

# Induced Abortion

According to South Dakota Codified Law chapter 34-23A, physicians are required to submit to the Department of Health the Report of Induced Abortion Form, a Voluntary and Informed Consent Form for all abortions, and a Parental Notice Form where applicable. The forms are provided in Appendix A on pages 235-240.

## An Overview: 2016

Total Induced Abortions Performed in South Dakota	472
Total Induced Abortions Performed in South Dakota on South Dakota Residents	411

## Patient Information

There were 472 abortions performed in South Dakota in 2016, up from 444 abortions performed in 2015. Of the 472 abortions performed in South Dakota, 411

or 87.1 percent were performed on South Dakota residents. Table 65, below, provides the residence and age breakdown for the abortions performed in South Dakota.

**Table 65  
Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Patient's State of Residence and Age, 2016**

	Total	Age of Patient					
		0-17	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35 +
<b>Number</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Percent</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>13.2</b>
<b>State of Residence</b>							
South Dakota	411	10	31	121	119	78	52
Iowa	29	1	1	6	7	8	6
Minnesota	26	0	1	8	8	5	4
Other	6	0	2	1	2	1	0

Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

Note: State of residence column may not total due to unknown state of residence on the forms.

Table 66, below, shows the breakdown of abortions by county of residence and Table 67, on the next page, shows the breakdown of abortions by city of residence for 2016.

**NOTE: To protect the privacy of the patient, only counties or cities with at least 10 events are included in each table.**

**Table 66  
South Dakota Resident Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Patient's Resident County, 2016**

County	Induced Abortions	County	Induced Abortions
Brookings	16	Minnehaha	237
Clay	14	Pennington	21
Davison	16		
Lincoln	10		

Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

**Table 67**  
**South Dakota Resident Induced Abortions Occurring**  
**in South Dakota by Patient's Resident City, 2016**

Resident City	Number	Resident City	Number
Brookings	13	Sioux Falls	213
Mitchell	15	Vermillion	14
Rapid City	18		

Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

Table 68, below, indicates that patients ages 20-24 comprised the largest percentage of the induced abortions which occurred in South Dakota with 28.9 percent. Patients ages 25-29 comprised the next largest percentage with 28.8 percent of abortions occurring in South Dakota. This

was also true for South Dakota residents where patients ages 20-24 received 29.4 percent and patients ages 25-29 received 29.0 percent of the induced abortions performed in South Dakota on state residents.

**Table 68**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Age and**  
**South Dakota Resident Induced Abortions by Age, 2016**

Patients' Age	Occurring in South Dakota		South Dakota Residents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0-17	11	2.3	10	2.4
18-19	35	7.4	31	7.5
20-24	136	28.9	121	29.4
25-29	136	28.8	119	29.0
30-34	92	19.5	78	19.0
35-39	46	9.8	40	9.7
40+	16	3.4	12	2.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

Table 69, below, indicates that of the abortions that occurred in South Dakota, 72.7 percent were white, 8.5 percent

American Indian, 12.1 percent black, and 6.6 percent were of some other race.

**Table 69**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Patient's Age and Race, 2016**

Patients' Age	Patients' Race				
	White	American Indian	Black	Asian	Other
<b>Number</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Percent</b>	<b>72.7</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>1.1</b>
0-17	8	2	1	0	0
18-19	25	5	3	2	0
20-24	106	8	18	3	1
25-29	91	15	20	8	2
30-34	68	6	10	6	2
35-39	32	4	5	4	0
40 +	13	0	0	3	0

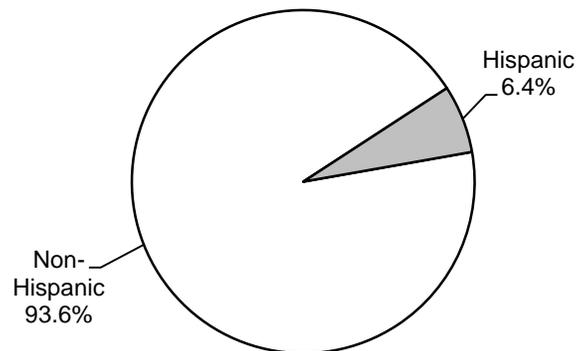
Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

Note: Failure of races to add to the total is due to unknown races.

Figure 35, to the right, illustrates that most of the patients, 93.6 percent, were non-Hispanic. South Dakota's population consists of 4.2 percent Hispanic women age 15 to 44 based on the 2016 U.S. Census estimates.

Table 70, below, shows the education and marital status of the induced abortion patients. Considering education, 181 or 38.4 percent of the 471 patients who received induced abortions in South Dakota reported their highest level of education completed was high school graduate or less.

**Figure 35**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota**  
**by Ethnicity of Patient, 2016**



Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

**Table 70**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota**  
**by Patient's Education and Marital Status, 2016**

Education of Patient	Marital Status					
	Total		Single		Married	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
	<b>472</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>81.5</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>18.5</b>
High School Graduate or Less	181	100	159	87.8	22	12.2
Some College, but No Degree	151	100	128	84.8	23	15.2
Vo-Tech, Teacher's Certificate, Associate Degree/Bachelor's Degree/Master's Degree/Doctorate	139	100	97	69.8	42	30.2

Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics  
 Note: Numbers do not equal total due to 'Not Stated' for level of education.

Payment Information

The Report of Induced Abortion Form asks questions about how much the abortion cost and who paid for the abortion. Table 71, on the next page, indicates that in 2016, 89.4 percent of all abortions performed in South Dakota were self-pay while 7.0 percent were paid by private insurance and 3.6

percent were paid by public health plans. Of the 50 abortions paid by private insurance or a public health plan, 26 were paid by a managed care insurance company, 23 were paid by a fee-for-service insurance company, and one was paid by some other payment source.

**Table 71**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota**  
**by Payment and Insurance Coverage Type, 2016**

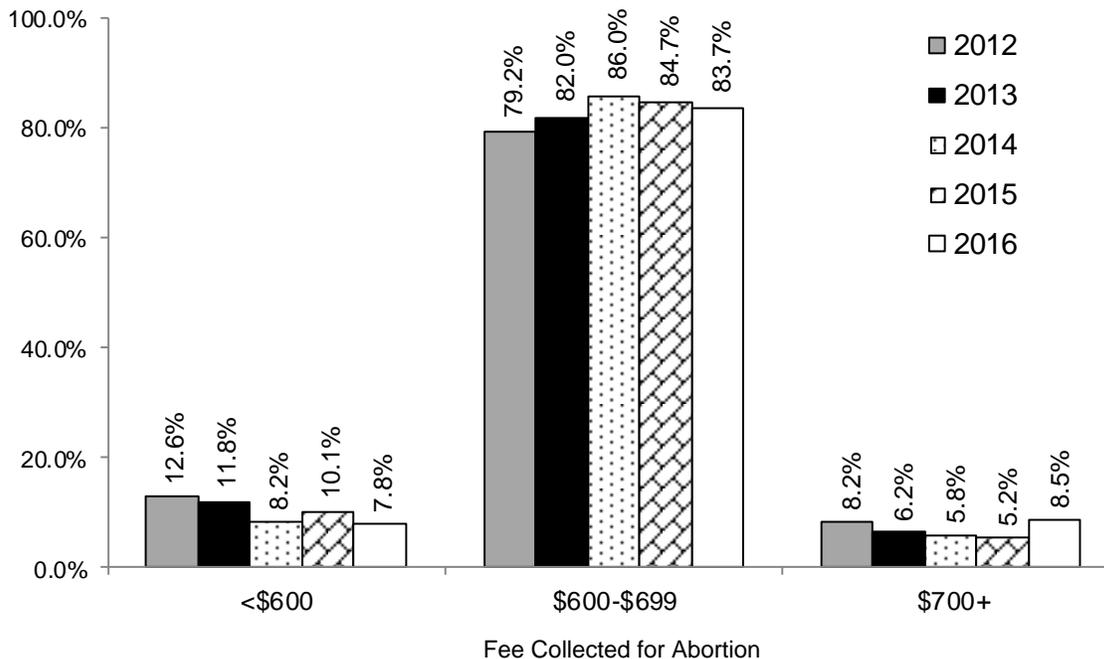
Payment Source	Total	Fee-for-service Insurance Co.	Managed Care Company	No Insurance Used	Other
Private Insurance	33	22	11	0	0
Public Health Plan	17	1	15	0	1
Self	422	0	0	422	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>1</b>

Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

In 2016, the majority of abortions, 83.7 percent, cost between \$600 and \$699.

Figure 36, below, displays a comparison of the fees for abortions for each year from 2012 to 2016.

**Figure 36**  
**Percent of Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota**  
**by Fee Collected for Abortion, 2012-2016**



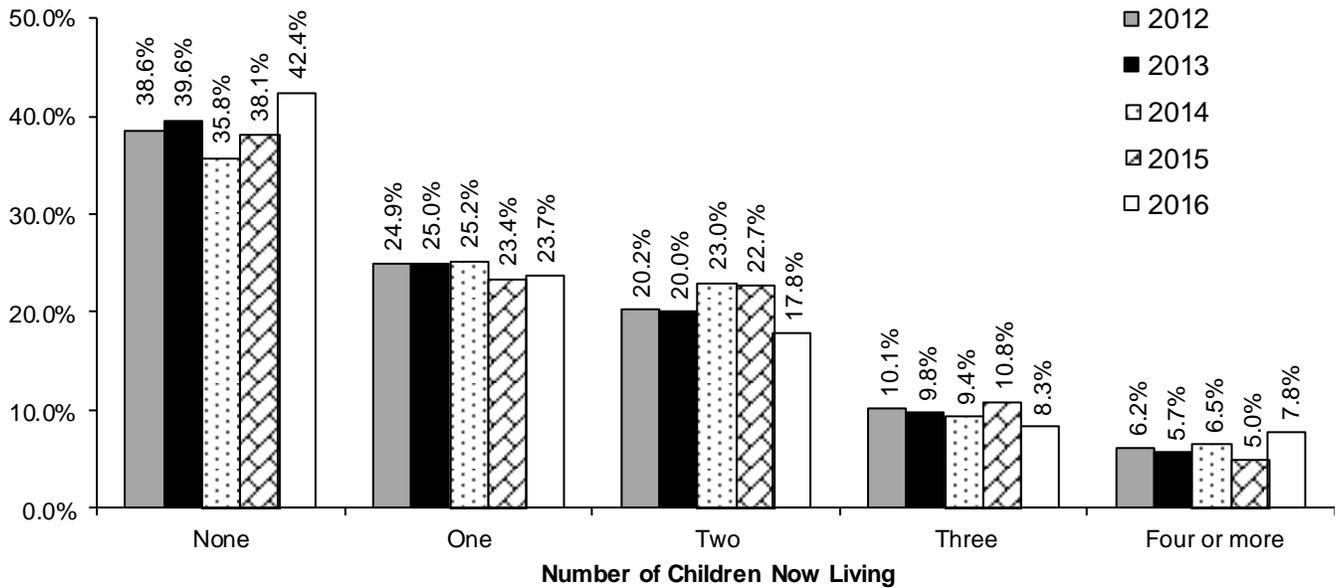
Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

### Previous Pregnancies

The Report of Induced Abortion Form also includes a series of questions about previous pregnancies. Figure 37, on the next page, illustrates the number of children now living reported by the patients who received abortions in South Dakota for the past five years.

Of the patients reporting in 2016, 42.4 percent reported having no living children. Less than two percent had one or more live births that are now deceased.

**Figure 37**  
**Percent of Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by the Number of Patient's Children Who are Now Living, 2012-2016**

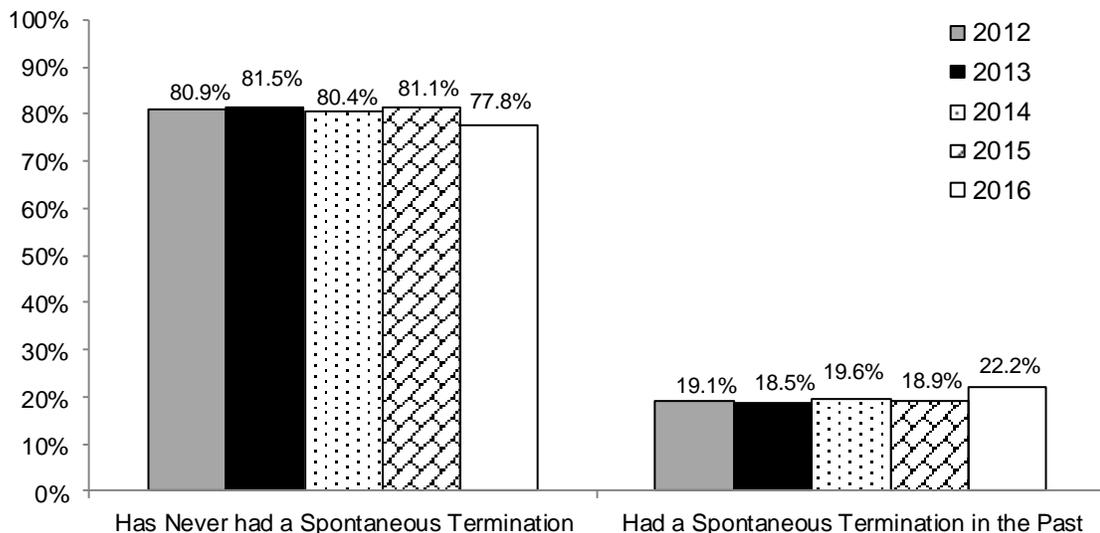


Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

Figure 38, below, indicates that 22.2 percent of patients had a spontaneous termination in the past. For this report, a spontaneous termination is defined as a termination in which the process starts of its

own accord through natural causes. The majority of the patients, 77.8 percent, who obtained induced abortions in 2016 reported they had never had a spontaneous termination.

**Figure 38**  
**Percent of Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Previous Spontaneous Terminations, 2012-2016**

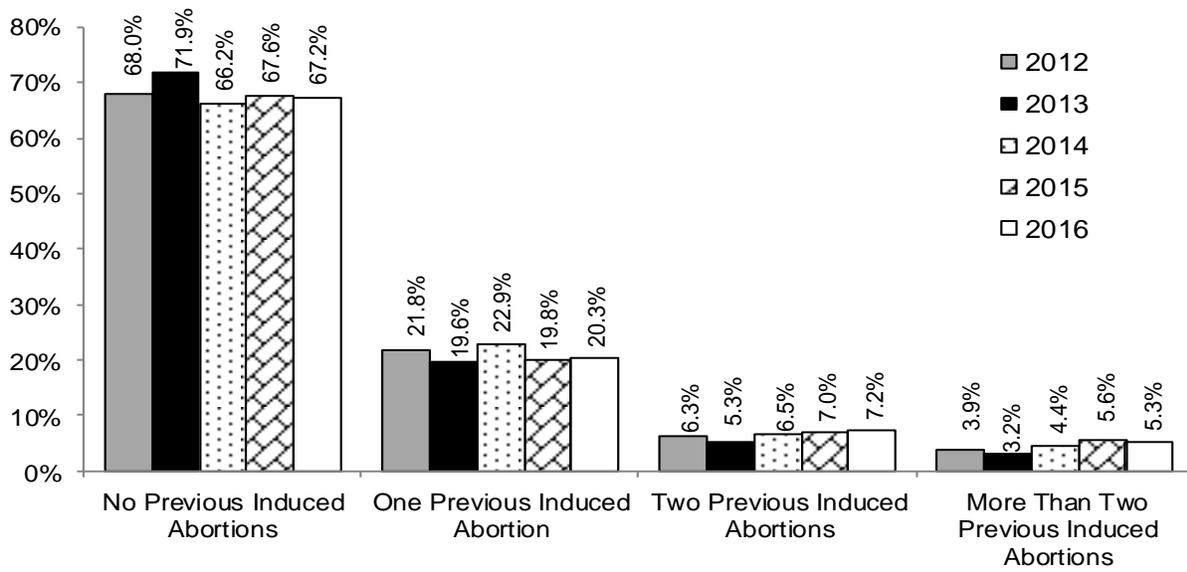


Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

Figure 39, below, illustrates the number of previous induced abortions reported by the patients. An induced abortion is statutorily defined as the use of any means to intentionally terminate the pregnancy of a

patient known to be pregnant with knowledge that the termination with those means will, with reasonable likelihood, cause the death of the fetus.

**Figure 39**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Previous Induced Abortions, 2012-2016**



Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

As seen in Figure 39, above, the majority of patients, 67.2 percent, reported that they had no previous induced abortions. In 2016, 20.3 percent had obtained one previous induced abortion and 12.5 percent had obtained more than one previous induced abortion. In 2015, 19.8 percent had one previous induced abortion while 12.6 percent had more than one previous induced abortion.

### Medical Information

The Report of Induced Abortion Form also asked a series of questions aimed at obtaining medical information. Figure 40, on the next page, lists the number of induced abortions performed in South Dakota during 2016 by month of occurrence. The fewest numbers of abortions were performed in October while the greatest occurred in July.

**Figure 40**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Month of Abortion, 2016**

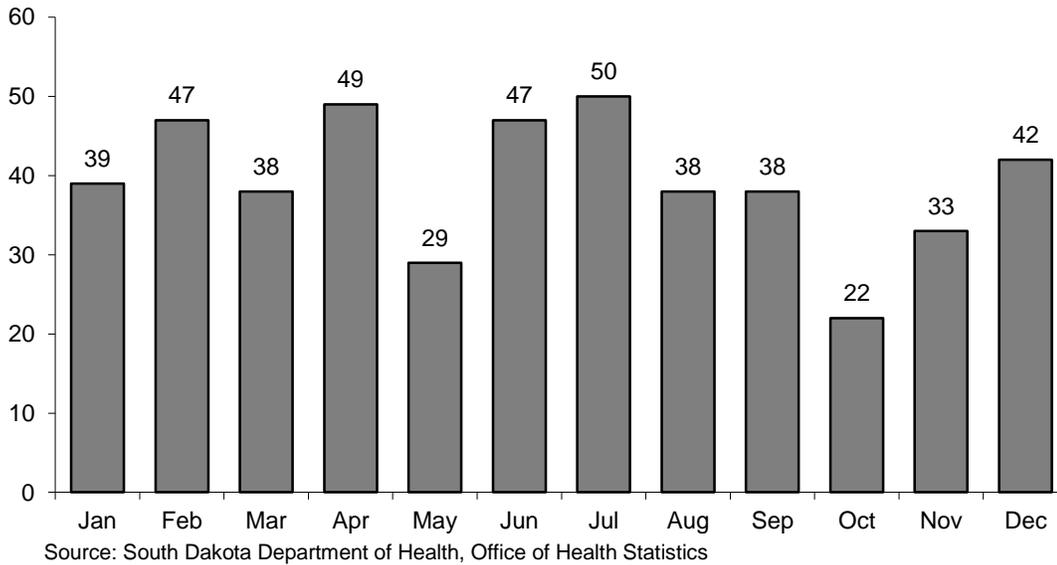


Figure 41, below, shows the number of weeks between the date the last normal menses began and the abortion date. Most

of the patients, 380, reported that their last normal menses began within 10 weeks prior to the induced abortion date.

**Figure 41**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota**  
**by Number of Weeks Since Last Normal Menses Began, 2016**

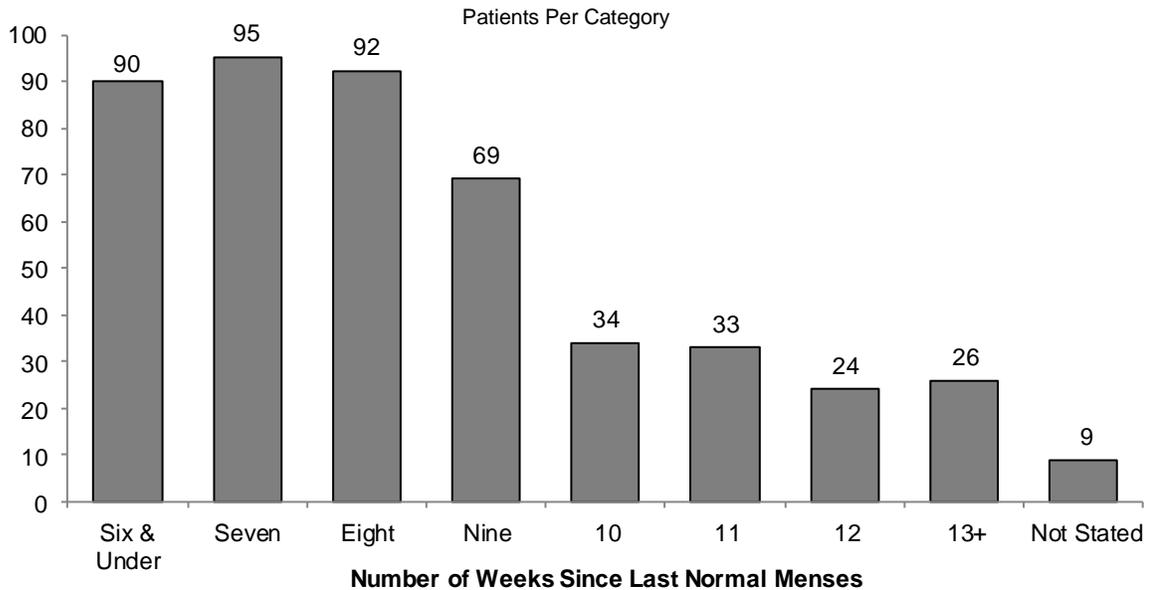
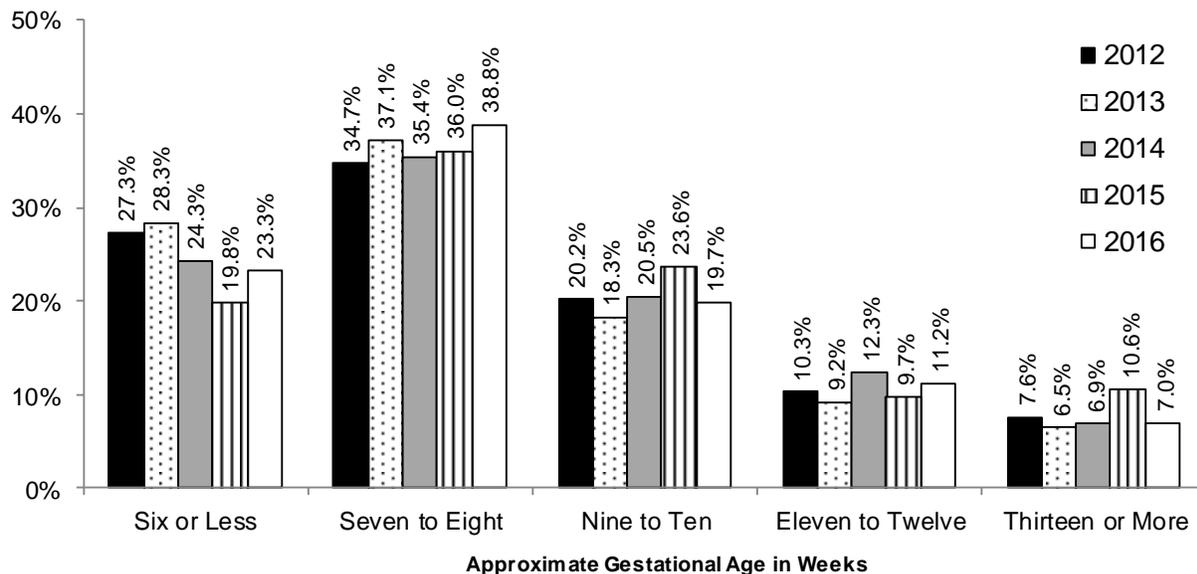


Figure 42, below, shows the number of induced abortions occurring in South Dakota from 2012 to 2016 by the clinical estimated weeks of gestation.

The largest percentage of patients in 2016, 38.8 percent, received abortions at seven to eight weeks of estimated gestation.

**Figure 42**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Approximate Gestational Age, 2012-2016**

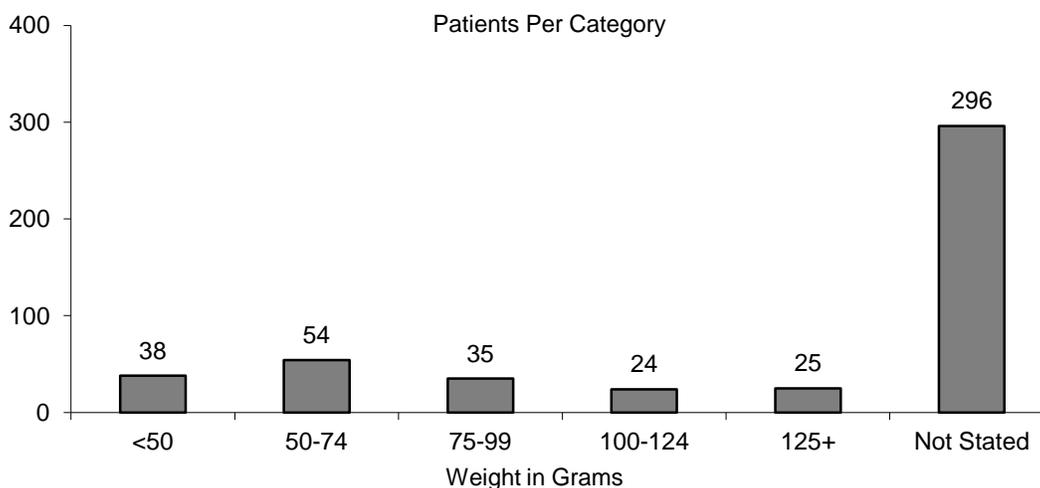


Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

Figure 43, below, lists the number of induced abortions occurring in South Dakota by the weight of the fetus. The category with the largest number of

occurrences was the 50 to 74 gram category with 54 induced abortions. That is equivalent to approximately 1.8 to 2.6 ounces.

**Figure 43**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Weight of Fetus, 2016**



Note: One gram equals approximately 0.0353 ounces or one ounce equals approximately 28.3 grams.  
 Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

Table 72, to the right, illustrates the number of abortions that were performed with the knowledge that a fetal abnormality existed. Of the abortions performed in 2016, six of the forms indicated that there was a fetal abnormality present at the time of the abortion. A majority of the forms indicated that it was unknown if a fetal abnormality was present at the time of the abortion.

**Table 72**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Fetal Abnormality, 2016**

Presence of Fetal Abnormality	Number	Percentage
Yes	6	1.3%
No	1	0.2%
Unknown	465	98.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

**Table 73**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Method of Disposal, 2016**

Method of Disposal	Number	Percentage
Incineration	282	59.7%
Burial	6	1.3%
Unknown/ Medical	184	39.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

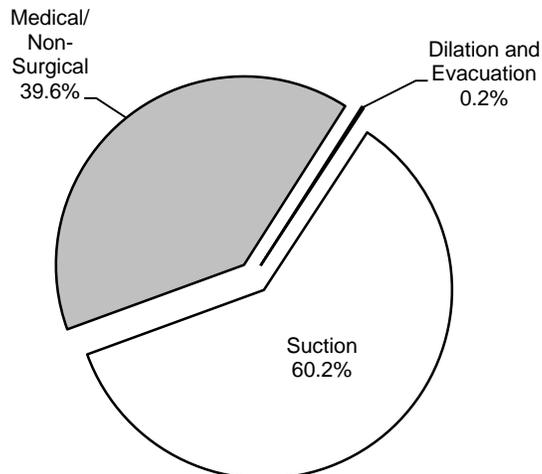
Table 73, to the left, indicates the method used to dispose of the fetus in 2016. The main method of disposal in 2016 was incineration with 282 or 59.7 percent.

### Termination Procedure

The Report of Induced Abortion Form also asked questions about the termination procedure. Figure 44, to the right, illustrates the primary procedures used to perform induced abortions in South Dakota in 2016.

In 2016, medical/non-surgical was used for 39.6 percent of the abortions while dilation and evacuation was used for less than one percent of abortions. The majority used suction in 2016 with an overall percentage of 60.2 percent.

**Figure 44**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Primary Procedure Used, 2016**



Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

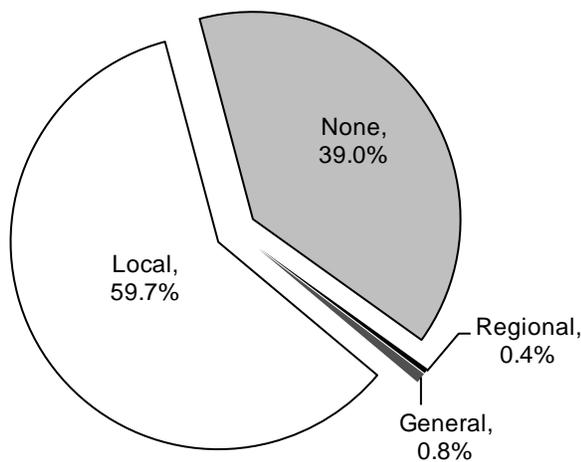
Table 74, to the right, indicates additional procedures that were used to terminate the pregnancy in 2016. The majority of abortions, 94.5 percent, did not require an additional procedure. There were six cases of maternal complications reported to the Department of Health in 2016.

**Table 74**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Any Additional Procedures Used, 2016**

Additional Procedures Used	Number	Percentage
No Additional Procedure	446	94.5%
Sharp Curettage	26	5.5%

Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

**Figure 45**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Type of Anesthetic Used, 2016**



Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

Figure 45, to the left, illustrates the type of anesthetic used for abortions performed in South Dakota. In 2016, 59.7 percent of patients were given a local anesthetic, 0.4 percent were given a regional anesthetic, and 0.8 percent were given a general anesthetic. Patients who received no anesthetic made up 39.0 percent.

Reason for the Induced Abortion

The Report of Induced Abortion Form asked a question about the reason for the induced abortion. Table 75, on the next page, illustrates the reasons that patients had induced abortions from 2012 to 2016. The patient did not desire to have the child has been the highest response for all five years.

The patient could not afford the child has been the second highest response for all five years. In 2016, 38.3 percent of patients gave more than one response while in 2015, 38.5 percent of patients gave more than one response.

**Table 75**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Reason for Abortion, 2012-2016**

Reason for Induced Abortion	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Number	Percent								
The mother did not desire to have the child	401	63.2%	393	65.4%	345	62.6%	280	63.1%	301	63.8%
The mother could not afford the child	317	50.0%	290	48.3%	263	47.7%	210	47.3%	211	44.4%
The mother's emotional health was at risk	57	9.0%	53	8.8%	64	11.6%	53	11.9%	74	15.7%
The mother would suffer substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function if the pregnancy continued	14	2.2%	20	3.3%	34	6.2%	13	2.9%	31	6.6%
The pregnancy was a result of rape or incest	16	2.5%	7	1.2%	4	0.7%	5	1.1%	4	0.8%
Other	74	11.7%	117	19.5%	115	20.9%	108	24.3%	91	19.3%
Refused to answer	0	0.0%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Note: Percents do not add to 100 because multiple reasons can be given.  
 Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

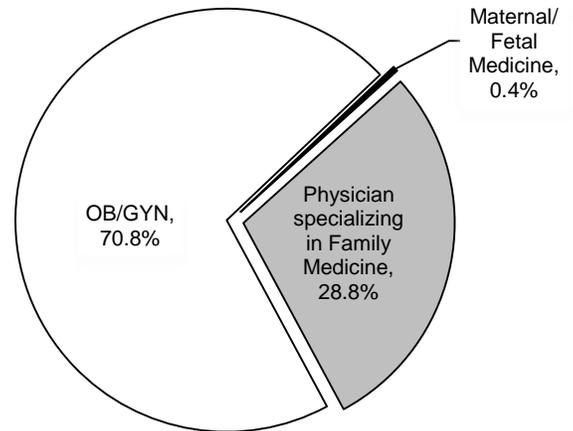
Physician Specialty Information

Figure 46, to the right, illustrate the specialty of the physicians who performed abortions in South Dakota in 2016. The majority of abortions were performed by an obstetrician/gynecologist. During the 2016 reporting period, none of the physicians who performed induced abortions in South Dakota had their license revoked or suspended or had been subject to other professional sanctions.

Voluntary and Informed Consent Form

Of the 472 report forms received by the South Dakota Department of Health for induced abortions performed in 2016, 471 indicated that patients received the required disclosures.

**Figure 46**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Physician's Specialty, 2016**



Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

The Voluntary and Informed Consent form is used to collect data regarding informed consent information supplied to abortion patients.

There were a total of 562 Voluntary and Informed Consent forms received. Of those, 472 indicated that the patient went on to obtain the induced abortion while 90 did not have the procedure.

Two patients obtained an induced abortion and were not provided information. One was because of a medical emergency or because a delay would have created a serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function.

The data showed that of the 562 Voluntary and Informed Consent forms received, 505 received the medical information in person. Of the 562 forms that were received, 505 indicated that the medical information was provided by the physician performing the induced abortion.

Physicians performing the abortion supplied 556 of the patients with the resource information. Two reported receiving the information from both the performing physician and an agent of the physician performing the abortion. One reported receiving the information from a referring physician and an agent of the physician performing the abortion. One reported receiving the information from a referring physician, the physician performing the abortion, and an agent of the physician performing the abortion. A total of 554 patients reported receiving the resource information by telephone and six reported receiving the information in person.

Of the 562 forms received, 558 indicated that the patient was offered the printed materials on public and private assistance

agencies. It was reported that 22 patients accepted this information, while 536 did not accept the information.

Of the 562 forms received, 558 indicated that the patient was offered the Fetal Growth and Development Booklet. It was reported that 17 patients accepted this information, while 541 did not accept the information.

Of the 562 forms received, 558 indicated that the patient was offered the DOH website address for "Information on Fetal Development, Birth, Abortion and Adoption". It was reported that 21 patients accepted this information, while 537 did not accept the information.

Of the 562 forms received, 557 indicated that the patient was offered the opportunity to view the sonogram. Of these, 272 accepted the opportunity to view the sonogram, while 285 did not accept the opportunity to view the sonogram.

#### Parental Notice

Of the 11 Parental Consent forms received, 11 indicated the patient was an unemancipated minor. Ten forms indicated notice was given to the patient's parent. One form indicated that notice was not given to the patient's parent, because a judge of a circuit court, after an appropriate hearing, authorized a physician to perform the induced abortion without prior notice. All 11 minor patients went on to have the induced abortion