

Session 2 Student Handout 4

FACT SHEET

FETAL DEVELOPMENT

- **3-4 weeks** - eyes, spinal cord, brain, lungs, stomach, liver, kidneys, intestines forming
- **HEART IS BEATING BETWEEN THE 18th - 25th DAY** - About three weeks after conception.
- **4 weeks** - Head is taking definite shape, arms and legs forming
- **5 weeks** - 1/3 inch long. Eyes have retina and lens, arms and legs have fingers and toes.
- **6 1/2 weeks** - Embryo floating in amniotic sac; teeth forming, major muscle system developed.
- **8 weeks** - Eyes open; fingers and toes complete; makes great swimming strokes, brain is complete; can get an E.E.G. reading if necessary. **BABY IS CAPABLE OF FEELING PAIN - UNIQUE TOE AND FINGER PRINTS ARE PRESENT**
- **12 weeks** - 3 1/2 inches tall. Swallows regularly, vocal chords complete (cries silently). fingernails appear, may start sucking his or her thumb
- **16 weeks** - 5 1/2 inches tall, weighs 6 oz. Eyebrows and lashes appear, grasps with hands, swims, kicks, does somersaults.
- **20 - weeks or earlier** - Has a chance of survival as premature infant depending on scientific advancements



METHODS OF LEGAL ABORTION SINCE THE 1/22/1973 U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION

- **Vacuum Suction** - cervix is stretched - baby is sucked out and D&C - baby is scraped out - 6 to 12 weeks
- **Saline Injection** - salt poisoning and D & E or Dilatation & Evacuation - the live dismemberment of the baby and piecemeal removal from below, the spine is snapped and the skull crushed - 15 to 20 weeks
- **Hysterotomy** - like a caesarian section - a live baby is either killed or allowed to die - over 15 weeks
- **Chemical** - This is probably the most common abortion including most types of birth control. Woman takes a chemical to cause an abortion such as: prostaglandin, RU486, and Methotrexate - anytime during pregnancy
- **Partial Birth (D & X)** - The unborn baby, in the second or third trimester, is turned by the doctor in the womb so that the feet come out first except for the last three inches. It would be considered infanticide if three inches of the head weren't left inside the

mother. A hole is punched at the base of the skull, the brains are sucked out and then a dead baby is pulled out the rest of the way. - 3rd trimester

COMPLICATIONS

DEPRESSION AND GUILT COMMON WITH ALL FORMS OF ABORTION ALSO AN INCREASE IN BREAST CANCER WHEN ABORTING FIRST PREGNANCY

- **Vacuum Suction, D & C, and D & E**
 - a. Hemorrhage, infection - leading to sterility, rupture of the uterus & possible hysterectomy
 - b. Tubular pregnancies (200% increase following abortions) and high risk of miscarriage
- **Saline Injection** - Maternal death rate highest with this form of abortion.
 - a. If salt gets into bloodstream, can cause severe brain damage and possibly shock
- **Hysterotomy**
 - a. Same dangers as major surgery and subsequent deliveries usually done the same way
- **Partial Birth Abortion**
 - a. Same dangers as a breech birth - torn & ruptured uterus, bleeding, sterility & cervical incompetence
- **Chemical Abortions** - non-surgical
 - a. Requires repeated visits to doctor and woman and can have harmful reaction to chemicals.