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# Induced Abortions in Western Australia

## 2016 – 2018

**Sixth Report of the Western Australian  
Abortion Notification System**

**November 2019**



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**Maternal and Child Health  
Information and System Performance Directorate  
Purchasing and System Performance Division  
Department of Health, Western Australia**

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## Executive Summary

This is the sixth report on induced abortions in Western Australia (WA). This report continues a statistical series commenced in 1999 after the enactment of the *Acts Amendment (Abortion) Act 1998*.

The focus of this report is the three years from 2016 to 2018. However, data from 2010 are included to enable trend analysis. Data were extracted from the Abortion Notification System.

A descriptive analysis was conducted by woman's age, Aboriginal status, health region of residence, type of health service, method and reason for abortion, and gestational age at abortion. Comparisons of abortion rates are made with data reported by other jurisdictions in Australia and internationally.

A summary of the results are provided.

## Results

For the years 2016, 2017 and 2018,

### Abortion number and rate:

- The number of abortions was 7,855, 7,828 and 7,816 (Table 1).
- The abortion rate for women aged 15 to 44 years was 14.7, 14.4 and 14.3 per 1,000 (Table 1).
- The abortion rate for teenage women was 8.4, 7.5 and 8.1 (Table 6).
- Both the total number and the rate of abortions in the years 2016-2018 were lower than those in previous years.
- WA had an abortion rate lower than England and Wales and higher than the Northern Territory, South Australia, Scotland and the Netherlands (Table 17).
- For Aboriginal women in WA, the abortion rate was 10.1, 12.9 and 14.1 per 1,000 (Table 10). This is an increase from the previous triennium.

### Pregnancy rate:

- The pregnancy rate for women aged 15 to 44 years was 81.9, 78.1 and 75.4 per 1,000 (Table 5).
- The pregnancy rate for teenage women was 20.7, 18.5 and 16.8 per 1,000 (Table 5). Teenage pregnancy rate has more than halved since 2010.

### Age at abortion:

- The age of women who had an abortion from 2016 to 2018 was between 12 and 52 years (Table 2).
- The average age of women who had an abortion was 28.2, 28.4 and 28.6 (Table 2). This is a slight increase in average age since 2010.

### Gestational age at abortion:

- The majority of induced abortions occurred in the first 9 weeks of pregnancy (80, 81.6 and 82.1 percent of all abortions) (Table 13).
- Abortions performed at a gestation of at least 20 weeks accounted for 1 percent of all abortions from 2016 to 2018 (Table 13). Abortions at these gestations occurred at the approved<sup>1</sup> health service.

### Method of abortion:

- Medications such as Mifepristone and Misoprostol were used for induction of abortions in 25.1, 29.3 and 33 per cent of all abortions (Table 15). This represents a 3-fold increase in the use of medications from 2010.

### Reason for abortion:

- Suspected or diagnosed fetal anomalies were the reason for abortion for approximately 3 percent of all abortions between 2016 and 2018 (Table 16).
- For abortions at 20 weeks gestation or more in 2016, 2017 and 2018, fetal anomaly was the reason for abortion for 89.7, 67.5 and 78.3 per cent respectively (Figure 9). This is consistent with the previous 2 trienniums.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 334(7)(b) of the *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911* requires that a health service be approved by the Minister for Health to conduct abortions for pregnancies of at least 20 weeks gestation.

## 1 Introduction

This is the sixth report on induced abortions in Western Australia (WA). Data were extracted from the Abortion Notification System.

This report continues a statistical series commenced in 1999 after the enactment of the *Acts Amendment (Abortion) Act 1998*.

The focus of this report is on the three completed calendar years, 2016 to 2018, which have not been reported previously. Data since 2010 are included for trend analysis. Table 1, Supplementary Table 18, Supplementary Table 26, and Supplementary Table 27 provide historic data from 1991 and WA population data.

Age, region of residence and Aboriginal status are reported for women who had induced abortions in WA. Clinical details such as health service, procedures, gestational age at time of abortion and reason for abortion are provided. Comparisons were made with data reported by other jurisdictions in Australia and other nations, where available. Appendix A describes legislation and definitions for abortion statistics reported by other jurisdictions.

Since the last report of this series was published in 2018, a number of statistics presented here have changed due to revised population data and amendments in other health collections.

An induced abortion is defined as the termination of pregnancy via medical or surgical intervention, excluding spontaneous abortions or miscarriages (Grayson, Hargreaves, & Sullivan, 2005) (World Health Organization, 2012).

### 1.1 Legal status of induced abortion in Western Australia

While abortion was available in WA before 1998 with the procedure claimable under Medicare, its legal status was unclear. In May 1998, changes to the legislative provisions related to abortions were made to the *Criminal Code Act Compilation Act 1913 (The Criminal Code)* and the *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911 by the Acts Amendment (Abortion) Act 1998 (The Amendments)*.

*The Amendments* make it lawful to perform abortion in WA where the abortion is:

- Performed by a medical practitioner in good faith and with reasonable care and skill; and
- Section 334 of the *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911* provides that:
  - An abortion is justified for women with pregnancy up to 19 weeks gestation if:
    - a) the woman concerned has given informed consent; or
    - b) the woman concerned will suffer serious personal, family or social consequences if the abortion is not performed; or
    - c) serious danger to the physical or mental health of the woman concerned will result if the abortion is not performed; or
    - d) the pregnancy of the woman concerned is causing serious danger to her physical or mental health.Items b), c) and d) do not apply unless the woman has given informed consent and items c) and d) informed consent does not apply if it is impractical for her to do so.
  - To perform an abortion for a pregnancy of at least 20 weeks gestation, two medical practitioners from a panel of six appointed by the Minister for Health have to agree that the mother or unborn baby has a severe medical condition. The abortion must be carried out in a facility approved by the Minister for Health.

## 1.2 Requirement to notify of an induced abortion

Under section 335 (5) (d) of the *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911* when a medical practitioner performs an induced abortion, the medical practitioner shall notify the Chief Health Officer of the fact in a prescribed form within 14 days of the abortion being performed.

Paragraph 335 (e) further states that a notification under paragraph (d) must not contain any particulars from which it may be possible to ascertain the identity of the patient.

Such notification is made by completing a prescribed form (Form 1 – Notification of Induced Abortion by medical practitioner), attached in Appendix B. This document is a non-carbon required (NCR) duplicate form supplied to medical practitioners with addressed, pre-paid envelopes marked “Confidential”.

## 2 Methods

Information about induced abortions is provided by medical practitioners to the Chief Health Officer on Form 1. The Department of Health’s Maternal and Child Health team (MCH) collate and store this information in the Abortion Notification System.

The notification process is described at: [http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/N\\_R/Notification-of-terminations-of-pregnancy-induced-abortion](http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/N_R/Notification-of-terminations-of-pregnancy-induced-abortion).

### 2.1 Number (count) of cases reported

A comparison between the number of cases in the Abortion Notification System with the hospital admissions data held in the WA Hospital Morbidity Data Collection (HMDC) was previously undertaken annually. The number of cases held in each data set was compared for each of the time periods. ICD-10-AM<sup>2</sup> diagnosis codes relating to induced abortion were used to identify records in HMDC. These codes were O04.0 to O04.9.

Since 2008, the correlation of the number of cases between HMDC and the Abortion Notification System has decreased because of increased utilisation of abortion procedures that do not require admission to a hospital.

Confirmation of accuracy of the number of induced abortions reported by each health service is requested regularly. This process is also used as a reminder to the medical staff at health services of their requirement and process to notify the Chief Health Officer of induced abortions performed.

### 2.2 Data validation

As it is legislated that the notification (Form 1) “will not contain any particulars from which it may be possible to ascertain the identity of the patient”, it is not possible to cross-validate the information received for each case on Form 1 with data collected in other health data systems.

Validation of data used for this report utilised a number of processes that are outlined below.

Postcodes provided were validated against Australian Postcodes listed by Australia Post. Postcodes that remained invalid were excluded from data analysis. Numbers excluded are stated for each table.

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<sup>2</sup> International Classification of Diseases, 10<sup>th</sup> revision, Australian Modification

Medical practitioners who notified an abortion were confirmed as registered medical practitioners by reference to the list of registered practitioners maintained by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

The data item “Method of termination” may have multiple responses reported. Other data items were validated to prevent multiple data items being reported except for “Reason for termination”.

Patient’s age was validated by ensuring age was within the reproductive years. Ages from 10 to 55 years were accepted.

Gestation of pregnancy was validated by ensuring that age was at least one week and less than 45 weeks.

In addition, gestational ages of 20 weeks or more were validated by site of termination.

If the information provided on a notification form was deemed invalid at the time of data entry, the form was returned to the person responsible for clarification.

### 2.3 Terminology used in this report

Abortion	In medical usage, the term “abortion” includes miscarriage and induced abortion. Unless specified, this report only refers to induced abortion
Induced abortion	The performance of a procedure or administration of a substance that is intended to terminate a pregnancy
ANS	Abortion Notification System - repository of reported induced abortions occurring in WA since 1998
Women of reproductive age	Women aged 15 to 44 years. All proportions or rates for populations were calculated using this age range. Abortions occurred in women who were younger or older than this age group. These events were added to the numerator for the 15 to 19 years group or the 40 to 44 years group respectively. This approach means that populations of women that are unlikely to become pregnant are not used, and this is consistent with reporting standards used by other jurisdictions.
Teenage women	Includes women aged from 11 to 19 years at the time of abortion or of giving birth in WA. However, the teenage population used for calculation of rates was aged 15 to 19 years
WA Population	The estimated population in WA was sourced on 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2019 from the Epidemiology Branch of the Department of Health using data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. WA population data used for calculations in this report are provided in supplementary tables at the end of this report
DoH WA	Department of Health, Western Australia
WA	Western Australia
WHO	World Health Organization

## 2.4 Calculations used in this report

Abortion proportion	<p>The proportion of potential live births that ended in abortion.</p> <p>The number of induced abortions divided by the sum of the number of induced abortions and the number of live births in a geographic region.</p> <p>Calculation is:</p> $\frac{\text{Number of induced abortions}}{\text{Number of induced abortions} + \text{Number of liveborn infants}} \times 100$
Abortion rate	<p>The occurrence of abortion in women of reproductive age.</p> <p>The number of induced abortions occurring in 1,000 women of reproductive age in a geographic region.</p> <p>Calculation is:</p> $\frac{\text{Number of induced abortions}}{\text{Number of women aged 15 to 44 years}} \times 1,000$
Birth rate (Age-specific birth rate)	<p>In this report, all birth rates are calculated as age-specific birth rates (rather than the crude birth rate which would include the total population).</p> <p>The occurrence of infants born alive in women of reproductive age.</p> <p>The number of liveborn infants per 1,000 women of reproductive age in a geographic region.</p> <p>Calculation is:</p> $\frac{\text{Number of liveborn infants}}{\text{Number of women aged 15 to 44 years}} \times 1,000$
Pregnancy rate	<p>The occurrence of abortion and birth in women of reproductive age.</p> <p>The sum of the number of induced abortions and the number of infants stillborn or born alive per 1,000 women of reproductive age in a geographic region.</p> <p>Calculation is:</p> $\frac{\text{Number of induced abortions} + \text{Number of infants born}}{\text{Number of women aged 15 to 44 years}} \times 1,000$
Per cent	<p>The number of items with the characteristic per 100 items.</p> <p>Rounding of individual percentage values may mean their total does not equal 100 per cent.</p>

## 2.5 Other notes for this report

Aboriginal status	<p>Within WA, the term Aboriginal is used in preference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. This is in recognition that Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants of Western Australia. No disrespect is intended to our Torres Strait Islander colleagues and community.</p> <p>Abortion cases are reported as Aboriginal if the status of the woman was reported as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Non-Aboriginal cases include those that were reported as “Other” or had no Aboriginal status reported.</p>
Differences in data between tables or between figures	<p>Some data were not provided for some earlier notifications and those cases could not be included in some summary data. Where abortions are described by woman’s age, postcode of residence or gestational age some cases could not be assigned to groups and were excluded from totals, rates and proportions. Because of these exclusions, summary data differs across tables and figures.</p>
Trend Data	<p>Data from the last two published reports (i.e. from 2010 onwards) are included to enable trend analysis.</p>
Source of abortion data	<p>All abortion data reported here were retrieved from the Abortion Notification System on or after the 25th March 2019.</p>
Source of birth data	<p>All birth data reported here were retrieved from the Midwives Notification System on or after the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019.</p>
Source of population data	<p>All population data were retrieved from an EpiCalc file provided by the Epidemiology Branch (Epidemiology Branch, 2019). Population data used are provided in supplementary tables (Section 11) of this document.</p>

### 3 Induced abortions and births

The WA population of women of reproductive age (15 to 44 years) increased by 31% per cent since 1999 (Epidemiology Branch, 2019). All 5-year age groups had increased population numbers, with the highest increase among women aged between 30 and 34 years (55%) (Supplementary Table 18 and Supplementary Figure 10). There was no corresponding increase in the number of induced abortions in WA.

The number of induced abortions notified in WA since 1999 reached a peak of 8,908 in 2009. Since then the number decreased to the lowest value of 7,816 in 2018 (Table 1).

The abortion rate per 1,000 women of reproductive age decreased from 19.7 in 1999 to 14.3 in 2018, ranging between 14.3 and 19.9. In 2016, the abortion rate was 14.7, in 2017 was 14.4 and in 2018 was 14.3.

The birth rate per 1,000 women of reproductive age decreased from 61.5 in 1999 to 60.7 in 2018, ranging between 57.7 and 66.8. In 2016, the birth rate was 66.8, in 2017 was 63.2 and in 2018 it was 60.7 (Table 1).

**Table 1: Abortion and birth number and rates, WA, 1999-2018**

Year	Number of Abortions	Number of live births	Population Women aged 15-44 years	Abortion rate (per 1,000)	Birth rate (per 1,000)
1999	8,220	25,591	416,203	19.7	61.5
2000	8,337	25,022	418,289	19.9	59.8
2001	8,378	24,774	421,639	19.9	58.8
2002	8,262	24,609	422,762	19.5	58.2
2003	7,942	24,492	424,335	18.7	57.7
2004	7,869	25,340	425,966	18.5	59.5
2005	7,828	26,777	429,125	18.2	62.4
2006	8,336	28,456	434,098	19.2	65.6
2007	8,430	29,884	445,812	18.9	67.0
2008	8,669	30,441	460,175	18.8	66.1
2009	8,908	30,973	475,883	18.7	65.1
2010	8,438	31,038	485,908	17.4	63.9
2011	8,723	31,923	499,688	17.5	63.9
2012	8,465	33,625	517,806	16.3	64.9
2013	8,508	34,190	534,221	15.9	64.0
2014	8,516	34,957	542,202	15.7	64.5
2015	8,179	34,757	543,629	15.0	63.9
2016	7,855	35,656	533,945	14.7	66.8
2017	7,828	34,308	531,750	14.4	63.2
2018	7,816	33,206	546,946	14.3	60.7



## 4 Characteristics of women

Mean, minimum and maximum values summarise the age of women who had an abortion. Women's ages were also grouped to calculate rates for abortion, birth and pregnancy.

### 4.1 Age

The mean age of women who had an abortion in the past 9 years steadily increased from 26.5 to 28.6 years. A small number of these women were at either end of the reproductive age (Table 2).

**Table 2: Age at induced abortion, WA, 2010-2018**

Year	Mean	Minimum	Maximum
2010	26.5	12	50
2011	26.6	12	55
2012	27.0	13	50
2013	27.2	13	51
2014	27.5	13	49
2015	27.9	13	49
2016	28.2	13	50
2017	28.4	12	49
2018	28.6	13	52

#### 4.1.1 Abortion rate per age group

Abortion rates by age group were determined using the number of induced abortions per 1,000 women of each 5-year age group living in WA.

The abortion rate for teenage women decreased to less than half since 2010, from 18.9 to 8.1.

For women aged 20 to 24 years, the abortion rate decreased from 30 to 21.8 per 1,000. This 5-year age group consistently had the highest abortion rate since 2010.

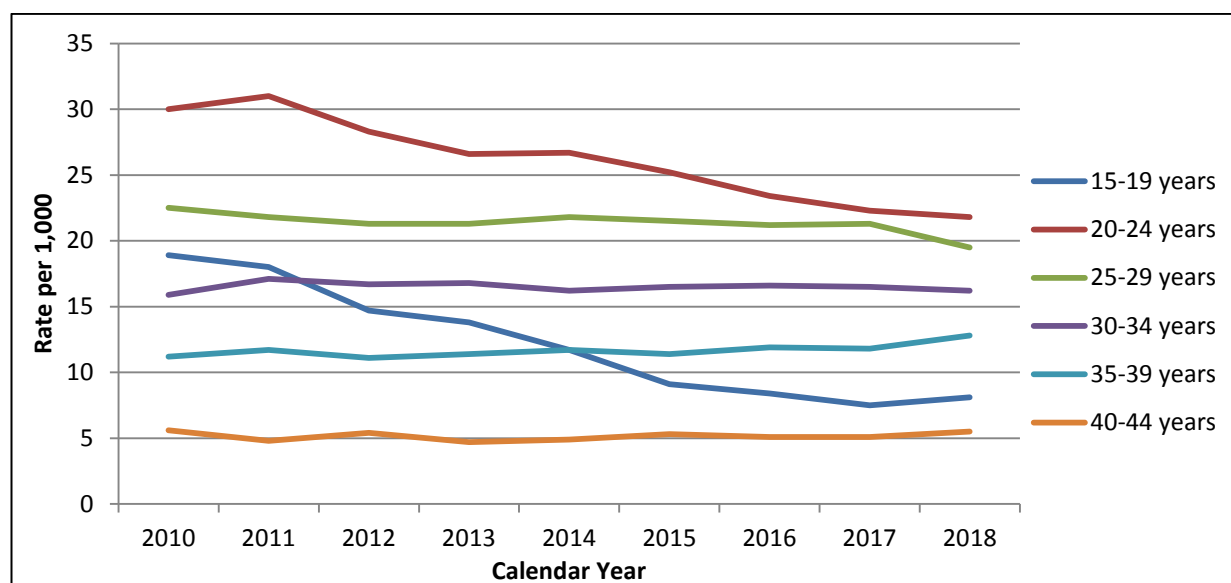
In all other age groups, there was little change in abortion rate over the period (Table 3 and Figure 1).

**Table 3: Abortion number and rate by age group, WA, 2010-2018**

Year	Age group (years)								Total
	<15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	≥45	
<b>Number</b>									
2010	27	1,389	2,502	1,886	1,240	935	411	46	8,438
2011	24	1,334	2,656	1,928	1,395	973	375	38	8,723
2012	21	1,101	2,485	2,009	1,440	928	436	45	8,465
2013	23	1,036	2,382	2,119	1,549	968	397	30	8,504
2014	14	891	2,382	2,214	1,555	1,014	406	38	8,514
2015	20	689	2,177	2,181	1,631	1,004	432	45	8,179
2016	15	616	1,964	2,112	1,665	1,042	397	43	7,854
2017	11	553	1,865	2,188	1,727	1,036	409	39	7,828
2018	23	585	1,800	2,031	1,756	1,141	440	40	7,816
<b>Abortion rate</b>									
2010		18.9	30.0	22.5	15.9	11.2	5.6		17.4
2011		18.0	31.0	21.8	17.1	11.7	4.8		17.5
2012		14.7	28.3	21.3	16.7	11.1	5.4		16.3
2013		13.8	26.6	21.3	16.8	11.4	4.7		15.9
2014		11.7	26.7	21.8	16.2	11.7	4.9		15.7
2015		9.1	25.2	21.5	16.5	11.4	5.3		15.0
2016		8.4	23.4	21.2	16.6	11.9	5.1		14.7
2017		7.5	22.3	21.3	16.5	11.8	5.1		14.4
2018		8.1	21.8	19.5	16.2	12.8	5.5		14.3

Estimated Resident Populations for WA used to calculate abortion rate are provided in Supplementary Table 18.

**Figure 1: Abortion rate by age group, WA, 2010-2018**



#### 4.1.2 Birth rate by age group

Birth rates were determined using the number of liveborn infants of at least 20 weeks gestation per 1,000 women of reproductive age living in WA.

Since 2010, the overall birth rate of 63.9 decreased slightly to 60.7 by 2018. However, in the same period, the birth rate for teenage women halved from 18 to 8.7 per 1,000.

For women aged between 20 and 34 years, birth rates decreased while the opposite was observed for women aged between 35 and 44.

In the three years 2016, 2017 and 2018, women in the 30 to 34 year age group had the highest birth rate (126.8, 117, and 112.2 per 1,000 respectively). This is consistent with data for all years since 2010 (Table 4).

**Table 4: Birth rate by age group, WA, 2010-2018**

Year	Age group (years)						Overall birth rate
	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	
2010	18.0	56.7	105.4	123.0	64.4	14.1	63.9
2011	18.2	55.5	102.9	122.7	65.2	14.9	63.9
2012	17.5	56.1	101.7	125.2	67.3	14.5	64.9
2013	16.1	55.4	97.0	122.7	66.7	14.7	64.0
2014	13.9	52.7	98.2	122.4	70.0	14.9	64.5
2015	12.4	51.4	98.0	123.2	67.6	13.7	63.9
2016	12.3	51.8	99.6	126.8	73.3	15.2	66.8
2017	10.9	48.6	91.6	117	72.8	15.0	63.2
2018	8.7	45.6	86.9	112.2	70.5	14.9	60.7

Estimated Resident Populations for WA used to calculate Birth rate are provided in Supplementary Table 18.

Liveborn infant data from the WA Midwives Notification System were used to calculate birth rate and are provided in Supplementary Table 19.

Live births for women aged less than 15 years were included in the numerator for the age group 15-19 years and for women aged more than 44 years were included in the numerator for the age group 40-44 years.

### 4.1.3 Pregnancy rate by age group

Pregnancy rates were determined from the total number of abortions, stillbirths and live births occurring in the WA population of women of reproductive age.

The overall pregnancy rate dropped from 81.7 in 2010 to 75.4 in 2018.

Like birth rates, for women aged between 20 and 34 years, the pregnancy rate decreased since 2010. However, in older women pregnancy rates remained stable (Table 5).

**Table 5: Pregnancy rate by age group, WA, 2010-2018**

Year	Age group (years)						Overall pregnancy rate
	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	
2010	37.0	87.3	128.5	139.6	76.1	19.8	81.7
2011	36.4	87.2	125.5	140.8	77.5	19.9	81.9
2012	32.5	84.9	123.7	142.7	78.8	20.0	81.7
2013	30.0	82.3	118.8	140.2	78.5	19.6	80.3
2014	25.7	79.8	120.8	139.3	82.3	19.9	80.6
2015	21.7	76.9	120.1	140.3	79.5	19.1	79.4
2016	20.7	75.5	121.4	144.2	85.6	20.4	81.9
2017	18.5	71.2	113.5	134.2	85.1	20.3	78.1
2018	16.8	67.7	106.9	129.1	83.9	20.5	75.4

Estimated Resident Population for WA used to calculate pregnancy rate are provided in Supplementary Table 18.

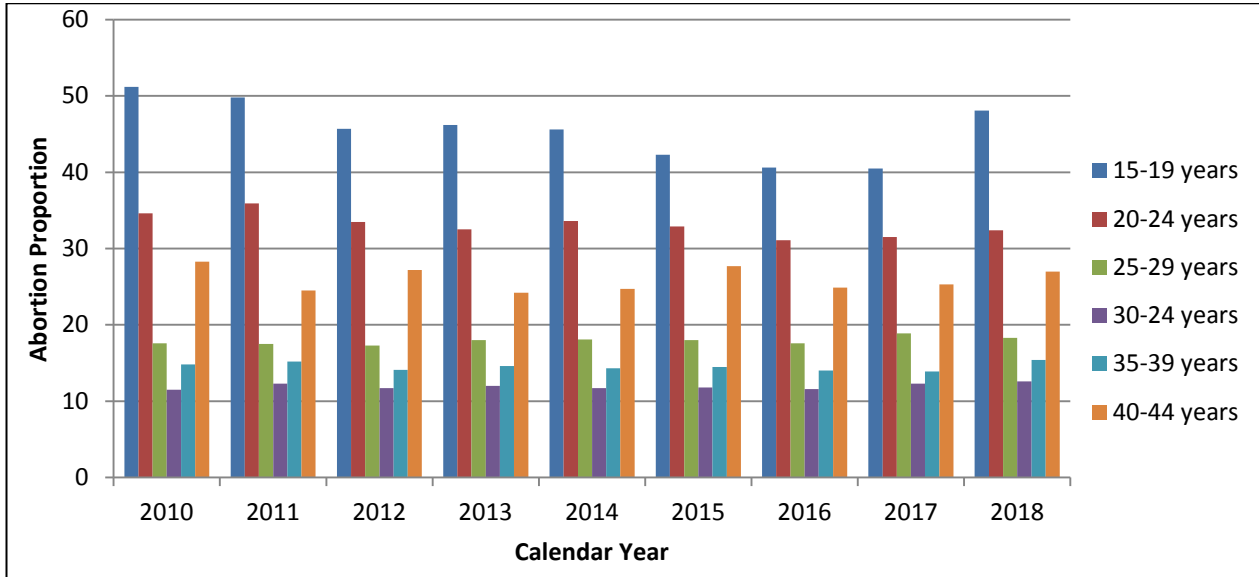
Infant birth data from the WA Midwives Notification System used to calculate pregnancy rate are provided in Supplementary Table 20.

#### 4.1.4 The abortion proportion by age group

The abortion proportion<sup>3</sup> for women aged 15 to 44 years was 18.1 in 2016, 18.6 in 2017 and 19.1 in 2018. This represented an overall decline from 21.4 per cent in 2010.

Teenage women continued to have the highest abortion proportion and women aged 30 to 34 years, the lowest (Figure 2).

**Figure 2: Abortion proportion by age group, WA, 2010-2018**



Data displayed in the above figure are provided in Supplementary Table 21.

Induced abortions for women aged less than 15 years were included in the numerator for the age group 15-19 years and for women aged more than 44 years were included in the numerator for the age group 40-44 years.

<sup>3</sup> The abortion proportion is the portion of potential live births that ended in abortion expressed as a percentage. See section 2.4 for a description of how the abortion proportion was calculated.

## 4.2 Teenage women

### 4.2.1 Abortion proportion and rates

Compared to other 5-year age groups, teenage women had the highest abortion proportion. This decreased from 51 per cent in 2010 to 47.9 per cent in 2018 (Figure 2 and Table 6).

Pregnancy rates for teenage women more than halved from 37 per 1,000 in 2010 to 16.8 per 1,000 in 2018. Abortion and birth rates for teenage women also decreased over the period.

Before 2011, their abortion rate was higher than their birth rate but from 2011 their birth rate was higher than their abortion rate. By 2018, teenage women had an abortion rate of 8.1 per 1,000 and a birth rate of 8.7 per 1,000 (Table 6).

**Table 6: Abortion proportion and abortion, birth and pregnancy rates for teenage women, WA, 2010-2018**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Abortion proportion</b> Per cent	<b>Abortion rate</b> Per 1,000	<b>Birth rate</b> Per 1,000	<b>Pregnancy rate</b> Per 1,000
2010	51.0	18.9	18.0	37.0
2011	49.5	18.0	18.2	36.4
2012	45.4	14.7	17.5	32.5
2013	46.0	13.8	16.1	30.0
2014	45.4	11.7	13.9	25.7
2015	42.0	9.1	12.4	21.7
2016	40.3	8.4	12.3	20.7
2017	40.3	7.5	10.9	18.5
2018	47.9	8.1	8.7	16.8

Data presented in Table 3, Table 4, Table 5 and Supplementary Table 21 are summarised here to describe abortion and birth for teenage women.

#### 4.2.2 Abortion rate by health region of residence

Overall, for the three year period 2016 to 2018, the country regions had higher rates of teenage pregnancies (29.2 per 1,000) compared to the metropolitan regions (16.1 per 1,000). However, the abortion rate was similar between the two regions (8 per 1,000 in the country and 7.9 per 1,000 in the Metropolitan regions). This was consistent with the previous triennium.

The Kimberley maintained its position as the region with the highest rates of teenage pregnancy and births, although these figures decreased significantly from the previous report. The rate of teenage pregnancy in this region dropped from 88.8 to 65.3 per 1,000 and the birth rate from 69.6 to 55.4 per 1,000 (Hutchinson M, Ballestas T, 2018).

The region with the highest teenage abortion rate was also the Kimberley, with a rate of 9.6 per 1,000.

Birth rates were higher than abortion rates for teenage women in all regions except North Metro (Table 7).

**Table 7: Abortion, birth and pregnancy rates for teenage women by health region of residence, WA, 2016-2018**

Health region of residence	Abortions	Live births	Births	Population women aged 15-19 years	Abortion rate	Birth rate	Pregnancy rate
	N	N	N	N	per 1,000	per 1,000	per 1,000
East Metro	537	645	652	56,594	9.5	11.4	21
North Metro	443	333	337	66,823	6.6	5	11.7
South Metro	469	509	512	59,542	7.9	8.5	16.5
<b>Metropolitan</b>	<b>1,449</b>	<b>1,487</b>	<b>1,501</b>	<b>182,959</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>16.1</b>
Goldfields	46	125	126	5,003	9.2	25	34.4
Great Southern	37	81	83	5,138	7.2	15.8	23.4
Kimberley	31	179	180	3,233	9.6	55.4	65.3
Midwest	46	153	156	5,646	8.1	27.1	35.8
Pilbara	31	93	93	3,383	9.2	27.5	36.7
South West	108	190	190	15,853	6.8	12	18.8
Wheatbelt	48	96	96	5,250	9.1	18.3	27.4
<b>Country</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>43,506</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>29.2</b>
<b>Overall state</b>	<b>1,803</b>	<b>2,408</b>	<b>2,430</b>	<b>226,465</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>18.7</b>

Postcodes were not provided in 3 notifications.

## 4.3 Place of residence

### 4.3.1 Abortion rate by health region of residence

The East Metropolitan Health Service (East Metro) was created in 2016. In this report, abortion rates have been analysed by the health region of residence of women in the newly defined regions.

Consistent with previous years, the overall abortion rate in the metro regions was higher than the overall abortion rate in the country regions for the years 2016 to 2018.

The abortion rate for metropolitan regions decreased from 18.4 in 2010 to 14.9 per 1,000 in 2018.

Similarly, the abortion rate for country regions decreased in the period from 2010 (12.4 per 1,000) to 2018 (11.2 per 1,000), although to a lesser degree.

Since 2010 the East Metro region has consistently had the highest abortion rates in the state, although the rates have been decreasing (Table 8).

In 2017 and 2018, the Pilbara region had the lowest abortion rates in WA. Previously, it was the Goldfields region that had the lowest abortion rates in the state since 2010.

**Table 8: Abortion rate by health region of residence, WA, 2010-2018**

Health region of residence	Calendar Years								
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
East Metro	20.8	19.9	19.3	18.2	17.6	16.8	16.8	17.1	16.2
North Metro	16.4	17.0	15.5	15.2	15.2	14.7	14.5	14.0	14.2
South Metro	18.0	17.6	16.4	16.2	16.2	15.7	15.3	13.8	14.1
<b>Metropolitan</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14.9</b>
Goldfields	9.5	10.3	8.9	7.5	7.5	6.8	7.2	12	11.7
Great Southern	10.9	10.5	10.6	10.9	11.5	11.4	12.1	8.8	8.4
Kimberley	13.1	11.2	13.7	15.7	13.9	11.0	12.2	12.9	10.5
Midwest	13.7	16.2	14.5	14.5	15.9	14.0	10.3	12.2	10.8
Pilbara	11.8	15.7	14.1	11.9	11.9	11.0	8.3	7.2	8.2
South West	13.4	14.7	12.8	14.0	14.8	12.9	12.1	12.6	12.2
Wheatbelt	13.3	13.4	13.5	14.1	13.0	13.6	11.8	11.9	13.9
<b>Country</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>11.2</b>
<b>Overall State</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>14.3</b>

### 4.3.2 Abortion rate by health region map

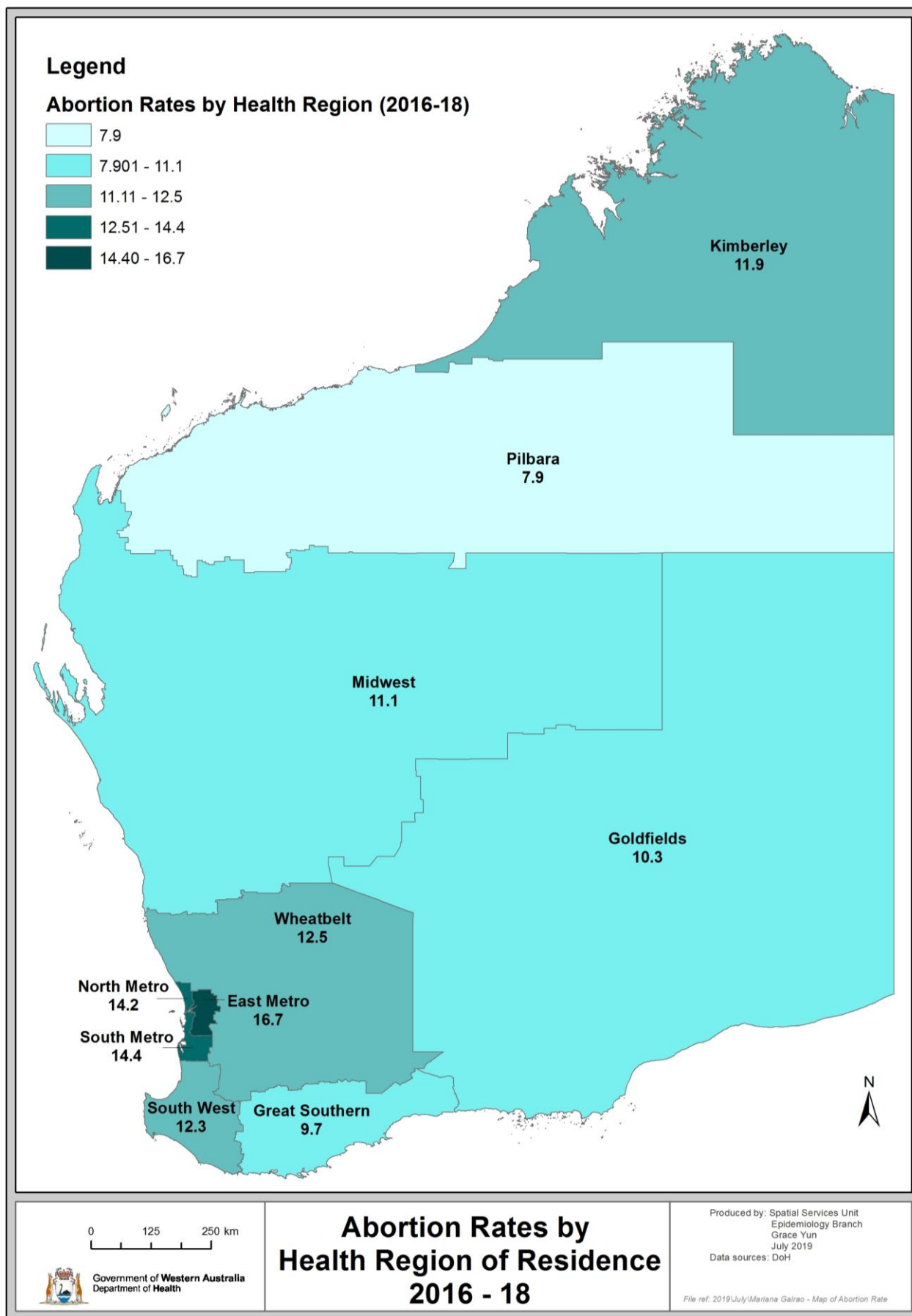
To reduce apparent variability caused by small numbers for each health region, the abortion rate for the total three year period from 2016 to 2018 was calculated.

The combined abortion rate for the three years 2016 to 2018 had wide variability by health region ranging from 7.9 per 1,000 in the Pilbara to 16.7 per 1,000 in East Metro.

East, South and North metro were the areas with the highest abortion rates. Conversely, the Pilbara, Great Southern and Goldfields were the regions with the lowest rates (Figure 3). This is unchanged from previous reports (Hutchinson M, Ballestas T, 2018).



**Figure 3: Abortion rate by health region of residence, WA, 2016-2018 combined**



### 4.3.3 Abortion rate by health region of residence and age group

For all health regions, the 20 to 24 year age group had the highest abortion rate (22.5 per 1,000) with the highest rate in East Metro (25.2 per 1,000).

Women aged 40 to 44 had the lowest abortion rate in all health regions (5.2 per 10,000) with the lowest rate in the Goldfields and the Kimberley (2.5 per 1,000) (Table 9). This was similar to the previous triennium (Hutchinson M, Ballestas T, 2018).

**Table 9: Abortion rate by health region of residence and age group, WA, 2016-2018 combined**

Health region of residence	Age group (years)						Overall rate
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
East Metro	9.5	25.2	23.0	18.3	12.7	5.7	16.7
North Metro	6.6	20.8	21.0	16.5	12.2	5.5	14.2
South Metro	7.9	21.8	20.4	16.8	11.7	5.7	14.4
<b>Metropolitan</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>15.2</b>
Goldfields	9.2	21.2	10.8	9.6	3.2	2.5	10.3
Great Southern	7.2	18.6	12.8	12.2	8.7	3.2	9.7
Kimberley	9.6	22.1	13.1	14.6	8.1	2.5	11.9
Midwest	8.1	18.8	19.0	11.9	9.1	3.9	11.1
Pilbara	9.2	14.0	9.9	6.8	8.4	3.2	7.9
South West	6.8	23.9	20.6	13.6	9.6	3.6	12.3
Wheatbelt	9.1	21.0	17.2	16.7	10.7	5.3	12.5
<b>Country</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>11.1</b>
<b>Overall State</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>14.5</b>

## 4.4 Aboriginal women

Between 1999 and 2018, the WA population of Aboriginal women of reproductive age (15 to 44 years) increased by 54 per cent. The steepest increase was observed among Aboriginal women aged between 20 and 29 years (Supplementary Table 26).

In 2018, 4.2 per cent of women of reproductive age were Aboriginal (Supplementary Table 26).

### 4.4.1 Abortion rate

While fairly stable between 2010 and 2016 at around 10 per 1,000, the abortion rate for Aboriginal women increased in 2017 and again in 2018 to 12.9 and 14.1 per 1,000 respectively.

Despite this increase, the abortion rate in Aboriginal women remained lower than that of non-Aboriginal women (Table 10).

**Table 10: Abortion number and rate by Aboriginal status, WA, 2010-2018**

Year	Aboriginal			non-Aboriginal			Total abortions
	Abortions N	Pop N	Abortion rate Per 1,000	Abortions N	Pop N	Abortion rate Per 1,000	
2010	216	20,371	10.6	8,222	465,537	17.7	8,438
2011	236	20,772	11.4	8,487	478,916	17.7	8,723
2012	225	21,144	10.6	8,240	496,662	16.6	8,465
2013	220	21,498	10.2	8,288	512,723	16.2	8,508
2014	219	21,850	10.0	8,297	519,352	16.0	8,516
2015	223	22,207	10.0	7,956	521,422	15.3	8,179
2016	230	22,707	10.1	7,625	511,238	14.9	7,855
2017	295	22,860	12.9	7,533	519,890	14.5	7,828
2018	325	23,057	14.1	7,491	523,889	14.3	7,816

Aboriginal status was not provided for 2,635 cases for the period 2010 to 2018 and these cases were included in the non-Aboriginal cases reported above.

Estimated Resident Populations for WA used to calculate abortion rate are provided in Supplementary Table 26 and Supplementary Table 27.

#### 4.4.2 Abortion rate by age group and health region of residence

For both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women, those aged between 20 and 24 years had the highest rate of abortion (17.3 and 22.8 per 1,000 respectively) and those aged 40 to 44 years had the lowest abortion rates (2.2 and 5.3 per 1,000 respectively).

Aboriginal women who lived in the metropolitan regions had a higher abortion rate (14.1 per 1,000) than those who lived in the country regions (10.8 per 1,000) (Table 11). This had changed from the previous triennium during which abortion rates were similar in both regions (9.5 in the metro regions and 10.5 in the country regions). For all three metro regions increases in abortion rates were observed for Aboriginal women from rates for previous years (Hutchinson M, Ballestas T, 2018).

For non-Aboriginal women, abortion rates were also higher in the metropolitan regions (15.2 per 1,000) compared to the country regions (11.1 per 1,000) (Table 11). However, for this population, this was a decrease in rates from the last triennium, unlike their Aboriginal counterparts.

**Table 11: Abortion rate by Aboriginal status, age group and health region of residence, WA, 2016-2018 combined**

Health region of residence	Age group (Years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
<b>Aboriginal (per 1,000)</b>							
East Metro	12.8	17	22.6	14.3	7.9	3.2	14.1
North Metro	15.1	17.6	17.9	23	5.9	6.8	15.6
South Metro	7.8	19.9	17	15.2	13.3	0.9	12.9
<b>Metro</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>14.1</b>
<b>Country</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>10.8</b>
<b>Overall state</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>12.4</b>
<b>non-Aboriginal (per 1,000)</b>							
East Metro	9.3	25.6	23.0	18.4	13.3	5.7	16.8
North Metro	6.4	20.9	21.0	16.4	13.3	5.5	14.2
South Metro	7.9	21.8	20.5	16.9	12.9	5.8	14.4
<b>Metro</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>15.2</b>
<b>Country</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>11.1</b>
<b>Overall State</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>14.6</b>

Postcode of residence was not provided or was not within WA for 76 cases.

These data must be interpreted with caution due to the small numbers used for calculation of the abortion rate. Data for country regions were not provided due to small numbers.

Abortion data used for calculation of abortion rates for Aboriginal women are provided in Supplementary Table 28.

Population data used for calculation of abortion rates for Aboriginal women are provided in Supplementary Table 29.

#### 4.4.3 Abortion proportion by age group and health region of residence

For the three year period from 2016 to 2018, pregnancies for Aboriginal women had a lower proportion of abortions (13.5 per cent) than did pregnancies for non-Aboriginal women (18.9 per cent).

However, Aboriginal women aged between 30 and 39 years had higher abortion proportions than their non-Aboriginal counterparts both in the country and Perth metropolitan areas. In the previous triennium, Aboriginal women had higher abortion proportions than non-Aboriginal women only in the North Metropolitan region.

For all age groups, Aboriginal women living in Perth metropolitan regions had higher abortion proportions than those who lived in the country. The same applied to non-Aboriginal women with the exception of women aged 40 to 44 years, who had higher abortion proportions in the country (26.9 per cent) compared to the proportion for metropolitan regions (25.9 per cent).

**Table 12: Abortion proportion by Aboriginal status, age group and health region of residence, WA, 2016-2018 combined**

Health region of residence	Age group (Years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
<b>Aboriginal (per cent)</b>							
East Metro	17.7	12.6	16.9	14.6	16.3	23.8	15.3
North Metro	26.7	16.7	18	24.7	13.3	41.7	20.8
South Metro	16.5	14.5	15.5	16.7	25.6	9.1	16
<b>Metro</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>16.6</b>
<b>Country</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>11.4</b>
<b>Overall state</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>13.5</b>
<b>non-Aboriginal (per cent)</b>							
East Metro	51.2	36.9	21.0	14.2	15.2	25.6	20.9
North Metro	61.1	40.6	21.4	11.6	14.3	24.9	19.4
South Metro	51.2	33.9	17.5	12.2	15.1	27.3	19.0
<b>Metro</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>19.8</b>
<b>Country</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>14.4</b>
<b>Overall state</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>34.3</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>18.9</b>

Postcode of residence was not provided or was not within WA for 76 cases.

These data must be interpreted with caution due to the small numbers used for calculation of the abortion rate. Data for country regions were not provided due to small numbers.

Abortion data used for calculation of abortion proportion for Aboriginal women are provided in Supplementary Table 28.

Population data used for calculation of abortion proportion for Aboriginal women are provided in Supplementary Table 29.

Live birth data used for calculation of abortion proportion for Aboriginal women are provided in Supplementary Table 30.

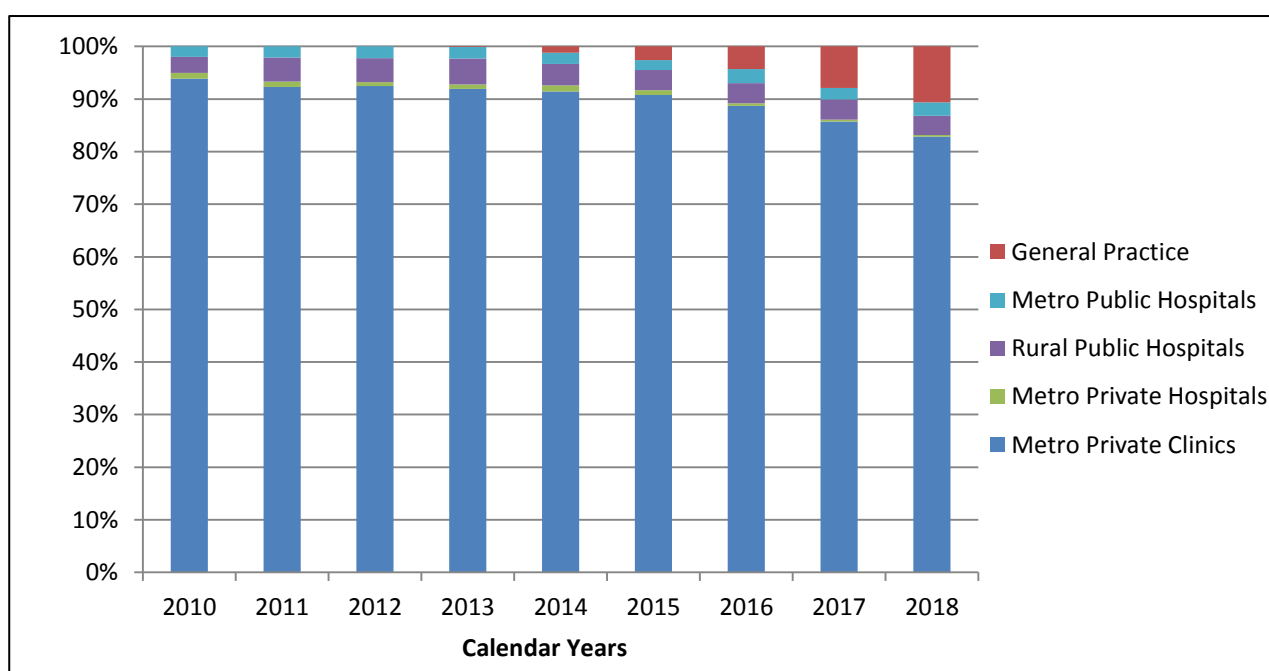
## 5 Health service category

Since 2010, the largest number of WA abortions occurred in private clinics in the metropolitan region. However, the proportion decreased slightly over the years from 93.8 per cent to 82.8 per cent.

The proportion of abortions that were performed in metropolitan public hospitals remained stable between 2 and 2.6 per cent over the last nine years. Rural public hospitals performed less than 5 per cent of WA induced abortions in the same time period.

The availability of Mifepristone since 2012 for abortions at gestations less than 49 days (from 2014 for gestations less than 63 days) enabled induced abortion to be managed in a general practice setting. In 2013, general practice accounted for 0.1 per cent of induced abortions. By 2018, this figure was 10.6 per cent of induced abortions (Figure 4).

**Figure 4: Percentage of abortions by health service category, WA, 2010-2018**



Data displayed in the graph are provided in Supplementary Table 31.

## 6 Gestational age

Gestational age refers to the number of completed weeks since the first day of the last menstrual period. It is often calculated using ultrasound and includes a comparison of measured fetal growth with standard growth charts.

Since 2014, Mifepristone was available for abortion at a gestational age of 63 days (9 weeks) or less. That year, abortions performed at 9 weeks gestation or less accounted for 79.8 per cent; in 2018 they accounted for 82.1 per cent.

Abortions performed between 10 and 13 weeks gestation increased from 12 per cent in 2010 to 14.4 per cent in 2014 and since then became less frequent, being 11.8 per cent in 2018 (Table 13).

The percentage of abortions performed between 14 and 19 weeks remained stable ranging between 4.3 and 6.1 per cent since 2010 (Table 13).

Abortions performed at a gestational age of 20 weeks or more increased from 0.5 per cent in 2010 to 1.1 per cent of all abortions in 2018 (Table 13). In the same period, the number of births that resulted in a liveborn infant increased by 7 per cent from 31,038 to 33,206 (Table 14).

**Table 13: Abortion number and percentage by gestational age group, WA, 2010-2018**

Year	Gestational age (completed weeks)				Total
	≤ 9	10-13	14-19	≥ 20	
<b>Number</b>					
2010	7,019	1,013	362	44	8,438
2011	7,067	1,173	423	60	8,723
2012	6,838	1,121	437	67	8,463
2013	6,809	1,175	453	70	8,507
2014	6,798	1,228	419	71	8,516
2015	6,579	1,137	387	76	8,179
2016	6,284	1,011	482	78	7,855
2017	6,384	1,012	355	77	7,828
2018	6,417	925	391	83	7,816
<b>Per cent</b>					
2010	83.2	12.0	4.3	0.5	100
2011	81.0	13.4	4.8	0.7	100
2012	80.8	13.2	5.2	0.8	100
2013	80.0	13.8	5.3	0.8	100
2014	79.8	14.4	4.9	0.8	100
2015	80.4	13.9	4.7	0.9	100
2016	80.0	12.9	6.1	1.0	100
2017	81.6	12.9	4.5	1.0	100
2018	82.1	11.8	5.0	1.1	100

Gestational age was not able to be determined for 3 cases before 2014 and therefore these cases were excluded.

**Table 14: Abortion number and abortion and birth rates for abortions from 20 weeks gestation, WA, 2010-2018**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Abortions Number</b>	<b>Live births Number</b>	<b>Population Number</b>	<b>Abortion rate Per 1,000</b>	<b>Birth Rate Per 1,000</b>
2010	44	31,038	485,908	0.09	63.9
2011	60	31,923	499,688	0.12	63.9
2012	67	33,625	517,806	0.13	64.9
2013	70	34,190	534,221	0.13	64.0
2014	71	34,957	542,202	0.13	64.5
2015	76	34,757	543,629	0.14	63.9
2016	78	35,656	533,945	0.15	66.8
2017	77	34,308	542,740	0.14	63.2
2018	83	33,206	546,946	0.15	60.7



## 7 Method of abortion

Between 2006 and August 2012, Mifepristone was available for use in Australia via the Therapeutic Goods Administration Authorised Prescriber Scheme. In 2012, Mifepristone was added to the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG). In 2014, Mifepristone in combination with Misoprostol was approved for the induction of abortions up to 63 days (9 weeks) gestation. In 2015, Mifepristone alone was added to the ARTG for termination of pregnancy beyond the first trimester.

From 2010 to 2018, abortions performed using only medication increased from 11.8 to 33 per cent of total abortions. Abortions performed using vacuum aspiration with or without medication decreased from 86.3 to 51.5 per cent in the same period (Table 15).

Use of Form 1 to notify method of termination changed over the period since 2001. This change was due to use of new medications and procedures and changes in terminology.

The shift from vaginal to oral administration of medication resulted in reduced medication use with surgical procedures; and procedures previously described as “vacuum aspiration” are now reported as “dilatation and evacuation”. Both these changes resulted in a change in data notified for the number and proportion of abortions performed by each method particularly since 2013 (Table 15).

**Table 15: Number and percentage of abortions by abortion method, WA, 2010-2018**

Year	Method of abortion						Total
	Vacuum <sup>3</sup>	Vacuum & med <sup>4</sup>	Medication only <sup>5</sup>	D&C <sup>6</sup>	D&E <sup>7</sup>	Other <sup>8</sup>	
<b>Number</b>							
2010	5,891	1,392	995	21	17	122	8,438
2011	5,580	1,552	1,334	61	22	174	8,723
2012	5,635	1,696	954	50	22	107	8,464
2013	6,266	1,009	1,034	71	47	81	8,508
2014	6,599	108	1,346	54	311	98	8,516
2015	6,224	77	1,342	97	358	81	8,179
2016	5,164	69	1,971	66	526	59	7,855
2017	4,528	54	2,293	16	876	61	7,828
2018	4,012	18	2,577	22	1,161	26	7,816
<b>Per cent</b>							
2010	69.8	16.5	11.8	0.2	0.2	1.4	100.0
2011	64.0	17.8	15.3	0.7	0.3	2.0	100.0
2012	66.6	20.0	11.3	0.6	0.3	1.3	100.0
2013	73.6	11.9	12.2	0.8	0.6	1.0	100.0
2014	77.5	1.3	15.8	0.6	3.7	1.2	100.0
2015	76.1	0.9	16.4	1.2	4.4	1.1	100.0
2016	65.7	0.9	25.1	0.8	6.7	0.8	100.0
2017	57.8	0.7	29.3	0.2	11.2	0.8	100.0
2018	51.3	0.2	33.0	0.3	14.9	0.3	100.0

<sup>3</sup> Vacuum was the only procedure reported

<sup>4</sup> Vacuum procedure was reported in combination with medications like Prostaglandin, Methotrexate or Mifepristone

<sup>5</sup> 'Medication only' excludes surgical procedures. It includes any method stated to be "medical" or use of medications such as Prostaglandin, Methotrexate or Mifepristone alone or in combination.

<sup>6</sup> Dilatation & Curettage procedures whether or not medication was given or other surgical procedures performed.

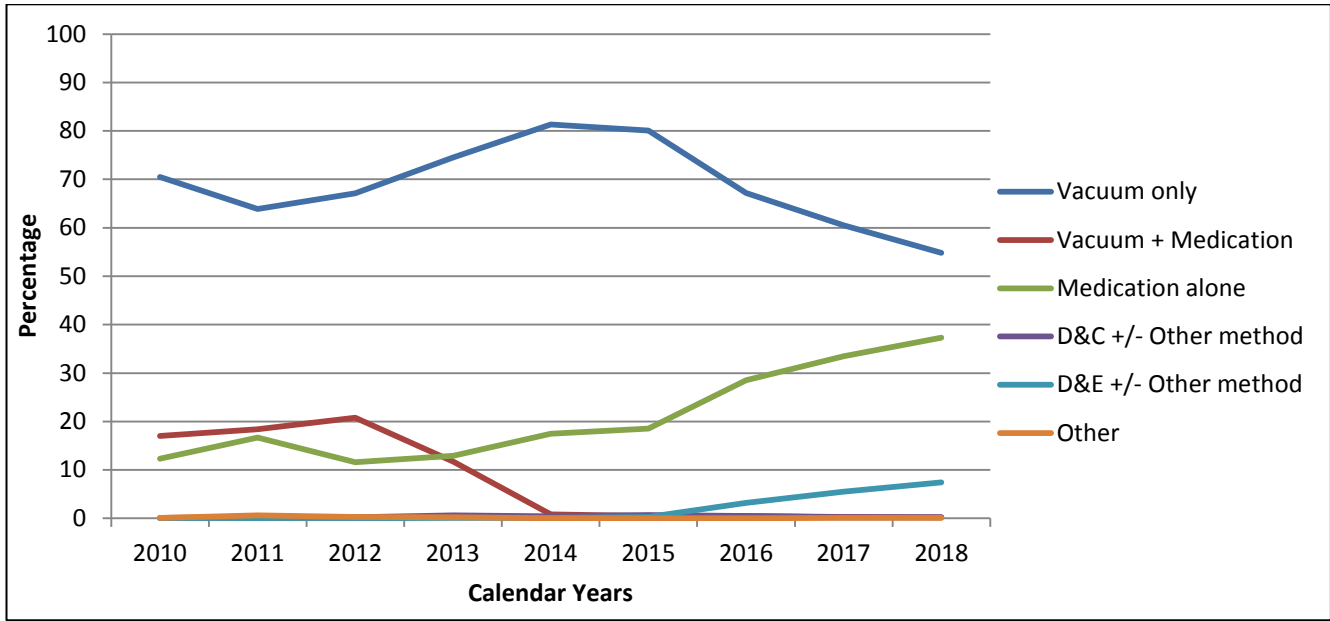
<sup>7</sup> Dilatation and Evacuation procedures whether or not medication was given, excluding those where Vacuum or D&C were also reported.

<sup>8</sup> "Other" procedure reported or many procedures reported in a combination not included in other groups.

### 7.1 Method of abortion up to 9 weeks gestation

For abortions performed up to 9 weeks gestation in all years, the most common abortion method was vacuum aspiration although the use of this method reduced in recent years, from 81.3 per cent in 2014 to 54.8 per cent in 2018. The use of medication alone increased since 2010. It was the method of choice for 12.3 per cent of abortions up to 9 weeks gestation in 2010 and 37.3 per cent in 2018 (Figure 5).

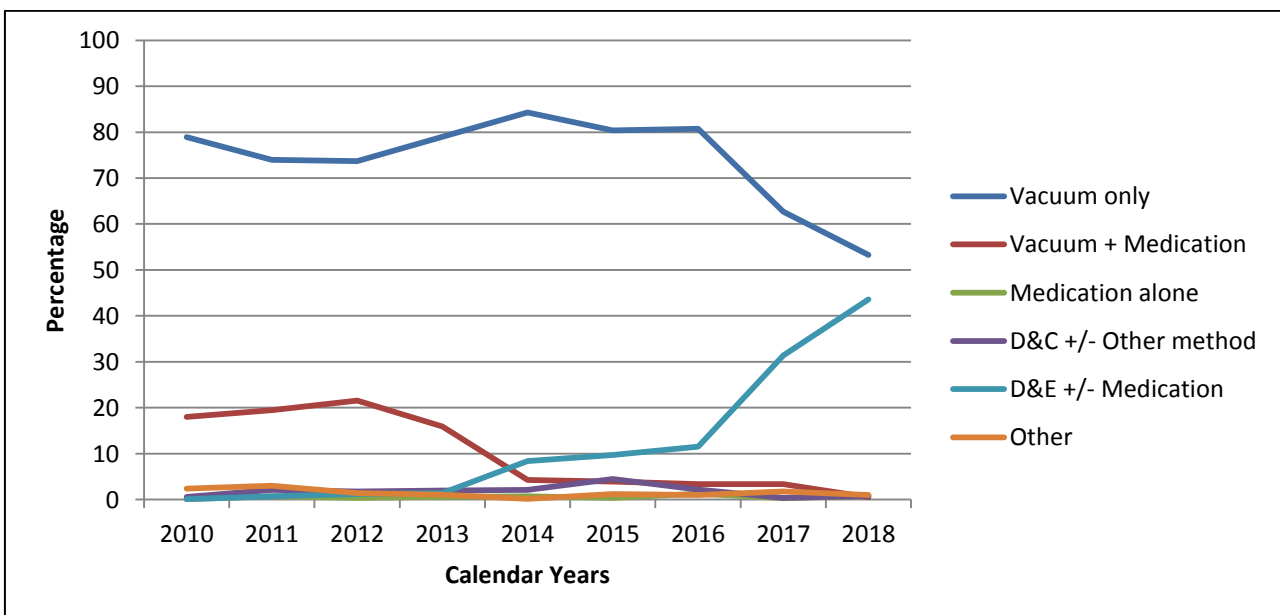
**Figure 5: Percentage of abortions up to 9 weeks gestation by abortion method, WA, 2010-2018**



### 7.2 Method of abortion between 10 and 13 weeks gestation

For abortions performed between 10 and 13 weeks gestation, the most common method remained vacuum aspiration. However, the use of Dilation and Evacuation (D&E) steadily increased to become as common as vacuum aspiration for these gestations. The combined use of vacuum aspiration and medication decreased after 2012 but the proportion of other methods used remained fairly stable (Figure 6).

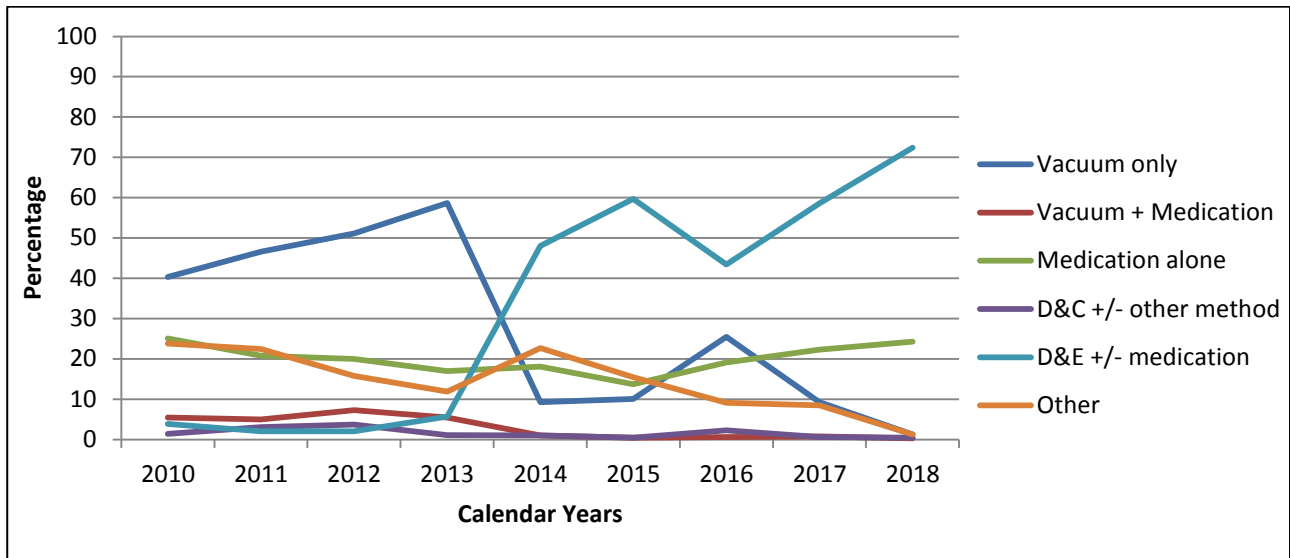
**Figure 6: Percentage of abortion between 10 and 13 weeks gestation by abortion method, WA, 2010-2018**



### 7.3 Method of abortion between 14 and 19 weeks gestation

The majority of abortions performed between 14 and 19 weeks gestation were done by D&E (72.4 per cent in 2018). The next most common method was medication alone (24.3 per cent). Both these methods were increasingly used in recent years (Figure 7).

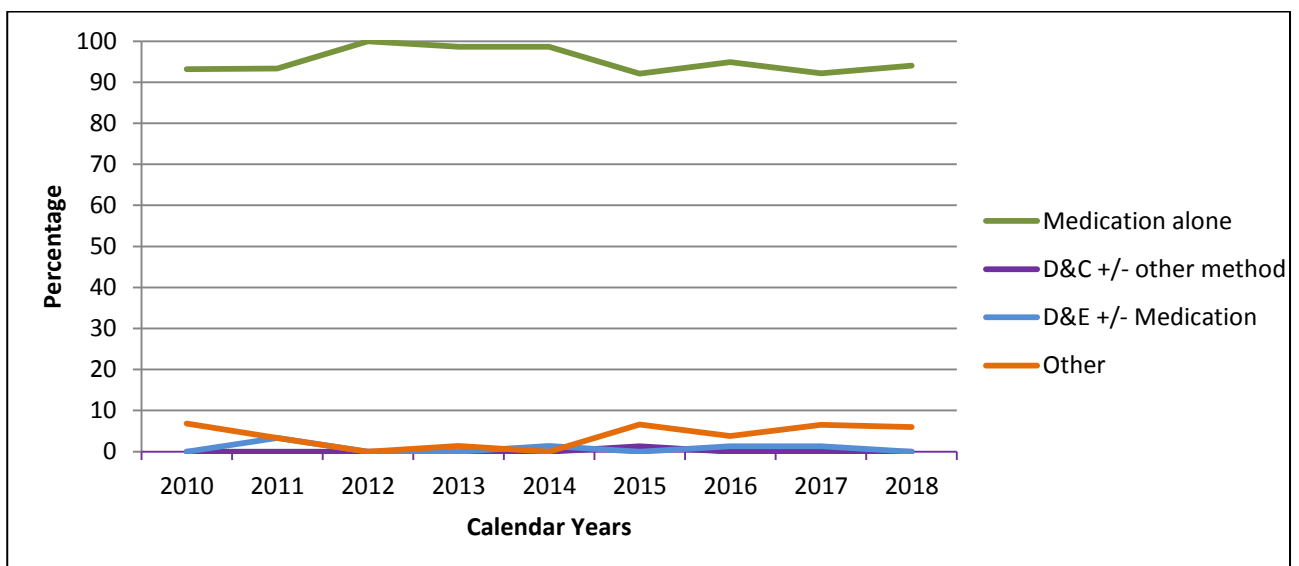
**Figure 7: Percentage of abortions between 14 and 19 weeks gestation by abortion method, WA, 2010-2018**



### 7.4 Method of abortion from 20 weeks gestation

For abortions performed at 20 weeks gestation or more, a medical induction of labour process was the most common method. There were occasional cases where a combination of methods was used (Figure 8).

**Figure 8: Percentage of abortions from 20 weeks gestation by abortion method, WA, 2010-2018**



## 8 Fetal anomaly

Reason for abortion was notified as either fetal anomaly (suspected or confirmed), or 'other' (including selective reduction of multiple pregnancies). Since 2010 the proportion of induced abortions performed for fetal anomalies did not change notably and was 3.2 per cent in 2018 (Table 16).

**Table 16: Number and percentage of abortions for fetal anomaly, WA, 2010-2018**

Year	Reason for abortion		Total
	Fetal Anomaly <sup>3</sup>	Other Reason	
<b>Number</b>			
2010	257	8,181	8,438
2011	261	8,462	8,723
2012	231	8,234	8,465
2013	277	8,231	8,508
2014	247	8,269	8,516
2015	222	7,957	8,179
2016	279	7,576	7,855
2017	205	7,623	7,828
2018	247	7,569	7,816
<b>Per cent</b>			
2010	3.0	97.0	100
2011	3.0	97.0	100
2012	2.7	97.3	100
2013	3.3	96.7	100
2014	2.9	97.1	100
2015	2.7	97.3	100
2016	3.6	96.4	100
2017	2.6	97.4	100
2018	3.2	96.8	100

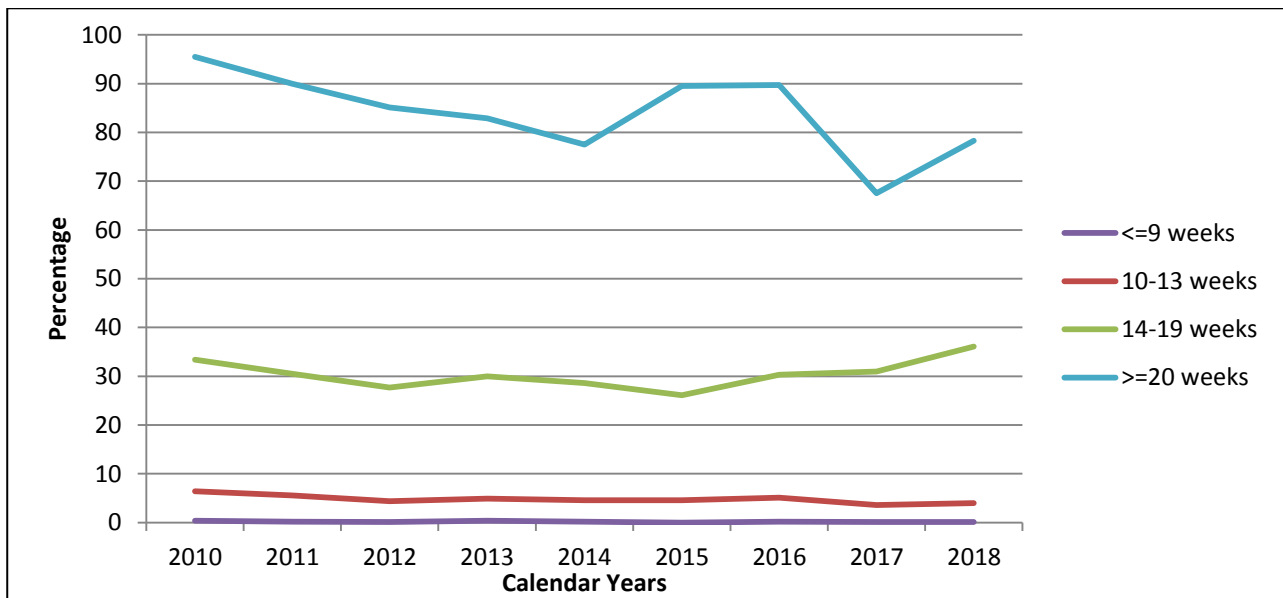
<sup>3</sup> Fetal anomaly includes suspected and confirmed fetal anomaly

### 8.1 Abortion for fetal anomaly by gestational age

Fetal anomaly was the most common reason for abortions performed at gestations of at least 20 weeks, accounting for over 67 per cent of abortions at this gestation in the last 3 years.

In the same period, fetal anomaly accounted for: between 30.3 and 36.1 per cent of abortions performed between 14 and 19 weeks; between 4 and 5.1 per cent of abortions performed between 10 and 13 weeks and less than 0.2 per cent of abortions performed at less than 9 weeks gestation (Figure 9).

**Figure 9: Percentage of abortions for fetal anomaly by gestational age group, WA, 2010-2018**



Data displayed in the graph are provided in Supplementary Table 36.

## 9 National and international comparison

The ability to compare the rates of abortions in WA with those in other jurisdictions is affected by differences in legislation and reporting.

Appendix A provides a summary of the legislation and abortion access in other jurisdictions.

Only the jurisdictions publishing official abortion reports using the same population definition as WA (i.e. women aged between 15 and 44), were used for comparison. These are presented in Table 17.

WA had an abortion rate lower than England and Wales and higher than the Northern Territory, South Australia, Scotland and the Netherlands for the same time period.

**Table 17: Abortion rates for all jurisdictions, 2010-2018**

Jurisdiction	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
England and Wales	17.1	17.2	16.4	16.5	16.5	17.0	16.6	17.3	18.0
Western Australia	<b>17.4</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>14.6</b>
South Australia	15.5	15.5	14.7	14.4	13.8	13.5	13.2	N/A	N/A
Northern Territory	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.1
Scotland	12.2	11.9	12.0	11.5	11.4	11.7	11.7	12.1	12.9
Netherlands	8.7	8.7	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.6	N/A

N/A – data not available at time of publication

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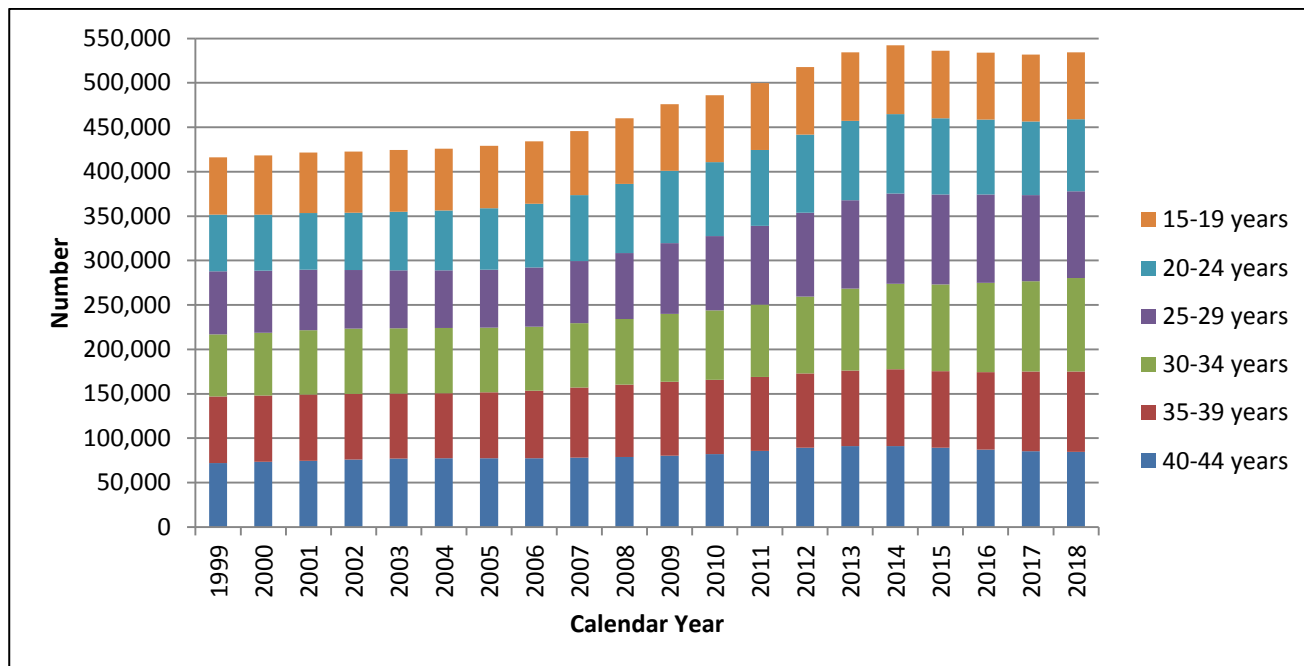
## 11 Supplementary tables and figures

**Supplementary Table 18: Population of Women by reproductive age group, WA, 1999-2018**

Year	Age group (years)						Total 15-44
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
1999	64,552	63,953	70,807	69,843	74,926	72,122	<b>416,203</b>
2000	66,485	63,301	69,930	70,453	74,799	73,321	<b>418,289</b>
2001	68,199	63,936	67,933	72,334	74,566	74,671	<b>421,639</b>
2002	68,840	64,754	65,959	73,409	73,905	75,895	<b>422,762</b>
2003	69,419	66,064	65,039	73,721	73,060	77,032	<b>424,335</b>
2004	69,717	67,332	64,973	73,211	73,223	77,510	<b>425,966</b>
2005	70,138	69,239	65,455	72,678	74,079	77,536	<b>429,125</b>
2006	70,360	71,422	66,784	71,898	76,101	77,533	<b>434,098</b>
2007	72,257	74,122	69,952	72,250	79,250	77,981	<b>445,812</b>
2008	73,966	77,632	74,569	73,635	81,667	78,706	<b>460,175</b>
2009	74,929	81,366	79,805	76,181	83,164	80,438	<b>475,883</b>
2010	75,043	83,264	83,755	77,956	83,665	82,225	<b>485,908</b>
2011	75,240	85,545	88,461	81,396	83,311	85,735	<b>499,688</b>
2012	76,104	87,792	94,470	86,452	83,780	89,208	<b>517,806</b>
2013	76,846	89,418	99,548	92,284	85,146	90,979	<b>534,221</b>
2014	77,567	89,163	101,721	96,101	86,628	91,022	<b>542,202</b>
2015	77,866	85,787	101,248	97,970	86,009	89,266	<b>536,146</b>
2016	75,442	84,076	99,564	100,451	87,352	87,060	<b>533,945</b>
2017	75,266	82,844	96,806	101,802	89,779	85,273	<b>531,770</b>
2018	75,050	81,096	97,735	105,325	90,502	84,477	<b>534,185</b>

Data supplied by Epidemiology Branch, Public Health Division, Department of Health WA.

**Supplementary Figure 10: Population of women of reproductive age, WA, 1999-2018**



**Supplementary Table 19: Live birth number by maternal age group, WA, 2010-2018**

Year	Age group (years)						Total 15-44
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
2010	1,352	4,727	8,831	9,587	5,384	1,157	<b>31,038</b>
2011	1,371	4,751	9,103	9,988	5,435	1,275	<b>31,923</b>
2012	1,333	4,929	9,613	10,824	5,636	1,290	<b>33,625</b>
2013	1,235	4,956	9,658	11,321	5,683	1,341	<b>34,194</b>
2014	1,079	4,706	9,999	11,752	6,065	1,356	<b>34,957</b>
2015	969	4,449	9,958	12,195	5,943	1,243	<b>34,757</b>
2016	925	4,353	9,920	12,735	6,399	1,324	<b>35,656</b>
2017	827	4,063	9,417	12,263	6,418	1,320	<b>34,308</b>
2018	656	3,764	9,044	12,162	6,284	1,296	<b>33,206</b>

Source: Midwives Notification System extracted 29/05/2019

**Supplementary Table 20: Live birth and still birth number by maternal age group, WA, 2010-2018**

Year	Age group (years)						Total 15-44
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
2010	1,359	4,768	8,871	9,631	5,421	1,162	<b>31,212</b>
2011	1,382	4,792	9,156	10,044	5,474	1,287	<b>32,135</b>
2012	1,345	4,963	9,664	10,861	5,661	1,301	<b>33,795</b>
2013	1,243	4,975	9,698	11,362	5,702	1,351	<b>34,331</b>
2014	1,086	4,726	10,048	11,808	6,104	1,363	<b>35,135</b>
2015	975	4,465	9,994	12,240	5,978	1,253	<b>34,905</b>
2016	931	4,378	9,949	12,798	6,422	1,334	<b>35,812</b>
2017	835	4,078	9,464	12,318	6,444	1,330	<b>34,469</b>
2018	660	3,786	9,073	12,209	6,317	1,302	<b>33,347</b>

Source: Midwives Notification System extracted 05/06/2019.

Excludes infants resulting from abortion.

**Supplementary Table 21: Abortion proportion by age group, WA, 2010-2018**

Year	Age group (years)						Total 15-44
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
2010	51.0	34.4	17.5	11.4	14.7	28.1	<b>21.3</b>
2011	49.5	35.6	17.4	12.2	15.1	24.3	<b>21.3</b>
2012	45.4	33.3	17.2	11.7	14.1	27.0	<b>20.0</b>
2013	46.0	32.4	17.9	12.0	14.5	23.9	<b>19.8</b>
2014	45.4	33.5	18.0	11.6	14.2	24.5	<b>19.5</b>
2015	42.0	32.7	17.9	11.7	14.3	27.6	<b>19.0</b>
2016	40.3	30.9	17.5	11.5	13.9	24.8	<b>18.0</b>
2017	40.3	31.3	18.8	12.3	13.8	25.2	<b>18.5</b>
2018	47.9	32.2	18.3	12.6	15.3	26.8	<b>18.9</b>

Source: Abortion Notification System extracted 22/05/2019.

Age at last birthday was not provided for 335 cases.

Abortion number used to calculate abortion proportions are provided in Table 3.

Live birth numbers used to calculate abortion proportions are provided in Supplementary Table 19.

**Supplementary Table 22: Abortion number by health region, WA, 2010-2018**

<b>Health region of residence</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
East Metro	2,708	2,691	2,725	2,675	2,643	2,557	2,579	2,697	2,600
North Metro	2,322	2,466	2,322	2,353	2,374	2,299	2,193	2,149	2,193
South Metro	2,078	2,100	2,033	2,084	2,121	2,066	1,976	1,819	1,875
<b>Metropolitan</b>	<b>7,108</b>	<b>7,257</b>	<b>7,080</b>	<b>7,112</b>	<b>7,138</b>	<b>6,922</b>	<b>6,748</b>	<b>6,665</b>	<b>6,668</b>
Goldfields	121	132	116	98	95	84	85	140	133
Great Southern	112	108	108	118	119	115	120	88	83
Kimberley	111	95	121	145	126	100	106	113	92
Midwest	169	207	187	189	204	177	124	146	127
Pilbara	151	208	189	162	161	145	107	92	104
South West	401	452	403	453	482	426	391	413	402
Wheatbelt	171	170	172	179	162	166	142	142	164
Other	100	102	93	60	29	43	32	29	43
<b>Country</b>	<b>1,236</b>	<b>1,372</b>	<b>1,296</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,213</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>1,105</b>
<b>WA</b>	<b>8,368</b>	<b>8,649</b>	<b>8,402</b>	<b>8,484</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>8,152</b>	<b>7,855</b>	<b>7,828</b>	<b>7,816</b>

Source: Abortion Notification System extracted 05/06/2019.

*Other* refers to notifications of abortions performed in WA for women from overseas and interstate.

**Supplementary Table 23: Population of women of reproductive age by health region, WA 2010-2018**

<b>Health region of residence</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
East Metro	130,033	135,034	141,309	147,210	150,479	152,610	153,503	157,597	160,550
North Metro	141,310	145,074	150,163	154,413	156,504	156,667	151,662	153,517	154,167
South Metro	115,515	119,131	123,996	128,533	130,697	131,752	129,195	131,801	133,167
<b>Metropolitan</b>	<b>386,858</b>	<b>399,239</b>	<b>415,468</b>	<b>430,156</b>	<b>437,680</b>	<b>441,029</b>	<b>434,360</b>	<b>442,915</b>	<b>447,884</b>
Goldfields	12,734	12,862	12,979	13,035	12,658	12,376	11,813	11,637	11,377
Great Southern	9,940	10,025	10,139	10,370	10,372	10,327	9,940	10,009	9,937
Kimberley	8,468	8,454	8,822	9,219	9,077	9,053	8,672	8,764	8,750
Midwest	12,223	12,507	12,706	12,874	12,820	12,649	11,996	11,934	11,715
Pilbara	12,807	13,251	13,417	13,618	13,474	13,133	12,853	12,749	12,615
South West	30,037	30,704	31,534	32,221	32,649	32,852	32,265	32,786	32,905
Wheatbelt	12,841	12,646	12,741	12,728	12,472	12,210	12,046	11,956	11,763
<b>Country</b>	<b>99,050</b>	<b>100,449</b>	<b>102,338</b>	<b>104,065</b>	<b>103,522</b>	<b>102,600</b>	<b>99,585</b>	<b>99,835</b>	<b>99,062</b>
<b>WA</b>	<b>485,908</b>	<b>499,688</b>	<b>517,806</b>	<b>534,221</b>	<b>541,202</b>	<b>543,629</b>	<b>533,945</b>	<b>542,750</b>	<b>546,946</b>

**Supplementary Table 24: Abortion number by age group and health region, WA, 2016-2018**

Health region of residence	Age groups (years)						Total 15-44
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
East Metro	537	1,909	2,277	1,782	987	384	7,876
North Metro	443	1,484	1,790	1,421	981	416	6,535
South Metro	469	1,373	1,408	1,215	830	375	5,670
<b>Metropolitan</b>	<b>1,449</b>	<b>4,766</b>	<b>5,475</b>	<b>4,418</b>	<b>2,798</b>	<b>1,175</b>	<b>20,081</b>
Goldfields	46	104	73	67	54	14	358
Great Southern	37	73	63	63	37	18	291
Kimberley	31	84	70	78	38	10	311
Midwest	46	97	118	75	37	24	397
Pilbara	31	70	84	63	36	18	302
South West	187	306	319	243	163	67	1,206
Wheatbelt	48	101	103	115	45	36	448
<b>Country</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>3,313</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>WA</b>	<b>1,803</b>	<b>5,629</b>	<b>6,331</b>	<b>5,148</b>	<b>3,219</b>	<b>1,368</b>	<b>23,498</b>

Source: Abortion Notification System extracted 05/06/2019.

*Other* refers to notifications of abortions performed in WA for women from overseas and interstate.

**Supplementary Table 25: Population of women by reproductive age group by health region, WA, 2016-2018**

Health region of residence	Age groups (years)						Total 15-44
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
East Metro	56,594	75,721	98,965	97,413	75,137	67,820	471,650
North Metro	66,823	71,192	85,270	86,187	74,104	75,770	459,346
South Metro	59,542	63,030	69,127	72,206	64,420	65,838	394,163
<b>Metropolitan</b>	<b>182,959</b>	<b>209,943</b>	<b>253,362</b>	<b>255,806</b>	<b>213,661</b>	<b>209,428</b>	<b>1,325,159</b>
Goldfields	5,003	4,902	6,777	7,002	5,506	5,637	34,827
Great Southern	5,138	3,921	4,932	5,147	5,136	5,612	29,886
Kimberley	3,233	3,794	5,325	5,334	4,567	3,933	26,186
Midwest	5,646	5,171	6,212	6,328	6,106	6,182	35,645
Pilbara	3,383	5,013	8,462	9,281	6,523	5,555	38,217
South West	15,853	12,797	15,466	17,866	17,143	18,831	97,956
Wheatbelt	5,250	4,815	5,998	6,893	5,959	6,850	35,765
<b>Country</b>	<b>43,506</b>	<b>40,413</b>	<b>53,172</b>	<b>57,851</b>	<b>50,940</b>	<b>52,600</b>	<b>298,482</b>
<b>WA</b>	<b>226,465</b>	<b>250,356</b>	<b>306,534</b>	<b>313,657</b>	<b>264,601</b>	<b>262,028</b>	<b>1,623,641</b>

**Supplementary Table 26: Population of Aboriginal women by reproductive age group, WA, 1999-2018**

Year	Age groups (years)						Total 15-44
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
1999	3,035	2,680	2,790	2,543	2,199	1,685	<b>14,932</b>
2000	3,172	2,669	2,774	2,648	2,254	1,773	<b>15,290</b>
2001	3,563	3,129	2,866	2,795	2,542	2,108	<b>17,003</b>
2002	3,663	3,198	2,877	2,817	2,629	2,186	<b>17,370</b>
2003	3,762	3,277	2,897	2,820	2,699	2,270	<b>17,725</b>
2004	3,857	3,370	2,929	2,823	2,762	2,355	<b>18,096</b>
2005	3,949	3,469	2,977	2,826	2,810	2,450	<b>18,481</b>
2006	4,037	3,574	3,030	2,832	2,847	2,542	<b>18,862</b>
2007	4,125	3,681	3,096	2,836	2,864	2,626	<b>19,228</b>
2008	4,211	3,790	3,184	2,845	2,869	2,706	<b>19,605</b>
2009	4,284	3,897	3,289	2,869	2,861	2,782	<b>19,982</b>
2010	4,373	3,993	3,406	2,907	2,853	2,839	<b>20,371</b>
2011	4,462	4,093	3,526	2,967	2,839	2,885	<b>20,772</b>
2012	4,527	4,173	3,643	3,047	2,847	2,907	<b>21,144</b>
2013	4,588	4,240	3,757	3,142	2,858	2,913	<b>21,498</b>
2014	4,653	4,303	3,863	3,238	2,885	2,908	<b>21,850</b>
2015	4,723	4,361	3,951	3,342	2,925	2,905	<b>22,207</b>
2016	4,696	4,433	4,232	3,587	2,907	2,852	<b>22,707</b>
2017	4,701	4,496	4,290	3,640	2,880	2,853	<b>22,860</b>
2018	4,709	4,552	4,373	3,710	2,868	2,845	<b>23,057</b>

**Supplementary Table 27: Population of non-Aboriginal women by reproductive age group, WA, 1999-2018**

Year	Age groups (years)						Total 15-44
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
1999	61,517	61,273	68,017	67,300	72,727	70,437	<b>401,271</b>
2000	63,313	60,632	67,156	67,805	72,545	71,548	<b>402,999</b>
2001	64,636	60,807	65,067	69,539	72,024	72,563	<b>404,636</b>
2002	65,177	61,556	63,082	70,592	71,276	73,709	<b>405,392</b>
2003	65,657	62,787	62,142	70,901	70,361	74,762	<b>406,610</b>
2004	65,860	63,962	62,044	70,388	70,461	75,155	<b>407,870</b>
2005	66,189	65,770	62,478	69,852	71,269	75,086	<b>410,644</b>
2006	66,323	67,848	63,754	69,066	73,254	74,991	<b>415,236</b>
2007	68,132	70,441	66,856	69,414	76,386	75,355	<b>426,584</b>
2008	69,755	73,842	71,385	70,790	78,798	76,000	<b>440,570</b>
2009	70,645	77,469	76,516	73,312	80,303	77,656	<b>455,901</b>
2010	70,670	79,271	80,349	75,049	80,812	79,386	<b>465,537</b>
2011	70,778	81,452	84,935	78,429	80,472	82,850	<b>478,916</b>
2012	71,577	83,619	90,827	83,405	80,933	86,301	<b>496,662</b>
2013	72,258	85,178	95,791	89,142	82,288	88,066	<b>512,723</b>
2014	72,914	83,860	97,858	92,863	83,743	88,114	<b>519,352</b>
2015	73,138	82,186	97,640	95,653	85,050	87,755	<b>521,422</b>
2016	70,746	79,643	95,332	96,864	84,445	84,208	<b>511,238</b>
2017	70,866	79,175	98,559	101,170	85,257	84,863	<b>519,890</b>
2018	70,747	78,057	99,748	104,686	86,244	84,407	<b>523,889</b>

**Supplementary Table 28: Abortion number for Aboriginal women by reproductive age group by health region, WA, 2016-2018**

Health region of residence	Age groups (years)						Total 15-44
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
East Metro	36	53	57	29	13	5	<b>193</b>
North Metro	24	24	24	24	4	5	<b>105</b>
South Metro	15	36	29	20	11	1	<b>112</b>
<b>Metro</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>410</b>
<b>Country</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>428</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>WA</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>850</b>

Source: Abortion Notification System extracted 05/06/2019.

*Other* refers to notifications of abortions performed in WA for women from interstate.

**Supplementary Table 29: Population of Aboriginal women by reproductive age group by health region, WA, 2016-2018 combined**

Health region of residence	Age groups (years)						Total 15-44
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
East Metro	2,807	3,124	2,520	2,025	1,646	1,544	<b>13,666</b>
North Metro	1,586	1,360	1,344	1,043	678	738	<b>6,749</b>
South Metro	1,919	1,809	1,708	1,314	829	1,078	<b>8,657</b>
<b>Metro</b>	<b>6,312</b>	<b>6,293</b>	<b>5,572</b>	<b>4,382</b>	<b>3,153</b>	<b>3,360</b>	<b>29,072</b>
<b>Country</b>	<b>7,794</b>	<b>7,188</b>	<b>7,323</b>	<b>6,555</b>	<b>5,502</b>	<b>5,190</b>	<b>39,552</b>
<b>WA</b>	<b>14,106</b>	<b>13,481</b>	<b>12,895</b>	<b>10,937</b>	<b>8,655</b>	<b>8,550</b>	<b>68,624</b>

**Supplementary Table 30: Live birth number for Aboriginal women by reproductive age group by health region, WA, 2016-2018 combined**

Health region of residence	Age groups (years)						Total 15-44
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
East Metro	165	369	281	169	67	16	<b>1,067</b>
North Metro	64	120	109	73	26	7	<b>399</b>
South Metro	74	212	158	100	32	10	<b>586</b>
<b>Metro</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2,052</b>
<b>Country</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>1,044</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>3,303</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>WA</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>1,747</b>	<b>1,421</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>5,369</b>

Source: Midwives Notification System extracted 05/06/2019.

*Other* refers to abortions performed in WA on Aboriginal women from interstate or the postcode provided was unable to be allocated to a WA health region.



**Supplementary Table 31: Abortion number and percent by health service category, WA, 2010-2018**

Year	Metro Public Hosp	Metro Private Hosp	Metro Private Clinic	Rural Public Hosp	General Practice	Total
<b>Numbers</b>						
2010	171	96	7,916	255		8,438
2011	187	85	8,053	398		8,723
2012	191	61	7,825	388		8,465
2013	189	80	7,816	417	6	8,508
2014	177	103	7,792	345	99	8,516
2015	160	76	7,417	313	213	8,179
2016	216	40	6,961	299	339	7,855
2017	177	30	6,712	294	615	7,828
2018	209	25	6,472	284	826	7,816
<b>Percentages</b>						
2010	2.0	1.1	93.8	3.0		100.0
2011	2.1	1.0	92.3	4.6		100.0
2012	2.2	0.7	92.4	4.6		100.0
2013	2.2	0.9	91.9	4.9	0.1	100.0
2014	2.1	1.2	91.5	4.1	1.2	100.0
2015	1.9	0.9	90.7	3.8	2.6	100.0
2016	2.7	0.5	88.6	3.8	4.3	100.0
2017	2.2	0.4	85.7	3.8	7.9	100.0
2018	2.6	0.3	82.8	3.6	10.6	100.0

The total abortion numbers in 2004 and 2006 differ from the total numbers in Table 1 because 6 notifications in 2004 and 1 in 2006 did not specify the health service category.

**Supplementary Table 32: Abortion number and percent up to 9 weeks gestation by method of abortion, WA, 2010-2018**

Year	Vacuum only	Vacuum and medication	Medication	Dilatation & Curettage	Dilatation & Evacuation	Other	Total
<b>Number</b>							
2010	4,946	1,190	862	10	2	9	7,019
2011	4,515	1,302	1,182	23	3	42	7,067
2012	4,586	1,422	796	14	0	22	6,840
2013	5,072	797	881	43	4	13	6,810
2014	5,525	51	1,192	24	6	0	6,798
2015	5,271	31	1,215	43	17	2	6,579
2016	4,225	32	1,792	33	200	2	6,284
2017	3,860	17	2,140	10	349	8	6,384
2018	3,514	12	2,396	13	475	7	6,417
<b>Per cent</b>							
2010	70.5	17.0	12.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	100.0
2011	63.9	18.4	16.7	0.3	0.0	0.6	100.0
2012	67.1	20.8	11.7	0.2	0.0	0.3	100.0
2013	74.5	11.7	12.9	0.6	0.1	0.2	100.0
2014	81.3	0.8	17.5	0.4	0.1	0.0	100.0
2015	80.2	0.5	18.4	0.7	0.3	0.0	100.0
2016	67.2	0.5	28.5	0.5	3.2	0.0	100.0
2017	60.5	0.3	33.5	0.2	5.5	0.1	100.0
2018	54.8	0.2	37.3	0.2	7.4	0.1	100.0

**Supplementary Table 33: Abortion number and percent between 10 and 13 weeks gestation by method of abortion, WA, 2010-2018**

Year	Vacuum only	Vacuum and medication	Medication	Dilatation & Curettage	Dilatation & Evacuation	Other	Total
<b>Number</b>							
2010	799	182	1	6	1	24	1,013
2011	868	229	8	25	8	35	1,173
2012	825	242	4	18	13	16	1,118
2013	928	187	7	23	17	13	1,175
2014	1,035	53	8	26	103	3	1,228
2015	915	44	4	50	110	14	1,137
2016	816	34	13	22	116	10	1,011
2017	635	34	3	4	318	18	1,012
2018	493	5	8	7	403	9	925
<b>Per cent</b>							
2010	78.9	18.0	0.1	0.6	0.1	2.4	100.0
2011	74.0	19.5	0.7	2.1	0.7	3.0	100.0
2012	73.8	21.6	0.4	1.6	1.2	1.4	100.0
2013	79.0	15.9	0.6	2.0	1.4	1.1	100.0
2014	84.3	4.3	0.7	2.1	8.4	0.2	100.0
2015	80.5	3.9	0.4	4.4	9.7	1.2	100.0
2016	80.7	3.4	1.3	2.2	11.5	1.0	100.0
2017	62.7	3.4	0.3	0.4	31.4	1.8	100.0
2018	53.3	0.5	0.9	0.8	43.6	1.0	100.0

**Supplementary Table 34: Abortion number and percent between 14 and 19 weeks gestation by method of abortion, WA, 2010-2018**

Year	Vacuum only	Vacuum and medication	Medication	Dilatation & Curettage	Dilatation & Evacuation	Other	Total
<b>Number</b>							
2010	146	20	90	6	14	86	362
2011	197	22	88	13	9	94	423
2012	223	33	87	16	9	69	437
2013	266	25	78	5	26	54	454
2014	39	4	75	4	201	96	419
2015	39	2	53	2	231	60	387
2016	123	3	92	11	209	44	482
2017	33	3	79	2	208	30	355
2018	5	1	95	2	283	5	391
<b>Per cent</b>							
2010	40.3	5.5	24.9	1.7	3.9	23.8	100.0
2011	46.6	5.2	20.8	3.1	2.1	22.2	100.0
2012	51.0	7.6	19.9	3.7	2.1	15.8	100.0
2013	58.6	5.5	17.2	1.1	5.7	11.9	100.0
2014	9.3	1.0	17.9	1.0	48.0	22.9	100.0
2015	10.1	0.5	13.7	0.5	59.7	15.5	100.0
2016	25.5	0.6	19.1	2.3	43.4	9.1	100.0
2017	9.3	0.8	22.3	0.6	58.6	8.5	100.0
2018	1.3	0.3	24.3	0.5	72.4	1.3	100.0

**Supplementary Table 35: Abortion number and percent from 20 weeks gestation by method of abortion, WA, 2010-2018**

Year	Vacuum only	Vacuum and medication	Medication	Dilatation & Curettage	Dilatation & Evacuation	Other	Total
<b>Number</b>							
2010			41			3	44
2011			56		2	2	60
2012			67			0	67
2013			69			1	70
2014			70		1	0	71
2015			70	1		5	76
2016			74		1	3	78
2017			71		1	5	77
2018			78			5	83
<b>Per cent</b>							
2010			93.2			6.8	100.0
2011			93.3		3.3	3.3	100.0
2012			100.0			0.0	100.0
2013			98.6			1.4	100.0
2014			98.6		1.4	0.0	100.0
2015			92.1	1.3		6.6	100.0
2016			94.9		1.3	3.8	100.0
2017			92.2		1.3	6.5	100.0
2018			94.0			6.0	100.0

**Supplementary Table 36: Abortion number and percent for fetal anomaly by gestational age group, WA, 2010-2018**

Year	Gestational age group (weeks)							
	<=9 weeks		10 to 13 weeks		14 to 19 weeks		>=20 weeks	
	Reason was fetal anomaly							
	Yes	Total	Yes	Total	Yes	Total	Yes	Total
<b>Number</b>								
2010	29	7,019	65	1,013	123	362	42	44
2011	12	7,067	66	1,173	130	423	54	60
2012	<5	6,838	49	1,121	121	437	56	67
2013	25	6,808	58	1,175	137	454	58	70
2014	15	6,797	57	1,228	120	419	56	71
2015	<5	6,575	52	1,137	101	387	69	76
2016	11	6,284	52	1,011	146	482	70	78
2017	7	6,384	36	1,012	110	355	52	77
2018	4	6,417	37	925	141	391	65	83
<b>Per cent with fetal anomaly</b>								
2010	0.4		6.4		33.4		95.5	
2011	0.2		5.6		30.5		90.0	
2012	0.1		4.4		27.7		85.1	
2013	0.4		4.9		30.0		82.9	
2014	0.2		4.6		28.6		77.5	
2015	0.0		4.6		26.1		89.5	
2016	0.2		5.1		30.3		89.7	
2017	0.1		3.6		31.0		67.5	
2018	0.1		4.0		36.1		78.3	

## Appendix A: Comparability of abortion in WA with other jurisdictions

Place	Relevant Legislation	Centralised Notification	Access
Western Australia	<i>Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911 Section 334 and The Criminal Code 259</i>	Yes	- Up to 19 weeks and 6 days: woman's choice - Over 20 weeks: only with panel approval
Australia	Each jurisdiction has its own legislation	No	- Each jurisdiction is different
Australian Capital Territory	- <i>Medical Practitioners (Maternal Health) Amendment Act 2002</i> ; - <i>Health (Patient Privacy) Amendment Bill 2015</i> ; - <i>Health (Improving Abortion Access) Amendment Bill 2018</i>	No	- Up to 16 weeks: woman's choice. - Over 16 weeks: only at Canberra Hospital, for certain medical conditions
Northern Territory	<i>Termination of Pregnancy Law Reform Act 2017</i>	Yes	- Up to 14 weeks: medical practitioner must consider it appropriate - Between 14 and 23 weeks: 2 medical practitioners must consider it appropriate - Over 23 weeks: only if the pregnant person's life is endangered
South Australia	<i>Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935 (amended 1969). Division 17, Section 81(1), 81(2) and 82 (A)</i>	Yes	- Up to 28 weeks: 2 medical practitioners must agree with abortion - Over 28 weeks: need approval from hospital ethics committee - All abortions must be carried out in prescribed hospital or clinic
Queensland	<i>Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018</i>	No	- Up to 22 weeks: woman's choice - Over 22 weeks: 2 medical practitioners must agree with abortion
New South Wales	<i>Crimes Act 1900 82-84</i> , interpretation of which is subject to the Levine ruling 1971	No	- no restriction regarding gestation - medical practitioner must agree to abortion  <i>Reproductive Healthcare Reform Bill 2019</i> being debated in parliament at time of publication
Victoria	- <i>Abortion Law Reform Act 2008</i> - <i>Victorian Crimes Act 1958 65-66</i>	No	- Up to 24 weeks: woman's choice - From 24 weeks: if two medical practitioners agree it is appropriate

Place	Relevant Legislation	Centralised Notification	Access
Tasmania	<i>Reproductive Health (Access to Terminations) Act 2013</i>	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Up to 16 weeks: woman's choice</li> <li>- From 16 weeks: 2 medical practitioners must agree (one of which is a specialist in obstetrics or gynaecology)</li> </ul>
New Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act 1977</i></li> <li>- <i>Crimes Act 1961</i></li> <li>- <i>Care of Children Act 2004</i></li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Up to 20 weeks: 2 doctors must agree</li> <li>- From 20 weeks: 2 doctors agree, only to save the life of mother or prevent serious permanent physical/mental injury to mother</li> </ul>
England, Wales and Scotland	- <i>Abortion Act 1967</i> , as amended by the <i>Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990</i>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Up to 24 weeks: 2 medical practitioners must agree</li> <li>- From 24 weeks: 2 medical practitioners (to save woman's life or child would be born with a severe disability)</li> </ul>
Finland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Act on Induced Abortion 238/1970</i></li> <li>- <i>Decree on Induced Abortion 359/1970</i></li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Up to 12 weeks: 2 doctors must agree</li> <li>- Between 12 and 24 weeks: only if granted a special permit by the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health</li> <li>- Abortions must be performed in approved hospital</li> </ul>
Sweden	<i>Abortion Act 1974, amended in 2013.</i>	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Up to 18 weeks: woman's choice</li> <li>- Between 18 and 22 weeks: requires permission from the National Board of Health and Welfare</li> <li>- Over 22 weeks: only if severe fetal abnormalities</li> </ul>
France	<i>Law no. 75-17 of January 1975 regarding Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy</i>	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Up to 12 weeks: woman's choice</li> <li>- Over 12 weeks: two doctors must agree</li> </ul>
The Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Law on the termination of Pregnancy 1981, amended 2010</i></li> <li>- <i>Decree on the Termination of Pregnancy 1984, amended 2009.</i></li> <li>- <i>Criminal Code</i></li> <li>- <i>Directions on the Non-Prosecution of Cases of Euthanasia and Late Abortions</i></li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Up to 24 weeks: woman's choice</li> <li>- Over 24 weeks: for serious medical conditions</li> <li>- Abortion must be carried out in a hospital or specially licensed clinic</li> </ul>





## Appendix C: Induced Abortion Notification Form 2001 - Current

### FORM 1

(Regulation 2)

Health Act 1911  
Health (Section 335 (5) (d) Abortion Notice) Regulations 1998  
Notification by Medical Practitioner of Induced Abortion

To Executive Director, Public Health

Under section 335 (5) (d) of the Health Act 1911, I, \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print full name)

provide notice<sup>1</sup> of an abortion I performed at \_\_\_\_\_  
(address where procedure was performed)

on \_\_\_\_\_  
(date of abortion)

1. Gestational age at date of abortion (best estimate): \_\_\_\_\_ weeks

2. Method of termination: (tick one or more)

- |  |                          |     |
|--|--------------------------|-----|
| Vacuum aspiration (suction curettage)          | <input type="checkbox"/> | (1) |
| Dilatation and curettage (sharp)               | <input type="checkbox"/> | (2) |
| Dilatation and evacuation                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | (3) |
| Vaginal prostaglandin or analogue instillation | <input type="checkbox"/> | (4) |
| Other (specify)                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | (5) |

3. Reason for termination of pregnancy: (tick one)

- |   |                          |     |
|---|--------------------------|-----|
| Reason other than fetal abnormality       | <input type="checkbox"/> | (1) |
| Suspected fetal abnormality               | <input type="checkbox"/> | (2) |
| Actual fetal abnormality                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | (3) |
| Specify if known _____                    |                          |     |
| Selective reduction of multiple pregnancy | <input type="checkbox"/> | (4) |

4. Patient's age (last birthday): \_\_\_\_\_ years

5. Origin of patient

- |  |                          |     |
|--|--------------------------|-----|
| Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin     | <input type="checkbox"/> | (1) |
| Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin     | <input type="checkbox"/> | (2) |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin         | <input type="checkbox"/> | (3) |
| Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin | <input type="checkbox"/> | (4) |
| Not stated   | <input type="checkbox"/> | (5) |

6. Postcode of residence of patient: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Medical Practitioner)

#### Notes

1. As required by section 335 (5) (d) of the Health Act 1911 notice must be given within 14 days of the abortion being performed.

Forward completed form (top copy), marked **Private & Confidential**, to Manager, Maternal and Child Health Unit, Department of Health, WA, Reply Paid 70042 (Delivery to Locked Bag 52) PERTH BC WA 6849  
Duplicate (yellow copy) to be retained by medical practitioner  
Form 1 last updated on 21/01/2009

**This document can be made available in alternative formats  
on request for a person with disability.**

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