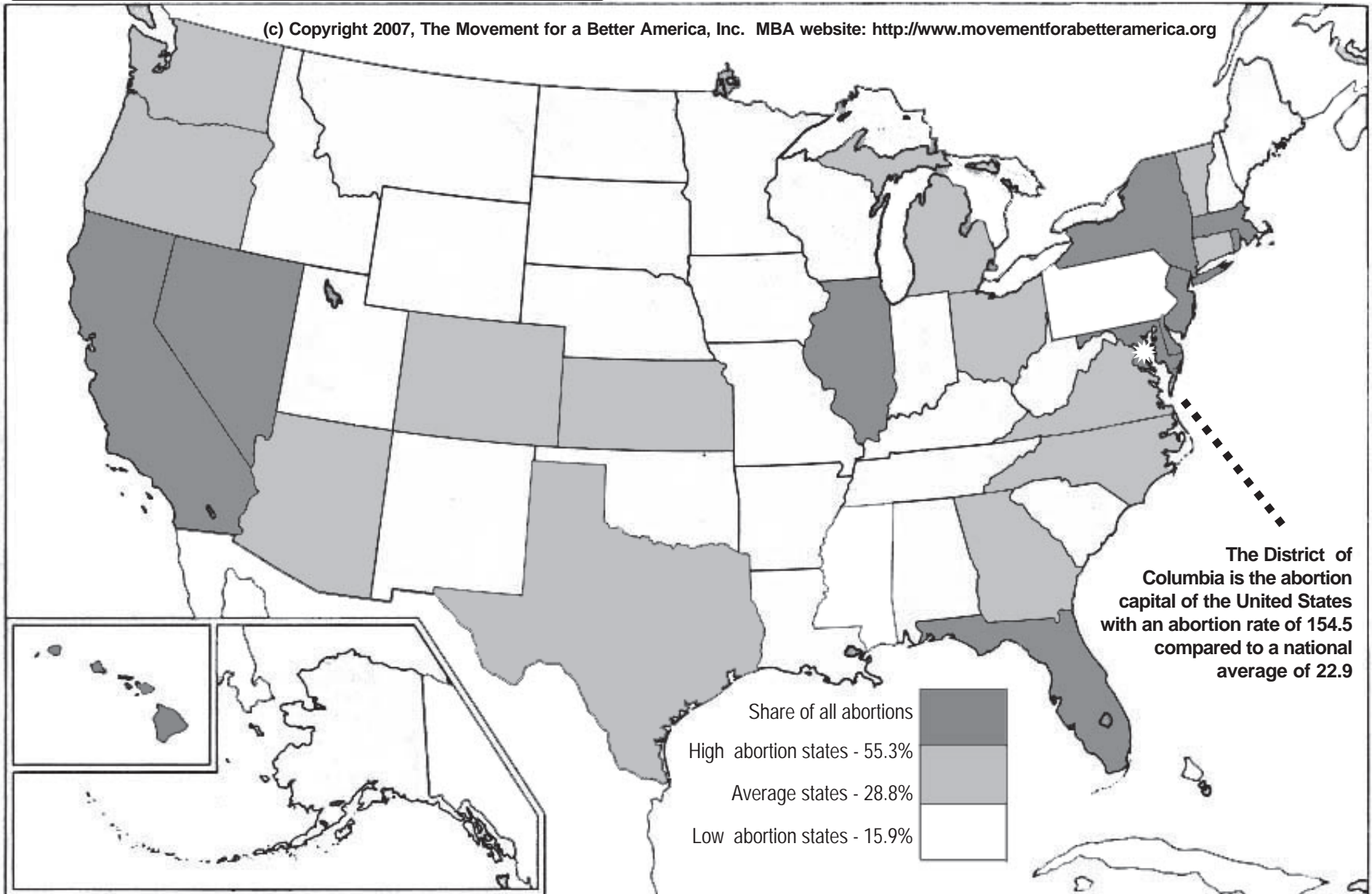


America Divided

America is deeply divided between 11 high abortion states plus the District of Columbia that account for 55.3% of all abortions . . . 13 average states that account for 28.8% of all abortions . . . and 26 pro-life states that account for 15.9% of all abortions. A total of 24 states plus D.C. account for 84.1% of all abortions.

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nal mortality in childbirth was at record highs, and if a woman survived the ordeals of pregnancy and childbirth, she often faced the prospect of having 5, 6, 7, and even 10 or more children. Large families were the rule, not the exception.

As post-colonial medicine improved, there were a great many quacks and not a few doctors only too willing to exploit women's predicament despite the lack of antiseptic procedures. The result was an era of killer abortions during which many women needlessly died and many more suffered lifelong consequences.

A strange partnership soon arose between Protestant doctors who abhorred abortion as a cure for women's ills and a growing number of Catholic priests who were concerned with both the spiritual and physical well-being of their parishioners. Often, doctors would refer their Catholic patients not to an abortionist, but to their parish priest, whom they knew they could trust to recommend against abortion.

Soon the early feminists and suffragettes joined the anti-abortion chorus with women like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton attacking abortion as "child murder." By the 1870's, this 19th Century pro-life movement had put anti-abortion laws on the books in nearly every state in the union. It was these laws that *Roe v. Wade* finally struck down 100 years later on January 22, 1973.

It was as if the U.S. Supreme Court had reneged on Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, and turned the clock all the way back to the Dred Scott decision.

For some 34 years, the pro-life

struggle has continued like a reprise of the old 19th Century struggle to restore dignity and nobility to women's role as the bearers of the next generation.

Roe v. Wade has left in its wake a torrent of suffering and anguish while almost every indicator of cultural decline has soared along with it – easy divorce, out-of-wedlock births, abuse and violence against women and children, and an epidemic of STD's and related diseases that are the mark of a culture gone wild.

Nothing illustrates this divided America more accurately than the distribution of abortion among the states.

Over 55% of all abortions occur in just 11 states and the District of Columbia. Another 28.8% occur in just 13 states with average abortion rates. Meanwhile, more than half the states account for just 15.9% of all abortions – or about 1 out of 6. This is the heartland of pro-life America.

In the 19th Century, America was divided between free states and slave states. Today, it is divided just as sharply between a majority of states where most people reject or resist abortion, and a minority where they embrace it.

The map on the reverse side illustrates this "nation divided against itself."

It is time to end these divisions.

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America Divided



Abraham Lincoln was talking about slavery when he said, "A nation divided against itself cannot stand." But he could just as truthfully have said the same thing about abortion.

By Dennis M. Howard

If anything ever reflected a nation divided it is the issue of abortion. In many ways, abortion divides us just as deeply today as slavery once did in the 1860's.

Indeed, few Americans realize that abortion, too, dates back to that other terrible division of 19th Century America – slavery. All through the 1830's to 1860's, abortion was almost as divisive an issue as slavery.

It became an issue because post-colonial women suffered far more grievous ills than their 20th Century sisters. Mater-