

Missouri Right to Life received this Press Release from National Right to Life

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CORRECTED: POLL: MOST AMERICANS FAMILIAR WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD, BUT DON'T KNOW THAT PLANNED PARENTHOOD PERFORMS ABORTIONS

WASHINGTON - Recent polling by the Polling Company found that a substantial majority of registered voters say that they are familiar with Planned Parenthood and a majority has a favorable impression of that organization. However, the same poll found that a majority did not know that Planned Parenthood performs abortions, despite the fact that it is the largest provider of abortions in the United States.

"The polling reflects the results of Planned Parenthood's campaign to publicly minimize and obfuscate its involvement with abortion," said David N. O'Steen, Ph.D., National Right to Life Executive Director.

Specifically 88% said that they were familiar with Planned Parenthood, with 41% saying that they were very familiar and 47% saying that they were somewhat familiar. Forty percent said they knew someone who had received services at a Planned Parenthood.

Although 63% said that they had a favorable opinion of Planned Parenthood, including 38% of those who identified themselves as pro-life, 55% of those polled did not know that Planned Parenthood performs abortions.

Fifty percent of pro-life respondents did not know that Planned Parenthood performs abortions.

Of the 45% who knew that Planned Parenthood performs abortions, the majority greatly underestimated the number of abortions Planned Parenthood performs annually.

In 2011, the last year for which the data is available, Planned Parenthood performed 333,964 abortions, or just over 27% of the current estimated number of abortions performed in the United States. Yet of the 45% who knew that Planned Parenthood performs abortions, only 14% (6% of the entire sample) knew that they perform over 300,000 abortions annually.

"The American people have been duped into thinking that Planned Parenthood is nothing more than a 'mainstream health care provider,' when in reality, Planned Parenthood clinics are performing upwards of 27% of the current estimated number of abortions performed in the United States annually," added Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life. "Regardless of what they say, for Planned Parenthood, abortion is big business."

However, these results also mean that Planned Parenthood's current degree of favorability is, for many, based on a false perception of an organization they think they know, but don't.

Other results from the poll indicate that widespread knowledge of Planned Parenthood's abortion business would

result in a significant drop in its favorability, especially among pro-lifers.

For example, the poll found that 53% would either prohibit all abortions, or allow them in only life-of- mother cases or in cases of rape or incest, which is far removed from Planned Parenthood's practice of performing abortion for any reason.

Planned Parenthood's favorability would also likely suffer if there were widespread knowledge that some of their affiliates perform late abortions. The poll found that 64% would prohibit abortion after 20 weeks, a time at which there is substantial evidence that the unborn child can feel pain.

The poll was conducted February 28 - March 3, 2003, of 1,003 registered voters with a margin of error of 3.1%

Founded in 1968, the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC), the federation of 50 state right-to-life affiliates and more than 3,000 local chapters, is the nation's oldest and largest grassroots pro-life organization. Recognized as the flagship of the pro-life movement, NRLC works through legislation and education to protect innocent human life from abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide and euthanasia.