

36 Years after Legalized Abortion

January 22, 2009, marks the 36th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. In 1973, the *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* court decisions legalized abortion on demand in America. Since then, women have been able to legally terminate their pregnancies through all nine months of their pregnancies for any reason. However, on April 18, 2007, the U.S. Supreme Court finally upheld the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban. This was a monumental step for the Pro-Life movement.

LifeLink January 2009

Chuck Colson of *BreakPoint* commented, "It took thirty-four years to get from *Roe v. Wade* to the first significant restriction of so-called 'abortion rights.' It's a reminder that when it comes to eradicating social ills, we must never give up." He went on to compare this victory with British Parliamentarian William Wilberforce's victory in slowing the British slave

trade. His victory came when he was able to pass legislation in 1788 that restricted the number of slaves that a ship was allowed to carry based on the ship's tonnage.

This victory, although small, proved that the slave trade was vulnerable, just as our victory against partial-birth abortion proves that the abortion industry is vulnerable. Mr. Wilberforce, after almost 20 years of fighting, was eventually successful in abolishing the slave trade. Twenty-five years after that, slavery was abolished all together. We too—with patience, hard work, and diligence—eventually will be successful in abolishing the practice of abortion.

According to the most recent abortion records at The Alan Guttmacher Institute (the research branch of Planned Parenthood), 1.206 million abortions were reported in 2005. This was a decrease from 1.222 million in 2004. Unfortunately, the government does not require that abortions be



reported; therefore, we do not have an accurate view of how many abortions are truly being committed. The national abortion numbers are dropping slightly, but so many lives still need protection.

The abortion numbers in Texas have decreased by about 2% from 79,041 in 2006 to 77,811. The reduction in abortions shows how hard our Pro-Life citizens have been working to educate pregnant girls, women, and their families. We pray that the 81st Legislative session will be successful in helping to pass legislation that will continue to spread the Culture of Life across Texas.

Currently, Texas is the 4th most Pro-Life state in the country, according to the 2008 Americans United for Life *National Pro-Life State Analysis*. These rankings are based on our Pro-Life legislature, public assistance to pregnant women, as well as the Pro-Life legislation that we have worked hard to pass.

Induced Abortions as a Percentage of Reported Pregnancies Texas Residents 1990-2007

Year	Abortions	Annual Reduction Since 1990	% Reduction Since 1990	Total Lives Saved Since 1990
1990	90,051			
1991	87,679	2,372	2.63	2,372
1992	87,230	2,821	3.13	5,193
1993	86,360	3,691	4.10	8,884
1994	83,823	6,228	6.92	15,112
1995	83,419	6,632	7.36	21,744
1996	87,677	2,374	2.64	24,118
1997	81,526	8,525	9.47	32,643
1998	78,887	11,164	12.40	43,807
1999	77,291	12,760	14.17	56,567
2000	73,155	16,896	18.76	73,463
2001	74,101	15,950	17.71	89,413
2002	76,278	13,773	15.29	103,186
2003	76,019	14,032	15.58	117,218
2004	72,441	17,610	19.56	134,828
2005	74,399	15,652	17.38	150,480
2006	79,041	11,010	12.22	161,490
2007	77,811	12,240	13.60	173,730

This information has been provided by the Texas Right to Life Educational Fund. For more information, contact us at the following address:



6776 Southwest Freeway • Suite 430
Houston, TX 77074
Tel: 713.782.LIFE • Fax: 713.952.2041
TexasRightToLife.com