

SHOW:	SEASON/EPISODE:	YEAR:	DESCRIPTION:	TOPICS:
Another World (soap opera)	Season unknown	1964	Character has an illegal abortion	Abortion
Maude	Season 1	1972	In November 1972, 2 months before Roe v. Wade, the main character Maude ends her unwanted pregnancy by abortion. Maude starred Beatrice Arthur as Maude Findlay, an outspoken, middle-aged, politically liberal woman living in suburban Tuckahoe, Westchester County, New York with her fourth husband. Maude embraced the tenets of women's liberation, always voted for Democratic Party candidates, strongly supported legal abortion, and advocated for civil rights and racial and gender equality. However, her overbearing and sometimes domineering personality often got her into trouble when speaking out on these issues. Maude, at age 47, was dismayed to find herself unexpectedly pregnant. Her daughter, Carol, brought to her attention that abortion was now legal in New York state. After some soul-searching (and discussions with Walter, who agreed that raising a baby was not what they wanted to do), Maude tearfully decided at the end of the two-parter that abortion was probably the best choice for their lives and their marriage. Noticing the controversy around the episode, CBS decided to rerun the episodes in August 1973, and members of the country's clergy reacted strongly to the decision. At least 30 stations dropped the show.	Abortion
All My Children (soap opera)	Season unknown	1974	Merely weeks after Roe v. Wade passed, the character Erica Kane had the first legal abortion on daytime TV. Bizarrely, in 2000 a "character named Josh Madden learned that although Erica had initially conceived him, he had been kidnapped as an embryo and transferred to the womb of another woman by the obviously deranged doctor who had raised him. Fans were outraged, on one level because the story line was ludicrous, even by the measure of daytime television, and on another because the twist had gone a long way toward eradicating the show's progressive politics, and, in some sense, an entire era".	Abortion
Cagney and Lacey	Season 5, episode 6	1985	Cagney and Lacey escort a poor Latina to an abortion clinic, as she's afraid to run the gauntlet of protesters. When the clinic is firebombed and someone dies, it becomes murder. Lacey points out that since she's pregnant, attacking her is just like killing a baby. This was a controversial episode, not shown by every affiliate.	Abortion, Anti-choice Violence
Melrose Place	Season 1, episode 32	1993	Amanda is faced with an unintended pregnancy. Amanda's pending promotion to replace Lucy as vice-president of D&D is put in jeopardy because of her pregnancy, until she miscarries.	Pregnancy
Beverly Hills, 90210: The Labors of Love	Season 4, episode 21	1994	Andrea, a college freshman in Los Angeles, starts dating Jesse, a law student. After she finds out she's pregnant, Andrea goes to her friend Kelly for advice. Kelly offers her support but also implores Andrea to tell Jesse about the pregnancy. Andrea doesn't want to, because she's afraid Jesse will break up with her since she wants to have an abortion and he's Catholic. But eventually she does; he's excited about the pregnancy and wants her to have the child, but after Jesse learns that she wants an abortion, he breaks up with her. Andrea and Kelly go to the clinic, where for some inexplicable reason her appointment is just for a consultation, not the procedure. (This would be realistic in a state with a mandatory waiting period, but California doesn't have a waiting period requirement.) Later that night, Andrea seems conflicted about whether to have the abortion, but decides to go through with it. Then Jesse shows up, assuming she's already had the abortion, apologizes, and says he still wants to be her boyfriend. Andrea tells him she hasn't had the abortion yet and doesn't think she's going to. Ecstatic, he proposes, and she accepts.	Abortion, pregnancy
The Real World: Los Angeles	Season 2, episode 11	1993	Cast member Tami Akbar's abortion experience is portrayed. Tami's mother came to support Tami during the crisis, and offered her own perspective on abortion, saying that she could not have had one herself when she became pregnant with Tami because abortion was not yet legal. Jon, who is pro-life, is against it, and has a discussion with Aaron and his visiting girlfriend, Erin, who are pro-choice.	Abortion, pregnancy
Melrose Place	Season 2, episode 3	1994	Jo realizes she is pregnant by her abusive ex-boyfriend who she killed in self-defense, but decides not to have an abortion.	Abortion
Roseanne: Thanksgiving	Season 7, episode 10	1994	Tension ensues when Nana Mary tells her pregnant daughter, Bev, that she had two abortions years ago.	Abortion, Pregnancy

Party of Five	Season 2, episode 18	1996	After finding out that she's pregnant with Justin's baby, Julia debates her options of abortion, adoption, or keeping the baby, leaving mixed reactions. Charlie wants to support Julia, Bailey wants to beat up Justin, and Claudia is plain confused. The only person Julia can talk with is Sarah, but being adopted herself makes Sarah feel conflicted. Meanwhile, Bailey and Sarah are both ready to become sexually active, and Sarah wants to make the coming event special. At the end, Julia miscarries	Teens, Pregnancy, Abortion
Friends	Season 1, 4, 5, 8	1994-1999	In Season 1, Ross's wife leaves him because she is a lesbian. She later finds out she is pregnant and Ross is the biological father. Ross has difficulty sharing the traditional father role of expectant parent with Carol's partner. In Season 4, Phoebe's brother marries an older woman who is biologically incapable of having children. They ask Phoebe if she would be the surrogate mother. Phoebe agrees to artificial insemination and gives birth to triplets at the beginning of season 5. In season 8, Rachel gets pregnant after a condom malfunction during a one night stand with Ross. Ross and Joey only then realize that condoms are only 97% effective.	LGBTQ, Nuclear Family, Pregnancy, Surrogacy, Contraception
Dawson's Creek	Season 4, episode 5-6	2000	Gail drops a bomb on Mitch and Dawson saying that she might be pregnant. But she is conflicted whether or not to keep her baby. Dawson counsels his mother not to get an abortion. Mitch and Gail decide to keep their baby.	Pregnancy
ER	Season 6, episode 18	2000	An overwhelmed mother tries to induce a miscarriage before getting abortion help from Abby.	Miscarriage, abortion
Sex and the City: Shoulda, Coulda, Woulda and Just Say Yes	Season 4, episodes 11, 12	2001	Miranda, a high-powered lawyer, finds herself pregnant after one night with Steve. Miranda weighs her options, including abortion. Later decides to have the child and tells Steve that she doesn't expect his help. Carrie also visits an old partner to tell him that she had had an abortion.	Pregnancy, abortion, single parenthood
Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Season 1, episode 11	2002	Goren and Eames investigate the murder by sniper attack of an abortion doctor - a subject close to Eames' heart.	Anti-choice Violence
Boston Public	Season 4, episode 7	2003	Marla decides to try in vitro fertilization and asks Harper to be the donor.	ART, fertility, conception
Everwood	Season 1, episode 20	2003	Dr. Andy Brown is confronted with a case for which there are no easy solutions. A teenager is pregnant - - the result of a foolish affair with her much-older piano teacher. He has left the country, and she's left with a problem that her father wants solved with an abortion.	Abortion, teens, minors
Law & Order SVU: Fallacy	Season 4, episode 21	2003	A woman is assaulted and kills her attacker in self defense. During their investigation Benson and Stabler find out that she is a pre-operative transsexual. The episode chronicles the problems of transsexuals and prison housing, and the legal system in general.	Transgender, violence
Six Feet Under	Season 3, episode 12 -13	2003	Claire chooses to get an abortion and calls Brenda when she learns she needs a driver, who accepts. Portrays the abortion clinic as impersonal and like a factory. Claire sees a number of people she's cared for in the afterlife, including her aborted fetus, who appears as a full-term baby and speaks to her.	Abortion
The OC	Season 1, episode 27	2004	Theresa (Navi Rawat) discovers she is pregnant by either Ryan or Eddie. Theresa contemplates abortion but eventually decides to have the baby and move back home to live with her mother.	Teens, pregnancy, minors, abortion

Jack & Bobby: A Child of God	Season 1, episode 19	2005	"Bible-group devotee Missy, the ex-girlfriend of brooding series heartthrob Jack, finds herself pregnant by a jerk jock and, desperate to save face with her conservative minister father, lies, telling Jack it's his baby. When Jack's mother, feminist professor Grace, asks the girl what she plans to do, Missy answers that while other girls might have an abortion, "for me, it's just too special." Nevertheless, after Missy comes clean about the fetus's real father and her preacher papa declares her a whore and throws her out, she turns to Grace, asking her for a ride to Illinois, where she can get an abortion without parental consent. In a situation with no easy answers, Grace trusts Missy to decide what's best and – after offering to take the girl in if she wanted to have the baby – she agrees to help her. (In real life, that act of compassion could soon land a woman like Grace in prison for up to a year: A week after the episode aired, the House passed a bill that, if approved by the Senate, would make it a federal crime to transport a minor across state lines for an abortion to avoid parental notification.)" - J. Pozner Unfortunately, the character Missy was killed off later in the season.	Abortion
West Wing: The Al Smith Dinner	Season 7, episode 138	2005	The episode is dominated by abortion politics. Both candidates' campaign staff advise that they should attend the Al Smith Dinner (a Catholic Charities fundraiser), but both VP candidates will be attending in their place. An independent Republican party organization releases an attack ad against Matt Santos concerning his voting record on abortion. Arnold Vinick wants the party to condemn the ad, before the entire campaign turns negative. Both candidates seriously consider their positions on abortion, and it is revealed by Santos to Leo that he is actually pro-life and believes that life begins at conception. During the Santos campaign's rebuttal to the attack ad, it is revealed that Lou has hired Donna as a campaign spokesperson to speak out about the ad, to Josh's chagrin. Santos and Vinick talk to each other about their campaigns and negotiate the terms of the upcoming debate just before they head out to speak at the Al Smith Dinner.	Abortion, politics
Boston Legal: Smile	Season 2, episode 15	2006	After being raped an 18 year old girl becomes pregnant because she was refused emergency contraception by a Catholic Hospital. She decides to go public, and hires Shirley and Denise to represent her in a lawsuit. There is an online toolkit available to supplement this episode: http://www.raisinghervoice.org/docs/bltoolkit.pdf	Emergency contraception, pregnancy, pharmacy refusal
Family Guy: Prick Up Your Ears	Season 5, episode 6	2006	Lois manages to become the sex-ed teacher at Chris's school, but she is quickly fired in favor of a reverend who teaches abstinence-only. In order to stay abstinent, students begin having "ear sex."	sex education, abstinence-only
House: Skin Deep	Season 2, episode 13	2006	This episode handles the issue of an intersex patient very poorly. When a young model comes in with various ailments, doctors eventually realize she is intersex.	Intersex
Baby Borrowers	British reality TV; NBC	2007	"NBC's reality series 'The Baby Borrowers' is an intriguing new social experiment based on the hit British program that asks five diverse teenage couples -- ages 18-20 -- to fast-track to adulthood by setting up a home, getting a job and becoming caring parents first to babies, toddlers, pre-teens and their pets, teenagers and senior citizens -- all over the course of three weeks. As the social experiment begins, the five young volunteer couples are asked to literally grow up overnight when they are each given a home in a quiet cul-de-sac outside Boise, Idaho and attend prenatal classes as each 'mother' wears a simulated 'empathy' belly to prepare them for the arrival of their 'baby.'"	Teens, experimental, child rearing
Mad Men: Smoke Gets in Your Eyes	Season 1, episode 1	2007	1960: Peggy visits a gynecologist to get a prescription for birth control. The doctor warns her that he would take it away if she "abused" it.	birth control
Mad Men: The Wheel	Season 1, episode 13	2007	1960. After her encounter with co-worker Pete, Peggy gives birth without realizing she is pregnant; she later gives the baby away for adoption, although this is not shown in the show.	Pregnancy, adoption
Friday Night Lights: Birds, Bees and the Giving Tree	Season 3, episode 10	2008	Coach Taylor walks in his daughter having sex. The episode goes through how her parents handle talking to her about safe-sex.	Sexual education
The L Word: Least Likely	Season 6, episode 2	2009	A character transitioning from female-to-male discovers they are four months pregnant.	Abortion, Transgender
Drop Dead Diva: Queen of Mean	Season 2, episode 8	2010	Grayson and Kim take on a case where a transgender woman fights for marital assets after her wife dies.	Transgender

Friday Night Lights: I Can't	Season 4, episode 10	2010	In one of the most balanced and acclaimed portrayal of abortion on a television series, 15-year old Becky finds herself pregnant after one encounter with a football player and considers her options for her future. Includes scene of abortion provider reciting the governmentally mandated "information" to patients.	Abortion, teens, minors
Mad Men: Hands and Knees	Season 4, episode 10	2010	It's 1965 in New York. In an earlier episode, Joan asked her doctor whether her previous 2 abortions would impact her chances of conceiving with her husband, who is about to go to Vietnam. Joan becomes pregnant following her post-mugging tryst with Roger and they decide that she should get an abortion (her third). So she goes alone on a bus to "take care of it." At the doctor's office, Joan talks to the mother of a young woman who is there for an abortion.	Abortion
Mad Men: Tomorrowland	Season 4, episode	2010	It is revealed that Joan has decided to keep the baby she conceived with Roger, passing it off as her husband's.	Pregnancy
No Easy Decision	Special of 16 & Pregnant	2010	A young woman decides to have an abortion after she becomes pregnant again shortly after giving birth to her baby earlier in the season. At the end of the episode, Dr. Drew also speaks with two other women in their 20s who had had abortions as teenagers. All three women said that they had been lacking in the proper information regarding birth control: one had been using the withdrawal method of birth control because she did not know any better, one said that she did not know that regurgitating her birth control pills rendered them ineffective, and one said that she did not know that skipping her Depo shot meant that she could get pregnant.	Teens, pregnancy, abortion
Private Practice: Best Laid Plans	Season 3, episode 12	2010	Sam and Naomi are shocked to learn that Maya is pregnant. Naomi pushes Maya to have the abortion, even though it's against her personal beliefs, but the teenager ultimately decides to keep the child.	Abortion
The Fertility Chase	WeTV series	2010	In-depth look at all topics surrounding female and male fertility, infertility, assisted reproduction, and getting pregnant. The six-part series features interviews with women who have dealt with their own fertility issues, as well as professionals in the reproductive field, including physicians from the Reproductive Medicine Group in Tampa, Florida. The series is a comprehensive view into the world of infertility, which aims "To educate. To enlighten. To empower. To give hope."	fertility, conception, ART
Degrassi: The Next Generation: Accidents Will Happen	Season 3, episode 15	2004 (2006 in US)	Manny, a 14-year old, gets pregnant after consensual sex with her boyfriend. She decides to have an abortion and feels no regrets. The US network N refused to distribute the episode in the US until 2006.	Abortion, teens, minors
Big Love		2006-2011	HBO show which centers around a polygamist and his relationship with the three wives, all whom he is married to.	Polygamy
The Secret Life of the American Teenager	Seasons 1, 2, 3	2008-2011	Typically conservative show that depicts a teenager becoming pregnant and then raising the child. Another character, Adrian, seriously considered abortion, but ultimately decided against it. The show has been criticized as "cheerleading for anti-abortion sentiments"; Bristol Palin (herself a teenage mother) appeared on the episode.	Teens, pregnancy, minors, child rearing
16 & Pregnant	Season 1, 2	2009-2010	MTV reality television series produced by Morgan J. Freeman and Dia Sokol Savage, and was first broadcast on June 11, 2009. It follows the stories of pregnant teenage girls in high school dealing with the hardships of teenage pregnancy. Each episode features a different teenage girl, with the episode typically beginning when she is 4 1/2-8 months into her pregnancy. The episode typically ends when the baby is a few months old. The series is produced in a documentary format, with an animation of an elaborate cartoon depiction on notebook paper of highlights during each episode preceding the commercial breaks.	Teens, pregnancy
Glee	Season 1, 2	2009-2011	The show revolves around a high school Glee Club and superficially explores issues of gender, sexuality, and pregnancy. Kurt, a member of the Glee Club, came out as gay to his father in the episode, "Preggers." Another character, Quinn, is pregnant. Terri Schuster fakes her pregnancy. Blaine was introduced as a gay character in the season 2 episode, "Never Been Kissed." Blaine later becomes Kurt's boyfriend. Santana Lopez realizes she is a lesbian in the second half of season two and chooses not come out publicly and instead convinces bully, Korofsky, who is also gay and in the closet, to pretend to be her boyfriend to cover the fact that they are gay.	LGBTQ, gender, sexuality, teens, minors, pregnancy

Modern Family	Seasons 1, 2	2009-2011	A gay couple, Mitchell and Cameron, have been together for five years and adopt a daughter from Vietnam. The extended family includes a blended family through remarriage.	LGBTQ, same-sex adoption, international adoption, families
Teen Mom & Teen Mom 2	Seasons 1, 2	2009-2011	MTV reality television series that follows several teenage women as they navigate their first year of motherhood.	Teens, pregnancy, child rearing
Family Guy: Partial Terms of Endearment	Season 8, episode 21	2010 (2011 in US)	Lois is approached by an old friend from college who asks her to become a surrogate mother. After arguing with her husband Peter who is against the idea, Lois decides to become a gestational carrier and undergoes in vitro fertilization. However, while Lois is pregnant, the biological parents are killed in an automobile accident. Lois and Peter have to decide whether to abort the fetus, or carry it to term and give the baby up for adoption. Lois and Peter decide to visit the local family-planning center, and ultimately decide on abortion. However, as Peter exits the center he encounters an anti-abortion rally, where he is shown an anti-abortion video by one of the protesters. The video causes him to change his mind about aborting the fetus. Returning home, Lois continues to advocate her right to choose, while Peter now attempts to argue the unborn child's right to life and whether Lois has the responsibility of carrying it to term. The next day, Lois talks with the family about "the wonderful new member of the Griffin family". But then Peter, at the very last moment of the episode, says that the abortion had occurred anyway.	Surrogacy, ART, abortion
Sister Wives	Season 1-2	2010-2011	Reality show about a polygamous family, a Mormon man, his 3 wives, and their combined 13 children living in Utah and the challenges they face.	Polygamy
30 Rock: TGS Hates Women	Season 5, episode 16	2011	TGS is accused of being misogynistic so Liz Lemon hires a female writer, Abby Flynn, in order to prove that it isn't. Liz later believes that her new female guest writer perpetuates negative female stereotypes and is bad for women. Liz tries to convert Abby not to play into these stereotypes and digs deep into Abby's past. Liz finds footage of Abby being smart and looking normal and exposes this on the internet. Abby reveals that she is in the witness protection program and hiding from an abusive ex-boyfriend and uses the negative stereotypes for safety. Abby agrees that Liz is misogynistic.	Feminism, Domestic Violence
Love Bites	Season 1	2011	Sitcom that presents short clips of various love and relationship stories. One story revolves around a woman who agrees to be a surrogate to her sister and brother-in-law's baby. The show depicts her partaking in bachelorette parties and blind dates as a pregnant woman and the difficulties she has. In episode 6, Becky Lerner, a teenager, believes she may have an STD and goes to the doctor to assess. The doctor has Becky sign a consent and waiver form and presents the only options she is legally allowed to discuss: abortion, adoption and keeping the baby. The doctor stresses that she has no personal opinion nor judgements on whatever Becky chooses. When Becky tells the doctor she's worried she has a STD, the doctor states that that issue is out of her jurisdiction and that she will have to refer her to the free clinic. This scene is a humorous parody of the laws and restriction doctors and providers face in regards to reproductive health.	Surrogacy, Teens, TRAP
Shameless: Nana Gallanger had an Affair	Season 1, episode 10	2011	Karen agrees to go with her father Eddie to the Promise Keepers meeting, a Chastity Ball, in exchange for a car. The girls go around and confess their sexual urges and experiences, mostly innocent in nature, then pledge their chastity to their fathers. Then Karen discusses in detail her advanced sexual experiences and her father interrupts her halfway in horror and yells that she's a whore.	Abstinence, Teens