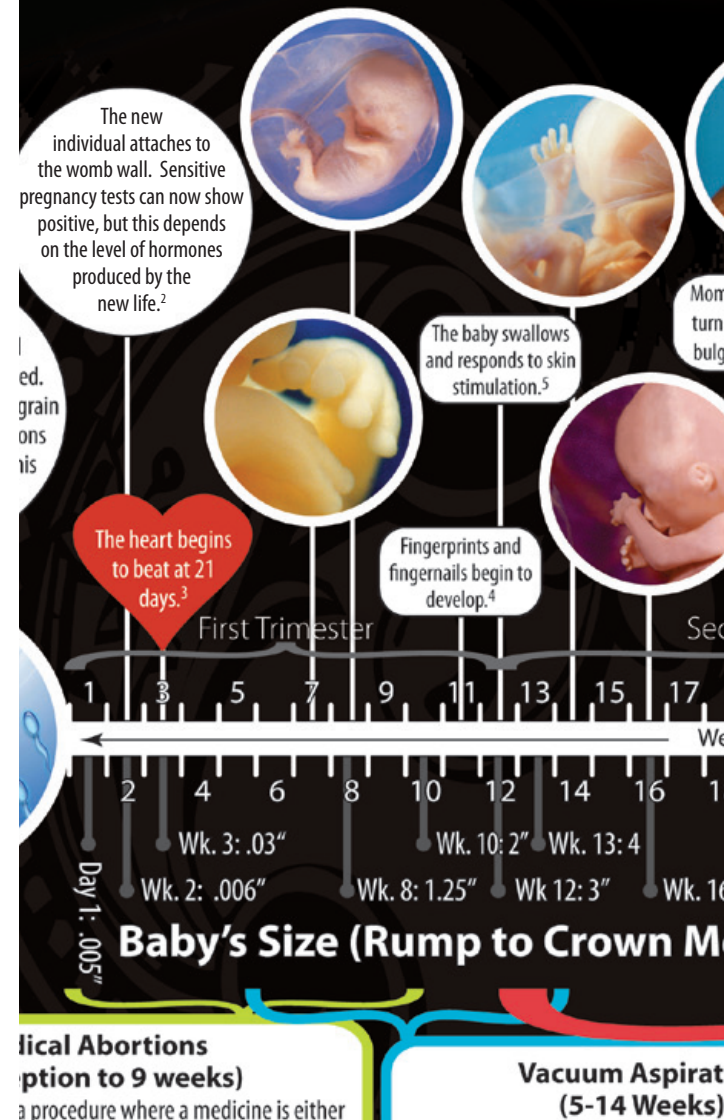


The Abortion Timeline



References:

Carnegie Developmental Stages, developed by Streeter and O'Rahilly, are used universally to categorize the growth of the embryo into 23 stages during the first 8 weeks of life. Carnegie Stages are based on morphology - the form and structures within of the embryo. From embryo to embryo, the days required to get to each stage can vary slightly. Also, O'Rahilly has suggested some changes in the days relating to each stage due to in vivo ultrasound studies.⁴³ Selected differences as reported by O'Rahilly are detailed below.

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1. Moore, K. and Persaud, T., p. 37-45.
2. Moore, K. and Persaud, T., p. 42-48, 76.
3. Estimates vary for when the heart begins to beat: 21-22 days, Moore, K. and Persaud, T., p. 77; at least by 23 days from transvaginal ultrasound results, O'Rahilly, R. and Muller, F., p. 183; 21-22 days, Carlson, B., p. 117; 18 days, Tanner, J. and Taylor, G. and the editors of Time-Life Books, Growth, New York: Life Science Library, 1965, p. 64 (a 45 year old source).
4. Moore, K. and Persaud, T., p. 514, 519, 29. Tsiaras, A. and Werth, B., p. 206, 30. Carlson, B., p. 482, XIV.
5. Valman, H. and Pearson, J., "What the foetus feels," British Medical Journal, January 26, 1980.
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7. O'Rahilly, R. and Muller, F., p. 413.
8. Tsiaras, A. and Werth, B., p. 235.
9. Carlson, B., p. 305.
10. Carlson, B., p. XV.
11. O'Rahilly, R. and Muller, F., p. 88-92. Birth occurs at about 38 weeks post-fertilization or 40 weeks LMP. The average from ovulation to parturition is about 264-270 days and the range about 250-285.
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For more information:

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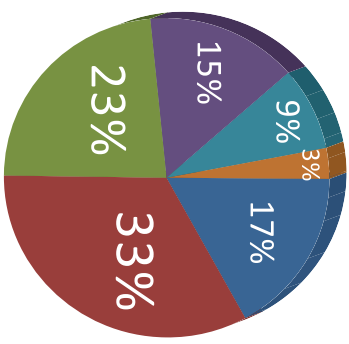
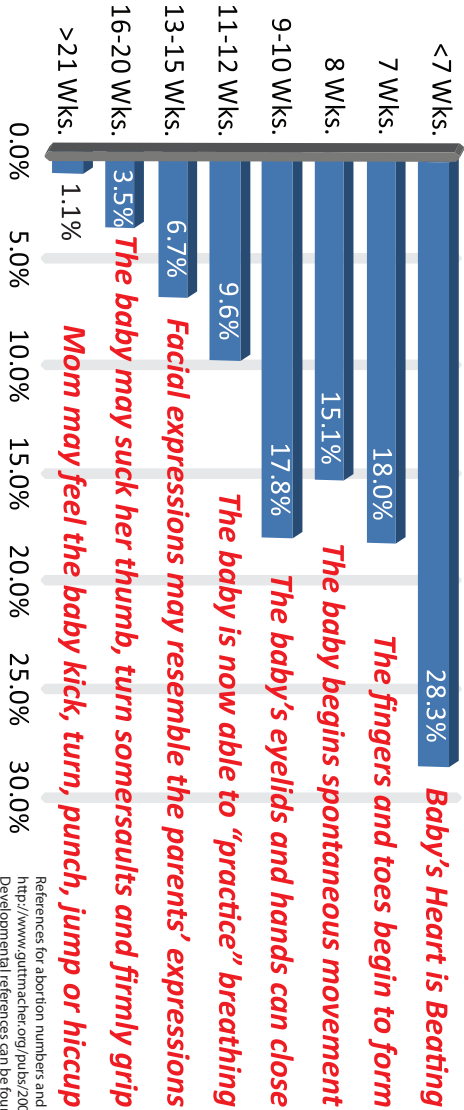
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Abortions by Weeks After Conception

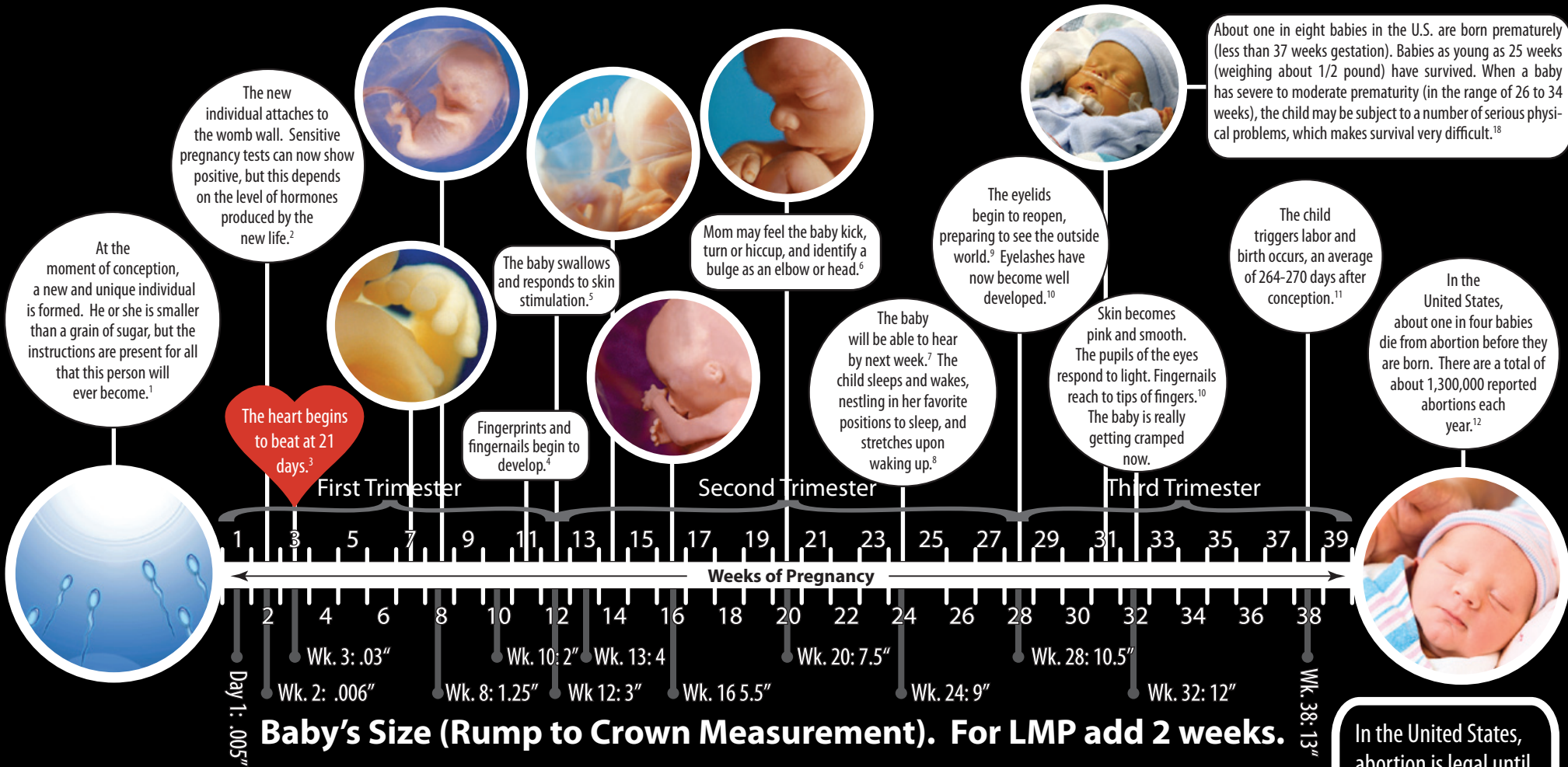


% of Abortions by Age of Mother

~1,250,000 U.S. Abortions / Year

■ <20 ■ 20-24 ■ 25-29
■ 30-34 ■ 35-39 ■ >40

References for abortion numbers and demographics are from the Guttmacher Institute, http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/2008/09/18/Report_Trends_Women_Obtaining_Abortions.pdf. Developmental references can be found on the piece "Milestones of Early Life" by Heritage House.



Medical Abortions (Conception to 9 weeks)

A medical abortion is a procedure where a drug is either given orally or injected to kill the baby. The most common drug given is Mifepristone, which is administered in 90 percent of medical abortions.¹² Medical abortions are used up to 63 days after conception¹³ when the baby is well formed and recognizable as a little human being. Mifepristone (also known as RU-486) destroys the connection between the baby and the mother (the placenta) through breaking down the lining of the uterus.¹⁴ An additional drug, misoprostol, is given to induce labor so that the dead baby can be delivered. As would be expected, the drug causes severe bleeding and at times a suction aspiration procedure may be needed to complete the abortion.

Vacuum Aspiration (5-14 weeks)

Vacuum aspiration abortions are performed by inserting a cannula (a plastic tube) through the cervix into the womb. A pump attached to the other end of the tube is used to pull the baby through the tube. Often the baby is too large to fit through the tube. The suction will then pull the baby into pieces. These have to be identified afterward to ensure the entire baby has been removed. Sometimes the tube will not be able to dismember the baby and then he or she will have to be pulled out using forceps. When forceps are used, the baby may have died in the womb or may be left to die in the suction bottle.¹⁵

Dilation and Evacuation (D&E) (12-Weeks to Birth)

Dilation and evacuation is a procedure for larger babies (second and third trimester) who would not fit through vacuum tubes. In this procedure, the cervix is dilated and then forceps are inserted into the womb and the baby is pulled into pieces to be removed.^{16,17} For babies that are larger, the baby is first killed, either by poisoning with an injection of digoxin or potassium chloride, or by cutting their umbilical cord and allowing them to bleed to death.¹⁹ By killing the baby first, the tissue of the baby is softened and becomes easier to pull apart during the evacuation.³

In the United States, abortion is legal until the day of birth. Over 13,000 babies in the U.S. are killed each year after 21 weeks of gestation (from the late second trimester to the end of the third trimester).¹² Of these 13,000 babies, many would have been able to survive outside their mother's womb.¹⁸