GET THE FACTS:

4 Types of Abortion

A groundbreaking new report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine finds that all forms of abortion are safe, effective and rarely result in complications or long-term health effects.

TYPES OF ABORTION:

1. Medication
2. Aspiration
3. Dilation & Evacuation (D&E)
4. Induction

1 Medication Abortion

Medication abortion, commonly known as the “abortion pill,” is a nonsurgical, noninvasive procedure for abortions up to 10 weeks’ gestation. Medication abortion is quickly becoming a preferred method of abortion - in 2014, “45 percent of abortions up to nine weeks’ gestation were medication abortions, up from 36 percent in 2011.”

SAFE:

Complications occur in less than one percent of cases.

EFFECTIVE:

The abortion pill is effective in 96.7 percent of cases.

DID YOU KNOW?

Evidence shows that the use of medication abortion does not require the physical presence of a clinician and can be safely administered via telemedicine. Medication abortion does not require special equipment or emergency arrangements. In fact, the report explains: “prescribing medication abortion is no different from prescribing other medications.”

This fact sheet was not created, developed or endorsed by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.
Aspiration abortion is the most common form of abortion, making up 68 percent of abortions in the United States. Aspiration abortion is a minimally invasive procedure that typically takes less than 10 minutes.

**SAFE:**
Aspiration abortion rarely results in complications.

**EFFECTIVE:**
Aspiration abortion can be performed up to 16 weeks’ gestation and is highly effective - in 99.8 percent of cases.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
Aspiration abortion is also used in the event of a miscarriage and can be safely performed in an office-based setting by a physician assistant, certified nurse midwife, nurse practitioner or physician.

Dilation and evacuation (D&E) abortion is a safe procedure that is most common for abortions after 14 weeks’ gestation. The skills required for a trained clinician to perform the procedure - which generally takes about 30 minutes and requires no incisions - are the same as managing miscarriage after 14 weeks.

**SAFE:**
Studies have found few complications associated with D&E.

**EFFECTIVE:**
D&E abortions are reported as the “superior method” for abortion when aspiration is no longer feasible.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
Despite the scientific conclusions around D&E’s safety and effectiveness, at least eight states have passed laws banning the procedure outright, and at least 17 states have banned abortion after 20 weeks. These restrictions effectively ban D&E in these states, taking away lifesaving care for pregnant women who are miscarrying or in need of abortion.

Induction abortion is a nonsurgical, time-and resource-intensive procedure that involves the use of medication to induce labor and delivery. Induction is commonly used as an alternative to D&E, when chosen by a woman or when regulations and training gaps have effectively banned the procedure. It is also a method used for later-term miscarriages and by hospitals that may not have a provider trained in D&E.

**SAFE:**
Available evidence shows that induction rarely leads to complications.

**EFFECTIVE:**
While it’s a rare procedure for abortion, according to research, induction is an effective option.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
According to the National Abortion Federation, induction abortion can be provided in medical offices or clinics by a trained clinician with the same skills needed for managing labor and delivery, including certified nurse-midwives.

To learn more, visit AbortionIsSafe.com