

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 Aug. 23 through Dec. 31, 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 August 23, 2023. This report is based on data collected utilizing this form (See Appendix). Therefore, this Part 2 of the 2023 report includes data collected on the new version of the form, used in 2023 from Aug. 23 through Dec. 31. 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 Gestational Age
by Year, South Carolina, 2023*

Year	Total	6 or less weeks		7 - 13 weeks		14 - 19 weeks	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2023*	790	772	97.72	9	1.14	9	1.14

Table 2.
Fetal Heartbeat Detected**
by Year, South Carolina, 2023*

Year	Total	Yes		No	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2023*	790	13	1.65	777	98.35

Table 3.
Abortion by Probable Gestational Age if a Heartbeat was Not Detected
by Year, South Carolina, 2023*

Year	Total	6 or less weeks		7 - 13 weeks		14 - 19 weeks	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2023*	777	772	99.36	5	5.03	-	0

Table 3.a
Abortion by Probable Gestational Age if a Heartbeat was Detected
by Year, South Carolina, 2023*

Year	Total	6 or less weeks		7 - 13 weeks		14 - 19 weeks	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2023*	13	-	0	<5	#	#	#

* Data for 2023 is from Aug. 23 through Dec. 31, 2023

**As defined by S.C. Code § 44-41-610(6)

Table 4.
Reason for the Abortion if Probable Gestational Age is 12 Weeks or Less and a Heartbeat was Detected
by Year, South Carolina, 2023*

Year	Total	Medical Emergency		Fatal Fetal Anomaly		Rape/Incest	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2023*	<5	<5	#	<5	#	<5	#

Table 5.
Reason for the Abortion if Probable Gestational Age is Over 12 Weeks
by Year, South Carolina, 2023*

Year	Total	Medical Emergency		Fatal Fetal Anomaly		No Heartbeat Detected	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2023*	9	<5	#	#	#	-	0

Table 6.
If the reason for abortion was due to a medical emergency, did method used provide the best opportunity for the
unborn child to survive?
by Year, South Carolina, 2023*

Year	Total	Yes		No	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2023*	13	#	#	<5	#

Table 7.
If the method of abortion did not provide the best opportunity for the unborn child to survive, did the provider specify
on the report the basis of the determination that a different method of abortion would pose a greater risk of death or
irreversible physical impairment to the mother?
by Year, South Carolina, 2023*

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

* Data for 2023 is from Aug. 23 through Dec. 31, 2023

Table 8.
Abortions by Facility
by Year, South Carolina, 2023*

Year	Facility Name	Number of abortions
2023*	Greenville Women's Clinic	564
	Planned Parenthood Columbia	130
	Planned Parenthood Charleston	84
	MUSC Medical Center	7
	Prisma Health Richland	<5
	Prisma Health Greenville Memorial Hospital	<5
	Prisma Health Patewood Hospital	<5
	Spartanburg Medical Center	<5
	Total	790

Table 9.
Abortions by Method and Probable Gestational Age
by Year, South Carolina, 2023*

Year	Method of Abortion	Total	Weeks Gestation		
			Under 6 weeks	7 - 13 weeks	14 - 19 weeks
2023*	Total	790	772	9	9
	Dilation and Curettage	24	#	#	-
	Manual Vacuum Aspiration	27	27	-	-
	Electrical Vacuum Aspiration	44	44	-	-
	Dilation and Evacuation	#	-	-	#
	Combined Induction Abortion and Dilation and Evacuation	-	-	-	-
	Medication Abortion	686	#	<5	-
	Induction Abortion with Prostaglandins	<5	-	-	<5
	Induction Abortion with Intra-Amniotic Instillation	-	-	-	-
	Induction Abortion - other	<5	-	-	<5
	Hysterotomy / Hysterectomy	-	-	-	-
	Intact Dilation and Extraction (partial birth)	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	

Table 10.
Intra-fetal Injection Used in an Attempt to Induce Fetal Demise
by Year, South Carolina, 2023*

Year	Total	Yes		No	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2023*	790	-	0	790	100

* Data for 2023 is from Aug. 23 through Dec. 31,2023

Table 11.
Abortions by Maternal Age
by Year, South Carolina, 2023*

Age Group	2023*	
	Number	Percent
Total	790	100
Under 15	<5	#
15 - 16	#	#
17-19	70	8.86
20-24	215	27.22
25-29	214	27.09
30-34	157	19.87
35 & Over	124	15.70

Table 12.
Abortions for SC Residents vs. Out of State Residents
by Month, South Carolina, 2023

Patient Residence	Month of Termination (1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023)												Total
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
SC Residence	523	504	592	517	525	548	465	460	146	184	157	189	4,810
Out of State	485	482	488	422	359	379	402	288	16	17	21	18	3,377
Total	1,008	986	1,080	939	884	927	867	748	162	201	178	207	8,187

* Data for 2023 is from Aug. 23 through Dec. 31,2023

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

14a. Now Living 14b. Now Dead 14c. Spontaneous 14d. Induced (DO NOT INCLUDE THIS TERMINATION)

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

15. Fetal Heartbeat and Probable Gestational Age 18. Medical Emergency

16. Did a fatal fetal anomaly exist that required the termination of the pregnancy? 19. Best Opportunity for Survival

17. Specify the medical rationale for the determination of a fatal fetal anomaly: 19. Best Opportunity for Survival (continued)

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? 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