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# Induced termination of pregnancy

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## Current trends

During 2015, 8,610 induced terminations of pregnancy occurred in Oregon. This total represents a 4.6% increase from 2014, and a decrease of 45.3% 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 2015, 964 patients (11.2%) were out-of-state residents (see Table 3-6). Oregonians who obtained out-of-state abortions are not included in these data. Because rate calculations use Oregon population numbers, they substitute out-of-state residents for the unknown number of Oregonians that obtained an abortion in another state (see Appendix B: “Technical notes,” 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 national abortion rate has been declining since 1980 from approximately 25 per 1,000 women aged 15–44 to 13.2 per 1,000 in 2012, the most recent data available.<sup>(1)</sup> In 2015, the Oregon rate increased to 10.9 per 1,000 women

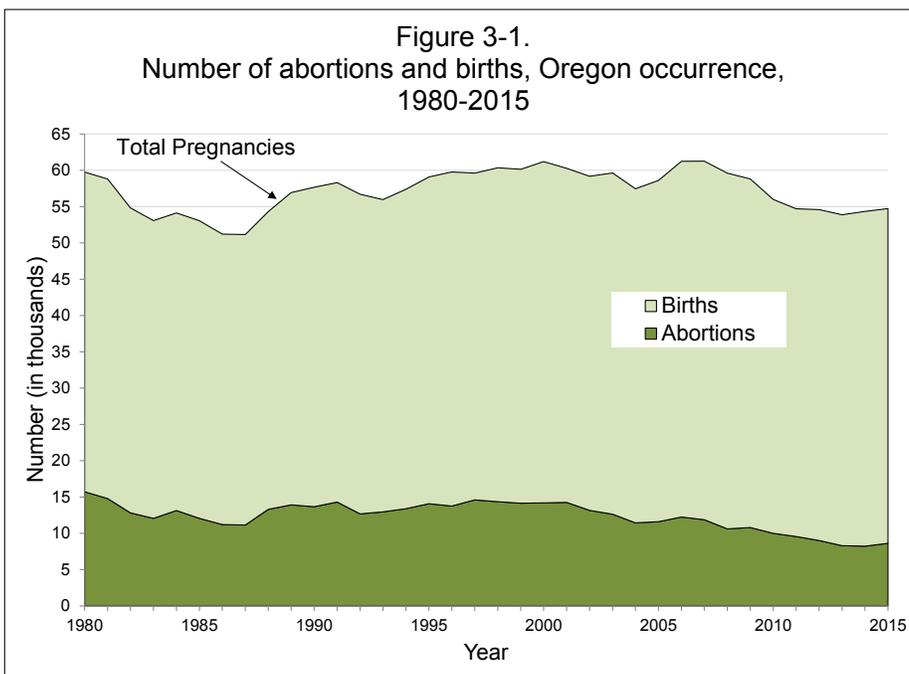


Table 3-A. Comparison of Oregon and U.S. abortion ratios, 1980-2012		
Year	U.S. abortion ratio <sup>1</sup>	Oregon's abortion ratio <sup>2</sup> as percent difference from U.S.
1980	359	-1%
1981	**	**
1982	354	-14%
1983	**	**
1984	364	-12%
1985	354	-16%
1986	354	-21%
1987	356	-21%
1988	352	-9%
1989	346	-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>	+4%
2005	233 <sup>6</sup>	+7%
2006	236 <sup>7</sup>	+6%
2007	231 <sup>7</sup>	+4%
2008	234 <sup>7</sup>	-8%
2009	227 <sup>8</sup>	0%
2010	228 <sup>7</sup>	-5%
2011	219 <sup>9</sup>	-3%
2012	*210 <sup>7</sup>	-6%

<sup>1</sup> CDC. Abortion Surveillance - United States, 2011, MMWR, Nov. 27, 2015; Vol. 64, No. 10.  
<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  
<sup>7</sup> California, Maryland and New Hampshire did not report  
<sup>8</sup> California, Delaware, Maryland, and New Hampshire did not report  
<sup>9</sup> Alaska, California, Delaware, Louisiana, Maryland, New Hampshire, and West Virginia did not report  
 NOTE: These are original numbers reported by the CDC and may not reflect any subsequent changes  
 \* Most recent data available  
 \*\* Data not available

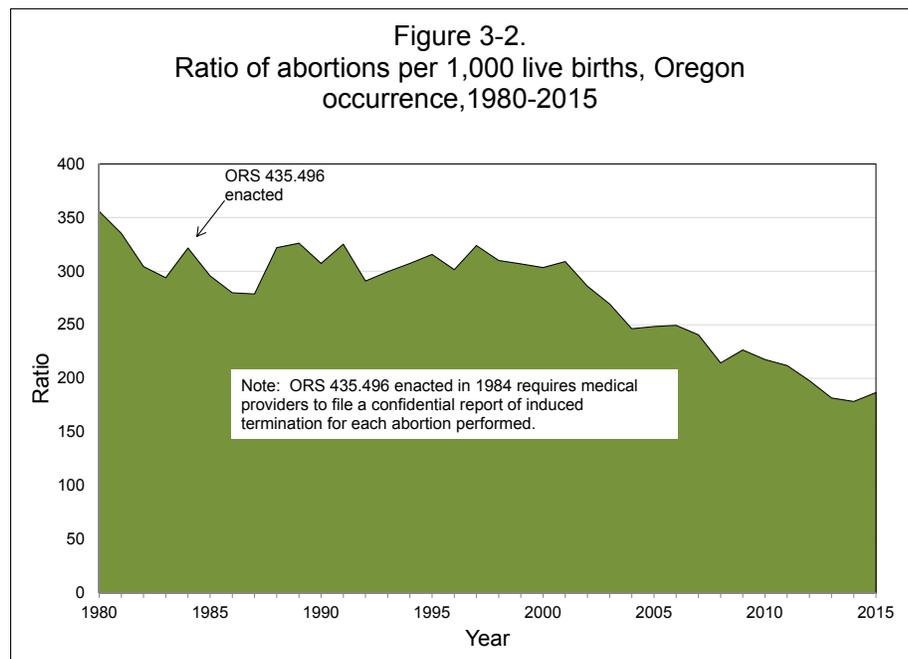
aged 15–44, a 5.8% increase from 2014, and a 56.6% decrease from the record high seen in 1980 (25.1 per 1,000). During the past 20 years, Oregon’s abortion rate for women aged 15–44 has generally declined — from a high of 20.4 in 1995 to 10.9 per 1,000 women in 2015.

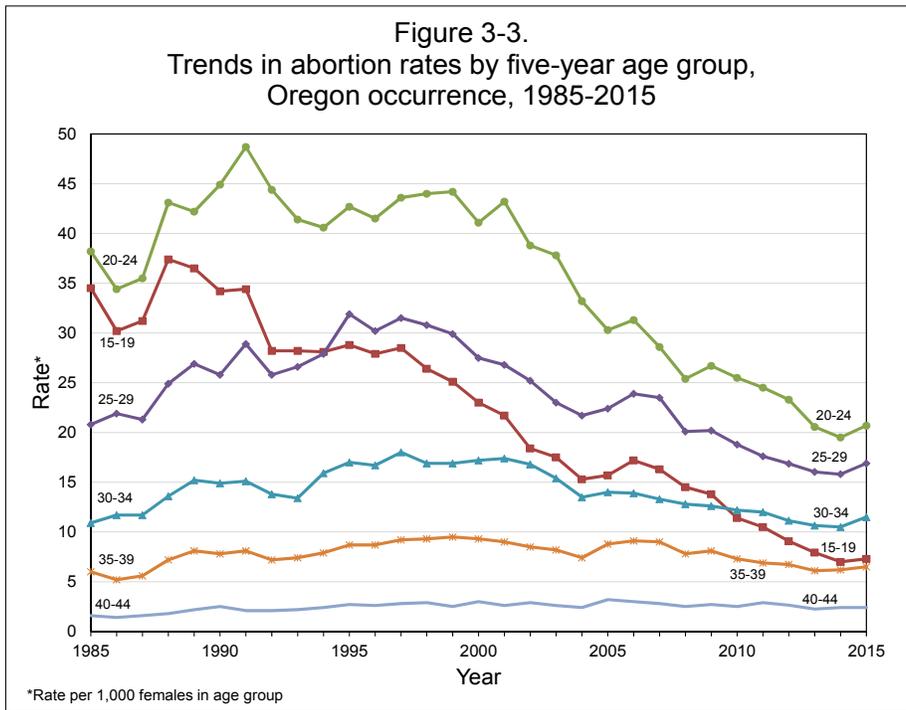
### Pregnancy outcomes

Figure 3-2 shows the ratio of abortions to births occurring in Oregon. It indicates 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. In 1984, the level of reporting increased due to new legislation that required providers to report all abortions performed. Although there have been periodic spikes in the overall abortion ratio (see Figure 3-2), it has been gradually declining since 1980.

In 2015, there were 186.8 abortions per 1,000 occurrence births. This represents a 4.6% increase from 2014 and a 47.5% decrease from 1980 when this ratio was 355.8 per 1,000 births (see Table 3-2).

Oregon’s abortion ratio was about one-fifth higher than that of the United States in 1973, when the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Roe v. Wade* legalized abortion. In the mid-1980s, this trend changed as Oregonians terminated fewer pregnancies with induced abortions compared to the country





as a whole. This trend reversed itself beginning in the late 1990s as Oregon’s abortion ratio climbed past the national rate, reaching a maximum divergence of +25% in 2001. Since the mid-2000s, however, Oregon’s abortion ratio has fluctuated near the national ratio (see sidebar Table 3-A).

### Abortion patients

Similar to birth rates, abortion rates differ by age group, race, ethnicity, marital status and prior pregnancy. Almost three-quarters of abortion patients have never been married (see Table 3-3), and half have previously given birth (see Table 3-5).

### Age

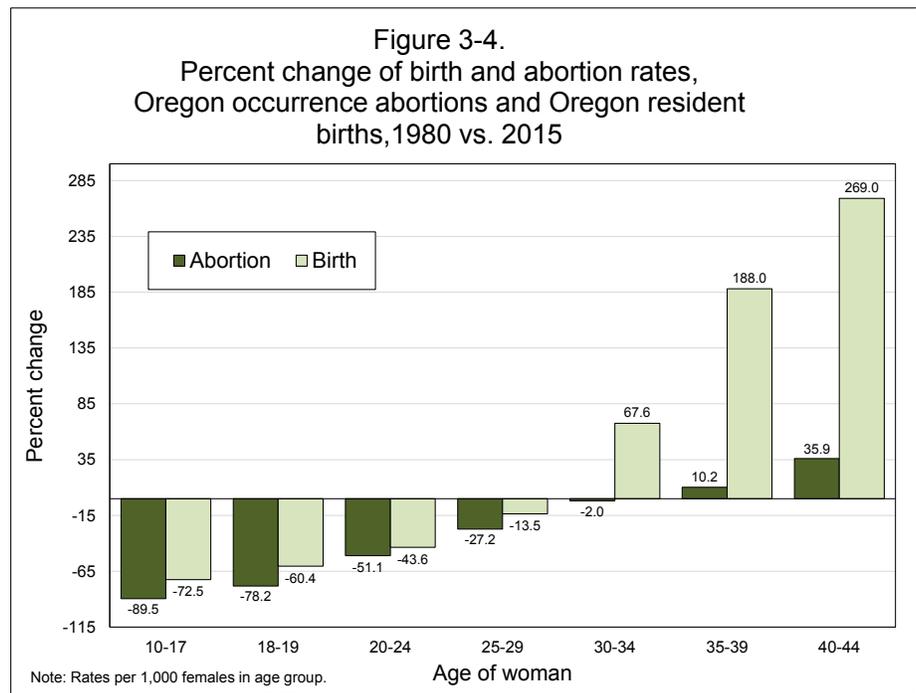
There is wide variation in abortion rates among age groups. The highest rate in 2015 occurred among women aged 20–24 (20.7 per 1,000). The lowest rates were among women under age 15 and women aged 45–49 (0.2 per 1,000; see sidebar Table 3-B).

The 2015 abortion rate among teens aged 10–17 was 89.5% lower than the rate in 1980, when the statewide abortion rate was highest; the rate for 18–19-year-olds was 78.2% 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

Age	Rate <sup>2</sup>	%
<15	0.2	0.2
15-19	7.3	10.5
20-24	20.7	30.5
25-29	16.9	26.7
30-34	11.5	18.0
35-39	6.5	10.1
40-44	2.4	3.7
45-49	0.2	0.3
15-44	10.9	99.5

<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

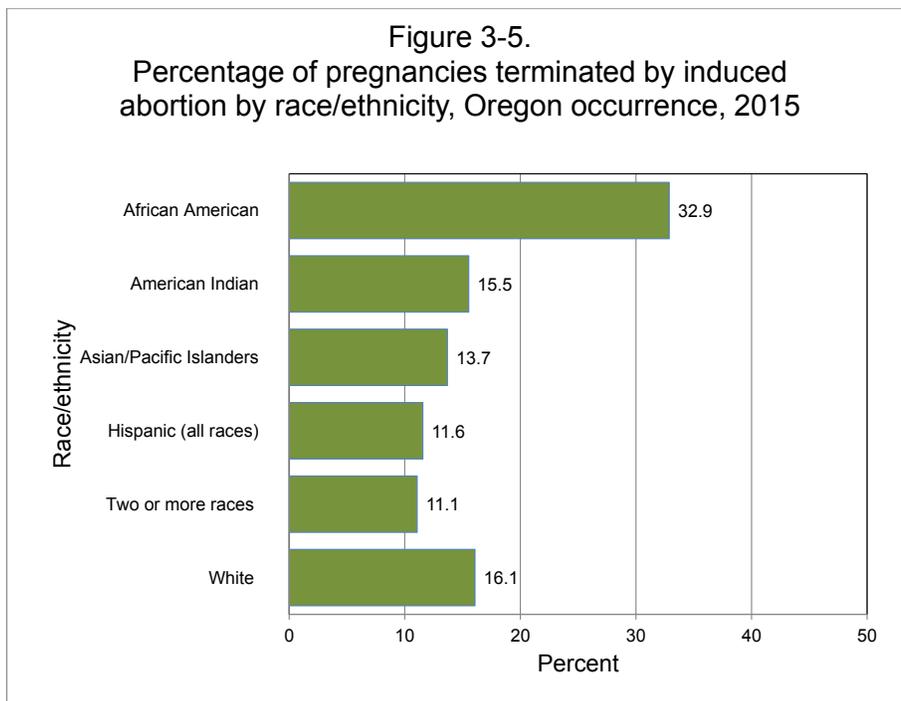


in decisions to carry unwanted pregnancies to term. In contrast, among women age 35–39, abortion rates were 10.2% higher in 2015 than in 1980.

### 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 White women had the highest percentages of terminated pregnancies in 2015 with 32.9% and 16.1%, respectively. Because of Oregon's predominately White demographic composition, White women obtained the majority of abortions by count in 2015; however, they had the second highest percentage of terminations overall, 51.1% lower than African American women. The lowest percentage of terminated pregnancies was for women of two or more races (11.1%) followed by women of Hispanic ethnicity (11.6%; see Figure 3-5).

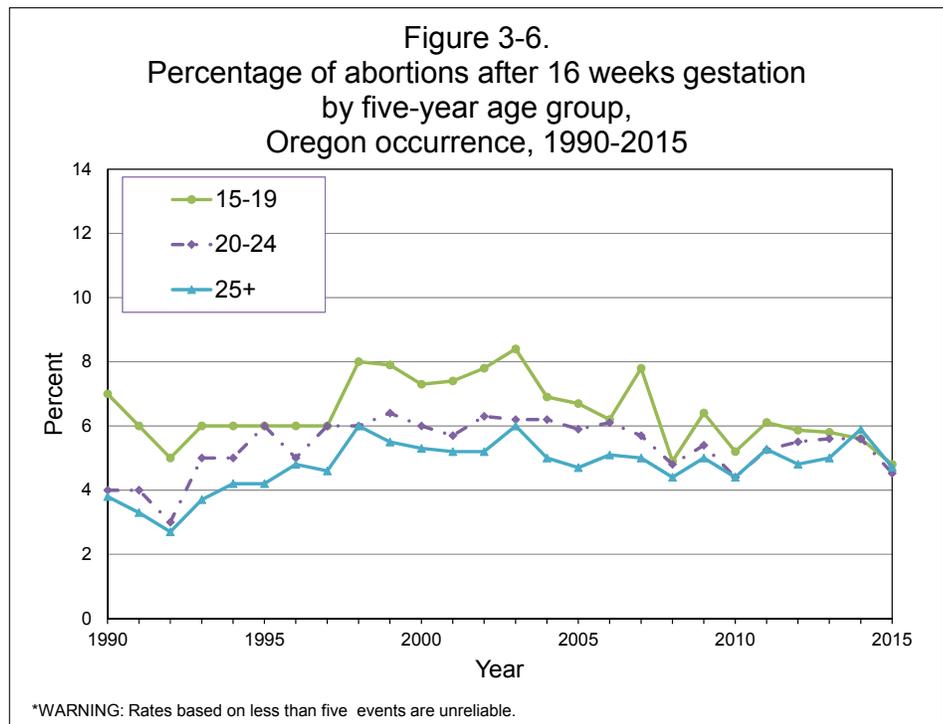


### Contraceptive use

In the majority of abortions that occur in Oregon, the pregnancy is not a result of contraceptive failure. In 2015, based upon data obtained from abortion reports, 33.9% of women used some method of contraception to avoid pregnancy. Of the 66.1% of abortion patients who did not report using contraceptives, 39.8% had previously obtained an abortion (see Table 3-5).

### Medical procedures

For abortions with known gestation periods, 88.9% were performed prior to the 13th week of pregnancy. About one in 20 (4.7%) induced terminations where gestation was known were performed after 16 weeks. Medical (non-surgical) was the procedure used in 41.8% of terminations prior to the 13th week where method was reported. Dilation and evacuation was the procedure in 91.0% of terminations occurring after 16 weeks gestation. Women younger than 20 obtained 10.4% more abortions after 16 weeks gestation than women aged 20 and older (see Table 3-4). The percentage of abortions occurring after 16 weeks gestation decreased for all age groups (see Figure 3-6).



Complications at the time of the induced termination procedure were reported for 281 terminations (3.3% of abortion patients). Retained products (52 patients) and failure of first method (39 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 Oregon, with 35 of 36 counties reporting at least one resident who obtained an abortion in 2015. Service providers, conversely, were geographically concentrated. In 2015, abortions were reported in eight counties. The concentration was evident in the fact that 94.6% 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**

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).  
Abortion surveillance — United States, 2012. MMWR.  
Nov. 27, 2015; V64, No.10.