

## **Pro-Life Success in the States: Strategies for the Current Decade and Beyond**

Workshop at Pro-Life Science and Technology Conference

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### **Contact Info:**

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### **Part 1: Background**

- Among the 47 states reporting data in both 1990 and 2005 the number of abortions dropped by 22.2%.
- The improved economy likely played a role in this decline, but one factor that cannot be overlooked is the positive impact of state level pro-life legislation.

### **Increases in Pro-Life Legislation Since the Early 1990s**

	<b>1992</b>	<b>2005</b>
Parental Involvement Laws	20	34
Informed Consent Laws	0	33
Waiting Periods	0	22
Partial Birth Abortion Bans	0	12

### **Part 2: Reasons for the Increase in State Level Pro-life Legislation**

- The Supreme Court's *Casey vs. Planned Parenthood* decision in 1992 gave states somewhat more leeway to protect the unborn.
- Increased success of pro-life candidates in state legislative races.

### **Year                      State Legislatures Controlled by Republicans**

1992	8
1994	19
2000	18

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<sup>1</sup> Links to my full length studies on pro-life legislation are below.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Family/CDA04-01.cfm>

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Family/CDA06-01.cfm>

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Family/CDA06-05.cfm>

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Family/CDA07-01.cfm>

<http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF08I28.pdf>

### Part 3: Testing the Impact of State Level Pro-life Legislation

- To test the effectiveness of state level pro-life legislation, a comprehensive regression analysis is conducted on state abortion data from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI). Demographic and economic factors are held constant.

- Abortion data from nearly every state from 1985 to 2005 is analyzed.

- Two separate measures of the incidence of abortion are used.

- 1) Abortion rates which measure the number of abortions per thousand women between the ages of 15 and 44

- 2) Abortion ratios which measure the number of abortions per every thousand live births.

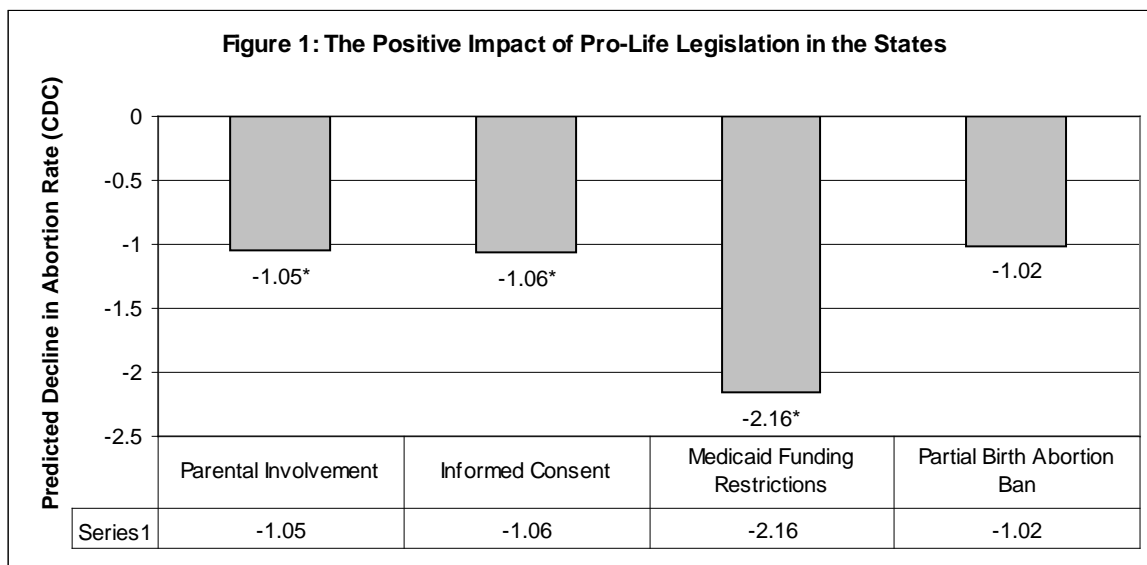
- The results provide very solid evidence that pro-life legislation in the states has been effective at reducing the number of abortions that take place.

#### The Positive Impact of Pro-Life Legislation

Variable	Abortion Ratio	Abortion Rate	Abortion Ratio	Abortion Rate
Data Source	CDC	CDC	AGI	AGI
Parental Involvement	-18.22*	-1.05*	-6.92	-0.48
Informed Consent	-8.06*	-1.06*	-18.21*	-1.91*
Medicaid Funding Restrictions	-31.68*	-2.16*	-33.81*	-2.47*
Partial Birth Abortion Ban	-14.74*	-1.02	-52.49*	-1.86

\* indicates statistical significance (p < .10)

Note: CDC refers to data obtained from the Center for Disease Control, AGI refers to data obtained from the Alan Guttmacher Institute



\* indicates a statistically significant finding (p < .10)

## Part 4: Considering Other Possibilities for the Abortion Declines

- It is conceivable that pro-life legislation is not responsible the declines in abortion rates and ratios. Possibly, the adoption of more conservative values is causing both the enactment of pro-life legislation and the declines in abortion.
- This can be tested by comparing states where pro-life legislation was enacted to states where pro-life legislation was passed, but subsequently nullified by the judiciary.
- If value shifts are causing the declines, then nullified and enacted legislation should have similar effects. If legislation is causing the declines, enacted legislation should have a greater impact than nullified legislation.
- Overall, these tests strongly suggest that pro-life legislation, and not changes in values correlated with the passage of pro-life legislation, is responsible for the abortion declines.

### Examining The Impact of Informed Consent Laws

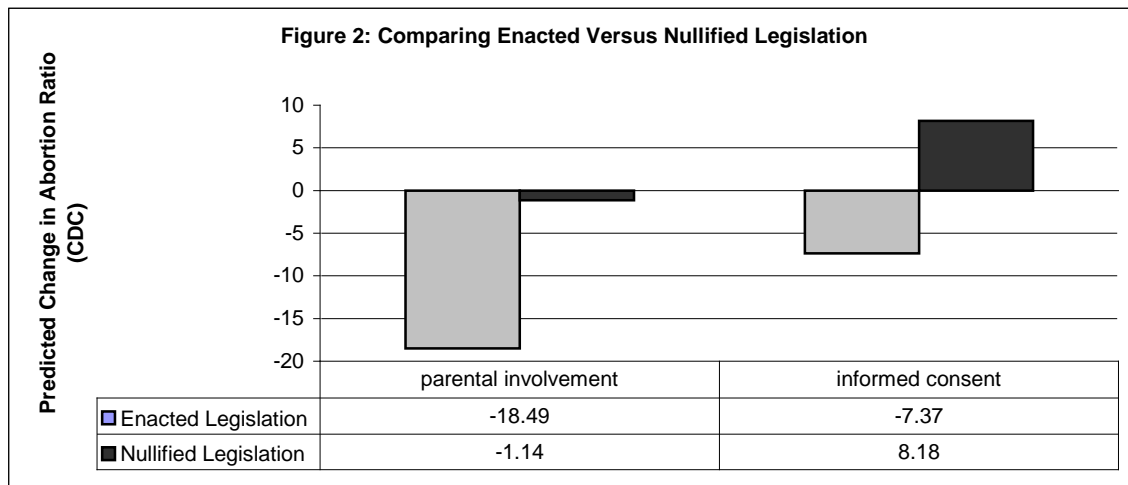
Status of law	Enacted	Nullified	Difference
Abortion Ratio (CDC)	-7.37	8.18	-15.55*
Abortion Rate (CDC)	-1.03	0.49	-1.52*

\* indicates a statistically significant difference ( $p < .10$ )

### Examining The Impact of Parental Involvement Laws

Status of law	Enacted	Nullified	Difference
Abortion Ratio (CDC)	-18.49	-1.14	-17.35*
Abortion Rate (CDC)	-1.03	0.08	-1.11*

\* indicates a statistically significant difference ( $p < .10$ )



## Part 5: Examining the Decline in the Teen Abortion Rate

- While the overall rate has declined by about 33 percent between 1985 and 1999, the minor abortion rate has fallen by over 50 percent. This means that a minor in 1999 was half as likely to have an abortion as one of her peers was 15 years ago.
- There are a variety of factors for this, including the fact that minors are engaging in sexual activities less often.
- Pro-life legislation played a role in this decline as well. My research indicates that parental involvement laws which are more protective (laws requiring consent and laws requiring that two parents be involved) result in larger abortion declines.

