In calendar year 2001, the Arizona Department of Health Services received 8,226 reports of abortions obtained by Arizona residents, 14.6 percent less than the 9,631 reported in 2000 (Table 1D-1). It is unclear whether this decline in the number of abortions represents a true decrease in the total number of abortions performed, a decrease in the number of surgical abortions or, perhaps, a lower response rate of providers.

The rate of induced terminations of pregnancy per 1,000 female residents aged 15-44 declined from 8.9 in 2000 to 7.3 in 2001, the lowest abortion rate since 1977. A time series analysis of annual abortion data for 1991-2001 reveals a declining trend (Figure 1D-1) in surgical terminations of pregnancy in Arizona.

For women whose procedure was reported, almost all (96.3 percent) abortions were performed by curettage. In 79 reported cases, abortions were performed by nonsurgical procedures: the administration of a medication or medications (such as RU486 or Mifepristone) to induce an abortion.
All age-specific abortion rates were lower in 2001 than they were in 2000 or 1990 (Figure-1D-2).

The resident abortion ratio in 2001 (the number of reported induced terminations of pregnancy per 1,000 live births) was 96.5, 14.8 percent lower than in 2000 and 52.7 percent lower than in 1991 when it reached its recent peak of 204.0 (Figure 1D-4, Table 1D-1). Black females exceeded the overall abortion ratio by 70.5 percent (Table 1D-2). The 2001 abortion ratio of 164.5 for Black females was 4 times higher than that for American Indian females, whose ratio of 41.2 was the lowest among ethnic groups. The 2001 abortion ratio for Hispanic females was still the second lowest among the ethnic groups (78 abortions per 1,000 live births).