

Table 7. Legal abortions, legal abortion rates, and legal abortion ratios: United States and 47 continuous reporting areas, 2003–2012

Updated data when available, Excel, PDF: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2015.htm#007>.

[Data are based on reporting by state health departments and by hospitals and other medical facilities]

Data provider	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of legal abortions reported, in thousands										
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) ¹	848	839	820	852	828	826	789	766	730	699
Guttmacher Institute ²	1,250	1,222	1,206	1,242	1,210	1,212	1,152	1,103	1,059	---
CDC 47 continuous reporting areas ³										
Number of legal abortions reported, in thousands	826	818	808	835	819	817	779	755	720	688
Percent of total legal abortions reported to CDC ⁴	97.4	97.5	98.5	97.9	99.0	98.9	98.7	98.6	98.5	98.4
Number of legal abortions per 1,000 women aged 15–44	16.1	15.9	15.7	16.2	15.8	15.8	15.0	14.6	13.9	13.2
Number of legal abortions per 1,000 live births	245	241	236	237	229	232	227	227	219	210

--- Data not available.

¹Overall trends presented in this table should be interpreted with caution because of the different numbers of reporting areas that provided data to CDC in different years. The following states did not report abortion data to CDC: California (2003–2012), Louisiana (2005), Maryland (2007–2012), New Hampshire (2003–2012), and West Virginia (2003–2004). For 2006, the number of legal abortions is greater than reported in the 2006 report because of numbers subsequently provided by Louisiana. For 2009, the number of legal abortions is greater than reported in the 2009 report because of numbers subsequently provided by Delaware.

²No surveys were conducted in 2003, 2006, or 2009. Data for those years were estimated by interpolation. See Appendix I, Guttmacher Institute Abortion Provider Census.

³Because overall trends in abortion data are affected by the number of reporting areas that provide data to CDC on an annual basis, CDC also presents estimates for the 47 reporting areas that provided data for the entire period from 2003 to 2012. The 47 continuous reporting areas include all states except California, Louisiana, Maryland, New Hampshire, and West Virginia. The District of Columbia and New York City are included in the 47 continuous reporting areas.

⁴Percentage of legal abortions that the 47 continuous reporting areas represented of the total number of legal abortions reported to CDC each year.

NOTES: Each year, CDC requests abortion data from the central health agencies of 52 reporting areas (the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and New York City). This information is provided voluntarily to CDC. See the annual Abortion Surveillance reports for more information on the characteristic-specific list of reporting areas. Available from: http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/Data_Stats/Abortion.htm. For methodological differences between CDC and the Guttmacher Institute Abortion Provider Census, see Appendix I, Abortion Surveillance System; Guttmacher Institute Abortion Provider Census. Some data were revised and differ from previous editions of *Health, United States*.

SOURCE: CDC, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. CDC. Abortion surveillance—United States, 2012. *MMWR* 2015;64(SS10);1–40. Available from: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6410a1.htm?s_cid=ss6410a1_e. Guttmacher Institute Abortion Provider Survey. *Perspect Sex Reprod Health* 2014;46(1):3–14. Available from: <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/psrh.46e0414.pdf>. See Appendix I, Abortion Surveillance System; Guttmacher Institute Abortion Provider Census.