

Abortion Reporting Requirements

BACKGROUND: For the last three decades, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has partnered with the states to collect aggregate statistics on abortions in the United States. States are not required to submit abortion data to the CDC, but the overwhelming majority do. To collect individual-level data, most state vital statistics agencies have designed a form that abortion providers use for reporting to the state. Typically, the form requires:

- identification of the facility at which the abortion was performed and the physician performing the procedure;
- patient's demographic characteristics (e.g., age, race, ethnicity, marital status and number of previous live births);
- gestational age; and
- abortion procedure used.

After the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the abortion drug mifepristone in 2000, most states adjusted their forms to include questions about medication (nonsurgical) abortion. More recently, states have reconfigured their systems so that reporting is increasingly being done via the Internet.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 46 states require hospitals, facilities and physicians providing abortions to submit regular and confidential reports to the state.
- 8 states require providers to indicate the method of payment, such as insurance or self-pay, for the procedure.
- 27 states require providers to report postabortion complications.
- 15 states require providers to give some information about the woman's reason for seeking the procedure.
 - 10 states ask whether the abortion was performed because of a threat to the woman's health or life.
 - 7 states ask whether the abortion was performed because of rape or incest.
 - 15 states ask whether the abortion was performed because of a diagnosed fetal abnormality.
 - 9 states ask whether the abortion was performed for other reasons (e.g. the woman's economic or familial circumstances).
- 4 states require providers to report whether the fetus was viable.
- 14 states require providers to indicate if the state mandates for abortion counseling and parental involvement were satisfied.
 - 8 states require providers to report whether state-mandated counseling was provided.
 - 12 states require providers to report whether state requirements for parental involvement were met.



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125 Maiden Lane
New York, NY 10038
212.248.1111
www.guttmacher.org
info@guttmacher.org

1301 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
202.296.4012
www.guttmacher.org
policyworks@guttmacher.org

STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR ABORTION REPORTING

STATE	REPORTING REQUIRED	METHOD OF PAYMENT	COMPLICATIONS	REASONS FOR PROCEDURE				FETUS VIABLE	MET STATE REQUIREMENT FOR:	
				Woman's Health/Life	Rape/Incest	Fetal Abnormality	Other*		Mandated Counseling	Parental Involvement
Alabama	X [†]									X
Alaska	X	X				X			X	
Arizona	X		X	X		X	X			X
Arkansas	X									X
Colorado	X									
Connecticut	X		X							
Delaware	X									
Dist. of Columbia	Ω									
Florida	X [†]			X	X	X	X			X
Georgia	X		X						X	X
Hawaii	X [†]		X			X				
Idaho	X		X						X	X
Illinois	X [†]		X					X		
Indiana	X		X					X [‡]		
Iowa	X									
Kansas	X							‡		X
Kentucky	X									
Louisiana	X [†]		X	X	X	X			X	
Maine	X									
Massachusetts	X							‡		
Michigan	X	X	X					X		
Minnesota	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Mississippi	X	X	X							
Missouri	X		X					X		
Montana	X		X							
Nebraska	X		X	X	X	X	X			
Nevada	X [†]									
New Hampshire	Ω	X								
New Jersey	Ω					X				
New Mexico	X									
New York	X	X	X	X		X	X			
North Carolina	X		X							
North Dakota	X		X							
Ohio	X		X							
Oklahoma	X	X ^ξ	X	X ^ξ	X ^ξ	X ^ξ	X ^ξ		X	X ^ξ
Oregon	X		X							
Pennsylvania	X		X					‡		
Rhode Island	X		X							
South Carolina	X								X	X
South Dakota	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Tennessee	X [†]									
Texas	X							‡		
Utah	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		
Vermont	X									
Virginia	X					X				
Washington	X		X			X				
West Virginia	X			X		X			X	X
Wisconsin	X		X							X
Wyoming	X		X							
TOTAL	46	8	27	10	7	15	9	4	8	12

▼ Enforcement permanently enjoined by a court order; policy not in effect.

* States list a range of "other" reasons on their forms: elective (AZ, FL, IL, MN, SD, UT); economic (FL, MN, NE, SD); contraceptive failure or nonuse (NE); the woman's familial circumstances (NY); the woman's age (NY); "therapeutic" (UT); the woman's being HIV positive (UT); and several other reasons (OK).

† Reporting form does not specifically include medication (nonsurgical) abortion.

Ω Reporting from physician to the state on abortion procedures is voluntary.

‡ State requires provider to report reasons for abortions performed after viability (IN), after 21 weeks' gestation (KS), after 23 weeks' gestation (MA and PA) or after the second trimester (TX); MA also asks whether the abortion resulted in a live birth.

ξ The Oklahoma law went into effect in May 2010; however the abortion reporting form is not yet updated.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For information on state legislative and policy activity, click on Guttmacher's [Monthly State Update](#), for state-level policy information see Guttmacher's [State Policies in Brief](#) series, and for information and data on reproductive health issues, go to Guttmacher's [State Center](#). To see state-specific reproductive health information go to Guttmacher's [Data Center](#), and for abortion specific information click on [State Facts About Abortion](#). To keep up with new state relevant data and analysis sign up for the [State News Quarterly Listserv](#).

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