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Killing babies at your expense

Medi-Cal spending nearly \$33 million a year for abortions

Taxpayers footed the bill for an estimated 94,602 abortions at a cost of more than \$32.7 million in calendar year 2005, statistics posted on the web site of the California Department of Public Health show.

[[MediCal.jpg]]The 2005 figures are the latest available for Medi-Cal, the state's health program for the poor. Medi-Cal is California's version of Medicaid, the federal healthcare program, which does not pay for abortions. But California is under a state court order requiring that it pick up the tab for abortions under Medi-Cal.

The health department statistics reveal that 453 state-funded abortions were performed on girls under 15, and another 6,204 on girls 15-17. The "Minor Consent" program, which allows underage girls to qualify solely for abortion services without the knowledge or consent of their parents, paid for 4,465 abortions in calendar year 2005, according to the report.

Of the 94,602 Medi-Cal abortions, 22,632 – or about 24% -- were performed on Hispanic women, the highest percentage of any other ethnic group reported. Taxpayers funded 6,977 abortions for "undocumented aliens," the statistics showed.

Black and white women accounted for about 14% each of total abortions: 13,254 tax-paid abortions for black women; 13,267 for white women.

But an accurate ethnic breakdown is impossible to determine based on the state's statistics because the ethnicity of 29,259 women receiving Medi-Cal abortions in 2005 were "not reported." That number constitutes about 31% of the total.

For 4,393 women, the state was paying for more than one abortion in the same calendar year. That total is reported under "frequency of abortions," which includes only two reporting categories: "Once" and "Twice or more."

The average cost of a state-funded abortion was \$346, but fluctuated from a low of \$261 to a high of \$407 per abortion, depending on whether Medi-Cal was paying for the abortion directly ("fee for service") or whether a woman was enrolled in a "managed care" program, which receives a set amount of money each year to cover abortions.

The number of Medi-Cal abortions in 2005 was up from both 2003 and 2004. In 2003, the state paid for an estimated 90,953 abortions; in 2004, 90,946.

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