



Induced Abortions in Western Australia

2013 - 2015

**Fifth Report of the Western Australian
Abortion Notification System**

July 2018

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**Maternal and Child Health Unit
Information and System Performance Directorate
Purchasing and System Performance Division
Department of Health, Western Australia**

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Produced by

Maternal and Child Health Unit
Information and System Performance Directorate
Purchasing and System Performance Division
Department of Health, Western Australia

Further information

Manager, Maternal and Child Health Unit
Department of Health, Western Australia
189 Royal Street
EAST PERTH WA 6004
Telephone: (08) 9222 2417
Facsimile: (08) 9222 4408
Email: Birthdata@health.wa.gov.au
Internet: http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Abortion-Notification-System

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Executive summary

This is the fifth report on induced abortions in Western Australia (WA). This report continues a statistical series commenced in 1999 after the enactment of the *Acts Amendment (Abortion) Act 1998*.

The focus of this report is in the three years from 2013 to 2015. Data were extracted from the Abortion Notification System.

A descriptive analysis was conducted by woman's age, Aboriginal status, health region of residence, type of health service, method and reason for abortion, and gestational age at abortion. Comparisons of abortion rates are made with data reported by other jurisdictions in Australia and internationally.

Results

Abortion number and rate:

- The number of abortions was 8,509, 8,516 and 8,176 for 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively (Table 1).
- The abortion rate for women aged 15 to 44 years was 15.9, 15.7 and 15.0 per 1,000 for 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively (Table 1).
- The WA abortion rate in 2013, 2014 and 2015 was similar to that reported for New Zealand (15.6, 14.4 and 14.2 per 1,000 women) and England and Wales (16.5, 16.5 and 16.6 per 1,000 women) (Table 17).
- The abortion rate for teenage women was 13.8, 11.7 and 9.1 per 1,000 respectively. Note that this was half the rate for 2002 (23.1 per 1,000) (Table 6).
- For Aboriginal women, the abortion rate was 10.2, 10.0 and 10.0 per 1,000 for 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively, and was lower than the abortion rate for non-Aboriginal women (16.2, 15.9 and 15.3 per 1,000 respectively) (Table 10).

Pregnancy rate:

- The pregnancy rate for women aged 15 to 44 years was 80.2, 80.5 and 79.3 per 1,000 for 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively (Table 5).
- The pregnancy rate for teenage women was 30.0, 25.7 and 21.6 per 1,000 for 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively. Note that this was half the rate for 2002 (44.0 per 1,000) (Table 6).

Age at abortion:

- The age of women who had an abortion from 2013 to 2015 was between 13 and 51 years (Table 2).
- The average age of women who had an abortion in 2013, 2014, and 2015 was 27.2, 27.5 and 27.9 years respectively (Table 2).

Gestational age at abortion:

- The majority of induced abortions occurred in the first 9 weeks of pregnancy, that was 80.0, 79.8 and 80.4 per cent of all abortions in 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively (Table 13).
- Abortions performed at a gestation of at least 20 weeks accounted for almost one per cent of all abortions from 2013 to 2015 (Table 13). Abortions at these gestations occurred at the approved¹ health service.

Method of abortion:

- The use of medications such as Mifepristone and Misoprostol as the method to induce abortions at 9 weeks gestation or less increased from 0.1 per cent in 2007 to 18.4 per cent in 2015 (Supplementary Table 32).

Reason for abortion

- Suspected or diagnosed fetal anomalies were the reason for abortion for around 3 per cent of all abortions between 2013 and 2015 (Table 16).
- For abortions at 20 weeks gestation or more in 2013, 2014 and 2015, fetal anomaly was the reason for abortion for 82.9, 77.5 and 89.5 per cent respectively (Figure 9 and Supplementary Table 36).

¹ Section 334(7)(b) of the *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911* requires that a health service be approved by the Minister for Health to conduct abortions for pregnancies of at least 20 weeks gestation.

1. Introduction

This is the fifth report on induced abortions in Western Australia (WA). Data were extracted from the Abortion Notification System. All tables presented here are in statistical form without identification of individual women or doctors.

This report continues a statistical series commenced in 1999 after the enactment of the *Acts Amendment (Abortion) Act 1998*.

The focus of this report is on the three completed calendar years, 2013 to 2015, which have not been reported previously. Data since 1999 are also included to enable trend analysis.

Age, region of residence and Aboriginal status are reported for women who had induced abortions in WA. Clinical details like health service, procedures, gestational age at time of abortion and reason for abortion are described. Comparisons are made with data reported by other jurisdictions in Australia and other nations, where available. Appendix A describes legislation and definitions for abortion statistics reported by other jurisdictions.

This report includes data analysis based on boundaries and names for WA health regions defined in 2016 that include the East Metropolitan Health Region. This is a change from previous reports in the series.

An induced abortion is defined as the termination of pregnancy via medical or surgical intervention, excluding spontaneous abortions or miscarriages (WHO, 2012) (Grayson, Hargreaves, & Sullivan, 2005).

1.1. Legal status of induced abortion in Western Australia

While abortion was available in WA before 1998 with the procedure claimable under Medicare, its legal status was unclear. In May 1998, changes to the legislative provisions related to abortions were made to the *Criminal Code Act Compilation Act 1913 (The Criminal Code)* and the *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911 by the Acts Amendment (Abortion) Act 1998 (The Amendments)* (WA Parliament, 1998).

A subsequent review of *The Amendments* recommended enhancements to the collection of abortion data (Department of Health WA, 2002).

The Amendments made it lawful to perform abortion in WA where the abortion is:

- performed by a medical practitioner in good faith and with reasonable care and skill; and
- justified under Section 334 of the *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911*. An abortion is justified for women up to 19 weeks gestation if:
 - a) the woman concerned has given informed consent; or
 - b) the woman concerned will suffer serious personal, family or social consequences if the abortion is not performed; or
 - c) serious danger to the physical or mental health of the woman concerned will result if the abortion is not performed; or

- d) the pregnancy of the woman concerned is causing serious danger to her physical or mental health.

(Sections (b), (c) and (d) do not apply unless the woman has given informed consent or in the case of sections (c) and (d) it is impractical for her to do so).

To perform an abortion for a pregnancy of at least 20 weeks gestation, two medical practitioners from a panel of six appointed by the Minister for Health have to agree that the mother or unborn baby has a severe medical condition. The abortion must be carried out in a facility approved by the Minister for Health.

1.2. Requirement to notify of an induced abortion

Under section 335 (5) (d) of the *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911* when a medical practitioner performs an induced abortion, the medical practitioner shall notify the Chief Health Officer of the fact in the prescribed form within 14 days of the abortion being performed.

Paragraph 335 (e) further states that a notification under paragraph (d) must not contain any particulars from which it may be possible to ascertain the identity of the patient.

Following a review of *The Amendments* in 2002, the woman's age, ethnic origin and residential postcode were mandated by Form 1 from the *Health (Section 335(5)(d) Abortion Notice) Amendment Regulations 2001* to be reported to the Chief Health Officer. The prescribed form (Form 1) prior to 2001 is attached in Appendix B and Form 1 in use from 2001 is attached in Appendix C.

Form 1 is a non-carbon required (NCR) duplicate form supplied to medical practitioners with addressed, pre-paid envelopes marked "Confidential".

2. Methods

Information about induced abortions is reported by medical practitioners to the Chief Health Officer on Form 1. The Maternal and Child Health Unit, Department of Health (MCHU) collates and stores this information in the Abortion Notification System.

The notification process is described at:

http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/N_R/Notification-of-terminations-of-pregnancy-induced-abortion.

2.1. Number (count) of cases reported

A comparison between the number of cases in the Abortion Notification System and hospital admissions data held in the WA Hospital Morbidity Data Collection (HMDC) was previously undertaken annually. The number of cases held in each data set was compared for each of the time periods. ICD-10-AM diagnosis codes relating to induced abortion were used to identify records in HMDC. These codes were O04.0 to O04.9.

Since 2008, the correlation of the number of cases between HMDC and the Abortion Notification System has decreased because of increased utilisation of abortion procedures that do not require admission to a hospital.

Confirmation of accuracy of the number of induced abortions reported by each health service is requested regularly. This process is also used as a reminder to the medical staff at health services of their requirement to notify the Chief Health Officer of induced abortions performed.

2.2. Data validation

As Form 1 contains no identifying data for patients, it is not possible to cross-validate information received on Form 1 with data collected in other health data systems.

Validation of data used for this report utilised a number of processes that are outlined below.

Postcodes provided were validated against Australian Postcodes listed by Australia Post. Postcodes that were invalid were excluded from data analysis. Numbers excluded are stated for each table.

Medical practitioners who reported abortions were confirmed as registered medical practitioners by reference to the list of registered practitioners maintained by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

The data item “Method of termination” may have multiple responses reported. Other data items were validated to prevent multiple data items being reported except for “Reason for termination”.

Patient’s age was validated by ensuring age was in the reproductive years. Ages from 10 to 55 years were accepted.

Gestation of pregnancy was validated by ensuring that age in weeks was at least one and less than 45. In addition, gestational ages of 20 weeks or more were validated by site of termination.

If the information provided on a notification form was deemed invalid at the time of data entry, the form was returned for clarification to the person responsible for reporting.

Notifications received late, or that had been incorrectly excluded from the database used for these series of reports, were added in 2016 for the years 2006 to 2015. Subsequently, a number of statistics have changed from what was published in previous reports in this series.

2.3. Terminology and calculations used in this report

2.3.1. Terminology

Abortion	In medical usage, the term “abortion” includes miscarriage and induced abortion. Unless specified, this report only refers to induced abortion.
Induced Abortion	The performance of a procedure or administration of a substance that is intended to terminate a pregnancy.
ANS	Abortion Notification System - repository of reported induced abortions occurring in WA since 1998.
Women of reproductive age	Women aged 15 to 44 years. All proportions or rates for populations were calculated using this age range. Abortions occurred in women that were younger or older than this age group. These events were added to the numerator for the 15 to 19 years group or the 40 to 44 years group respectively. This approach means that populations of women that are unlikely to become pregnant are not used, and this is consistent with reporting standards used by other jurisdictions (Scheil, Jolly, Scott, Catcheside, Sage, & Kennare, 2017).
Teenage women	Includes women aged from 11 to 19 years who had an abortion or birth in WA. However, the teenage population used for calculation of rates was aged 15 to 19 years.
WA Population	The estimated population in WA was sourced on 9 th August 2017 from the Epidemiology Branch of WA Department of Health using data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. WA population data used for calculations in this report are provided at the end of this report.
DoH WA	Department of Health, Western Australia
WA	Western Australia
WHO	World Health Organization

2.3.2. Calculations

Abortion proportion	<p>The proportion of potential live births that ended in abortion.</p> <p>The number of induced abortions divided by the sum of the number of induced abortions and the number of live births in a geographic region.</p> <p>Calculation is:</p> $\frac{\text{Number of induced abortions}}{\text{Number of induced abortions} + \text{Number of liveborn infants}} \times 100$
Abortion rate	<p>The occurrence of abortion in women of reproductive age.</p> <p>The number of induced abortions occurring in 1,000 women of reproductive age in a geographic region.</p> <p>Calculation is:</p> $\frac{\text{Number of induced abortions}}{\text{Number of women aged 15 to 44 years}} \times 1,000$
Birth rate (Age-specific birth rate)	<p>In this report, all birth rates are calculated as age-specific birth rates (rather than the crude birth rate which would include the total population)</p> <p>The occurrence of infants born alive in women of reproductive age.</p> <p>The number of liveborn infants per 1,000 women of reproductive age in a geographic region.</p> <p>Calculation is:</p> $\frac{\text{Number of liveborn infants}}{\text{Number of women aged 15 to 44 years}} \times 1,000$
Pregnancy rate	<p>The occurrence of abortion and birth in women of reproductive age.</p> <p>The sum of the number of induced abortions and the number of infants stillborn or born alive per 1,000 women of reproductive age in a geographic region.</p> <p>Calculation is:</p> $\frac{\text{Number of induced abortions} + \text{Number of infants born}}{\text{Number of women aged 15 to 44 years}} \times 1,000$
Per cent	<p>The number of items with the characteristic per 100 items.</p> <p>Rounding of individual percentage values may mean their total does not equal 100 per cent.</p>

2.3.3. Other notes

Aboriginal status	<p>Within Western Australia, the term Aboriginal is used in preference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. This is in recognition that Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants of Western Australia. No disrespect is intended to our Torres Strait Islander colleagues and community.</p> <p>Abortion cases are reported as Aboriginal if the status of the woman was reported as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Non-Aboriginal cases include those that were reported as “Other” or had no Aboriginal status reported.</p>
Differences in data between tables or between figures	<p>Some data were not provided for some earlier notifications and those cases could not be included in some summary data. Where abortions are described by woman’s age, postcode of residence or gestational age some cases could not be assigned to groups and were excluded from totals, rates and proportions. Because of these exclusions, summary data differs across tables and figures.</p>
Trend Data	<p>Where data were collected from 1999, trend data included data for calendar years from 1999.</p> <p>Where data items were introduced late in 2001, trend data are presented from 2002.</p>
Source of abortion data	<p>All abortion data reported here were retrieved from the Abortion Notification System on 9th August 2017.</p>
Source of birth data	<p>All birth data reported here were retrieved from the Midwives Notification System on or after the 15th August 2017.</p>
Source of population data	<p>All population data were retrieved from an EpiCalc file provided by the Epidemiology Branch (Department of Health WA). Population data tables are provided in Section 11 of this document.</p>

3. Induced abortions and births

The WA population of women of reproductive age (15 to 44 years) increased by 30 per cent since 1999 (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017). In particular, the number of women aged in the 5-year groups of 25 to 29 and 30 to 34 years increased 43.5 per cent and 41.7 per cent respectively (Supplementary Table 18 and Supplementary Figure 10). There was no corresponding increase in the number of induced abortions in WA.

The number of induced abortions notified in WA for each calendar year since 1999 ranged between 7,828 in 2005 and 8,908 in 2009.

The abortion rate per 1,000 women of reproductive age decreased from 19.7 in 1999 to 15.0 in 2015. It ranged between 15.0 and 19.9. Rates of 15.9, 15.7 and 15.0 occurred in 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively.

In the same period, the birth rate per 1,000 women increased from 61.5 in 1999 to 63.9 in 2015 and ranged between 57.7 and 67.0 per 1,000. Birth rates for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 were 64.0, 64.5 and 63.9 per 1,000 respectively (Table 1).

Table 1: Abortion and birth number and rates, WA, 1999-2015

Year	Number of Abortions	Number of live births	Population Women aged 15-44 years	Abortion rate (per 1,000)	Birth rate (per 1,000)
1999	8,220	25,591	416,203	19.7	61.5
2000	8,337	25,022	418,289	19.9	59.8
2001	8,378	24,774	421,639	19.9	58.8
2002	8,262	24,609	422,762	19.5	58.2
2003	7,942	24,492	424,335	18.7	57.7
2004	7,869	25,340	425,966	18.5	59.5
2005	7,828	26,777	429,125	18.2	62.4
2006	8,336	28,456	434,098	19.2	65.6
2007	8,430	29,884	445,812	18.9	67.0
2008	8,669	30,441	460,175	18.8	66.2
2009	8,908	30,973	475,883	18.7	65.1
2010	8,438	31,038	485,908	17.4	63.9
2011	8,723	31,923	499,688	17.5	63.9
2012	8,465	33,625	517,806	16.3	64.9
2013	8,509	34,194	534,221	15.9	64.0
2014	8,516	34,957	542,202	15.7	64.5
2015	8,176	34,762	543,629	15.0	63.9

4. Characteristics of women

Mean, minimum and maximum values summarise the age of women who had an abortion. Women's ages were also grouped to calculate rates for abortion, birth and pregnancy.

4.1. Age

The average (mean) age of women who had an abortion in the past 14 years ranged between 26.2 and 27.9 years. A small number of these women were at either end of the reproductive age (Table 2).

Table 2: Age at induced abortion, WA, 2002-2015

Year	Mean	Minimum	Maximum
2002	26.2	12	50
2003	26.3	13	49
2004	26.3	13	49
2005	26.4	12	49
2006	26.2	12	51
2007	26.3	12	49
2008	26.2	12	51
2009	26.4	11	49
2010	26.5	12	50
2011	26.6	12	55
2012	27.0	13	50
2013	27.2	13	51
2014	27.5	13	49
2015	27.9	13	49

Age at last birthday was not provided for 336 cases.

4.1.1. Abortion rate by age group

Abortion rates by age group were determined using the number of induced abortions per 1,000 women of each 5-year age group living in WA.

Since 2002, the abortion rate for teenage women more than halved, from 23.1 in 2002 to 9.1 per 1,000 by 2015.

For women aged 20 to 24 years, the abortion rate also decreased from 34.9 to 25.2 per 1,000. This 5-year age group had the highest abortion rate in the three years 2013, 2014 and 2015, 26.6, 26.7 and 25.2 per 1,000 respectively.

In all other age groups, there was little change in abortion rate over the period (Table 3 and Figure 1).

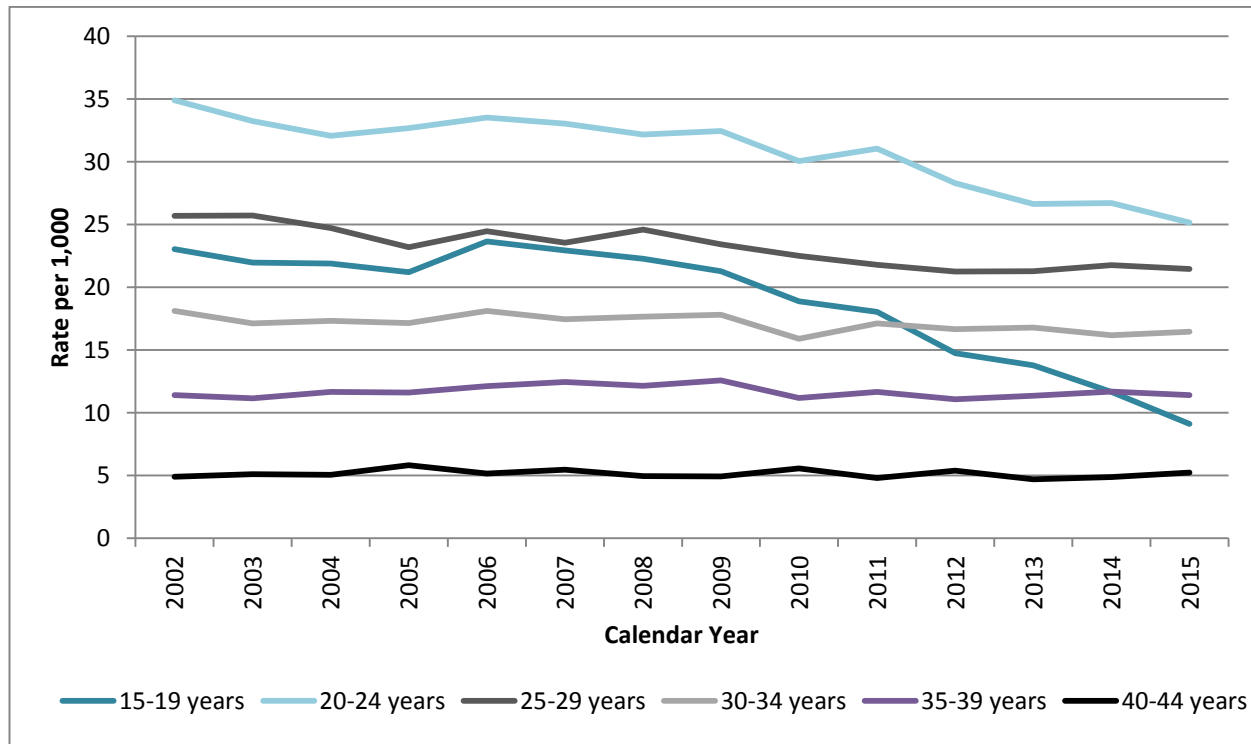
Table 3: Abortion number and rate by age group, WA, 2002-2015

Year	Age group (years)								Total
	<15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	≥45	
Number									
2002	23	1,564	2,261	1,695	1,331	844	338	35	8,091
2003	20	1,506	2,197	1,673	1,262	816	358	35	7,867
2004	35	1,491	2,160	1,606	1,269	854	363	29	7,807
2005	37	1,450	2,263	1,518	1,247	861	395	57	7,828
2006	36	1,628	2,395	1,634	1,303	923	365	35	8,319
2007	25	1,632	2,450	1,648	1,262	987	391	35	8,430
2008	37	1,611	2,498	1,835	1,301	993	357	33	8,665
2009	44	1,551	2,642	1,870	1,358	1,046	365	32	8,908
2010	27	1,389	2,502	1,886	1,240	935	411	46	8,438
2011	24	1,334	2,656	1,928	1,395	973	375	38	8,723
2012	21	1,101	2,485	2,009	1,440	928	436	45	8,465
2013	23	1,036	2,382	2,119	1,550	968	397	30	8,505
2014	14	891	2,382	2,214	1,555	1,014	406	38	8,514
2015	20	689	2,177	2,180	1,630	1,004	431	45	8,176
Abortion rate									
2002		23.1	34.9	25.7	18.1	11.4	4.9		19.1
2003		22.0	33.3	25.7	17.1	11.2	5.1		18.5
2004		21.9	32.1	24.7	17.3	11.7	5.1		18.3
2005		21.2	32.7	23.2	17.2	11.6	5.8		18.2
2006		23.6	33.5	24.5	18.1	12.1	5.2		19.2
2007		22.9	33.1	23.6	17.5	12.5	5.5		18.9
2008		22.3	32.2	24.6	17.7	12.2	5.0		18.8
2009		21.3	32.5	23.4	17.8	12.6	4.9		18.7
2010		18.9	30.0	22.5	15.9	11.2	5.6		17.4
2011		18.0	31.0	21.8	17.1	11.7	4.8		17.5
2012		14.7	28.3	21.3	16.7	11.1	5.4		16.3
2013		13.8	26.6	21.3	16.8	11.4	4.7		15.9
2014		11.7	26.7	21.8	16.2	11.7	4.9		15.7
2015		9.1	25.2	21.5	16.5	11.4	5.3		15.0

Age at last birthday was not provided for 335 cases.

ABS Estimated Resident Populations for WA used to calculate abortion rate are provided in Supplementary Table 18.

Figure 1: Abortion rate by age group, WA, 2002-2015



4.1.2. Birth rate by age group

Birth rates were determined using the number of liveborn infants of at least 20 weeks gestation per 1,000 women of reproductive age living in WA.

Overall the birth rate increased from 58.2 in 2002 to 63.9 per 1,000 in 2015.

In the three years 2013, 2014 and 2015, women in the 30 to 34 year age group had the highest birth rate (122.7, 122.3 and 123.2 per 1,000 respectively).

The birth rate for teenage women decreased from 20.8 in 2002 to 12.4 per 1,000 by 2015.

From 2002 to 2015, birth rates also decreased for women in the 20 to 24 year (62.2 to 51.4 per 1,000) and 25 to 29 year (108.2 to 98.1 per 1,000) age groups.

Birth rates increased from 2002 to 2015 for women aged 30 to 34 years (107.2 to 123.2 per 1,000), 35 to 39 years (47.1 to 67.5 per 1,000) and 40 years or older (8.7 to 13.7 per 1,000) (Table 4).

Table 4: Birth rate by age group, WA, 2002-2015

Year	Age group (years)						Overall birth rate
	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	
2002	20.8	62.2	108.2	107.2	47.1	8.7	58.2
2003	19.2	57.3	104.0	110.9	50.7	9.5	57.7
2004	20.0	58.7	106.5	114.4	54.0	9.6	59.5
2005	21.1	59.5	108.8	120.7	60.0	10.7	62.4
2006	21.6	65.0	111.9	124.9	65.0	11.6	65.6
2007	20.9	65.4	114.7	127.2	67.5	12.4	67.0
2008	20.6	62.0	110.3	126.2	67.9	13.1	66.2
2009	19.6	60.3	107.1	125.6	64.8	13.6	65.1
2010	18.0	56.8	105.4	123.0	64.4	14.1	63.9
2011	18.2	55.5	102.9	122.7	65.2	14.9	63.9
2012	17.5	56.1	101.8	125.2	67.3	14.5	64.9
2013	16.1	55.4	97.0	122.7	66.7	14.7	64.0
2014	13.9	52.8	98.3	122.3	70.0	14.9	64.5
2015	12.4	51.4	98.1	123.2	67.5	13.7	63.9

Estimated Resident Populations for WA used to calculate Birth rate are provided in Supplementary Table 18

Live birth data from the WA Midwives Notification System were used to calculate birth rate and are provided in Supplementary Table 19.

Live births for women aged less than 15 years were included in the numerator for the age group 15-19 years and for women aged more than 44 years were included in the numerator for the age group 40-44 years.

4.1.3. Pregnancy rate by age group

Pregnancy rates were determined from the total number of abortions, stillbirths and live births occurring in the WA population of women of reproductive age.

For women in each age group, trends for pregnancy rates were similar to their trends in birth rate (Table 4). Younger women had a downward trend in pregnancy rates while older women's pregnancy rate trend was upward (Table 5).

Table 5: Pregnancy rate by age group, WA, 2002-2015

Year	Age group (years)						Overall pregnancy rate
	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	
2002	44.0	97.5	134.4	126.0	58.8	13.7	77.7
2003	41.4	91.0	130.4	128.6	62.1	14.7	76.6
2004	42.0	91.0	131.9	132.4	66.0	14.7	78.2
2005	42.5	92.5	132.5	138.5	72.1	16.7	81.0
2006	45.4	98.9	136.9	143.7	77.6	16.9	85.1
2007	44.0	98.8	138.7	145.3	80.3	17.9	86.3
2008	43.1	94.7	135.6	144.5	80.4	18.2	85.4
2009	41.1	93.2	131.2	144.2	77.8	18.6	84.2
2010	37.0	87.3	128.4	139.4	76.0	19.7	81.6
2011	36.4	87.1	125.3	140.5	77.4	19.8	81.8
2012	32.4	84.8	123.6	142.3	78.6	20.0	81.6
2013	30.0	82.3	118.7	139.9	78.4	19.5	80.2
2014	25.7	79.8	120.6	138.9	82.2	19.9	80.5
2015	21.6	76.8	119.9	140.1	79.3	19.1	79.3

Estimated Resident Population for WA used to calculate pregnancy rate are provided in Supplementary Table 18.

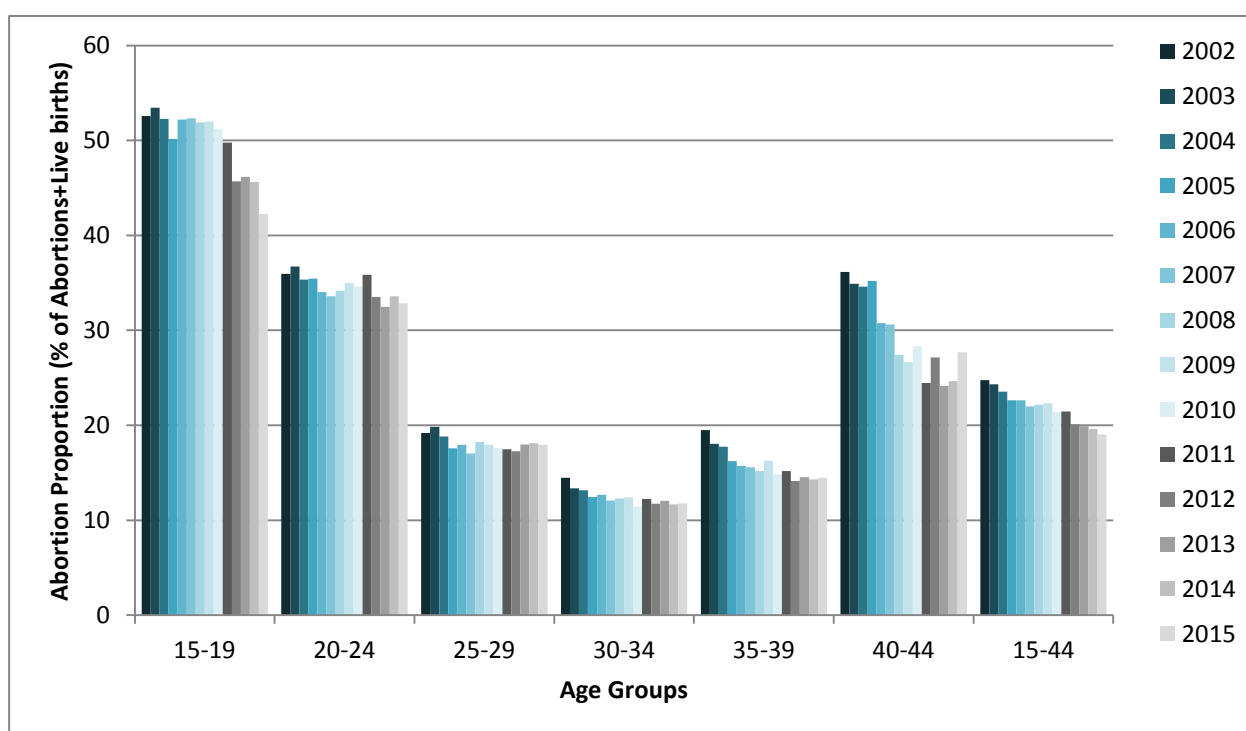
Infant birth data from the WA Midwives Notification System used to calculate pregnancy rate are provided in Supplementary Table 20.

4.1.4. The abortion proportion by age group

The abortion proportion² for women aged 15 to 44 years declined from 24.7 per cent in 2002 to 19.0 per cent in 2015. A downward trend occurred to a lesser degree in most 5-year age groups.

Since 2002, teenage women had the highest abortion proportion and women aged 30 to 34 years had the lowest proportion. Women aged 20 to 24 years had the second highest abortion proportion (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Abortion proportion by age group, WA 2002-2015



Age at last birthday was not provided for 335 cases.

Data displayed in the above figure are provided in Supplementary Table 21.

Induced abortions for women aged less than 15 years were included in the numerator for the age group 15-19 years and for women aged more than 44 years were included in the numerator for the age group 40-44 years.

² The abortion proportion is the portion of potential live births that ended in abortion expressed as a percentage. See section 2.3.2 for a description of how the abortion proportion was calculated.

4.2. Teenage women

4.2.1. Abortion proportion and rates

Compared to other 5-year age groups, teenage women had the highest abortion proportion which has decreased from 52.6 per cent in 2002 to 42.3 per cent in 2015 (Figure 2 and Table 6).

Pregnancy rates for teenage women halved from 44.0 in 2002 to 21.6 per 1,000 in 2015.

Abortion and birth rates for teenage women also decreased over the period. Before 2011, their abortion rate was higher than their birth rate but from 2011 their birth rate was higher than their abortion rate. By 2015, teenage women had an abortion rate of 9.1 per 1,000 and a birth rate of 12.4 per 1,000 (Table 6).

Table 6: Abortion proportion and abortion, birth and pregnancy rates for teenage women, WA, 2002-2015

Year	Abortion proportion Per cent	Abortion rate Per 1,000	Birth rate Per 1,000	Pregnancy rate Per 1,000
2002	52.6	23.1	20.8	44.0
2003	53.4	22.0	19.2	41.4
2004	52.3	21.9	20.0	42.0
2005	50.1	21.2	21.1	42.5
2006	52.2	23.6	21.6	45.4
2007	52.3	22.9	20.9	44.0
2008	51.9	22.3	20.6	43.1
2009	52.0	21.3	19.6	41.1
2010	51.2	18.9	18.0	37.0
2011	49.8	18.0	18.2	36.4
2012	45.7	14.7	17.5	32.4
2013	46.2	13.8	16.1	30.0
2014	45.6	11.7	13.9	25.7
2015	42.3	9.1	12.4	21.6

Data presented in Table 3, Table 4, Table 5 and Supplementary Table 21 are summarised here to describe abortion and birth for teenage women.

4.2.2. Abortion rate by health region of residence

For the three year period 2013 to 2015, the health regions with the lowest teenage pregnancy rate were North Metro (16.7 per 1,000) and South Metro (23.4 per 1,000).

The Kimberley region had the highest pregnancy, birth and abortion rates for teenage women, 88.4, 69.6 and 18.5 per 1,000 respectively.

Birth rates were higher than abortion rates for teenage women in all regions except North and South Metro.

Compared to those living in metropolitan regions, the smaller population of teenage women living in country areas had a higher pregnancy rate (39.9 versus 22.3 per 1,000) and birth rate (27.3 versus 11.0 per 1,000) but a similar abortion rate (12.3 versus 11.3 per 1,000 women) (Table 7).

Table 7: Abortion, birth and pregnancy rates for teenage women by health region of residence, WA, 2013-2015 combined

Health region of residence	Abortions	Live births	Births	Population women aged 15-19 years	Abortion rate	Birth rate	Pregnancy rate
	N	N	N	N	per 1,000	per 1,000	per 1,000
East Metro	743	863	870	57,899	12.8	14.9	27.8
North Metro	652	493	497	68,920	9.5	7.2	16.7
South Metro	719	695	701	60,471	11.9	11.5	23.4
Metropolitan	2,114	2,051	2068	187,290	11.3	11.0	22.3
Goldfields	49	187	187	5,402	9.1	34.6	43.7
Great Southern	49	115	117	5,397	9.1	21.3	30.6
Kimberley	60	226	228	3,245	18.5	69.6	88.4
Midwest	99	175	178	6,079	16.3	28.8	45.6
Pilbara	46	111	113	3,685	12.5	30.1	42.6
South West	183	275	276	15,605	11.7	17.6	29.4
Wheatbelt	69	141	143	5,571	12.4	25.3	38.1
Country	555	1,230	1242	44,984	12.3	27.3	39.9
Overall state	2,669	3,281	3310	232,274	11.5	14.1	25.7

Postcode of residence was not provided or was not within WA for 4 cases.

4.3. Place of residence

4.3.1. Abortion rate by health region of residence

The East Metropolitan Health Service (East Metro) was created in 2016. In this report, abortion rates have been analysed by the health region of residence of women in the newly defined regions. This analysis includes years where East Metro was not in existence.

The abortion rate for metropolitan regions decreased from 19.9 in 2007 to 15.7 per 1,000 in 2015.

Overall the abortion rate for country regions also decreased in the period from 2007 (14.6 per 1,000) to 2015 (11.8 per 1,000). However, abortion rates for country regions Kimberley and Midwest changed little between 2007 and 2015.

For each year since 2007, the East Metro region had the highest abortion rates which ranged from 22.7 in 2008 to 16.8 per 1,000 in 2015 (Table 8).

Table 8: Abortion rate by health region of residence, WA, 2007-2015

Health region of residence	Calendar Years									
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
East Metro	22.0	22.7	21.7	20.9	20.0	19.4	18.3	17.6	16.8	
North Metro	18.8	18.0	18.4	16.5	17.1	15.5	15.3	15.2	14.7	
South Metro	18.9	19.5	18.9	18.0	17.6	16.4	16.3	16.2	15.7	
Metropolitan	19.9	20.0	19.7	18.4	18.2	17.1	16.6	16.3	15.7	
Goldfields	13.0	11.8	12.7	9.5	10.3	8.9	7.6	7.6	6.8	
Great Southern	13.0	14.7	14.2	11.3	10.8	10.7	11.4	11.5	11.1	
Kimberley	11.9	12.2	12.5	13.1	11.2	13.7	15.7	13.9	11.0	
Midwest	14.4	16.1	17.2	13.8	16.6	14.7	14.7	15.9	14.0	
Pilbara	13.8	8.6	11.3	11.8	15.7	14.1	11.9	11.9	11.0	
South West	16.5	15.9	16.1	13.4	14.7	12.8	14.1	14.8	13.0	
Wheatbelt	15.8	14.3	14.3	13.3	13.4	13.5	14.1	13.0	13.6	
Country	14.6	13.8	14.4	12.5	13.7	12.7	12.9	13.0	11.8	
Overall State	18.8	18.7	18.6	17.2	17.3	16.2	15.9	15.7	15.0	

Place of residence for women was determined from postcode reported at the time of the abortion. Postcodes were grouped by WA health region.

Postcode of residence was not within WA, was not able to be assigned to a health region or was not provided for 401 cases.

The numbers of abortions used to calculate abortion rate are provided in Supplementary Table 22.

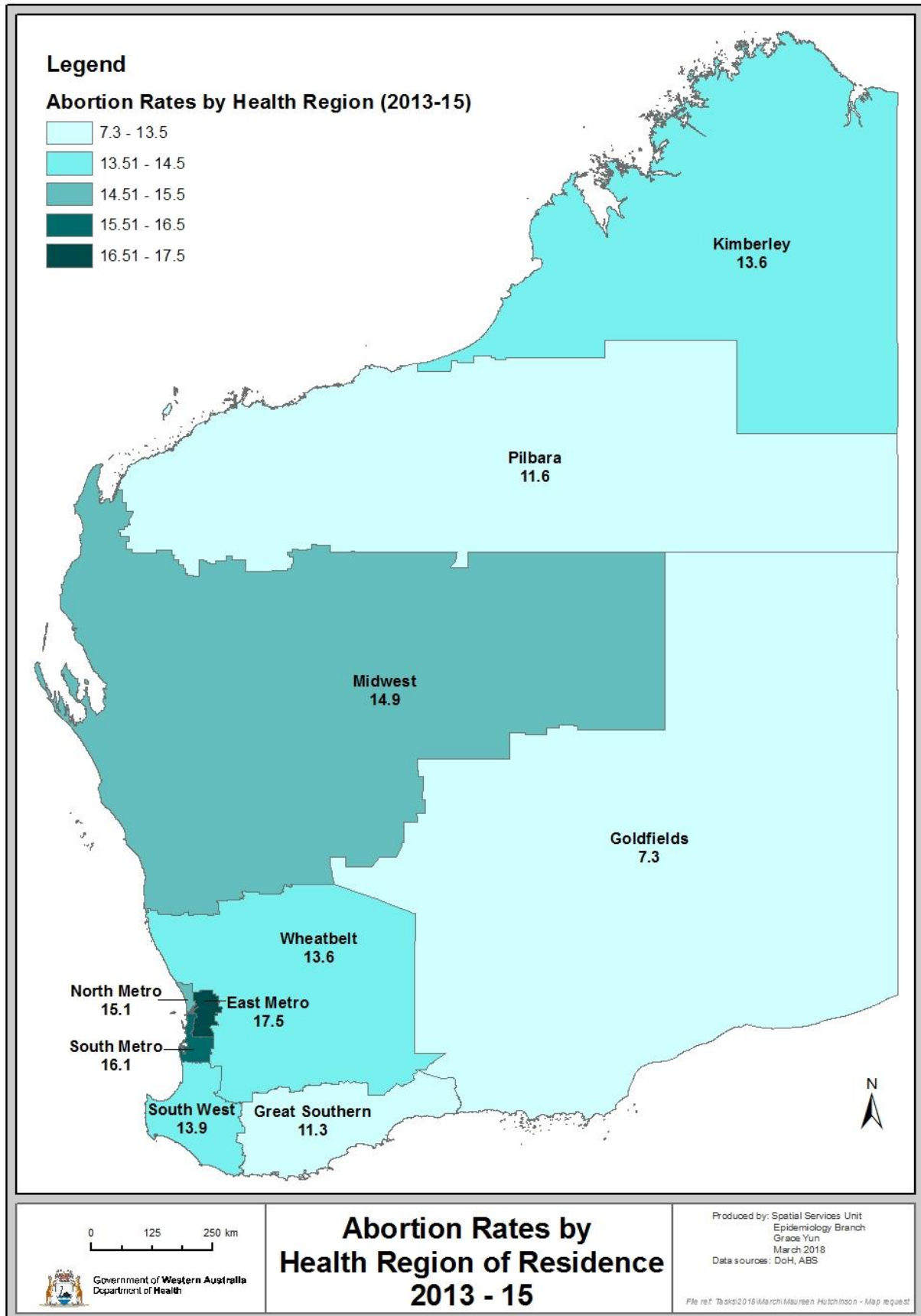
ABS Estimated Resident Populations for WA used to calculate abortion rate are provided in Supplementary Table 23.

4.3.2. Abortion rate by health region map

To reduce apparent variability caused by small numbers, the abortion rate for the total three year period from 2013 to 2015 was calculated.

The highest abortion rates were in the metropolitan areas, the country regions closest to the metropolitan areas (Midwest, South West, and Wheatbelt) and the Kimberley (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Abortion rate by health region of residence, WA, 2013-2015 combined



The numbers of abortions used to calculate the abortion rate for combined years from 2013 to 2015 for health regions presented in this figure are provided in Supplementary Table 22.

ABS Estimated Resident Populations for WA used to calculate abortion rate are provided in Supplementary Table 23.

4.3.3. Abortion rate by health region of residence and age group

The combined abortion rate for the three years 2013 to 2015 had wide variability by health region ranging from 7.3 per 1,000 in the Goldfields to 17.5 per 1,000 in East Metro.

For all health regions, the 20 to 24 year age group had the highest abortion rate with the highest rate in the Midwest (29.9 per 1,000). Women aged 40 to 44 had the lowest abortion rate in all health regions and the lowest rate was in the Goldfields (1.9 per 1,000) (Table 9).

Table 9: Abortion rate by health region of residence and age group, WA, 2013-2015 combined

Health region of residence	Age group (years)						Overall rate
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
East Metro	12.8	27.8	23.6	18.3	12.7	5.7	17.5
North Metro	9.5	24.3	21.6	16.8	12.2	4.8	15.1
South Metro	11.9	27.3	21.8	17.8	11.7	5.6	16.1
Metropolitan	11.3	26.4	22.4	17.6	12.2	5.3	16.2
Goldfields	9.1	14.6	8.7	6.9	3.2	1.9	7.3
Great Southern	9.1	24.4	15.7	12.0	8.7	3.1	11.3
Kimberley	18.5	23.3	19.1	9.0	8.1	3.9	13.6
Midwest	16.3	29.9	22.0	13.4	9.1	2.5	14.9
Pilbara	12.5	22.4	13.7	10.7	8.4	2.3	11.6
South West	11.7	29.1	21.6	12.9	9.6	4.0	13.9
Wheatbelt	12.4	26.8	18.5	12.5	10.7	5.3	13.6
Country	12.3	25.1	17.5	11.4	8.6	3.5	12.6
Overall State	11.5	26.2	21.5	16.4	11.5	4.9	15.5

Place of residence for women was determined from postcode reported at the time of the abortion. Postcodes were grouped by WA health region.

Postcode of residence was not within WA or the age was not provided for 23 cases in the period reported. These cases were excluded from data presented above.

The numbers of abortions used to calculate abortion rate are provided in Supplementary Table 24.

ABS Estimated Resident Populations for WA used to calculate Abortion rate are provided in Supplementary Table 25.

4.4. Aboriginal women

The WA population of Aboriginal women of reproductive age (15 to 44 years) increased by 49 per cent since 1999 (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017). In particular, the number of women aged in the 5-year groups of 15 to 19, 20 to 24 and 40 to 44 years increased 56 percent, 63 per cent and 72 per cent respectively. In 2015, 4.1 per cent of women of reproductive age were Aboriginal (Supplementary Table 26).

4.4.1. Abortion rate

Since 2002, the number of induced abortions for Aboriginal women ranged between 196 in 2005 and 275 in 2002. There were 223 abortions for Aboriginal women in 2015, which accounted for 2.7 per cent of all abortions.

In the same period, the abortion rate for Aboriginal women decreased from 15.8 to 10.0 per 1,000 by 2015 and for each year was less than the abortion rate for non-Aboriginal women (Table 10).

Table 10: Abortion number and rate by Aboriginal status, WA, 2002-2015

Year	Aboriginal			non-Aboriginal			Total abortions
	Abort N	Pop N	Abort rate Per 1,000	Abort N	Pop N	Abort rate Per 1,000	
2002	275	17,370	15.8	7,987	405,392	19.7	8,262
2003	254	17,725	14.3	7,688	406,610	18.9	7,942
2004	201	18,096	11.1	7,668	407,870	18.8	7,869
2005	196	18,481	10.6	7,632	410,644	18.6	7,828
2006	238	18,862	12.6	8,098	415,236	19.5	8,336
2007	234	19,228	12.2	8,196	426,584	19.2	8,430
2008	226	19,605	11.5	8,443	440,570	19.2	8,669
2009	232	19,982	11.6	8,676	455,901	19.0	8,908
2010	216	20,371	10.6	8,222	465,537	17.7	8,438
2011	236	20,772	11.4	8,487	478,916	17.7	8,723
2012	225	21,144	10.6	8,240	496,662	16.6	8,465
2013	220	21,498	10.2	8,289	512,723	16.2	8,509
2014	219	21,850	10.0	8,297	520,352	15.9	8,516
2015	223	22,207	10.0	7,953	521,422	15.3	8,176

Aboriginal status was not provided for 387 cases in the period reported and these cases were included in the non-Aboriginal cases reported above.

Estimated Resident Populations for WA used to calculate abortion rate are provided in Supplementary Table 26 and Supplementary Table 27.

4.4.2. Abortion rate by age group and health region of residence

In the three year period from 2013 to 2015, for Aboriginal women, the 5-year age group of 25 to 29 years had the highest abortion rate (16.3 per 1,000). For non-Aboriginal women, younger women (in the age group of 20 to 24 years) had the highest abortion rate (26.9 per 1,000).

For both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women, those aged 40 to 44 years had the lowest abortion rates (2.4 and 5.0 per 1,000 respectively).

Aboriginal women living in the metropolitan regions had an abortion rate of 9.5 per 1,000. This was similar to the abortion rate of 10.5 per 1,000 for country Aboriginal women. By comparison, non-Aboriginal women had higher abortion rates - the metropolitan rate of 16.4 per 1,000 was higher than the country residents' abortion rate of 12.9 per 1,000.

The South Metro region had the lowest abortion rate for Aboriginal women (7.1 per 1,000) and the North Metro region the highest rate (12.0 per 1,000).

In non-Aboriginal women, the abortion rates were similar in metropolitan regions and lowest in the country (12.9 per 1,000) (Table 11).

Table 11: Abortion rate by Aboriginal status, age group and health region of residence, WA, 2013-2015 combined

Health region of residence	Age group (Years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
Aboriginal (per 1,000)							
East Metro	6.8	10.5	18.8	9.0	7.4	3.6	9.5
North Metro	8.1	13.8	20.5	12.0	8.8	3.7	12.0
South Metro	5.9	7.8	8.5	9.4	6.5	4.6	7.1
Metro	6.8	10.6	16.5	9.8	7.5	3.9	9.5
Country	10.7	15.5	16.2	9.9	5.4	1.5	10.5
Overall state	9.0	13.4	16.3	9.9	6.2	2.4	10.1
non-Aboriginal (per 1,000)							
East Metro	13.2	28.4	23.7	18.5	12.8	5.7	17.8
North Metro	9.5	24.5	21.6	16.9	12.3	4.8	15.1
South Metro	12.1	27.8	22.0	17.9	11.8	5.6	16.2
Metro	11.4	26.8	22.5	17.8	12.3	5.3	16.4
Country	12.7	27.0	17.6	11.6	8.9	3.7	12.9
Overall State	11.6	26.9	21.7	16.7	11.7	5.0	15.8

Postcode of residence was not provided or was not within WA for 62 cases.

These data must be interpreted with caution due to the small numbers used for calculation of the abortion rate. Data for country regions were not provided due to small numbers.

Abortion data used for calculation of abortion rates for Aboriginal women are provided in Supplementary Table 28.

Population data used for calculation of abortion rates for Aboriginal women are provided in Supplementary Table 29.

4.4.3. Abortion proportion by age group and health region of residence

For the three year period from 2013 to 2015, pregnancies for Aboriginal women had a lower proportion of abortions (11.2 per cent) than did pregnancies for non-Aboriginal women (19.9 per cent).

Aboriginal women in 5-year age groups from 25 years living in Perth metropolitan regions had higher abortion proportions than those who lived in the country.

Non-Aboriginal women living in the country had lower abortion proportions than those of the same age living in the Perth metropolitan area.

In general, abortion proportions in each age group and region were lower for Aboriginal women than for non-Aboriginal women. For women living in North Metro, Aboriginal women aged from 25 to 39 years had higher abortion proportions than non-Aboriginal women (Table 12).

Table 12: Abortion proportion by Aboriginal status, age group and health region of residence, WA, 2013-2015 combined

Health region of residence	Age group (Years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
Aboriginal (per cent)							
East Metro	8.7	7.3	13.4	10.0	16.0	25.0	10.5
North Metro	13.8	16.5	23.5	19.0	24.1	21.4	19.0
South Metro	9.0	5.9	7.5	9.9	12.0	28.6	8.4
Metro	9.8	8.5	14.0	11.7	16.2	25.0	11.5
Country	13.0	9.5	10.9	11.6	11.1	16.7	11.0
Overall state	11.7	9.1	12.0	11.6	13.0	21.0	11.2
non-Aboriginal (per cent)							
East Metro	52.5	36.6	20.0	13.7	15.6	26.6	21.5
North Metro	60.2	41.5	20.7	11.4	13.6	22.7	20.2
South Metro	54.4	37.0	18.0	12.1	14.9	27.9	20.7
Metro	55.4	38.2	19.6	12.4	14.6	25.5	20.8
Country	41.6	24.4	13.0	8.9	13.9	25.4	15.9
Overall state	52.2	35.3	18.3	11.8	14.5	25.5	19.9

Postcode of residence was not provided or was not within WA for 62 cases.

These data must be interpreted with caution due to the small numbers used for calculation of the abortion rate. Data for country regions were not provided due to small numbers.

Abortion data used for calculation of abortion proportion for Aboriginal women are provided in Supplementary Table 28.

Population data used for calculation of abortion proportion for Aboriginal women are provided in Supplementary Table 29.

Live birth data used for calculation of abortion proportion for Aboriginal women are provided in Supplementary Table 30.

5. Health service category

Since 2002, the largest number of WA abortions occurred in private hospitals, particularly private day hospitals. Since 2007 these services carried out more than 90 per cent of all induced abortions.

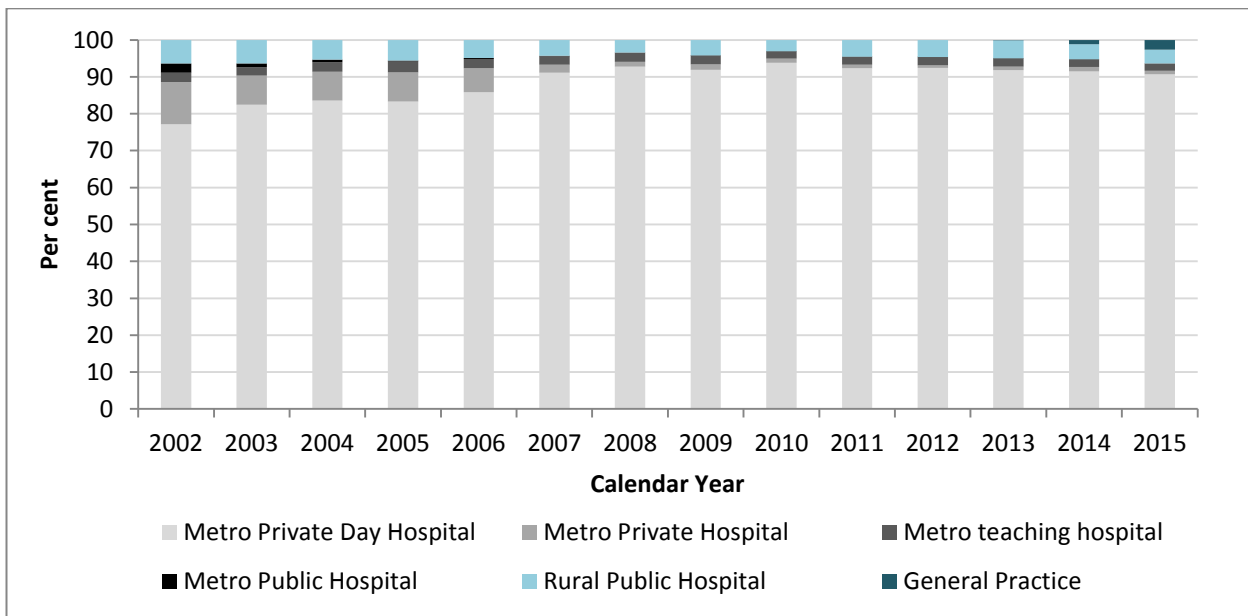
Rural public hospitals performed less than 5 per cent of WA induced abortions since 2006.

Abortions performed in metropolitan public hospitals accounted for 2.6 per cent in 2002 and were less than 1 per cent by 2015.

Abortions at the metropolitan teaching hospital also decreased since 2002 from 2.5 per cent to 1.9 per cent by 2015.

The availability of Mifepristone since 2012 for abortions at gestations less than 49 days (from 2014 for gestations less than 63 days) enabled induced abortion to be managed from a general practice setting. By 2015, general practice accounted for 2.6 per cent of induced abortions (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Percentage of abortions by health service category, WA, 2002-2015



Data displayed in the graph are provided in Supplementary Table 31.

6. Gestational age

Gestational age refers to the number of completed weeks since the first day of the last menstrual period. It is often estimated using ultrasound and includes a comparison of measured fetal growth with standard growth charts.

Since 2014, Mifepristone was available for abortion at a gestational age of 63 days (9 weeks) or less. The proportion of abortions performed at this gestation did not change since 2002, ranged between 77.9 and 83.2 per cent, and was 80.4 per cent by 2015.

Table 13: Abortion number and percentage by gestational age group, WA, 2002-2015

Year	Gestational age (completed weeks)				Total
	≤ 9	10-13	14-19	≥ 20	
Number					
2002	6,472	1,381	356	31	8,240
2003	6,377	1,182	338	31	7,928
2004	6,276	1,233	313	38	7,860
2005	6,099	1,333	348	48	7,828
2006	6,653	1,293	343	42	8,331
2007	6,797	1,254	334	45	8,430
2008	7,014	1,249	363	41	8,667
2009	7,346	1,163	362	37	8,908
2010	7,019	1,013	362	44	8,438
2011	7,067	1,173	423	60	8,723
2012	6,840	1,121	437	67	8,465
2013	6,810	1,175	454	70	8,509
2014	6,798	1,228	419	71	8,516
2015	6,576	1,137	387	76	8,176
Per cent					
2002	78.5	16.8	4.3	0.4	100.0
2003	80.4	14.9	4.3	0.4	100.0
2004	79.8	15.7	4.0	0.5	100.0
2005	77.9	17.0	4.4	0.6	100.0
2006	79.9	15.5	4.1	0.5	100.0
2007	80.6	14.9	4.0	0.5	100.0
2008	80.9	14.4	4.2	0.5	100.0
2009	82.5	13.1	4.1	0.4	100.0
2010	83.2	12.0	4.3	0.5	100.0
2011	81.0	13.4	4.8	0.7	100.0
2012	80.8	13.2	5.2	0.8	100.0
2013	80.0	13.8	5.3	0.8	100.0
2014	79.8	14.4	4.9	0.8	100.0
2015	80.4	13.9	4.7	0.9	100.0

Gestational age was not able to be determined for 52 cases before 2008.

6.1. Abortion at a gestational age of 20 weeks or more

Table 14 shows that the number of induced abortions performed at 20 weeks gestation or more increased from 31 in 2002 to 76 in 2015, an increase of 145 per cent. In the same period, the number of infants born alive increased by 41 per cent from 24,609 to 34,762.

The abortion rate increased from 0.07 per 1,000 in 2002 to 0.14 per 1,000 by 2015. However, abortions at a gestational age of 20 weeks or more remained less than 1 per cent of all abortions (Table 13).

An audit on completeness of notification of induced abortions at a gestational age of 20 weeks or more was conducted in 2016. The audit resulted in additional notifications being submitted for the period from 2011. Medical practitioners are regularly reminded to report in a timely manner. These additions may partially explain the increase in the rate of abortion at these gestational ages or the increase may be due to another, unknown factor.

Table 14: Abortion number and abortion and birth rates for abortions from 20 weeks gestation, WA, 2002-2015

Year	Abortions Number	Live births Number	Population Number	Abortion rate Per 1,000	Birth Rate Per 1,000
2002	31	24,609	422,762	0.07	58.2
2003	31	24,492	424,335	0.07	57.7
2004	38	25,340	425,966	0.09	59.5
2005	48	26,777	429,125	0.11	62.4
2006	42	28,456	434,098	0.10	65.6
2007	45	29,884	445,812	0.10	67.0
2008	41	30,441	460,175	0.09	66.2
2009	37	30,973	475,883	0.08	65.1
2010	44	31,038	485,908	0.09	63.9
2011	60	31,923	499,688	0.12	63.9
2012	67	33,625	517,806	0.13	64.9
2013	70	34,194	534,221	0.13	64.0
2014	71	34,957	542,202	0.13	64.5
2015	76	34,762	543,629	0.14	63.9

7. Method of Abortion

In Australia, Mifepristone was added to the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) in August 2012. In 2014, Mifepristone in combination with Misoprostol was approved for inducing abortions of pregnancies up to 63 days (9 weeks) gestation. In June 2015 Mifepristone alone was added to the ARTG for termination of pregnancy beyond the first trimester. Between 2006 and August 2012, Mifepristone was available for use in Australia via the Therapeutic Goods Administration Authorised Prescriber Scheme.

From 2002 to 2015, abortions performed using only medication increased from 1.4 to 16.4 per cent of total abortions. Abortions performed using vacuum aspiration with or without medication decreased from 89.4 to 77.0 per cent in the same period.

Use of Form 1 to report the method of termination has changed in the period since 2001. This change is due to the use of new medications and procedures and changes in terminology on how to most accurately describe these using the options available on Form 1. The shift from vaginal to oral administration of medication has resulted in lower reporting of medication use with surgical procedures; and procedures previously described as “vacuum aspiration” are now reported as “dilatation and evacuation”. Both these changes have resulted in a change in number and proportion of abortions performed by each method particularly since 2013 (Table 15).

Table 15: Number and percentage of abortions by abortion method, WA, 2002-2015

Year	Method of abortion						Total
	Vacuum ³	Vacuum & med ⁴	Medication only ⁵	D&C ⁶	D&E ⁷	Other ⁸	
Number							
2002	6,823	544	118	176	240	344	8,245
2003	6,080	1,412	121	140	162	21	7,936
2004	6,022	1,478	148	59	137	18	7,862
2005	5,678	1,757	153	27	191	23	7,829
2006	5,921	1,989	152	73	58	140	8,333
2007	5,941	2,009	141	39	31	269	8,430
2008	6,539	1,791	173	40	18	108	8,669
2009	6,589	1,745	452	27	26	69	8,908
2010	5,891	1,391	996	22	17	121	8,438
2011	5,580	1,553	1,333	61	22	174	8,723
2012	5,635	1,696	953	48	22	109	8,463
2013	6,266	1,009	1,035	70	48	81	8,509
2014	6,599	108	1,345	54	311	99	8,516
2015	6,226	76	1,339	96	358	81	8,176
Per cent							
2002	82.8	6.6	1.4	2.1	2.9	4.2	100.0
2003	76.6	17.8	1.5	1.8	2.0	0.3	100.0
2004	76.6	18.8	1.9	0.8	1.7	0.2	100.0
2005	72.5	22.4	2.0	0.3	2.4	0.3	100.0
2006	71.1	23.9	1.8	0.9	0.7	1.7	100.0
2007	70.5	23.8	1.7	0.5	0.4	3.2	100.0
2008	75.4	20.7	2.0	0.5	0.2	1.2	100.0
2009	74.0	19.6	5.1	0.3	0.3	0.8	100.0
2010	69.8	16.5	11.8	0.3	0.2	1.4	100.0
2011	64.0	17.8	15.3	0.7	0.3	2.0	100.0
2012	66.6	20.0	11.3	0.6	0.3	1.3	100.0
2013	73.6	11.9	12.2	0.8	0.6	1.0	100.0
2014	77.5	1.3	15.8	0.6	3.7	1.2	100.0
2015	76.1	0.9	16.4	1.2	4.4	1.1	100.0

Method of abortion was not able to be determined for 35 cases and these cases were excluded.

³ Vacuum was only procedure reported

⁴ Vacuum procedure was reported in combination with medications like Prostaglandin, Methotrexate or Mifepristone or just generally as “medical”.

⁵ ‘Medication only’ excludes surgical procedures. It includes any method stated to be “medical” or medications like Prostaglandin, Methotrexate or Mifepristone alone or in combination.

⁶ All Dilatation & Curettage procedures whether or not there was medication or other surgical procedures.

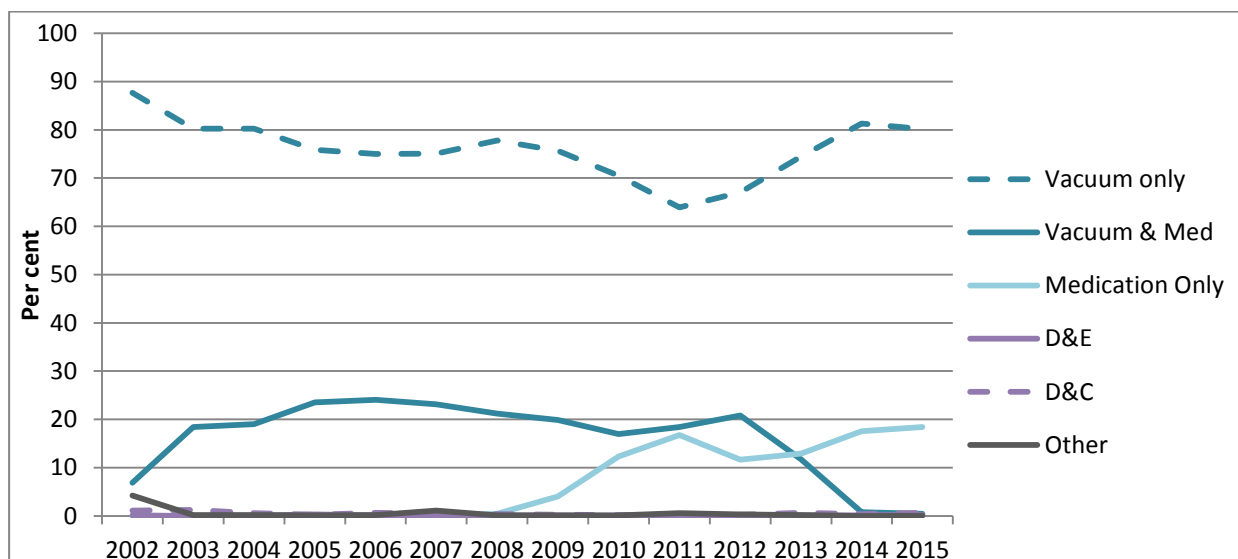
⁷ Dilatation and Evacuation procedures whether or not there was medication, excluding those with Vacuum or D&C also reported.

⁸ “Other” procedure reported or many procedures reported in a combination not included in other groups.

7.1. Method of abortion up to 9 weeks gestation

For abortions performed up to 9 weeks gestation in all years, the most common abortion method was vacuum aspiration. Since 2002, the use of medication alone increased, particularly since 2009. From 2012, the combination of medication and vacuum aspiration (Vacuum & Med) decreased and vacuum aspiration alone increased (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Percentage of abortions up to 9 weeks gestation by abortion method, WA, 2002-2015

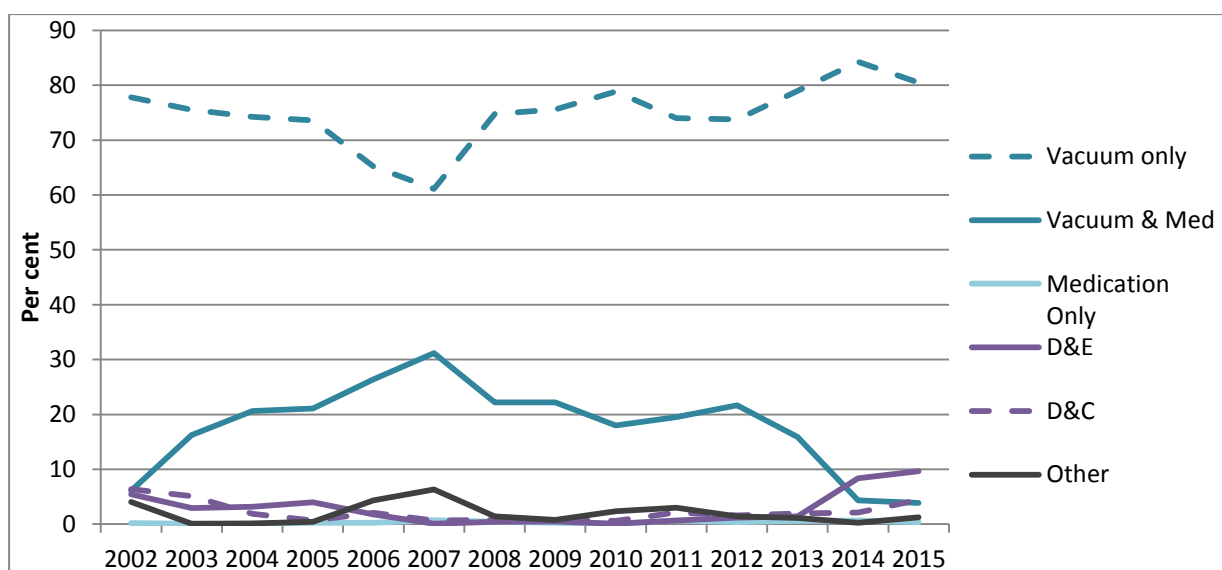


Data displayed in the graph are provided in Supplementary Table 32.

7.2. Method of abortion between 10 and 13 weeks gestation

For abortions performed between 10 and 13 weeks gestation, the most common method was also vacuum aspiration. The combined use of vacuum aspiration and medication (Vacuum & Med) decreased after 2012 but the methods vacuum only, dilatation and evacuation (D&E) and Dilatation and Curettage (D&C) increased as a percentage of all abortions. (Figure 6).

Figure 6 Percentage of abortion between 10 and 13 weeks gestation by abortion method, WA, 2002-2015

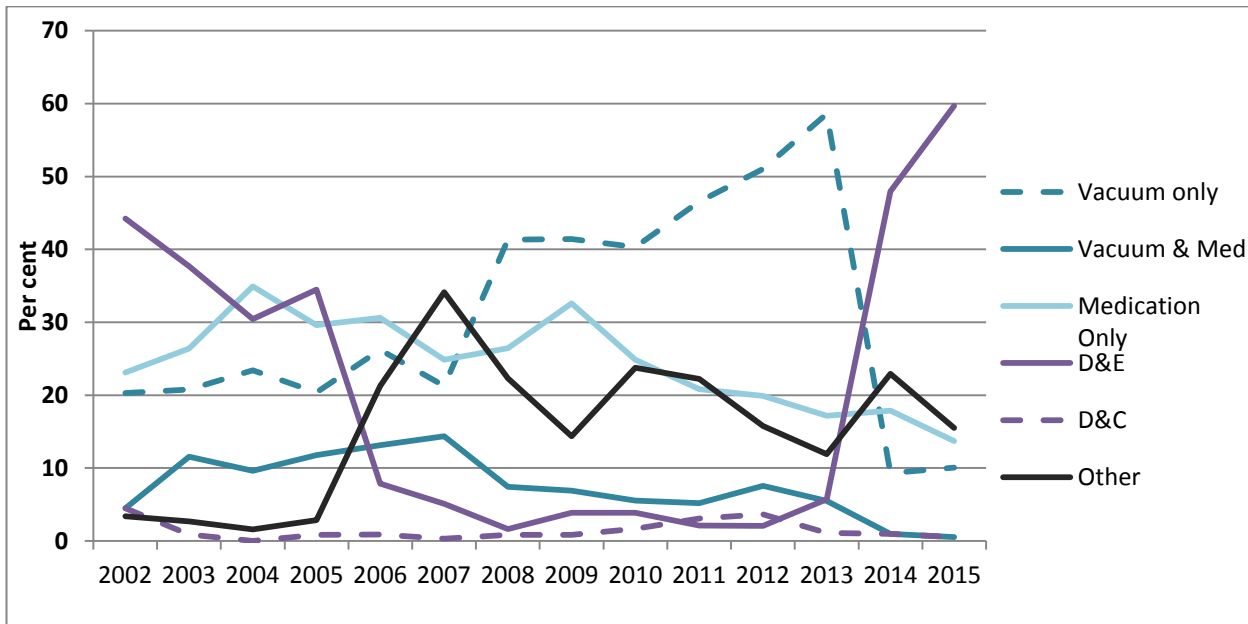


Data displayed in the graph are provided in Supplementary Table 33.

7.3. Method of abortion between 14 and 19 weeks gestation

For abortions performed between 14 and 19 weeks gestation, there was wide variability in the proportion of each method used over time. Dilatation and evacuation was the most common method between 2002 and 2005, 2014 and 2015. Vacuum aspiration was the most common method between 2008 and 2013. Medication only and other methods were frequently used (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Percentage of abortions between 14 and 19 weeks gestation by abortion method, WA, 2002-2015

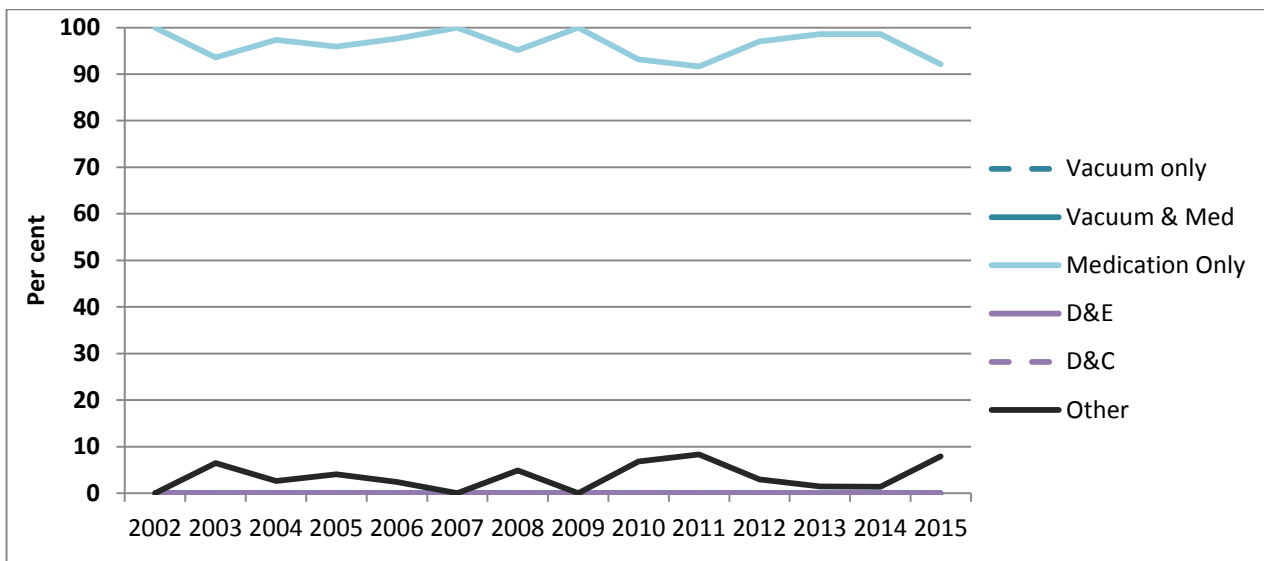


Data displayed in the graph are provided in Supplementary Table 34.

7.4. Method of abortion from 20 weeks gestation

For abortions induced at 20 weeks gestation or more, a medical induction of labour process was the most common method. There were occasional cases where a combination of methods was used (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Percentage of abortions from 20 weeks gestation by abortion method, WA, 2002-2015



Data displayed in the graph are provided in Supplementary Table 35.

8. Fetal anomaly

Reason for abortion is notified as either suspected fetal anomaly, actual fetal anomaly or other. Since 2002 the proportion of induced abortions that were performed for fetal anomalies increased from 1.8 to 3.3 per cent by 2013. In 2015, this proportion was 2.7 per cent (Table 16).

Table 16: Number and percentage of abortions for fetal anomaly, WA, 2002-2015

Year	Reason for abortion ⁹		Total
	Fetal Anomaly	Other Reason	
Number			
2002	142	7,966	8,108
2003	151	7,735	7,886
2004	161	7,646	7,807
2005	172	7,656	7,828
2006	199	8,137	8,336
2007	179	8,251	8,430
2008	191	8,478	8,669
2009	243	8,665	8,908
2010	257	8,181	8,438
2011	261	8,462	8,723
2012	231	8,234	8,465
2013	278	8,231	8,509
2014	248	8,268	8,516
2015	223	7,953	8,176
Per cent			
2002	1.8	98.2	100.0
2003	1.9	98.1	100.0
2004	2.1	97.9	100.0
2005	2.2	97.8	100.0
2006	2.4	97.6	100.0
2007	2.1	97.9	100.0
2008	2.2	97.8	100.0
2009	2.7	97.3	100.0
2010	3.0	97.0	100.0
2011	3.0	97.0	100.0
2012	2.7	97.3	100.0
2013	3.3	96.7	100.0
2014	2.9	97.1	100.0
2015	2.7	97.3	100.0

Reason for abortion was not able to be determined for 272 cases before 2005 and these cases were excluded from data presented above.

⁹ Fetal anomaly includes suspected and actual fetal anomaly. Other reasons are not specified.

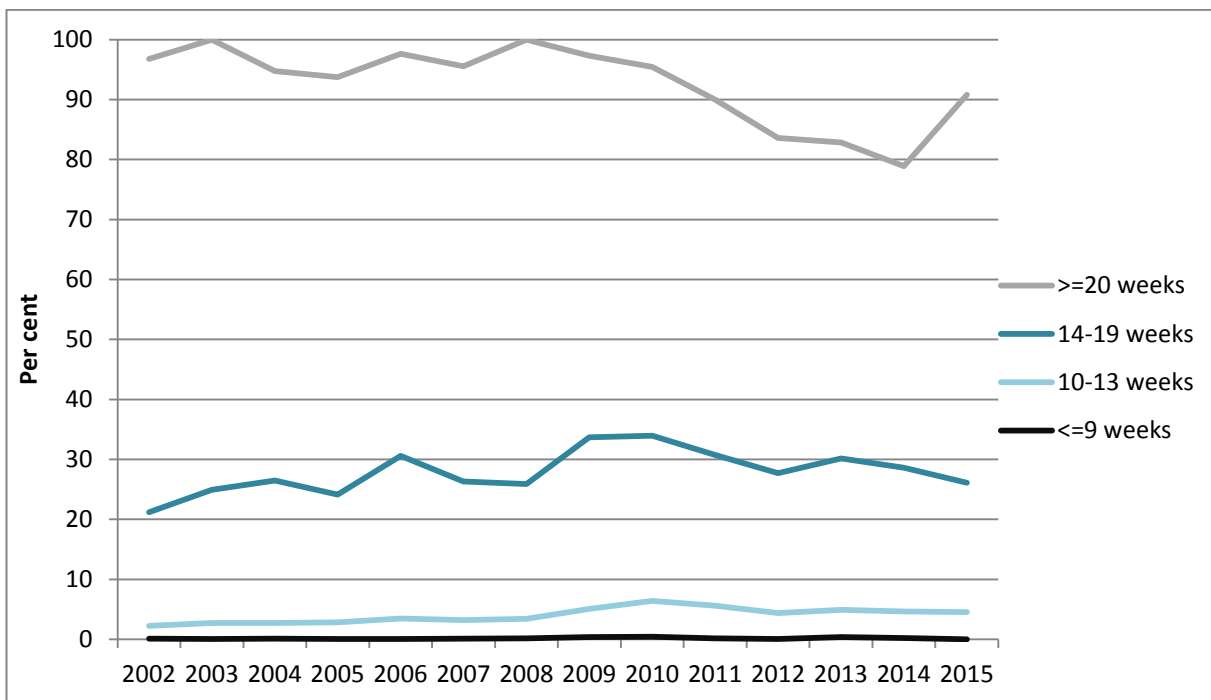
8.1. Abortion for fetal anomaly by gestational age

Abortions performed at gestations of at least 20 weeks were most frequently performed for fetal anomalies, accounting for between 79 and 100 per cent of abortions since 2002.

At gestations between 10 and 13 weeks, fetal anomaly was the reason for about 2 per cent of abortions in 2002 and by 2015 was 4.6 per cent.

Approximately a quarter of induced abortions performed between 14 and 19 weeks were for fetal anomalies, ranging between 21 per cent in 2002 to 34 per cent in 2010. In 2015, 26 per cent of abortions were performed for fetal anomalies. Few (less than 1 per cent) abortions at 9 weeks or less were for fetal anomalies (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Percentage of abortions for fetal anomaly by gestational age group, WA, 2002-2015



Data displayed in the graph are provided in Supplementary Table 36.

9. National and international comparison

The ability to compare the occurrence of abortions in WA with those occurring in other jurisdictions is affected by differences in legislation and reporting of comparable data.

Appendix A provides a summary of the legislation, abortion access and interpretation of comparability of WA abortion rate with other jurisdictions.

Of jurisdictions that have reported on abortion rates, there are no jurisdictions with similar legislation to Western Australia. The jurisdictions listed in Table 17 were chosen for comparison because they report the same population definition as WA to calculate rate, unlike Sweden and Finland for which the population of women aged 15 to 49 years was used.

These differences in legislation mean that South Australia, New Zealand, England, Wales and Scotland appear to have slightly lower abortion rates than WA. This difference may be due to more restricted access to abortion.

WA had an abortion rate similar to that in England and Wales and higher than in South Australia and Scotland.

Table 17: Abortion rates for all jurisdictions, 2007-2015

Jurisdiction	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Western Australia	18.9	18.8	18.7	17.4	17.5	16.3	15.9	15.7	15.0
South Australia (Scheil, Jolly, Scott, Catchside, Sage, & Kennare, 2017)	15.4	16.0	15.6	15.5	15.5	14.7	14.4	13.8	13.5
New Zealand (Howard, 2017)	20.1	19.7	19.3	18.2	17.4	16.3	15.6	14.4	14.2
England and Wales (Department of Health, 2016)	17.9	17.6	17.0	17.1	17.2	16.4	16.5	16.5	16.6
Scotland (Information Services Division, 2017)	12.9	13.1	12.4	12.2	11.9	12.0	11.5	11.4	11.7

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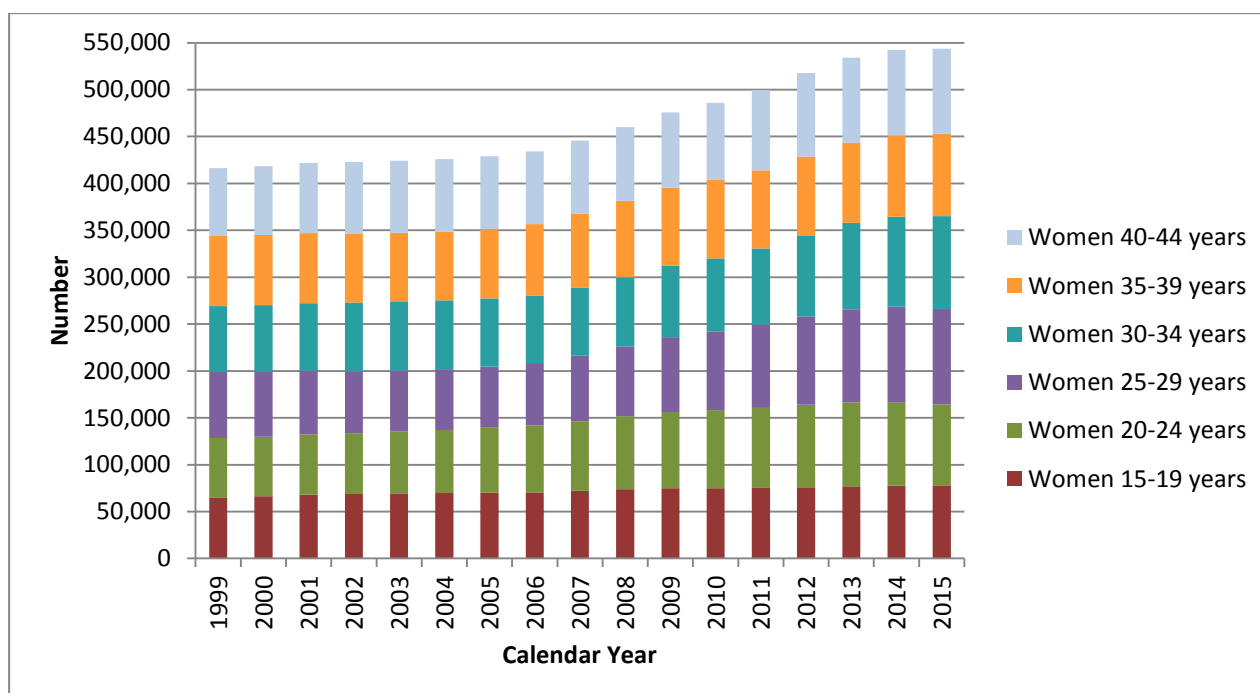
11. Supplementary tables and figures

Supplementary Table 18: Population of women by reproductive age group, WA, 1999-2015

Year	Age group (years)						Total 15-44
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
1999	64,552	63,953	70,807	69,843	74,926	72,122	416,203
2000	66,485	63,301	69,930	70,453	74,799	73,321	418,289
2001	68,199	63,936	67,933	72,334	74,566	74,671	421,639
2002	68,840	64,754	65,959	73,409	73,905	75,895	422,762
2003	69,419	66,064	65,039	73,721	73,060	77,032	424,335
2004	69,717	67,332	64,973	73,211	73,223	77,510	425,966
2005	70,138	69,239	65,455	72,678	74,079	77,536	429,125
2006	70,360	71,422	66,784	71,898	76,101	77,533	434,098
2007	72,257	74,122	69,952	72,250	79,250	77,981	445,812
2008	73,966	77,632	74,569	73,635	81,667	78,706	460,175
2009	74,929	81,366	79,805	76,181	83,164	80,438	475,883
2010	75,043	83,264	83,755	77,956	83,665	82,225	485,908
2011	75,240	85,545	88,461	81,396	83,311	85,735	499,688
2012	76,104	87,792	94,470	86,452	83,780	89,208	517,806
2013	76,846	89,418	99,548	92,284	85,146	90,979	534,221
2014	77,567	89,163	101,721	96,101	86,628	91,022	542,202
2015	77,861	86,547	101,591	98,995	87,975	90,660	543,629

Source: ABS Estimated Resident Populations for WA (WA Department of Health Calculator, 09/08/2017)

Supplementary Figure 10: Population of women of reproductive age, WA, 1999-2015



Supplementary Table 19: Live birth number by maternal age group, WA, 1999-2015

Year	Age group (years)						Total 15-44
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
1999	1,504	4,395	8,074	7,673	3,388	557	25,591
2000	1,470	4,196	7,693	7,636	3,427	600	25,022
2001	1,426	4,024	7,431	7,750	3,482	661	24,774
2002	1,431	4,026	7,139	7,873	3,481	659	24,609
2003	1,330	3,787	6,767	8,173	3,702	733	24,492
2004	1,393	3,952	6,921	8,378	3,955	741	25,340
2005	1,479	4,122	7,122	8,774	4,448	832	26,777
2006	1,523	4,642	7,470	8,977	4,943	901	28,456
2007	1,510	4,846	8,026	9,191	5,346	965	29,884
2008	1,527	4,817	8,227	9,294	5,544	1,032	30,441
2009	1,472	4,904	8,548	9,569	5,388	1,092	30,973
2010	1,352	4,727	8,831	9,587	5,384	1,157	31,038
2011	1,371	4,751	9,103	9,988	5,435	1,275	31,923
2012	1,333	4,929	9,613	10,824	5,636	1,290	33,625
2013	1,235	4,956	9,658	11,321	5,683	1,341	34,194
2014	1,079	4,706	9,999	11,752	6,065	1,356	34,957
2015	969	4,451	9,965	12,197	5,937	1,243	34,762

Source: Midwives Notification System extracted 15/08/2017

Supplementary Table 20: Live birth and stillbirth number by maternal age group, WA, 2002-2015

Year	Age group (years)						Total 15-44
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
2002	1,445	4,051	7,170	7,921	3,500	666	24,753
2003	1,345	3,814	6,807	8,218	3,719	743	24,646
2004	1,399	3,970	6,963	8,426	3,981	751	25,490
2005	1,494	4,143	7,156	8,819	4,478	839	26,929
2006	1,530	4,667	7,507	9,028	4,981	910	28,623
2007	1,522	4,872	8,054	9,236	5,373	971	30,028
2008	1,537	4,856	8,274	9,340	5,577	1,042	30,626
2009	1,482	4,939	8,598	9,629	5,423	1,099	31,170
2010	1,359	4,770	8,871	9,629	5,421	1,162	31,212
2011	1,382	4,796	9,156	10,042	5,472	1,287	32,135
2012	1,345	4,963	9,665	10,860	5,661	1,301	33,795
2013	1,243	4,979	9,695	11,363	5,704	1,351	34,335
2014	1,086	4,730	10,054	11,798	6,104	1,363	35,135
2015	975	4,467	10,001	12,242	5,971	1,253	34,909

Source: Midwives Notification System extracted 15/08/2017

Exclude infants resulting from abortion.

Supplementary Table 21: Abortion proportion by age group, WA, 2002-2015

Year	Age group (years)						Total 15-44
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
2002	52.6	36.0	19.2	14.5	19.5	36.1	24.7
2003	53.4	36.7	19.8	13.4	18.1	34.9	24.3
2004	52.3	35.3	18.8	13.2	17.8	34.6	23.6
2005	50.1	35.4	17.6	12.4	16.2	35.2	22.6
2006	52.2	34.0	17.9	12.7	15.7	30.7	22.6
2007	52.3	33.6	17.0	12.1	15.6	30.6	22.0
2008	51.9	34.1	18.2	12.3	15.2	27.4	22.2
2009	52.0	35.0	17.9	12.4	16.3	26.7	22.3
2010	51.2	34.6	17.6	11.5	14.8	28.3	21.4
2011	49.8	35.9	17.5	12.3	15.2	24.5	21.5
2012	45.7	33.5	17.3	11.7	14.1	27.2	20.1
2013	46.2	32.5	18.0	12.0	14.6	24.2	19.9
2014	45.6	33.6	18.1	11.7	14.3	24.7	19.6
2015	42.3	32.8	17.9	11.8	14.5	27.7	19.0

Age at last birthday was not provided for 335 cases.

Abortion number used to calculate abortion proportions are provided in Table 3.

Live birth numbers used to calculate abortion proportions are provided in Supplementary Table 19.

Supplementary Table 22: Abortion number by health region, WA, 2007-2015

Health region of residence	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
East Metro	2,565	2,755	2,740	2,721	2,699	2,740	2,687	2,651	2,564
North Metro	2,460	2,430	2,560	2,326	2,476	2,327	2,362	2,377	2,306
South Metro	1,981	2,119	2,130	2,085	2,102	2,039	2,090	2,122	2,069
Metropolitan	7,006	7,304	7,430	7,132	7,277	7,106	7,139	7,150	6,939
Goldfields	158	146	160	121	132	116	99	96	84
Great Southern	129	146	142	112	108	108	118	119	115
Kimberley	97	100	105	111	95	121	145	126	100
Midwest	170	194	209	169	207	187	189	204	177
Pilbara	159	102	141	151	208	189	162	161	145
South West	458	452	473	401	452	403	453	482	426
Wheatbelt	196	179	183	171	170	172	179	162	166
Country	1,367	1,319	1,413	1,236	1,372	1,296	1,345	1,350	1,213
WA	8,373	8,623	8,843	8,368	8,649	8,402	8,484	8,500	8,152

Supplementary Table 23: Population of women of reproductive age by health region, WA, 2007-2015

Health region of residence	Age groups (years)								
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
East Metro	116,598	121,533	126,454	130,033	135,034	141,309	147,210	150,479	152,610
North Metro	130,983	134,671	138,868	141,310	145,074	150,163	154,413	156,504	156,667
South Metro	104,539	108,401	112,723	115,515	119,131	123,996	128,533	130,697	131,752
Metropolitan	352,120	364,605	378,045	386,858	399,239	415,468	430,156	437,680	441,029
Goldfields	12,194	12,415	12,633	12,734	12,862	12,979	13,035	12,658	12,376
Great Southern	9,896	9,948	10,020	9,940	10,025	10,139	10,370	10,372	10,327
Kimberley	8,128	8,230	8,369	8,468	8,454	8,822	9,219	9,077	9,053
Midwest	11,811	12,041	12,179	12,223	12,507	12,706	12,874	12,820	12,649
Pilbara	11,560	11,918	12,453	12,807	13,251	13,417	13,618	13,474	13,133
South West	27,680	28,490	29,411	30,037	30,704	31,534	32,221	32,649	32,852
Wheatbelt	12,423	12,528	12,773	12,841	12,646	12,741	12,728	12,472	12,210
Country	93,692	95,570	97,838	99,050	100,449	102,338	104,065	103,522	102,600
WA	445,812	460,175	475,883	485,908	499,688	517,806	534,221	541,202	543,629

Source: ABS Estimated Resident Populations for WA (WA Department of Health Calculator, 09/08/2017)

Supplementary Table 24: Abortion number by age group and health region, WA, 2013-2015

Health region of residence	Age groups (years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
East Metro	743	2170	2158	1567	879	384	7,901
North Metro	652	1872	1878	1354	909	380	7,045
South Metro	719	1795	1482	1168	735	381	6,280
Metropolitan	2,114	5,837	5,518	4,089	2,523	1,145	21,226
Goldfields	49	87	65	46	20	12	279
Great Southern	49	96	76	64	48	19	352
Kimberley	60	95	115	49	36	16	371
Midwest	99	161	144	88	60	18	570
Pilbara	46	130	132	89	56	14	467
South West	183	381	336	217	167	77	1,361
Wheatbelt	69	135	112	80	70	41	507
Country	555	1,085	980	633	457	197	3,907
WA	2,669	6,922	6,498	4,722	2,980	1,342	25,133

Postcode of residence was not within WA or was unknown for 62 cases.

Supplementary Table 25: Population of women by reproductive age group by health region, WA, 2013-2015

Health region of residence	Age groups (years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
East Metro	57,899	77,982	91,623	85,724	69,252	67,819	450,299
North Metro	68,920	77,172	87,071	80,372	74,300	79,749	467,584
South Metro	60,471	65,714	68,043	65,743	62,807	68,204	390,982
Metropolitan	187,290	220,868	246,737	231,839	206,359	215,772	1,308,865
Goldfields	5,402	5,939	7,478	6,706	6,155	6,389	38,069
Great Southern	5,397	3,929	4,841	5,345	5,511	6,046	31,069
Kimberley	3,245	4,072	6,011	5,433	4,436	4,152	27,349
Midwest	6,079	5,387	6,536	6,555	6,605	7,181	38,343
Pilbara	3,685	5,795	9,655	8,295	6,675	6,120	40,225
South West	15,605	13,094	15,553	16,792	17,471	19,207	97,722
Wheatbelt	5,571	5,044	6,049	6,415	6,537	7,794	37,410
Country	44,984	43,260	56,123	55,541	53,390	56,889	310,187
WA	232,274	264,128	302,860	287,380	259,749	272,661	1,619,052

Source: ABS Estimated Resident Populations for WA (WA Department of Health Calculator, 15/08/2017)

Supplementary Table 26: Population of Aboriginal women by reproductive age group, WA, 1999-2015

Year	Age groups (years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
1999	3,035	2,680	2,790	2,543	2,199	1,685	14,932
2000	3,172	2,669	2,774	2,648	2,254	1,773	15,290
2001	3,563	3,129	2,866	2,795	2,542	2,108	17,003
2002	3,663	3,198	2,877	2,817	2,629	2,186	17,370
2003	3,762	3,277	2,897	2,820	2,699	2,270	17,725
2004	3,857	3,370	2,929	2,823	2,762	2,355	18,096
2005	3,949	3,469	2,977	2,826	2,810	2,450	18,481
2006	4,037	3,574	3,030	2,832	2,847	2,542	18,862
2007	4,125	3,681	3,096	2,836	2,864	2,626	19,228
2008	4,211	3,790	3,184	2,845	2,869	2,706	19,605
2009	4,284	3,897	3,289	2,869	2,861	2,782	19,982
2010	4,373	3,993	3,406	2,907	2,853	2,839	20,371
2011	4,462	4,093	3,526	2,967	2,839	2,885	20,772
2012	4,527	4,173	3,643	3,047	2,847	2,907	21,144
2013	4,588	4,240	3,757	3,142	2,858	2,913	21,498
2014	4,653	4,303	3,863	3,238	2,885	2,908	21,850
2015	4,723	4,361	3,951	3,342	2,925	2,905	22,207

Source: ABS Estimated Resident Populations for WA (WA Department of Health Calculator, 15/08/2017)

Supplementary Table 27: Population of non-Aboriginal women by reproductive age group, WA, 1999-2015

Year	Age groups (years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
1999	61,517	61,273	68,017	67,300	72,727	70,437	401,271
2000	63,313	60,632	67,156	67,805	72,545	71,548	402,999
2001	64,636	60,807	65,067	69,539	72,024	72,563	404,636
2002	65,177	61,556	63,082	70,592	71,276	73,709	405,392
2003	65,657	62,787	62,142	70,901	70,361	74,762	406,610
2004	65,860	63,962	62,044	70,388	70,461	75,155	407,870
2005	66,189	65,770	62,478	69,852	71,269	75,086	410,644
2006	66,323	67,848	63,754	69,066	73,254	74,991	415,236
2007	68,132	70,441	66,856	69,414	76,386	75,355	426,584
2008	69,755	73,842	71,385	70,790	78,798	76,000	440,570
2009	70,645	77,469	76,516	73,312	80,303	77,656	455,901
2010	70,670	79,271	80,349	75,049	80,812	79,386	465,537
2011	70,778	81,452	84,935	78,429	80,472	82,850	478,916
2012	71,577	83,619	90,827	83,405	80,933	86,301	496,662
2013	72,258	85,178	95,791	89,142	82,288	88,066	512,723
2014	72,914	84,860	97,858	92,863	83,743	88,114	520,352
2015	73,138	82,186	97,640	95,653	85,050	87,755	521,422

Source: ABS Estimated Resident Populations for WA (WA Department of Health Calculator, 15/08/2017)

Supplementary Table 28: Abortion number for Aboriginal women by reproductive age group by health region, WA, 2013-2015 combined

Health region of residence	Age groups (years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
East Metro	20	27	39	16	12	6	120
North Metro	11	20	28	11	7	8	80
South Metro	10	12	11	9	6	4	52
Metro	41	59	78	36	25	13	252
Country	85	114	111	60	29	8	407
WA	126	173	189	96	54	21	659

Source: ABS Estimated Resident Populations for WA (WA Department of Health Calculator, 15/08/2017)

Data for country regions aggregated as there were many values less than 5.

Supplementary Table 29: Population of Aboriginal women by reproductive age group by health region, WA, 2013-2015 combined

Health region of residence	Age groups (years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
East Metro	2,944	2,566	2,076	1,779	1,611	1,655	12,631
North Metro	1,362	1,445	1,364	919	792	806	6,688
South Metro	1,693	1,545	1,289	960	926	876	7,289
Metro	5,999	5,556	4,729	3,658	3,329	3,337	26,608
Country	7,965	7,348	6,842	6,064	5,339	5,389	38,947
WA	13,964	12,904	11,571	9,722	8,668	8,726	65,555

Source: ABS Estimated Resident Populations for WA (WA Department of Health Calculator, 15/08/2017)

Supplementary Table 30: Live birth number for Aboriginal women by reproductive age group by health region, WA, 2013-2015 combined

Health region of residence	Age groups (years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
East Metro	209	343	251	144	63	18	1,028
North Metro	69	101	91	47	22	11	341
South Metro	101	193	136	82	44	10	566
Metro	379	637	478	273	129	39	1,935
Country	571	1,088	907	458	232	40	3,276
WA	950	1,725	1,385	731	361	79	5,231

Source: Midwives Notification System extracted 15/08/2017

Data for country regions aggregated as there were many values less than 5.

Supplementary Table 31: Abortion number and percent by health service category, WA, 2002-2015

Year	Metro Teaching Hosp	Metro Public Hosp	Metro Private Hosp	Metro Private Day Hosp	Rural Public Hosp	General Practice	Total
Number							
2002	205	213	947	6,374	523		8,262
2003	183	81	627	6,547	504		7,942
2004	207	57	610	6,573	416		7,863
2005	231	23	615	6,525	434		7,828
2006	208	23	544	7,152	408		8,335
2007	195	11	181	7,682	361		8,430
2008	206	8	112	8,046	297		8,669
2009	214	6	130	8,187	371		8,908
2010	169	<5	96	7,916	255		8,438
2011	186	<5	85	8,053	398		8,723
2012	190	<5	61	7,825	388		8,465
2013	188	<5	80	7,815	417	7	8,509
2014	175	<5	103	7,792	343	101	8,516
2015	159	<5	76	7,417	311	212	8,176
Per cent							
2002	2.5	2.6	11.5	77.1	6.3		100.0
2003	2.3	1.0	7.9	82.4	6.3		100.0
2004	2.6	0.7	7.8	83.6	5.3		100.0
2005	3.0	0.3	7.9	83.4	5.5		100.0
2006	2.5	0.3	6.5	85.8	4.9		100.0
2007	2.3	0.1	2.1	91.1	4.3		100.0
2008	2.4	0.1	1.3	92.8	3.4		100.0
2009	2.4	0.1	1.5	91.9	4.2		100.0
2010	2.0	0.0	1.1	93.8	3.0		100.0
2011	2.1	0.0	1.0	92.3	4.6		100.0
2012	2.2	0.0	0.7	92.4	4.6		100.0
2013	2.2	0.0	0.9	91.8	4.9	0.1	100.0
2014	2.1	0.0	1.2	91.5	4.0	1.2	100.0
2015	1.9	0.0	0.9	90.7	3.8	2.6	100.0

Place of abortion was not able to be determined for 7 cases in 2004 and 2006.

Supplementary Table 32: Abortion number and percent up to 9 weeks gestation by method of abortion, WA, 2002-2015

Year	Vacuum only	Vacuum and medication	Medication	Dilatation & Curettage	Dilatation & Evacuation	Other	Total
Number							
2002	5,665	442	2	72	8	274	6,463
2003	5,115	1,173		77		9	6,374
2004	5,030	1,192	1	35	3	10	6,271
2005	4,626	1,435		15	18	6	6,100
2006	4,988	1,602	2	43	7	10	6,652
2007	5,104	1,570	4	30	13	76	6,797
2008	5,455	1,486	32	27	7	7	7,014
2009	5,560	1,462	294	16	6	8	7,346
2010	4,946	1,189	864	10	2	8	7,019
2011	4,515	1,302	1,182	23	3	42	7,067
2012	4,587	1,421	797	14		22	6,841
2013	5,072	797	881	42	5	13	6,810
2014	5,525	51	1,192	24	6		6,798
2015	5,272	30	1,212	43	17	2	6,576
Per cent							
2002	87.7	6.8	0.0	1.1	0.1	4.2	100.0
2003	80.2	18.4	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.1	100.0
2004	80.2	19.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.2	100.0
2005	75.8	23.5	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.1	100.0
2006	75.0	24.1	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.2	100.0
2007	75.1	23.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	1.1	100.0
2008	77.8	21.2	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.1	100.0
2009	75.7	19.9	4.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	100.0
2010	70.5	16.9	12.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	100.0
2011	63.9	18.4	16.7	0.3	0.0	0.6	100.0
2012	67.1	20.8	11.7	0.2	0.0	0.3	100.0
2013	74.5	11.7	12.9	0.6	0.1	0.2	100.0
2014	81.3	0.8	17.5	0.4	0.1	0.0	100.0
2015	80.2	0.5	18.4	0.7	0.3	0.0	100.0

Method of abortion or gestational age was not able to be determined for 59 cases.

Supplementary Table 33: Abortion number and percent between 10 and 13 weeks gestation by method of abortion, WA, 2002-2015

Year	Vacuum only	Vacuum and medication	Medication	Dilatation & Curettage	Dilatation & Evacuation	Other	Total
Number							
2002	1,074	84	3	88	75	56	1,380
2003	893	192	1	60	35	1	1,182
2004	915	254		23	39	2	1,233
2005	980	281	3	9	53	6	1,332
2006	842	341	3	27	23	56	1,292
2007	766	391	9	8	1	79	1,254
2008	934	277	5	10	5	18	1,249
2009	879	258	3	8	6	9	1,163
2010	799	182	1	6	1	24	1,013
2011	868	229	8	25	8	35	1,173
2012	825	242	4	18	13	16	1,118
2013	928	187	7	23	17	13	1,175
2014	1,035	53	8	26	103	3	1,228
2015	915	44	4	50	110	14	1,137
Per cent							
2002	77.8	6.1	0.2	6.4	5.4	4.1	100.0
2003	75.5	16.2	0.1	5.1	3.0	0.1	100.0
2004	74.2	20.6	0.0	1.9	3.2	0.2	100.0
2005	73.6	21.1	0.2	0.7	4.0	0.5	100.0
2006	65.2	26.4	0.2	2.1	1.8	4.3	100.0
2007	61.1	31.2	0.7	0.6	0.1	6.3	100.0
2008	74.8	22.2	0.4	0.8	0.4	1.4	100.0
2009	75.6	22.2	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.8	100.0
2010	78.9	18.0	0.1	0.6	0.1	2.4	100.0
2011	74.0	19.5	0.7	2.1	0.7	3.0	100.0
2012	73.8	21.6	0.4	1.6	1.2	1.4	100.0
2013	79.0	15.9	0.6	2.0	1.4	1.1	100.0
2014	84.3	4.3	0.7	2.1	8.4	0.2	100.0
2015	80.5	3.9	0.4	4.4	9.7	1.2	100.0

Method of abortion was not able to be determined for 4 cases.

Supplementary Table 34: Abortion number and percent between 14 and 19 weeks gestation by method of abortion, WA, 2002-2015

Year	Vacuum only	Vacuum and medication	Medication	Dilatation & Curettage	Dilatation & Evacuation	Other	Total
Number							
2002	72	16	82	16	157	12	355
2003	70	39	89	3	127	9	337
2004	73	30	109		95	5	312
2005	71	41	103	3	120	10	348
2006	90	45	105	3	27	73	343
2007	71	48	83	1	17	114	334
2008	150	27	96	3	6	81	363
2009	150	25	118	3	14	52	362
2010	146	20	90	6	14	86	362
2011	197	22	88	13	9	94	423
2012	223	33	87	16	9	69	437
2013	266	25	78	5	26	54	454
2014	39	4	75	4	201	96	419
2015	39	2	53	2	231	60	387
Per cent							
2002	20.3	4.5	23.1	4.5	44.2	3.4	100.0
2003	20.8	11.6	26.4	0.9	37.7	2.7	100.0
2004	23.4	9.6	34.9	0.0	30.4	1.6	100.0
2005	20.4	11.8	29.6	0.9	34.5	2.9	100.0
2006	26.2	13.1	30.6	0.9	7.9	21.3	100.0
2007	21.3	14.4	24.9	0.3	5.1	34.1	100.0
2008	41.3	7.4	26.4	0.8	1.7	22.3	100.0
2009	41.4	6.9	32.6	0.8	3.9	14.4	100.0
2010	40.3	5.5	24.9	1.7	3.9	23.8	100.0
2011	46.6	5.2	20.8	3.1	2.1	22.2	100.0
2012	51.0	7.6	19.9	3.7	2.1	15.8	100.0
2013	58.6	5.5	17.2	1.1	5.7	11.9	100.0
2014	9.3	1.0	17.9	1.0	48.0	22.9	100.0
2015	10.1	0.5	13.7	0.5	59.7	15.5	100.0

Method of abortion was not able to be determined for 4 cases.

Supplementary Table 35: Abortion number and percent from 20 weeks gestation by method of abortion, WA, 2002-2015

Year	Vacuum only	Vacuum and medication	Medication	Dilatation & Curettage	Dilatation & Evacuation	Other	Total
Number							
2002			31				31
2003			29			2	31
2004			37			1	38
2005			47			2	49
2006			41			1	42
2007			45				45
2008			39			2	41
2009			37				37
2010			41			3	44
2011			55			5	60
2012			65			2	67
2013			69			1	70
2014			70			1	71
2015			70			6	76
Per cent							
2002	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
2003	0.0	0.0	93.5	0.0	0.0	6.5	100.0
2004	0.0	0.0	97.4	0.0	0.0	2.6	100.0
2005	0.0	0.0	95.9	0.0	0.0	4.1	100.0
2006	0.0	0.0	97.6	0.0	0.0	2.4	100.0
2007	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
2008	0.0	0.0	95.1	0.0	0.0	4.9	100.0
2009	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
2010	0.0	0.0	93.2	0.0	0.0	6.8	100.0
2011	0.0	0.0	91.7	0.0	0.0	8.3	100.0
2012	0.0	0.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	100.0
2013	0.0	0.0	98.6	0.0	0.0	1.4	100.0
2014	0.0	0.0	98.6	0.0	0.0	1.4	100.0
2015	0.0	0.0	92.1	0.0	0.0	7.9	100.0

Supplementary Table 36: Abortion number and percent for fetal anomaly by gestational age group, WA, 2002-2015

Year	Gestational age group (weeks)							
	<=9 weeks		10 to 13 weeks		14 to 19 weeks		>=20 weeks	
	Reason was fetal anomaly							
	Yes	Total	Yes	Total	Yes	Total	Yes	Total
Number								
2002	7	6,372	30	1,344	73	344	30	31
2003	<5	6,342	32	1,167	83	333	31	31
2004	9	6,237	33	1,218	81	306	36	38
2005	5	6,099	38	1,333	84	348	45	48
2006	5	6,653	45	1,293	105	343	41	42
2007	8	6,797	40	1,254	88	334	43	45
2008	12	7,014	43	1,249	94	363	41	41
2009	27	7,346	59	1,163	122	362	36	37
2010	29	7,019	65	1,013	123	362	42	44
2011	12	7,067	66	1,173	130	423	54	60
2012	<5	6,838	49	1,121	121	437	56	67
2013	25	6,808	58	1,175	137	454	58	70
2014	15	6,797	57	1,228	120	419	56	71
2015	<5	6,575	52	1,137	101	387	69	76
Per cent with fetal anomaly								
2002	0.1		2.2		21.2		96.8	
2003	0.0		2.7		24.9		100.0	
2004	0.1		2.7		26.5		94.7	
2005	0.1		2.9		24.1		93.8	
2006	0.1		3.5		30.6		97.6	
2007	0.1		3.2		26.3		95.6	
2008	0.2		3.4		25.9		100.0	
2009	0.4		5.1		33.7		97.3	
2010	0.4		6.4		34.0		95.5	
2011	0.2		5.6		30.7		90.0	
2012	0.1		4.4		27.7		83.6	
2013	0.4		4.9		30.2		82.9	
2014	0.2		4.6		28.6		78.9	
2015	0.0		4.6		26.1		90.8	

Appendix A: Comparability of abortion in WA with other jurisdictions

Place	Comparable to WA	Legislation	Notification	Access
Western Australia		<i>Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911 Section 334 and The Criminal Code 259</i>	Notify DoH about every abortion	Without restriction as to the reason. Panel approval for abortions at 20 weeks gestation or greater.
Australia		Each jurisdiction has its own legislation	No centralised notification	Each jurisdiction is different
Australian Capital Territory	Yes but centralised data not available	<i>Crimes (Abolition of Offence of Abortion) Act 2002</i> Must be performed by doctors in approved medical facilities.		Without restriction as to the reason or gestation.
Northern Territory	Yes but centralised data not yet available	<i>Termination of Pregnancy Law Reform Act 2017</i>	Notify The Chief Health Officer about every abortion	To preserve physical and/or mental health of the mother. Not allowed if gestation 28 weeks or greater.
South Australia	Centralised data available but the rate will be lower than WA because of more restricted access	<i>Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935 Section 81-82A</i>	Notify DoH about every abortion	Up to 23 weeks gestation for women residing in SA and if 2 medical practitioners believe that the continuation of the pregnancy would involve greater risk of injury to the physical or mental health of the woman or the child would suffer a serious handicap. Must be carried out in a hospital. Unless to save the woman's life, not allowed if gestation 28 weeks or greater.
Queensland	No and centralised data not available	<i>Criminal Code 224-226, 282</i> A person is not criminally responsible for a correctly performed abortion if it is to preserve the mother's life. "No legal justification for abortion on demand"	No centralised notification	To preserve the woman's life
New South Wales	Yes but centralised data not available	<i>Crimes Act 1900 82-84</i> , interpretation of which is subject to the Levine ruling 1971	No centralised notification	Up to 14 weeks gestation if a suitably qualified medical practitioner considers it appropriate. From 15 to 23 weeks gestation if two suitably qualified medical practitioners consider it appropriate. Any gestation for an emergency where the medical practitioner considers the termination is necessary to preserve the life of the woman.
Victoria	Yes but centralised data not available	<i>Abortion Law Reform Act 2008</i> <i>Victorian Crimes Act 1958 65-66</i>	No centralised notification	Up to 24 weeks without restriction as to the reason. From 24 weeks if two medical practitioners agree it is appropriate to the circumstances (current and future,

Place	Comparable to WA	Legislation	Notification	Access
				physical, psychological and social).r
Tasmania	Yes but centralised data not available	<i>Reproductive Health (Access to Terminations) Act 2013</i>	No centralised notification	Up to 16 weeks gestation without restriction as to the reason. From 17 weeks gestation 2 medical practitioners (one of which is a specialist in obstetrics or gynaecology) must reasonably believe that the continuation of the pregnancy would involve greater risk of injury to physical or mental health
New Zealand	No Centralised data available but the rate will be lower than WA because of more restricted access	<i>Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act 1977</i> <i>Crimes Act 1961</i>	Notification sent to Supervisory Committee	Up to 12 weeks gestation must be conducted in a (limited) licensed facility. From 13 weeks gestation must be conducted in a (fully) licensed facility. All abortions require 2 certifying medical practitioners. Up to 19 weeks gestation, to preserve the physical or mental health of the woman. For foetal impairment or cases of incest. At any gestation to save the life of the woman.
England, Wales and Scotland	No Centralised data available but the rate will be lower than WA because of more restricted access	<i>Abortion Act 1967</i> , as amended by the <i>Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990</i>	Notify Chief Medical Officer about every abortion	Must be conducted in a (limited) licensed facility and require 2 certifying medical practitioners unless it is required immediately to save the woman's life. The 2 medical practitioners must be of the opinion that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk to the life of the pregnant woman or injury to her physical or mental health or that there is a substantial risk that the child will be seriously handicapped.
Finland	No Centralised data available but the rate will be lower than WA because of more restricted access and calculation of rate is based on population aged 15 to 49 years.	Act on Induced Abortion 238/1970, Decree on Induced Abortion 359/1970	Notify the National Institute for Health and Welfare	Up to 12 weeks if the pregnancy would endanger life, health or living conditions of the woman and her family, was the result of rape or incest, the woman is less than 17 or more than 40 years old, already had 4 children or if the child will be seriously handicapped. Must be done at earliest possible gestation. Between 13 and 24 weeks must be recommended by two physicians.

Place	Comparable to WA	Legislation	Notification	Access
Sweden	No Centralised data available but the rate will be lower than WA because of more restricted access and calculation of rate is based on population aged 15 to 49 years.	<i>Abortion Act 1974</i>		Without restriction as to reason up to 18 th week, then only in special circumstances

Appendix C: Induced Abortion Notification Form 2002-Current

FORM 1

(Regulation 2)

Health Act 1911
 Health (Section 335 (5) (d) Abortion Notice) Regulations 1998
Notification by Medical Practitioner of Induced Abortion

To Executive Director, Public Health

Under section 335 (5) (d) of the Health Act 1911, I, _____
(please print full name)

provide notice¹ of an abortion I performed at _____
(address where procedure was performed)

on _____
(date of abortion)

1. Gestational age at date of abortion (best estimate): _____ weeks

2. Method of termination: (tick one or more)

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----|
| Vacuum aspiration (suction curettage) | <input type="checkbox"/> | (1) |
| Dilatation and curettage (sharp) | <input type="checkbox"/> | (2) |
| Dilatation and evacuation | <input type="checkbox"/> | (3) |
| Vaginal prostaglandin or analogue instillation | <input type="checkbox"/> | (4) |
| Other (specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> | (5) |

3. Reason for termination of pregnancy: (tick one)

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----|
| Reason other than fetal abnormality | <input type="checkbox"/> | (1) |
| Suspected fetal abnormality | <input type="checkbox"/> | (2) |
| Actual fetal abnormality | <input type="checkbox"/> | (3) |
| Specify if known _____ | | |
| Selective reduction of multiple pregnancy | <input type="checkbox"/> | (4) |

4. Patient's age (last birthday): _____ years

5. Origin of patient

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----|
| Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin | <input type="checkbox"/> | (1) |
| Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin | <input type="checkbox"/> | (2) |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin | <input type="checkbox"/> | (3) |
| Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin | <input type="checkbox"/> | (4) |
| Not stated | <input type="checkbox"/> | (5) |

6. Postcode of residence of patient: _____

Signature _____ **Date:** _____
(Signature of Medical Practitioner)

Notes

1. As required by section 335 (5) (d) of the Health Act 1911 notice must be given **within 14 days** of the abortion being performed.

Forward completed form (top copy), marked **Private & Confidential**, to Manager, Maternal and Child Health Unit, Department of Health, WA, Reply Paid 70042 (Delivery to Locked Bag 52) PERTH BC WA 6849

Duplicate (yellow copy) to be retained by medical practitioner

Form 1 last updated on 21/01/2009



This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

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