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## Pregnancy Resource Center of Fort Bend County

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### Abortion Facts and Figures

From the Allen Guttmacher Institute:

About 1.3 million abortions are performed in the United States each year, for a total of over 47 million since 1973.

Each year, 2 of every 100 women age 15 -44 have an abortion.

Women aged 20-24 obtain 33% of all abortions, teenagers 19%.

43% of women obtaining abortions identify themselves as Protestant, 27% as Catholic.

From Texas Dept. of Health, Bureau of vital Statistics:

In Fort Bend county in 2002, there were 89,354 women age 15-44. Among these women, there were 5,597 births and 943 abortions, about 1 per 100 age 15-44, about 1 for every 6 births.

The 2005 American Community Survey showed Sugar Land with 15,484 females age 15 -44: expected # of abortions: 155

#### Risks of abortion

Abortion is a blind procedure, done by feel and guess work, rather than by sight. Immediate physical risks include excessive bleeding, uterine damage or puncture, and infection. Long term risks include fertility problems, tubal pregnancies, and miscarriages, as well as increased risk of breast and cervical cancer. The risk of reproductive damage is greatest among women aborting their first pregnancy. One study found that among teenagers who aborted their first pregnancies, 66% subsequently experienced miscarriages or premature birth of their second, "wanted" pregnancies. (The Aftereffects of Abortion, The Elliot Institute, 1990, [www.afterabortion.org](http://www.afterabortion.org)).

Post-abortion syndrome is a psychological disorder that occurs when abortion is experienced as a traumatic event. A major study showed that at least 19% of post abortion women suffer from it, and probably more, since about 50% dropped out of the study. Symptoms may include anxiety attacks, outbursts of anger, difficulty sleeping, flashbacks about the abortion, nightmares, intense grief or depression, withdrawal from relationships, especially from those involved in the abortion decision, difficulty loving or having tender feelings. These feelings can lead to serious consequences such as increased smoking, alcohol or drug abuse, eating disorders, child abuse, divorce and relationship problems, and repeat abortions. (Ref: A List of Major Psychological Sequelae of Abortion, The Elliott Institute, 1997, [www.afterabortion.org](http://www.afterabortion.org))

#### Milestones of Human Development

Day 21 The heart begins to beat.

Day 28 Arms, legs, eyes and ears are visible.

Day 40 Brain waves can be detected and recorded.

Week 8. All organ systems are now present. The baby has a stomach, kidneys, etc.

Week 9 Fingerprints are already evident in the skin.

Week 10 The hands can make a fist. Length is about 1 ¼ to 1 ¾ inches.

Week 12: the face is well formed, signs of gender are present. Length is about 2 to 3 inches.