

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 at the end of the report.

An Overview: 2017

Total Induced Abortions Performed in South Dakota	497
Total Induced Abortions Performed in South Dakota on South Dakota Residents	423

Patient Information

There were 497 abortions performed in South Dakota in 2017, up from 472 abortions performed in 2016. Of the 497 abortions performed in South Dakota, 423

or 85.1 percent were performed on South Dakota residents. Table 67, below, provides the residence and age breakdown for the abortions performed in South Dakota.

Table 67
Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Patient's State of Residence and Age, 2017

	Total	Age of Patient					
		0-17	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35 +
Number	497	24	39	150	130	77	77
Percent	100	4.8	7.8	30.2	26.2	15.5	15.5
State of Residence							
South Dakota	423	20	29	125	118	65	66
Minnesota	41	1	5	13	7	6	9
Iowa	28	2	3	11	5	5	2
Other	5	1	2	1	0	1	0

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

Table 68, below, shows the breakdown of abortions by county of residence and Table 69, on the next page, shows the breakdown of abortions by city of residence for 2017.

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

Table 68
South Dakota Resident Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Patient's Resident County, 2017

County	Induced Abortions	County	Induced Abortions
Brookings	26	Lincoln	29
Brown	15	Minnehaha	218
Codington	10	Pennington	18
Davison	10	Todd	11

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

Table 69
South Dakota Resident Induced Abortions Occurring
in South Dakota by Patient's Resident City, 2017

Resident City	Number	Resident City	Number
Aberdeen	13	Rapid City	11
Brookings	22	Sioux Falls	215
Mitchell	10	Watertown	10

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

Table 70, below, indicates that patients ages 20-24 comprised the largest percentage of the induced abortions which occurred in South Dakota with 30.2 percent. Patients ages 25-29 comprised the next largest percentage with 26.2 percent of abortions occurring in South Dakota. This

was also true for South Dakota residents where patients ages 20-24 received 29.6 percent and patients ages 25-29 received 27.9 percent of the induced abortions performed in South Dakota on state residents.

Table 70
Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Age and
South Dakota Resident Induced Abortions by Age, 2017

Patients' Age	Occurring in South Dakota		South Dakota Residents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0-17	24	4.8	20	4.7
18-19	39	7.8	29	6.9
20-24	150	30.2	125	29.6
25-29	130	26.2	118	27.9
30-34	77	15.5	65	15.4
35-39	63	12.7	53	12.5
40+	14	2.8	13	3.1
Total	497	100	423	100

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

Table 71, below, indicates that of the abortions that occurred in South Dakota, 72.3 percent were white, 11.3 percent black,

10.3 percent American Indian, and 1.4 percent were of some other race.

Table 71
Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Patient's Age and Race, 2017

Patients' Age	Patients' Race				
	White	Black	American Indian	Asian	Other
Number	357	56	51	23	7
Percent	72.3	11.3	10.3	4.7	1.4
0-17	17	4	2	0	0
18-19	33	1	3	1	1
20-24	105	17	21	4	2
25-29	87	16	11	12	4
30-34	57	8	8	3	0
35-39	48	8	4	3	0
40 +	10	2	2	0	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, 91.3 percent, were non-Hispanic. South Dakota's population consists of 4.1 percent Hispanic women age 15 to 44 based on the 2017 U.S. Census estimates.

Figure 35
Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota
by Ethnicity of Patient, 2017

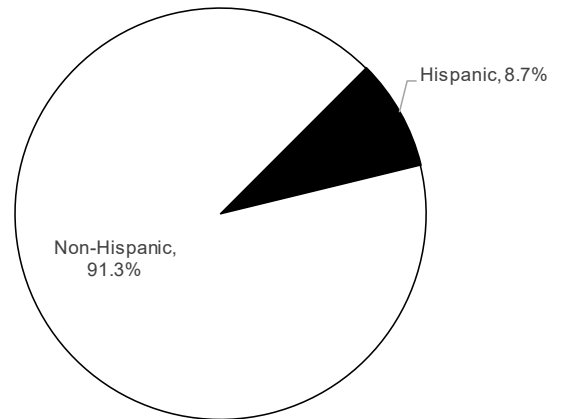


Table 72, below, shows the education and marital status of the induced abortion patients. Considering marital status, 81.9 percent of the 497 patients who received induced abortions in South Dakota were not married.

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

Table 72
Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota
by Patient's Education and Marital Status, 2017

Education of Patient	Marital Status					
	Total		Single		Married	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
	497	100	407	81.9	90	18.1
High School Graduate or Less	219	100	185	84.5	34	15.5
Some College, but No Degree	146	100	126	86.3	20	13.7
Vo-Tech, Teacher's Certificate, Associate Degree/Bachelor's Degree/Master's Degree/Doctorate	132	100	96	72.7	36	27.3

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

Payment Information

The Report of Induced Abortion Form asks questions about how much the abortion cost and who paid for the abortion. Table 73, on the next page, indicates that in 2017, 89.1 percent of all abortions performed in South Dakota were self-pay while 8.0 percent were paid by private insurance and 2.8

percent were paid by public health plans. Of the 54 abortions paid by private insurance or a public health plan, 38 were paid by a fee-for-service insurance company, and 16 were paid by a managed care insurance company.

**Table 73
Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota
by Payment and Insurance Coverage Type, 2017**

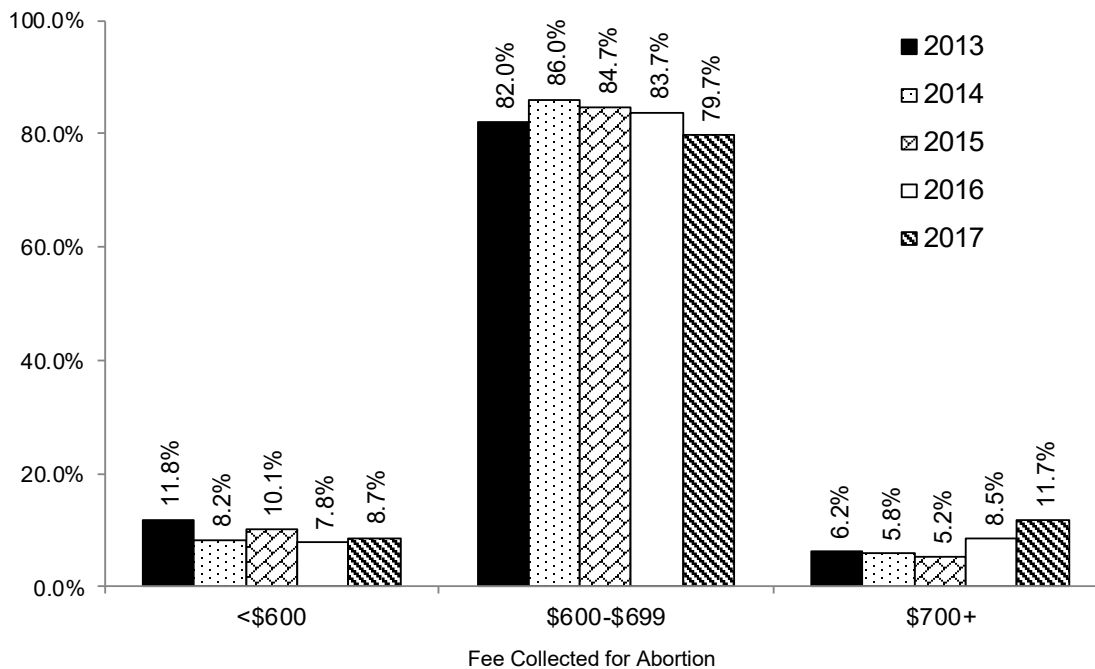
Payment Source	Total	Fee-for-service Insurance Co.	Managed Care Company	No Insurance Used
Private Insurance	40	38	2	0
Public Health Plan	14	0	14	0
Self	443	0	0	443
Total	497	38	16	443

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

In 2017, the majority of abortions, 79.7 percent, cost between \$600 and \$699.

Figure 36, below, displays a comparison of the fees for abortions for each year from 2013 to 2017.

**Figure 36
Percent of Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota
by Fee Collected for Abortion, 2013-2017**



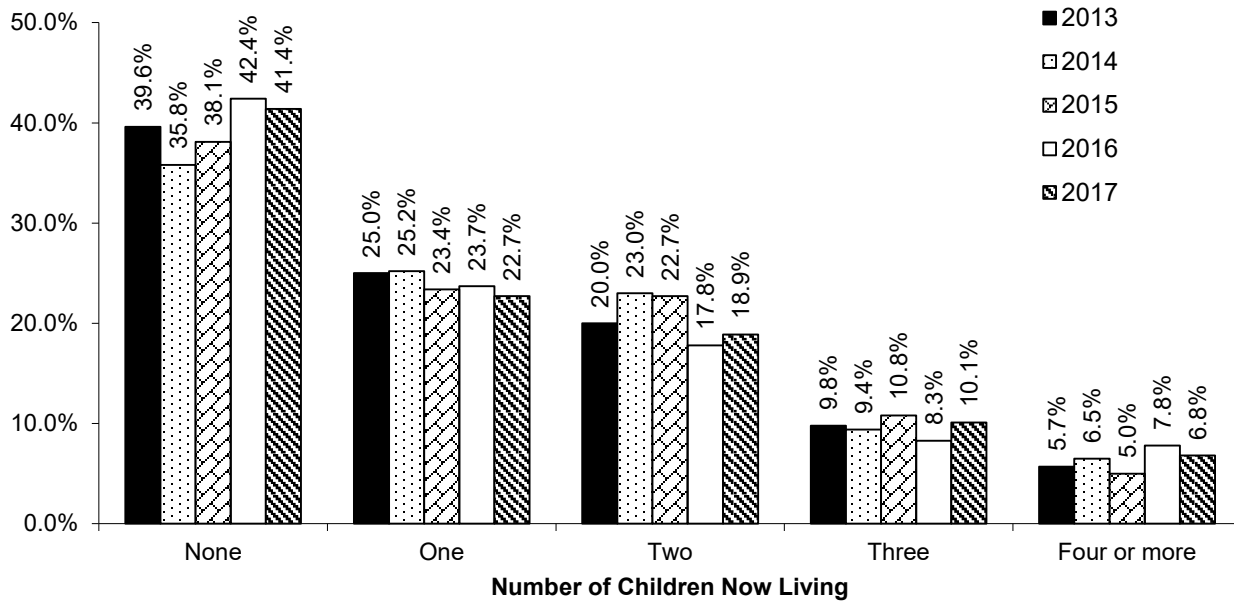
Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

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 2017, 41.4 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, 2013-2017

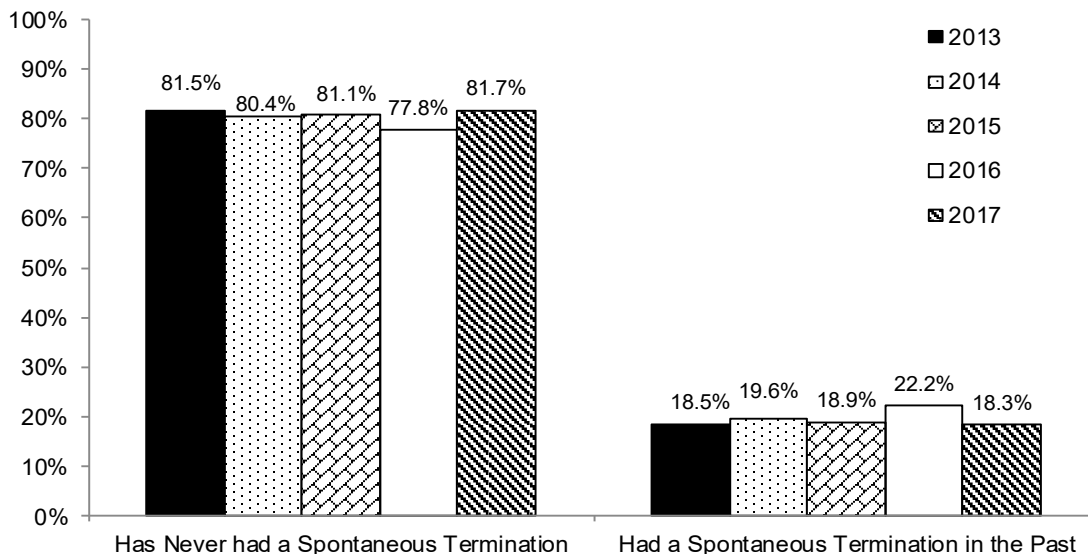


Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

Figure 38, below, indicates that 18.3 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, 81.7 percent, who obtained induced abortions in 2017 reported they had never had a spontaneous termination.

Figure 38
Percent of Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Previous Spontaneous Terminations, 2013-2017

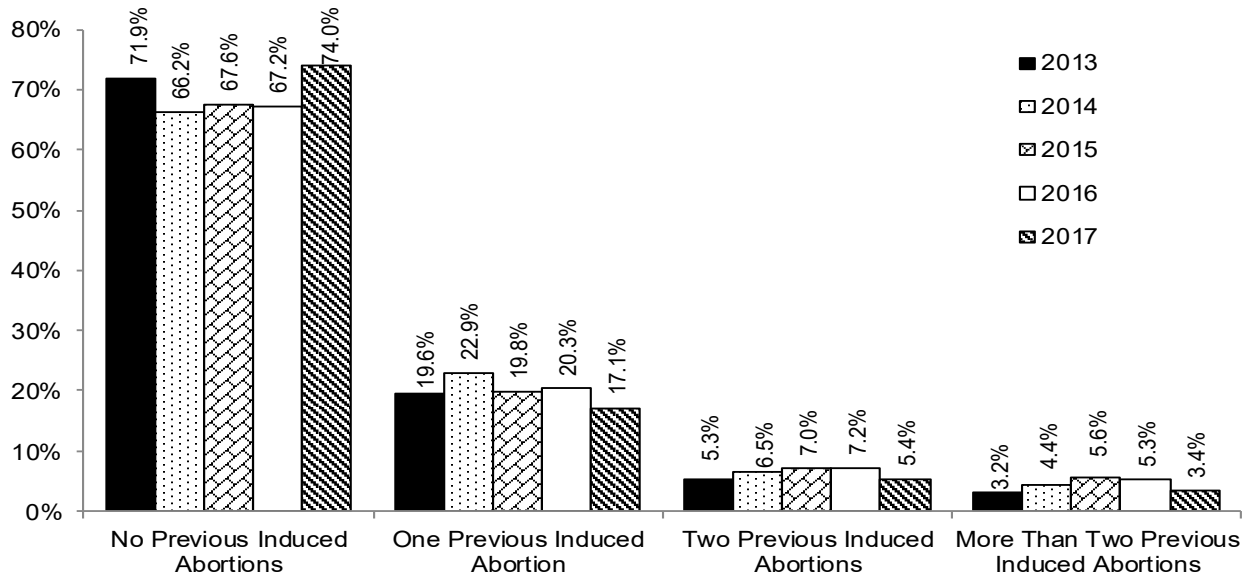


Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

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, 2013-2017



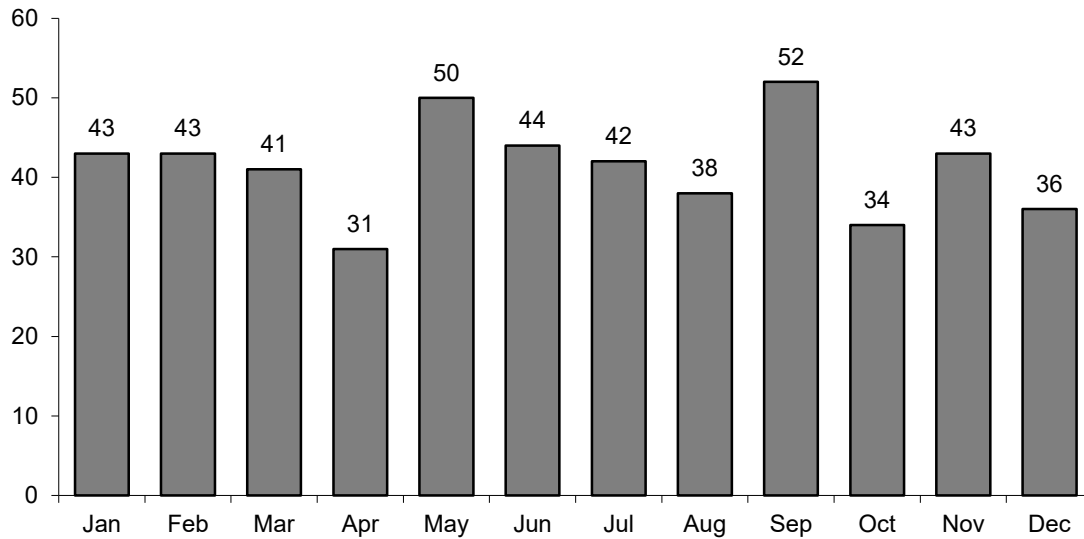
Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

As seen in Figure 39, above, the majority of patients, 74.0 percent, reported that they had no previous induced abortions. In 2017, 17.1 percent had obtained one previous induced abortion and 8.9 percent had obtained more than one previous induced abortion. In 2016, 20.3 percent had one previous induced abortion while 12.5 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 2017 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, 2017

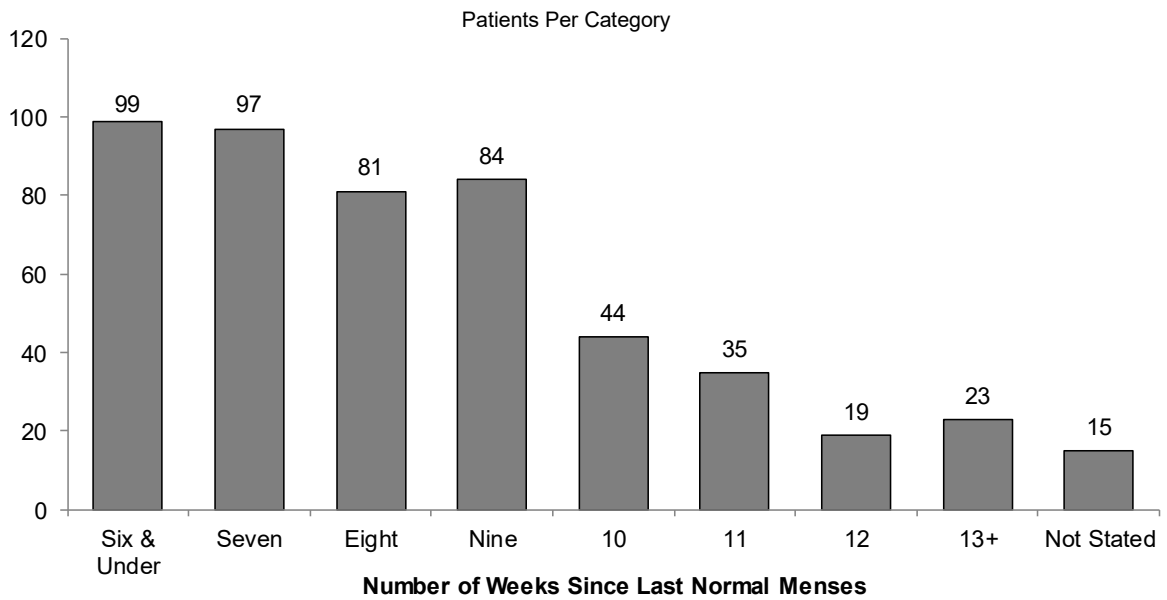


Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

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

of the patients, 405, 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, 2017

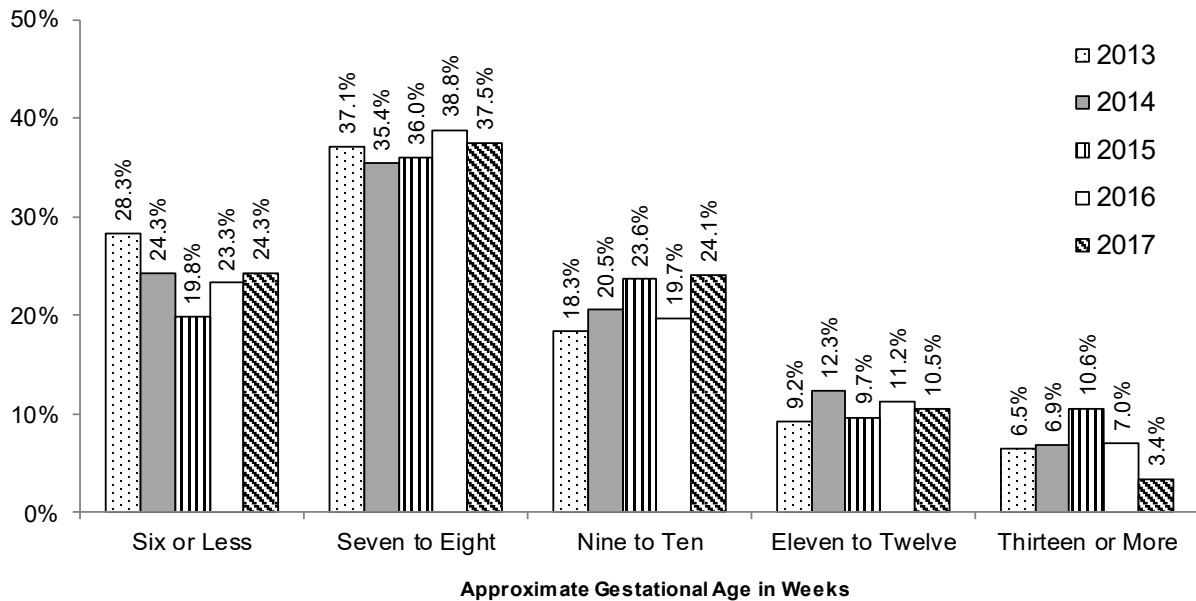


Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

Figure 42, below, shows the number of induced abortions occurring in South Dakota from 2013 to 2017 by the clinical estimated weeks of gestation.

The largest percentage of patients in 2017, 37.5 percent, received abortions at seven to eight weeks of estimated gestation.

Figure 42
Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Approximate Gestational Age, 2013-2017

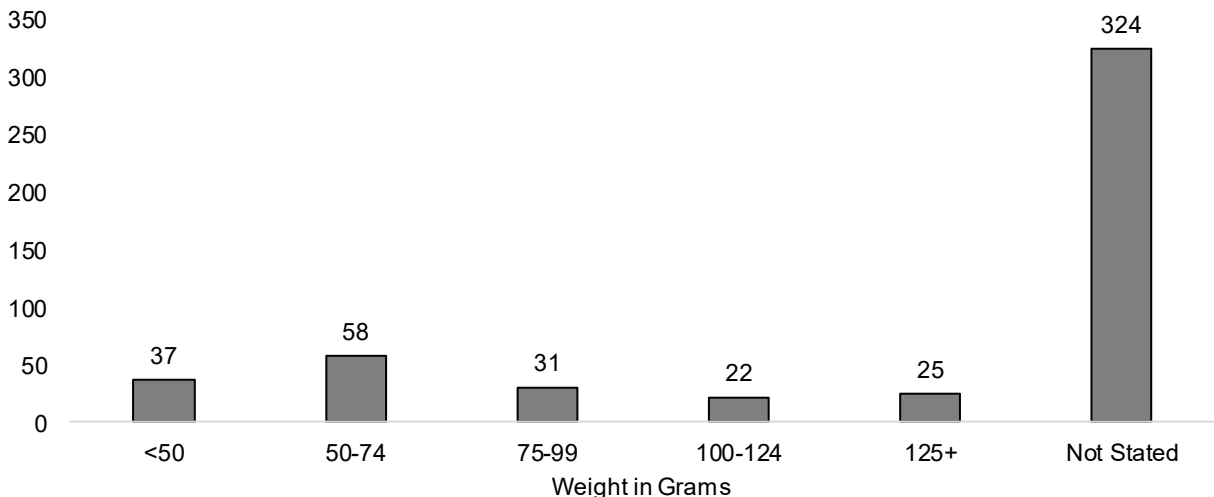


Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

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 58 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, 2017



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 74, to the right, illustrates the number of abortions that were performed with the knowledge that a fetal abnormality existed. Of the abortions performed in 2017, two 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 74
Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Fetal Abnormality, 2017

Presence of Fetal Abnormality	Number	Percentage
Yes	2	0.4%
Unknown	495	99.6%
Total	497	100%

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

Table 75
Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Method of Disposal, 2017

Method of Disposal	Number	Percentage
Incineration	263	52.9%
Burial	3	0.6%
Unknown/ Medical	231	46.5%
Total	497	100%

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

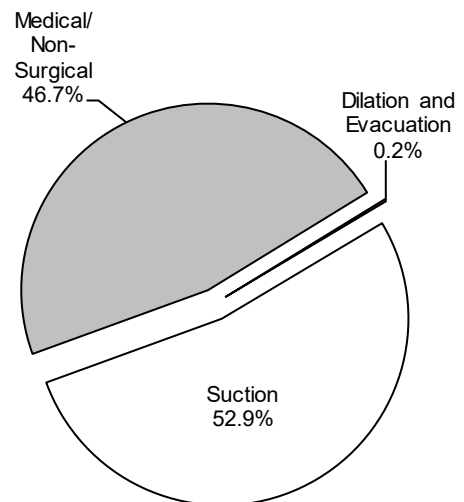
Table 75, to the left, indicates the method used to dispose of the fetus in 2017. The main method of disposal in 2017 was incineration with 263 or 52.9 percent.

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 2017.

In 2017, medical/non-surgical was used for 46.7 percent of the abortions while dilation and evacuation was used for less than one percent of abortions. The majority used suction in 2017 with an overall percentage of 52.9 percent.

Figure 44
Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Primary Procedure Used, 2017



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

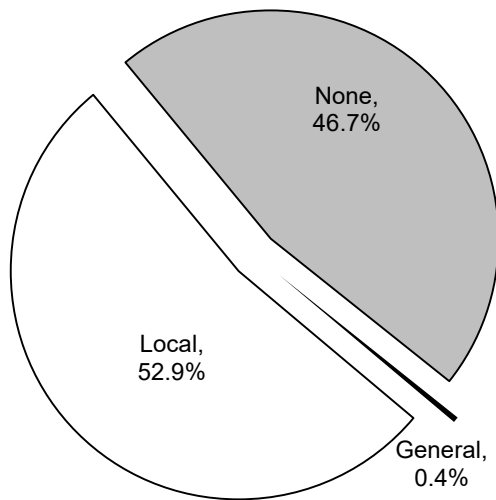
Table 76, to the right, indicates additional procedures that were used to terminate the pregnancy in 2017. The majority of abortions, 96.0 percent, did not require an additional procedure. There were four cases of maternal complications reported to the Department of Health in 2017.

Table 76
Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Any Additional Procedures Used, 2017

Additional Procedures Used	Number	Percentage
No Additional Procedure	477	96.0%
Sharp Curettage	20	4.0%

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

Figure 45
Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Type of Anesthetic Used, 2017



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 2017, 52.9 percent of patients were given a local anesthetic, and 0.4 percent were given a general anesthetic. Patients who received no anesthetic made up 46.7 percent.

Reason for the Induced Abortion

The Report of Induced Abortion Form asked a question about the reason for the induced abortion. Table 77, on the next page, illustrates the reasons that patients had induced abortions from 2013 to 2017. 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 2017, 35.4 percent of patients gave more than one response while in 2016, 38.3 percent of patients gave more than one response.

Table 77
Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Reason for Abortion, 2013-2017

Reason for Induced Abortion	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
The mother did not desire to have the child	393	65.4%	345	62.6%	280	63.1%	301	63.8%	324	65.2%
The mother could not afford the child	290	48.3%	263	47.7%	210	47.3%	211	44.7%	221	44.5%
The mother's emotional health was at risk	53	8.8%	64	11.6%	53	11.9%	74	15.7%	72	14.5%
The mother would suffer substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function if the pregnancy continued	20	3.3%	34	6.2%	13	2.9%	31	6.6%	17	3.4%
The pregnancy was a result of rape or incest	7	1.2%	4	0.7%	5	1.1%	4	0.8%	8	1.6%
Other	117	19.5%	115	20.9%	108	24.3%	91	19.3%	79	15.9%
Refused to answer	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	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

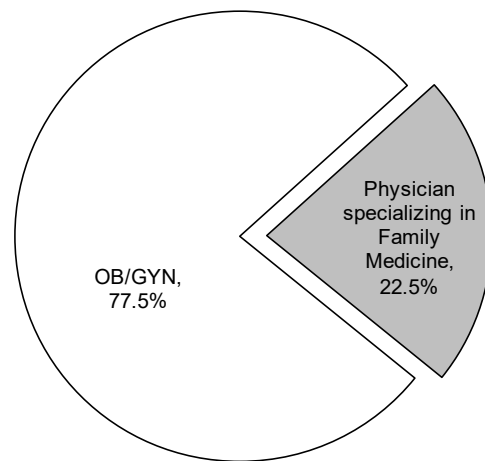
Physician Specialty Information

Figure 46, to the right, illustrate the specialty of the physicians who performed abortions in South Dakota in 2017. The majority of abortions were performed by an obstetrician/gynecologist. During the 2017 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 497 report forms received by the South Dakota Department of Health for induced abortions performed in 2017, 494 indicated that patients received the required disclosures.

Figure 46
Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Physician's Specialty, 2017



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 542 Voluntary and Informed Consent forms received. Of those, 497 indicated that the patient went on to obtain the induced abortion while 45 did not have the procedure.

Three patients obtained an induced abortion and were not provided information. All three were 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 542 Voluntary and Informed Consent forms received, 510 received the medical information in person. Of the 542 forms that were received, 510 indicated that the medical information was provided by the physician performing the induced abortion.

Physicians performing the abortion supplied 538 of the patients with the resource information. One reported receiving the information from a referring physician. A total of 537 patients reported receiving the resource information by telephone and two reported receiving the information in person.

Of the 542 forms received, 539 indicated that the patient was offered the printed materials on public and private assistance agencies. It was reported that 14 patients accepted this information, while 525 did not accept the information.

Of the 542 forms received, 539 indicated that the patient was offered the Fetal

Growth and Development Booklet. It was reported that 11 patients accepted this information, while 528 did not accept the information.

Of the 542 forms received, 539 indicated that the patient was offered the DOH website address for "Information on Fetal Development, Birth, Abortion and Adoption". It was reported that 17 patients accepted this information, while 522 did not accept the information.

Of the 542 forms received, 538 indicated that the patient was offered the opportunity to view the sonogram. Of these, 235 accepted the opportunity to view the sonogram, while 303 did not accept the opportunity to view the sonogram.

Parental Notice

Of the 24 Parental Consent forms received, 24 indicated the patient was an unemancipated minor. Twenty-one forms indicated notice was given to the patient's parent. One form indicated notice was given to the patient's guardian. Two forms 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 24 minor patients went on to have the induced abortion.