

SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

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A public report providing statistics  
compiled from all abortions reported  
to DHEC

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2021



## **INTRODUCTION**

SC Code of Law 44-41-60 requires that all abortions performed in the state be reported to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environment Control (SC DHEC). This report contains the data reported to SC DHEC, Vital Statistics, for abortions performed in South Carolina in 2021 as required by SC Code of Law 44-41-460.

To comply with changes required by South Carolina statute, Vital Statistics adopted a new form on September 25, 2017. This report is based on data collected utilizing this form (See Appendix).

The data presented in this report is based on occurrence data.

Table 1.  
 Abortions by Probable Postfertilization Age (Weeks)  
 by Year, South Carolina, 2019 - 2021

Year	Total	6 or less weeks		7 - 13 weeks		14 - 19 weeks		20 - 23 weeks	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2021	6,279	3,007	47.9	3,223	51.3	38	0.6	11	0.2
2020	5,468	2,434	44.5	3,009	55.0	20	0.4	5	0.1
2019	5,101	2,323	45.5	2,748	53.9	25	0.5	5	0.1

Table 2.  
 Ultrasound Used to Determine Probable Postfertilization Age  
 by Year, South Carolina, 2019 - 2021

Year	Total	Yes		No		Unknown	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2021	6,279	6,272	99.9	6	0.1	1	<0.1
2020	5,468	5,464	99.9	4	0.1	-	0
2019	5,101	5,101	100.0	-	0	-	0

Table 3.  
 Abortions by Method and Probable Postfertilization Age (Weeks)  
 by Year, South Carolina, 2019 - 2021

Year	Method of Abortion	Total	Weeks Gestation			
			Under 6	7 - 13	14 - 19	20 - 23
2021	Total	6,279	3,007	3,223	38	11
	Dilation and Curettage	499	27	471	1	-
	Manual Vacuum Aspiration	84	39	45	-	-
	Electrical Vacuum Aspiration	1,021	393	628	-	-
	Dilation and Evacuation	44	-	15	29	-
	Combined Induction Abortion and Dilation and Evacuation	1	-	-	1	-
	Medication Abortion	4,623	2,548	2,064	4	7
	Induction Abortion with Prostaglandins	6	-	-	2	4
	Induction Abortion with Intra-Amniotic Instillation	-	-	-	-	-
	Induction Abortion - other	-	-	-	-	-
	Hysterotomy / Hysterectomy	1	-	-	1	-
	Intact Dilation and Extraction (partial birth)	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	
2020	Total	5,468	2,281	2,242	20	5
	Dilation and Curettage	511	35	476	-	-
	Manual Vacuum Aspiration	177	86	91	-	-
	Electrical Vacuum Aspiration	1,062	355	707	-	-
	Dilation and Evacuation	24	-	6	18	-
	Combined Induction Abortion and Dilation and Evacuation	-	-	-	-	-
	Medication Abortion	3,688	1,958	1,729	-	1
	Induction Abortion with Prostaglandins	4	-	-	1	3
	Induction Abortion with Intra-Amniotic Instillation	-	-	-	-	-
	Induction Abortion - other	1	-	-	-	1
	Hysterotomy / Hysterectomy	1	-	-	1	-
	Intact Dilation and Extraction (partial birth)	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	
2019	Total	5,101	2,323	2,748	25	5
	Dilation and Curettage	598	42	556	-	-
	Manual Vacuum Aspiration	192	82	110	-	-
	Electrical Vacuum Aspiration	1,179	369	810	-	-
	Dilation and Evacuation	22	-	4	17	1
	Combined Induction Abortion and Dilation and Evacuation	4	-	1	3	-
	Medication Abortion	3,100	1,830	1,267	1	2
	Induction Abortion with Prostaglandins	5	-	-	3	2
	Induction Abortion with Intra-Amniotic Instillation	-	-	-	-	-
	Induction Abortion - other	-	-	-	-	-
	Hysterotomy / Hysterectomy	1	-	-	1	-
	Intact Dilation and Extraction (partial birth)	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	

Table 4.  
 Intra-fetal Injection Used in an Attempt to Induce Fetal Demise  
 by Year, South Carolina, 2019 - 2021

Year	Total	Yes		No	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2021	6,279	4	0.1	6,275	99.9
2020	5,468	7	0.1	5,461	99.9
2019	5,101	2	0.0	5,099	100.0

Table 5.  
 Abortions by Maternal Age  
 South Carolina, 2019 - 2021

Age Group	2021		2020		2019	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	6,279	100.0	5,468	100.0	5,101	100.0
Under 15	19	0.3	14	0.3	10	0.2
15 - 16	65	1.0	58	1.1	58	1.1
17-19	484	7.7	437	8.0	441	8.7
20-24	1,802	28.7	1,556	28.5	1,403	27.5
25-29	1,836	29.2	1,590	29.1	1,500	29.4
30-34	1,266	20.2	1,050	19.2	961	18.8
35 & Over	807	12.9	763	14.0	728	14.3

Table 6.  
 Reason for the Abortion if Probable Postfertilization Age between 20 to 23 Weeks  
 by Year, South Carolina, 2019 - 2021

Year	Total	Medical Emergency		Fetal Anomaly	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2021	11	2	18.2	9	81.8
2020	5	1	20.0	4	80.0
2019	5	3	60	2	40.0

Table 7.

Method of Abortion Used that, in Reasonable Medical Judgement, Provided the Best Opportunity for the Unborn Child to Survive, If Probable Postfertilization Age is between 20 to 23 Weeks by Year, South Carolina, 2019 - 2021

Year	Total	Yes		No	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2021	11	9	81.8	2	18.2
2020	5	4	80.0	1	20.0
2019	5	3	60.0	2	40

Table 8.

If the Method of Abortion did Not Provide the Best Opportunity for the Unborn child to Survive, was the Basis of the Determination of Method of Abortion Used Provided?

by Year, South Carolina, 2019 - 2021

Year	Total	Yes		No	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2021	2	2	100	-	0
2020	1	1	100	-	0
2019	2	2	100	-	0

## Appendix



REPORT OF INDUCED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY

STATE FILE NUMBER

1. Patient's ID Number (Do Not Enter Patient's Name) 2. Age (Last Birthday) 3. Date of Pregnancy Termination (Month, Day, Year) 4. Facility Name 5. City/Town or Location of Pregnancy Termination 6. County of Pregnancy Termination

7. Residence - State or Foreign Country 8. Residence - County

9. Of Hispanic Origin? 10. Race 11. Education (Specify the highest degree or level completed)

12. Patient Married? 13. Date Last Normal Menses Began (Month, Day, Year)

14. Previous Pregnancies LIVE BIRTHS OTHER TERMINATIONS

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

15. Was a Determination of Probable Postfertilization Age Made? 18. If Probable Postfertilization Age is 20 or more weeks:

16. Enter the basis of the determination that a medical emergency existed: 18b. If Medical Emergency, provide the basis of the determination that the pregnant woman had a condition which so complicated her medical condition as to necessitate the abortion of her pregnancy to avert her death or to avert the serious risk of substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function, not including psychological or emotional conditions:

17. Probable Postfertilization Age 17a. Enter weeks of Probable Postfertilization Age: 17b. Was Ultrasound used to determine Probable Postfertilization Age? 19. Provide the basis of the determination that termination of the pregnancy in that manner (best opportunity) would pose a greater risk either of the death of the pregnant woman or of the substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function, not including psychological or emotional conditions, of the woman than would other available methods:

If less than 20 weeks Probable Postfertilization Age, go to question 20 If 20 weeks or MORE Probable Postfertilization Age, go to question 18

20. TERMINATION PROCEDURES 20a. PRIMARY PROCEDURE USED TO TERMINATE THE PREGNANCY (CHECK ONLY ONE) 20b. ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES USED IF ANY (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

21. Was an intra-fetal injection used in an attempt to induce fetal demise (such as, but not limited to, intra-fetal potassium chloride or digoxin)?

ITEM 22 MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH PATIENT, REGARDLESS OF AGE. 22a. WAS INFORMED WRITTEN CONSENT OBTAINED FROM THE PATIENT? 22b. IF NO, INFORMED WRITTEN CONSENT WAS NOT OBTAINED DUE TO: 22c. IF PATIENT HAS BEEN COURT ADJUDGED MENTALLY INCOMPETENT, INFORMED WRITTEN CONSENT OBTAINED FROM:

ITEM 23 MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH PATIENT, UNDER 17 YEARS OF AGE. 23a. IF PATIENT IS UNDER 17 YEARS OF AGE, ADDITIONAL INFORMED WRITTEN CONSENT OBTAINED FROM: 23b. IF PATIENT IS UNDER 17 YEARS OF AGE AND ADDITIONAL INFORMED WRITTEN CONSENT WAS NOT OBTAINED, CHECK REASON BELOW:

24. Date Report Completed