

# Abortion Statistics

Updated October 2014 using 2013 data provided by the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, State Center for Health Statistics. Full report of 2013 reported pregnancy data can be found on their website at <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/data/vital/pregnancies/2013/index.htm>.

Published October 1, 2014, accessed 10/26/2014.

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## Incidence of abortion

### In North Carolina...

**22,820 abortions took place in 2013.**

This figure includes 3,535 to residents of other states, including SC, VA, TN, GA, and FL.<sup>1</sup>

This number represents a **6.6% decrease** from 24,439 abortions in 2012.<sup>1</sup>

### Among NC residents...

there were **19,818 reported abortions** in

2013, a **5.5% decrease** from 20,973 resident abortions in 2012. The number of resident abortions has declined each year since 29,430 occurred in 2006.<sup>3</sup>

2.7% of 2013 resident abortions occurred in other states, including VA, SC, and GA.<sup>1</sup>

### National Statistics

Currently, there are about

**1.06 million**

abortions in America each year.<sup>2</sup>

From 1973-2013,

**56,405,766**

babies died from abortion.<sup>2</sup>

**1:6** Ratio of abortions to live births among NC residents<sup>4</sup>

**14.2%** of resident pregnancies ended in abortion in 2013. This number has decreased each year since 2010, when 17.3% of reported pregnancies ended in abortion.<sup>5</sup>

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## Where do North Carolina's abortions occur?

Of the 2013 reported abortions, only 1.4% were performed in hospital settings. The remaining 98.6 percent occurred in 17 non-hospital licensed facilities, primarily freestanding clinics.<sup>1</sup>

Abortions occurred in 12 counties in 2013. Mecklenburg County had the highest total number of abortions with 7,291 occurring in 2013.<sup>1</sup> The table below indicates the five counties with the most abortions in 2013.

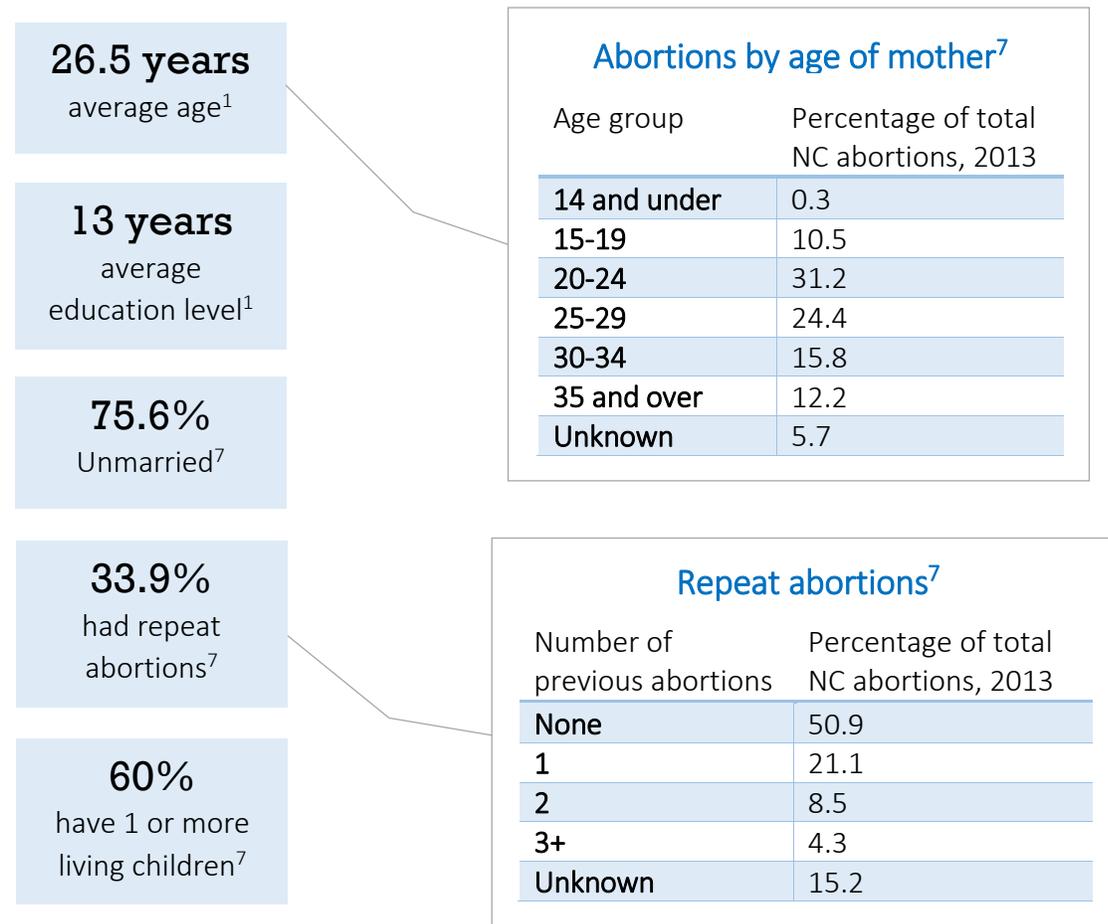
## NC counties with highest percentage of reported abortions in 2013<sup>1</sup>

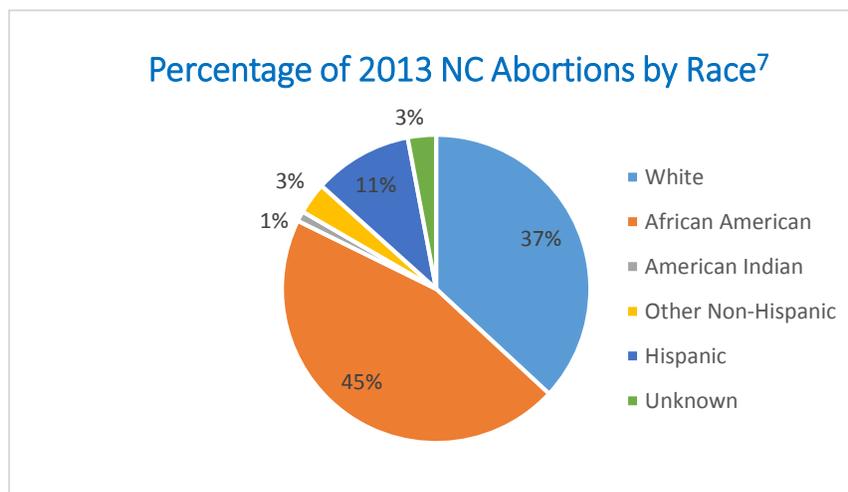
County	Percentage of total NC abortions
Mecklenburg	31.9
Wake	27.7
Cumberland	11.1
Orange	9.8
Guilford	7.5

Number of abortions varied widely **by county of residence during 2013**, with all of the 100 counties represented. The number of abortions by county of residence ranged from 1 to 3,310. The most populous counties accounted for the greatest frequencies.<sup>1,6</sup>

## Who has abortions?

### Among North Carolina residents having abortions in 2013...





## How are abortions performed?

The method of abortion used depends in part upon the age of the child. The percentage of total abortions performed at various weeks of gestation is provided, at right.<sup>7</sup>

### Abortions by weeks of gestation<sup>7</sup>

Weeks of gestation	Percentage of total NC abortions, 2013
<b>8 and under</b>	61.2
<b>9-12</b>	21.1
<b>13-15</b>	5.1
<b>16-20</b>	2.3
<b>21 and over</b>	0.3
<b>Unknown</b>	10

**Suction Curettage** was the most common reported abortion procedure in 2013, accounting for 37.5% of all resident abortion procedures.<sup>7</sup> The suction curettage procedure involves dilating a woman’s cervix, inserting a flexible tube into her uterine cavity, and suctioning out the unborn baby’s tissue and the placenta using an electric vacuum pump.<sup>8</sup>

**Dilation and Evacuation (D&E)** was the third most common abortion procedure for North Carolina residents in 2013 at 31.3%.<sup>7</sup> During the D&E procedure, an abortionist dilates a woman’s cervix and inserts sharp instruments, as well as suction devices and forceps, which are then used to cut up and extract her unborn baby, piece by piece.<sup>8</sup>

**Medical (nonsurgical) abortion** was the third most common abortion procedure for North Carolina residents in 2013 at 25.5%.<sup>7</sup> This procedure involves administering the woman drugs orally, intravenously, or intravaginally to first deprive the developing child of nutrients and then to induce premature labor. Medical abortions typically take place within the first trimester.<sup>8</sup>

In 5.7% of cases, other abortion methods were used or the type of abortion procedure was unreported.<sup>7</sup>

# History of Public Abortion Funding

In 1977, Congress adopted the Hyde Amendment, which prohibited the use of any federal funds contributed to the Medicaid program for abortions except in the case of endangerment to the life of the mother. As a result of this loss of federal funds, in 1978 the General Assembly established the State Abortion Fund, from which payments were made for abortions for eligible women.

In 1978, Governor James B. Hunt took \$250,000 that been appropriated by the legislature for mental health and used these funds to pay for abortions. In 1979, he transferred \$303,000 that had been appropriated for rest homes and used that money to pay for medically unnecessary abortions beyond the \$1 million the General Assembly had appropriated at his request. In 1980, Gov. Hunt transferred \$367,000 from Aid to Families with Dependent Children for tax paid abortions. This was in addition to the \$1 million allocated by the General Assembly. Finally, in 1981, Gov. Hunt transferred \$235,000 from Aid to Families with Dependent Children to increase the State Abortion Fund. This transfer was also in addition to the \$1 million the General Assembly appropriated for tax paid abortions.

In 1995, the State Abortion Fund was reduced to \$50,000. The General Assembly drastically reduced payments for abortions by limiting eligibility for abortion coverage to women living below the federal poverty level who are not eligible for Medicaid only in cases of rape, incest, or endangerment to the life of the mother. Prior to this time, there were virtually no restrictions on the use of taxpayers' money to fund abortions beyond income level.

In 2011, the N.C. General Assembly passed legislation to prohibit state funding of abortions and abortion-covering public health plans, except in cases of rape, incest, or endangerment to life of the mother.

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