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# Induced termination of pregnancy

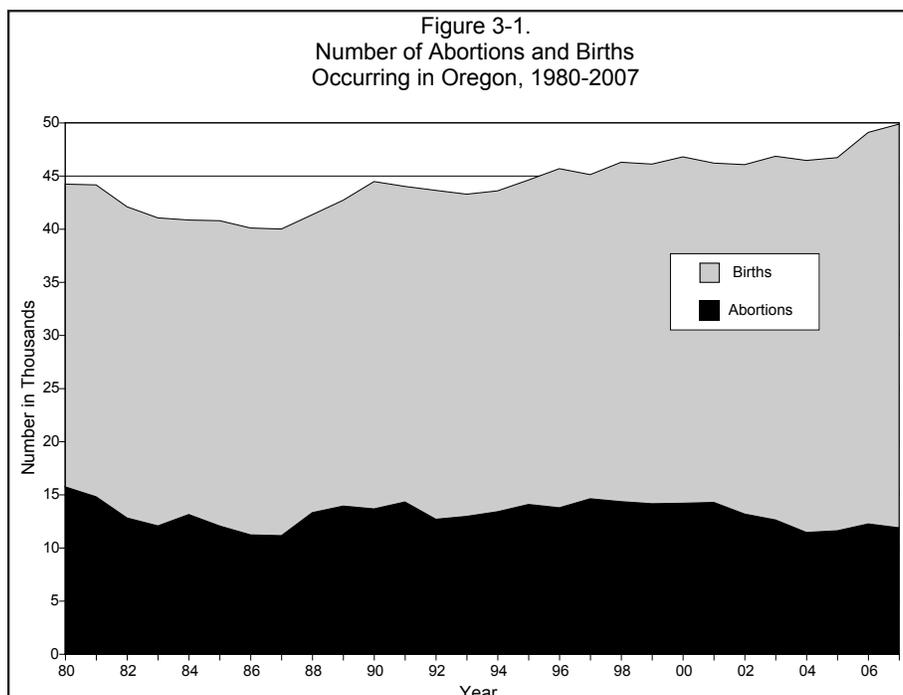
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## Current trends

During 2007, 11,883 induced terminations of pregnancy occurred in Oregon. This total represents a 3.0 percent decrease from 2006, but a decrease of 24.5 percent from the record high of 15,735 abortions reported in 1980. (See Figure 3-1.)

This chapter reports occurrence data; that is, all abortions occurring in Oregon whether obtained by Oregon residents or residents of another state. During the 1990s, out-of-state residents generally accounted for 11 percent to 12 percent of abortions in Oregon. In 2007, 1,384 (11.6 percent) of patients were out-of-state residents. (See Table 3-6.) Oregonians who obtained abortions out-of-state are not included in this data. Because rate calculations use Oregon population numbers, these calculations substitute out-of-state residents for the unknown number of Oregonians who obtained an abortion in another state. (See Appendix B, Technical Notes section for a more extensive discussion of the completeness of abortion data.)

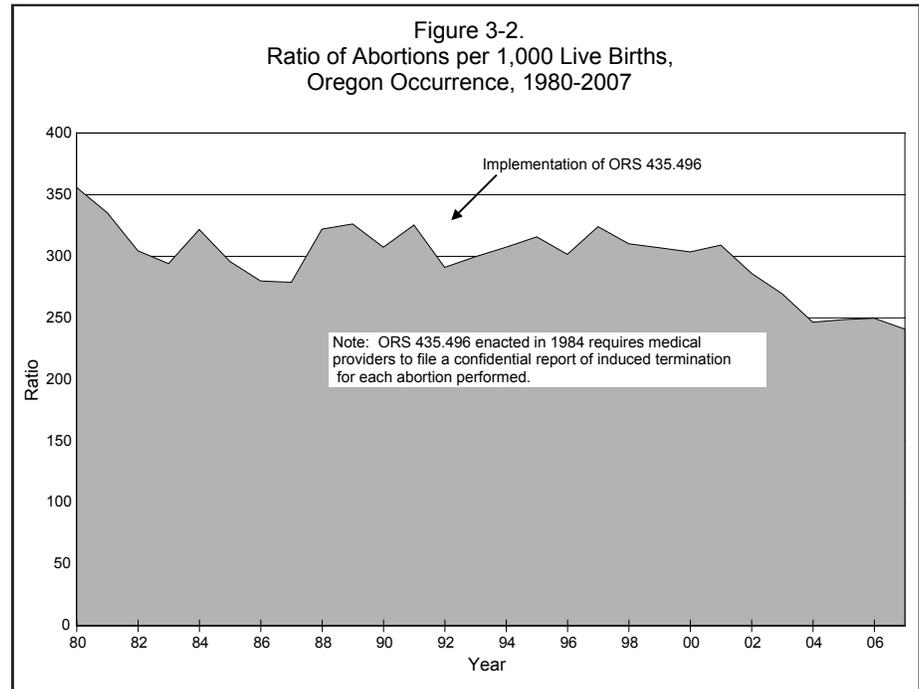
Behavioral changes are revealed more by shifts in rates, which account for population change, than changes in the number of events. The U.S. abortion rate has been declining since 1980 from approximately 25 per 1,000 women aged 15-44 to 16 per 1,000 in 2005.<sup>1</sup> In 2007, the Oregon rate decreased to 15.7 per 1,000 women aged 15-44, a 4.3 percent decrease



Comparison of Oregon and U.S. Abortion Ratios, 1972-2005		
Year	U.S. Abortion Ratio <sup>1</sup>	Oregon's Abortion Ratio <sup>2</sup> as Percent Difference from U.S.
1972	180	+23%
1973	196	+19%
1974	242	+9%
1975	**	**
1976	312	+13%
1977	**	**
1978	347	-2%
1979	**	**
1980	359	-1%
1981	**	**
1982	354	-14%
1983	**	**
1984	364	-12%
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 <sup>3</sup>	+2%
1996	315	-4%
1997	306	+6%
1998	264 <sup>3</sup>	+17%
1999	256 <sup>3</sup>	+12%
2000	245 <sup>4</sup>	+24%
2001	246 <sup>4</sup>	+25%
2002	246 <sup>4</sup>	+16%
2003	241 <sup>5</sup>	+12%
2004	238 <sup>5</sup>	+3.5%
2005	*233 <sup>6</sup>	+6.6%

<sup>1</sup> Estimated Number of Abortions per 1,000 Live Births.  
<sup>2</sup> See Table 3-2.  
<sup>3</sup> Alaska, California, New Hampshire, and Oklahoma did not report.  
<sup>4</sup> Alaska, California, and New Hampshire did not report.  
<sup>5</sup> California, New Hampshire, and West Virginia did not report.  
<sup>6</sup> California, Louisiana and New Hampshire did not report.  
\* Most recent data available  
\*\* Data not available.

from 2006 and 37.5 percent lower than the record high of 1980 (25.1 per 1,000). During the past 20 years, Oregon's abortion rate has fluctuated little: from a low of 15 per 1,000 women aged 15-44 in 2004, to a high of 21.4 in 1991.

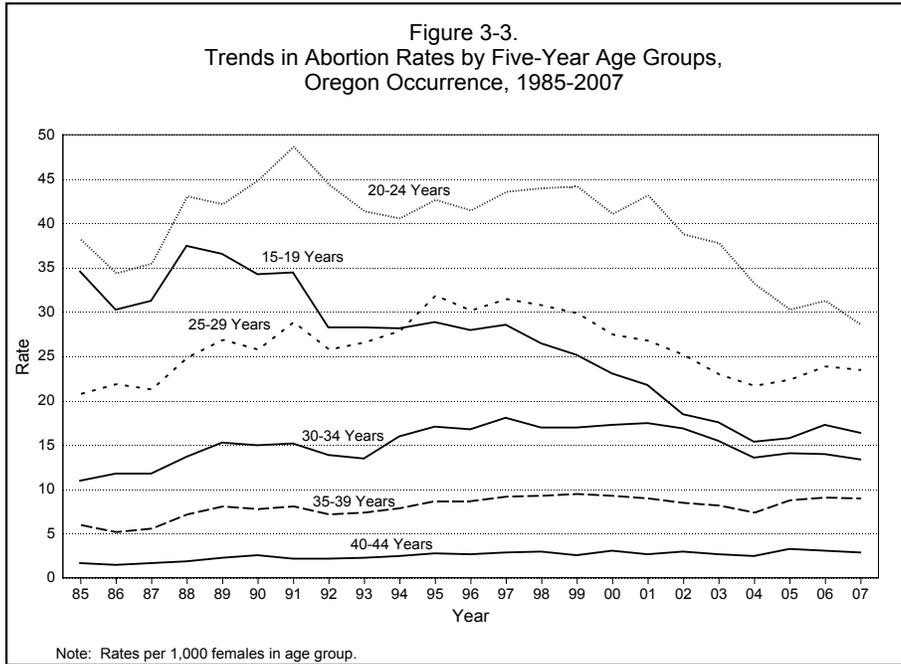


### Pregnancy outcomes

Figure 3-2 shows the ratio of abortions to births occurring in Oregon, indicating the prevalence of unwanted pregnancies that occurred in the state. 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. Between 1980 and 1987, the ratio of abortions to births declined, although an increased level of reporting beginning in 1984 (as a requirement of new legislation) obscures this fact.

In 2007, there were 240.7 abortions per 1,000 occurrence births. This represents a 3.5 percent decrease from 2006 and a 32.3 percent decrease from 1980, when this ratio was 355.8 per 1,000 births. (See Table 3-2.)

In 1973, when the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion with the Roe v. Wade decision, Oregon's abortion ratio was about one-fifth higher than that of the U.S. (See sidebar, page 3-2.) In the mid-1980s and early 1990s this changed: Oregonians were less likely than residents of other states to terminate a pregnancy with an induced abortion. Since 1995, however, Oregon's abortion ratio has fluctuated around the U.S. ratio. The 2007 abortion ratio in Oregon was slightly higher than the 2005 U.S. ratio (the most recent comparison available) 240.7 to 233; however, this may be due, in part, to some states not reporting (California, Louisiana and New Hampshire).



Abortion Rates by Age and Percentage Distribution, Oregon Occurrence <sup>1</sup> , 2007		
Age	Rate <sup>2</sup>	%
<15	0.4	0.4
15-19	16.3	17
20-24	28.6	31.6
25-29	23.5	24.5
30-34	13.3	13.8
35-39	9.0	9.1
40-44	2.8	3
45-49	0.3	0.4
15-44	15.7	99.2

<sup>1</sup> 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.

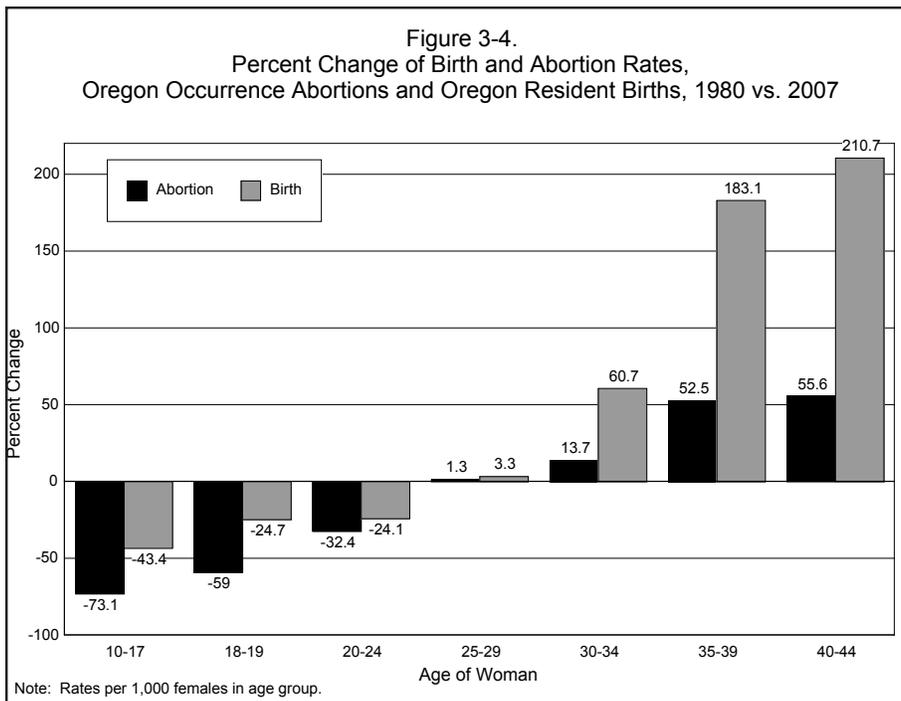
<sup>2</sup> Per 1,000 females in age group

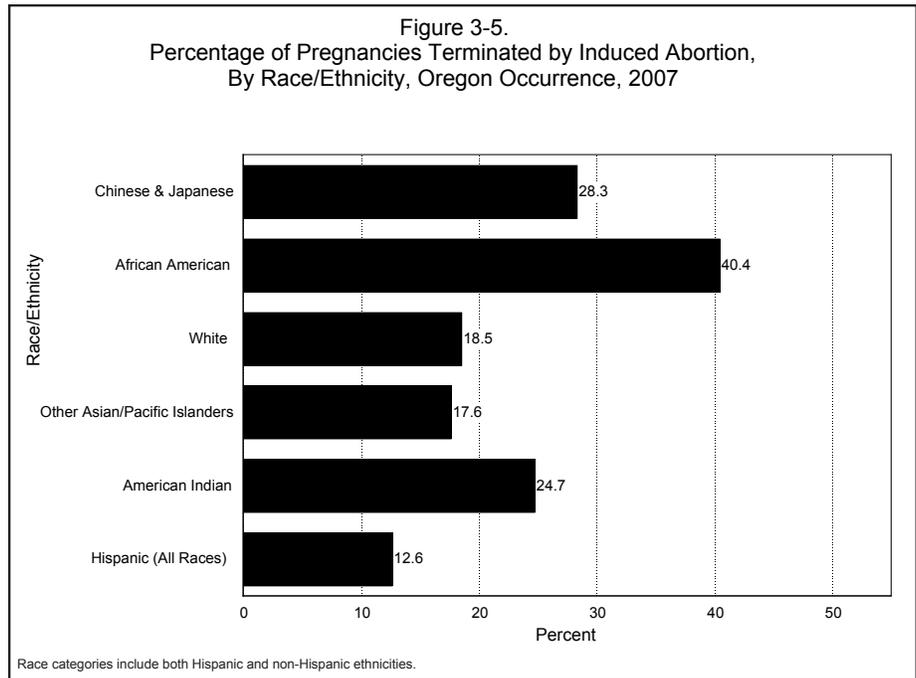
## Abortion patients

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

## Age

There is wide variation in abortion rates among age groups (see sidebar): The highest rate in 2007 occurred among women aged 20-24 (28.6 per 1,000). The lowest rates were among women 45-49, (0.3 per 1,000) and women under 15 years of age (0.4 per 1,000). (See Figure 3-3, sidebar.)





The 2007 abortion rate among teens aged 10-17 was 73.1 percent lower than the rate in 1980 (when the statewide abortion rate was highest); the rate for 18- to 19-year-olds was 59 percent 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 age 30 and older, both abortion rates and birth rates were markedly higher in 2006 than in 1980.

### Race and ethnicity

The frequency with which abortion procedures were used to terminate a pregnancy varied among ethnic and racial groups. African American women and Hawaiian women were most likely to have an abortion. In 2007, Hawaiian women terminated 58.2 percent of their pregnancies, African American women terminated 40.4 percent; Chinese and Japanese women terminated 28.3 percent. Because Oregon's demographic composition is predominantly white, white women obtained the majority of abortions by count in 2007 (85.2 percent), although the group was third lowest in percentage of pregnancies terminated. As in past years, Hispanic women were least likely to terminate a pregnancy (12.6 percent). (See Figure 3-5.)

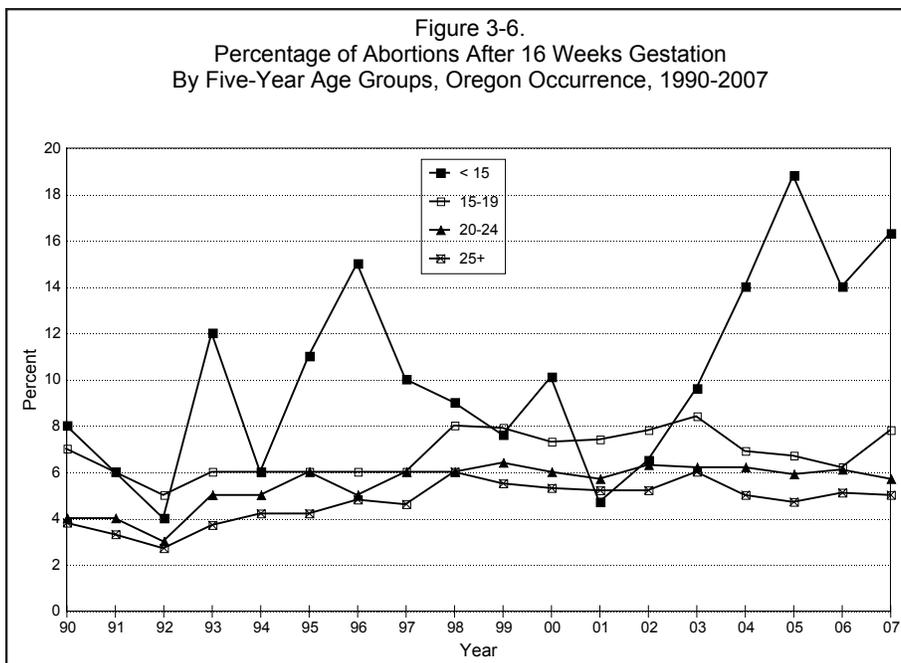
### Contraceptive use

In the majority of abortions that occur in Oregon, the pregnancy is not a result of contraceptive failure. In 2007, based upon data obtained from abortion reports, only 36.1 percent of women had used some method of contraception to avoid the pregnancy. (See Table 3-5.)

**Medical procedures**

More than 85 percent of abortions with known gestation were performed prior to the 13th week of pregnancy. Just one in 18 (5.6 percent) of induced terminations were performed after 16 weeks gestation. Suction curettage was the procedure used in 55.6 percent of terminations prior to the 13th week where method was reported. Dilation and evacuation was the procedure in 90.1 percent of terminations occurring after 16 weeks gestation. Women aged 15-19 were nearly 47 percent more likely to obtain an abortion after 16 weeks gestation than were women age 20 and older. (See Table 3-4.) The percentage of abortions occurring after 16 weeks gestation increased for women under 20 years of age, but decreased slightly for women over 20. (See Figure 3-6.)

Complications at the time of the procedure were reported for 200 terminations (1.7 percent of abortion patients): retained products (75 patients) and infection (36 patients) were the most common complications. In Oregon, no woman has died as the result of a legally induced termination.



**Geographic distribution**

Abortion rates varied widely within the state, yet all of Oregon’s 36 counties had at least one resident who sought an abortion in 2007. The providers of such services, however, were geographically concentrated. In 2007, abortions were reported in 13 of Oregon’s 36 counties. The degree of concentration was evident in the fact that 96.2 percent of all abortions were obtained in the five counties of highest occurrence: Jackson, 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 services may be limited for some Oregon women.

### **Endnote**

CDC. Abortion Surveillance - United States, 2005, MMWR, Nov. 28, 2008; V57, No. SS-13. This is the most current national data available.