

Table 14. Legal abortions and legal abortion ratios, by selected patient characteristics: United States, selected years 1973-2006

(Data are based on reporting by state health departments and by hospitals and other medical facilities)

Characteristic	1973	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	1999 ¹	2000 ²	2004 ³	2005 ⁴	2006 ⁴
Number of legal abortions reported in thousands											
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).....	616	855	1,298	1,329	1,429	1,211	862	857	839	820	846
Guttmacher Institute ⁵	745	1,034	1,554	1,589	1,609	1,359	1,315	1,313	1,222	1,206	---
Abortions per 100 live births ⁶											
Total CDC.....	19.6	27.2	35.9	35.4	34.4	31.1	25.6	24.5	23.8	23.3	23.3
Age											
Under 15 years.....	123.7	119.3	139.7	137.6	81.8	66.4	70.9	70.8	76.2	76.4	75.4
15-19 years.....	53.9	54.2	71.4	68.8	51.1	39.9	37.5	36.1	36.2	35.8	35.1
20-24 years.....	29.4	28.9	39.5	38.6	37.8	34.8	31.6	30.0	29.1	28.3	28.0
25-29 years.....	20.7	19.2	23.7	21.7	21.8	22.0	20.8	19.8	19.1	18.7	18.8
30-34 years.....	28.0	25.0	23.7	19.9	19.0	16.4	15.2	14.5	14.3	14.0	14.0
35-39 years.....	45.1	42.2	41.0	33.6	27.3	22.3	19.3	18.1	17.0	16.8	17.0
40 years and over.....	68.4	66.8	80.7	62.3	50.6	38.5	32.9	30.1	28.6	27.8	27.6
Race											
White ⁷	32.6	27.7	33.2	27.7	25.8	20.3	17.7	16.7	16.1	15.8	16.2
Black or African American ⁸ ...	42.0	47.6	54.3	47.2	53.7	53.1	52.9	50.3	47.2	46.7	45.9
Hispanic origin ⁹											
Hispanic or Latina.....	---	---	---	---	---	27.1	26.1	22.5	21.1	20.5	20.0
Not Hispanic or Latina.....	---	---	---	---	---	27.9	25.2	23.3	23.6	22.3	22.4
Marital status											
Married.....	7.6	9.6	10.5	8.0	8.7	7.6	7.0	6.5	6.1	5.8	---
Unmarried.....	139.8	161.0	147.6	117.4	86.3	64.5	60.4	57.0	51.0	48.5	---
Previous live births ¹⁰											
0.....	43.7	38.4	45.7	45.1	36.0	28.6	24.3	22.6	23.0	22.6	---
1.....	23.5	22.0	20.2	21.6	22.7	22.0	20.6	19.4	19.0	18.2	---
2.....	36.8	36.8	29.5	29.9	31.5	30.6	29.0	27.4	26.4	25.4	---
3.....	46.9	47.7	29.8	18.2	30.1	30.7	29.8	28.5	27.4	26.4	---
4 or more ¹¹	44.7	43.5	24.3	21.5	26.6	23.7	24.2	23.7	22.9	21.9	---
Percent distribution ¹²											
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Period of gestation											
Under 9 weeks.....	36.1	44.6	51.7	50.3	51.6	54.0	57.6	58.1	61.4	62.1	62.0
9-10 weeks.....	29.4	28.4	26.2	26.6	25.3	23.1	20.2	19.8	17.6	17.1	17.1
11-12 weeks.....	17.9	14.9	12.2	12.5	11.7	10.9	10.2	10.2	9.3	9.3	9.3
13-15 weeks.....	6.9	5.0	5.1	5.9	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.3
16-20 weeks.....	8.0	6.1	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.0	3.8	3.8

21 weeks and over.....	1.7	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Previous induced abortions											
0.....	---	81.9	67.6	60.1	57.1	55.1	53.7	54.7	55.0	54.9	55.2
1.....	---	14.9	23.5	25.7	26.9	26.9	27.1	26.4	25.8	25.8	25.5
2.....	---	2.5	6.6	9.8	10.1	10.9	11.5	11.3	11.3	11.4	11.2
3 or more.....	---	0.7	2.3	4.4	5.9	7.1	7.7	7.6	7.9	7.9	8.0

---Data not available.

¹In 1998 and 1999, Alaska, California, New Hampshire, and Oklahoma did not report abortion data to CDC. For comparison, in 1997, the 48 corresponding reporting areas reported about 900,000 legal abortions.

²In 2000, 2001, and 2002, Alaska, California, and New Hampshire did not report abortion data to CDC.

³In 2003 and 2004, California, New Hampshire, and West Virginia did not report abortion data to CDC.

⁴In 2005 and 2006, California, Louisiana, and New Hampshire did not report abortion data to CDC.

⁵No surveys were conducted in 1983, 1986, 1989, 1990, 1993, 1994, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002, or 2003. Data for these years were estimated by interpolation. See Appendix I, Guttmacher Institute.

⁶For calculation of ratios by each characteristic, abortions with characteristic unknown were distributed in proportion to abortions with characteristic known.

⁷For 1989 and later years, white race includes women of Hispanic ethnicity.

⁸Before 1989, black race includes races other than white.

⁹Data from 20-22 states, the District of Columbia (DC), and New York City (NYC) were included in 1991-1993. The number of reporting areas increased to 25 states, DC, and NYC in 1994-2004. States were excluded either because they did not collect data on Hispanic origin or due to incomplete reporting of Hispanic data (greater than 15% unknown Hispanic origin). See Appendix I, Abortion Surveillance.

¹⁰For 1973-1975, data indicate number of living children.

¹¹For 1975, data refer to four previous live births, not four or more. For five or more previous live births, the ratio is 47.3.

¹²For calculation of percent distribution by each characteristic, abortions with characteristic unknown were excluded.

NOTES: The number of areas reporting adequate data (less than or equal to 15% missing) for each characteristic varies from year to year. For methodological differences between these two data sources, see Appendix I, Abortion Surveillance; Guttmacher Institute Abortion Provider Survey. Data for additional years are available. See Appendix III.

SOURCE: CDC, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion: Abortion Surveillance, 1973, 1975, 1979-1980. Atlanta, GA: Public Health Service, 1975, 1977, 1983; CDC MMWR Surveillance Summaries. Abortion Surveillance, United States, 1984 and 1985, Vol. 38, No. SS-2, 1989; 1990, Vol. 42, No. SS-6, 1993; 1995, Vol. 47, No. SS-2, 1998; 1997, Vol. 49, No. SS-11, 2000; 1998, Vol. 51, No. SS-3, 2002; 1999, Vol. 51, No. SS-9, 2002; 2000, Vol. 52, No. SS-12, 2003; 2001, Vol. 53, No. SS-9, 2004; 2002, Vol. 54, No. SS-7, 2005; 2003, Vol. 55, No. SS-11, 2006; 2004, Vol. 56, No. SS-09, 2007; 2005, Vol. 57, No. SS-13, 2008; 2006, Vol. 58, No. SS-08, 2009. Guttmacher Institute Abortion Provider Survey. Finer LB, Henshaw SK. Abortion incidence and services in the United States in 2000. *Perspect Sex Reprod Health* 2003;35(1)6-15. Finer LB, Henshaw SK. Estimates of U.S. abortion incidence, 2001-2003. Guttmacher Institute. August 2006. Jones RK, Zolna MRS, Henshaw SK, Finer LB. Abortion in the United States: Incidence and access to services, 2005. *Perspect Sex Reprod Health* 2008;40(1)6-16. Available from: <http://www.guttmacher.org/journals/toc/psrh4001toc.html>.