
SECTION 3: INDUCED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY

Induced termination of pregnancy

Current trends

During 2017, 8,506 induced terminations of pregnancy (abortions) were performed in Oregon. This total represents a 4.9% decrease from 2016, and a decrease of 45.9% from the record high of 15,735 abortions reported in 1980 (see Figure 3-1).

This chapter reports data for all abortions occurring in Oregon whether obtained by Oregon residents or residents of another state. The percentage of abortions in Oregon obtained by out-of-state residents has been between 9.4% and 12.6% from 1994 to the present. In 2017, 844 patients (9.9%) were out-of-state residents (see Table 3-6). Oregonians who obtained abortions in other states are not included in these data.

Because rate calculations use Oregon population numbers, out-of-state residents' data are used as a substitute for the unknown number of Oregonians who obtained an abortion in another state (see Appendix B: "Technical notes," for a more extensive discussion of the completeness of abortion data).

The national abortion rate has been declining since 1980 from approximately 25 per 1,000 women ages 15–44 years to 12.1 per 1,000 in 2014, the most recent year for which national data are available.¹ In 2017, the Oregon rate fell to 10.6 per 1,000 women ages 15–44, a 4.5% decrease from 2016, and a 57.8% decrease from the record high seen in 1980 (25.1 per 1,000).

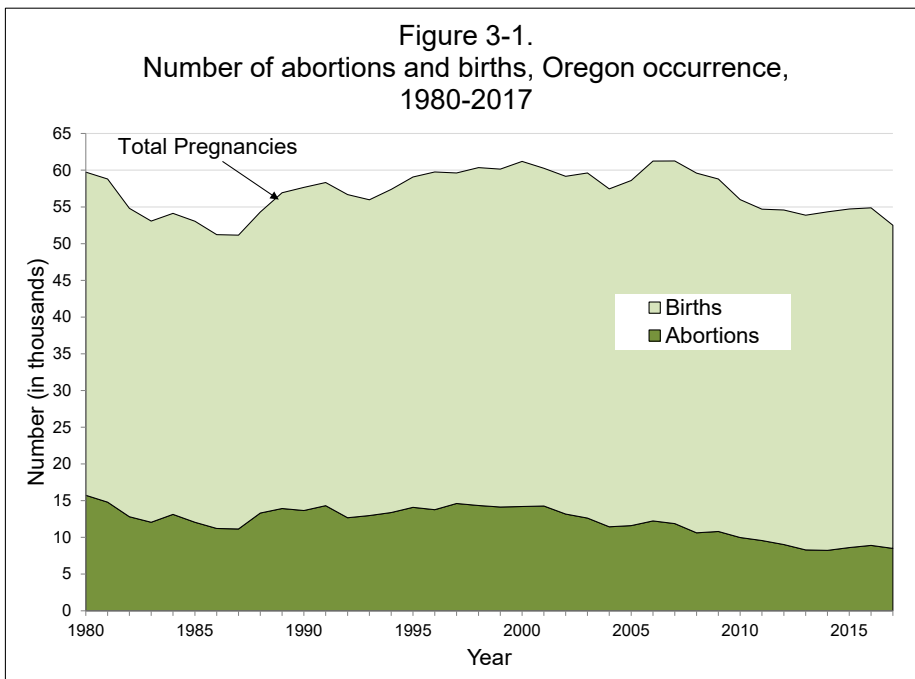


Table 3-A. Comparison of Oregon and U.S. abortion ratios, 1985-2014		
Year	U.S. abortion ratio ¹	Oregon's abortion ratio ² as percent difference from U.S.
1985	354	-16%
1986	354	-21%
1987	356	-21%
1988	352	-9%
1989	346	-6%
1990	344	-11%
1991	338	-4%
1992	334	-13%
1993	333	-10%
1994	321	-4%
1995	311 ³	+2%
1996	315	-4%
1997	306	+6%
1998	264 ³	+17%
1999	256 ³	+12%
2000	245 ⁴	+24%
2001	246 ⁴	+25%
2002	246 ⁴	+16%
2003	241 ⁵	+12%
2004	238 ⁵	+4%
2005	233 ⁶	+7%
2006	236 ⁷	+6%
2007	231 ⁷	+4%
2008	234 ⁷	-8%
2009	227 ⁸	0%
2010	228 ⁷	-5%
2011	219 ⁹	-3%
2012	210 ⁷	-6%
2013	200 ⁷	-9%
2014	*186 ¹⁰	-4%

¹ CDC. Abortion Surveillance - United States, 2014. MMWR November 24, 2017; 66(24);1-48.
² See Table 3-2
³ Alaska, California, New Hampshire and Oklahoma did not report.
⁴ Alaska, California and New Hampshire did not report.
⁵ California, New Hampshire and West Virginia did not report.
⁶ California, Louisiana and New Hampshire did not report.
⁷ California, Maryland and New Hampshire did not report.
⁸ California, Delaware, Maryland and New Hampshire did not report.
⁹ Alaska, California, Delaware, Louisiana, Maryland, New Hampshire and West Virginia did not report.
¹⁰ California, Louisiana, Maryland and New Hampshire did not report.
 NOTE: These are original numbers reported by the CDC and may not reflect any subsequent changes.
 * Most recent data available

During the past 20 years, Oregon’s abortion rate for women ages 15–44 years has generally declined — from a high of 20.3 in 1998 to 10.6 per 1,000 women in 2017.

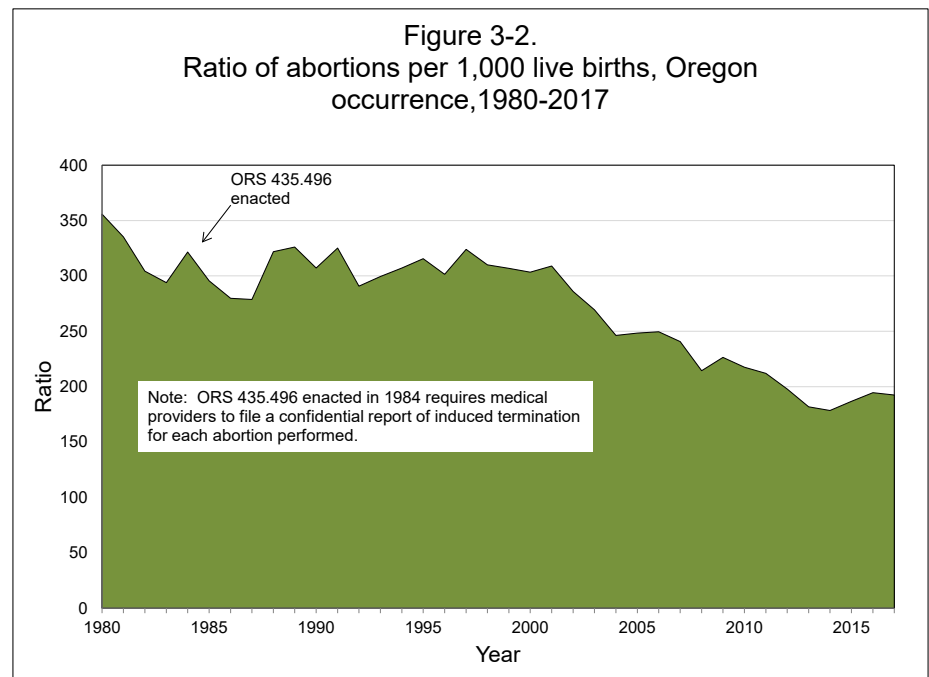
Pregnancy outcomes

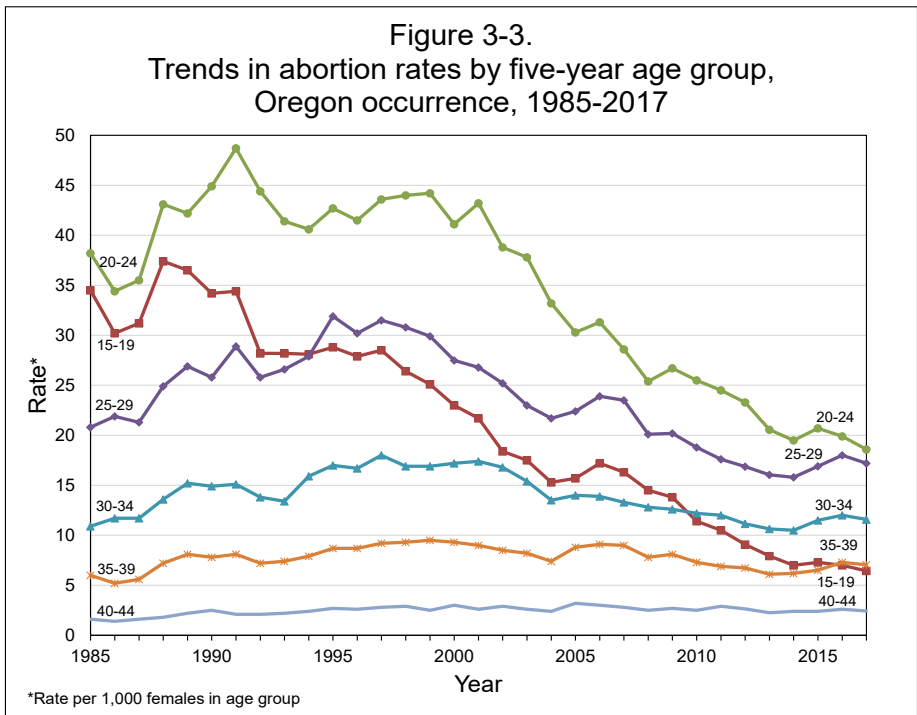
Figure 3-2 shows the ratio of abortions to births occurring in Oregon. Both the highest abortion rate (number of abortions per 1,000 female population) and the highest ratio of abortions (number of abortions per 1,000 births) occurred in 1980. In 1984, the level of reporting increased due to new legislation that required providers to report all abortions performed. The overall abortion ratio has gradually declined since 1980, with periodic spikes (see Figure 3-2).

In 2017, there were 192.6 abortions per 1,000 births in Oregon. This represents a 1.0% decrease from 2016 and a 45.9% decrease from 1980 when this ratio was 355.8 per 1,000 births (see Table 3-2). From 1973, when the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Roe v. Wade* legalized abortion, to the mid-2000s, Oregon’s abortion ratio fluctuated relative to the national ratio. Since then, however, Oregon’s abortion ratio has remained near the national ratio (see sidebar Table 3-A).

Abortion patients

Abortion rates differ by age group, race, ethnicity, marital status and prior pregnancy. More than two-thirds of abortion patients have never been married (see Table 3-3), and half have previously given birth (see Table 3-5).





Age

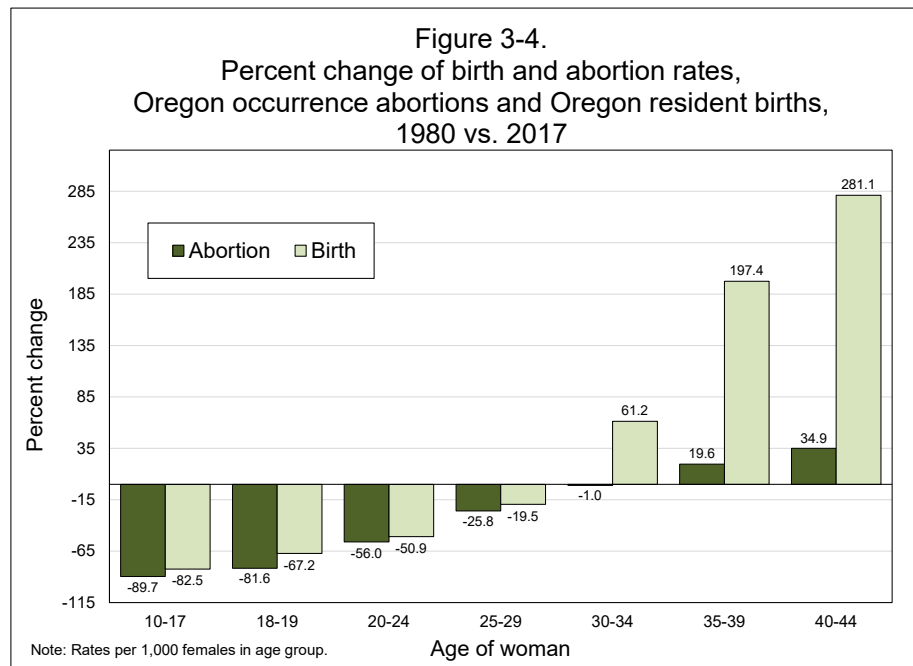
Abortion rates vary widely among age groups. The highest rate in 2017 occurred among women ages 20–24 years (18.6 per 1,000). The lowest rates were among women under age 15 and women 45–49 years (0.1 per 1,000 and 0.2 per 1,000; see sidebar Table 3-B). The youngest person to obtain an abortion in 2017 was 13 years old.

The 2017 abortion rate among teens ages 10–17 years was 89.6% lower than the rate in 1980, when the statewide abortion rate was highest; the rate for 18- to 19-year-olds was 81.6% lower (see Figure 3-4). The absence of a corresponding increase in the birth rates among teens suggests success in avoiding unwanted pregnancy, rather than an increase in decisions to carry unwanted pregnancies to term. In contrast, among women ages 35–39 years, abortion rates were 19.6% higher in 2017 than in 1980.

Table 3-B. Abortion rates by age and percentage distribution, Oregon occurrence ¹ , 2017		
Age	Rate ²	%
<15	0.1	0.2
15-19	6.4	9.6
20-24	18.6	27.9
25-29	17.2	27.9
30-34	11.6	18.8
35-39	7.1	11.5
40-44	2.4	3.8
45-49	0.2	0.3
15-44	10.6	99.5

¹ Occurrence data include all abortions reported by providers located in Oregon, regardless of the patient's residence. Because rate calculations employ Oregon population figures, these calculations, in effect, substitute out-of-state residents for Oregonians who may have obtained an abortion in another state.

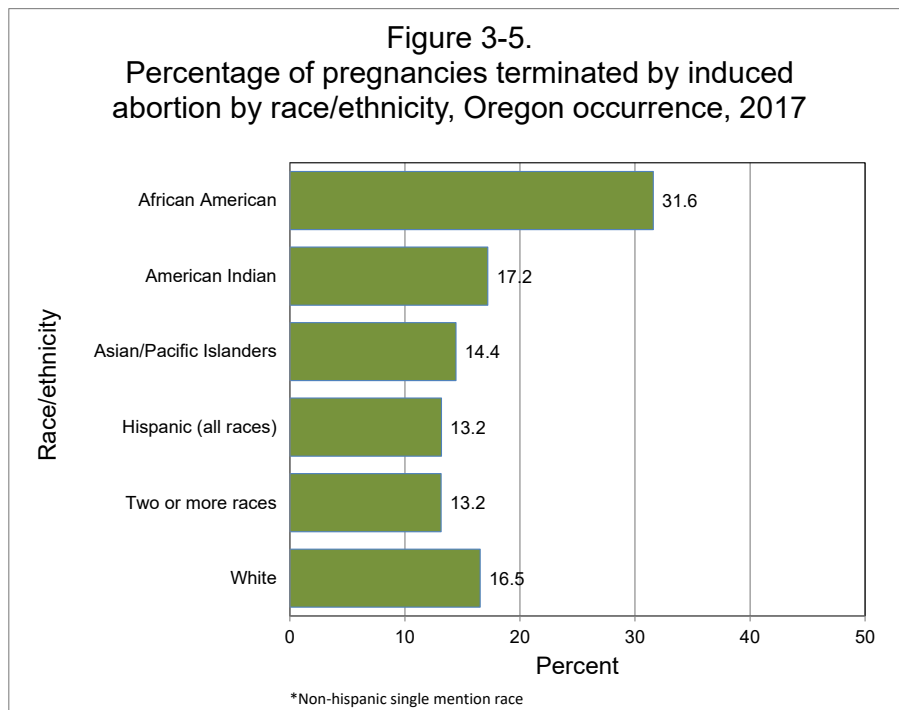
² Per 1,000 females in age group



Race and ethnicity

Beginning in 2008, collection of race and ethnicity data on Oregon birth certificates changed to obtain more precise information about an individual's race and Hispanic ethnicity. In prior years, only one race category could be selected. Now multiple race and ethnicity categories may be chosen. For this reason, pregnancy data (births and abortions) by race/ethnicity since 2008 are not directly comparable to years before 2008.

The frequency with which abortion procedures were used to terminate pregnancies varied among ethnic and racial groups. African American and American Indian women had the highest percentages of terminated pregnancies in 2017 with 31.6% and 17.2%, respectively. Oregon's demographic composition is predominately White, and, by count in 2017, White women obtained most of the abortions. Note that the third highest percentage of pregnancies terminated, which was 47.6% lower than that among African American women, was reported among White women. The lowest percentage of pregnancies terminated was among women of Hispanic ethnicity (13.2%), followed by that among Asian/Pacific Islander women (14.4%) (see Figure 3-5).

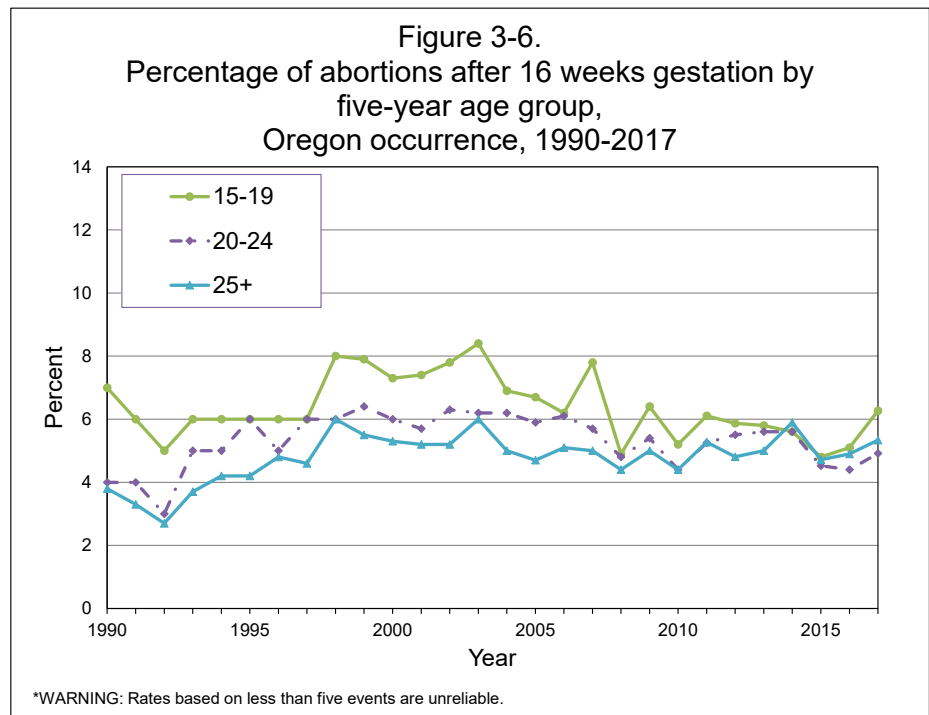


Contraceptive use

For most abortions that occur in Oregon, the pregnancy is not a result of contraceptive failure. In 2017, based upon data obtained from abortion reports, 33.3% of women had used some method of contraception to avoid pregnancy. Of the 66.7% of abortion patients who did not report using contraceptives, 35.8% had previously obtained an abortion (see Table 3-5).

Medical procedures

For abortions with known gestation periods, 88.6% were performed prior to the 13th week of pregnancy (see Table 3-4). Approximately one in 20 (5.3%) induced terminations with known gestation was performed after 16 weeks. Women younger than 20 years old obtained an abortion past 16 weeks' gestation in 6.4% of cases, which was 22.8% more often than women age 20 and older. The percentage of abortions occurring after 16 weeks' gestation increased for all age groups in 2017 (see Figure 3-6). Medical (non-surgical) was the procedure used in 48.8% of terminations prior to the 13th week where method was reported. Dilation and evacuation was the procedure in 89.3% of terminations occurring after 16 weeks' gestation.



Complications at the time of the induced termination procedure were reported for 312 terminations (3.7% of abortion patients). Retained products (91 patients) and failure of first method (50 patients) were the most common complications. In Oregon, no woman is reported to have died as the result of a legally induced termination.

Geographic distribution

Abortion rates varied widely within Oregon, with 35 of 36 counties reporting at least one resident who obtained an abortion in 2017. Service providers, conversely, were geographically concentrated. Abortions were reported in seven counties in 2017, with 90.3% of all abortions obtained in five counties: Deschutes, Lane, Marion, Multnomah and Washington (see Table 3-7). Although abortions often may be sought outside a patient's community to help ensure anonymity, this degree of concentration suggests that access to abortion may be limited for some Oregon women.

References

1. Jatlaoui TC, Shah J, Mandel MG, et al. Abortion surveillance — United States, 2014. *MMWR Surveill Summ* 2017;66(No. SS-24):1–48. DOI: [cited 2018 Dec 28]. Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.ss6624a1>.