



Abortion in Dayton Timeline

Before 1973- abortion was illegal in the State of Ohio, except to save life of the mother. In 1971, it was legal in 6 states and Washington DC.

1971- Rep. John Galbraith (R-Maumee) introduced Ohio's first abortion law in conjunction with the "no-fault" divorce clause. It was defeated in committee.

1971-Miami Valley Right to Life testifies against the bill and promotes a letter-writing campaign.

1972- May 31st, Miami Valley Right to Life officially incorporates as Dayton Right To Life Society

1973-January, Roe V Wade Decision announced

1973-February 15th, Ohio's first legal abortion was performed by Dr. Harley Blank in Columbus. (Dr. Blank surrendered his medical license in 2018, see article here. [Ohio's first abortionist, a defendant in multiple lawsuits, surrenders license \(liveaction.org\)](#))

1973-September, the 1st abortion facility opens in the area, Dayton's Women Health Center on S. Dixie Drive. The area's first abortions are performed there.

1976-Congress passes the Hyde amendment, banning the use of federal funds for abortions

1976-Cleveland Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL) is formed, which later becomes NARAL (National Abortion & Reproductive Rights League) of Ohio

1978-Dayton Right to Life opens food pantry and offers parenting education programs for mothers in unplanned pregnancies.

By mid 1980's--at it is highest point, 45,000+ abortions are performed each year in Ohio and Dayton had 3 operating abortion facilities.

1989-Elizabeth New Life opens its first pregnancy center.

1992-Casey v Planned Parenthood decision released.

1997-Dayton's first abortion facility, "Dayton Women's Health Center" sold its business to Martin Haskell, who opened Women's Med Center currently located on Stroop Road. **This last remaining abortion facility kills on average, 50 babies each week.** In 2020, Montgomery County was responsible for 13% of Ohio's total abortions, 1,292. Its highest number since 2010. (See Dayton Right to Life's Abortion report, [Dayton Right to Life - Dayton, OH \(daytonlife.org\)](#))