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News Release: Abortion Linked to Mental Illness

April 30th, 2010 · No Comments · Health, Medicine, News Release, Research, Social Work, psychology

Researchers at the University of Manitoba have published findings of a study regarding the relationship between abortion, mental illness and suicide.

Using data from the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Institute of Drug Abuse, researchers in the departments of psychology and psychiatry, and the department of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences looked for correlations between many factors. These included abortion, anxiety, substance abuse, eating disorders, disruptive behaviour and suicide attempts. They then checked for evidence of mental disorders following abortions.

It was found that abortion was associated with mood disorders, anxiety disorders, substance abuse and suicide attempts. Depression and drug dependence followed abortion in about half of the women studied. Women with a household income of \$75,000 were more likely to report an abortion than those with household incomes under \$25,000.

“This was the first study to examine associations between abortion and several mental disorders,” says Dr. Jitender Sareen, psychiatry.

He adds: “We found a higher likelihood of lifetime mood disorder in women who had experienced an abortion compared with those who had never had an abortion. A woman with a mood disorder might be more inclined to have an abortion, while conversely, an unplanned pregnancy and abortion could precipitate a mood disorder.”

The study was published this month in the *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*.

For more information, please contact Jitender Sareen at: 204-787-7078.

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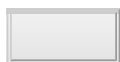
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