

Published by:

LifeCanada
P.O. Box 24007,
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Ottawa ON K2M 2C3
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Fax: 613-270-0872
Subscriptions: \$10/year

LifeCanada is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting respect for human life through education

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1999 Abortion Statistics Just Released

Follow the money, watch for fraud, but don't follow the patient's health By Jakki Jeffs

Induced abortion is the most frequently performed, publicly funded surgery in Canada. Statistics Canada has indicated that one woman in three will have an abortion in her lifetime. One would expect that provinces would be compelled to provide comprehensive statistics in order to study the impact of abortion on fertility and sterility; to assess post abortion trauma, long-term psychological, physical and emotional complications; and to establish or debunk the link between induced abortion and risk of breast cancer. (Currently, 28 of 33 studies show a significant, increased risk.)

However, the demographic statistics

provided over the last few years have continued to shrink, until finally, out of a total of 65,662 records in the database for 1999 (exclusive of Ontario statistics), there are only detailed records for 29,016 (44.2%)! The total number of induced abortions performed in Canadian hospitals was 41,483 with detailed records provided for only 24,524 (59.1%). The total number of induced abortions performed in Canadian clinics was 24,179 with detailed records available for only 4,492 (18.6%). How can we possibly assess the safety of induced abortion, understand its impact on our society, or begin to help women dealing with

(Continued on page 3)

In this issue

1999 Abortion Statistics	1
Abortion and Crime	1
From the Editor's desk Shining the Light of Truth	2
Campus Life Understanding the "Marketplace of Ideas"	5
Pro-life in the Provinces Focus on Ontario	6
Prolife Education Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario	9
Essay Transformed by Love	12

Abortion and Crime: Are they related?

A crime expert reviews the studies and offers his opinion

By Jim Maloney

Since Roe v Wade, the impact of legalized abortion has been the focus of much debate. One study, "The Impact of Legalized Abortion on Crime" by John Donohue and Steven Levitt (2001), found that abortion has

resulted in less crime. Another study, "Abortion and Crime: Unwanted Children and Out-of-Wedlock Births" by John Lott and John Whitley (2001), found the opposite to be true. The purpose of this article is to briefly review both of these studies and to offer a third opinion.

During the past decade, crime in America, especially violent crime, has been decreasing (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1973-2000). Donohue and Levitt have stated that this drop in crime was due to the legalization of abortion in

(Continued on page 8)

From the Editor's desk

Shining the Light of Truth

By Barbara McAdorey

Welcome to the second issue of *LifeCanada News!* We are pleased with the positive response generated by our first issue, and we hope this and future issues will continue to provide our readers with stories that are informative and thought-provoking.

Research is extremely important in understanding the abortion problem. What are the societal pressures that contribute to women choosing abortion? What are the trends? What are the consequences of abortion, both short and long term, to the woman herself and the society in which she lives?

In this issue, we look at some of the research and statistics and find that so much about abortion has been distorted or hidden—from false claims by doctors like Henry Morgentaler (whom one would think should better understand the scientific method), to inadequate data gathering and reporting by hospitals and clinics performing abortions. One cannot help but wonder what is going on. A severe lack of competence? A lack of concern about women? Or even a concerted effort to conceal the truth?

So it is heartening to hear about other research which found that the more the public is exposed to the facts about abortion, the less support there is for abortion. We discuss this study which was commissioned by Alliance for Life Ontario in our "Pro-Life in the Provinces" column.

"Pro-life in the Provinces" will focus on a different province in each issue, and we welcome and encourage submissions from all the provincial groups. What has your group

been up to? Are there specific issues you are dealing with—things you would like to share with other pro-life groups across the country? Maybe there is something others can learn from your efforts. What are the specific challenges your group is facing? Maybe another group has found a solution to a similar problem. By sharing stories, pro-life groups can learn from and encourage each other.

And if you have photos or graphics to go along with your story, all the better!

By sharing stories, pro-life groups can learn from and encourage each other.

We also learn from each other when we share our more personal stories, and we'd like this newsletter to be a vehicle for doing that. Do you have a personal experience you would like to share with others across Canada? Was there something specific that made you become pro-life? Maybe you have an inspirational story to tell about working with the terminally ill. Or healing after abortion. Maybe you were faced with some challenge and were victorious in finding a pro-life solution. If you have a story to tell, we'd love to share it with our readers.

We especially want to hear from our Canadian youth, for it is our young people who will be shaping the future of our country. In this issue, we introduce our readers to *National Campus Life Network*, a group that helps to promote and encourage the pro-life voice in our Canadian universities. It is our hope that we will be able to share with our readers, on a regular basis, what is happening with our youth and in our academic institutions. And to do this, we need to hear from

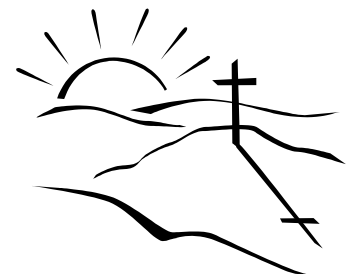
you. What obstacles to spreading the pro-life message have you faced in your school or university? What successes have you had? What can be done to fuel a young person's passion "to change the world" before it is squelched by the "pro-choice" mentality which is so prevalent on our university campuses?

We must encourage our young people even before they enter university. That is why pro-life education in the schools is so important. Laverne Hudson, our Manitoba Director, takes over from Mike Girard who reported on London Area Right to Life's program in our first issue. In this issue, Laverne tells us about a number of other programs available across the country, and she will continue to do so in future issues. We'll also tell you about Mike's experiences with a curriculum he is using with his own high-school students in Sault Ste. Marie. So stay tuned!



At times we may wonder how successful our educational efforts have been. It is easy to get discouraged, for example, when we realize that, by far, the leading cause of death in Canada is abortion (see table on page 11). But the coming of Spring and the promise of Easter remind us of the hope for renewal and new life. "In Him was life," John says, "and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." When we speak the truth, we also shine a light.

And as long as we continue to do that, the darkness will not overcome us. ♦



(Continued from page 1)

crisis pregnancy if provinces are not federally required to ensure these demographic statistics are reported by all facilities which perform induced abortion?

We have to thank Lyn Smith and Action Life (Ottawa) for being the watchdog in Canada. They have noted the continuing demise of demographic information for several years, and challenged our Minister responsible for Statistics more than



Lyn Smith

once to ensure that these numbers are not only kept, but improved. In her 1996 report entitled "Canadian Abortion Statistics and Statistics Canada Health Division," Lyn set out the background for

the collection of abortion data in Canada. I believe this paper remains a collection of invaluable information and would suggest that it be made available to every pro-life group in Canada.

Lyn noted in 1986 and 1995 that statisticians at Statistics Canada agreed that it was the mandate of Statistics Canada to compile and publish relevant information in an impartial, objective, and professional manner which would enhance debate and decision-making on important social and economic issues in Canada. In 1970, therapeutic information data was collected for the first time. Provinces informally requested hospitals and then clinics to fill out a "Report on Therapeutic Abortions" form which required quite comprehensive demographic information. (This form is not the one which is filled in by the facility to obtain the OHIP or applicable provincial coverage reimbursement.) Since 1988 when Canada's abortion law was struck down, hospitals have been less and less likely to take the time to fill out this form,

and in fact, many clinics have refused the invitation to fill out this form and have never provided demographic information. The 1999 statistics bear this out with detailed records available for only 18.6% of the total number of abortions performed in clinics (24,524), representing 37.5% of the total number of abortions performed in Canada.

Lesson Learned

My research has taught me a valu-

able lesson: the statistics which our provincial Ministry of Health departments require to be collected are necessary in the sense of preventing fraud only. For example, if a person had an appendectomy in 1999 and then a form was filled out for another appendectomy in 2001 for this same individual, the MOH records would send up a flag. It would be investigated and, hopefully, a "fraud" prevented. The Ministry follows the money, not neces-

(Continued on page 4)

Therapeutic Abortions by province and territory of report¹

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total^{2,3}	108,329	111,757	111,819	110,520	65,893
Total (in Canada) ^{3,4}	107,870	111,456	111,526	110,223	65,662
NFLD & Labrador	870	812	819	803	834
Nova Scotia	2,268	2,264	2,213	2,240	2,068
New Brunswick	1,097	1,143	1,146	1,117	1,061
Quebec	27,496	28,787	30,224	31,632	30,693
Ontario ³	46,174	47,024	44,118	42,503	x
Manitoba	3,476	3,741	3,729	3,553	3,653
Sask.	1,816	1,810	1,802	1,779	1,706
Alberta	9,113	9,446	10,594	10,742	10,507
BC	15,189	16,007	16,501	15,459	14,676
Yukon	130	169	134	145	112
NWT	241	253	246	250	256
Nunavut ⁵	x	x	x	x	96
Reported by U.S..	459	301	293	297	231

1. Hospital abortions are not reported by PEI. Clinic abortions are not reported by PEI, Saskatchewan, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

2. Includes therapeutic abortions performed on Canadian residents in selected American states.

3. For 1999, therapeutic abortions performed in Ontario have been excluded from this table due to incomplete reporting. However, abortions performed on Ontario residents in other provinces are included.

4. Includes abortions performed on non-Canadian residents.

5. Data for Nunavut includes the complete 1999 calendar year.

Source: Statistics Canada and Canadian Institute for Health Information, January 16, 2002.

(Continued from page 3)

sarily the patient's health. The form for provincial insurance coverage is a mandatory requirement but the "Report on Therapeutic Abortions" form is an invitational aside which, as Lyn Smith has pointed out, is gradually being ignored. This is where the real problem lies.

Ontario refuses to co-operate

In 1994, Alliance for Life Ontario was refused the listing outlining hospitals and clinics performing abortions in Ontario, including the total number at each facility. Despite two appeals to the Freedom of Information office, we were denied this data, and in 1995 were refused any further demographic information for Ontario abortion statistics. We had been receiving comprehensive data for five years prior to this situation.

In 1996, the Canadian Institute for Health Information took over the collection of therapeutic abortion statistics, and we have received less and less detailed reports since that time. In May of 1999, Action Life (Ottawa), with the support of MP Tom Wappel, again challenged Statistics Canada to release the 1996 and 1997 national statistics, but

Ontario failed to comply by not reporting—stating a fear that providing the information could contribute to violence aimed at abortion providers. Ontario eventually complied and statistics were released in 1999.

Finally, this January, 2002, the Ontario statistics were omitted from the latest Canadian abortion figures for 1999. Investigation produced different responses from Statistics Canada, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) and the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care (MOHLTC).

According to John Letherby, Media Relations Co-ordinator of the Ontario MOHLTC, "Ontario abortion statistics are the sum of abortions done in hospitals plus the abortions done in Independent Health Facilities (clinics). [CIHI] reports statistics on behalf of Ontario. MOHLTC provided CIHI with the total number of abortions performed in IHF clinics in 1999 [hospitals report straight to CIHI]. CIHI compiled the Ontario statistics for 1999 abortions performed in Ontario hospitals and provided that to Statistics Canada. Statistics Canada determined for scientific/statistical reasons not to report the 1999 Ontario statistics. MOHLTC is working with Statistics Canada and CIHI to resolve reporting and data

irregularities within the 1999 abortion data."

Is this any clearer for anyone?

What the 1999 statistics tell us

- 37.5% of induced abortions were performed in clinics (24,524).
- 63.2% of induced abortions were performed in hospitals (41,483).
- 231 Canadian women underwent legal abortions in the U.S.
- 9,043 girls aged between 10-19 years had abortions in hospitals.
- 5,223 girls between 10-19 years had abortions in clinics.
- 60% of the women who had abortions in 1999 were not married, with a figure of 29.5% reported as "unknown status."
- 50.5% of women undergoing abortion had no previous deliveries.
- Number who had at least one delivery has grown to its largest ever percentage—38% in 1985, 48.9% in 1998, and 49.4% in 1999.
- The number of repeat abortions in 1999 (37.1%) was almost the same as 1998 (37.4%).
- There were 31.8 abortions per 100 live births.

Since hospitals and clinics only filled out detailed information for 44.2% of the induced abortions performed in Canada, plus the fact that

(Continued on page 11...Abortion stats)

Percentage of therapeutic abortions in 1999 by selected characteristics

(Source: Therapeutic Abortion Survey, Canadian Institute for Health Information)

Previous Induced Abortions	
None	62.8 %
One	25.8 %
Two or more	11.3 %
Unknown	—

Previous deliveries	
None	50.5 %
One	22.8 %
Two	9.4 %
Three	17.2 %
Unknown	—

Marital Status	
Single	48.6 %
Married	10.5 %
Separated/ Divorced/ Widowed	4.0 %
Common Law	7.4 %
Unknown	29.5 %

Age Group	
10-19	21.8 %
20-29	52.8 %
30-39	22.4 %
40+	2.9 %
Unknown	—

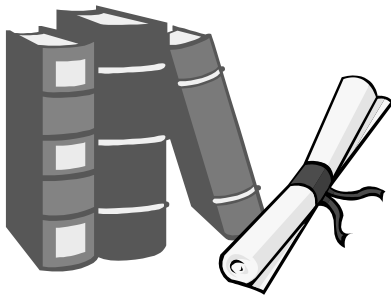
Note: Percentage distribution is based on detailed records
"—" amount too small to be expressed

Campus Life

Understanding the “Marketplace of Ideas”

A closer look at the importance of the university

By Kevin Belgrave



“**T**here's the real world and then there's the university campus.” So quipped lawyer David Brown at the recent National Campus Life Network (NCLN) National Symposium for university and college pro-life students. Although he was speaking specifically of student politics, I think his comments can help us understand some other important realities of campus pro-life work.

Far more than a simple question of involving more “youth” in our work, the campuses—in particular our university campuses—are in and of themselves an incredibly important environment for a strong pro-life presence. Why is this? So many things come to mind as I reflect on the experiences of just one year, but here I hope to give you just a general sense.

Away from their parents and homes for the first time, students are exposed to ideas that will shape a significant portion of their lives. Some will lose faith, others will gain it stronger than ever. Many more, unaccustomed to critical thought, as I was, will simply go along with the flow. More often than not, it is at university that

students are first exposed in a concrete way to the pervasive ideas of “post-modernism”—ideas that openly reject objective reality and truth and embrace a relative concept of human value. It often seems that wherever you turn, the true dignity of the human being is degraded, mocked, or simply dismissed, usually by regular people with no malicious intent whatsoever. Left uncontested for four or more full years, how can we be surprised when these attitudes and ideas become firmly rooted in our future doctors, teachers, and lawyers, not to mention our mothers, fathers, and families?

To add to this, students are anxious to form new friendship groups and are understandably not always ready to “rock the boat” by speaking out on campus. Senior students graduate, and groups are weakened or even wiped out when their leaders move on. All too often, momentum and experience are wiped out at the same time, and a difficult process of re-inventing the wheel begins.

A fairly bleak picture may seem to be emerging, but do know that this is far from being a complete understanding of the situation. Some of the very things that make campus pro-life work difficult are actually the very same things that also make it, in many ways, the simplest to carry out. Consider, for instance, the turnover of students. With an annual set of new students coming in, the same posters, brochures, or training sessions can be equally effective year after year. There is also no other place where you will have relatively easy and inexpensive access to the people who need to hear your message. Even a small run of well designed posters can create waves, and access to the school paper is not always as difficult as it may seem.

So how does the National Campus Life Network fit into this pic-

ture? Our work is to collect and pass on resources and experience from group to group and year to year and so act as a stabilizing force in this transitory environment. We were formed to facilitate communication between pro-life students across Canada and encourage them to take up the cause at their school. Interestingly enough, it really does not take a lot to see incredible results. I can attest to this myself. In this sense, we are perhaps more fortunate than many other pro-life groups working so hard to impact their community.

However little it may take, though, it does take someone. One full-time NCLN volunteer makes an almost incalculable difference to our effectiveness. When pro-lifers on campus see that fellow students or recent graduates care that they get the message out and are willing to help them do it, this alone can often provide all the motivation necessary.

Our recent Symposium is testimony to this. We certainly made every effort to set up a solid program to educate and equip students to defend their views, but in the end this could in no way match the motivation, ideas, and strategy generated from the many discussions, both formal and informal, held among the students themselves.

As a final note, I offer sincere thanks to all the pro-life groups who have supported us so generously over these past five years. NCLN suffers in many ways from the same weakening effect of student turnover as do the groups we work to help. We change directors almost every year—not an easy reality to live with—but with your unfailing confidence and support, this has not sunk us yet, and I hope it never will. ♦

Kevin Belgrave is Executive Director of National Campus Life Network.

Pro-life in the Provinces

Focus on Ontario

By Jakki Jeffs and Tom Kelly

Alliance for Life Ontario celebrated its 12th year of service to the 65 educational pro-life groups currently operating across our province. It seems a long time since October 1989 when the groups of Southwestern Ontario took the courageous step to fund a provincial office in the hope that it would help unite them more fully with their colleagues in Eastern and Northern Ontario. Within a couple of years, this new level of educational, pro-life work was assisting our local groups, researching, preparing and presenting briefs at provincial and national levels of government, and spear-heading the annual conferences which have been a key part of our Ontario pro-life tradition since 1985.

United under the umbrella of Alliance for Life Ontario, the educational pro-life voice has resounded in the halls of our governments at both federal and provincial levels—protection of unborn life, informed consent, abortion legislation, presentations to the Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technology in 1990 and 1997, and responses to destructive stem cell research guidelines (June, 2001) and assisted reproduction legislation (2002). Working together, the educational pro-life groups in Ontario have made their presence known and felt. In 2000, they funded the production of a 20 minute video entitled “Life” which provides a clear overview of abortion in Canada.

Euthanasia has also been tackled and position briefs presented in 1993, 1995, and 2000, including oral presentations to the “Of Life and Death” committees set up by our Federal Government. Through television and radio talk shows and in the printed media, Alliance for Life

Ontario has addressed the pro-life issues raised by Sue Rodrigues, the murder of Tracy Lynn Latimer and other children with disabilities, the provision of the so-called “exit bag,” the actions of Dr. Jack Kervorkian, the Netherlands and Oregon assisted suicide policies, and most recently, Diane Pretty from the U.K. as she takes her “assisted suicide” case to the International Human Rights Tribunal.

Provincial strategies have been developed to assist in educating our medical professionals on the abortion/breast cancer link and the post-fertilization effects of the “morning after pill” (MAP). The latter issue



Jakki Jeffs and the “Reaching Minds Through Media” project

will be forefront again in June this year as the pilot project, “to increase women’s access to emergency contraception,” sponsored by the Ontario Women’s Health Council, comes to an end. With the recent peer reviewed study by Dr. Chris Kahlenborn and his colleagues, we have more proof than ever before

that “an after-fertilization, early abortion effect of these drugs is probably a more common event than is recognized by most physicians or patients...”

A key area of our developing strategy will be to challenge those who would hand these pills out like candy to women, to prove that girls/women will be properly and fully informed of the abortifacient nature of these medications as well as the adverse reactions of irregular bleeding, nausea, vomiting, headache, migraine, distended veins, and the possibility of allergic reactions. We will also ask just how the pharmacists will ensure tests have been conducted prior to handing over these drugs—tests to ascertain whether or not the client has a genetic susceptibility to breast or ovarian cancer or thromboembolic disease.

The question of liability is another issue that is raised by MAP. If a girl/woman is harmed by these drugs, to whom would she go for compensation? Pharmacists may just be in the firing line. We wonder how that will go down!

From 1990 until 1995, we followed and addressed, in written brief and oral presentation, Ontario provincial legislation which gave legal force to living wills, instituted substitute decision making in our province, sought to protect privacy of health care information, stripped the age of consent from the Health Care Consent Act, and legally blocked parents from being included in the medical treatment decision-making process of even their minor children. This is an area which needs revisiting by our association as the majority of parents in our province remain wholly unaware of this situation.

Our office has just updated the pamphlet “Ways of death” which has statistics of abortion up until

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

1997 compared to drownings, road death toll, and warfare. Call our office to order!

Our most recent provincial wide co-operative venture is our "Reaching Minds Through Media" project which is entering its second campaign. We raised \$250,000 for our 2000 campaign which saw television ads airing for a period of seven weeks in the Fall of 2000 and four weeks in January/February, 2001. The effect of our television advertisement campaign was to increase the number of calls from our province to the 1 800 national crisis pregnancy hot line by over 600%!

Research shows how to win pro-life support

By Tom Kelly

Pro-lifers have been handed a battle plan for conversion of people to the cause of the unborn. A poll commissioned by Alliance for Life Ontario to gauge attitudes to abortion across the province has revealed important facts:

1. We now know what to say to people to convert them to pro-life.
2. We now know which people are most likely to be converted.
3. We now know that more than half of the population appears to be conflicted in their views on abortion. Most want some degree of protection for the unborn.

Researchers at the U.S. firm Baseline Associates asked people by phone and mail during the summer of 2001 to identify their attitudes to abortion in different ways — if it should be legal; whether they supported or opposed abortion; and whether they regarded themselves pro-life or pro-choice.

Only 13 per cent of the respondents said abortion should be legal for any reason at any time during a woman's pregnancy. A small minor-

In order to customize our 2002 campaign, we purchased the services of a company which conducted a poll across Ontario in July, 2001. (See sidebar below.) The researchers first asked respondents about their attitudes towards abortion. Then the researchers gave people some facts about abortion and life in the womb. The percentage who were opposed to abortion after being given the facts rose from 36% to 44%, and most of the converts were people who had been unsure. The percentage that found abortion to be an unacceptable solution to an unplanned pregnancy rose to just above half.

So what are we waiting for, Canada? We have been handed a battle

plan for the conversion of people to the cause of the unborn. We just have to take advantage of what we are being told.

plan for the conversion of people to the cause of the unborn. We just have to take advantage of what we are being told.

On behalf of Alliance for Life Ontario, we would like to welcome Life-Canada, to the pro-life community. We hope that our educational efforts in Ontario will assist in strengthening the national pro-life presence across Canada. ♦

For more information contact:

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Jakki Jeffs is Executive Director of Alliance for Life Ontario. Tom Kelly is media consultant.

ity of Ontarians seem to agree with abortion on demand.

One in 10 said abortion should never be legal, and somewhat higher percentages said it should be legal only when the life of the mother is in danger or for cases of rape or incest. When these figures are totalled, they show that nearly half believe that abortion should be either never legal or legal only under very limited circumstances.

However, fewer people (just over one third) said they opposed abortion, and fewer still called themselves pro-life.

When the researchers compared these results, they found that slightly more than half of the people were inconsistent in their attitudes to abortion; for example, some of those who wanted some legal restrictions didn't oppose abortion and didn't want to be labelled pro-life.

The researchers then gave the people some facts about abortion and life in the womb. The percentage who were opposed to abortion rose from 36 to 44 per cent, and most of the converts were people who had been unsure. The percentage that found abortion to be an unacceptable solution to an unplanned pregnancy rose to just more than half.

Here are some of the facts people didn't know that were powerful in changing their minds, and that we can use to win converts:

- There's no law prohibiting abortions through all nine months; people polled were particularly opposed to partial-birth abortions.
- Records (including Statistics Canada figures) show that more than one third of all abortions today are repeat abortions (the second, third, or fourth for the same person); people in the poll generally rejected abortion as birth control.
- Many women are encouraged or coerced into abortions by their boyfriends who don't want the responsibility of a child.
- Women who have abortions may suffer deep regret and depression for years after.
- Thousands more people wait to adopt children than there are babies available—people recognize adoption as the loving option.
- Abortion was legalized over 30 years ago, before sonograms and medical advancements revealed the baby's life prior to birth.
- Ultrasounds show unborn babies sucking thumbs or waving arms

(Continued on page 11...Ontario Research)

(Continued from page 1)

1973. In short, they said that abortion has resulted in less unwanted and high risk children, and it is unwanted children who generally commit crime. The authors underscore their argument by showing that the five states which legalized abortion in 1970 (three years prior to *Roe v Wade*) saw their crime rates begin to drop sooner than the others. Similarly, they showed that the states with the lowest abortion rates had the highest crime rates. Finally, the authors argue that most crime is committed by the children of poor and minority women. Since these women are the ones most likely to have abortions, then we would expect crime in these communities to be dropping the most and, indeed, the authors did show that crime in these communities has decreased.

Morgentaler welcomes Donohue and Levitt study

For those who have felt the need to justify their stand on abortion, this study would be a welcome support. Indeed, Dr. Henry Morgentaler was one such individual. In the *National Post* (May, 2001), he said the Donohue and Levitt study only substantiated his own beliefs, some of those being: 1) that availability of abortion decreases crime, 2) that children who receive love and affection are less violent, 3) that unwanted children are often brutalized.

In reference to Dr. Morgentaler, I can only say my experience suggests to me he is wrong. Concerning abortion reducing crime, I will discuss that shortly. Concerning children being less violent when they are loved, he is possibly correct. However, many children who were once wanted and loved eventually become unloved and then victimized, and many even remain loved but are still brutalized out of frus-

tration/stress of the caregiver. Concerning unwanted children being brutalized, that is often true, but it is also true that wanted children are also often brutalized. In short, I think Dr. Morgentaler is naïve in his understanding of being wanted and being abused.

Problems with the Donohue and Levitt Study

Coincidence vs. cause and effect

Let me now return to the study of Donohue and Levitt. Abortion, of course, was legalized in the U.S. in 1973. There is also little disagreement that crime has dropped during the past decade. However, to argue that this proves that the increase in abortion caused the decrease in crime is, I think, without merit. It is common for events to coincide. In recent years we've had an increase in global warming along with a seeming increase in "terrorism," but it would be unreasonable to suggest that global warming was the cause of the recent attack on the World Trade Center.

Let us assume, however, that this increase in abortion has caused crime to drop. That would still not be a terribly interesting piece of information. It would seem self-evident that if fewer children were being born then there would be fewer people to commit crime. If research is to be significant, it should tell us something we don't already know.

At any rate, Donohue and Levitt point out that the five states that first legalized abortion were also the ones to first see a drop in crime. They feel this strengthens their argument that legal abortion caused the crime rate to drop. I believe they are mistaken. It is my contention that the reason these particular states saw the first drop in crime could very well be a result of the progressive politics of these states (legalized abortion possibly

being one result of that) and a higher socio-economic status. These five states were California, New York, Alaska, Hawaii, and Washington. If crime is caused by one's impoverished environment (as I will address shortly), then it would be fairly easy to imagine that the early crime reduction in these five states was because of their more positive socio-political-economic environment rather than the specific availability of abortion.

Racist implications

Having said all of that, I might add that the most personally distressing aspect of the study by Donohue and Levitt is the racist implications it suggests. The authors state that poor, minority women are the most likely to have abortions and it is in these communities where we've seen the biggest drop in crime. In their discussion they stated, "homicide rates of black youths are roughly nine times higher than those of white youths...black and white births eliminated by legalizing abortion would have experienced the average criminal propensities of their respective races..."

I must respond to this discussion of race. I recently spent six years as a mental health worker in one of America's largest juvenile detention facilities. Almost all of my clients were poor, minority children. Many of the girls had children and many were pregnant. Donohue and Levitt stated that poor, minority girls/women have abortions more than women from other groups. This may be true, but it has not been my experience. My clients almost never opted for an abortion. The drop in crime in their minority communities was therefore probably not due to abortion.

My other concern with Donohue and Levitt's discussion of race was their assertion that crime among minorities is so high. Some statis-

(Continued on page 10)

Pro-Life Education

Curricula available in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Ontario

By Laverne Hudson

In our last issue, Mike Girard wrote about the London Right to Life educational program. In this issue, we continue our discussion of pro-life curricula available throughout the country. It is our job to let you know what is available and who has tried it so you don't have to reinvent the wheel! You can then contact the people who have the programs that interest you or fit your community needs.

If we have missed some information or a program you are familiar with, fear not! As you forward us more information, we will continue to update ours. You are not alone in the pro-life movement. We all have ideas we have used and we need to continue to share ideas, the ones that worked and the ones that did not. We hope you find this information helpful. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks, and good luck!

I. Saskatchewan "Teen-Aid"

Chastity based resource program

1. The first program is presented to classrooms by certified teachers specifically trained to teach the chastity message.

Presentations from Grade 6-12:

Grade 6—Who Am I?

Grade 7—Fertility Awareness (males and females separate); Prenatal Development;

Family & Peer Relationships

Grade 8—Dating: Things to Consider

Grade 9—Practicing Chastity

Grade 10—The Skills of Chastity

Grade 11—Healthy Relationships

Grade 12—Preparing for Courtship and Marriage

Each session is approximately two hours.

2. The second program is designed for parents or youth group leaders in an area where Teen-Aid classroom presentations are not available. This program has five chapters, each covering a different dimension of our sexuality. The program is in a workbook format, so young people can read the material and then answer questions. Each chapter concludes with a review worksheet. Parents can discern age appropriateness, however Teen-Aid would recommend this workbook for students in grades 9 and up. Entitled "The Five Dimensions of Sexuality," the workbook examines the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.
3. Teen-Aid also offers parent workshops which are presented by our educators. However, at this point the workshops are only available in Saskatchewan. The topics are: "Building Strong Families," "The Truth about Contraception," "Media Awareness," and "Parent/Teen Communication."

For more information contact:
Shawna Sparrow, B.ED.,
Provincial Coordinator
Teen-Aid Saskatchewan
phone: (306) 244-2811
e-mail saskatoonteenaid@home.com

II. Grande Prairie Voice For Life

Life Educational Information presentations within the public, Catho-

lic, and private schools in our area for the past ten years.

1. Fetology (Grade 4-12)
2. Pregnancy (Grade 7-12)
3. Abstinence (Grade 7-12)
4. Contraception (Grade 9-12)
5. Risky Sex—STD's (Grade 7-12)
6. Sexuality within the framework of Marriage (Marriage enrichment weekend seminars.)

For more information contact:
Cristal Morin
Grande Prairie Voice for Life
Box 372, Grande Prairie, AB
T8V 3A5
phone: (403) 538-3344
email: vfl@telusplanet.net

III. Action Life (Ottawa)

Presentations for Grade school on prenatal development, abortion and euthanasia.

For help getting started contact:
Carroll Rees
1355 Wellington, suite 102
Ottawa, ON K1H 3C2
phone (613) 798-4494
fax (613) 798-4496
email: life@davin.ottawa.on.ca

IV. Alliance for Life Ontario

Presentations available on various topics: Reproductive Technology, Abortion/Breast Cancer Link, Euthanasia, and more.

For more information contact:
Mrs. Jakki Jeffs
Alliance for Life Ontario
#205-55 Cork St. E.
Guelph, Ontario N1H 2W7
phone (519) 824-7797
fax (519) 824-8714
email: afl@mgf.ca ♦

Laverne Hudson represents Manitoba on the Board of Directors of LifeCanada. She is responsible for collecting information on pro-life curricula across Canada.

(continued from page 8)

tics may show this to be the case, but these statistics must be viewed with a critical eye. Our judicial system is racist, and to think otherwise is naïve (Craig Haney and Philip Zimbardo, *The Past and Future of U.S. Prison Policy*, 1998). Time and again, not only with minor offenders but also with adult offenders, I've witnessed my African American clients being treated more harshly than my white clients even when the circumstances of the crime, the attorneys, and the judges were all the same. It is also true that poor, minority offenders cannot often afford the kind of legal representation that more affluent offenders can afford. They are far less likely, for instance, to have a murder charge dropped to involuntary manslaughter or even dismissed altogether. The resulting crime statistics in the African American community are probably, therefore, more a measure of racism than of true criminal activity.

I have attempted to illustrate that the supposed connection between legalized abortion and the drop in crime is fraught with problems. While abortion was legalized in 1973 and crime rates began to drop in 1990, there is probably little reason to believe one caused the other.

Problems with the Lott and Whitley study

As mentioned earlier, John Lott and John Whitley sought to disprove Donohue and Levitt. Lott and Whitley cited research that showed that abortion resulted in more out-of-wedlock births and they believe this has resulted in more violent crime. Their argument, I believe, could be summarized as follows: the availability of abortion leads to a more permissive society, which leads to more out-of-wedlock births and it is these people who have a

tendency to become violent criminals.

There are several problems with this line of reasoning. The availability of abortion may or may not lead to a more permissive society, but even if it does, I would still question the supposed connection between being permissive and having out-of-wedlock children. Many women give birth outside of marriage but surely we would be amiss to say these women are, therefore, necessarily permissive. For instance, I have had African American clients who have had children out-of-wedlock because their prospective husbands had been sent to prison, partly as a result of a racist judicial system. Surely that should not imply that these women were permissive. Having said that, I would nevertheless have to agree that some of my "criminal" clients have been born to "permissive" parents. On the other hand some of my clients have been born to very "controlling" parents. While my evidence is largely anecdotal, I would have to say those with controlling parents are actually more likely to become violent than those with "permissive" parents.

Abortion and crime unrelated

What then are we to do with the information contained in these two conflicting studies? I don't believe Donohue and Levitt proved that abortion has been the cause of the recent decrease in crime. I also don't believe that Lott and Whitley have proved that abortion has caused any increase in crime. I am actually inclined to believe that abortion itself is not even related to the rate of crime. One might still ask, of course, why crime has declined in recent years and, more generally, what the causes of crime might be.

I don't believe any of us know for sure why crime has been dropping nor do we know for sure what the

causes of crime might be, but I will offer some opinions. In all my years working with offenders, the most common theme among these individuals has been their experience of abuse as a child, lack of opportunities including poor education, negative family environment, racism, and so forth. I have rarely heard a client say, "I got into crime because I was unwanted" (as Donohue and Levitt would suggest). Nor have I seen evidence that they began causing trouble because they were raised in single-parent households (as Lott and Whitley might argue).

The vast majority of my "criminal" clients have had parents who very much wanted them. The vast majority were also raised by either both parents or in some type of "extended" family, although these families have almost always faced severe environmental challenges to their being effective caregivers. For instance, almost every offender I've worked with had dropped out of school prior to getting in trouble with the law. They dropped out of school because the teachers were not effective, the schools were not safe, they were too anxious or depressed to concentrate, they were too ashamed to be there, et cetera. However, I have never heard them say they dropped out of school because they did not want to learn.

Other people have found similar evidence in their discussion of crime causation. Haney and Zimbardo found environment to be extremely significant in the development of criminal behavior. James Gilligan (as quoted in *Behind the Razor Wire*, 1999) asserted that the most effective intervention to decrease crime is education.

One could go on about crime causation. The causes are many. Suffice it to say, however, I do not believe there is much evidence to suggest crime is caused by abortion. Similarly, I believe there is equally little evidence to suggest the drop in

(Cont'd on page 11...Abortion and crime)

(Abortion and Crime...Cont'd from page 10)

crime is caused by abortion.

The need for honest debate

In conclusion, I feel the need to acknowledge the fact that there are serious issues facing this world of ours—issues that we must try to understand if we are to resolve them. Abortion and crime do indeed impact our lives. It behooves all of us to grapple with the complexities surrounding them, including their causes and consequences. If these debates are to be meaningful, they should be honest. How we design and conduct research and what we do with the results should be free from bias. If we are exploring such things as abortion or crime there should be no hidden agenda; we should be “open” to where the research leads us. The esteemed eighteenth century philosopher, Immanuel Kant, cautioned:

Moral principles must be grasped entirely a priori. To mix them up with empirical considerations of self-interest and the like is not merely a confusion of thought, but an obstacle in the way of moral progress. (*Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, p. 25)

Donohue and Levitt tried to demonstrate that abortion decreases crime while Lott and Whitley attempted to show an inverse relationship. Both, I believe, failed because there probably is no connection. Nevertheless, abortion and crime, as well as other social concerns, certainly merit further study, and it would be wise to continue to pursue an understanding of them within an honest debate. ♦

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(Ontario Research...Continued from page 7)

and legs as early as seven weeks into a pregnancy, the heart begins to beat at 21 days, and brain waves can be measured as early as 40 days.

- Over 275 abortions occur each day in Canada.
- There is financial and emotional help available for girls and women with unplanned pregnancies.

Who are we most likely to convert? We will find them among Catholics and Evangelical Christians. Although these two groups are the strongest in their defence of the unborn, significant percentages are ambivalent about abortion and some are unopposed. The reasons, no doubt, lie in a lack of awareness of the facts, since the ambivalent members of both those groups switched to pro-life attitudes more readily than did any others.

The lesson is clear, and perhaps one we knew all along: the facts that abortion kills babies and harms women speak for themselves. They are our strongest weapons, and people from our own faith traditions are the most willing to be persuaded to take them up. ♦

This article first appeared in the Hamilton Right to Life newsletter.

Comparison of number of deaths by causes (1998) <i>Source: Stats Canada</i>	
Coronary artery disease	42,870
Lung cancer	16,621
Stroke	15,878
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (Chronic bronchitis and Emphysema)	9,398
Influenza and Pneumonia	9,098
Breast Cancer (<i>estimated</i>)	5,300
Prostate Cancer (<i>estimated</i>)	4,300
Abortion	110,223

(Abortion stats...Continued from page 4)

Ontario's figures (which in 1998 totalled 38.7% of all Canadian abortions) are absent for 1999, it remains extremely difficult to draw a conclusive picture of the situation. The fact is, we have almost 40% of all 1999 abortions unreported and no detailed information on 54.8% of those that were reported. This situation must not be tolerated!

A very misleading statistic is the complication rate. This statistic is recorded during the duration of the woman's stay at the hospital or clinic that performs her abortion. If a complication arises once she leaves, it is not connected to her abortion.

What we need to do

Our provincial Ministry of Health departments have no short or long term reporting requirements for induced abortion. Remember, they only follow the money. As an educational movement, we need to make a case to our federal health department to insist that, as well as filling out the required insurance form, provinces mandate their abortion facilities to fill in the “Report on Therapeutic Abortions” form which traditionally has been used to obtain detailed demographics.

I would suggest that a committee be set up to investigate, research, collect and compile available data which can be used to encourage our government to demand compliance from abortion facilities to make the detailed reports. I have it on good authority that the information is available for Ontario, but the woman who has done this job, by hand, has retired. The forms are there with the information, but we must produce the political will to do the work. ♦

For more abortion statistics see www.statcan.ca

Jakki Jeffs is Executive Director of Alliance for Life Ontario and has done extensive work in the past on abortion statistics.

Essay

Transformed by Love

Love can change an individual. Can it also change a movement?

By Karen Stiller

They do not gather weekly to recite it, but secular feminism has a creed—a statement of beliefs more entrenched in the feminist psyche than any creeds are in the Church. The most sacred article of their faith is the “pro-abortion” stand. To be feminist, one must be “pro-choice,” or so they say.

As a young woman in University in Halifax in the late eighties, I embraced feminism and found myself awkwardly hugging someone I was not entirely comfortable with. Feminism’s freedom involved chaining oneself to a set of political beliefs. And abortion was the padlock.

It made some sense to me at the time. In the last years of high school, I accompanied a friend as naïve as I, but not as lucky, to a Halifax hospital for an abortion. The nurse took my friend behind a door with one of those useless windows of thick glass that don’t let you see anything clearly. I sat in the waiting room with mothers and their daughters and other girls all alone. As I sat, I wondered what would have happened if I had yelled out to my friend at the last minute, “Don’t!” Some part of me knew even then that this was a lousy choice for a teenager who thought she had no choice at all.

But that part of me had not yet grown strong in courage or conviction, and it stayed quiet and drove my friend home in my father’s Chrysler. The last bit of the soap operas and some cold water to drink—that’s all she asked for.

As a woman who has birthed three babes of my own, I have asked myself more than once if, for the love of a friend, I could sit again in such a waiting room. The answer is no. But I would, in the name of love, sit for an afternoon and give cold water to drink.

For it was Love that changed me. In University I met many people, studied many philosophies, devoured books and papers and theories, trying to understand the world and myself. Then I met Christ. Back then, I would have said I was transformed. But now I understand transformation to be both in an instant and in a lifetime.

Feminism gave me tools to critique the world and faith gave me freedom to critique feminism. I rattled the chains and was relieved and released. Abortion, the necessary evil, became just wrong. And unbearably sad.

Feminism gave me tools to critique the world and faith gave me freedom to critique feminism.

A friend gave me an important book called, *Pro-life Feminism*. I discovered women who called themselves both feminist and pro-life. That book gave me the tools I needed to mould my newly released pro-life convictions into something with shape and substance, and gave me the courage to engage other students in debate using their vocabulary on an issue that was heating up in Halifax. Morgentaler was coming.

My boyfriend at the time, my husband after all this time, and I joined the pro-life movement in Halifax. We started a pro-life campus group. Immediately, I found myself the spokesperson for the group and discovered that maybe I was a bit courageous after all. The

abortion debate became part of the Student Council elections that year, and I spoke the pro-life word to crowds sold out on another point of view.

We protested outside Morgentaler’s newly opened clinic. I hated every minute of it. It turned the heat up under the animosity that existed between the opposing sides. What simmered on a back burner at other times, boiled over outside of that place and rolled over us like lava. It was pure hatred flowing from both sides. And for the first time, I wondered if maybe it really was a spiritual battle.

I attended meetings in church basements where men called grown women “little ladies” and secret plans were made for chaining volunteers to doorways. Like a kid who didn’t do her math homework, I sat looking at the floor, praying I would not be called upon. Then God called my husband to Seminary, and we were moving to Vancouver. I was relieved.

There I became involved with the formation of a *Feminists for Life* chapter. We planned a press conference to announce our launch. The room was empty save for three angry people. They were pro-lifers outraged at such a group. It was ridiculous and sad. And confirmed to me what I suspected in Halifax. The movement was fractured. Suspicion and competition between political, educational, and religious legs left it crippled.

I was burnt out when we left Halifax and I needed time to be away from the heat. To those who never need such time, I salute you. I am not made of the same stuff. But what I have now I give. As a writer, I give my words. As a family, we give our money. As a mother, I give my tears. For some, that will never be enough. And to that, I can give no answer. ♦

Karen Stiller is a free-lance writer living in Toronto.