

EMOTIONAL CONSEQUENCES OF ABORTION

ABORTION & MENTAL HEALTH

Within UK Law, ground C permits abortion on the grounds *“that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated, of injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman”*

The Department of Health Statistics show that:

- In 2015 **97%** of resident abortions were undertaken under ground C
- And **“99.8% of ground C only terminations were reported as being performed because of a risk to the woman’s mental health.”**
- Only 60 abortions were performed for reasons relating to physical health

At Life we challenge the assumption that abortion empowers and improves the wellbeing of women.

This is because our care services have counselled and supported women after abortions for almost 50 years. We have experienced many women who have **painful and lasting emotional effects** from having had abortions. All the studies opposite also show evidence that **abortion is seriously detrimental to a women’s mental health** – far more so than continuing with an unplanned pregnancy.

We welcome more research in this area for the wellbeing of women and the improvement of care in our society for women.

FINDINGS FROM RESEARCH

Professor David Fergusson

- Atheist, pro-choice medical researcher
- Completed a study that spanned 25 years

He set out to prove, once and for all, that abortion didn’t increase a woman’s risk of mental health problems. Instead he found:

- Abortion was an independent **“risk factor for the onset of mental illness”**
- There was **no** increased mental health risk for carrying an **“unwanted” pregnancy to term.**

The study found abortion was linked to higher rates of **depression, anxiety, drug and alcohol abuse, and suicidal behaviours.**

At age 25 **42% of the women experienced major depression** during the previous four years, **twice** that of other women.

Vincent Rue – Psychotherapist

- One of the first to propose a link between abortion and mental health problems

In one study *“Induced Abortion and Traumatic Stress”* published in Medical Science Monitor in 2004 the researchers found:

- **65%** of U.S. women experienced multiple symptoms of **PTSD**, which they attributed to their abortions.
- **25%** said they didn’t receive adequate counseling
- **64%** said they **felt pressured** by others to abort
- **60%** reported that they felt **“part of me died”** after their abortions.

British Researcher JR Ashton

Study published in British Journal of Ob & Gyn. on patients only 8 weeks following their abortions showed:

- **44%** reported nervous disorders, after their abortions
- **36%** experienced sleep disturbances
- **31%** had **regrets** about their decision
- **11%** had been prescribed psychotropic medicine by their doctor.

