death.

- **Teen Strangled, Stoned, and Stabbed by Boyfriend Who Had Threatened to Kill Her if She Didn't Abort**

Sean Steele confessed to murdering his pregnant 15-year-old girlfriend, Barbara "Bobbie" Watkins, by strangling her, dropping a rock on her body, and stabbing her with a broken beer bottle. Family and friends testified that Steele had threatened to kill Bobbie and her baby if she didn't abort.

Abuse and Murder of Pregnant Women

- **Woman Refuses Abortion, Man Fulfills Threat and Kills Her with Pipe Bomb**

Deana Mitts and her 7-year-old daughter, Kayla, were killed by a pipe bomb in their Pittsburgh home on New Year's Day. Deana's ex-boyfriend, Joseph Miner, was sentenced to life in prison. Police said Miner had threatened to kill Deana when she refused to have an abortion.

- **Oklahoma City Woman Beaten and Shot After Refusing Abortion**

The body of 21-year-old Lorena Rivera was found in a shallow grave in Oklahoma City. Twenty-one weeks pregnant, she had been shot twice and beaten. Police said Nathaniel Smith murdered Lorena because she refused an abortion and he didn't want to pay child support.

- **Pregnant Woman's Body Found in Car Trunk, Husband Convicted**

The body of Jennifer Peck, a Florida woman who was four months pregnant, was found in the trunk of a car in a strip-club parking lot. Joseph Peck, was convicted of killing his wife with a blow to the head, allegedly because she refused to have an abortion. According to court records, Jennifer told a counselor shortly before her death that Joseph was abusing her.

- **After Refusing Abortion, Woman Killed and Burned**

Deborah Moody was killed in 1997 by her ex-boyfriend, Alfred E. Smith, who then put her body in her car and set it on fire. Prosecutors in Van Nuys, Louisiana said Smith killed Deborah for refusing to abort because of her religious beliefs. He was sentenced to life in prison.

- **Boyfriend Shoots Pregnant Woman in Abdomen; Kills Her and Unborn Son**

In Toledo, Ohio, Sonya Hayes was shot in the abdomen, killing her and her unborn son. Her boyfriend, Terrance Davis, was sentenced to life in prison. A witness testified that Davis had threatened to kill Sonya's unborn child, and Sonya's mother, Renee Harris, said Davis asked Renee to talk Sonya into having an abortion.

- **Woman Pregnant with Twins Shot in Face and Back of Head**

Zaneta Brown of New York was pregnant with twins when she was shot in the face and back of the head. Jerold L. Ponder, with whom Zaneta had been having an affair, and his wife, Keya, were charged in Zaneta's murder. Keya Ponder was accused of buying the rifle used in the shooting and helping Jerold bury Zaneta's body and dispose of her car. The Polanders were convicted of second degree murder and evidence tampering.

- **Pregnant Woman Hanged by Man Who Believed He Fathered Her Child**

In Houston, Dan Leach confessed that he murdered a woman whose death had been ruled a suicide. Leach reported that he had killed her because he thought he was the father of her baby. He faces up to life in prison if convicted.

- **Virginia Man Detonates Bomb to Kill Pregnant Girlfriend and Unborn Child**

Tammy L. Baker was eight months pregnant when she and her unborn child were killed by a bomb that was placed on her apartment steps in Virginia and detonated by a model rocket engine. Her ex-boyfriend, Coleman Johnson, Jr., was convicted and sentenced to life in prison for her death.

- **NFL Star Arranged Girlfriend's Death to Avoid Child Support**

In North Carolina, 24-year-old Cherica Adams died a month after being shot four times in the abdomen during a drive-by shooting arranged by her boyfriend, former NFL player Rae Carruth. Prosecutors said Carruth, who was sentenced to 18 years in prison, plotted Cherica's death to avoid paying child support. Cherica's unborn baby boy survived the attack.

- **Pregnant Woman Dies from Gunshot to Head, Newborn Son Dies Two Weeks Later**

A Colorado woman, Leah Gee, died two days after her boyfriend, Daniel Self, shot her in the head. Doctors delivered her unborn son, who died two weeks later. Leah's boyfriend, Daniel Self, was charged in Leah's death, but not that of her son, even though experts testified that the baby's fatal complications were a direct result of the shooting.

| Her boyfriend said the baby would ruin his life.

- **Missouri Man Stabs Woman to Death the Day Before Her Delivery Date**

Steven McBride was sentenced to two life terms for stabbing 21-year-old Nekeesha Hendrick to death just a day before she was due to deliver. Her unborn baby girl, named Breena, died of blood loss.

- **Pregnant Woman Hit Over Head with Skillet, Shot in Head**

In California, Elaine Bunyard was a week away from delivering her baby girl when she was murdered. Earlin Popham testified that Elaine's husband, Jerry, offered him \$1,000 to kill his wife. Popham testified that he broke an iron skillet on Elaine's skull and then shot her in the head. Jerry Bunyard became the first person sentenced to death under California's fetal homicide law, and Popham received 25 years to life in exchange for his testimony against Bunyard.

- **Utah Man Stabs Pregnant Girlfriend to Death**

Irene Christansen was 16 to 18 weeks pregnant when she was stabbed to death and her body left near Utah's Rockport Reservoir, where it was discovered by a snowmobiler 16 days later. Her boyfriend, Calvin Shane Meyers, was convicted of two counts of capital murder.

- **Pregnant Woman Murdered by Boyfriend Who "Didn't Want the Child"**

In Colorado, Brenda Chavez was murdered by her boyfriend, Carlo Herrera. Herrera confessed that he beat Brenda to death and disposed of her body and vehicle by running it off a steep embankment into a grove of trees, where it was later found by three children. Herrera turned himself in and told the FBI that he killed Brenda because he didn't want the child she was carrying.

| Police said he plotted her death to avoid paying child support.

- **Man Shoots Pregnant Girlfriend in the Head Because She Won't Abort**

Cincinnati woman Cassandra Betts was killed by her boyfriend, Tony Ringer, for refusing to have an abortion so he could marry another woman. Ringer shot Cassandra in the head as she sat in her car with her seven-year-old daughter, who was uninjured. Cassandra and her six-week-old unborn child died. Ringer pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two consecutive nine-year prison terms, plus three years for using a gun during the crime.

- **Pregnant Mother Tied Up and Stabbed to Death by Boyfriend**

St. Louis woman Virginia Banks, 31, was two-and-a-half months pregnant when she was tied up and stabbed to death in front of her 5-year-old daughter. Virginia's boyfriend, Willis Bailey, Jr., was sentenced to life in prison for killing her.

- **Ex-Husband Shoots Pregnant Wife Twice in Abdomen; Kills Mother and Child**

Susan MacGuire was pregnant when she was shot to death at her job in Salt Lake City. Her ex-husband, Roger MacGuire, turned himself in for her death. According to testimony, MacGuire told a co-worker that morning that he was going to kill his wife. A judge ruled that MacGuire could be charged for two murders after prosecutors argued that the number of shots

fired and their location—two struck Susan in the abdomen—showed his intent to kill both Susan and the baby.

- **Pregnant Woman Shot in Head After Requesting Child Support**

Melinda Alma Gonzalez, a 20-year-old Arizona woman, was three months pregnant when she was killed with a gunshot wound to the head. Authorities arrested Raymond Carrasco Garcia, who was believed to be the father of Melinda's unborn baby and also of her one-year-old son, Diego. Melinda's family told police that Melinda had been trying to collect child support from Garcia.

- **Women Nearing Delivery Suffocated and Bludgeoned with Log**

Beth Kennard, 22, of Bremard, WA, was close to delivery and had named her unborn child Alexis Ann when she was raped and tortured to death. Her ex-boyfriend, Brodie Eric Walradt, received a life sentence for her murder, which took place in the home of Beth's parents. Police said that Walradt suffocated Beth and bludgeoned her with a log.

- **Abortionist Strangles Girlfriend After Learning of Her Pregnancy**

In California, Deepti Gupta, a 33-year-old neonatologist and mother of two, was pregnant with her third child when she was strangled to death. Kevin Paul Anderson, an abortionist with whom Deepti had been having an affair, was convicted of second-degree murder. Prosecutors said that Deepti had informed Anderson she was pregnant by him the day before he killed her.

- **Pregnant Woman Stabbed Repeatedly in Abdomen, Strangled to Death**

California woman Martha Isela Moreno was nearly seven months pregnant when she was stabbed repeatedly in the abdomen and strangled to death. Her boyfriend, Gilberto Cano, was charged with her murder. Prosecutors said the nature of the stab wounds indicated that Cano clearly intended to kill the unborn baby girl. Two witnesses testified that Cano told relatives on the night of Martha's death that he had "injured" or "done something bad" to her.

| Her pregnancy hindered his career plans.

- **Pregnant Ohio Woman Stabbed to Death and Dumped in Ditch**

Jean K. Toles, a 28-year-old Ohio woman, was 10 weeks pregnant when she was stabbed to death. Her boyfriend, LaMarr Parr, was accused of killing her and dumping her body in a ditch, where it was found the next day by two bicyclists.

- **Man Charged in Stabbing Death of Pregnant Girlfriend**

Wilson Campoverde was charged in the stabbing death of his 33-year-old pregnant girlfriend, Maria Caguana. Maria suffered a stab wound to her abdomen and bled to death from another stab wound in her throat. Campoverde was not charged in the unborn child's death.

- **Pregnant Woman Killed in Front of Her Four-Year-Old Son**

Nicole Blake of Milwaukee was eight months pregnant when she was shot in the head by her boyfriend, Quenton Quortez Thompson. Thompson was convicted of first-degree intentional homicide and first-degree intentional homicide of an unborn child under Wisconsin's feticide law and sentenced to life in prison. Nicole's four-year-old son witnessed the murder and identified Thompson as his mother's killer.

- **Single Mother Shot to Death, Boyfriend Charged**

Shameka Fludd, a single mother of two, was four to five months pregnant with her third child when she was shot in the head in her Baltimore-area apartment. Her boyfriend, Tjane Charweise Marshall, was charged with first- and second-degree murder in the deaths of Shameka and her unborn child. According to court documents, Marshall had said the baby would "ruin his life" and that "he was going to do something about it."

- **Man Charged With Killing Pregnant Girlfriend, Stuffing Body in Trash Can That Washed Up in Field**

Twenty-year-old April Renee Greer was just days away from delivering a child when she disappeared from her North

Carolina home. Her dismembered body was later found in a duct-taped sealed trash can that washed up into a field from a nearby creek after a heavy rainstorm. April's boyfriend, Jerry Lynn Stuart, was charged with first-degree murder for beating April to death.

- **Pregnant Woman Strangled; Boyfriend Didn't Want to Pay Child Support**

Eric Laquine Brown of Mississippi pleaded guilty to strangling his pregnant girlfriend, Shorlonda Moore, and leaving her body in a burned out car in Memphis. Brown was sentenced to life without parole in Shorlonda's death and a concurrent 20 years for the child's death. Prosecutors said he killed Shorlonda because he didn't want to pay child support.

- **Man Shoots Wife in Head, Reportedly Because He Found Her Pregnancy Inconvenient**

Carol DiMaiti Stuart of Boston and her unborn son, Christopher, died after Carol was shot in the head by her husband, Charles Stuart, who told police that the couple had been robbed. Charles Stuart later committed suicide after his brother told police that Charles had not wanted the pregnancy because it hindered his career plans, and that he planned Carol's death in order to collect life insurance.

Her boyfriend didn't want to pay child support.

- **Pregnant Mother Murdered; Dies After Son Delivered**

Deborah Denise Randall, a pregnant Virginia woman, was shot to death by her boyfriend, Richard Johnson. Only months earlier, Johnson had been convicted of three prior assaults on Deborah, but was freed after a judge decided to suspend his sentence. Doctors were able to deliver Deborah's baby boy, Donnie, but Deborah died without regaining consciousness. Johnson was sentenced to life in prison for her death. Deborah's son is being raised by his grandmother.

- **Connecticut Woman Killed Two Weeks Before Due Date**

In Connecticut, Jenny McMechen, 24, was shot and killed outside a friend's home on New Year's Eve, just two weeks before her unborn son was due to be born. Her ex-boyfriend, Michael Latour, was charged in her death. Just a few months earlier, Jenny had told police she was afraid Latour would kill her. Jenny's mother, Debbie Florence, waged a successful campaign to implement "Jenny's Law," which allows Connecticut prosecutors to bring charges when an attack on a pregnant woman results in the death of her unborn child.

- **Husband Charged with Strangling Pregnant Wife in Connecticut**

Marya Ruiz, a 31-year-old Connecticut woman, was seven months pregnant when she was strangled. Her body was found on the floor of her home by a relative. Authorities charged Marya's husband, Carlos Claudio, with her murder.

- **Man Murders Pregnant Wife; Not Charged in Nine-Month-Old Unborn Child's Death**

In Maine, Roscoe B. Sargent was convicted for murdering his pregnant wife, Heather Fligelman Sargent, whom he stabbed at least 47 times. Sargent was not charged in the death of Heather's 9-month-old unborn son, Jonah.

- **Man Kills Pregnant Girlfriend, Buries Her Body in Woods**

Raymond Gregg admitted to police that he killed his pregnant girlfriend, Angela Russell, and buried her body in the woods in Morristown, TN. Gregg pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 25 years in prison without parole. Prosecutors were unable to charge him with the baby's death because they could not prove the unborn child was viable as required by Tennessee law.

- **Man Throws Pregnant Ex-Girlfriend Off Bridge onto Interstate**

Consuela Williams, known as "Candy," was killed after her ex-boyfriend threw her off an overpass onto the interstate near Crown Point, Indiana. According to police, Ronnie Thomas beat Candy with a steering wheel security lock after learning she was pregnant by another man, then drove to the overpass, dragged her from the car, and threw her off the bridge into oncoming traffic. He pleaded guilty to murder.

- **Brooklyn Man Arrested for Strangling Pregnant Girlfriend After She Refused to Abort**

The body of Sandra Bonaventure, a pregnant 20-year-old college junior, was found in Manhattan by a homeless man a few days after she disappeared. An autopsy showed that she had suffocated to death, probably from strangulation. Her boyfriend, Emmanuel Pierre, 26, was charged with Sandra's death. Police said they believed Pierre killed Sandra because she refused to have an abortion. Sandra's mother said that she had been planning to care for her grandchild while her daughter finished her education.

- **Police: Man Charged in Slaying of Pregnant Ex-Girlfriend Had Previously Forced Her to Abort**

Tara Chambers was eight-and-a-half months pregnant when she was fatally shot in her North Carolina home. Doctors delivered her unborn daughter, T'Kayia, who died a month later. Tara's ex-boyfriend, Tyrone Raynard Gladden, and two other men were charged in Tara's death. According to police records, several people said that Gladden had tried to hire a hit man to kill Tara. One witness told police that Gladden had previously forced Tara to have three abortions and that he tried to get her to abort T'Kayia as well.

- **Pregnant Woman Shot to Death By Boyfriend; Baby Boy Dies After Delivery**

Robert Darrell Johnson of Indianapolis was sentenced to two 55-year-prison terms for killing his girlfriend, Tannika Powell, who was nine months pregnant. Prosecutors said that Johnson beat Tannika, then shot her after she fell to the floor. Her unborn son died the next day after being delivered by caesarean.

For More Examples

These are only a sampling of the pressures faced by girls and women whose unplanned pregnancies inconvenience others. Refer to these web sites for current news, information and more examples of coerced abortion, and pregnancy- and abortion-related violence:

- | abortionviolence.com
- | sba-list.org
- | afterabortion.org



Portraits of Coercion

“I don’t know why they call it a choice.”



Every Tuesday a bus took students to Planned Parenthood.

**I was only 14.
School counselors arranged it.**

Every Tuesday a scheduled bus picked up students and took them to the Planned Parenthood clinic. School counselors arranged the visits. It was all so organized ... Still today, I feel like I did not decide to have the abortion ... I was only 14 ... The nurse said this was not the time to be asking questions, that I should have asked them sooner.

Gaylene, survivor of two post-abortion suicide attempts

He was furious and insisted the child be aborted.

When I told him, he was furious and insisted that the child be aborted as soon as possible ... I did not want to kill this baby, but my co-dependence and addiction to this man won out. I finally made an appointment with the abortion clinic.

Cynthia Greenwood

The counselor played on my fears.

She told us it would be very difficult for us to have a baby. She said she had three kids herself and the financial aspect was difficult for her. She never gave me alternatives or asked if I wanted to keep the baby; she just kept playing on my fears and making me believe that it would never work out.

Kelly

Everything in me was yelling, “No! No! No!”

Everything within me was yelling, “No! No! No!” But they all advised strongly against my having the child. So I allowed them to control the situation ... Inside, my voice was screaming, “Please do not do this!”

Lee

They all looked down on me for being pregnant.

There I was alone, having an abortion. I was really low ... I didn’t want an abortion ... But all the people at the abortion clinic were real helpful and friendly and tried to make you feel like you were doing the right thing. Nobody else in my life had tried to help me ... Everybody else would just look down their noses at me for being pregnant.

Cathe Birtwell

**I screamed that I didn’t want the abortion.
The doctor said, “Shut up and quit that yelling.”**

I was a victim of incest at 15 ... In spite of the pain and guilt I felt, it was far better to have a baby than the alternative—to kill it. I refused to have an abortion ... My father flew into an uncontrollable rage and demanded that I consent to the abortion ... [The doctor] asked three nurses to hold me while he strapped me to the bed ... I continued to scream that I didn’t want an abortion. He told me, “Shut up and quit that yelling!” ... I was violated by my father ... I was violated again by the abortionist.

Denise*

**He destroyed our apartment.
“Get rid of it. Now!”**

He destroyed our apartment ... and told me to get rid of it. Now! The whole time he cornered me ... throwing things and killing me with his words. The abortion ripped me apart. Any strength I had to leave the abuse was torn away from me.

Mary

**My mother arranged my abortion.
Our pastor had assured her that it was fine.**

My mother arranged my abortion. She didn’t like my boyfriend and wanted to protect my “reputation” ... Our pastor had assured her that having an abortion was fine. No one helped me ...

Jane Crawford

My parents locked me in the house for two weeks.

My parents told me I was to get an abortion. They locked me in the house and took the phone off the hook for two weeks. They told me not to tell anyone I was pregnant ... Two weeks later they took me 240 miles to Spokane for the abortion ...

Julie Woodley

My husband said he’d leave if I didn’t abort.

[My husband] told me, “Either you have an abortion, or I’ll leave you.”

Sandra Morean

My mom said that I must abort.

I told my boyfriend I was pregnant and he acted as if he were happy. He left town a short time after that leaving me to face the pressure of what to do. My mother figured out that I was pregnant ... and she told me I must abort. She said my life would be ruined if I stayed pregnant. She also sent me to Planned Parenthood [and two counselors] ... who all agreed with my mother and counseled me to abort. I had no one who said that I could give life to my child ...

Carla Matrisch

The doctor begged me to abort.

[The doctor said that the medication I'd been taking] causes birth defects. He was very concerned about my decision not to have an abortion and literally pleaded with me ... "Please reconsider ... There are so many dangers. You're a fool to think of not aborting." [I've suspected he was afraid I'd sue him if the baby had birth defects] ... My decision came from a seed the doctor had planted ... that I should have that abortion. He was so serious that it frightened me.

Deborah Hulebak

Just to get them off my back . . .

I finally told everyone that I would have the abortion just to get them off my back.

Anonymous, survivor of post-abortion suicide attempt

I sped away—my mother caught up with me.

When I told my mom I was pregnant, she immediately made the appointment [for an abortion]. I kept hanging the phone up on her and she kept re-dialing. Finally she got through ... The next morning, I crept downstairs, got into my car and sped away—she quickly followed and finally caught up with me.

Laura O'Brien

His family pushed for abortion.

His family pushed for abortion—because I was in their home and they were having to help care for my children while I was bedridden ... I felt obligated, totally helpless. A part of me died that day.

Lori Rachuleta

After making us feel like dirt, she reassured us Medicaid would pay for the abortion.

Since [my husband] was unable to find another job, we had to go on welfare ... When our caseworker found out I was pregnant with a third child, she was just disgusted with us. She urged us to have an abortion, saying, "You just can't go around having babies all the rest of your life." After making us feel like dirt, she reassured us that Medicaid would pay for the abortion.

From that point on, there was pressure from everyone around me to have the abortion. The only one that didn't want me to do it was my mother-in-law who was herself a survivor of a failed abortion attempt. Confusion mounted, tension and pressure took control, and I became another victim of "free choice."

Lorijo Nerad

I wanted to keep my child but I had no say.

My mother took me to [the clinic] ... They told her ... abortion was the best decision. Everyone made the decision for me. I really wanted to keep my child even at that age. At that time, parents made the decision for a minor. I really had no say.

Tambra Plummer

My relatives made the arrangements.

The baby's father retracted his marriage proposal as soon as he found out I was pregnant. I had no money, no medical insurance, and didn't realize that there were places to turn to for help ... My relatives [made] all the arrangements ... Everyone was there to give advice before the abortion, but afterwards I was on my own. If I had had love, support, and above all, the true facts, I would have never even considered an abortion. The pain never goes away.

Carolyn Walton

It wasn't *my* choice. It should be called "Your Parents' and the Guy's Choice."

No one would support me ... The worst day of my life got closer and closer ... I think in more cases than not, it isn't the woman's choice. It should be called "Your Parents' and the Guy's Choice ..." I needed someone to tell me that it was possible to keep my baby, but no one did ...

Amanda

*name has been changed

Citations

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