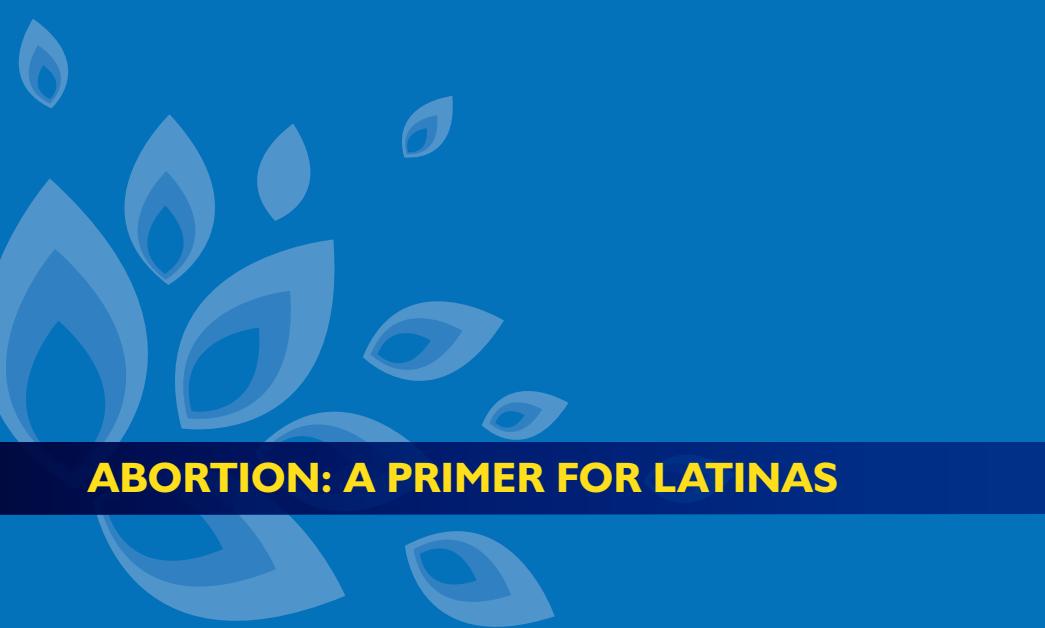




# NATIONAL LATINA INSTITUTE FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

## ABORTION: A PRIMER FOR LATINAS





## ABORTION: A PRIMER FOR LATINAS

This primer provides a summary of medically accurate and bilingual information to Latinas and all women about abortion.

It also provides tips about where to find some of the many sources of high-quality abortion information and resources, and it points out misinformation and misleading information that attempts to frighten and shame women who consider abortion or try to learn more about it.

The National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH) strongly believes in strengthening Latina communities through information and education on all of our reproductive health options, so this guide provides information on why women get abortions, the different kinds of abortions women can get, a short history of abortion in the United States, and resources for support and information on where and how women can get abortion services in the United States.

An abortion is a procedure that ends, or terminates, a pregnancy before viability. In the United States an abortion can be done under the care of a health care provider either by a taking a regimen of medications or by a procedure.

### WHAT ARE THE REASONS WOMEN CHOOSE ABORTION?

1 out of every 3 women in the United States will have an abortion by age 45, making it one of the most common surgical procedures done in the United States.<sup>1</sup>

#### Some of the reasons why women choose abortion include:

- Birth control (contraceptive) failure. Over half of all women who have an abortion used a contraceptive method during the month they became pregnant!
- Inability to financially or emotionally support or care for a child;
- To prevent the birth of a child with severe birth defects or severe medical problems. Such birth defects are often unknown until tests are done in the first or second trimester;
- Pregnancy resulting from rape or incest;
- Physical or mental conditions that endanger the woman's health if the pregnancy is continued;
- Already has all the children she wants or that she and her partner want;
- Not ready for a child or not ready to have another child; and
- Having a baby would delay her completion of school or compromise her current financial or job status.

### OPTIONS FOR ABORTION

With any type of abortion, a health educator, nurse, or doctor discusses with the woman her options for the abortion, her medical history, maybe do an ultrasound to see the size and position of the pregnancy, have the woman read and sign the consent form for the procedure, as well as do a physical examination. There are two main options for having an abortion: an abortion with pills (medication abortion) or an abortion with a procedure.

#### 1st Trimester Abortion Procedure

This procedure is done up to about 13 weeks of pregnancy. During this procedure the doctor places an instrument, called a speculum, into the vagina to help him or her see the cervix, much like during a pelvic exam. A thin tube called a cannula is attached to a vacuum aspirator, which is a device that provides the suction to remove the pregnancy. The cannula is inserted into the uterus and the suction from the vacuum aspirator is used to remove the pregnancy.

#### Medication Abortion

A medication abortion actually includes two medications. The first medication is called mifepristone and it works by stopping a hormone called progesterone from reaching the pregnancy, which causes the pregnancy to stop growing. The second medication is called misoprostol and it causes the uterus to contract, which then causes the pregnancy to come out through the vagina, much like a miscarriage or a very heavy period. The table below describes both kinds of abortion in a side-by-side comparison.

## COMPARISON OF THE TWO TYPES OF ABORTION

## BEFORE 13 WEEKS OF PREGNANCY<sup>2</sup>

Abortion Pill / Medication Abortion with Mifepristone & Misoprostol	The Aspiration Abortion (Suction or Vacuum Abortion)
<b>1. How far along can the pregnancy be?</b>	
Up to 9 weeks from the first day of the woman's last period.	Up to 13 weeks from the first day of the woman's last period.
<b>2. What will happen?</b>	
<p>The abortion takes place at home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>In the office</i>, you will swallow the abortion pill (mifepristone). Most women feel fine after taking mifepristone.</li> <li>At home, 6-72 hours later, you use the misoprostol pills.</li> <li>The abortion usually starts 1-4 hours after taking the misoprostol. The woman will have heavy bleeding and cramping for a couple of hours.</li> <li>A follow up visit is scheduled for around 1 week later.</li> </ul>	<p>The abortion takes place in the office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The actual abortion procedure takes 5 to 10 minutes.</li> <li>The doctor put instruments in the vagina and uterus to remove the pregnancy.</li> <li>The provider may suggest a follow-up visit.</li> </ul>
<b>3. How painful is it?</b>	
Women have mild to very strong cramps off and on during the abortion. Pain pills help.	Women have mild to very strong cramps off and on during the abortion. Pain pills help.
<b>4. How much will I bleed?</b>	
Heavy bleeding with clots is common during the abortion. After that, lighter bleeding may continue on and off for 1-2 weeks or more.	Most women have light bleeding for 1-7 days. Bleeding may continue off and on for a few weeks.
<b>5. How much does it cost?</b>	
For both types of abortion, the exact cost depends on where you go. <b>If you need an abortion</b> , the best thing to do is call the clinics or facilities that you can go to find out the cost, your options for covering the cost, and how far along you are. The further along a pregnancy is the more the price of an abortion goes up, so it is best to figure out your options as soon as you are able.	

Abortion Pill / Medication Abortion with Mifepristone & Misoprostol	The Aspiration Abortion (Suction or Vacuum Abortion)
<b>6. Can the abortion fail?</b>	
The pills work 98-99% of the time. If the pills fail, an aspiration abortion is necessary.	It works 99% of the time. If it fails, you must have a repeat aspiration.
<b>7. Can I still have children afterwards?</b>	
YES. Neither type of abortion lowers your chances of getting pregnant or staying pregnant in the future.	
<b>8. Is it safe?</b>	
Both pills have been used safely for over 10 years. Big problems are rare. Medication abortion is at least 10 times safer than continuing a pregnancy.	Aspiration abortion has been done safely for over 25 years. Abortion in the first 13 weeks leads to very few problems, and is at least 10 times safer than continuing the pregnancy.
<b>9. What are the advantages?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You won't have shots, anesthesia, or instruments in your body.</li> <li>It may feel more natural, like a miscarriage.</li> <li>It can be done earlier in the pregnancy than an aspiration abortion.</li> <li>Being at home instead of in an office may be more private.</li> <li>You can choose to have someone with you, or you can be alone.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is quick and over in a few minutes.</li> <li>You see less bleeding than you would with a medication abortion.</li> <li>Medical staff are with you during the abortion.</li> <li>It can be done later in the pregnancy than a medication abortion.</li> </ul>
<b>10. What are the disadvantages?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It takes 1-2 days to complete the abortion.</li> <li>It is not the same for all women.</li> <li>Bleeding can be very heavy and may last longer than with an aspiration abortion.</li> <li>Cramps can be severe and last longer than with an aspiration abortion.</li> <li>It cannot be done as late in pregnancy as an aspiration abortion.</li> <li>It cannot end a tubal pregnancy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A provider must insert instruments inside the uterus.</li> <li>Medicines for pain may cause side effects.</li> <li>The woman has less control over the abortion procedure and who is with her.</li> <li>It cannot be done as early in pregnancy as a medication abortion.</li> <li>It cannot end a tubal pregnancy.</li> </ul>

## OPTIONS FOR ABORTION (continued)

### Abortion After 13 Weeks

For most abortions after 13 weeks, some additional steps are required during the abortion procedure because the pregnancy is bigger:

- The process usually requires two appointments. On the first day a medication called laminaria is placed in the cervix in order to dilate, or stretch it, over the next 24 to 36 hours.
- At the next appointment, the medical provider uses various instruments to remove the pregnancy, including a suction

device. Various medications are also given during the procedure to prevent infection and minimize bleeding.

- An ultrasound may be done in order to confirm all the pregnancy tissue has been removed. Just as with an abortion before 13 weeks, the provider may schedule a follow up visit.

### After an Abortion

- Women may experience cramping (like on your menstrual cycle), spotting or bleeding for 3 to 6 weeks after your abortion, while some women experience no bleeding.
- A normal period should begin within 4 to 8 weeks after the abortion; this period could be heavier or lighter than you usually experience.
- Pregnancy symptoms should subside within 1 week after the abortion.

- You may experience a wide array of emotions after having an abortion: anywhere from relief to sadness to other feelings. If you have a close friend or family member that you can trust, it may help to talk with her or him about how you are feeling. You may be able to call the clinic where you received the abortion or you can also use any of the resources listed at the end of this pamphlet for support.
- Pregnancy can occur any time after an abortion; use contraception if you do not wish to become pregnant again.

## IS ABORTION LEGAL?

Abortion has been legal in the United States since 1973 when the Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade* found laws against abortion unconstitutional. This ruling also made abortion legal Puerto Rico.

Even though abortion is legal, there are some factors that make it difficult for Latinas and other women to access abortion services when they need them. Each state is allowed to regulate abortion services, and some have very restrictive laws that can cause women's abortion care to be delayed. For example,

some states require that women wait 24 or 48 hours to have an abortion from when they call the clinic. During this time women may have to listen to biased information meant to dissuade them from choosing abortion, often with inaccurate or false information about the abortion procedure.

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ABORTION IS ILLEGAL?

Before abortion in the United States was legalized in 1973, many women resorted to unsafe conditions in order to have an abortion, risking infection and death. Other women could obtain a safe illegal abortion from trained providers, but still faced the stigma of having abortion and the risks of breaking the law. Before the *Roe v. Wade* decision, a few states had legal abortion in very strict and stigmatizing circumstances. For example, some women had to be declared mentally ill in order to have the right to a legal abortion.

Abortion is illegal or highly restricted in most of the countries in the Caribbean and South and Central America. Abortion is legal in Mexico City, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Barbados, French Guiana and Guyana.<sup>3</sup> Recently, Colombia liberalized its abortion laws from totally prohibiting abortion to allowing abortion to preserve the physical or mental health or the life of the woman.

In countries where abortion is illegal, women obtain abortions in unsanitary conditions from providers who may have little or no training. In these conditions, complications from illegal abortion, including death, are high. For example, illegal abortion is the leading cause of maternal death in Argentina and the third cause of maternal death in Brazil.

## IS ABORTION SAFE?

Abortion is very safe when it is legal and accessible from trained professionals. In the United States, experiencing a serious complication from having an abortion occurs in fewer than 3 in 1000 of abortion patients.<sup>4</sup> Of nearly 840,000 abortions performed in 2004, 10 women died in the United States as a result of complications from an abortion.<sup>5</sup> In the same year 540 women died from all pregnancy-related causes, which translates into a maternal mortality rate of 13.1, more than ten times that of deaths from abortion-related complications alone.

Both abortion and childbirth are extremely safe in the United States. In 2003 the maternal mortality rate in the United States was 12.1 death per 100,000 births.<sup>6</sup> In that same year, there was less than 1 death per 100,000 abortions<sup>7</sup>, making it more than 10 times safer than carrying a pregnancy to term.

Abortion performed in the first trimester (up to about 13 weeks) pose no long-term risk of such problems as infertility, ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage or birth defect, and little or no risk of preterm or low-birth weight deliveries.<sup>8</sup>

Some anti-reproductive rights organizations started campaigns to scare women into thinking that abortion is unsafe. They have attempted to link abortion with breast cancer or severe mental health problems. After reviewing many rigorous research studies, both of these claims have been found to be totally

false. According to the Guttmacher Institute:

*"Exhaustive reviews by panels convened by the U.S. and British governments have concluded that there is no association between abortion and breast cancer. There is also no indication that abortion is a risk factor for other cancers."<sup>9</sup>*

In repeated studies since the early 1980s, leading experts have concluded that abortion does not pose a hazard to women's mental health.<sup>9,10</sup> Women feel many emotions after an abortion; most feel relief but some feel sadness and relief. These feelings are normal and do not create any longer term risk for poor mental health. The emotions women experience after an abortion are also largely related to the circumstances of a woman's life before she became pregnant, and abortion itself does not cause long-term harm to women's mental health.

## DO LATINAS CHOOSE ABORTION?

### How Does Our Community Feel About Abortion & Reproductive Justice?

Although many Latina are Christian or Catholic and some are against abortion, most Latinas support women's right to the full range of reproductive health services, including pre-natal care, contraception, and abortion. We sometimes hear that because many Latinas are Catholic, that they do not support other women's right to have an abortion. For example: "Latinas are Catholic so they are against abortion, right?" or "The abortion issue isn't important for Latinas because they don't use those services."

But Latinas are actually building a movement for reproductive justice that includes abortion rights, and Latinas, just like all women, do use abortion services when it is the best decision for them.

#### Consider that in the United States:

- 25% of all women obtaining abortions are Latinas.<sup>11</sup>
- In a September 2009 national opinion survey of Catholic voters, 74% of Latinos disapproved of the Catholic bishops instructing Catholics to oppose health reform if abortion is included.<sup>12</sup>
- In a 2008 national poll, 58% of Catholics supported keeping abortion legal.<sup>13</sup>
- 27% of women obtaining abortions identify as Catholic and 43% identify as Protestant.<sup>14</sup>
- About 61% of abortions are obtained by women who have one or more children.<sup>1</sup>
- In one California survey, nearly 70% of U.S.-born Latinos do not want the Supreme Court to change its decision to make abortion a legal right, whereas as only about half of immigrant Latinos do not want to see abortion rights reversed.<sup>15</sup>
- In the same survey, 65% of U.S.-born Latinos say that government should not interfere with our personal decisions about abortion.

## HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ABORTION?

National Abortion Federation: [www.prochoice.org](http://www.prochoice.org) En español: [www.prochoice.org/es/](http://www.prochoice.org/es/)

Planned Parenthood: [www.plannedparenthood.org](http://www.plannedparenthood.org)  
En español: [www.plannedparenthood.org/esp/temas-de-salud/aborto-24038.htm](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/esp/temas-de-salud/aborto-24038.htm)

Medication Abortion: [www.medicationabortion.com/](http://www.medicationabortion.com/)  
El Aborto con Medicamentos: [www.medicationabortion.com/Spanish/index.html](http://www.medicationabortion.com/Spanish/index.html)

ANSIRH (Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health) at UCSF has created a new web resource on late abortion. The site includes a listing of clinics in the U.S. that provide abortion after 24 weeks, and information for women. The site will continue to expand as new resources are added. [www.latetermabortion.org](http://www.latetermabortion.org)

The Abortion Conversation Project is committed to eliminating the stigma of abortion by creating new ways and opportunities to talk about abortion honestly and publicly. <http://abortionconversation.com>

Gynuity Health Projects: [www.gynuity.org](http://www.gynuity.org)  
En español: <http://gynuity.org/resources/language/cat/espanol/>

## WHERE CAN I GET AN ABORTION?

**In a Clinic:** Most abortion care is provided in a clinic that is dedicated to offering abortion services and other reproductive health services, like contraception. These clinics can be found by looking under "abortion" in the phonebook. There is also a listing in the phonebook called "abortion alternatives." This heading is for what are called "crisis pregnancy centers", which are centers that do NOT give information about abortion and they are NOT clinics. *Please see page 12 for more information.*

#### Some organizations that provide referrals to mostly clinic-based abortion providers:

Abortion Clinics Listed by State: [www.gynpages.com](http://www.gynpages.com) or [www.abortionclinic.com](http://www.abortionclinic.com)  
En español: [www.clinicasdeaborts.com/](http://www.clinicasdeaborts.com/)

Abortion Clinic Directory: Helps you find U.S. abortion clinics and accurate information about abortion methods. [www.abortionclinic.org/](http://www.abortionclinic.org/)

National Abortion Federation: List of resources for women considering abortion and list of abortion providers by state and laws

regarding abortion care by state, información en español también: [1-877-257-0012](tel:1-877-257-0012)  
[www.prochoice.org/pregnant/find/index.html](http://www.prochoice.org/pregnant/find/index.html)

Planned Parenthood: List of Planned Parenthood clinics in U.S., resources, support and information about abortion  
[1-800-230-PLAN](tel:1-800-230-PLAN)  
[www.plannedparenthood.org](http://www.plannedparenthood.org)  
En español: [www.plannedparenthood.org/esp/index.htm](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/esp/index.htm)

**At Your Doctor's Office:** Some family doctors and gynecologists offer abortion services in their regular office. If you have a regular doctor you can ask them if they provide abortion services or if they can refer.

**At a Hospital:** Some hospitals offer abortion services (but many don't). Catholic hospitals do NOT provide abortion services.

## MISOPROSTOL & SELF-INDUCTION

Recently, the media and some research have looked into whether women in Latin America and the United States are using a medication called misoprostol to induce an abortion at home without the care of a doctor. Recent research indicates that this is relatively rare in the U.S. among Latinas, but that is some cases it still happens.

In Brazil and other Latin American countries where abortion is illegal and therefore women often resort to unsafe procedures, health care professionals started seeing fewer deaths from abortion. They found that women had discovered misoprostol, which causes pregnancies to abort and was safer than some of the unsanitary procedures other women had endured and died from.

In the United States abortion is legal, but still out of reach for many women. Many rural counties do not have any abortion provider at all, and women may have to travel hours to days to reach the nearest clinic. Because Medicaid and many other public insurance programs do not cover abortion care, many women cannot afford the cost of the procedure. Some immigrant women may not be familiar with the laws and health care in the U.S., so they may not know that abortion is legal in the United States or there may be not services available in their language. All of these represent serious barriers to all health care, especially abortion, for many immigrant or low-income women. These barriers may be the reason that some women, including immigrants and Latinas, try to use misoprostol to perform their own abortion.

## HOW DO I PAY FOR MY ABORTION?

Although abortion providers have worked hard to keep the price of abortion services down over the past 30 years, the cost of an abortion may be out of reach for many women. Many types of health insurance do not cover the cost of an abortion, and many other women do not have health insurance at all.

### The following are some options women may have to pay for their abortion:

**Private Health Insurance:** Many private health insurances do cover abortion procedure. You can call your insurance company or look on their website to find out. The clinic or office where you are getting an abortion may be able to check for you.

**National Network of Abortion Funds:** This website has contact information for abortion funds, which are small grassroots organizations that can help women pay for their abortion. Look up your state, and see if there are available funds for abortions:

[www.nnaf.org/help.html](http://www.nnaf.org/help.html)  
En español: [www.nnaf.org/helpsp.html](http://www.nnaf.org/helpsp.html)

**NAF Hotline:** For unbiased information about abortion and about other resources, including financial assistance, información en español también:

Call toll-free [1-800-772-9100](tel:1-800-772-9100)

Weekdays: 7 A.M.-11 P.M. Eastern time  
Saturdays & Sundays: 9 A.M.-9 P.M.

**Medicaid:** In some states, women can use their Medicaid coverage to pay for abortion services.

Initially after the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in the U.S. in 1972, women on Medicaid had their abortion totally covered in their health care. However, in 1977 the Hyde Amendment passed, which bans federal funds to cover abortion for women who receive Medicaid. In all states, women who have Medicaid must have their abortion covered if the pregnancy is a result of rape, incest, or if the pregnancy puts the woman's life in danger, although women have often found that there is a lot of administrative steps in accessing abortion care under these exceptions.

Several states use their own funding to cover the cost of an abortion for women on Medicaid. Ask the facility where you are being seen for help in finding out if you have the right to abortion care with your Medicaid plan.

### The following states, as of January 2010, allow abortion care under their Medicaid program:

Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, and West Virginia.<sup>16</sup> Other

states' Medicaid program may cover abortion in only some circumstances.

For an updated list see: [www.prochoice.org/about\\_abortion/facts/public\\_funding.html](http://www.prochoice.org/about_abortion/facts/public_funding.html)

## RESOURCES FOR EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

**Women on Web:** Stories from women who have had abortions:  
[www.womenonweb.org](http://www.womenonweb.org) (en español también)

**Many Voices, Many Choices:** Stories from women who have had abortions, as well as space for you to write about your own experience:  
[www.fwhc.org/stories/story8.htm](http://www.fwhc.org/stories/story8.htm)

**Backline:** Backline is a telephone hotline where women and their loved ones have a safe space to explore and resolve their own feelings and experiences around pregnancy, parenting, abortion and adoption. They sometimes have services available in Spanish. A veces tienen servicios en español:

Starting July 1, 2010: [1-888-493-0092](tel:1-888-493-0092)  
[www.yourbackline.com](http://www.yourbackline.com)

**Feminist Women's Health Center:** stories from women who have had abortions  
[www.fwhc.org/stories/perso.htm](http://www.fwhc.org/stories/perso.htm)

**Exhale:** talk line to discuss your abortion experience freely, also available to family and friends of women who have had abortions. This service is for support *after* having an abortion, not for pregnancy options counseling:

[1-866-4 EXHALE](tel:1-866-4-EXHALE) Mon-Fri 8pm-1am, Sat-Sun 3pm-1am PST

Hay consejería disponible en español los miércoles, 8pm-1am [www.4exhale.org](http://www.4exhale.org)

## FAITH-BASED SUPPORT

**Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice:** Interfaith community supporting reproductive choices for women from different faiths, sermons that support reproductive choice, as well as the history of reproductive choice:  
[www.rcrc.org/perspectives/prayers\\_sermons.cfm](http://www.rcrc.org/perspectives/prayers_sermons.cfm)

**Catholics for Choice:** Catholic group that respects and support the moral agency for all women in relation to reproductive rights, especially abortion:  
[www.catholicsforchoice.org/topics/abortion](http://www.catholicsforchoice.org/topics/abortion)

**Catolicas por el Derecho a Decidir:** [www.catolicasporelderechoadecidir.org/](http://www.catolicasporelderechoadecidir.org/)



## “CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTERS” (“ABORTION ALTERNATIVES”)

“Crisis Pregnancy Centers” (CPCs) are unlicensed, unregulated, anti-abortion organizations posing as comprehensive health care clinics, with the intention of keeping women from having abortions. **If you think you are in a Crisis Pregnancy Center, remember you can walk out! You do not ever have to stay, finish your appointment, or pay if you do not want to be there.**

The majority of centers are not medical facilities at all and they provide neither full reproductive health services nor comprehensive options counseling. Many of them advertise themselves as offering free pregnancy tests or “abortion alternatives”.

Many centers intentionally misinform and intimidate women seeking pregnancy-related information to promote an anti-abortion agenda. Women describe being harassed, bullied, and given blatantly false information about the effects of having an abortion on their physical and mental health. They are often told that having an abortion will put them at higher risk for developing breast cancer, post-traumatic stress disorder, infertility, and other serious medical conditions, all of which are untrue.

CPCs often target outreach towards young and low-income women. They offer free pregnan-

cy tests, locate themselves in close proximity to clinics that offer abortion services, and advertise in school newspapers. Some common names include: Crisis Pregnancy Center, Pregnancy Aid, Birth Right, Open Door, or Pregnancy Counseling Center, or more generally “limited-service pregnancy center.” Low-income women are particularly vulnerable because nationwide there is a shortage of clinics that offer full options counseling and abortion care.

As of 2006, there are an estimated 2,300 to 3,500 CPCs operating in the U.S., while there are only 1,800 abortion clinics. CPCs are unregulated at both the federal and state level and they do not provide real medical care. Many have received government funding, but they are uncertified, unregulated and provide misinformation and referrals.

### How to avoid Crisis Pregnancy Centers and find a real health care provider (that will support you in making your own, informed decisions whether you choose abortion or not)<sup>17</sup>:

- Ask what other medical services are available there. If only pregnancy testing is offered, and no birth control, pap smears, or abortion services are provided, then you may not want to stay.
- Ask on the phone if they provide or refer for abortion services. Avoid centers that refuse to give a straightforward answer.
- Do not use the ones listed in yellow pages under “Abortion Alternatives”.
- Be cautious when surfing the web. Often you will find anti-abortion, anti-reproductive rights websites disguised as accurate, pro-reproductive health resources. Keep searching for reliable information.
- Select providers that have clearly established reputations. Avoid clinics whose staff does not provide full, clear answers regarding their services. Ask friends or relatives you trust!

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# NATIONAL LATINA INSTITUTE FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

## MISSION

The National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH) is dedicated to ensuring the fundamental human right to reproductive health and justice for Latinas, their families and their communities through public education, community mobilization and policy advocacy.

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políticas y abogacía y la movilización comunitaria.  
familias y sus comunidades a través de la educación, el análisis de  
fundamental a la salud y la justicia reproductiva para las latinas, sus  
por sus siglas en inglés) trabaja para asegurar el derecho humano  
El Instituto Nacional de Latinas para la Salud Reproductiva (NLIRH

## MISIÓN

NATIONAL LATINA INSTITUTE  
FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH





**RECURSOS PARA APOYO EMOCIONAL**

**¿COMO PUEDO PAGAR POR MI ABORTO?**

**Católicos por el Derecho a Decidir:** Grupo católico que respeta y apoya la autonomía de las mujeres para tomar decisiones sobre su salud y su vida. Ofrece información y apoyo en temas de salud sexual y reproductiva.

[www.rcc.org/perspectives/prayers\\_sermons.cfm](http://www.rcc.org/perspectives/prayers_sermons.cfm)

APoyo y Recursos Espirituales

[www.fwhc.org/stories/perso.htm](http://www.fwhc.org/stories/perso.htm)  
-Feminist Women's Health Center (Centro Feminista de la Salud de las Mujeres): Histó-  
rias de las mujeres que han tenido abortos:

**Bakckline:** Bakckline es una linea telefonica en donde las mujeres y sus seres queridos encuentran un espacio seguro para explorar y resolver sus propios sentimientos y experiencia- tricos con relacion al embarazo, la maternidad y la adopcion, el aborto y la adopcion.

**Servicios disponibles a partir del 1 de julio de 2010: 1-888-493-0092**

[www.yourbakckline.com](http://www.yourbakckline.com)

[www.fwch.org/stories/story8.htm](http://www.fwch.org/stories/story8.htm)  
que han tenido doctores así como espaldas para escribir su propia experiencia:

[www.womenonweb.org](http://www.womenonweb.org) (en español también) **Women on Web** (**Mujeres en el Internet**): Historias de quienes han tenido abortos;

En 1972, las mujeres participantes en el programa Medicaid contaban con una cobertura total para obtener un aborto como parte de los servicios de salud. Sin embargo, la enfermedad Hyde fue aprobada. Esta enfermedad prohibe que los fondos federales cubran los servicios de aborto para las mujeres participantes en Medicaid. En todos los estados sus propios fondos para cubrir el costo de un aborto para las mujeres administrativo para acceder a los servicios de aborto bajo estas excepciones.

Various estados usan sus propios fondos para cubrir el costo de un aborto para las mujeres participantes en Medicaid. Pregunte, en el lugar donde prensa obtiene ciudadano medico, si usted tiene derecho a los servicios de aborto por medio de su plan de Medicaid.

Este es un listado de los estados que, a enero de 2010, cubren abortos bajo su programa de Medicaid:

Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Hawái, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, y West Virginia.<sup>16</sup> Los programas de Medicaid

Algunas de las proveedoras de servicios de aborto han trabajado duro para mantener el precio de los servicios a un costo razonable durante los pasados 30 años, el periodo de un embarazo que no es tan alargado como el de muchas mujeres. Muchos tipos de servicios de salud no cubren el costo de un aborto, y muchas otras mujeres no cuentan con ningún tipo de seguro de salud.



Si bien es cierto que el aborto es legal, existen algunas razones que hacen difícil que las mujeres accedan a él. Una de las principales es la falta de información precisa sobre los servicios de salud que ofrecen abortos legales. Otro factor es la falta de recursos económicos para pagar el procedimiento. Algunas mujeres optan por abortar en el extranjero o solicitan servicios clandestinos.

Otro problema es la falta de políticas que protejan a las mujeres que han tenido un aborto. Por ejemplo, en muchos países no se permite la maternidad para las mujeres que han tenido un aborto. Esto impone una serie de restricciones y obligaciones que pueden ser muy dañinas para la salud de la mujer.

En los últimos años, se han hecho avances significativos en la regulación del aborto en muchas partes del mundo. Sin embargo, aún quedan muchos desafíos por superar. La lucha por la igualdad y la justicia social continúa siendo un tema importante en todo el mundo.

Algunas organizaciones que están en contra de las leyes que prohíben el aborto argumentan que el derecho a la salud mental es más importante que la vida de la madre. Otros argumentan que el aborto es una opción segura y necesaria para las mujeres que no quieren tener hijos.

En resumen, el aborto es un tema complejo que requiere una consideración integral de las implicaciones sociales y éticas.

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En resumen, el aborto es un tema complejo que requiere una consideración integral de las implicaciones sociales y éticas.

## ¿ES EL ABORTO SEGURO?

El aborto es bastante seguro cuando es legal y accesible a través de profesionales de la salud capacitados. Los procedimientos son seguros y efectivos si se realizan en un ambiente en Argentina y la tercera en Brasil.

El aborto es ilegal o altamente restrictivo en la mayoría de los países del Caribe, Sur y Centroamérica. El aborto es seguro de realizar en condiciones insalubres a través de proveedores de salud con pocas condiciones de provisión. Los procedimientos de aborto son seguros y efectivos si se realizan en un ambiente en Argentina y la tercera en Brasil.

En los países en donde el aborto es ilegal, las mujeres obtienen abortos clandestinos con riesgos de salud y morbilidad. Los procedimientos de aborto son seguros y efectivos si se realizan en un ambiente en Argentina y la tercera en Brasil.

Para la mayoría de los abortos después de la semana No. 13, se necesita un médico que sea capaz de proporcionar procedimientos seguros y eficaces. Los procedimientos de aborto son seguros y efectivos si se realizan en un ambiente en Argentina y la tercera en Brasil.

Para la mayoría de los abortos después de la semana No. 13, se necesita un médico que sea capaz de proporcionar procedimientos seguros y eficaces.

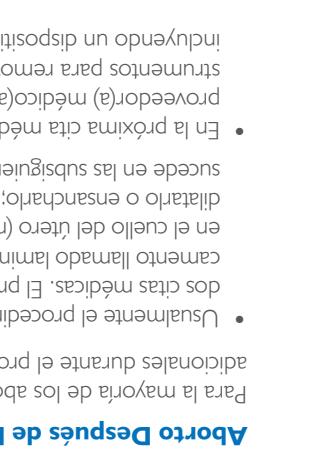
## Aborto Después de la Semana No. 13

## ¿ES EL ABORTO LEGAL?



- Un período menstrual normal debería durar entre 3-6 semanas. Si usted tiene una menstruación más larga o irregular, puede haber tenido un aborto.
- Usted puede experimentar náuseas o vómitos durante la primera mitad de su embarazo. Si estos síntomas persisten más de lo normal, puede ser un indicio de aborto.
- Usted puede experimentar sangrado vaginal entre 4-8 semanas después del aborto; este período empieza dentro de 4-8 semanas y dura normalmente hasta el mesnstrual siguiente.
- Usted puede experimentar dolor abdominal, náuseas y vómitos entre 3-6 semanas después del período menstrual normal.
- Puede que algunas mujeres experimenten sangrado vaginal entre 4-8 semanas después del período menstrual normal.

## Después de un Aborto



- En la próxima cita médica, el/la paciente con un aborto antes de la semana No. 13, el/la proveedora médica como con un procedimiento que se realiza en el gabinete o en la clínica.
- Usted probablemente experimentará sangrado vaginal entre 24-36 horas.
- Dillatado o ensanchado; esta dilatación es el resultado de la contracción muscular del útero (mátrix) para posibilitar la expulsión del feto.
- Usted probablemente experimentará sangrado vaginal entre 24-36 horas.
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## ANTES DE LA SEMANA NO. 13 DE ABORTOS

## COMPARACIÓN DE LOS DOS TIPOS DE ABORTOS

**EI Aborto con Pastillas Abortivas/**

**Mifepristona Y Misoprotol**  
**Aborto con Medicamentos**

**2.**

**6. ¿Puede fallar el aborto?**

Funciona un 99% de las veces. Si falla, el procedimiento de aspirado debe repetirse.

**9. ¿Cuáles son las ventajas?**

- El procedimiento se hace de forma rápida y toma solo algunos minutos.
- El procedimiento se hace de forma rápida y toma casi nada, aplicar anestesia o introducir ningún instrumento en su cuerpo.
- Usted experimentará menos sangrado que con un aborto con medicamentos.
- El personal médico está con usted durante el aborto.
- Puede ser hecho en su casa en lugar de un hospital.
- Usted puede estar a solas.
- Puede durar entre 1-2 días completar el aborto.
- Un médico(a) debe insertar instrumentos dentro del utero.
- Los efectos secundarios.
- La mujer tiene menos control sobre el procedimiento sobre quién está con ella.
- No puede hacerse tempranamente en el embarazo, como con un aborto con medicamentos.
- No puede dar término a un embarazo ectópico.
- No puede dar término a un embarazo con aspirador.
- Los colicos menstruales pueden ser severos y durar más que con un aborto con aspirador.
- El sangrado puede ser bastante fuerte y durar más que con un aborto con aspirador.
- No es lo mismo para todas las mujeres.
- Los medicamentos para el dolor pueden causar efectos secundarios.
- Una mujer tiene menos control sobre el procedimiento sobre quién está con ella.
- No puede determinar si un embarazo ectópico.

**10. ¿Cuáles son las desventajas?**

- Usted debe insertar instrumentos dentro del utero.
- Los efectos secundarios.
- Una mujer del utero.
- La mujer tiene menos control sobre el procedimiento sobre quién está con ella.
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- No es lo mismo para todas las mujeres.
- Los medicamentos para el dolor pueden causar efectos secundarios.
- Una mujer tiene menos control sobre el procedimiento sobre quién está con ella.
- No puede determinar si un embarazo ectópico.

**8. ¿Es seguro?**

Sí. Ninguno de los tipos de aborto disminuye sus posibilidades de resultar embarazada o de permanecer embarazada en el futuro.

**7. ¿Puede todavía tener niñas(os) después?**

Las pastillas funcionan un 98-99% de las veces. Si las pastillas fallan, es necesario hacer un aborto con aspirador.

**6. ¿Puede fallar el aborto?**

Funciona un 99% de las veces. Si falla, el procedimiento de aspirado debe repetirse.

**2. ¿Qué sucede?**

Hasta 13 semanas desde el primer día del último periodo menstrual de la mujer.

**1. ¿Qué tan avanzado puede estar el embarazo?**

EI aborto se hace en el consultorio del/a médico(a) o proveedor(a) de salud.

El procedimiento de aborto en sí toma entre 5 y 10 minutos.

EI/a médico(a) coloca los instrumentos en la vagina y el útero para remover el embarazo.

EI/a proveedor(a) de salud o médico(a) sugiere una cita de seguimiento.

Uso de pastillas de tomar misoprotol. La mujer después de tomar misoprotol. Y algunas pastillas para reducir el dolor ayudan.

Las mujeres experimentan colicos menstruales intermitentes (que vienen y van), a veces ligeros y otras veces fuertes, durante el aborto. En este caso, las pastillas para reducir el dolor ayudan.

**3. ¿Qué tan doloroso es?**

Las mujeres experimentan colicos menstruales intermitentes (que vienen y van), a veces ligeros y otras veces fuertes, durante el aborto. En este caso, las pastillas para reducir el dolor ayudan.

La mayoría de las mujeres experimentan sangrado leve entre 1-7 días. El sangrado puede continuar intermitentemente durante algunas semanas.

**5. ¿Cuánto cuesta un aborto?**

El sangrado fuerte con coágulos es común durante un aborto. Despues de esto, el sangrado más leve puede continuar intermitentemente durante 1-2 semanas o más.

Para los tipos de abortos, el costo exacto depende de a dónde usted va. **Si usted necesita un aborto**, lo mejor es llamar a las clínicas o los lugares a los que pude ir y averiguar el costo, las opciones de pago que existen, y cuánto tiempo tiene su embarazo. Entre más avanzado se encuentra el embarazo, más costoso es el aborto, así que lo mejor es averiguar sus opciones lo antes posible.

CUÁLES SON LAS RAZONES POR LAS QUE LAS MUJERES

que convierte al aborto en uno de los procedimientos más comunes practicados en los EE.UU.

lenguajes de las razones por las cuales las mujeres optan por un

- El embarazo es resultado de una violación o incesto;
  - Condiciones físicas o mentales que ponen en peligro la salud de la mujer si el embarazo continúa;
  - La mujer, ya sea sola o con su pareja ya tiene todos los(as) hijo(s)(a) que deseaba;
  - La mujer no está lista para tener un niño(a) o para tener otro(a) niño(a);
  - Tener un bebé retrasaría la culminación de los estudios o compromisos laborales la situación financiera o el establecimiento familiar;
  - La mujer no se siente sola o con su pareja ya tiene todos los(as) hijo(s)(a) que deseaba;
  - Ya sea finanecerá o mantendrá su propia casa;
  - Para prevenir el nacimiento de un(a) niño(a);
  - Niño(a) con defectos o problemas médicos severos. Estos defectos de nacimiento son una medida descomodada hasta el primer o segundo trimestre;

# DOPCIONES PARA OBTENER UN ABORTO

En conclusión, el aborto es un tema complejo que requiere una comprensión integral y respetuosa de las opiniones y experiencias individuales. Es importante promover la información precisa y la reflexión crítica para que las personas puedan tomar decisiones informadas y responsables acerca de su salud y bienestar.

Medicamentos

Este procedimiento puede hacerse hasta la semana No. 13 de embarazo. Durante este procedimiento, el médico coloca un instrumento llamado espéculo dentro de la vagina que tiene una marca en EE.UU., y trabaja evitando que una hormona llamada progesterona llegue al embrazo, lo que causa que el embarazo se detenga. El seguimiento médico continuo es llamado *misoprotól* (*misoprotón* por el nombre de la marca en EE.UU.), y trabaja evitando que se libere la contracción del útero que hace que el útero se contraiga con lo que el embarazo sea a través de la vagina, tal y como si fuera una penetración vaginal. La tabla a continuación describe las etapas del aborto espontáneo o un período menstrual muy fuerte. La tabla a continuación describe los días claves de abortos comparados entre sí.

Un aborto es un procedimiento que pone fin a un embarazo antes de que sea viable. En los EE.UU. un aborto se practicado bajo el cuidado de un(a) proveedor(a) de salud, ya sea a través de tomar un régimen de medicamentos o por medio de un procedimiento.

de alta calidad sobre el aborto, y señala la información incorrecta y engañosa que pretende asustar y avergonzar a las mujeres que consideran obtener un aborto o conocer más al respecto. El Instituto Nacional de las Latinas para la Salud Reproductiva (National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, NLRH por sus siglas en inglés) creó firmemente en rotundamente en favor de Latinas a travéS de la información y la educación acerca de todas las opciones de la salud reproductiva, por lo que esta guía proporciona información acerca de por qué las mujeres optan por un aborto, los diferentes tipos de abortos que las mujeres pueden obtener, una breve historia del aborto en los EE.UU., y los recursos para encotrar apoyo e información acerca de donde y cómo obtener servicios de aborto en los EE.UU.

El Aborto: Un Folleto de Información Básica para Las Latinas



## EL ABORTO: UN FOLLETO DE INFORMACIÓN BÁSICA PARA LAS LATINAS

NATIONAL LATINA INSTITUTE  
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