

# COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVE THE HIGHEST RATE OF ABORTION

**Women with some college had a pregnancy rate that was lower than average, but still “had the highest abortion rate of any educational group”.<sup>1</sup>**

**45 % of women who have abortions are college-age—18-24 years old.<sup>2</sup>**

Women aged 20-24 have a higher abortion rate than any other age group (47 abortions per 1,000).

Women 18-19 have a rate of 39 per 1,000, also higher than average.

“The high abortion rate among women aged 20-24 reflects both an above-average pregnancy rate (159 per 1,000) and a relatively high proportion of pregnancies ending in abortion (29%).”<sup>2</sup>

**If we want to reduce the number of abortions among those with the highest rate, it’s time we listen to women.**

**Guttmacher Institute, Planned Parenthood’s research arm, asked women the critical question, “Why?”**

In a 2004 survey, college-age women who had abortions gave us a good answer.

34% were students or those planning to study

71% of 18-19 year olds and 58% of 20-24 year olds said it would interfere with their education or career

69% of 18-19 year olds and 81% of those ages 20-24 said they lacked the financial resources to afford a baby and child care

19% of all respondents said they would need to find new housing

39% of those ages 18-19 and 51% of those ages 20-24 said they had relationship problems; they didn’t feel able to raise a child on their own.<sup>3</sup> They didn’t have the emotional support women need and deserve.

**Abortion is a reflection that we have not met the needs of women.**

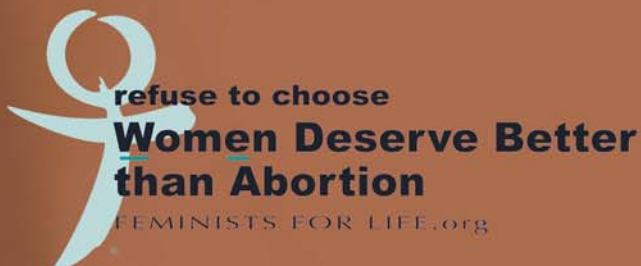
“In the in-depth interviews, the language women used suggests that abortion was not something they desired...”

“...the topic of women’s limited resources, such as financial constraints and lack of partner support, regularly appeared in the survey and interview responses.”

“Many of these women were disappointed because their partner had reacted to the pregnancy by denying paternity, breaking off communication with them or saying that they did not want a child.”<sup>3</sup>

**It’s time we unite to address the unmet needs of women – especially those with the highest abortion rate – women attending college.**

**Women Deserve Better<sup>®</sup>**



FEMINISTS FOR LIFE

PO Box 20685

Alexandria, VA 22320

(703) 836-3354

feministsforlife.org

1. The rate for these women was 26 abortions per 1000 women. Guttmacher Institute. Rachel K. Jones, Jacqueline E. Darroch and Stanley K. Henshaw. "Patterns in the Socioeconomic Characteristics of Women Obtaining Abortions in 2000-2001." *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* (2002) Vol. 34 No. 5: 226-235.
2. In the year 2000. Ibid.
3. Guttmacher Institute. Lawrence B. Finer, Lori F. Frohworth, Lindsay A. Dauphinee, Susheela Singh and Ann M. Moore. "Reasons U.S. Women Have Abortions: Quantitative and Qualitative Perspectives." *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* (2005) Vol. 37 No. 3: 110-118.