

2017 Induced Terminations of Pregnancy for Texas Residents

The Texas Abortion Facility Reporting and Licensing Act, Health and Safety Code, Chapter 245, mandates that each abortion facility in the state submit a report for each abortion that is performed at the facility. Neither the patient nor the physician performing the abortion may be identified in the report. These reports, submitted on the Induced Abortion Reporting Form, are confidential and are not considered open records.

Health and Safety Code, Chapter 245, requires the following data to be included in the report:

- 1) patient's year of birth, race, marital status, and state and county of residence;
- 2) type of abortion procedure;
- 3) date the abortion was performed;
- 4) post-fertilization age at the time of the procedure;
- 5) date of the patient's last menstrual cycle;
- 6) number of previous live births;
- 7) number of previous induced abortions;
- 8) whether the patient survived the procedure and, if not, the cause of death.

From 2013, additional fields are required to be reported by Title 25 of the Texas Administrative Code, §§139.4 and 139.5(3):

- 9) whether the patient viewed the printed material provided under Health and Safety Code, Chapter 171;
- 10) whether the sonogram image, verbal explanation of the image, and the audio of the heart sounds were made available to the patient;
- 11) whether the patient completed the "Abortion and Sonogram" election form;
- 12) method used to dispose of fetal tissue and remains;
- 13) if patient is younger than 18, was consent obtained;
- 14) the method of pregnancy verification;
- 15) the type of anesthesia, if any, used in the procedure: intravenous sedation or general anesthesia;
- 16) complications of abortion.

Pursuant to House Bill 13, 85th Legislature, First Called Session (2017), the responsibility for maintaining a reporting system for complications of induced terminations of pregnancy moved from the Texas Department of State Health Services to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).

Reports of abortions performed in states outside of Texas for Texas residents are shared through public health surveillance agreements.

Number of Induced Abortions

In calendar year 2017, there were 52,669 Induced Termination of Pregnancy (ITOP) procedures reported for Texas residents, including both those performed in-state (52,103) and those performed out-of-state (566). This is a decrease by 1.3 percent from 2016. This narrative describes these abortions for Texas residents in more detail.

Age*, Race/Ethnicity, & Marital Status

Of Texas residents with a reported age who obtained an abortion in 2017, 58.1 percent were 20-29 years of age, 8.7 percent were 16-19 years of age, and less than one percent were teens 15 years of age or younger. The mean age of Texas residents who obtained abortions in 2017 was 27.1 years, and the age at which the greatest number of abortions was performed was 25.0 years.

Among Texas residents with reported race information, 27.0 percent of abortions were obtained by white women, 26.6 percent by black women, 38.5 percent by Hispanic women, and 7.7 percent by women of other racial/ethnic groups.^ In comparison, the 2017 Texas female population 15 to 44 years of age was 34.9 percent white, 12.3 percent black, 45.3 percent Hispanic, and 7.5 percent other racial/ethnic groups.

Of reported Texas resident abortions, 17.6 percent were obtained by married women, compared to 17.3 percent in 2016.

Post-Fertilization Age**, Facility, & Procedure

Of those for whom information was available, 82.7 percent of all abortions among Texas residents occurred at 8 or fewer weeks post-fertilization, and 90.0 percent at 10 or fewer weeks post-fertilization. In the same population, 1.5 percent of abortions were performed at 17 weeks or more post-fertilization, and less than one percent were performed at 21 weeks or more post-fertilization. ^^ More than half (51.2 percent) of abortions for Texas residents were performed at ambulatory surgery centers, and 47.5 percent were performed in abortion facilities. The remainder were performed in hospitals, physicians' offices, and out-of-state facilities. Suction curettage was the most common abortion procedure (62.2 percent of Texas resident abortions), followed by medical-non surgical (31.6 percent), and dilation and evacuation (6.0 percent).

Previous Pregnancies

In 2017, 61.8 percent of Texas residents who obtained abortions underwent their first abortion, 25.2 percent had one prior abortion, 8.8 percent had two prior abortions, and 4.3 percent had three or more previous abortions.

Among Texas residents, 38.6 percent of abortions occurred among women who had not had any previous live births, 24.3 percent had one previous live birth, 20.9 percent had two previous live births, and 16.3 percent had three or more previous live births.

Notes

Percentages reported in this narrative do not include unknowns in the denominator. See “2017 Selected Characteristics of Induced Terminations of Pregnancy by Month” on the HHS website (<https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/records-statistics/data-statistics/itop-statistics>) for counts on data reported as "Not Stated."

^The percentages by race include corrections made in October 2021 to coding of race in out-of-state data.

^^The percentages of PFA are unchanged by corrections to post-fertilization age made October 2021 for a small number of out-of-state records.

* From 2006, age in ITOP statistics is calculated by subtracting patient’s full date of birth from the full date of procedure. Before 2006, age was calculated by subtracting patient’s birth year from the procedure year. Because of this change in calculation method, patient age distributions in ITOP statistics before and after 2006 are not directly comparable.

** Starting with 2014 Induced Terminations of Pregnancy (ITOP) data, fetus age is reported in weeks post-fertilization versus the previously reported weeks of gestation. Post-Fertilization Age (PFA) is generally two weeks less than gestational age.