

MAJOR STUDY: ABORTION HARMS WOMEN'S PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH

Dr. Priscilla K. Coleman of Bowling Green State University just published a comprehensive review of 22 of the world's best large studies of abortion's impact on women's mental health. Chosen for their methodological rigor, as well as sample size, the studies' results were combined in one "meta-analysis" and involved 877,181 women, 163,831 of whom had experienced an abortion.

The study's overall finding was that women who had undergone an abortion experienced an 81% greater risk of mental health problems. The study also found that almost 10% of all women's mental health problems are directly linked to abortion. After taking into account such variables as demographics, exposure to violence, and prior history of mental problems, Dr. Coleman finds that abortion was associated with the following increased risks: anxiety disorder 34%, depression 37%, alcohol use/abuse 110%, marijuana use/abuse 220%, suicide behaviors 155%. Dr. Coleman concluded that this information should be shared with all women seeking abortions. Study citation: "Abortion and Mental Health: Quantitative Synthesis and Analysis of Research Published 1995-2009," *The British Journal of Psychiatry* 199 (2011):180-186.