

Table 16. Legal abortions and legal abortion ratios, according to selected patient characteristics: United States, selected years 1973–99

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

Characteristic	1973	1975	1980	1985	1990	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998 ¹	1999 ¹
Number of legal abortions reported in thousands											
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	616	855	1,298	1,329	1,429	1,267	1,211	1,226	1,186	884	862
Alan Guttmacher Institute ²	745	1,034	1,554	1,589	1,609	1,423	1,359	1,360	1,335	1,319	1,315
Abortions per 100 live births ³											
Total	19.6	27.2	35.9	35.4	34.4	32.1	31.1	31.5	30.6	26.4	25.6
Age											
Under 15 years	123.7	119.3	139.7	137.6	81.8	70.3	66.4	72.6	72.9	75.0	70.9
15–19 years	53.9	54.2	71.4	68.8	51.1	41.4	39.9	41.8	40.7	39.1	37.5
20–24 years	29.4	28.9	39.5	38.6	37.8	36.4	34.8	35.7	34.5	32.9	31.6
25–29 years	20.7	19.2	23.7	21.7	21.8	22.1	22.0	22.8	22.4	21.6	20.8
30–34 years	28.0	25.0	23.7	19.9	19.0	17.1	16.4	16.5	16.1	15.7	15.2
35–39 years	45.1	42.2	41.0	33.6	27.3	23.3	22.3	22.1	20.9	20.0	19.3
40 years and over	68.4	66.8	80.7	62.3	50.6	40.9	38.5	37.8	35.2	33.8	32.9
Race											
White ⁴	32.6	27.7	33.2	27.7	25.8	21.6	20.3	20.3	19.4	18.9	17.7
Black or African American ⁵	42.0	47.6	54.3	47.2	53.7	53.7	53.1	55.9	54.3	51.2	52.9
Hispanic origin ⁶											
Hispanic or Latino	---	---	---	---	---	28.5	27.1	28.2	26.8	27.3	26.1
Not Hispanic or Latino	---	---	---	---	---	29.0	27.9	28.6	27.2	27.1	25.2
Marital status											
Married	7.6	9.6	10.5	8.0	8.7	7.8	7.6	7.9	7.4	7.1	7.0
Unmarried	139.8	161.0	147.6	117.4	86.3	66.5	64.5	65.9	65.9	62.7	60.4
Previous live births ⁷											
0	43.7	38.4	45.7	45.1	36.0	30.8	28.6	28.9	26.4	25.5	24.3
1	23.5	22.0	20.2	21.6	22.7	22.3	22.0	22.4	22.3	21.4	20.6
2	36.8	36.8	29.5	29.9	31.5	30.9	30.6	31.3	31.0	30.0	29.0
3	46.9	47.7	29.8	18.2	30.1	30.9	30.7	31.7	31.1	30.5	29.8
4 or more ⁸	44.7	43.5	24.3	21.5	26.6	23.5	23.7	25.0	24.5	24.3	24.2
Percent distribution ⁹											
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	53.7	54.0	54.6	55.4	55.7	57.6
9–10 weeks	29.4	28.4	26.2	26.6	25.3	23.5	23.1	22.6	22.0	21.5	20.2
11–12 weeks	17.9	14.9	12.2	12.5	11.7	10.9	10.9	11.0	10.7	10.9	10.2
13–15 weeks	6.9	5.0	5.1	5.9	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.0	6.2	6.4	6.2
16–20 weeks	8.0	6.1	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.3
21 weeks and over	1.7	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5
Previous induced abortions											
0	078	81.9	67.6	60.1	57.1	54.7	55.1	54.7	53.4	53.8	53.7
1	078	14.9	23.5	25.7	26.9	27.2	26.9	26.9	27.5	27.0	27.1
2	078	2.5	6.6	9.8	10.1	11.1	10.9	11.2	11.5	11.4	11.5
3 or more	078	0.7	2.3	4.4	5.9	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.6	7.8	7.7

--- Data not available.

¹In 1998 and 1999 California, Alaska, 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.

²No surveys were conducted in 1983, 1986, 1989, 1990, 1993, 1994, 1997, or 1998. Data for these years were estimated by interpolation. Some estimates for previous years have been revised and differ from the previous edition of *Health, United States*. AGI estimated about 1,313,000 reported abortions in 2000.

³For calculation of ratios by each characteristic, abortions with characteristic unknown were distributed in proportion to abortions with characteristic known.

⁴For 1989 and later years, white race includes women of Hispanic ethnicity. ⁵Before 1989 black race includes races other than white.

⁶Includes data for 20–22 States, the District of Columbia (DC), and New York City (NYC) in 1991–95, 22 States and NYC in 1996, and 23–26 States, DC, and NYC in 1997–99. States with large Hispanic populations that are not included are California, Florida, and Illinois.

⁷For 1973–75 data indicate number of living children.

⁸For 1975 data refer to four previous live births, not four or more. For five or more previous live births, the ratio is 47.3.

⁹Excludes cases for which selected characteristic is unknown.

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

SOURCES: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion: Abortion Surveillance, 1973, 1975, 1979–80. Public Health Service, DHHS, Atlanta, Ga., May 1975, April 1977, May 1983; CDC Surveillance Summaries. Abortion Surveillance, United States, 1984 and 1985, Vol. 38, No. SS–2, Public Health Service, DHHS, Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 1989; 1986 and 1987, Vol. 39, No. SS–2, June 1990; 1990, Vol. 42, No. SS–6, Dec. 1993; 1993 and 1994, Vol. 46, No. SS–4, Aug. 1997; 1995, Vol. 47, No. SS–2, July 1998; 1996, Vol. 48, No. SS–4, July 1999; 1997, Vol. 49, No. SS–11, Dec. 2000; 1998, Vol. 51, No. SS–3, June 2002; 1999, Vol. 51, No. SS–9, Nov. 2002. Alan Guttmacher Institute Abortion Survey. Finer LB and Henshaw SK: Abortion incidence and services in the United States in 2000. Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health. 35(1), Jan.-Feb. 2003.