

Note: The following comes from the AFA of Indiana weekly email for July 17, 2013, written by Exec. Director, Micah Clark

Fewer Hoosier Women are Choosing Abortion

There has been a lot of attention paid to the abortion issue with the ridiculously overheated battle to make Texas abortion clinics meet health code standards. Texas has also placed some reasonable limits on late term abortions (after a woman has been pregnant for five months). These are items that the Indiana legislature has had in place for several years and accomplished with far less fanfare and drama.

Indiana's recent abortion numbers are a more significant news item than the lewd signs and bizarre antics of abortion advocates in Texas. Since a peak in 1980 of 16,505, abortions in Indiana have decreased by 46% and dropped below 9,000 a year for the first time since 1976. Even though it may be counterintuitive when one considers the consistently lousy economy of the last several years and the financial reasons some may have for abortion, Indiana pregnancy terminations have also declined in these tough times by 19% between 2007 and 2012.

One point that caught my attention is the important role that marriage plays in the abortion issue. It is clear that married women, when presented with an unplanned or unintended pregnancy, are far less likely to choose abortion. Marriage not only benefits children by providing a mother and a father, which children desperately need, it protects the unborn. Eighty-five percent (84.8%) of all abortions in Indiana are performed on unmarried women. Few married Hoosiers will ever choose abortion.

In spite of the declining numbers, there are still some troubling increases found in the pregnancy termination reports of the **Indiana State Department of Health**. Abortion has increased by 10% recently in Monroe County. It has also risen by 4% in Lafayette. Chemical abortions have risen by almost 8% and now account for 20% of all abortion procedures statewide.

Every abortion represents the life of a child. For this reason one cannot applaud over **8,800** abortions a year in Indiana. Still, a decline is good news and an indication that alternatives to abortion, education, and the efforts of pro-life groups like AFA-IN, **Indiana Right to Life**, and the many crisis pregnancy centers around the state are helping.