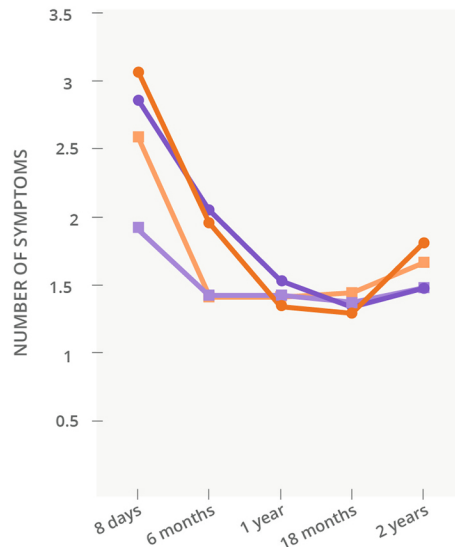


LARGE NATIONWIDE STUDY FINDS NO EVIDENCE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AFTER ABORTION

95%

OF WOMEN WHO HAD ABORTIONS FELT IT WAS THE RIGHT DECISION, BOTH IMMEDIATELY AND OVER 3 YEARS

Among women who had abortions, relief outweighed any negative emotions, even after 3 years. Women having later abortions reported similar emotions as women having procedures in the first-trimester. Overall, women thought about the abortion less frequently over time.



SYMPTOMS OF DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY DECREASED OVER TIME FOR BOTH WOMEN HAVING ABORTIONS AND THOSE DENIED ABORTIONS

- Abortion group—depression symptoms
- Abortion group—anxiety symptoms
- Denied abortion—depression symptoms
- Denied abortion—anxiety symptoms

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Courts, including the Supreme Court, have based their decisions to restrict abortion rights on assumptions that women suffer poor mental health as a consequence of abortion and that women having later abortions are more likely to regret their decision than women having earlier abortions. The notion that many women regret their abortions is also used to justify passing of state laws mandating waiting periods and state-scripted counseling before abortion.

THE TURNAWAY STUDY IS FOLLOWING **NEARLY 1,000 WOMEN WHO SOUGHT ABORTIONS FROM 30 ABORTION FACILITIES IN 21 STATES.**

Women are interviewed every six months for five years. It is the first US study to follow women obtaining abortions and women denied abortions over time and to include a large group of women having later abortions.

Foster DG, Steinberg JR, Roberts SCM, Neuhaus J, Biggs MA. 2015. A comparison of depression and anxiety symptom trajectories between women who had an abortion and women denied one. *Psychological Medicine*. 45(10): 2073–2082.

Rocca CH, Kimport K, Roberts SCM, Gould H, Neuhaus J, Foster DG. 2015. *Decision Rightness and Emotional Responses to Abortion in the United States: a Longitudinal Study*. PLOS ONE. ePub ahead of print.

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