

SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

A public report providing statistics
compiled from all abortions reported
to DHEC

2023

Based on data from Jan. 1 through Aug. 22, 2023



INTRODUCTION

SC Code of Law 44-41-60 requires that all abortions performed in the state be reported to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environment Control (DHEC). This report contains the data reported to DHEC, Vital Statistics, for abortions performed in South Carolina in 2023 as required by SC Code of Law 44-41-460.

To comply with changes required by South Carolina statute, Vital Statistics adopted a new form on Sept. 25, 2017. This report is based on data collected utilizing this form (See Appendix). The law changed further, resulting in a new form being adopted on Aug. 23, 2023. Therefore, this Part 1 of the 2023 report includes data collected on the 2017 version of the form, used in 2023 from Jan. 1 through Aug. 22. Since the data contained in this report does not contain a full year's worth of data, caution should be exercised when comparing with data from other years.

The data presented in this report is based on occurrence data.

Due to privacy and confidentiality concerns, DHEC will apply suppression rules for all reports containing 2023 data and forward. DHEC's suppression rule is that values less than 5 will be suppressed on all Vital Statistics forms. This is reflected as "<5" in the report whenever the true value is 1-4. Additionally, in locations where only one number in a dataset is suppressed or if reidentification of the true value would still be possible, the report suppresses the next lowest number in the dataset. This is reflected as "#" in the report. For example, in the below sample dataset the rules would be applied in the following manner:

Unsuppressed Values:

Year	Total	Value 1	Value 2	Value 3
2023	25	12	9	4
2024	27	20	4	3
2025	30	12	7	11

Suppressed Values:

Year	Total	Value 1	Value 2	Value 3
2023	25	12	#	<5
2024	27	20	<5	<5
2025	30	12	7	11

Table 3.
 Abortions by Method and Probable Postfertilization Age (Weeks)
 by Year, South Carolina, 2021 - 2023*

Year	Method of Abortion	Total	Weeks Gestation			
			Under 6	7 - 13	14 - 19	20 - 23
2023*	Total	7,397	3,727	3,648	#	<5
	Dilation and Curettage	560	21	539	-	-
	Manual Vacuum Aspiration	55	42	13	-	-
	Electrical Vacuum Aspiration	1,741	498	1,243	-	-
	Dilation and Evacuation	21	-	<5	#	-
	Combined Induction Abortion and Dilation and Evacuation	<5	-	<5	-	-
	Medication Abortion	5,013	3,166	1,847	-	-
	Induction Abortion with Prostaglandins	5	-	-	<5	<5
	Induction Abortion with Intra-Amniotic Instillation	-	-	-	-	-
	Induction Abortion - other	-	-	-	-	-
	Hysterotomy / Hysterectomy	-	-	-	-	-
	Intact Dilation and Extraction (partial birth)	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	<5	-	<5	-	-
2022	Total	7,276	3,746	3,491	34	5
	Dilation and Curettage	493	38	455	-	-
	Manual Vacuum Aspiration	126	70	56	-	-
	Electrical Vacuum Aspiration	1,397	475	922	-	-
	Dilation and Evacuation	36	-	7	29	-
	Combined Induction Abortion and Dilation and Evacuation	-	-	-	-	-
	Medication Abortion	5,214	3,163	2,051	<5	<5
	Induction Abortion with Prostaglandins	-	-	-	<5	<5
	Induction Abortion with Intra-Amniotic Instillation	-	-	-	-	-
	Induction Abortion - other	-	-	-	-	-
	Hysterotomy / Hysterectomy	-	-	-	-	-
	Intact Dilation and Extraction (partial birth)	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
2021	Total	6,279	3,007	3,223	38	11
	Dilation and Curettage	499	27	471	<5	-
	Manual Vacuum Aspiration	84	39	45	-	-
	Electrical Vacuum Aspiration	1,021	393	628	-	-
	Dilation and Evacuation	44	-	15	29	-
	Combined Induction Abortion and Dilation and Evacuation	<5	-	-	<5	-
	Medication Abortion	4,623	2,548	2,064	<5	<5
	Induction Abortion with Prostaglandins	6	-	-	<5	<5
	Induction Abortion with Intra-Amniotic Instillation	-	-	-	-	-
	Induction Abortion - other	-	-	-	-	-
	Hysterotomy / Hysterectomy	<5	-	-	<5	-
	Intact Dilation and Extraction (partial birth)	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-

*Data for 2023 is from Jan. 1 through Aug. 22, 2023

Table 4.
 Intra-fetal Injection Used in an Attempt to Induce Fetal Demise
 by Year, South Carolina, 2021 - 2023*

Year	Total	Yes		No	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2023*	7,397	5	0.07	7,392	99.93
2022	7,276	<5	#	7,274	99.97
2021	6,279	<5	#	6,275	99.94

Table 5.
 Abortions by Maternal Age
 South Carolina, 2021 - 2023*

Age Group	2023*		2022		2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	7,397	100	7,276	100	6,279	100
Under 15	21	0.28	19	0.26	19	0.30
15 - 16	101	1.37	78	1.07	65	1.04
17-19	550	7.44	563	7.74	484	7.71
20-24	2,053	27.75	2,072	28.48	1,802	28.70
25-29	2,031	27.46	2,087	28.68	1,836	29.24
30-34	1,578	21.33	1,457	20.02	1,266	20.16
35 & Over	1,063	14.37	1,000	13.74	807	12.85

Table 6.
 Reason for the Abortion if Probable Postfertilization Age between 20 to 23 Weeks
 by Year, South Carolina, 2021 - 2023*

Year	Total	Medical Emergency		Fetal Anomaly	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2023*	<5	-	0	<5	#
2022	5	<5	#	<5	#
2021	11	<5	#	#	#

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Table 7.

Method of Abortion Used that, in Reasonable Medical Judgement, Provided the Best Opportunity for the Unborn Child to Survive, If Probable Postfertilization Age is between 20 to 23 Weeks
by Year, South Carolina, 2021 - 2023*

Year	Total	Yes		No	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2023*	<5	<5	#	-	0
2022	5	<5	#	<5	#
2021	11	#	#	<5	#

Table 8.

If the Method of Abortion did not Provide the Best Opportunity for the Unborn Child to Survive, was the Basis of the Determination of Method of Abortion Used Provided?
by Year, South Carolina, 2021 - 2023*

Year	Total	Yes		No	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2023*	-	-	0	-	0
2022	<5	<5	#	-	0
2021	<5	<5	#	-	0

*Data for 2023 is from Jan. 1 through Aug. 22, 2023

Appendix



REPORT OF INDUCED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY

STATE FILE NUMBER

Form with multiple sections: 1. Patient's ID Number, 2. Age, 3. Date of Pregnancy Termination, 4. Facility Name, 5. City/Town or Location of Pregnancy Termination, 6. County of Pregnancy Termination, 7. Residence - State or Foreign Country, 8. Residence - County, 9. Of Hispanic Origin?, 10. Race, 11. Education, 12. Patient Married?, 13. Date Last Normal Menses Began, 14. Previous Pregnancies, 15. Was a Determination of Probable Postfertilization Age Made?, 16. Enter the basis of the determination that a medical emergency existed, 17. Probable Postfertilization Age, 18. If Probable Postfertilization Age is 20 or more weeks, 19. Provide the basis of the determination that termination of the pregnancy in that manner, 20. TERMINATION PROCEDURES, 21. Was an intra-fetal injection used, 22a. WAS INFORMED WRITTEN CONSENT OBTAINED FROM THE PATIENT?, 22b. IF NO, INFORMED WRITTEN CONSENT WAS NOT OBTAINED DUE TO:, 22c. IF PATIENT HAS BEEN COURT ADJUDGED MENTALLY INCOMPETENT, 23a. IF PATIENT IS UNDER 17 YEARS OF AGE, 23b. IF PATIENT IS UNDER 17 YEARS OF AGE AND ADDITIONAL INFORMED WRITTEN CONSENT WAS NOT OBTAINED, 24. Date Report Completed