

[Vitae Foundation](#) is a research and education organization that has specialized in the topic of abortion for the past 30 years. Our national office is located in Cole County in Jefferson City, Missouri. We have an interest in contributing research and experiential data that will illuminate the patterns of the abortion industry to push people to make decisions without all of the facts. We believe it would be detrimental to allow the abortion industry to utilize these deceitful tactics in the initiative petition process.

Without clearly explaining the consequences of this proposed constitutional amendment, Missouri voters will be at a disadvantage to understand the ballot issue they are voting on. They should be able to depend on the state of Missouri to deliver fully accurate information to them that covers the scope of this complex topic, especially when it includes so many topics as they have loosely tied them together under the name of "reproductive freedom."

The abortion industry has a track record of encouraging the deliberate withholding of information that could impact decision-making including care after abortion. [International Planned Parenthood Federation](#) (IPPF) recently produced a training series with a group called, [How To Use the Abortion Pill](#), where they instruct abortion pill providers to encourage women who have complications from taking the abortion pill to lie to emergency room doctors about taking the abortion pill. Instead, they tell women to tell the emergency providers that they are having a miscarriage. Videos can be found at <https://vitaeresearchinstitute.org/ippf-training-videos/>. This causes additional and unnecessary risks to women's health by not being able to accurately assess their current emergency health condition and makes abortion pill complications impossible to track, further protecting the abortion industry.

In Vitae Foundation's National 2022* Abortion Pill Study, we found one-third of the respondents had personal experiences with the abortion pill but alarmingly the same study states, "no respondent could explain how the abortion pill process worked. Additionally, and similarly, none could cite the pharmaceutical name of either drug(s)." The study went on to show that women were not given accurate information about the process that included: the increased health risks, the labor-inducing use of the second medication (Misoprostol), and the fact that a woman undergoing a chemical abortion will often have to personally dispose of her child when she delivers him/her after taking the second pill.

Shortly after this study, we received urgent calls from pregnancy centers around the country who offer much-needed abortion healing services to women who experienced similar situations as mentioned above. In response to their calls for help, Vitae developed an online training to assist these organizations in gracefully navigating the delicate and emotional process of communicating with women who are left with the responsibility of disposing of children after undergoing a chemical abortion.

Despite being approved by the FDA in the U.S. over twenty years ago (2000), respondents are generally under-informed about what a chemical abortion entails, which has resulted in the overwhelming belief that the process is “easier” than surgical abortion. In the Abortion Pill Study, we found that every respondent who had a personal experience with the abortion pill did not state that the abortion pill process was easier, more convenient, and like a heavy period, as the abortion industry claims in their messaging. The only respondents who expressed those well branded speaking points were those who did not have a personal experience with the abortion pill. This makes a case that the abortion industry’s messaging regarding the abortion pill is inconsistent with what women experience.

In Vitae Foundation’s 1997* research study [*Its Own Time and Its Own Season*](#) (page 8), we learned that all respondents who had undergone an abortion “expressed the wish that they had sought kind, loving guidance when struggling with their decision, and all report that they would never have aborted had they done so.” This finding points directly to the important work of the pregnancy centers promoted through Vitae’s Meet Life efforts. These centers provide emotional and practical support to these women. Should this proposal pass, they will be forced to shut their doors or operate against their conscience, if forced to refer for abortion.

Again, in Vitae Foundation’s 2015* research study [*Saving Grace*](#) (page 18), we uncovered that many respondents did not remember Planned Parenthood staff spending much time explaining the risks of chemical or surgical abortion. This finding was later confirmed again by the respondents in the Abortion Pill Study.

In each study we’ve done, the same themes appear. The abortion industry:

- intentionally withholds critical information from women to protect their interests
- teaches women to keep essential information secret from medical professionals to protect their interests
- omits information about the chemical abortion process to protect their interests
- doesn’t explain the risks of this mentally, physically, and emotionally invasive procedure to protect their interests

Today, the abortion industry wants to withhold information from Missouri Voters to protect their interests. The citizens of Missouri are depending on their state government officials to ensure they receive accurate information about these important issues so they can make an informed and confident decision on the ballot.

**It should be noted that Right Brain Research methodology was used in the 1997, 2015, and 2022 studies. This methodology is timeless because it uncovers the emotional motivators that drive decision-making which does not change as the culture does, as contrasted with quantitative research methods.*