

## References

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Abortion is a powerful force for dehumanization. It ends the lives of nearly 1 million children in the womb in the United States every year. Abortion can also be used as a tool for discrimination. Abortion declares that the value of a group of human beings is purely subjective; it's all up to personal opinion. Once you declare one group of human beings as unpersons, it becomes easier to change that arbitrary line of who counts as a person.

What happens when *Roe v. Wade* and abortion collides with members of groups that are targeted for discrimination?

## 160+ Million Missing Women

Many hold up abortion as the foundation of women's rights, but in reality abortion is a tool of discrimination which has devastated the global female population. One estimate put the number of sex-selection abortions and infanticides globally in recent decades at **163 million**, nearly the entire female population of the United States.<sup>1</sup>

Some cultures have strong preferences that favor the births of boys, for economic or social reasons. The natural birth ratio of boys to girls in every population is around 1.05. Several countries now have alarmingly skewed statistics. India's 2011 census showed a ratio of 1.09 boys for every 1 girl aged 0-6. An estimated 12 million sex-selection abortions have taken place in India since 1980.<sup>2</sup> The problem is so dire that India makes it a crime to help parents to discover their child's sex before birth.

China's coercive two-child policy leads to female sex-selection

abortions because many parents desire at least one boy, and parents face extreme fines and penalties if they have more children than their government allows. China's census data showed a sex-ratio at birth of 1.12 boys for every 1 girl.<sup>3</sup> Despite "official" government policy against sex-selection or forced abortions, both still occur.

Sex-selection abortions happen in the United States as well. A study from Columbia University indicated American parents of Asian descent had normal sex ratios for first children, but if they had only girls previously the ratios of boys born were 1.08 for the second child, 1.30 for the third child, and 1.44 for the fourth.<sup>4</sup>

## Abortion & Disabilities

The advent of modern prenatal testing has greatly increased the likelihood of disabled children being discovered during a time in which their life can legally be taken. In many cases doctors and hospital staff heavily push abortion following an adverse diagnosis or



provide unrealistically negative portrayals of the disabled. This is a serious problem, both in America and around the globe.

**Down Syndrome** – There have been several studies over the years that showed a large majority of children diagnosed with Down syndrome in the womb are aborted. A meta-analysis from the University of South Carolina looked at 24 studies and found an average of 67% of children diagnosed with Down syndrome in the womb were aborted, with studies ranging from 61% to 93%.<sup>5</sup> Iceland and Denmark

have proudly announced they have nearly eliminated Down syndrome through abortion rates of nearly 100%.<sup>6</sup>

**Spina Bifida** – Children diagnosed prenatally with spina bifida were aborted 63% of the time.<sup>7</sup>

**Minor conditions** – Even minor conditions that are correctible with surgery are used as reasons to take a child's life. Statistics from the UK showed 71 children diagnosed with cleft lips or palates were aborted in the United Kingdom from 2012 to 2018.<sup>8</sup>

**Infanticide** – There are growing calls in academic circles for allowing the killing of disabled newborns. Groningen University in the Netherlands advocated just such a policy, and even went as far as killing a few infants.<sup>9</sup> In neighboring Belgium, a study found that half of all infants who died in one region were purposefully killed by doctors.<sup>10</sup> Both Belgium and the Netherlands allow children to be euthanized.