

Ms. Tasha Bowlin

ENG 100 Writing 1

22 Feb. 2013

### Is Abortion Okay?

Is abortion morally right? Should women have the right to get an abortion just because they don't want the child? Why not give the the baby up for adoption? These are all questions with very different answers. Though there are different opinions, I personally believe that in some situations, the baby should be aborted. Why? It's a fact that children born to teenage mothers are at a higher risk for abuse and the mom is more likely to take drugs while pregnant("Teen Pregnancy & Health Risks to the Baby"). This could cause many birth defects. Some reasons why a person getting an abortion is actually a good idea could be that they don't want to expose the baby to a dangerous environment, they don't want their kids to turn out like them and beat their kids, if they put the kid up for adoption, it could have negative effects on the kids, and if you know you don't have enough money to provide for it, you shouldn't give birth and get public assistance just because of it.

Some people argue that abortion is murder. While it is a living, growing child that is being removed from a woman's uterus, sometimes it is actually better than to let it be born into the world. Why, you ask? Some people just don't need to have children. Many children are abused and neglected everyday. They get beaten within inches of their lives or told that they are nothing and the world would be better off without them. Sometimes they even witness their parents using drugs or drinking heavily. They never forget anything like this. Is letting a kid get

beaten and told they are worth nothing really better than an abortion? Is a kid going to school everyday with bruises all over his body and wondering why his parents don't love him like the other kids parents do better than an abortion? Some parents also hurt their kids during pregnancy. They sometimes drink or do drugs while they are pregnant. This can cause many birth defects that will affect them for the rest of their lives and possibly be born addicted to the substance the mother used. When they are born, they would have to go through withdrawal. A large portion of these are teen moms. Teen moms are more likely to abuse substances that are dangerous to the baby ("Teen Pregnancy & Health Risks to the Baby"). Not only that, but they are also more likely to abuse or neglect a child ("Teen Pregnancy & Health Risks to the Baby"). Though this is a large reason why abortion is sometimes necessary, it's not the only one.

Although a person who was beaten as a child or born to a teenage mom could grow up and be successful, they could also grow up to be like their parents. Whether they become teenage moms themselves or they beat their kids, their parents have had a large influence on it. It's a fact that, "Girls born to teenage mothers are 22% more likely to become teenage mothers themselves,"("Teen Pregnancy & Health Risks to the Baby"). Not only this but studies also show that, "About 30% of abused and neglected children will later abuse their own children, continuing the horrible cycle of abuse,"("National Child Abuse Statistics"). The cycle of abuse will never end, but it could and should be reduced. Studies done in prisons in the U.S.A. have shown that 14% of men in prison were beaten as children and 33% of women in prison were beaten as children("National Child Abuse Statistics"). I believe that a mother will know if they will be putting the kid in a good environment or not and that if they are certain that they aren't mature enough to care for and love that child, by all means they should have an abortion. If they

know they can't wait 9 months before they drink or do any other harmful drugs, they shouldn't make that kid be born with severe birth defects. Although I personally believe that if a parent knows they won't be putting a kid in the right environment to grow up in that they should have an abortion, some people may think that they should just give it up for adoption. What many people don't know is the statistics of kids put up for adoption.

Adoption is a wonderful process that allows couples to get children from overseas or from their own country without having to become pregnant (or if they are unable to have children). Though it is very helpful to both parents who don't want a kid or to parents who want to adopt, there are many downsides. First off, a small percentage of the kids put in an orphanage are actually adopted. Statistics confirm that, "Approximately 250,000 children are adopted annually but... Each year 14,505,00 children grow up as orphans and age out of the system by age sixteen,"("Facts & Statistics"). That many kids are left with no home each year because either their parents passed away and there was no family to take them in, or a mom thought that if she gave her kid up to be adopted that it would be better for them. Instead of being aborted, the kid has to think everyday about their real mom out in the world that didn't love them enough to keep them. The statistics about the kids that get out at sixteen aren't very good either. "Studies have shown that 10% – 15% of these children commit suicide before they reach age eighteen,"("Facts & Statistics"). Even if they don't commit suicide, a good chunk of them still won't have a very bright future. "These studies also show that 60% of the girls become prostitutes and 70% of the boys become hardened criminals,"("Facts & Statistics"). Imagine you are a single woman who got pregnant. Your boyfriend might have broken up with you because you didn't want to give the kid up, or maybe it was a one night stand. Imagine seeing a girl

standing on the side of the road getting money by selling her body to strangers who could be potentially dangerous to her. Now, imagine that being your baby girl. Imagine how she feels about being left alone as a child, in a lonely world with no one to love her. You would be the cause. How would that make you feel? Knowing that you caused a girl to be broken enough to where she has no respect for herself. It could have all been prevented. Does abortion seem quite as wrong now?

Everyone knows that America has hit quite a rough patch in the last few years. Jobs are scarce and people are having to resort to food stamps, welfare or WIC. A large portion of these are teen moms. Should taxpayers' money be used to provide for these kids as much as it is? Should money that could build a school or go towards someone's paycheck be used to buy food for a teen mom who wasn't responsible enough to wait to have sex? The website [urban.org](http://urban.org) claims that around 80% of teen moms get some sort of public assistance ("TANF and the Status of Teen Mothers under Age 18"). Why should hardworking Americans pay for them to do nothing when they should be responsible enough to either provide for the kid, or get an abortion so good money isn't wasted on something that was easily preventable? Granted, some people need assistance to survive until they can get back on their feet, but food stamps or WIC shouldn't be given out as frequently as it is. Abortions shouldn't be mandatory, but someone should know when they make a mistake and should be responsible enough to not spend hard workers' tax money.

Do you still believe that abortion is murder? If you do, do you at least try to understand another person's perspective? Can you understand why some people should have an abortion? Some people are a danger to their kids' physical and mental health. They can cause damage that

can't be reversed. They could also become like their parents and beat their children or become teenage moms. Even if you just give up the child to be adopted, it could also cause damage to their mental health and drive them to commit suicide or become a criminal. Keeping the kid knowing you can't afford it is reducing the amount of tax money America has to spend on paying the salaries of teachers or police officers. Can you now understand why a person might have an abortion?

## Works Cited

"Facts & Statistics." *Orphan Hope International: Facts & Statistics*. Orphan Hope International, 2004. Web. 15 Feb. 2013.

"National Child Abuse Statistics." *ChildHelp: Child Abuse in America*. ChildHelp, 2010. Web. 15 Feb. 2013.

"TANF and the Status of Teen Mothers under Age 18." *Urban Institute: TANF and the Status of Teen Mothers under Age 18*. Gregory Acs, Heather L. Koball, 2003. Web. 15 Feb. 2013.

"Teen Pregnancy." *Remedy's Health Communities: Teen Pregnancy & Health Risks to the Baby*. Remedy Health Media, 2012. Web. 15 Feb. 2013.

