

Pro-Choice Films

Organising an event to screen a film with a pro-choice theme is a good way to promote debate, raise consciousness and inspire new reproductive freedom fighters. Here are a few possibilities:

Films

The Cider House Rules

The story of a young boy who is raised in an orphanage. He learns about childbirth and abortion from the headmaster and struggles with his own morals and lack of worldliness.

Citizen Ruth

This film is a smart comedy about a woman in the United States who unexpectedly becomes pregnant. She finds herself at the centre of the abortion debate as anti-choice and pro-choice people try to convince her of their opinions.

Dirty Dancing

A classic romance about a teenaged girl in a relationship with her dance instructor during a family vacation. It has a pro-choice sub-plot that integrates issues of social class.

If These Walls Could Talk

Follows three different women and their experiences with abortion in the same house in 1952, 1974, and 1996, addressing the views of society in each decade.

Parsley Days

A whimsical Canadian film about a woman who finds herself pregnant and turns to herbal remedies to avoid the long wait for her abortion clinic appointment.

Roe Vs. Wade

Dramatises the issues and personalities behind the landmark case of Roe vs. Wade, while focusing on the two women most responsible for pushing this case through the United States legal system.

Vera Drake

Tells the story of a working-class woman in London in 1950 who works as a house cleaner and, secretly, as an abortionist. The film explores access and social class.

Documentaries

Abstinence Comes to Albuquerque

Using personal stories, community profiles, and interviews, this film highlights the differences between abstinence-only and more comprehensive sexual education.

The Abortion Diaries

Featuring twelve women of diverse social backgrounds who speak candidly about their experiences with abortion.

Back Alley Detroit

Tells the story of illegal abortions as experienced by women from diverse social groups and the physicians, clergy, and women's health activists who defied anti-abortion laws.

Dear Dr. Spencer: Abortion in a Small Town

The story of a doctor who performed safe abortions and the small town that shielded him from the law.

Democracy On Trial: The Morgentaler Affair

A depiction of Canadian physician Dr. Morgentaler's fight for legal and safe abortions since the 1970s and its legal consequences.

The Education of Shelby Knox

Follows how a girl who had pledged abstinence becomes an advocate for comprehensive sex education upon learning that her hometown has some of the highest rates of teen pregnancy and STIs in Texas.

The Fragile Promise of Choice: Abortion in the United States Today

Traces the erosion of access to safe abortion, including a shortage of trained providers, the threat of violence, and legislative restrictions.

From Danger to Dignity: The Fight for Safe Abortion

Traces the movement to decriminalise abortion, weaving together the evolution of "underground" networks to find illegal abortions and the intensive efforts of activists and legislators to change the law.

Help Wanted

Join a young activist as she cycles across the United States to meet people who are working to increase the number of abortion providers.

Jane: An Abortion Service

Jane was a Chicago-based women's health service that performed nearly 12,000 safe illegal abortions between 1969 and 1973.

The Last Abortion Clinic

Investigates the steady decline in the number of physicians and clinics carrying out abortions in the United States and focuses on local political battles in some states.

Legislating a Tragedy

Covers the issues surrounding late abortion; made to counter the first so-called "Partial Birth Abortion" ban.

Leona's Sister Gerri

Gerri Santoro died in 1964 from an illegal abortion, and a graphic police photo of her body circulated through the media. This film reconstructs the story behind the photo.

Life Matters

The filmmaker's father, Dr. Curtis Boyd, was a small-town physician, and former Pentacostal preacher, who performed abortions for desperate women before it was legal.

Limits on Choice

A segment from the PBS program "To the Contrary" on the last remaining abortion clinic in Mississippi.

Living Forward, Looking Back

Interweaves the stories of six women who were profoundly affected by the choices available to them prior to the legalisation of abortion.

Motherhood by Choice, Not Chance

Brings alive the history of the struggle for reproductive rights in the United States and the facts about current threats.

Motherless: Orphaned by Illegal Abortion

A documentary about women who died due to complications from illegal abortion and the children who are left to mourn them.

Roe v. Wade at Twenty-Five

A panel of distinguished experts discussing the status of a woman's right to choose. Featuring Anna Quindlen, Janet Benshoof, and Dr. Helen Rodrigues-Trias.

Sacred Choices and Abortion: 10 New Things to Think About

This film reframes reproductive rights debates in the context of religion. Includes scholars from major faith traditions.

Safe Abortion Care: An Imperative for Health Care Workers

Makes a compelling case for empowering, training and supporting midlevel providers- including nurses, midwives, physician assistants and others- to deliver critically needed abortion care as a part of comprehensive health care.

Speak EC: What Every Woman Needs to Know About Emergency Contraception

Includes compelling interviews with women who have taken Emergency Contraception and enlightening information on how some pharmacies elect not to distribute it.

Speak Out: I Had an Abortion

Documents the stories of eleven women ranging in age from 21 to 85. The film cuts across race, religion, region, class, sexuality, and politics.

Stand Up, Speak Out!

The remarkable story of how the people of New York's Mid-Hudson Valley defeated a proposed religious hospital merger and saved their reproductive health services.

Voices of Choice

Tells the story of illegal and legal abortion provision from those who provided it prior to its legalisation. Documents the horror of illegal abortion through the eyes of physicians.

We Can Do It Better: Inside an Independent Abortion Clinic

Documents the inspiring example of Four Women, Inc., an independent abortion and gynecology clinic in a small, post-industrial Massachusetts town.

When Abortion Was Illegal: Untold Stories

Includes compelling first-person accounts that illuminate the era of back-alley abortion, revealing the physical, legal, and emotional dimensions of abortion when it was a crime in the United States.

You're What?!

Follows a teenager as she struggles to decide whether to continue an unintended pregnancy, and the impact of parental consent laws. This film is intended for teenagers.

For additional films on abortion, see the website: www.abortionfilms.org/?lang=en