

2018 Induced Terminations of Pregnancy for Texas Residents

The Texas Abortion Facility Reporting and Licensing Act, Health and Safety Code Chapter 245, requires a physician who performs an abortion to submit a report for each abortion performed. The report may not identify the patient. 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 2018, there were 54,343 Induced Termination of Pregnancy (ITOP) procedures reported for Texas residents, an increase of 0.9 percent from 2017. This figure includes both procedures performed in-state (53,887) and out-of-state (456). This narrative describes these abortions for Texas residents in more detail. Percentages reported here exclude "Not stated" answers in the denominator.^

Age*, Race/Ethnicity, and Marital Status

Of Texas residents who obtained an abortion in 2018, 58.0 percent were 20-29 years of age, 8.4 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 2018 was 27.2 years, and the age at which the greatest number of abortions was performed was 24.0 years.

Twenty-seven point two percent of these women were white, 26.9 percent were black, 38.7 percent were Hispanic, and 7.3 percent were women of other racial/ethnic groups.^ In comparison, the 2018 Texas female population 15 to 44 years of age was 36.8 percent white, 13.0 percent black, 42.4 percent Hispanic, and 7.8 percent other racial/ethnic groups.**

Of Texas residents who obtained an abortion in 2018, 17.5 percent of women were married and 82.5 percent were unmarried.

Post-Fertilization Age, Facility, and Procedure***

83.1 percent of all abortions among Texas residents occurred at 8 or fewer weeks post-fertilization, and 90.3 percent at 10 or fewer weeks post-fertilization. One point four percent of abortions were performed at 17 weeks or more post-fertilization.

More than half (51.3 percent) of abortions for Texas residents were performed at ambulatory surgery centers, and 47.7 percent were performed in abortion facilities. The remaining one percent were performed in hospitals, physicians' offices, or out-of-state facilities. Suction curettage was the most common abortion procedure (59.1 percent), followed by medical non-surgical (34.6 percent), and dilation and evacuation (6.2 percent).

Previous Pregnancies and Abortions

In 2018, 62.4 percent of Texas residents who obtained abortions underwent their first abortion, 24.7 percent had one prior abortion, 8.7 percent had two prior abortions, and 4.2 percent had three or more previous abortions.

Among Texas residents, 39.4 percent of abortions occurred among women who had not had any previous live births, 24.1 percent had one previous live birth, 20.8 percent had two previous live births, and 15.7 percent had three or more previous live births.

Notes

^ See “2018 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 frequencies including answer choices of "Not Stated."

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

* Age in ITOP statistics is calculated by subtracting patient’s full date of birth from the full date of procedure.

** Texas Demography Center/Office of the State Demographer, the University of Texas at San Antonio

*** 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.