

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 1.
 Abortions by Probable Postfertilization Age (Weeks)
 by Year, South Carolina, 2021 - 2023*

Year	Total	6 or less weeks		7 - 13 weeks		14 - 19 weeks		20 - 23 weeks	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2023*	7,397	3,727	50.39	3,648	49.32	#	#	<5	#
2022	7,276	3,746	51.48	3,491	47.98	34	0.47	5	0.07
2021	6,279	3,007	47.89	3,223	51.33	38	0.61	11	0.18

Table 2.
 Ultrasound Used to Determine Probable Postfertilization Age
 by Year, South Carolina, 2021 - 2023*

Year	Total	Yes		No		Unknown	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2023*	7,397	7,395	99.97	<5	#	#	#
2022	7,276	7,273	99.96	<5	#	#	#
2021	6,279	6,272	99.89	#	#	<5	#

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

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

1. Patient's ID Number (Do Not Enter Patient's Name) 2. Age (Last Birthday) 3. Date of Pregnancy Termination (Month, Day, Year) 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 (Specify the highest degree or level completed)

12. Patient Married? 13. Date Last Normal Menses Began (Month, Day, Year)

14. Previous Pregnancies LIVE BIRTHS OTHER TERMINATIONS

(Pursuant to Chapter 41, Title 44, of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended)

15. Was a Determination of Probable Postfertilization Age Made? 18. If Probable Postfertilization Age is 20 or more weeks:

16. Enter the basis of the determination that a medical emergency existed: 18b. If Medical Emergency, provide the basis of the determination that the pregnant woman had a condition which so complicated her medical condition as to necessitate the abortion of her pregnancy to avert her death or to avert the serious risk of substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function, not including psychological or emotional conditions:

17. Probable Postfertilization Age 17a. Enter weeks of Probable Postfertilization Age: 17b. Was Ultrasound used to determine Probable Postfertilization Age? 19. Provide the basis of the determination that termination of the pregnancy in that manner (best opportunity) would pose a greater risk either of the death of the pregnant woman or of the substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function, not including psychological or emotional conditions, of the woman than would other available methods:

20. TERMINATION PROCEDURES 20a. PRIMARY PROCEDURE USED TO TERMINATE THE PREGNANCY (CHECK ONLY ONE) 20b. ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES USED IF ANY (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

21. Was an intra-fetal injection used in an attempt to induce fetal demise (such as, but not limited to, intra-fetal potassium chloride or digoxin)?

ITEM 22 MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH PATIENT, REGARDLESS OF AGE. 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, INFORMED WRITTEN CONSENT OBTAINED FROM:

ITEM 23 MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH PATIENT, UNDER 17 YEARS OF AGE. 23a. IF PATIENT IS UNDER 17 YEARS OF AGE, ADDITIONAL INFORMED WRITTEN CONSENT OBTAINED FROM: 23b. IF PATIENT IS UNDER 17 YEARS OF AGE AND ADDITIONAL INFORMED WRITTEN CONSENT WAS NOT OBTAINED, CHECK REASON BELOW:

24. Date Report Completed