



**NORTH  
CAROLINA**  
RIGHT TO LIFE

# 2015 North Carolina Abortion Statistics

## January 2017

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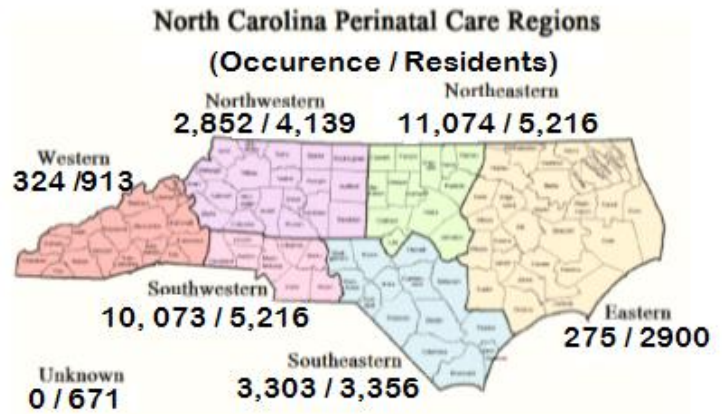
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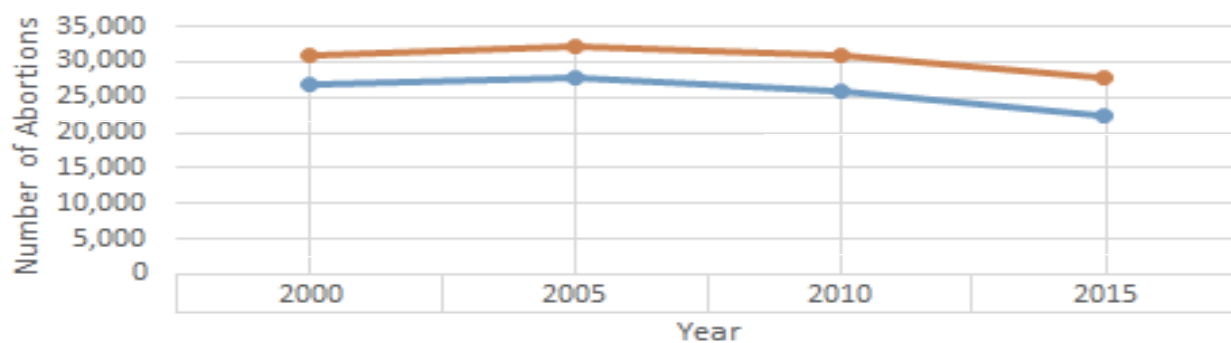
# Incidence of Abortion

In North Carolina...

27,631 abortions occurred within the state in 2015.<sup>2</sup> 22,846 abortions were reported being performed on North Carolina women.<sup>2</sup> The number of abortions have decreased since 2000.



Resident v. Occurring Abortions



|            | 2000   | 2005   | 2010   | 2015   |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Resident   | 26,964 | 27,674 | 25,808 | 22,486 |
| Occurrence | 30,942 | 32,335 | 30,952 | 27,631 |

## National Statistics

It is estimated that **1.06 million** abortions occur a year in America.

From 1973-2013, an estimated **58,586,256** babies were killed by abortion since 1973.

**18.6%** of non-miscarriage resident pregnancies ended in abortion in 2015.

**76 NC abortions per day** on average in 2015.

## Where do North Carolina's Abortions Occur?

Although most abortions occurred in 10 counties in 2015, all counties have resident abortions. This means that people are traveling out of counties without an abortion to counties that do for abortions. Mecklenburg County had the highest total number of reported abortions with 10,073 occurring in 2015. The table below indicates the six counties with the most abortions in 2015.<sup>2</sup>

North Carolina Counties with Highest Percentage of Reported Abortion in 2015

| County            | Mecklenburg | Wake  | Orange | Cumberland | Guilford | Forsyth |
|-------------------|-------------|-------|--------|------------|----------|---------|
| Total Occurrences | 10,073      | 7,530 | 3,181  | 2,881      | 1,153    | 1,429   |
| Total Residents   | 3,829       | 2,995 | 325    | 1,401      | 1,638    | 956     |

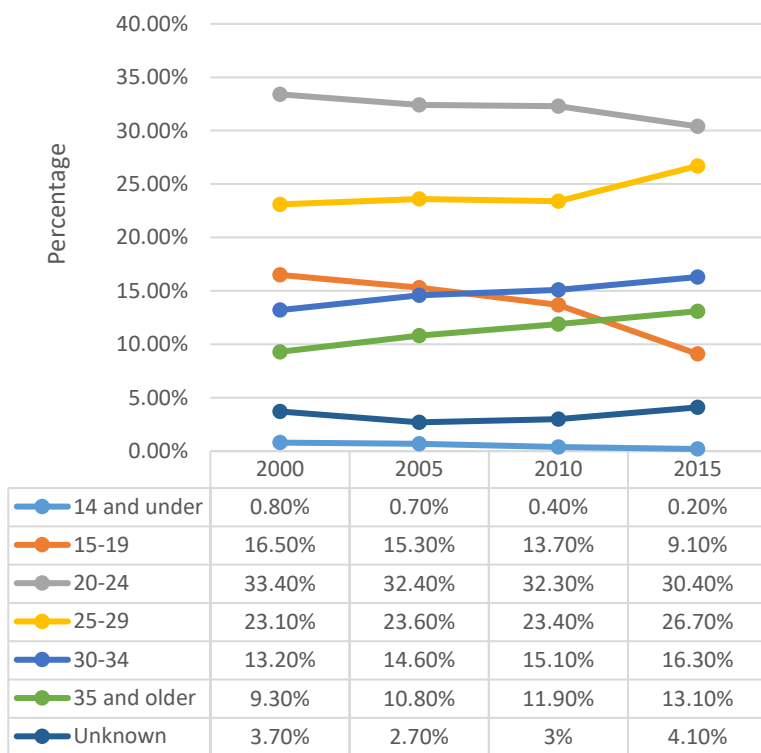
| County     | Total Occurrences | Total Residents |
|------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Alamance   | 0                 | 324             |
| Alexander  | 0                 | 16              |
| Alleghany  | 0                 | 4               |
| Anson      | 0                 | 50              |
| Ashe       | 0                 | 14              |
| Avery      | 0                 | 16              |
| Beaufort   | 0                 | 51              |
| Bertie     | 0                 | 47              |
| Bladen     | 0                 | 39              |
| Brunswick  | 0                 | 150             |
| Buncombe   | 324               | 497             |
| Burke      | 0                 | 90              |
| Cabarrus   | 0                 | 414             |
| Caldwell   | 0                 | 65              |
| Camden     | 0                 | 6               |
| Carteret   | 0                 | 75              |
| Caswell    | 0                 | 31              |
| Catawba    | 0                 | 226             |
| Chatham    | 0                 | 66              |
| Cherokee   | 0                 | 5               |
| Chowan     | 0                 | 18              |
| Clay       | 0                 | 2               |
| Cleveland  | 0                 | 154             |
| Columbus   | 0                 | 85              |
| Craven     | 0                 | 152             |
| Cumberland | 2,881             | 1,403           |
| Currituck  | 0                 | 23              |
| Dare       | 0                 | 62              |
| Davidson   | 0                 | 160             |
| Davie      | 0                 | 41              |
| Duplin     | 0                 | 100             |
| Durham     | 363               | 959             |
| Edgecombe  | 0                 | 139             |
| Forsyth    | 1,429             | 956             |
| Franklin   | 0                 | 118             |
| Gaston     | 0                 | 351             |
| Gates      | 0                 | 13              |
| Graham     | 0                 | 4               |
| Granville  | 0                 | 146             |
| Greene     | 0                 | 27              |
| Guilford   | 1,153             | 1,638           |
| Halifax    | 0                 | 146             |
| Harnett    | 0                 | 231             |
| Haywood    | 0                 | 60              |
| Henderson  | 0                 | 100             |
| Hertford   | 0                 | 51              |
| Hoke       | 0                 | 110             |
| Hyde       | 0                 | 5               |
| Iredell    | 0                 | 243             |
| Jackson    | 0                 | 38              |

| County       | Total Occurrences | Total Residents |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Johnston     | 0                 | 311             |
| Jones        | 0                 | 15              |
| Lee          | 0                 | 133             |
| Lenoir       | 0                 | 117             |
| Lincoln      | 0                 | 63              |
| McDowell     | 0                 | 31              |
| Macon        | 0                 | 15              |
| Madison      | 0                 | 23              |
| Martin       | 0                 | 47              |
| Mecklenburg  | 10,073            | 3,829           |
| Mitchell     | 0                 | 9               |
| Montgomery   | 0                 | 24              |
| Moore        | 0                 | 151             |
| Nash         | 0                 | 246             |
| New Hanover  | 422               | 557             |
| Northampton  | 0                 | 33              |
| Onslow       | 275               | 481             |
| Orange       | 3,181             | 325             |
| Pamlico      | 0                 | 12              |
| Pasquotank   | 0                 | 55              |
| Pender       | 0                 | 67              |
| Perquimans   | 0                 | 20              |
| Person       | 0                 | 93              |
| Pitt         | 0                 | 496             |
| Polk         | 0                 | 16              |
| Randolph     | 0                 | 152             |
| Richmond     | 0                 | 72              |
| Robeson      | 0                 | 276             |
| Rockingham   | 0                 | 121             |
| Rowan        | 0                 | 209             |
| Rutherford   | 0                 | 59              |
| Sampson      | 0                 | 107             |
| Scotland     | 0                 | 84              |
| Stanly       | 0                 | 63              |
| Stokes       | 0                 | 24              |
| Surry        | 0                 | 53              |
| Swain        | 0                 | 16              |
| Transylvania | 0                 | 27              |
| Tyrrell      | 0                 | 3               |
| Union        | 0                 | 292             |
| Vance        | 0                 | 121             |
| Wake         | 7,530             | 2,995           |
| Warren       | 0                 | 29              |
| Washington   | 0                 | 20              |
| Watauga      | 0                 | 58              |
| Wayne        | 0                 | 256             |
| Wilkes       | 0                 | 30              |
| Wilson       | 0                 | 184             |
| Yadkin       | 0                 | 23              |
| Yancey       | 0                 | 11              |
| Unknown      | 0                 | 671             |

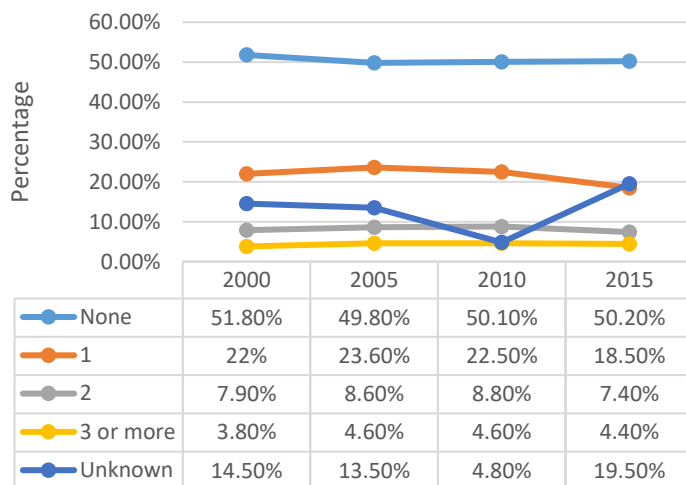
# Who has Abortions?

Graphs showing which NC residents had abortions from 2000 to 2015

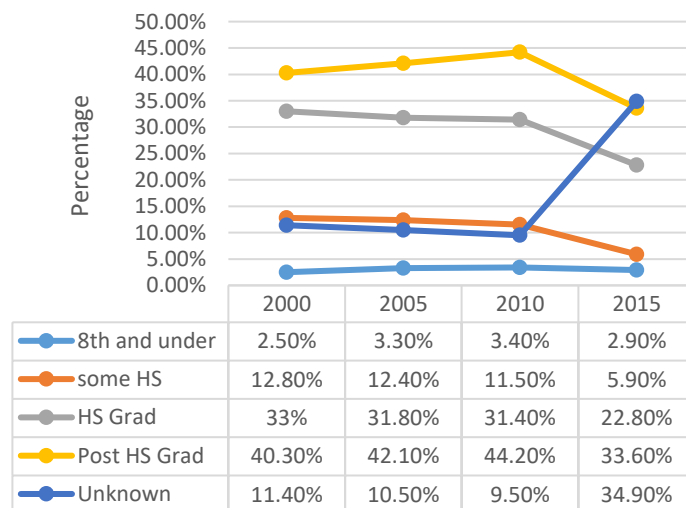
### Age



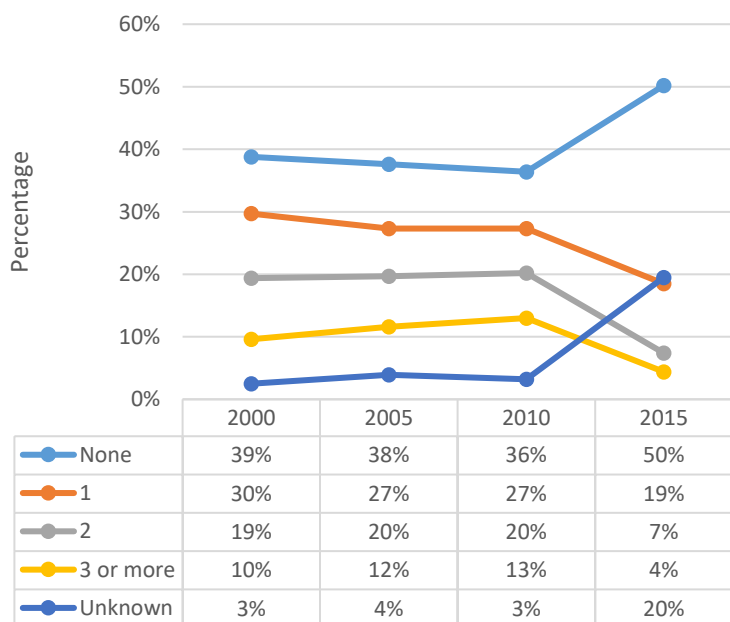
### Number of Previous Abortions



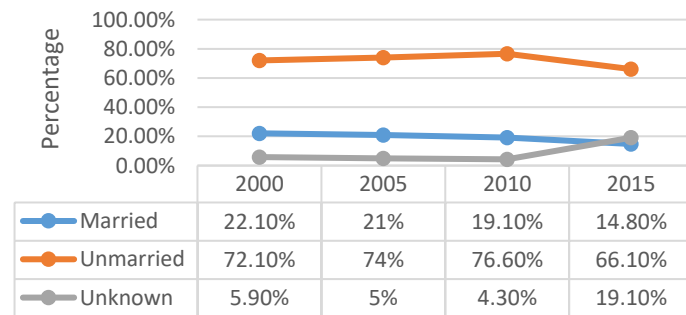
### Education



### Number of Living Children



### Marital Status



## How are Abortions Performed?

The method of abortion used depends in part upon the age of the child. The number of total abortions performed at various weeks of gestation is provided, in the chart on the right.

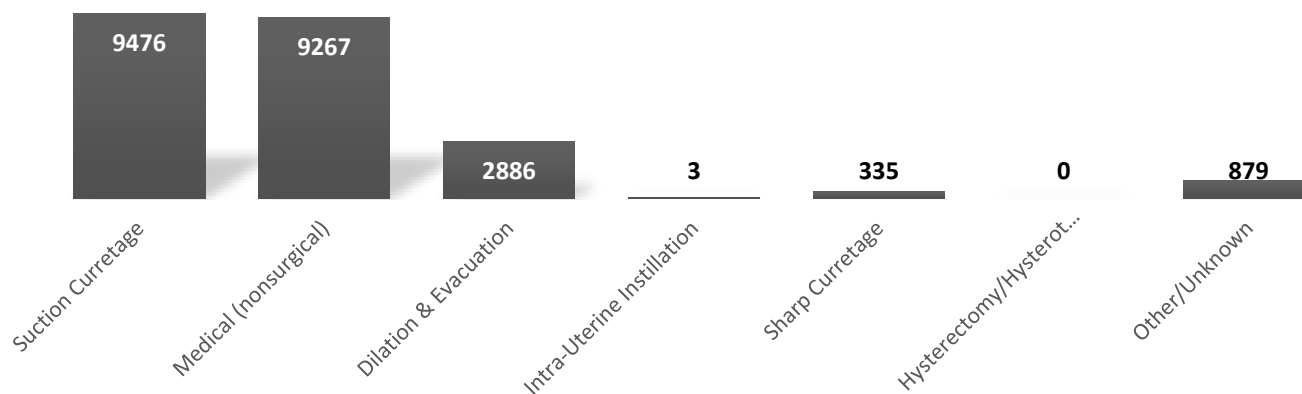
| Weeks of Gestation | Resident |
|--------------------|----------|
| 8wks & Younger     | 14,060   |
| 9-12wks            | 4,487    |
| 13-15wks           | 1,305    |
| 16-20wks           | 664      |
| 21wks & Older      | 16       |
| Unknown            | 2,314    |

**Suction Curettage** was the most common reported abortion procedure in 2015, accounting for 41.5% of all reported resident abortion procedures. 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.

**Dilation and Evacuation (D&E)** was the third most common reported abortion procedure for North Carolina residents in 2015 at 12.6%. 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

**Medical (Nonsurgical) Abortions** are more accurately called chemical abortions by pro-lifers because the chemicals ingested by the mother kill the unborn child. This type of abortion was the second most common reported abortion procedure reported for North Carolina residents in 2015 at 40.6%. 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.

In 3.8% of cases, other abortion methods were used or the type of abortion procedure was unknown.



## References

1. 2015 Reported Pregnancies. NC Department of Health and Human Services. Reported Pregnancies. North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics.
  2. “2015 North Carolina Reported Induced Abortions by County of Occurrence and Residence.” NC Department of Health and Human Services: State Center for Health Statistics.
  3. “Factsheets: Abortion In The US.” National Right to Life. Available at [www.nrlc.org](http://www.nrlc.org)
  4. “2015 Total North Carolina Resident Pregnancies.” NC Department of Health and Human Services: State Center for Health Statistics.
  5. “NC Resident Abortions: Characteristics of Women Receiving Abortions: North Carolina Residents, 2005-2015.” NC Department of Health and Human Services: State Center for Health Statistics.  
<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/data/vital/pregnancies/2015/abortioncharacteristics.pdf>.
  6. Glossary of Terms.” N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.
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