

EXPERINCES OF WOMEN WHO SEEK RECOVERY ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING  
AND ELECTIVE ABORTION: A GROUNDED THEORY APPROACH

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Abstract

**Purpose:** This study, using grounded theory method, was conducted to describe the basic social processes experienced by 17 women who recognized the need for recovery and sought recovery assistance following an elective abortion.

**Method:** The study was conducted in the southern and west coast regions of the United States. Utilizing a grounded theory chronological approach, interview data was analyzed in three main stages: Life Before Abortion, Life After Abortion and Life With Recovery.

**Findings:** The basic social processes that explained the experience of these post-abortive women were: searching for love and acceptance, understanding the need for help, seeking help, accepting God's forgiveness, forgiving self/others and life-long recovery.

**Discussion:** From the findings of the present study and literature reviewed, the following areas were discussed: (a) early family lives may have an impact on choices made as teenage girls and later as women; (b) women who experience an unwanted pregnancy often times feel confusion, fear and isolation; (c) potential risk factors for women who may experience negative post-abortion outcomes have been identified; (d) women who chose abortion often have limited knowledge of the procedure; (e) women who chose abortion often experience negative outcomes; (f) women who have been exposed to Christian teaching may be more open to seeking Judeo-Christian post-abortion recovery assistance; and (g) women's recognition of the need for post-abortive recovery for this study was found to be influenced by external sources.