



1D.

INDUCED TERMINATIONS OF PREGNANCY

In July 1976, the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) began an Abortion Surveillance Program (*Arizona Administrative Code, R9-19-302D*, as authorized by the *Arizona Revised Statute 36-344*). The program required the reporting of induced terminations of pregnancy performed in hospitals, outpatient treatment centers and physicians' offices throughout the State.

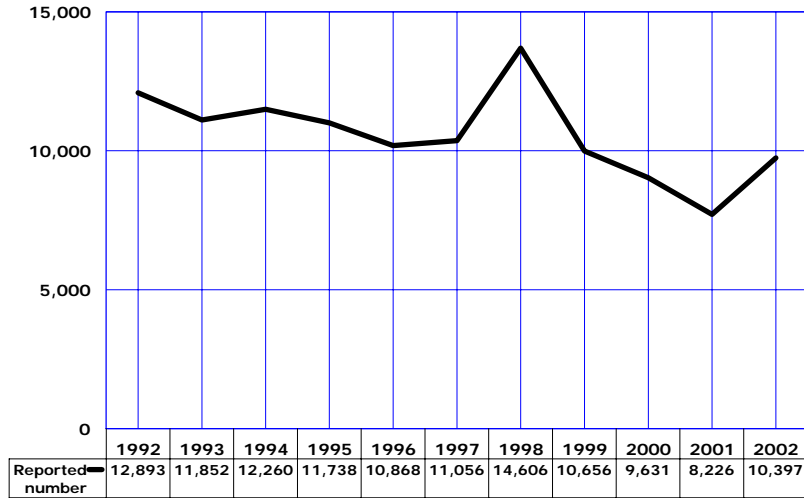
The National Center for Health Statistics* distinguishes *induced* from *spontaneous* terminations of pregnancy. Induced termination or abortion means "*the purposeful interruption of pregnancy with the intention other than to produce a live-born infant or to remove a dead fetus which does not result in a live birth*". All other terminations of pregnancy are spontaneous miscarriages. In this publication, the term "abortion" refers to "induced termination of pregnancy", and these two terms are used interchangeably.

The data in Sections 1D and 5D represent the number of abortions reported to ADHS not the actual number of abortions which occurred in the State. Although Arizona law requires that all abortions performed within the State be reported to the ADHS, complete reporting is not assured. Also, available data about abortions on residents do not include those induced terminations of pregnancy performed on Arizona residents in out-of-State facilities.

*National Center for Health Statistics: *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 37, No.2 Supp. DHHS Pub. No. (PHS) 89-1120, Hyattsville, MD, 1989.

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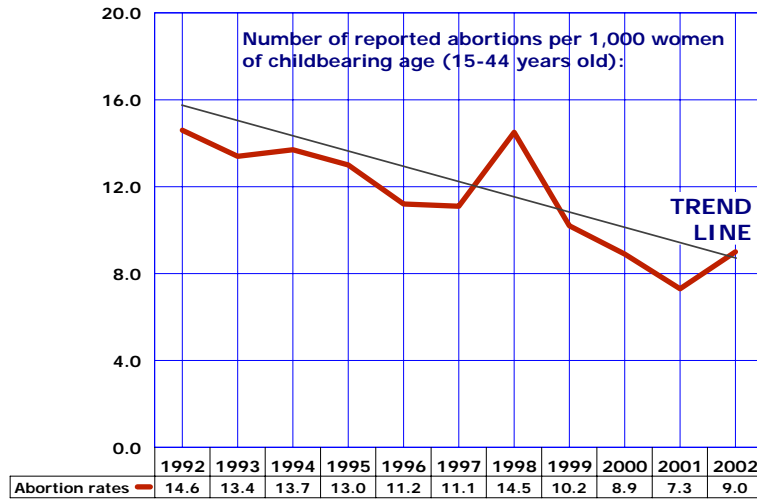
Figure 1D-1
Trends in the Number of Reported Abortions by Year,
Arizona Residents, 1992-2002



In calendar year 2002, the Arizona Department of Health Services received 10,397 reports of abortions obtained by Arizona residents, 26.4 percent more than the 8,226 reported in 2001 (**Figure 1-D1, Table 1D-1**). It is unclear whether this increase in the number of reported abortions represents a true increase in the actual number of abortions performed, or, perhaps, a better response rate of providers of non-surgical (so called medical) terminations of pregnancy.

Most reported abortions in Arizona in 2002 were performed in non-hospital clinics (91.2 percent) and physicians' offices (8.8 percent, based on data in **Table 1D-1**). Six out of ten (63.1 percent) women who reported to have an abortion in 2002 had the procedure for the first time. Nine out of every ten (88.1 percent) reported abortions occurred during the first trimester of pregnancy.

Figure 1D-2
Trends in Abortion Rates by Year,
Arizona Residents, 1992-2002



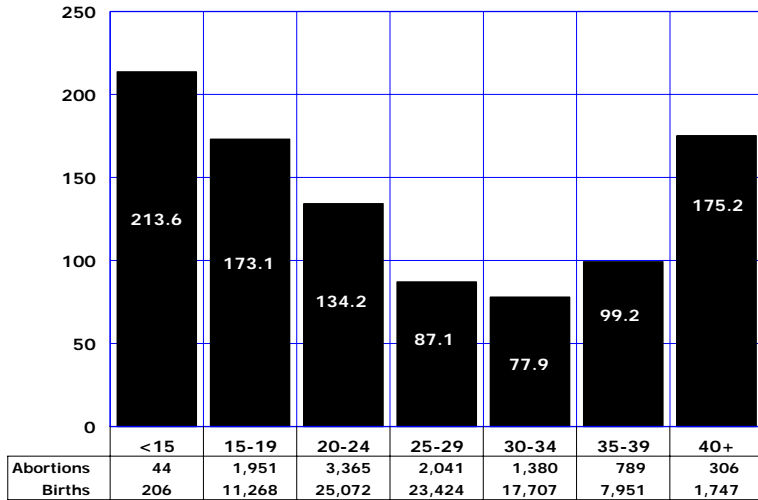
The rate of induced terminations of pregnancy per 1,000 female residents aged 15-44 increased from 7.3 in 2001 to 9.0 in 2002. Despite this increase, a time series analysis of annual abortion data for 1992-2002 reveals a declining trend (**Figure 1D-2**) in (perhaps only surgical) terminations of pregnancy in Arizona.

For women whose procedure was reported, the majority of abortions (78.3 percent) were performed by curettage. In 1,768 reported cases (17.0 percent), abortions were performed by non-surgical procedures: the administration of a medication or medications (such as RU486 or Mifepristone) to induce an abortion. For comparison, only 79 non-surgical abortions were reported in 2001.

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Figure 1D-3
Abortion Ratios* by Age Group,
Arizona Residents, 2002

Abortion ratios (the number of abortions per 1,000 live births in each age group) vary by age of women at reported termination of pregnancy. Ratios tend to be higher at the extremes of the age distribution of the childbearing period, i.e. among girls under 15 years and women 40 years of age and over (**Figure-1D-3**).



*Number of reported abortions per 1,000 live births in specified age group.

The resident abortion ratio in 2002 (the number of reported induced terminations of pregnancy per 1,000 live births) was 119.0, 23.3 percent greater than in 2001. (**Figure 1D-4**, **Table 1D-1**). Black females exceeded the overall abortion ratio by 69.7 percent (**Table 1D-2**). The 2002 abortion ratio of 202.0 for Black females was 3.9 times higher than that for American Indian females, whose ratio of 51.4 was the lowest among ethnic groups. The 2002 abortion ratio for Hispanic females was still the second lowest among the ethnic groups (98.8 abortions per 1,000 live births).

Figure 1D-4
Number of Women Having Abortions per 1,000 Women
Giving Birth by Year, 1992-2002

