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*Complications of Late Term Abortions continued...*

Teens are more likely to conceal their pregnancies, either out of shame or in an effort to avoid being pressured into an unwanted abortion. After all, many teens know well in advance that their parents or boyfriends will support only one choice: abortion. But teens who conceal their pregnancies are never truly safe from the pressure to abort. Since abortion is legal during all nine months of pregnancy, it's never too late for parents or others to begin pressuring a girl into an abortion once her pregnancy is discovered or revealed.



## Conclusion

parents, truly believe they are helping to protect their daughter's future. They are not aware that they are subjecting her to physical and psychological trauma that will forever scar her for life.

For more information on the detrimental effects of adolescent abortion, go to: [www.afterabortion.org](http://www.afterabortion.org). If you, or someone you know, is suffering from an abortion experience call 1-800-385-3850 or 1-800-665-0570 for a referral or to receive confidential, compassionate help to healing and recovery.

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# THE Detrimental Effects of Adolescent Abortion

In both Canada and the United States, about 20 percent of all abortions today are performed on teens.<sup>18</sup>

Teenage abortion has been linked to a number of physical and psychological problems, including drug and alcohol abuse,<sup>9</sup> suicide attempts and suicidal ideation,<sup>4</sup> and other self-destructive behaviours.

## The Psychological Risks

Compared to women who have abortions in adulthood, teens who abort:

- Are two to four times more likely to commit suicide.<sup>5</sup>
- Are more likely to develop psychological problems.<sup>6</sup>
- Are more likely to have troubled relationships.<sup>7</sup>
- Are generally in need of more counseling and guidance regarding abortion.<sup>8</sup>
- Are nearly three times more likely to be admitted to mental health hospitals than women in general.<sup>9</sup>

Studies have shown that the major factors in pregnancy decision-making among teens are the attitude of the teen's parent, the baby's father, and her peers; the severe nightmares following abortion and to score higher on scales measuring anti-social traits, paranoia, drug abuse and toward abortion by which she is surrounded.<sup>10</sup>

Compared to older women, teens are more likely to abort because of pressure from their parents or sexual partners,<sup>11</sup> putting them at higher risk for adverse effects after abortion.

**"Teens who have abortions were more likely to report severe nightmares following abortion and to score higher on scales measuring anti-social traits, paranoia, drug abuse and psychotic delusions."**


 o l d e r w o m e n ' s strategies. Researchers may be more susceptible to infections because their bodies are not yet fully developed and do not produce pathogens permanently.<sup>15</sup>

One study found that, on average, 59 % of teens who have repeat pregnancies are a symptom of how they feel trapped into late-term abortions among teens is a 12% of abortions overall.<sup>26</sup> The high rate of reported that 30% of teenage abortions The Centers for Disease Control have

grasp instruments.

Teens are also at higher risk for post-abortive infections such as pelvic ritis (inflammation of the uterus), which may be caused either by the spread of an undiagnosed sexually-transmitted disease into the uterus during abortion, or by micro-organisms on the surgical instruments which are inserted into the uterus.<sup>20</sup> Researchers believe that teens may be more susceptible to infections because their bodies are not yet fully developed and do not produce pathogens

that are found in the cervical mucus of term pregnancy at a younger age, which reduces breast cancer risk.

abortions that they cannot evade.

Women who undergo late-term abortions often delay having the abortion precisely because:a) they have mixed feelings about the decision or feel less satisfied with it;

older women and which can protect them from infection.<sup>21</sup>

## The Physical Risks

Sometimes a teen who has been especially traumatized will choose abortion as a form of self-punishment or as an unconscious attempt to resolve trauma by continually

partner to submit to an abortion as "what is best for everyone."

Because teens are more likely to abort their first pregnancy, they face other risks as well.<sup>24</sup> For instance, research has shown an early full-term birth can reduce a woman's risk of breast cancer, but that induced abortion of a first pregnancy carries a 30 to 50 percent increased risk of breast cancer.<sup>25</sup> In addition, aborting teens lose the protective effect of having a full-term pregnancy at a younger age, which reduces breast cancer risk.

(b) they have religious or moral objections to abortion; or, (c) they have a more favourable attitude toward the unborn baby than women who have abortion in the first trimester.<sup>27</sup> Greater ambivalence about abortion increases the likelihood that women will resist advise and pressure from others to abort for a longer period of time, hoping with each passing week that more support for keeping the baby will materialize.

## Complications of Late-Term Abortions

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