



Induced Abortions in Western Australia

2010 - 2012

Fourth Report of the Western Australian Abortion Notification System

July 2013

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JULY 2013

**Maternal and Child Health Unit
Data Integrity Directorate
Performance and Quality Division
Department of Health, Western Australia**

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CONTENTS

1. Introduction	1
2. Executive summary	2
3. Background	4
3.1. Legal status of induced abortion in Western Australia	4
3.2. Requirement to notify of an induced abortion	4
3.3. The Abortion Notification System.....	5
3.4. Quality of Data Reported	5
3.4.1. Number (Count) of Cases Reported	5
3.4.2. Data Validation.....	6
4. Population of Women of Reproductive Age	7
5. Trend in Induced Abortions	8
6. Characteristics of women having Induced Abortions	10
6.1. Age.....	10
6.1.1. Induced Abortions by Age Group.....	10
6.1.2. Rate of Induced Abortion by Population Age Group.....	12
6.1.3. Birth Rate by Population Age Group.....	13
6.1.4. Abortion and Birth Rate Comparison by Age Group.....	14
6.1.5. Occurrence of Pregnancies in Teenage Women.....	16
6.1.6. The Abortion Proportion by Age Group	17
6.2. Abortion Rate by Health Region of Residence	18
6.3. Abortion Rate by Health Region of Residence and Age Group.....	21
6.4. Abortion, Birth and Pregnancy Rates for Teenaged Women by Place of Residence	24
6.5. Aboriginal Status and Abortion Rate.....	27
6.6. Aboriginal Status and Abortion Proportion.....	30
7. Health Services where Induced Abortions Occurred	35
8. Induced Abortions by Gestational Age	36
9. Method of Induced Abortion	38
9.1. Method of Induced Abortion up to 7 Weeks Gestation	40
9.2. Method of Induced Abortion at 8 to 11 Weeks Gestation	40
9.3. Method of Induced Abortion at 12 to 14 Weeks Gestation	41
9.4. Method of Induced Abortion at 15 to 19 Weeks Gestation	41
9.5. Method of Induced Abortion from 20 Weeks Gestation.....	42
10. Induced Abortions for Fetal Abnormality	43
10.1. Induced Abortion for Fetal Abnormality at 20 Weeks Gestation.....	44
11. International and National Comparisons	45
12. Bibliography	48
13. Supplementary Data Tables	50
Appendix A: Induced Abortion Notification Form 1998 – 2001	58
Appendix B: Induced Abortion Notification Form 2002 – Present.....	59

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Trend data for Induced Abortions, WA, 1999 to 2012	8
Table 2: Mean and Median Age at Induced Abortion, WA, 2002 to 2012	10
Table 3: Proportion of Abortions by Age Group, WA, 2002 to 2012	11
Table 4: Abortion Rate by Age Group of Woman, WA, 2002–2012	12
Table 5: Birth Rates by Age of Woman, WA, 2002–2012	13
Table 6: Teenage Abortion, Birth and Pregnancy Rates, WA, 2002-2012.....	16
Table 7: Abortion Proportion by Age of Woman, WA, 2002–2012	17
Table 8: Induced Abortions by Health Region of Residence, WA, 2007-2012.....	19
Table 9: Rates of Induced Abortions by Health Region of Residence and Age, WA, 2010.....	21
Table 10: Rates of Induced Abortions by Health Region of Residence and Age, WA, 2011.....	22
Table 11: Rates of Induced Abortions by Health Region of Residence and Age, WA, 2012.....	23
Table 12: Teenage Pregnancy, Birth and Abortion Rates by Health Region of Residence, WA, 2010.....	24
Table 13: Teenage Pregnancy, Birth and Abortion Rates by Health Region of Residence, WA, 2011	25
Table 14: Teenage Pregnancy, Birth and Abortion Rates by Health Region of Residence, WA, 2012.....	26
Table 15: Abortion Numbers and Aboriginality, WA, 2002-2012.....	27
Table 16: Abortion Rate by Aboriginal Status, Age and Health Region of Residence, WA, 2010.....	28
Table 17: Abortion Rate by Aboriginal Status, Age and Health Region of Residence, WA, 2011	29
Table 18: Abortion Proportion by Aboriginal Status, Age and Health Region of Residence, WA, 2010.....	31
Table 19: Abortion Proportion by Aboriginal Status, Age and Health Region of Residence, WA, 2011	32
Table 20: Abortion Proportion by Aboriginal Status, Age and Health Region of Residence, WA, 2012.....	33
Table 21: Abortions by Health Service Type, WA, 2002-2012.....	35
Table 22: Abortions by Gestational Age, WA, 2002–2012	36
Table 23: Induced Abortions by Method, WA, 2002–2012.....	39
Table 24: Induced Abortions for Fetal Abnormality, WA, 2002–2012	43
Table 25: Induced Abortions for Congenital Anomaly at 20 weeks gestation or more, WA, 2002–2012	44
Table 26: Comparability of Abortion in WA with Other Jurisdictions	45
Table 27: Induced Abortion Rate All Jurisdictions, 2005-2012	46
Table 28: Induced Abortion Proportion, All Jurisdictions, 2005-2012	47
Supplementary Table 29: Population of Women by Reproductive Age Group, WA, 1999-2012	50
Supplementary Table 30: Population of Women of Reproductive Age by Health Region of Residence, WA, 2006-2012.....	51
Supplementary Table 31: Population of Women by Health Region of Residence and Reproductive Age Group, WA, 2010	52
Supplementary Table 36: Population of Women by Health Region of Residence and Reproductive Age Group, WA, 2011	53
Supplementary Table 37: Population of Women by Health Region of Residence and Reproductive Age Group, WA, 2012	54

Supplementary Table 38: Population of Aboriginal Women by Reproductive Age Group, WA, 1999-2012 .	55
Supplementary Table 39: Population of Non-Aboriginal Women by Reproductive Age Group, WA, 1999-2012	55
Supplementary Table 40: Population of Aboriginal Women by Health Region of Residence and Reproductive Age Group, WA, 2009	56
Supplementary Table 41: Population of Aboriginal Women by Health Region of Residence and Reproductive Age Group, WA, 2010	56
Supplementary Table 42: Population of Aboriginal Women by Health Region of Residence and Reproductive Age Group, WA, 2011	57
Supplementary Table 43: Population of Infants Born Alive by Reproductive Age Group of Mother, WA, 2002–2012	57

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Number of Women of Reproductive Age, WA, 1999-2012	7
Figure 2: Birth and Abortion Rate in WA, 1999-2012	8
Figure 3: Proportion in Perth Metropolitan Area, 2002-2012.....	9
Figure 4: Rates Comparison for Women aged 25 to 29 and 30 to 34 years, WA, 2002-2012.....	14
Figure 5: Rates Comparison for Women aged 20 to 24 and 35 to 39 years, WA, 2002-2012.....	15
Figure 6: Rates Comparison for Teenaged and Older Women, WA, 2002-2012	16
Figure 7: Abortion Proportion by Age of Woman, WA, 2002 - 2012	18
Figure 8: Induced Abortion Rate by Health Region of Residence, WA, 2007-2012	20
Figure 9: Abortion Rate by Aboriginal Status and Health Region of Residence, 2008-2011.....	30
Figure 10: Abortion Proportion by Aboriginal Status and Health Region of Residence, 2010-2012.....	34
Figure 11: Proportion of Abortions for Fetal Abnormality by Gestational Age, WA, 2002-2012	37
Figure 12: Abortion Method at Gestational Age up to 7 weeks, WA, 2002-2012.....	40
Figure 13: Abortion Method at Gestational Age 8 to 11 weeks, WA, 2002-2012.....	40
Figure 14: Abortion Method at Gestational Age 12 to 14 weeks, WA, 2002-2012.....	41
Figure 15: Abortion Method for Gestational Age 15 to 19 Weeks, WA, 2002-2012.....	41
Figure 16: Abortion Method for Gestational Age from 20 Weeks, WA, 2002-2012	42

TERMINOLOGY

Abortion	In medical terminology abortions include 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 interrupt a pregnancy that would be as likely to end in a full-term birth as any other pregnancy.
ANS	Abortion Notification System - Electronic repository of reported induced abortions occurring in WA since 1998
Women of reproductive age	Women aged 15 to 44 years. All proportions or rates of populations were calculated using this age range. Abortions occurred in women that 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.
Populations in WA	The estimated population in WA was sourced on 21 st December 2012 from the Epidemiology Branch of WA Department of Health using data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. At the time of this report population estimates for 2012 were projected rather than estimated. Projections of 2012 Populations by Aboriginality were not available at time of reporting. Data tables for WA population used for calculations in this report are provided at the end of this report.
DoH WA	Department of Health, Western Australia
WA	Western Australia
WHO	World Health Organization

CALCULATIONS

Abortion Proportion The number of induced abortions divided by the sum of the number of induced abortions and the number of infants born alive in the geographic region.

Calculation is:

$$\frac{\text{Number of Induced Abortions in the Region} \times 1000}{\text{(Number of Induced Abortions in the Region} + \text{Number of infants born alive in the Region)}}$$

Abortion Rate The number of induced abortions occurring in 1000 women of reproductive age in the geographic region.

Calculation is:

$$\frac{\text{Number of Induced Abortions in the Region} \times 1000}{\text{All women in the Region aged 15-44}}$$

Birth Rate The number of infants born alive per 1000 women of reproductive age in the geographic region. Calculation is:

$$\frac{\text{Number of Infants born alive in the Region} \times 1000}{\text{All women in the Region aged 15-44}}$$

Pregnancy Rate The sum of the number of induced abortions and the number of infants born alive per 1000 women of reproductive age in the geographic region. Calculation is:

$$\frac{\text{(Number of Induced Abortions in the Region} + \text{Number of Infants born alive in the Region)} \times 1000}{\text{All women in the Region aged 15-44}}$$

Percentage The number of items with the characteristic per 100 items. Rounding of individual percentage values may mean their total does not equal 100 percent.

OTHER NOTES

Trend Data	<p>Where data was collected from 1999, trend data included data for calendar years from 1999.</p> <p>Where data items were introduced late in 2001, trend data included cases for calendar years from 2002.</p>
Interpretation of 2012 data	<p>Rates reported for 2012 should be interpreted with caution as the WA population data was projected data and Midwives Notification birth data was not complete at time of reporting these data.</p>
Source of Abortion Data	<p>Unless otherwise stated, all Abortion data reported in this report was retrieved from the Abortion Notification System on 11th February 2013.</p>
Source of Birth Data	<p>Unless otherwise stated, all Birth data reported in this report was retrieved from the Midwives Notification System on 1st March 2013. Data collection for 2012 births was not complete at time of reporting.</p>
Source of Population Data	<p>Unless otherwise stated, all Population data was retrieved from the statistical website of the WA DoH Epidemiology Branch on 28th December 2012. These data are provided in the Appendix of this document.</p>
Aboriginal Status for women having an Abortion	<p>Within Western Australia, the term Aboriginal is used in preference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, 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 reported was Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Non-Aboriginal cases include those that were reported as “Other” and those that had no Aboriginal status reported.</p>

1. Introduction

This is the fourth report on abortions in Western Australia (WA) from the Abortion Notification System. All tables presented here are in statistical form without identification of individual women or doctors.

The Department of Health, WA collects and reports data about induced abortions in WA as required under the *WA Health Act 1911*.

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, 2010 to 2012, which have not been reported previously. Data since 1999 are also included to enable trend analysis.

Characteristics such as age, region of residence and Aboriginal status are reported for women who had abortions in WA. Clinical details like health establishment, procedures, gestational age at time of abortion and reasons for abortion are described. Comparisons are made with data reported by other jurisdictions in Australia and other nations where available.

2. Executive summary

From 1999 to 2012, the annual number of induced abortions in WA ranged between 7,829 and 8,885 (Table 1), an average annual number of 8,334 induced abortions.

In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the rate of abortions performed in WA per 1000 women of reproductive age was 17.5, 17.4 and 16.4 respectively (Table 1). These rates continue an ongoing downward trend from a rate of 19.7 in 1999.

The induced abortion rate in WA in 2010 and 2011 was equal to the abortion rate in New Zealand and England and Wales while in 2010 the WA rate was higher than the rate in South Australia by 2.0 abortions per 1000 women (Table 27).

Similar to previous years, approximately 95% of induced abortions in WA occurred in the metropolitan area with 85% of women having abortions living in the metropolitan area. Almost 80% of WA women of reproductive age live in the metropolitan area (Figure 3).

Private day hospitals in the metropolitan area in 2010, 2011 and 2012 performed 93.8, 92.5 and 92.6 percent respectively of all induced abortions (Table 21).

In 2012, the mean, median and mode ages of women who had an induced abortion were 27, 26 and 22 respectively. For all previous years the mean age was 26 and median age was 25 (Table 2).

The highest Abortion Rate was for women aged 20 to 24 years, 30.4, 31.0 and 29.3 per 1000 women for 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively (Table 4).

In 2011 and 2012, for the first time, the Abortion Rate for teenaged women was lower than their Birth Rate. Since 2002, the Abortion Rate for these women has decreased from 23.0 to 14.4 per 1000 women in 2012. The Birth Rate has also decreased from 20.9 to 17.1 per 1000 women estimated for 2012 (Figure 6). There was a decrease in Pregnancy Rate for teenaged women from 43.9 in 2002 to 31.5 per 1000 women in 2012 (Table 6).

The Abortion Rate for women aged 40 to 44 years has remained static at around 5 per 1000 women over the last 13 years. However, in the same period the Birth Rate has increased from 8.6 in 2002 to 14.7 per 1000 women predicted for 2012 (Figure 6).

The highest proportion of induced abortions occurring in WA was for women aged 20 to 24 years, 29.6, 30.5 and 29.5 percent for 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively (Table 3).

The rate of induced abortion for Aboriginal women of reproductive age was 12.2 per 1000 women in 2010 and 2011, consistent with previous years. This rate was lower than the rates of 17.6 in 2010 and 19.4 in 2011 for non-Aboriginal women (Table 16, Table 17).

The majority (90.0 percent in 2012) of induced abortions occurred in the first 11 weeks of pregnancy (Table 22).

Most induced abortions in the first seven weeks of pregnancy were performed by vacuum aspiration 69.9, 63.0 and 66.1 percent for years 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively. Since 2008 the use of medications like Mifepristone and Misoprostol were increasingly used from 0.5 percent in 2008 to 12.9 percent in 2010 with an equal and opposite change in the proportion by vacuum aspiration (Figure 12).

The proportion of all abortions occurring at a gestation of 20 weeks or more was 0.5, 0.5 and 0.6 percent for 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively. All abortions at these gestations occurred at the approved¹ health service.

Identified or suspected congenital abnormalities were the reason for 3.0, 2.9 and 2.6 percent of all induced abortions that occurred in 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively (Table 24).

Congenital anomalies were reported as the reason for 95.5, 93.6 and 90.4 percent of all induced abortions at 20 weeks gestation or more occurring during 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively (Table 25).

¹ A facility conducting abortions for pregnancies with a gestation of 20 weeks or more must first be approved for this function by the Minister for Health.

3. Background

3.1. Legal status of induced abortion in Western Australia

An induced abortion is defined as the termination of pregnancy via medical or surgical intervention, excluding spontaneous abortions or miscarriages (WHO, 2012) (Grayson N, 2005).

In May 1998, changes to the legislative provisions relating to abortions were made with the introduction of the *Acts Amendment (Abortion) Act 1998, (The Amendments)* (WA Parliament, 1998). While abortion was available in Western Australia (WA) before 1998 with the procedure claimable under Medicare, its legal status was unclear.

A subsequent review of *The Amendments* recommended enhancements to the collection of abortion data (Department of Health WA, 2002).

The Amendments made 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
- justified under Section 334 of the Health Act 1911. An abortion is justified for women up to 20 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.

(Sections (b), (c) and (d) do not apply unless the woman has given informed consent or in the case of sections (c) and (d) it is impractical for her to do so).

The performance of abortion when the gestation of the pregnancy is 20 weeks or more requires approval from a medical panel appointed by the Minister for Health. The abortion must be provided in a facility approved by the Minister for Health.

3.2. Requirement to notify of an induced abortion

Under section 335 (5) (d) of the *Health Act 1911* when a medical practitioner performs an induced abortion, the medical practitioner shall notify the Executive Director Public Health of the fact in the 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.

Following review of *The Amendments* in 2002, the woman's age, ethnic origin and residential postcode were required to be reported to the Abortion Notification System.

3.3. The Abortion Notification System

Information about induced abortions is reported by medical practitioners to the Executive Director of Public Health. The Maternal and Child Health Unit, Department of Health (MCHU) uses the Abortion Notification System (ANS) to collate, store and report the information received.

The content of the reporting instrument, Form 1 (Appendix B), was last revised in 2002 following the review of *The Amendments*.

The form is a non-carbon required (NCR) duplicate form and is supplied to medical practitioners by the MCHU with addressed, pre-paid envelopes marked confidential for returning completed forms.

The medical practitioner performing the abortion submits the completed form to the MCHU. Information received is entered directly to the ANS. The notification process is further described at:

<http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/288/3/terminationsof.pm>.

3.4. Quality of Data Reported

A data validation process that includes cross validation with other data sets requires the ability to link records for the same individuals across existing data collections. As no demographic information is able to be collected for women having induced abortions, it is not possible to validate the reports received to ANS against data held by other data sets.

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

3.4.1. Number (Count) of Cases Reported

A comparison between number of cases in ANS and hospital admissions data held in the WA Hospital Morbidity Data Collection is undertaken. The number of cases held in each data set was compared for each of the time periods. ICD-10-AM Diagnosis codes relating to induced abortion were used to identify records in HMDS. These were O04.0, O04.1, O04.3-004.9, O06.0, O06.1, O06.4, O06.9, O07.0, O07.1, O07.3, O07.4, O07.9, and O31.1.

This comparison of number of cases confirmed a reasonably close correlation between data held in the HMDS and the ANS. The number of cases in ANS was 95% of the number of cases in HMDS. The additional cases in HMDS may be explained by a number of hospital separations that were for readmissions following an abortion procedure, cases not able to be excluded because coding was not sufficiently granular, and possibly some notifications not being reported to, or received, by the MCHU.

This comparison of number of cases reported has been provided to the Health Services as a reminder of the requirement to notify the department of induced

abortions. It was not possible to receive late notifications as it was not possible to identify individuals where the case was not notified.

3.4.2. Data Validation

Postcodes provided were validated against Australian Postcodes listed by Australia Post. Postcodes that were invalid were excluded when data about residence at time of abortion was calculated.

Medical Practitioners reporting abortions were confirmed as registered Medical Practitioners by reference to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) List of Registered Practitioners.

Only the data item “Method of Termination” may have multiple responses reported. All other data items were validated to prevent multiple data items being reported.

Specified fetal anomalies were validated against a known list of anomalies.

Patient’s age was validated by ensuring age was in the reproductive years and ages from 10 to 55 years were accepted.

Gestation of pregnancy was validated by ensuring age in weeks was at least one and less than 45. In addition, gestational ages of 20 weeks or more were validated by site and method of termination.

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

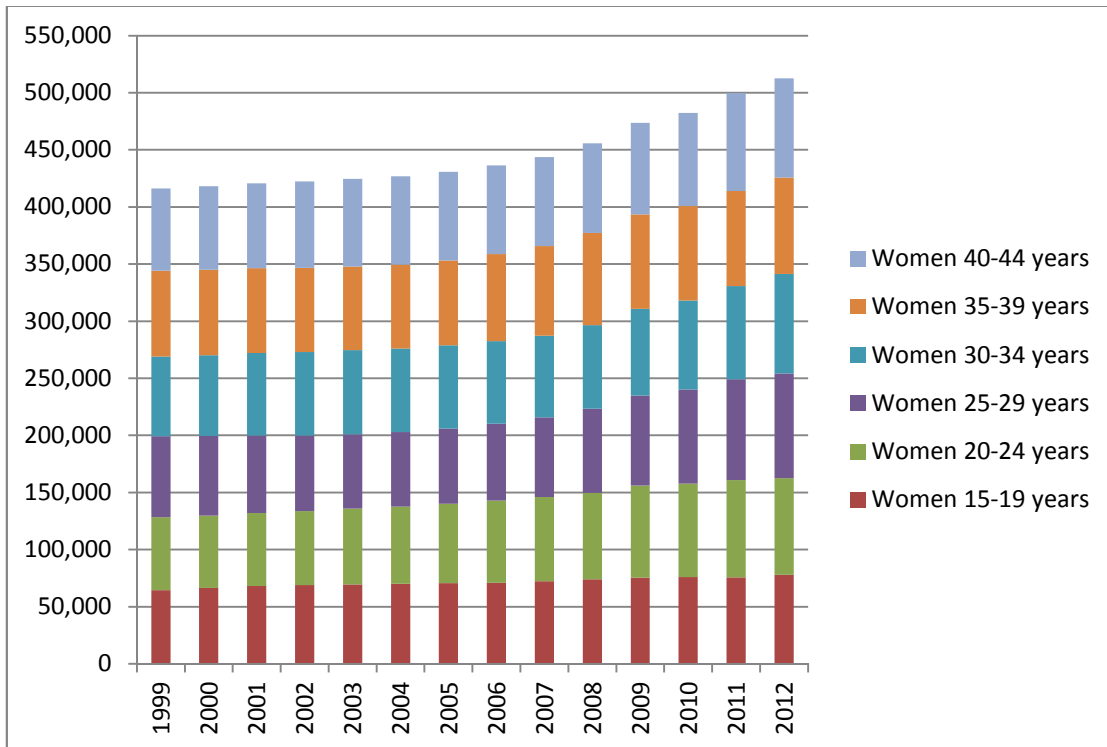
Cases with data deemed invalid at the time of reporting were excluded when the affected data item would influence results e.g. if the postcode was invalid, the case was not included in data about residence of woman.

4. Population of Women of Reproductive Age

The population of women of childbearing age in WA has been increasing since 1999 with an increase of over 23% estimated by 2012 (Epidemiology Branch, WA).

In particular, the population of women aged 20 to 24 and 25 to 29 years increased by 32.3 percent and 29.5 percent respectively (Figure 1 and Supplementary Table 29).

Figure 1: Number of Women of Reproductive Age, WA, 1999-2012



5. Trend in Induced Abortions

The numbers of abortions reported to the ANS each calendar year since 1999 have remained fairly static. An increasing population and a static number of abortions results in a declining Abortion Rate for WA over the period reported.

Since 1999, the rate of abortion occurring per 1000 women aged 15 to 44 years has decreased from 19.7 to 17.5, 17.4 and 16.4 in 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively (Table 1).

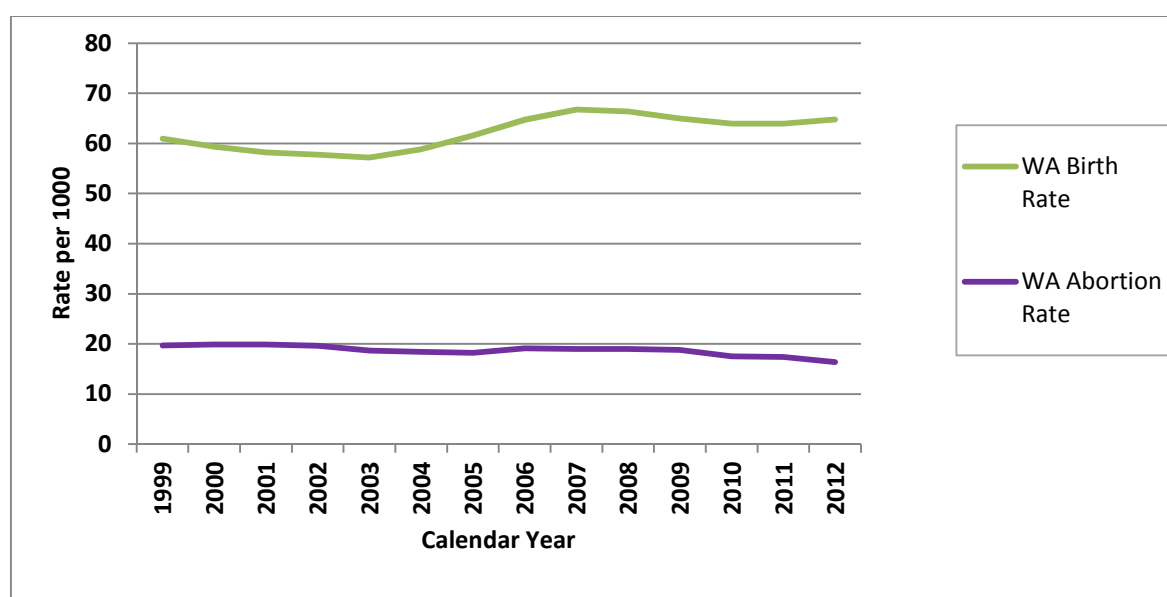
In the same period the WA Birth Rate per 1000 women of reproductive age has had an overall increase from a low of 57.2 in 2003 to a high of 66.8 in 2007. In 2012 the Birth Rate may reach 65.0 when WA birth data collection is completed (Figure 2).

Table 1: Trend data for Induced Abortions, WA, 1999 to 2012

Year	Number of Abortions	Population of Women 15-44 years	Abortion Rate	Birth Rate
1999	8220	416,203	19.7	61.0
2000	8337	418,289	19.9	59.3
2001	8378	420,758	19.9	58.2
2002	8262	422,482	19.6	57.7
2003	7941	424,691	18.7	57.2
2004	7869	426,972	18.4	58.8
2005	7829	430,796	18.2	61.6
2006	8336	436,499	19.1	64.7
2007	8424	443,749	19.0	66.8
2008	8668	455,679	19.0	66.4
2009	8885	473,512	18.8	65.0
2010	8415	482,215	17.5	64.0
2011	8683	499,608	17.4	63.9
2012	8429	512,535	16.4	64.8

Population data used is provided in Supplementary Table 29.

Figure 2: Birth and Abortion Rate in WA, 1999-2012



Population data used is also provided in Supplementary Table 29.

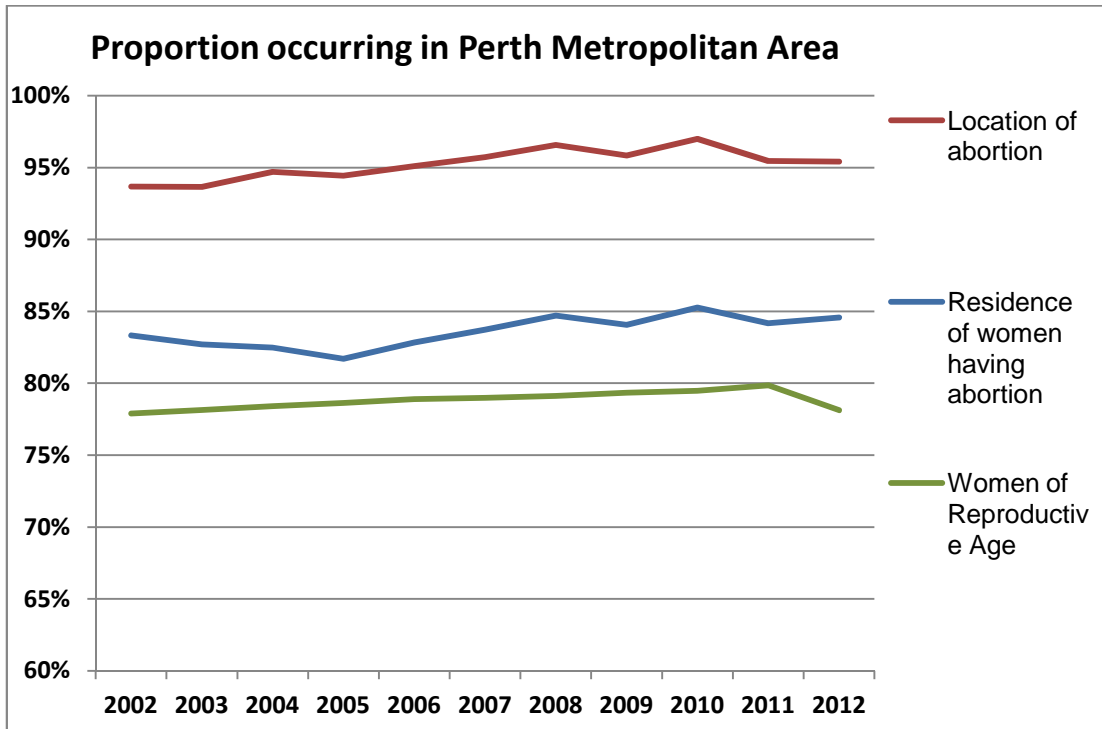
For years 2010 to 2012, almost 80 percent of the WA population of women of reproductive age were concentrated in the metropolitan area around Perth.

Between 84 and 85 percent of induced abortions were for women residing in the metropolitan area.

Health services in the metropolitan area conducted 95 percent of the WA induced abortions.

These data are similar to previous years from 2008 but metropolitan proportions have increased overall since 2002 (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Proportion in Perth Metropolitan Area, 2002-2012



Population data used is also provided in Supplementary Table 29.

6. Characteristics of women having Induced Abortions

6.1. Age

The number of abortions occurring in WA by age group of women is presented below.

The proportion of all abortions that occurred in each age group, the rate of abortion, the rate of birth and the proportion of pregnancies that ended in an induced abortion are described by age of the woman.

6.1.1. Induced Abortions by Age Group

The average or mean age of WA women having an abortion in the past 11 years ranged between 26.2 to the highest average age ever in 2012. A small number of these women were at both ends of the reproductive age.

The mode or most frequently occurring age in years of women having an induced abortion in WA has varied slightly since 2002 ranging from 19 in 2008 to 22 years in 2009, 2011 and 2012 (Table 2).

The median age, or the age that separates the youngest half from the oldest half of the group of women who had an induced abortion in WA changed from 25 to 26 years for the first time in 2012 (Table 2).

These data reflect that there are more women older than the most common age for women having an induced abortion than there are younger women. They also support the increased proportion of all induced abortions for women aged 20-34 displayed in Table 3.

Table 2: Mean and Median Age at Induced Abortion, WA, 2002 to 2012

Year	No Age	Mean	Median	Mode	Minimum	Maximum
2002	171	26.2	25	21	12	50
2003	75	26.3	25	20	13	49
2004	58	26.3	25	20	13	49
2005	0	26.4	25	21	12	49
2006	19	26.2	25	20	12	51
2007	0	26.3	25	20	12	49
2008	4	26.2	25	19	12	51
2009	0	26.4	25	22	11	49
2010	0	26.5	25	21	12	50
2011	0	26.6	25	22	12	55
2012	1	27.0	26	22	13	50

Cases where no age at last birthday was reported were excluded.

The number of abortions for each age group is provided as a percentage or proportion of all abortions performed.

Of induced abortions that occurred in WA in 2010, 2011 and 2012, the highest number of abortions occurred in women aged 20 to 24 years (29.6, 30.5 29.5 percent). This is consistent with previous years reported. The proportion of abortions performed for women aged 35 or more has remained between 15.9 and 16.5 percent over previous years with 16.5, 15.9 and 16.6 percent for 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively.

The proportion of WA abortions that occurred in teenagers has decreased in recent years from 19.7 to 13.2 percent. An increase in proportion is observed in the age groups 25-29 and 30-34 (Table 3).

Table 3: Proportion of Abortions by Age Group, WA, 2002 to 2012

Year	Age group (years)								Total
	<15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	≥45	
Number									
2002	23	1564	2261	1695	1331	844	338	35	8091
2003	20	1506	2197	1672	1262	816	358	35	7866
2004	35	1491	2160	1606	1269	854	363	29	7807
2005	37	1450	2263	1519	1247	861	395	57	7829
2006	36	1628	2395	1633	1303	923	364	35	8317
2007	25	1631	2448	1646	1262	986	391	35	8424
2008	37	1611	2498	1835	1301	992	357	33	8664
2009	44	1551	2634	1864	1353	1042	365	32	8885
2010	27	1389	2493	1882	1236	933	410	45	8415
2011	24	1331	2647	1913	1388	969	373	38	8683
2012	21	1098	2476	2004	1427	923	434	45	8428
Percentage									
2002	0.3	19.3	27.9	20.9	16.5	10.4	4.2	0.4	100.0
2003	0.3	19.1	27.9	21.3	16.0	10.4	4.6	0.4	100.0
2004	0.4	19.1	27.7	20.6	16.3	10.9	4.6	0.4	100.0
2005	0.5	18.5	28.9	19.4	15.9	11.0	5.0	0.7	100.0
2006	0.4	19.6	28.8	19.6	15.7	11.1	4.4	0.4	100.0
2007	0.3	19.4	29.1	19.5	15.0	11.7	4.6	0.4	100.0
2008	0.4	18.6	28.8	21.2	15.0	11.4	4.1	0.4	100.0
2009	0.5	17.5	29.6	21.0	15.2	11.7	4.1	0.4	100.0
2010	0.3	16.5	29.6	22.4	14.7	11.1	4.9	0.5	100.0
2011	0.3	15.3	30.5	22.0	16.0	11.2	4.3	0.4	100.0
2012	0.2	13.0	29.4	23.8	16.9	11.0	5.1	0.5	100.0

Age at last birthday was not provided for 171, 75, 62, 19, 4 and 1 cases in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2012 respectively. These are excluded from data presented above.

6.1.2. Rate of Induced Abortion by Population Age Group

The Abortion Rate is determined from the number of induced abortions per 1000 women of reproductive age living in the geographical area of interest.

In 2010, 2011 and 2012, WA women in the 20 to 24 year age group had the highest Rate of Abortion per 1000 women (30.4, 31.0 and 29.3 respectively). The age group with the second highest Abortion Rate was the 25 to 29 year age group (22.9, 21.7, and 21.9 per 1000 women).

A decrease in the proportion of WA induced abortions for teenaged women observed in Table 3 is reflected by a decrease in the Abortion Rate of teenaged women aged 15 to 19 years (Table 4). However, the increased proportion of all WA abortions for women aged 20 to 29 is not reflected in the Abortion Rate for these women (Table 4). This may be explained by increasing population in WA in the age group 20 to 29 that is not mirrored by an increase in the number of abortions performed.

The overall rate of abortion in women of childbearing age decreased from 19.2 in 2002 to 16.4 per 1000 in 2012 (Table 4).

Table 4: Abortion Rate by Age Group of Woman, WA, 2002–2012

Year	Age Group (years)						Overall Rate
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
2002	23.0	34.9	25.7	18.2	11.4	4.9	19.2
2003	21.9	33.1	25.7	17.1	11.2	5.1	18.5
2004	21.8	31.9	24.6	17.3	11.7	5.1	18.3
2005	21.1	32.5	23.1	17.1	11.6	5.8	18.2
2006	23.5	33.3	24.3	18.1	12.1	5.1	19.1
2007	22.9	33.2	23.6	17.6	12.6	5.5	19.0
2008	22.3	33.0	25.0	17.8	12.3	5.0	19.0
2009	21.1	32.7	23.6	17.8	12.6	5.0	18.8
2010	18.7	30.4	22.9	15.9	11.3	5.6	17.5
2011	17.9	31.0	21.7	17.0	11.6	4.8	17.4
2012	14.4	29.3	21.9	16.4	10.9	5.5	16.4

Age at last birthday was not provided for 171, 75, 62, 19, 4 and 1 cases in 2002, 2003, 2004 2006, 2008 and 2012 respectively. These are excluded from data presented above.

Population data used is also provided in Supplementary Table 29.

Induced Abortions for women aged less than 15 years are included in the numerator for the age group 15-19 years.

Induced Abortions for women aged more than 44 years are included in the numerator for the age group 40-44 years.

6.1.3. Birth Rate by Population Age Group

The Birth Rate is determined from the number of women who gave birth at 20 weeks gestation or more per 1000 women of reproductive age living in the geographical area of interest.

Women in the 30 to 34 year age group had the highest Birth Rate (127.8 per 1000) in 2009, while the 25 to 29 year age group had the second highest Birth Rate (111.9 per 1000). Teenaged women continued to have the second lowest Birth Rate (17.8, 18.3 and 17.1 per 1000 women) in 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively (Table 5).

The Birth Rate for teenaged women has generally decreased over the years reported here. Women at the other end of the reproductive age have the lowest Birth Rate of all age groups, though this Rate has almost doubled since 2002 (Table 5).

Table 5: Birth Rates by Age of Woman, WA, 2002–2012

Year	Age Group (years)						Overall Rate
	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	
2002	20.9	61.9	107.1	106.4	46.6	8.6	57.7
2003	19.2	56.9	103.1	109.6	50.0	9.5	57.2
2004	19.8	58.3	105.3	113.1	53.1	9.5	58.8
2005	21.0	59.1	107.1	119.2	58.8	10.6	61.6
2006	21.3	64.4	110.3	123.3	64.0	11.5	64.7
2007	20.9	65.6	114.5	126.9	67.0	12.2	66.8
2008	20.8	63.6	111.0	126.0	67.7	13.2	66.4
2009	19.4	61.1	107.7	124.8	64.5	13.5	65.0
2010	17.8	57.6	106.7	122.1	64.6	14.0	64.0
2011	18.3	56.1	103.5	122.3	65.1	14.7	63.9
2012	17.1	57.6	103.5	122.4	65.9	14.7	64.8

Population data used is also provided in Supplementary Table 29.

Livebirths for women aged less than 15 years are included in the numerator for the age group 15-19 years.

Livebirths for women aged more than 44 years are included in the numerator for the age group 40-44 years.

Data for 2012 were not complete in the Midwives Notification System at time of reporting. Rates calculated with birth data completed would be expected to be higher than those reported here.

6.1.4. Abortion and Birth Rate Comparison by Age Group

Adding the Abortion and Birth Rates provides a Pregnancy Rate for women of reproductive age.

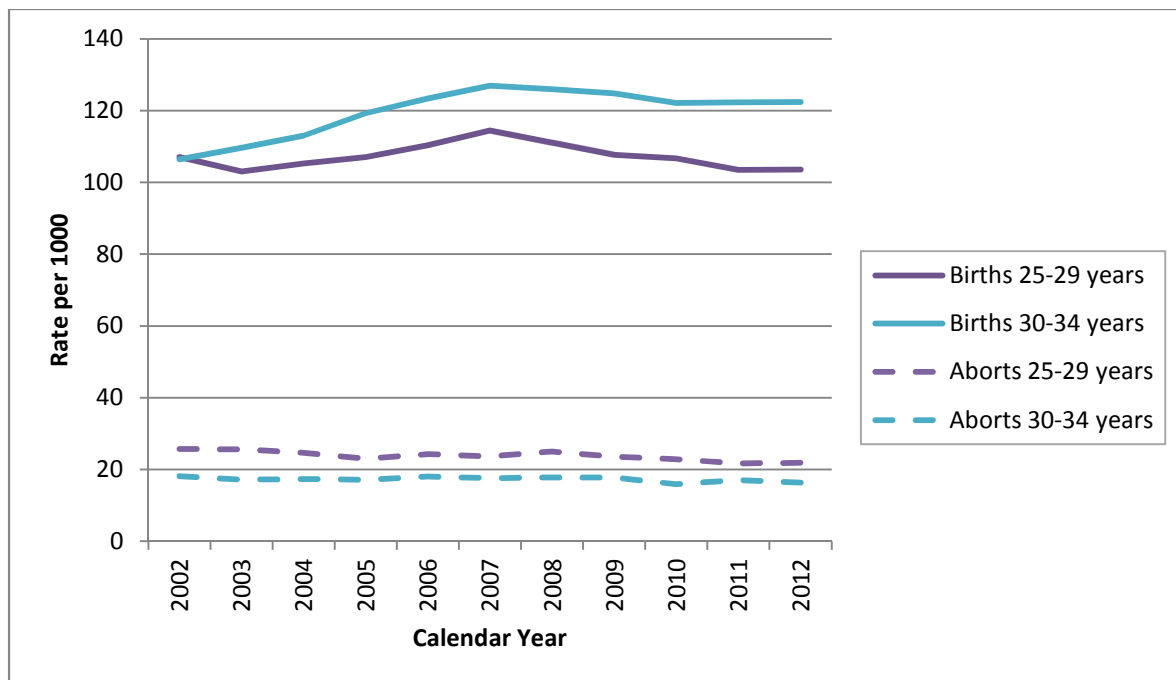
There was a large difference between Abortion and Birth Rates for women in the age groups 25 to 29 and 30 to 34 years.

Women aged 30 to 34 years had a similar Abortion Rate each year since 2002 of less than 20 per 1000 WA women. However, these women had an increasing Pregnancy Rate because of an increase in Birth Rate from 124.6 in 2002 to 138.7 per 1000 women in 2012 (Figure 4).

WA women aged 25 to 29 years also had a similar Abortion Rate each year since 2002 of slightly more than 20 per 1000 women. Their Birth Rate has decreased slightly overall from 132.8 to 125.4. A static Abortion Rate and a decreasing Birth Rate means their Pregnancy Rate has also slightly decreased in the period 2002 to 2012 (Figure 4).

The Birth Rate has become higher in women aged 30 to 34 years since 2002 while the Abortion Rate remains higher in women aged 25 to 29 (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Rates Comparison for Women aged 25 to 29 and 30 to 34 years, WA, 2002-2012

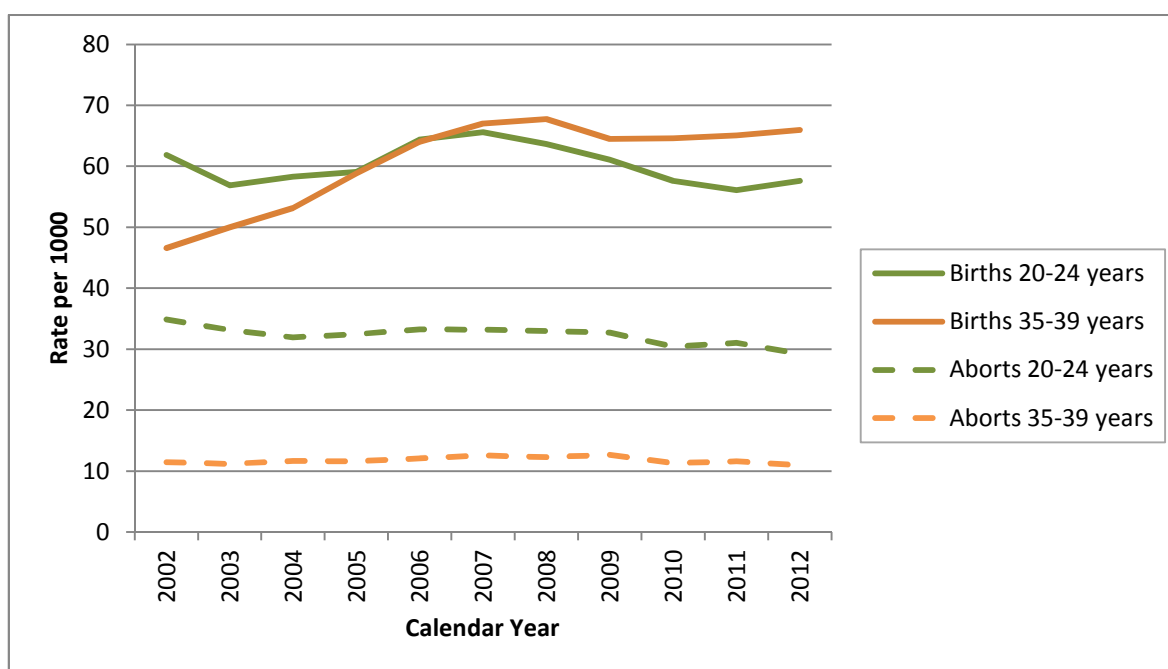


For women aged 35 to 39 years, the Abortion Rate has been similar for each year since 2002 at around 10.0 per 1000 WA women, However, their Birth Rate has increased from 46.6 in 2002 to 65.9 per 1000 women in 2012. Their Pregnancy Rate has also increased (Figure 7).

For WA women aged 20 to 24 years, since 2002 their Abortion Rate has decreased from 34.9 to 29.3 per 1000 women in 2012. The Birth Rate for women in this age group has fluctuated in the period reported but was lower overall in 2012 at 57.6 per 1000 women (Figure 7).

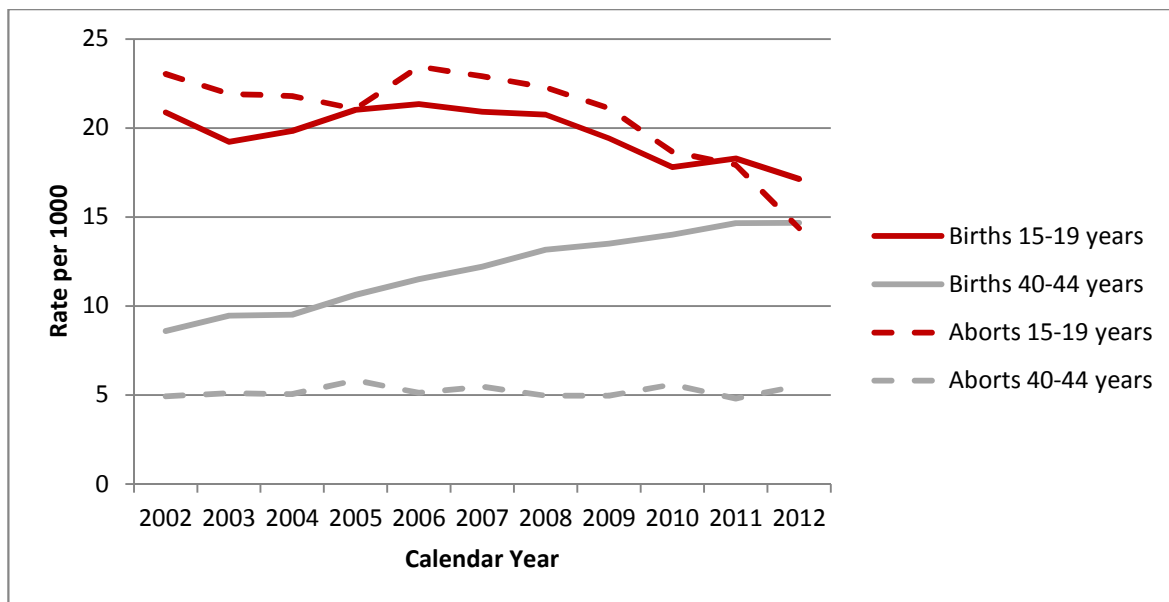
Since 2007 a higher Birth Rate occurred in women aged 35 to 39 than in women aged 20 to 24 years. Overall the pregnancy rate of women aged 35 to 39 has increased from 58.0 in 2002 to 76.9 per 1000 women in 2012 and has decreased from 96.7 in 2002 to 86.9 per 1000 women aged 20 to 24 years in 2012.

Figure 5: Rates Comparison for Women aged 20 to 24 and 35 to 39 years, WA, 2002-2012



In 2011, for the first time, the Abortion Rate for WA women aged up to 19 years was lower than their Birth Rate. Overall the Pregnancy Rate in this age group is decreasing (Figure 6).

At the other end of the female reproductive age range, the Abortion Rate for women aged 40 or older has remained around 5.0 since 2002. The Birth Rate in this age group has almost doubled since 2002 to 14.7 in 2012 (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Rates Comparison for Teenaged and Older Women, WA, 2002-2012


6.1.5. Occurrence of Pregnancies in Teenage Women

The Pregnancy Rate is determined from the number of women who had an induced abortion or who gave birth at 20 weeks gestation or more per 1000 women of reproductive age living in the geographical area of interest. Pregnancies that ended in miscarriage or stillbirth were not included.

Until 2011, teenage women in WA had more induced abortions than live births. By 2011 the teenage Birth Rate was higher than the induced Abortion Rate. The overall Pregnancy Rate for teenagers reduced from 43.9 to 31.5 per 1000 teenage women (Table 6).

Table 6: Teenage Abortion, Birth and Pregnancy Rates, WA, 2002-2012

Year	Abortion Rate	Birth Rate	Pregnancy Rate
2002	23.0	20.9	43.9
2003	21.9	19.2	41.1
2004	21.8	19.8	41.6
2005	21.1	21.0	42.1
2006	23.5	21.3	44.8
2007	22.9	20.9	43.8
2008	22.3	20.8	43.1
2009	21.1	19.4	40.5
2010	18.6	17.8	36.4
2011	17.9	18.3	36.2
2012	14.4	17.1	31.5

Population data used is also provided in Supplementary Table 29.

Induced Abortions and Livebirths for women aged less than 15 years are included in the numerator for the age group 15-19 years.

6.1.6. The Abortion Proportion by Age Group

The Abortion Proportion is calculated from the number of induced abortions divided by the sum of the number of induced abortions and the number of infants born alive at 20 weeks gestation in the geographic region expressed as a percentage.

The Abortion Proportion for all women has declined in the last 11 years from 24.7 percent in 2002 to 20.1 percent in 2012. This change is reflected to a varying extent in all age groups. Teenaged women had the highest Abortion Proportion seen in any age group, 45.8 percent in 2012 (Table 7). A high proportion of abortions was also seen in women aged 20 to 24 years with 33.6 percent of pregnancies ending in abortion rather than livebirth. Women aged 30 to 34 years had the lowest Abortion Proportion, 11.7 percent in 2012.

Table 7: Abortion Proportion by Age of Woman, WA, 2002–2012

Year	Age Group (years)						Total
	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	
2002	52.6	36.0	19.2	14.5	19.5	36.1	24.7
2003	53.4	36.7	19.8	13.4	18.1	34.9	24.3
2004	52.3	35.3	18.8	13.2	17.8	34.6	23.6
2005	50.1	35.4	17.6	12.4	16.2	35.2	22.6
2006	52.2	34.0	17.9	12.7	15.7	29.7	22.6
2007	52.3	33.6	17.0	12.1	15.6	29.5	22.0
2008	51.9	34.1	18.2	12.3	15.2	26.5	22.2
2009	52.0	35.0	17.9	12.4	16.2	25.8	22.3
2010	51.2	34.5	17.6	11.4	14.8	28.2	21.3
2011	49.4	35.6	17.3	12.1	15.1	24.3	21.3
2012	45.8	33.6	17.3	11.7	14.1	27.1	20.1

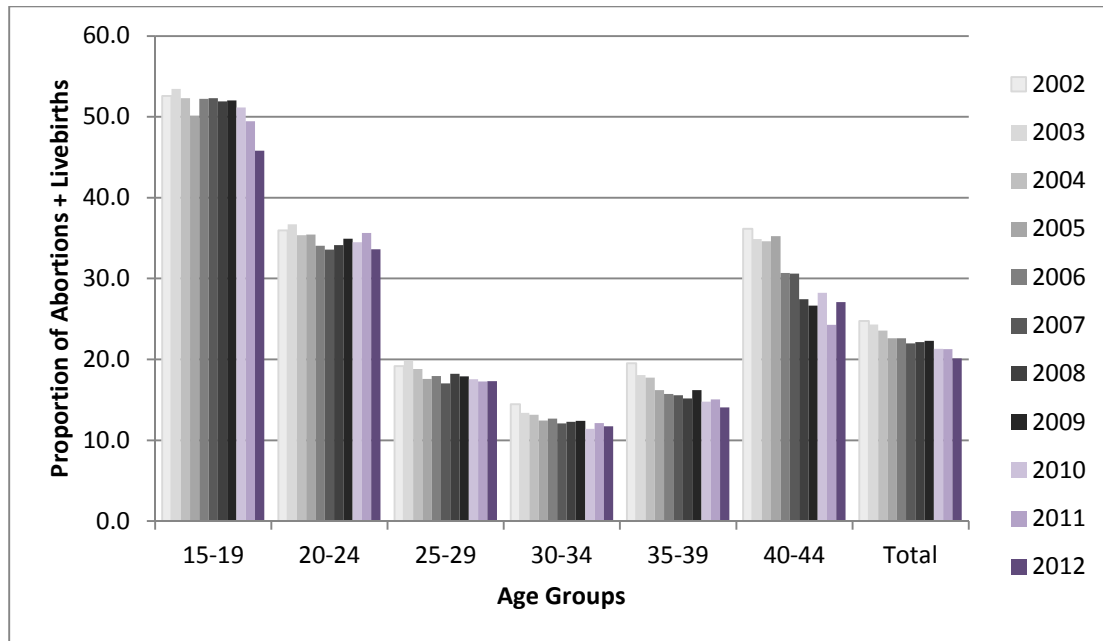
Age at last birthday was not provided for 171, 75, 62, 19, 4 and 1 cases in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2012 respectively. These are excluded from data presented above.

Population data used is also provided in Supplementary Table 29.

Induced Abortions and Livebirths for women aged less than 15 years are included in the numerator for the age group 15-19 years.

Induced Abortions and Livebirths for women aged more than 44 years are included in the numerator for the age group 40-44 years.

Figure 7: Abortion Proportion by Age of Woman, WA, 2002 - 2012



Induced Abortions for women aged less than 15 years are included in the numerator for the age group 15-19 years.

Induced Abortions for women aged more than 44 years are included in the numerator for the age group 40-44 years.

6.2. Abortion Rate by Health Region of Residence

Women’s place of residence was determined from postcode reported at time of Abortion. Postcodes have been grouped by WA Health Region (Epidemiology Branch, 2010). Table 8 and Figure 8 present the Abortion Rate per 1000 women aged 15-44 years based on WA Health Region of the woman’s residence. The Abortion Rate for women living in a metropolitan area was higher than for women living in a rural area with women living in the Southern Metropolitan Area having the highest abortion rate.

In women living in country regions, the highest mean Abortion Rates for the period 2010 to 2012 were in the Southwest, Pilbara and Midwest, 13.1, 14.2 and 14.6 per 1000 women respectively (Table 8).

Table 8: Induced Abortions by Health Region of Residence, WA, 2007-2012

Health Region of Residence	Calendar Year					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number						
North Metro	3,731	3,745	3,862	3,608	3,775	3,670
South Metro	3,283	3,565	3,581	3,531	3,497	3,428
Metropolitan	7,014	7,310	7,443	7,139	7,272	7,098
Goldfields	155	145	156	118	129	112
Great Southern	132	147	146	114	112	112
Kimberley	97	100	105	111	95	119
Midwest	170	194	209	169	206	187
Pilbara	159	103	141	151	208	191
South West	458	452	473	401	451	403
Wheatbelt	193	178	181	170	167	171
Non-Metropolitan	1,364	1,319	1,411	1,234	1,368	1,295
Not WA or Invalid	46	39	31	42	43	36
Overall State	8,378	8,629	8854	8,373	8,640	8,393
Rate per 1000 population						
North Metro	19.7	19.2	19.1	17.5	17.8	17.1
South Metro	20.4	21.5	20.6	19.9	18.7	18.5
Metropolitan	20.0	20.3	19.8	18.6	18.2	17.7
Goldfields	12.9	11.9	12.7	9.6	10.3	9.1
Great Southern	12.7	13.8	13.4	10.5	10.8	9.4
Kimberley	12.2	12.3	12.6	13.1	11.0	11.3
Midwest	14.1	15.9	16.7	13.4	16.4	14.1
Pilbara	15.4	9.9	13.1	13.8	15.5	13.2
South West	16.2	15.5	15.6	13.0	14.7	11.5
Wheatbelt	15.7	14.4	14.3	13.4	13.3	11.7
Non-Metropolitan	14.6	13.9	14.4	12.5	13.6	11.5
Overall State	18.9	18.9	18.7	17.4	17.3	16.4

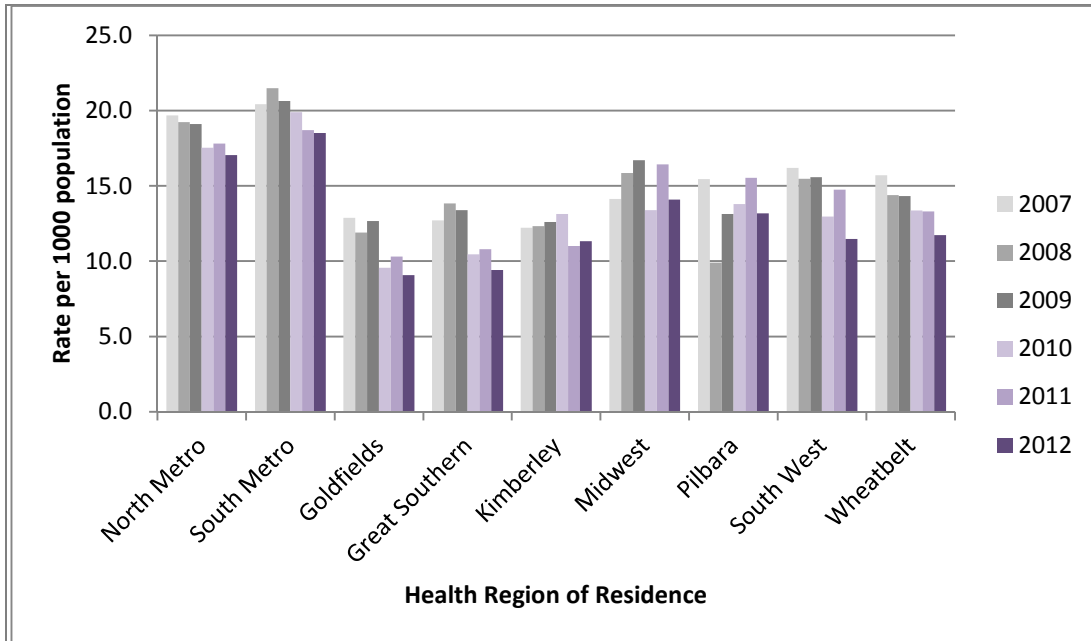
Postcode of residence was not provided for 8 cases in 2008. These are excluded from data presented above.

Population data used is also provided in Supplementary Table 30.

Induced Abortions for women aged less than 15 years are included in the numerator for the age group 15-19 years.

Induced Abortions for women aged more than 44 years are included in the numerator for the age group 40-44 years.

Figure 8: Induced Abortion Rate by Health Region of Residence, WA, 2007-2012



6.3. Abortion Rate by Health Region of Residence and Age Group

Abortion Rates in 2010 based on age and health region of residence of women were generally consistent across WA (Table 9). Overall the 20-24 year age group recorded the highest Abortion Rate (30.3 per 1000 women). This was reflected in most regions, except for the Kimberley, where the Abortion Rate for women aged 20-24 years was less than the Abortion Rate for teenaged women.

For women living in metropolitan areas, those aged 25 to 29 years had the second highest Abortion Rate (24.5 per 1000 women) after women aged 20 to 24 years (31.7 per 1000 women). However, in country areas, women aged 15 to 19 years had the second highest Abortion Rate (16.2 per 1000 women) after women aged 20 to 24 years (23.3 per 1000 women).

For all regions and overall, the lowest Abortion Rate was in women aged 40 to 44 years. Women in this age group had an Abortion Rate in the metropolitan area (6.1 per 1000 women) that was almost double the rate for country areas (3.3 per 1000 women). The overall Abortion Rate for women in late childbearing years was 5.5 per 1000 women in that age group.

Table 9: Rates of Induced Abortions by Health Region of Residence and Age, WA, 2010

Health Region of Residence	Age Group (years)						Overall Rate
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
North Metro	17.0	30.5	23.9	16.6	11.2	5.8	17.5
South Metro	21.7	33.2	25.2	17.4	13.5	6.5	19.9
Metropolitan	19.2	31.7	24.5	17.0	12.2	6.1	18.6
Goldfields	13.6	17.5	12.0	7.6	4.9	1.5	9.6
Great Southern	9.3	23.5	11.0	10.7	7.9	4.2	10.5
Kimberley	25.7	22.6	13.3	13.1	6.2	0.8	13.1
Midwest	17.8	23.5	14.5	13.9	9.6	3.2	13.4
Pilbara	24.1	24.6	20.2	10.6	6.0	2.5	13.8
South West	14.8	24.4	16.8	13.3	8.3	4.0	13.0
Wheatbelt	18.6	26.7	18.2	10.4	8.2	3.9	13.4
Non-Metropolitan	16.2	23.3	15.5	11.6	7.6	3.3	12.5
Overall State	18.6	30.3	22.7	15.8	11.2	5.5	17.4

42 cases were excluded as place of residence was not WA or invalid postcode was provided.

Population data used is also provided in Supplementary Table 31.

Induced Abortions for women aged less than 15 years are included in the numerator for the age group 15-19 years.

Induced Abortions for women aged more than 44 years are included in the numerator for the age group 40-44 years.

Abortion Rates in 2011 based on age and place of residence of women were generally consistent across WA (Table 10). Overall the 20-24 year age group recorded the highest Abortion rate (30.9 per 1000 women). Unlike 2010, this was reflected in the Rates for all regions.

As seen in 2010 data, women living in metropolitan areas women aged 25 to 29 years had the second highest Abortion Rate (22.9 per 1000 women) after women aged 20 to 24 years (31.7 per 1000 women). Unlike 2010, women aged 25 to 29 in country areas also had the second highest Abortion Rate (16.5 per 1000 women with teenaged women aged 15 to 19 years a close third in Abortion Rates (16.4 per 1000 women).

For all regions and overall, the lowest Abortion Rate was in women aged 40 to 44 years. Women in this age group had an Abortion Rate in the metropolitan area (5.2 per 1000 women) that was more than 50 percent higher than the abortion rate for country areas (3.2 per 1000 women). Since 2010 the abortion rate in metropolitan women in this age group has reduced. The overall Abortion Rate for women in late childbearing years was 4.8 per 1000 women in that age group.

Table 10: Rates of Induced Abortions by Health Region of Residence and Age, WA, 2011

Health Region of Residence	Age Group (years)						Overall Rate
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
North Metro	17.5	30.8	22.7	18.1	11.8	5.5	17.8
South Metro	19.1	32.7	23.0	18.1	12.5	4.9	18.7
Metropolitan	18.2	31.7	22.9	18.1	12.1	5.2	18.2
Goldfields	16.2	19.8	10.5	8.0	5.6	2.0	10.3
Great Southern	8.8	22.6	11.1	11.8	10.2	4.2	10.8
Kimberley	17.4	24.0	13.7	5.7	3.5	1.5	11.0
Midwest	18.6	28.2	23.8	16.4	12.7	2.5	16.4
Pilbara	21.8	26.9	13.9	17.4	10.2	5.1	15.5
South West	17.2	31.1	20.6	11.1	10.6	3.9	14.7
Wheatbelt	14.7	29.3	17.7	16.4	7.9	1.9	13.3
Non-Metropolitan	16.4	26.8	16.5	12.5	9.3	3.2	13.6
Overall State	17.9	30.9	21.6	16.9	11.5	4.8	17.3

43 cases were excluded as place of residence was not WA or invalid postcode was provided.

Population data used is also provided in Supplementary Table 32.

Induced Abortions for women aged less than 15 years are included in the numerator for the age group 15-19 years.

Induced Abortions for women aged more than 44 years are included in the numerator for the age group 40-44 years.

Abortion Rates in 2012 based on age and place of residence of women were both consistent with 2010 and 2011 and generally consistent across WA Health Regions (Table 11). Overall, the 20-24 year age group recorded the highest Abortion Rate (30.8 per 1000 women). This was reflected in rates in all regions.

Women aged 25 to 29 years had the second highest Abortion Rate (23.8 per 1000 women). Teenaged women in country areas moved from second highest, to third highest, then fourth highest Abortion Rates in the 2010, 2011 and 2012 calendar years respectively. In 2012, the rate of abortion for each age group in country areas overall mirrored the hierarchy of rate of abortion in metropolitan areas by age group. However, teenaged women had the second highest abortion rate in the Great Southern and Kimberley regions.

For all regions and overall, the lowest Abortion Rate was in women aged 40 to 44 years. Women in this age group had an Abortion Rate of 5.9 per 1000 women in the metropolitan area that was almost 50 percent higher than the Abortion Rate for country areas (3.8 per 1000 women). The overall Abortion Rate for women in these late childbearing years was 5.5 per 1000 women in that age group.

Table 11: Rates of Induced Abortions by Health Region of Residence and Age, WA, 2012

Health Region of Residence	Age Group (years)						Overall Rate
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
North Metro	14.9	29.6	22.4	16.6	11.5	6.3	17.0
South Metro	15.3	32.1	25.5	19.2	12.2	5.5	18.5
Metropolitan	15.1	30.8	23.8	17.8	11.9	5.9	17.7
Goldfields	9.6	14.8	10.1	8.3	7.3	4.0	9.0
Great Southern	14.9	16.4	10.3	10.8	3.9	2.7	9.4
Kimberley	14.4	16.0	13.7	11.5	5.6	6.9	11.3
Midwest	15.0	26.9	20.3	12.4	9.3	2.2	14.1
Pilbara	14.4	30.7	14.6	10.6	8.8	2.8	13.2
South West	8.1	24.2	15.6	12.4	7.7	4.2	11.5
Wheatbelt	11.2	21.6	12.7	12.8	10.3	4.4	11.7
Non-Metropolitan	11.4	22.3	14.3	11.5	7.7	3.8	11.5
Overall State	14.3	29.1	21.8	16.3	10.9	5.5	16.4

36 cases were excluded as place of residence was not in WA or invalid postcode was provided.

Population data used is also provided in Supplementary Table 33.

Induced Abortions for women aged less than 15 years are included in the numerator for the age group 15-19 years.

Induced Abortions for women aged more than 44 years are included in the numerator for the age group 40-44 years.

6.4. Abortion, Birth and Pregnancy Rates for Teenaged Women by Place of Residence

Overall in 2010, teenaged women living in WA had higher Abortion Rates (18.6 per 1000 women) than Birth Rates (17.8 per 1000 women) with a Pregnancy Rate of 36.4 per 1000 women (Table 12). For the smaller number of teenaged women living in country areas, there was a Pregnancy Rate and Birth Rate that exceeded those in metropolitan areas and, in contrast with metropolitan teenaged women, their Birth Rate was higher and almost twice their Abortion Rate.

Teenage women living in metropolitan WA (19.2 per 1000 women) had a higher Abortion Rate than those living in rural areas (16.2 per 1000 women).

Northern Metropolitan Area teenaged women had a lower rate of Abortion, Birth and Pregnancy than those living in the South Metropolitan Area.

Teenage women living in the Kimberley and the Pilbara regions had the highest Abortion, Birth and Pregnancy Rates in WA in 2010. High rates of teenage pregnancies were also evident in the Midwest population.

The Abortion Rate for teenage women was lowest in the Great Southern region. The teenage Birth Rate in this region was also low at 20.1 per 1000 women where overall pregnancy rate was the second lowest in WA. The Southwest region had a Pregnancy Rate that was comparable to women living in the metropolitan area. However, the Southwest Abortion Rate was very similar to metropolitan Birth Rate while the Southwest Birth Rate was similar to the metropolitan Abortion Rate.

Table 12: Teenage Pregnancy, Birth and Abortion Rates by Health Region of Residence, WA, 2010

Health Region of Residence	Abortion Rate	Birth Rate	Pregnancy Rate
North Metro	17.0	11.0	27.9
South Metro	21.7	18.5	40.2
Metropolitan	19.2	14.5	33.7
Goldfields	13.6	31.0	44.6
Great Southern	9.3	20.1	29.4
Kimberley	25.7	93.4	119.1
Midwest	17.8	37.0	54.8
Pilbara	24.1	44.9	69.0
South West	14.8	18.8	33.6
Wheatbelt	18.6	24.8	43.4
Non-Metropolitan	16.2	30.7	46.9
Overall State	18.6	17.8	36.4

6 Abortion cases and 2 Birth cases were excluded as postcode of residence reported was not in WA or was an invalid postcode.

Population data used is also provided in Supplementary Table 31.

Induced Abortions for women aged less than 15 years are included in the numerator.

Overall in 2011, teenage women living in WA had lower Abortion Rates (17.9 per 1000 women) than Birth Rates (18.1 per 1000 women) with a Pregnancy Rate of 36.0 per 1000 women (Table 13).

Teenage women living in metropolitan WA had a slightly higher Abortion Rate (18.2 per 1000 women) than those living in rural areas (16.4 per 1000 women).

Northern Metropolitan Area teenaged women had a lower rate of Abortion, Birth and Pregnancy than those living in the South Metropolitan Area, who had the second highest Abortion Rate reported for WA.

Teenage women living in the Pilbara region had the highest Abortion Rate in WA in 2011, while the Kimberley region reported the highest Birth and Pregnancy Rates in teenage women in WA in 2011. High rates of teenage pregnancies were also evident in the Goldfields and Midwest population.

The Abortion Rate for teenage women was lowest in the Great Southern region. The teenage Birth Rate in this region was almost double the Rate of Birth in the metropolitan area and was the second lowest Birth Rate among the seven rural health regions at 27.5 per 1000 women.

The Southwest region had an Abortion Rate comparable to women living in the metropolitan area; however the Birth and Pregnancy Rates in this region were higher than in the metropolitan area.

Table 13: Teenage Pregnancy, Birth and Abortion Rates by Health Region of Residence, WA, 2011

Health Region of Residence	Abortion Rate	Birth Rate	Pregnancy Rate
North Metro	17.5	10.5	27.9
South Metro	19.1	18.5	37.6
Metropolitan	18.2	14.3	32.5
Goldfields	16.2	44.9	61.1
Great Southern	8.8	27.5	36.3
Kimberley	17.4	74.4	91.8
Midwest	18.6	41.6	60.2
Pilbara	21.8	37.6	59.4
South West	17.2	19.2	36.5
Wheatbelt	14.7	33.7	48.4
Non-Metropolitan	16.4	34.0	50.4
Overall State	17.9	18.1	36.0

4 Abortion cases were excluded as postcode of residence reported was not in WA or was an invalid postcode.

Population data used is also provided in Supplementary Table 32.

Induced Abortions for women aged less than 15 years are included in the numerator.

Overall in 2012, teenaged women living in WA had lower Abortion Rates (14.3 per 1000 women) than Birth Rates (17.0 per 1000 women) with a Pregnancy Rate of 31.3 per 1000 women (Table 13). This pregnancy rate was a decrease of more than 10 percent on 2010 and 2011.

Teenaged women living in metropolitan WA had a slightly higher Abortion Rate (15.1 per 1000 women) than those living in rural areas (14.3 per 1000 women).

North Metropolitan Area teenaged women had a lower rate of Abortion, Birth and Pregnancy than those living in the South Metropolitan Area, who had the highest Abortion Rate reported for WA (15.3 per 1000 women).

Teenaged women living in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Midwest and Great Southern regions had similar Abortion Rates to the North and South Metropolitan Areas in 2012. The Kimberley region experienced the highest Birth (60.6 per 1000 women) and Pregnancy Rates (75.0 per 1000 women) among teenaged women in WA in 2012. High rates of teenage pregnancies were also evident in the Midwest, Goldfields, Pilbara and Wheatbelt population.

The Abortion Rate for teenage women was lowest in the Southwest (8.1 per 1000 women) and Goldfields (9.6 per 1000 women) regions. The lowest Pregnancy Rate among all nine regions was in the Southwest (23.5 per 1000 women aged 15 to 19).

Table 14: Teenage Pregnancy, Birth and Abortion Rates by Health Region of Residence, WA, 2012

Health Region of Residence	Abortion Rate	Birth Rate	Pregnancy Rate
North Metro	14.9	11.1	26.0
South Metro	15.3	17.9	33.1
Metropolitan	15.1	14.3	29.4
Goldfields	9.6	36.8	46.4
Great Southern	14.9	18.5	33.4
Kimberley	14.4	60.6	75.0
Midwest	15.0	32.0	47.0
Pilbara	14.4	28.7	43.1
South West	8.1	15.4	23.5
Wheatbelt	11.2	30.0	41.2
Non-Metropolitan	11.4	26.8	38.2
Overall State	14.3	17.0	31.3

7 Abortion cases were excluded as postcode of residence reported was not in WA or was an invalid postcode.

Population data used is also provided in Supplementary Table 33.

Induced Abortions for women aged less than 15 years are included in the numerator.

6.5. Aboriginal Status and Abortion Rate

Calculating the Abortion Rate by Aboriginal Status uses Population Data as the denominator. Population data by health region, age and Aboriginal status are not available for 2012 at time of reporting. Calendar years 2010 and 2011 are presented here. Data for calendar year 2012 will be presented in the next report.

In WA in 2011, 3.7 percent of the estimated number of women of childbearing age was Aboriginal. In the three years, 2010, 2011 and 2012, a smaller proportion of 2.6 and 2.7 percent of all induced abortions in WA were for Aboriginal women (Table 15).

Table 15: Abortion Numbers and Aboriginality, WA, 2002-2012

	Aboriginal Number (%)	Non-Aboriginal Number (%)	Total
2002	275 (3.3)	7987 (96.7)	8262
2003	254 (3.2)	7687 (96.8)	7941
2004	201 (2.6)	7668 (97.4)	7869
2005	196 (2.5)	7633 (97.5)	7829
2006	238 (2.9)	8098 (97.1)	8336
2007	234 (2.8)	8190 (97.2)	8424
2008	226 (2.6)	8442 (97.4)	8668
2009	232 (2.6)	8653 (97.4)	8885
2010	216 (2.6)	8199 (97.4)	8415
2011	235 (2.7)	8448 (97.3)	8683
2012	224 (2.7)	8205 (97.3)	8429

Cases without an Aboriginal status reported were included in the non-Aboriginal cases. Number of cases without status were 203, 62, 85, 34 and 2 for years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2008 respectively.

The small numbers of Induced Abortions reported for Aboriginal women in WA are presented by Health Region of woman's postcode. The Abortion Rates presented below must be interpreted with caution as even small variation in these numbers can change Abortion Rates.

In 2010 (Table 16) Abortion Rates were lower in Aboriginal women than in non-Aboriginal women in all age groups. In both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women, 20 to 24 year old women had the highest Rate of Abortion, and those that were 40 to 44 years old had the lowest rate of Abortion.

For both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women the Abortion Rate was higher for women with metropolitan residences than those living in the country.

In metropolitan areas, Aboriginal women aged 20 to 24 and living in the North Metropolitan Area had half the Abortion rate of Aboriginal women of this age group in the South Metropolitan Area, while the Non-Aboriginal women of this age group had similar abortion rates for North and South.

The highest Abortion Rate for Aboriginal women was in teenaged women living in the Kimberley and Midwest regions. Similarly, non-Aboriginal teenaged women living in the Kimberley had the highest Abortion Rate, closely followed by women aged 20 to 24 years in the metropolitan areas and Kimberley region. Teenaged non-

Aboriginal women in the Pilbara also had a high Abortion Rate compared to other age groups and regions of residence.

Table 16: Abortion Rate by Aboriginal Status, Age and Health Region of Residence, WA, 2010

Health Region of Residence	Age Group (Years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
Aboriginal							
North Metro	15.4	16.2	25.2	19.7	10.4	2.2	15.1
South Metro	16.4	31.2	20.0	17.1	6.4	2.2	17.0
Goldfields	0.0	3.2	12.2	9.4	0.0	0.0	4.0
Great Southern	9.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1
Kimberley	18.8	13.5	10.8	6.7	3.7	2.2	10.1
Midwest	32.6	13.8	10.3	8.0	8.3	9.2	15.4
Pilbara	5.4	20.7	10.3	3.8	3.8	7.9	9.0
South West	11.0	22.1	9.3	9.2	18.3	0.0	12.1
Wheatbelt	13.2	14.0	17.4	8.3	0.0	0.0	9.4
Overall State	15.3	17.6	15.0	11.0	6.0	3.0	12.2
Non-Aboriginal							
North Metro	17.0	30.7	23.9	16.5	11.2	5.9	17.6
South Metro	21.8	33.2	25.3	17.5	13.6	6.6	20.0
Goldfields	16.0	20.1	12.0	7.4	5.5	1.7	10.3
Great Southern	9.3	25.0	11.6	11.1	8.2	4.4	10.8
Kimberley	42.6	31.9	15.1	17.4	7.6	0.0	15.6
Midwest	14.3	25.3	15.2	14.7	9.8	2.5	13.1
Pilbara	31.9	25.7	21.8	11.5	6.3	1.5	14.7
South West	14.9	24.4	17.0	13.4	8.2	4.1	13.0
Wheatbelt	19.3	27.9	18.2	10.6	8.7	4.1	13.7
Overall State	18.8	30.8	23.0	16.0	11.4	5.6	17.6

42 Abortion cases were excluded as postcode of residence reported was not in WA or was an invalid postcode.

Population data used is also provided in Supplementary Table 31 and Supplementary Table 37.

Induced Abortions for women aged less than 15 years are included in the numerator for the age group 15-19 years.

Induced Abortions for women aged more than 44 years are included in the numerator for the age group 40-44 years.

In 2011 (Table 17), Abortion Rates were lower in Aboriginal women than in Non-Aboriginal women in all age groups. In both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women, 20 to 24 year old women had the highest Rate of Abortion, and those that were 40 to 44 years had the lowest rate.

For Aboriginal women, the Abortion Rate was higher in women living in the Kimberley, Midwest and Pilbara regions than for those living in metropolitan areas.

For non-Aboriginal women the Abortion Rate was higher in the metropolitan areas than in the country regions.

In metropolitan areas, Aboriginal women aged 20 to 24 and living in the North Metropolitan area had almost twice the Abortion Rate of Aboriginal women of this age group in the South Metropolitan area, while the non-Aboriginal women of this age group had similar abortion rates for North and South Metropolitan residences.

The highest Abortion Rate for Aboriginal women was in women aged 20 to 24 living in the North Metropolitan, Kimberley and Pilbara areas. Similarly, non-Aboriginal women aged 20 to 24 had the highest Abortion Rate in all residential areas.

Table 17: Abortion Rate by Aboriginal Status, Age and Health Region of Residence, WA, 2011

Health Region of Residence	Age Group (Years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
Aboriginal							
North Metro	11.6	28.2	20.3	13.0	10.5	6.5	15.7
South Metro	12.7	18.2	12.0	8.4	17.1	2.2	12.4
Goldfields	3.3	9.4	3.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4
Great Southern	0.0	0.0	24.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.1
Kimberley	19.6	26.1	19.9	9.7	0.0	0.0	14.1
Midwest	15.0	19.8	24.9	23.4	21.1	0.0	17.7
Pilbara	24.1	26.1	20.1	22.6	15.3	3.9	19.4
South West	5.2	6.9	18.0	9.3	0.0	0.0	6.5
Wheatbelt	4.3	6.4	8.7	16.8	0.0	0.0	5.7
Overall State	13.1	20.5	17.2	12.0	8.8	2.1	13.1
Non-Aboriginal							
North Metro	17.6	30.8	22.8	18.1	11.9	5.5	17.8
South Metro	19.3	33.1	23.2	18.2	12.4	4.9	18.8
Goldfields	18.8	21.7	11.3	9.0	6.2	2.2	11.3
Great Southern	9.4	24.1	10.3	12.2	10.6	4.3	11.1
Kimberley	13.3	22.1	9.0	3.2	5.8	2.4	8.5
Midwest	19.5	29.8	23.6	15.4	11.7	2.8	16.2
Pilbara	20.9	27.1	13.2	16.8	9.5	5.3	14.9
South West	17.7	32.0	20.6	11.2	10.8	4.0	15.0
Wheatbelt	16.2	31.8	18.3	16.3	8.3	2.0	13.9
Overall State	18.1	31.3	21.8	17.1	11.6	4.9	17.5

43 Abortion cases were excluded as postcode of residence reported was not in WA or was an invalid postcode.

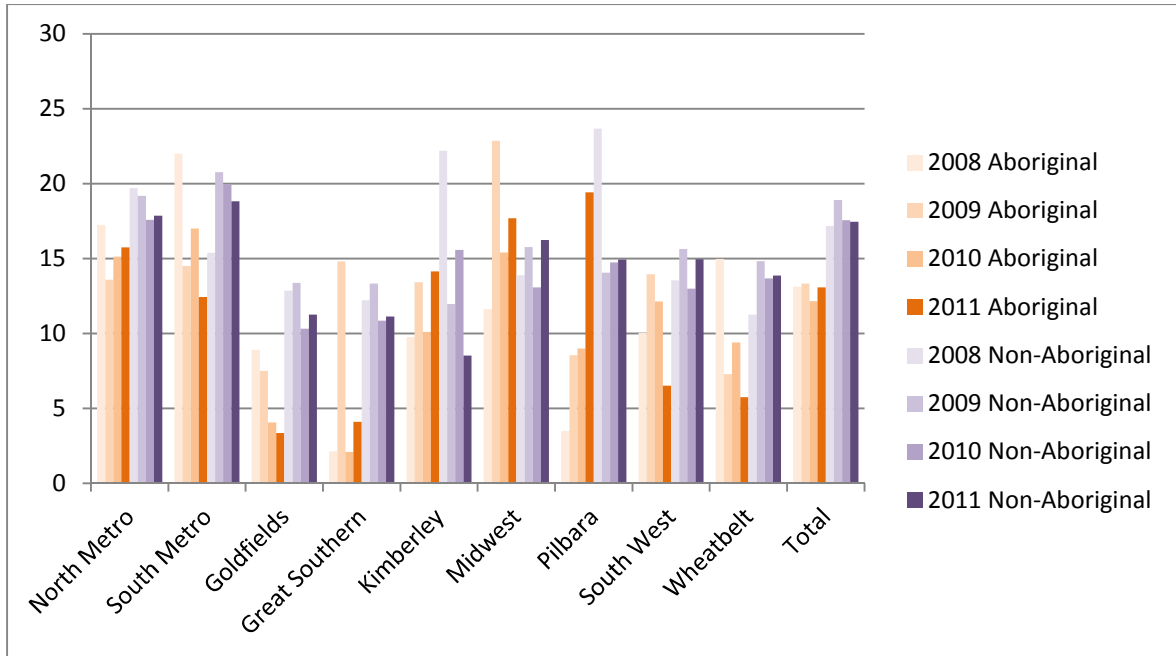
Population data used is also provided in Supplementary Table 32 and Supplementary Table 38.

Induced Abortions for women aged less than 15 years are included in the numerator for the age group 15-19 years.

Induced Abortions for women aged more than 44 years are included in the numerator for the age group 40-44 years.

When Abortion Rates were compared for Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Women over the period 2008 to 2011 (Figure 9), the Abortion Rates across four years were variable in most regions. For period 2010 to 2011 the Abortion Rate for Aboriginal women increased and for non-Aboriginal women the Abortion Rate decreased.

Figure 9: Abortion Rate by Aboriginal Status and Health Region of Residence, 2008-2011



6.6. Aboriginal Status and Abortion Proportion

Pregnancies in Aboriginal women had a lower proportion of abortions (11.4 percent) than did pregnancies for non-Aboriginal women (21.9 percent) in 2010 (Table 18). Overall, Aboriginal women in the non-metropolitan regions had lower Abortion Proportions than in the metropolitan area while the Abortion Proportions in all regions for Aboriginal women were lower than for non-Aboriginal women.

In the Great Southern region among Aboriginal women, teenagers had a very high Abortion Proportion being four times the proportion for all Aboriginal women. This reflects the low Birth Rate for Aboriginal teenaged women in this region. In the Midwest and Wheatbelt, teenaged Aboriginal women had twice the proportion of pregnancies ending in abortion than did all Aboriginal women combined.

In non-Aboriginal women for each region and for the whole of WA, teenagers had the highest Abortion Proportion. Except for the age group 20 to 24 years, their Abortion Proportion was more than twice that of Non-Aboriginal women in the remaining age groups.

Table 18: Abortion Proportion by Aboriginal Status, Age and Health Region of Residence, WA, 2010

Health Region of Residence	Age Group (Years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
Aboriginal							
North Metro	20.7	12.6	19.4	23.7	26.3	12.5	18.4
South Metro	15.2	18.9	13.3	18.6	12.5	33.3	16.3
Goldfields	0.0	2.2	8.3	11.8	0.0	-	4.5
Great Southern	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
Kimberley	13.3	6.6	7.4	6.5	10.5	16.7	8.6
Midwest	21.7	5.2	5.8	5.4	8.7	33.3	10.2
Pilbara	4.8	9.6	5.9	3.0	6.7	40.0	7.3
South West	22.2	12.0	7.7	25.0	33.3	0.0	15.5
Wheatbelt	15.8	7.4	9.5	7.7	0.0	0.0	8.7
Overall State	14.5	9.8	9.8	11.2	12.0	21.2	11.4
Non-Aboriginal							
North Metro	63.3	43.3	20.6	11.6	13.8	26.3	22.9
South Metro	57.5	37.8	18.8	12.4	17.1	33.5	23.8
Goldfields	40.6	17.7	7.9	6.4	8.7	13.0	12.3
Great Southern	38.6	21.3	7.8	7.9	14.2	29.0	14.0
Kimberley	63.2	41.1	19.3	12.2	12.5	0.0	20.7
Midwest	45.3	22.2	10.4	12.3	15.6	18.5	16.6
Pilbara	65.1	27.7	16.0	9.8	9.0	14.3	17.3
South West	45.1	22.8	11.2	9.8	13.1	27.9	16.2
Wheatbelt	50.8	23.0	11.1	7.5	15.7	27.8	16.1
Overall State	57.6	36.8	17.9	11.5	14.9	28.4	21.9

42 Abortion cases were excluded as postcode of residence reported was not WA or was an invalid postcode.

Induced Abortions for women aged less than 15 years are included in the numerator for the age group 15-19 years.

Induced Abortions for women aged more than 44 years are included in the numerator for the age group 40-44 years.

Pregnancies in Aboriginal women had a lower proportion of abortions (12.0 percent) than did pregnancies for non-Aboriginal women (21.9 percent) in 2011 (Table 19). Overall, the non-metropolitan regions had lower abortion proportions than the metropolitan area and the Abortion Proportions of Aboriginal women in all regions were lower than for non-Aboriginal women.

Unlike 2010, teenaged Aboriginal women had similar Abortion Proportions to all Aboriginal women.

In Non-Aboriginal women, teenagers had the highest Abortion Proportion in all regions and for WA, with almost three times the proportion of pregnancies in teenagers ending in abortion than those for Non-Aboriginal women. Women aged 20 to 24 years also had higher proportions of pregnancies ending in abortion across all regions.

Table 19: Abortion Proportion by Aboriginal Status, Age and Health Region of Residence, WA, 2011

Health Region of Residence	Age Group (Years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
Aboriginal							
North Metro	15.8	18.7	17.7	13.0	26.3	50.0	18.2
South Metro	10.7	10.4	7.6	9.1	22.2	25.0	10.9
Goldfields	3.2	9.7	2.4	0.0	0.0	-	3.8
Great Southern	0.0	0.0	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3
Kimberley	16.1	12.7	13.8	8.2	0.0	0.0	11.9
Midwest	11.5	8.1	13.7	16.2	31.3	-	13.0
Pilbara	18.4	11.7	11.5	25.0	36.4	33.3	16.2
South West	6.3	3.4	11.1	11.1	0.0	-	6.7
Wheatbelt	7.7	3.4	5.3	22.2	0.0	0.0	6.3
Overall State	12.3	11.2	11.3	11.5	16.9	21.7	12.0
Non-Aboriginal							
North Metro	66.0	43.4	20.6	12.7	14.2	24.4	23.2
South Metro	55.0	38.7	17.8	12.8	16.0	26.2	22.8
Goldfields	35.4	20.1	9.1	7.0	11.4	18.2	13.9
Great Southern	32.6	17.9	6.8	8.4	16.7	27.3	13.3
Kimberley	38.5	43.6	10.7	3.4	9.1	11.8	13.9
Midwest	43.8	31.1	13.7	11.8	18.3	21.4	19.4
Pilbara	66.7	34.5	12.9	14.7	18.7	32.1	20.4
South West	50.9	26.8	13.6	9.1	15.5	24.7	18.4
Wheatbelt	34.7	28.0	10.3	11.8	15.1	16.1	16.2
Overall State	56.6	38.0	17.6	12.2	15.1	24.8	21.9

43 Abortion cases were excluded as postcode of residence reported was not in WA or was an invalid postcode.

Induced Abortions for women aged less than 15 years are included in the numerator for the age group 15-19 years.

Induced Abortions for women aged more than 44 years are included in the numerator for the age group 40-44 years.

Pregnancies in Aboriginal women had a lower proportion of abortions (11.9 percent) than did pregnancies for non-Aboriginal women (20.6 percent) in 2012 (Table 20). Overall, the non-metropolitan regions had lower Abortion Proportions than the metropolitan area and the Abortion Proportions of Aboriginal women in all regions were lower than for Non-Aboriginal women.

Teenaged Aboriginal women had slightly higher Abortion Proportions than those for all Aboriginal women.

In non-Aboriginal women, teenagers had the highest Abortion Proportion in all regions and for WA, with more than twice the proportion of pregnancies in teenagers ending in abortion than those for all Non-Aboriginal women. In Non-Aboriginal Women those aged 20 to 24 years also had higher proportions of pregnancies ending in abortion across all regions.

Table 20: Abortion Proportion by Aboriginal Status, Age and Health Region of Residence, WA, 2012

Health Region of Residence	Age Group (Years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
Aboriginal							
North Metro	16.9	20.2	12.2	17.4	40.0	20.0	18.1
South Metro	9.1	8.5	10.8	12.2	18.8	20.0	10.6
Goldfields	7.4	7.4	11.5	0.0	25.0	0.0	8.1
Great Southern	18.2	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	-	5.6
Kimberley	14.0	6.4	10.8	16.7	2.9	18.2	10.5
Midwest	8.1	9.7	10.3	20.0	21.1	0.0	11.8
Pilbara	21.3	4.1	8.0	25.0	11.1	0.0	11.5
South West	5.9	9.5	23.1	7.7	0.0	50.0	11.4
Wheatbelt	15.8	9.7	10.5	22.2	0.0	-	12.9
Overall State	13.2	9.4	10.9	14.8	15.3	18.2	11.9
Non-Aboriginal							
North Metro	60.7	41.1	19.9	11.6	13.6	27.5	21.7
South Metro	49.7	36.1	18.4	12.7	14.9	27.8	21.4
Goldfields	26.2	12.6	6.8	7.1	12.7	23.5	10.7
Great Southern	50.0	20.3	8.7	9.2	8.7	21.4	14.3
Kimberley	53.8	51.4	18.4	12.8	12.0	45.0	21.4
Midwest	46.7	29.6	14.9	9.7	15.6	16.7	18.7
Pilbara	56.0	38.1	15.3	11.3	17.1	24.0	20.2
South West	38.2	23.8	11.5	10.5	14.1	26.0	15.9
Wheatbelt	29.2	23.3	10.4	10.1	16.6	28.6	15.5
Overall State	51.8	35.7	17.6	11.7	14.2	27.3	20.6

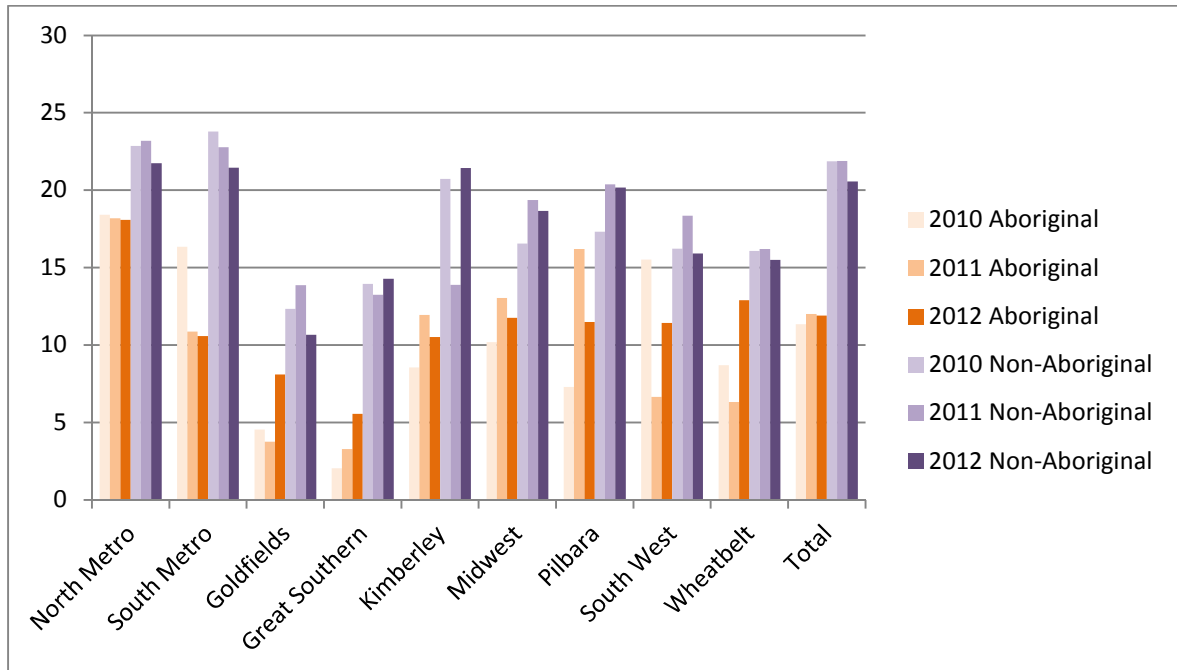
36 Abortion cases were excluded as postcode of residence reported was not in WA or was an invalid postcode.

Induced Abortions for women aged less than 15 years are included in the numerator for the age group 15-19 years.

Induced Abortions for women aged more than 44 years are included in the numerator for the age group 40-44 years.

When comparing Abortion Proportions between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Women over the period 2010 to 2012 (Figure 10), the Abortion Proportions across three years are variable in most regions, particularly for Aboriginal women. The Metropolitan areas had decreasing Abortion Proportions for both Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal women, while in WA the Abortion Proportion for Aboriginal women was static and for non-Aboriginal women it decreased.

Figure 10: Abortion Proportion by Aboriginal Status and Health Region of Residence, 2010-2012



7. Health Services where Induced Abortions Occurred

Since 2007, more than 93 percent of abortions have been performed at private hospitals or day hospitals (Table 21). Less than 5 percent of abortions in WA occurred in rural public hospitals since 2006. The proportion of WA abortions occurring in metropolitan non-teaching (public and private) hospitals has declined since 2002 (14.0 percent), halving by 2006 (6.8 percent) and was less than one percent in 2012.

The number and proportion of abortions occurring in the Metropolitan Teaching Hospital have also declined in the period reported.

Table 21: Abortions by Health Service Type, WA, 2002-2012

Year	Metro Teaching Hosp	Metro Public Hosp	Metro Private Hosp	Metro Private Day Hosp	Rural Public Hosp	Total
Number						
2002	205	213	947	6374	523	8262
2003	183	81	627	6547	503	7941
2004	207	57	610	6573	416	7863
2005	231	23	615	6525	435	7829
2006	208	23	544	7152	408	8335
2007	195	11	181	7670	359	8416
2008	205	8	112	8046	297	8668
2009	213	6	130	8166	370	8885
2010	168	2	96	7896	253	8415
2011	173	1	85	8029	395	8683
2012	175	1	60	7806	387	8429
Percentage						
2002	2.5	2.6	11.5	77.1	6.3	100.0
2003	2.3	1.0	7.9	82.4	6.3	100.0
2004	2.6	0.7	7.8	83.6	5.3	100.0
2005	3.0	0.3	7.9	83.3	5.6	100.0
2006	2.5	0.3	6.5	85.8	4.9	100.0
2007	2.3	0.1	2.2	91.1	4.3	100.0
2008	2.4	0.1	1.3	92.8	3.4	100.0
2009	2.4	0.1	1.5	91.9	4.2	100.0
2010	2.0	0.0	1.1	93.8	3.0	100.0
2011	2.0	0.0	1.0	92.5	4.5	100.0
2012	2.1	0.0	0.7	92.6	4.6	100.0

6 and 8 cases were excluded from data for years 2004 and 2007 respectively. The place of abortion was unable to be determined.

8. Induced Abortions by Gestational Age

Gestational age is described by calculating the number of whole weeks since the first day of the last menstrual period. As gestational age increases at the time of Induced Abortion, the risks for serious complications increase, abortion methods become more complex and associated costs increase. The safest time for abortion is early in pregnancy, ideally less than 12 weeks from the last menstrual period (in the first trimester of pregnancy) (WHO, 2012).

Since 2002, between 70 and 76 percent of abortions were performed in the first 8 weeks; by 2012, 72.9 percent were performed at this gestation (Table 22). On average, 90.3 percent of induced abortions were performed at less than 12 weeks gestation. These proportions have not changed since 2002. Similarly the proportion of induced abortions in WA occurring by at least 20 weeks gestation remained at 0.5 percent.

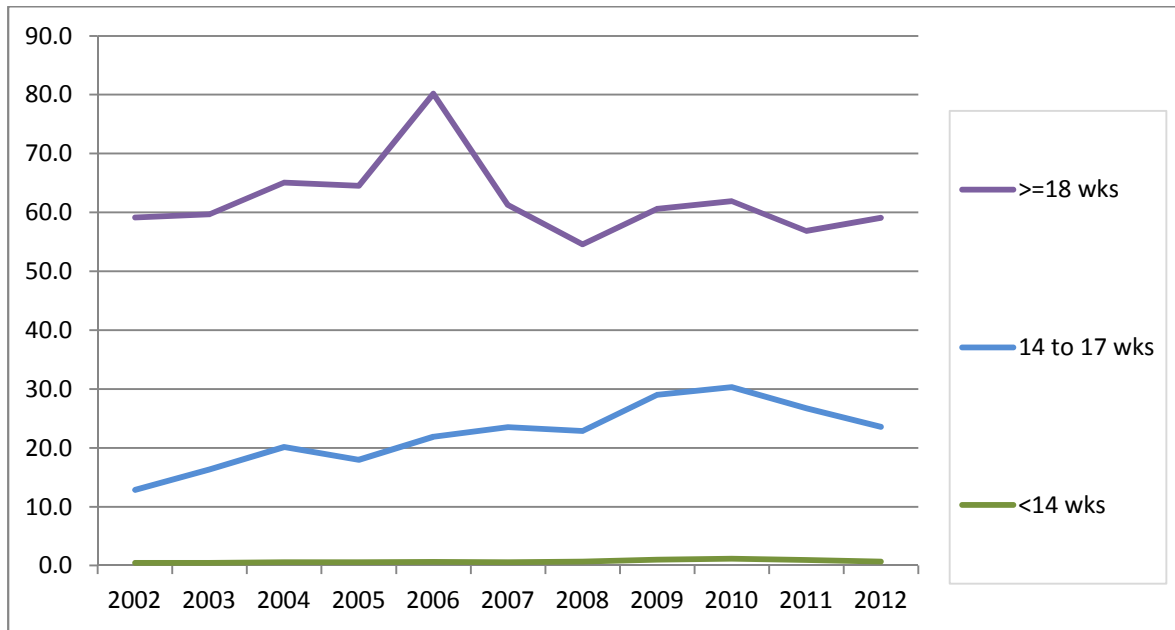
Table 22: Abortions by Gestational Age, WA, 2002–2012

Year	Gestational Age (completed weeks)							Total
	≤ 8	9-11	12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19	≥ 20	
Number								
2002	5724	1682	447	172	100	84	31	8240
2003	5688	1480	390	177	68	93	31	7927
2004	5574	1552	383	160	88	65	38	7860
2005	5482	1496	454	165	108	75	49	7829
2006	5961	1534	451	183	96	64	42	8331
2007	6059	1551	435	176	92	66	45	8424
2008	6261	1568	434	152	119	91	41	8666
2009	6608	1495	386	159	110	90	37	8885
2010	6427	1249	336	176	101	82	44	8415
2011	6382	1436	398	193	114	113	47	8683
2012	6141	1439	360	221	118	97	52	8428
Percentage								
2002	69.5	20.4	5.4	2.1	1.2	1.0	0.4	100
2003	71.8	18.7	4.9	2.2	0.9	1.2	0.4	100
2004	70.9	19.7	4.9	2.0	1.1	0.8	0.5	100
2005	70.0	19.1	5.8	2.1	1.4	1.0	0.6	100
2006	71.6	18.4	5.4	2.2	1.2	0.8	0.5	100
2007	71.9	18.4	5.2	2.1	1.1	0.8	0.5	100
2008	72.2	18.1	5.0	1.8	1.4	1.1	0.5	100
2009	74.4	16.8	4.3	1.8	1.2	1.0	0.4	100
2010	76.4	14.8	4.0	2.1	1.2	1.0	0.5	100
2011	73.5	16.5	4.6	2.2	1.3	1.3	0.5	100
2012	72.9	17.1	4.3	2.6	1.4	1.2	0.6	100

Cases with no gestational age reported were excluded. These were 22, 14, 9, 5, 2, and 1 cases in the respective years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2012.

Most induced abortions that occurred at a gestational age of 18 weeks or more were for fetal abnormality (59.1 percent in 2012). An increasing proportion of abortions at a gestational age of 14 to 17 weeks were for fetal abnormality, rising from 12.9 percent in 2002 to 23.6 percent 2012. While few abortions at 13 weeks or less gestational age were performed for fetal abnormality (2.9 percent in 2012), there was an increase in the proportion of Induced Abortions that were for fetal abnormality in 2010 and 2011, 4.5 and 5.9 percent respectively (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Proportion of Abortions for Fetal Abnormality by Gestational Age, WA, 2002-2012



9. Method of Induced Abortion

Surgical procedures or medications or a combination of both are used to induce an abortion. The surgical technique of Vacuum Aspiration with or without a combination of Mifepristone and Misoprostol medication are the recommended abortion methods for pregnancies of up to 12 to 14 weeks gestation. For pregnancies of gestational age more than 12 to 14 weeks, Dilatation and Evacuation (D&E) or medical methods are recommended. Routine use of Dilatation and sharp Curettage (D&C) should be discouraged (WHO, 2012).

In Australia, the medication, Mifepristone was added to the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) in August 2012. In combination with a Prostaglandin like Misoprostol, Mifepristone is approved for use in induced abortions where pregnancy is up to 7 weeks in gestation. Before being added to the ARTG, Mifepristone was available in Australia since 2006 through the Therapeutic Goods Administration Authorised Prescriber Scheme (Therapeutic Goods Association, 2012).

In recent years, the proportion of abortions performed using only Medication increased from 1.4 percent in 2002 to 15.2 percent in 2011 and 11.1 percent in 2012 (Table 23). The proportion of abortions performed using Vacuum Aspiration declined by 16.1 percent over the same period.

Table 23: Induced Abortions by Method, WA, 2002–2012

Year	Method of Abortion						Total
	Vacuum ²	Vacuum & Med ³	Medication Only	D&C ⁴	D&E ⁵	Other ⁶	
Number							
2002	6823	544	118	176	240	344	8245
2003	6080	1412	121	140	162	21	7936
2004	6022	1478	148	59	137	18	7862
2005	5678	1757	153	27	191	23	7829
2006	5921	1989	152	73	58	140	8333
2007	5937	2008	140	39	31	269	8424
2008	6539	1791	173	40	18	107	8668
2009	6572	1742	450	27	26	68	8885
2010	5878	1387	990	22	17	121	8415
2011	5568	1542	1319	61	22	171	8683
2012	5624	1690	936	50	22	106	8428
Percentage							
2002	82.8	6.6	1.4	2.1	2.9	4.2	100
2003	76.6	17.8	1.5	1.8	2.0	0.3	100
2004	76.6	18.8	1.9	0.8	1.7	0.2	100
2005	72.5	22.4	2.0	0.3	2.4	0.3	100
2006	71.1	23.9	1.8	0.9	0.7	1.7	100
2007	70.5	23.8	1.7	0.5	0.4	3.2	100
2008	75.4	20.7	2.0	0.5	0.2	1.2	100
2009	74.0	19.6	5.1	0.3	0.3	0.8	100
2010	69.9	16.5	11.8	0.3	0.2	1.4	100
2011	64.1	17.8	15.2	0.7	0.3	2.0	100
2012	66.7	20.1	11.1	0.6	0.3	1.3	100

Cases with no method of Abortion reported were excluded. These were 17, 5, 7, 3, and 1 cases in the respective years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2012.

² Vacuum was only procedure reported

³ Vacuum procedure was reported in combination with medications like Prostaglandin, Methotrexate or Mifepristone or just generally as “medical”.

⁴ All Dilatation and Curettage procedures including where medications or other surgical procedures were also reported.

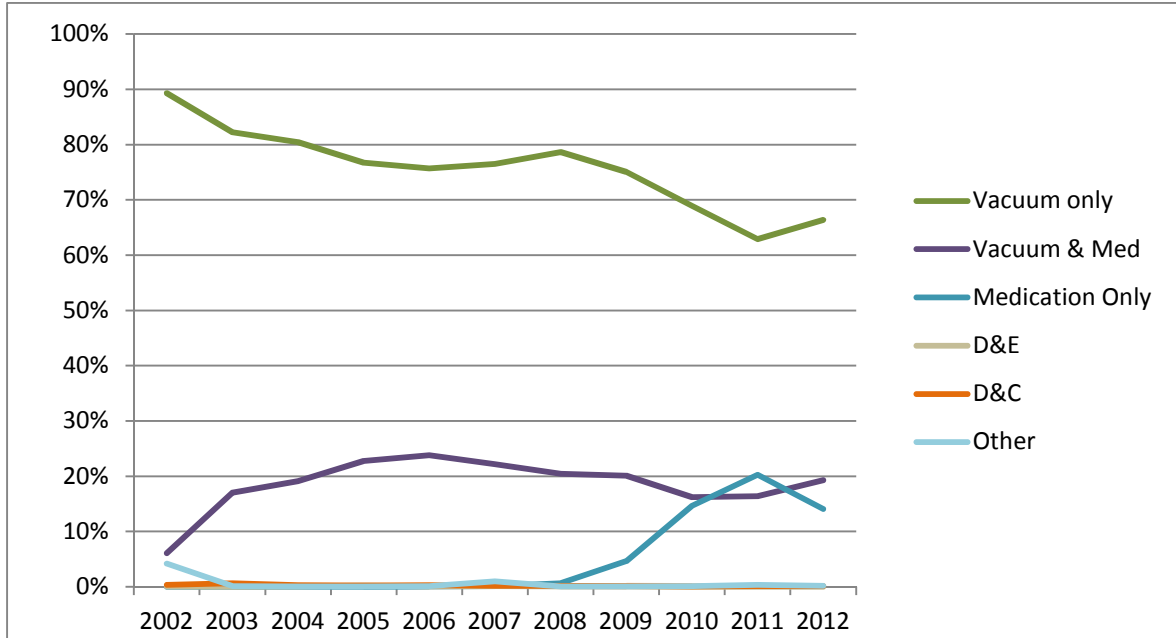
⁵ Dilatation and Evacuation procedures including where medications were also reported and excluding where Vacuum or D&C were reported.

⁶ “Other” procedure reported or many procedures reported in a combination not included in other groups displayed.

9.1. Method of Induced Abortion up to 7 Weeks Gestation

For abortions induced at a gestational age of 7 week or less, the use of Vacuum Aspiration decreased in frequency while the use of Mifepristone and Misoprostol for abortion increased, particularly since 2009 (Figure 12). The use of a combination of medication and Vacuum Aspiration has remained around 20% of abortions in this gestational age group since 2003.

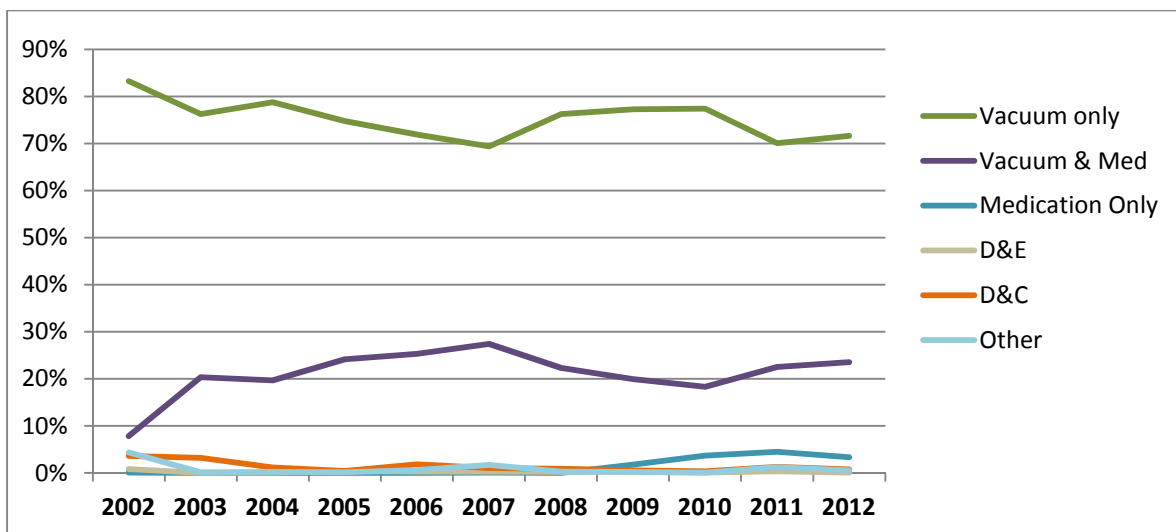
Figure 12: Abortion Method at Gestational Age up to 7 weeks, WA, 2002-2012



9.2. Method of Induced Abortion at 8 to 11 Weeks Gestation

For abortions induced at a gestational age of 8 to 11 weeks, the methods used were mostly Vacuum Aspiration, medications and Vacuum Aspiration or only a combination of medications since 2009. The proportion of different methods used for abortions at this gestational age range remained relatively similar over the last 11 years. (Figure 13).

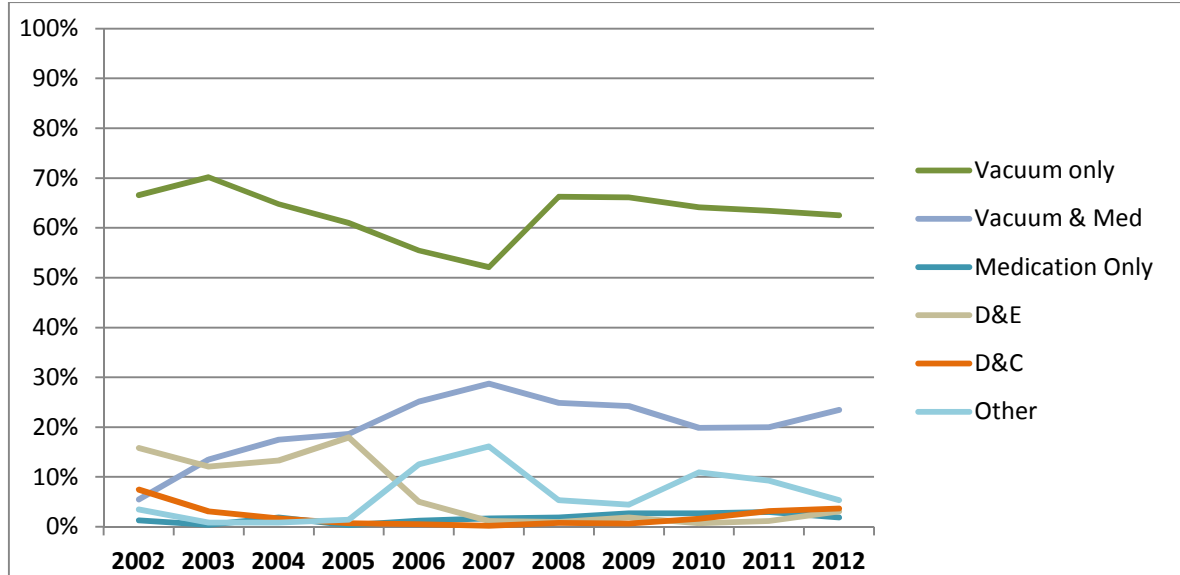
Figure 13: Abortion Method at Gestational Age 8 to 11 weeks, WA, 2002-2012



9.3. Method of Induced Abortion at 12 to 14 Weeks Gestation

For abortions induced at a gestational age of 12 to 14 weeks, Vacuum Aspiration was utilised for the majority of cases. Use of Vacuum Aspiration in combination with medication increased until 2007. Dilatation and Evacuation was rarely used after 2006 (Figure 14).

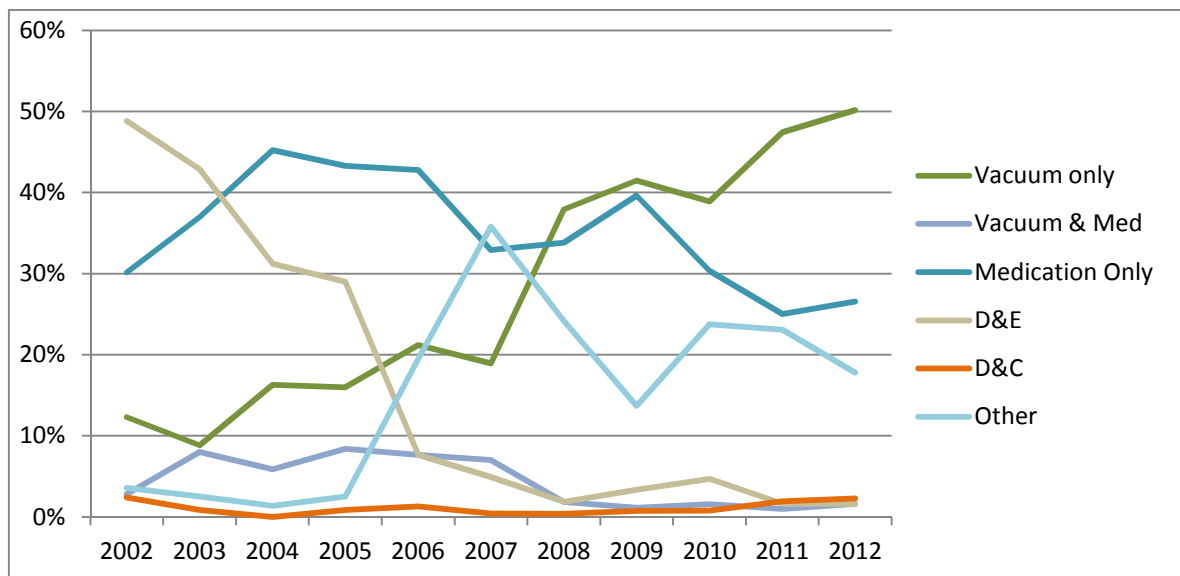
Figure 14: Abortion Method at Gestational Age 12 to 14 weeks, WA, 2002-2012



9.4. Method of Induced Abortion at 15 to 19 Weeks Gestation

For abortions induced at a gestational age of 15 to 19 weeks, Vacuum Aspiration alone has been increasingly used, particularly since 2007. This was inversely mirrored by a decrease in the use of Dilatation and Evacuation. The use of Medication Only increased in 2007 and then decreased by almost half by 2012 (Figure 15). The variability seen in proportion of methods used for this gestational age range is similar for each of the individual age in weeks included.

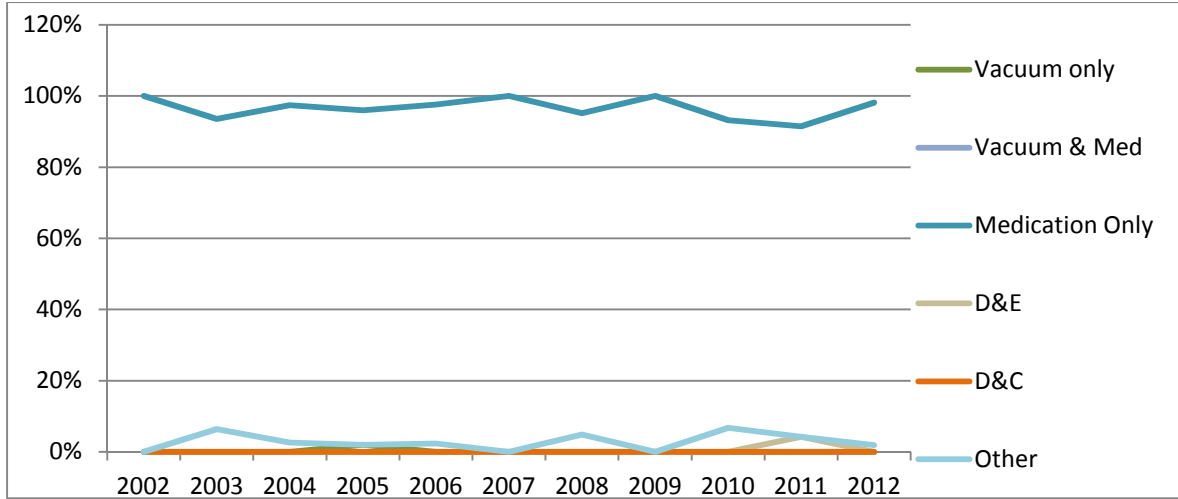
Figure 15: Abortion Method for Gestational Age 15 to 19 Weeks, WA, 2002-2012



9.5. Method of Induced Abortion from 20 Weeks Gestation

For abortions induced at a gestational age of 20 weeks or more, a medical induction of labour process was the most common method. There were occasional cases where a combination of methods were used (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Abortion Method for Gestational Age from 20 Weeks, WA, 2002-2012



10. Induced Abortions for Fetal Abnormality

Since 2002, the proportion of all Induced Abortions performed for Fetal Abnormality increased from 1.8 to 3.0 percent in 2010. By 2012, this proportion had decreased to 2.6 percent (Table 24).

Table 24: Induced Abortions for Fetal Abnormality, WA, 2002–2012

Year	Reason for Induced Abortion		Total
	Fetal Abnormality	Other Reasons	
Number			
2002	142	7966	8108
2003	151	7734	7885
2004	161	7646	7807
2005	172	7657	7829
2006	199	8136	8335
2007	178	8246	8424
2008	190	8478	8668
2009	241	8644	8885
2010	256	8159	8415
2011	250	8433	8683
2012	220	8209	8429
Percentage			
2002	1.8	98.2	100
2003	1.9	98.1	100
2004	2.1	97.9	100
2005	2.2	97.8	100
2006	2.4	97.6	100
2007	2.1	97.9	100
2008	2.2	97.8	100
2009	2.7	97.3	100
2010	3.0	97.0	100
2011	2.9	97.1	100
2012	2.6	97.4	100

10.1. Induced Abortion for Fetal Abnormality at 20 Weeks Gestation

All abortions induced at a gestation of 20 weeks or more must first be approved by the Panel appointed for that purpose by the Health Minister. Induced abortions at these gestations must only be performed at an approved facility.

The approved facility advised that abortions induced at 20 weeks gestation or more were conducted with the approval of the Panel. Such approval was only granted for reasons of severe fetal abnormality or severe medical condition affecting the woman or fetus.

Since 2002, the proportion of Induced Abortions performed for Fetal Abnormality at 20 weeks gestation or more varied between 90.4 and 100.0 percent. Since 2008, this proportion decreased from 100.0 to 90.4 percent (Table 25).

Table 25: Induced Abortions for Congenital Anomaly at 20 weeks gestation or more, WA, 2002–2012

Year	Reason for Abortion
	Congenital Malformation Percentage
2002	96.8
2003	100.0
2004	94.7
2005	91.8
2006	97.6
2007	95.6
2008	100.0
2009	97.3
2010	95.5
2011	93.6
2012	90.4

11. International and National Comparisons

The ability to compare abortions in WA with those occurring in other jurisdictions is affected by differences in legislation, women's access to induced abortion and availability of comparable data and/or reporting processes. Table 26 below provides a summary of legislation, abortion access and data availability for other health jurisdictions and those that have published data on Induced Abortions (Drabsch, 2005). This summary has been used to indicate comparability of WA Induced Abortion statistics with other jurisdictions.

Table 26: Comparability of Abortion in WA with Other Jurisdictions

Place	Legislation	Reporting	Access
Western Australia	Health Act 1911 Section 334 Criminal Code 259	Reporting to DoH about every abortion	Without restriction as to reason. Panel approval for abortions at 20 weeks gestation or greater.
Australia	Each jurisdiction has own legislation	No centralised reporting	Each jurisdiction is different
South Australia	Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935 Section 81-82A	Reporting to DoH about every abortion	To preserve physical and/or mental health. Not allowed if gestation 28 weeks or greater.
New South Wales	Crimes Act 1900 82-84	No centralised reporting	
Victoria	Crimes Act 1935 65-66	No centralised reporting	To preserve physical and/or mental health
Queensland	Criminal Code 224-226, 282 A person is not criminally responsible for a correctly performed abortion if it is to preserve the mother's life. "No legal justification for abortion on demand"	Nil centralised reporting	To preserve the woman's life
Tasmania	Criminal Code 134-135, 164-165	No centralised reporting	To preserve physical and/or mental health
ACT	Health Act 1993 30A-30E Must be performed by doctors in approved medical facilities.	No centralised reporting	Without restriction as to reason
Northern Territory	Criminal Code 172-174	No centralised reporting	To preserve physical and/or mental health up to 14 weeks gestation. To prevent grave risk up to 23 weeks gestation.
New Zealand	Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act 1977 Crimes Act 1961	Reports sent to Supervisory Committee	To preserve mental health
England, Wales and Scotland	The Abortion Act 1967, as amended by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990	Reporting to Chief Medical Officer about every abortion	Socioeconomic grounds
Finland	Act on Induced Abortion 238/1970, Decree on Induced Abortion 359/1970	Reporting to the National Institute for Health and Welfare	Without restriction as to reason. Socioeconomic grounds
Sweden	1975		Without restriction as to reason up to 18 th week, then only in special circumstances

Place	Legislation	Reporting	Access
Netherlands	Termination of Pregnancy Act 1984	Quarterly reports submitted to the Healthcare Inspectorate	Without restriction as to reason up to 22 weeks gestation
United States	Varies across States	Voluntarily by 48 states to the Center for Disease Control	Varies across states

Data for 2012 are not available for many jurisdictions; the following comparisons are made using data up to and including the calendar year, 2011 for most jurisdictions presented.

WA has an Abortion Rate that is twice that occurring in Finland and Denmark. The WA Abortion Rate is slightly higher than that occurring in South Australia, England, Wales, Scotland and the United States of America. However, the WA Abortion Rate is slightly lower than the Abortion Rate reported for New Zealand in 2010 and is lower than the Abortion Rate reported by Sweden in all years.

Table 27: Induced Abortion Rate All Jurisdictions, 2005-2012

Place of Abortion	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Western Australia	18.2	19.1	19.0	19.0	18.8	17.5	17.4	16.4
South Australia (Scheil W, 2012)	15.3	15.5	15.4	16.0	15.6	15.5		
New Zealand (Welch, D, 2012)	19.7	20.0	20.1	19.7	19.2	18.1	17.3	
Oceania ⁷ (Sedgh, et al., 2012)				17.0				
England and Wales (Department of Health, England and Wales, 2012)	17	17.5	17.9	17.6	17.0	17.1	17.2	
Scotland (National Services Scotland, 2012)	12.0	12.5	13.1	13.3	12.6	12.4	12.0	
Sweden (Official Statistics of Sweden, 2012)	20.2	20.6	21.0	21.3	20.8	20.9	20.9	
Finland ⁸ (Official Statistics of Finland, 2012)	9.3	9.1	9.0	8.9	9.0	8.8	9.0	
Netherlands (Statistics Netherlands, 2011)	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.9			
United States (Pazol, Karen; Creanga, Andreea A; Zane, Suzanne B; Burley, Kim D; Jamieson, Denise J, 2012)	15.6	16.1	15.8	15.9	15.1			

⁷ Oceania is a global subregion including Australia, New Zealand and Fiji as countries with liberal abortion laws.

⁸ Finland's abortion rate uses the population number for women aged 15 to 49 years instead of the age group of 15 to 44 years used in Western Australia.

The Abortion Proportion in WA is declining and is 20.1 per 100 abortions and livebirths. In 2010, the WA Abortion Proportion (21.3) was higher than that reported by South Australia (20.3) and New Zealand (20.5). Table 28 below, displays the induced Abortion Rates published by some jurisdictions

Table 28: Induced Abortion Proportion, All Jurisdictions, 2005-2012

Place of Abortion	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Western Australia	22.6	22.6	22.0	22.2	22.3	21.3	21.3	20.1
South Australia (Scheil W, 2012)	20.7	20.8	19.9	20.5	20.4	20.3		
New Zealand ((Welch, D, 2012)						20.5	20.4	
United States (Pazol, Karen; Creanga, Andreea A; Zane, Suzanne B; Burley, Kim D; Jamieson, Denise J, 2012)	19.1	19.1	18.6	18.8	18.5			

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13. Supplementary Data Tables

Supplementary Table 29: Population of Women by Reproductive Age Group, WA, 1999-2012

Year	Age group (years)						Total 15-44
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
1998	63,441	64,777	70,940	69,750	74,275	70,861	414,044
1999	64,552	63,953	70,807	69,843	74,926	72,122	416,203
2000	66,485	63,301	69,930	70,453	74,799	73,321	418,289
2001	68,177	63,913	67,908	72,069	74,293	74,398	420,758
2002	68,910	64,847	65,993	73,275	73,736	75,721	422,482
2003	69,608	66,280	65,161	73,699	72,991	76,952	424,691
2004	70,025	67,678	65,205	73,284	73,246	77,534	426,972
2005	70,581	69,708	65,835	72,824	74,195	77,653	430,796
2006	70,959	72,021	67,340	72,102	76,320	77,757	436,499
2007	72,290	73,757	69,671	71,633	78,535	77,863	443,749
2008	73,961	75,807	73,523	73,108	80,848	78,432	455,679
2009	75,572	80,455	78,957	75,971	82,505	80,052	473,512
2010	75,897	82,027	82,309	77,823	82,740	81,419	482,215
2011	75,608	85,286	88,296	81,465	83,334	85,619	499,608
2012	77,865	84,620	91,695	87,165	84,470	86,720	512,535

Source: ABS Estimated Resident Populations for WA from Epidemiology Branch website on 28th December 2012. 2012 estimates are projected and sourced from Department of Planning WA. Projections are produced for 5 bands - A, B, C, D and E. Band A contains the lowest forecast simulations. Band E has the highest simulations. The forecast for Band C is also the median value for all the forecasts as it is the middle band. Mixed bands (i.e., Bands C, D and E) are used by the Department of Health WA to account for differences in population growth between regional areas in WA. Projections are based on Band E for the Pilbara and West Kimberley, Band D for East Kimberley, Great Southern and South West and Band C for the remainder of the State (See WA Tomorrow, Department of Planning, February 2012 for detailed definitions of the Bands, http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/dop_pub_pdf/WA.pdf).

Supplementary Table 30: Population of Women of Reproductive Age by Health Region of Residence, WA, 2006-2012

Health Region of Residence	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
North Metro	186,466	189,695	194,704	202,257	205,812	211,899	215,225
South Metro	157,917	160,795	165,860	173,473	177,472	187,107	185,115
Metropolitan	344,383	350,490	360,564	375,730	383,284	399,006	400,340
Goldfields	11,919	12,040	12,193	12,324	12,347	12,509	12,335
Great Southern	10,372	10,395	10,620	10,904	10,901	10,378	11,900
Kimberley	7,612	7,937	8,109	8,326	8,451	8,631	10,500
Midwest	11,925	12,023	12,234	12,507	12,626	12,546	13,275
Pilbara	10,176	10,292	10,394	10,729	10,940	13,394	14,490
South West	27,734	28,276	29,200	30,351	30,954	30,585	35,120
Wheatbelt	12,378	12,296	12,365	12,641	12,712	12,559	14,575
Non-Metro	92,116	93,259	95,115	97,782	98,931	100,602	112,195
WA	436,499	443,749	455,679	473,512	482,215	499,608	512,535

Source: ABS Estimated Resident Populations for WA from Epidemiology Branch website on 28th December 2012. 2012 estimates are projected and sourced from Department of Planning WA. Projections are produced for 5 bands - A, B, C, D and E. Band A contains the lowest forecast simulations. Band E has the highest simulations. The forecast for Band C is also the median value for all the forecasts as it is the middle band. Mixed bands (i.e., Bands C, D and E) are used by the Department of Health WA to account for differences in population growth between regional areas in WA. Projections are based on Band E for the Pilbara and West Kimberley, Band D for East Kimberley, Great Southern and South West and Band C for the remainder of the State (See WA Tomorrow, Department of Planning, February 2012 for detailed definitions of the Bands, http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/dop_pub_pdf/WA.pdf).

Supplementary Table 31: Population of Women by Health Region of Residence and Reproductive Age Group, WA, 2010

Health Region of Residence	Age Groups (years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
North Metro	32,182	35,192	35,077	33,344	35,290	34,727	205,812
South Metro	28,327	32,306	30,895	27,912	29,078	28,954	177,472
Goldfields	2,063	2,003	2,165	2,104	2,026	1,986	12,347
Great Southern	1,936	1,487	1,633	1,682	2,024	2,139	10,901
Kimberley	974	1,462	1,799	1,453	1,454	1,309	8,451
Midwest	2,080	1,873	1,995	2,091	2,389	2,198	12,626
Pilbara	1,247	1,546	2,083	2,273	2,183	1,608	10,940
South West	5,152	4,472	4,572	4,950	5,870	5,938	30,954
Wheatbelt	1,936	1,686	2,090	2,014	2,426	2,560	12,712
WA	75,897	82,027	82,309	77,823	82,740	81,419	482,215

Source: ABS Estimated Resident Populations for WA from Epidemiology Branch website on 28th December 2012. 2012 estimates are projected and sourced from Department of Planning WA. Projections are produced for 5 bands - A, B, C, D and E. Band A contains the lowest forecast simulations. Band E has the highest simulations. The forecast for Band C is also the median value for all the forecasts as it is the middle band. Mixed bands (i.e., Bands C, D and E) are used by the Department of Health WA to account for differences in population growth between regional areas in WA. Projections are based on Band E for the Pilbara and West Kimberley, Band D for East Kimberley, Great Southern and South West and Band C for the remainder of the State (See WA Tomorrow, Department of Planning, February 2012 for detailed definitions of the Bands, http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/dop_pub_pdf/WA.pdf).

Supplementary Table 32: Population of Women by Health Region of Residence and Reproductive Age Group, WA, 2011

Health Region of Residence	Age Groups (years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
North Metro	31,917	36,375	37,863	34,395	35,049	36,300	211,899
South Metro	28,897	34,025	33,055	30,138	30,242	30,750	187,107
Goldfields	1,848	2,116	2,387	1,999	2,159	2,000	12,509
Great Southern	1,709	1,418	1,538	1,701	1,858	2,154	10,378
Kimberley	1,089	1,497	1,755	1,570	1,411	1,309	8,631
Midwest	2,042	1,878	1,976	2,073	2,198	2,379	12,546
Pilbara	1,330	2,193	3,022	2,531	2,357	1,961	13,394
South West	4,937	4,180	4,668	5,040	5,650	6,110	30,585
Wheatbelt	1,839	1,604	2,032	2,018	2,410	2,656	12,559
WA	75,608	85,286	88,296	81,465	83,334	85,619	499,608

Source: ABS Estimated Resident Populations for WA from Epidemiology Branch website on 28th December 2012. 2012 estimates are projected and sourced from Department of Planning WA. Projections are produced for 5 bands - A, B, C, D and E. Band A contains the lowest forecast simulations. Band E has the highest simulations. The forecast for Band C is also the median value for all the forecasts as it is the middle band. Mixed bands (i.e., Bands C, D and E) are used by the Department of Health WA to account for differences in population growth between regional areas in WA. Projections are based on Band E for the Pilbara and West Kimberley, Band D for East Kimberley, Great Southern and South West and Band C for the remainder of the State (See WA Tomorrow, Department of Planning, February 2012 for detailed definitions of the Bands, http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/dop_pub_pdf/WA.pdf).

Supplementary Table 33: Population of Women by Health Region of Residence and Reproductive Age Group, WA, 2012

Place of Residence	Age Groups (years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
North Metro	32,305	36,375	38,870	36,545	35,100	36,030	215,225
South Metro	28,625	32,005	32,970	30,655	29,750	31,110	185,115
Goldfields	1,875	1,960	2,280	2,160	2,045	2,015	12,335
Great Southern	1,945	1,650	1,940	2,035	2,070	2,260	11,900
Kimberley	1,320	1,620	2,110	2,080	1,780	1,590	10,500
Midwest	2,065	2,085	2,270	2,265	2,265	2,325	13,275
Pilbara	1,670	2,020	3,020	3,030	2,600	2,150	14,490
South West	5,925	4,910	5,720	5,810	6,250	6,505	35,120
Wheatbelt	2,135	1,995	2,515	2,585	2,610	2,735	14,575
WA	77,865	84,620	91,695	87,165	84,470	86,720	512,535

Source: ABS Estimated Resident Populations for WA from Epidemiology Branch website on 28th December 2012. 2012 estimates are projected and sourced from Department of Planning WA. Projections are produced for 5 bands - A, B, C, D and E. Band A contains the lowest forecast simulations. Band E has the highest simulations. The forecast for Band C is also the median value for all the forecasts as it is the middle band. Mixed bands (i.e., Bands C, D and E) are used by the Department of Health WA to account for differences in population growth between regional areas in WA. Projections are based on Band E for the Pilbara and West Kimberley, Band D for East Kimberley, Great Southern and South West and Band C for the remainder of the State (See WA Tomorrow, Department of Planning, February 2012 for detailed definitions of the Bands, http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/dop_pub_pdf/WA.pdf).

Supplementary Table 34: Population of Aboriginal Women by Reproductive Age Group, WA, 1999-2012

Year	Age Groups (years)						Total
	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	14,932
2000	3,172	2,669	2,774	2,648	2,254	1,773	15,290
2001	3,285	2,757	2,744	2,711	2,318	1,822	15,637
2002	3,356	2,815	2,722	2,670	2,350	1,879	15,792
2003	3,418	2,885	2,700	2,630	2,393	1,927	15,935
2004	3,491	2,943	2,680	2,585	2,433	1,984	16,116
2005	3,563	3,003	2,669	2,543	2,469	2,042	16,289
2006	3,637	3,065	2,648	2,507	2,514	2,110	16,481
2007	3,735	3,169	2,701	2,497	2,523	2,176	16,801
2008	3,808	3,270	2,768	2,502	2,524	2,223	17,095
2009	3,869	3,366	2,845	2,513	2,527	2,277	17,397
2010	3,921	3,462	2,934	2,534	2,522	2,318	17,691
2011	3,968	3,561	3,022	2,574	2,507	2,351	17,983
2012	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Source: System Policy and Planning Division, DoH, Epidemiology Branch website on 28th December 2012. Data for 2012 estimates are not available (N/A).

Supplementary Table 35: Population of Non-Aboriginal Women by Reproductive Age Group, WA, 1999-2012

Year	Age Groups (years)						Total
	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	401,271
2000	63,313	60,632	67,156	67,805	72,545	71,548	402,999
2001	64,892	61,156	65,164	69,358	71,975	72,576	405,121
2002	65,554	62,032	63,271	70,605	71,386	73,842	406,690
2003	66,190	63,395	62,461	71,069	70,598	75,025	408,738
2004	66,534	64,735	62,525	70,699	70,813	75,550	410,856
2005	67,018	66,705	63,166	70,281	71,726	75,611	414,507
2006	67,322	68,956	64,692	69,595	73,806	75,647	420,018
2007	68,555	70,588	66,970	69,136	76,012	75,687	426,948
2008	70,153	72,537	70,755	70,606	78,324	76,209	438,584
2009	71,703	77,089	76,112	73,458	79,978	77,775	456,115
2010	71,976	78,565	79,375	75,289	80,218	79,101	464,524
2011	71,640	81,725	85,274	78,891	80,827	83,268	481,625
2012	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Source: System Policy and Planning Division, DoH, Epidemiology Branch website on 28th December 2012. Data for 2012 estimates are not available (N/A).

Supplementary Table 36: Population of Aboriginal Women by Health Region of Residence and Reproductive Age Group, WA, 2009

Health Region of Residence	Age Groups (years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
North Metro	776	646	496	460	486	449	3,313
South Metro	839	704	520	469	473	443	3,448
Goldfields	319	308	234	215	215	179	1,470
Great Southern	103	82	76	55	77	80	473
Kimberley	696	756	724	571	532	451	3,730
Midwest	385	281	291	246	244	216	1,663
Pilbara	367	329	284	264	265	249	1,758
South West	170	129	105	110	108	95	717
Wheatbelt	214	131	115	123	127	115	825
WA	3,869	3,366	2,845	2,513	2,527	2,277	17,397

Source: System Policy and Planning Division, DoH, Epidemiology Branch website on 28th December 2012.

Supplementary Table 37: Population of Aboriginal Women by Health Region of Residence and Reproductive Age Group, WA, 2010

Health Region of Residence	Age Groups (years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
North Metro	780	679	516	458	483	456	3,372
South Metro	854	737	549	468	471	452	3,531
Goldfields	311	313	246	212	217	183	1,482
Great Southern	107	85	78	57	71	82	480
Kimberley	692	742	742	593	537	457	3,763
Midwest	399	289	290	251	242	218	1,689
Pilbara	369	338	291	265	264	254	1,781
South West	182	136	107	109	109	99	742
Wheatbelt	227	143	115	121	127	118	851
WA	3,921	3,462	2,934	2,534	2,521	2,319	17,691

Source: System Policy and Planning Division, DoH, Epidemiology Branch website on 28th December 2012.

Supplementary Table 38: Population of Aboriginal Women by Health Region of Residence and Reproductive Age Group, WA, 2011

Health Region of Residence	Age Groups (years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
North Metro	777	708	542	461	478	463	3,429
South Metro	865	769	582	475	469	458	3,618
Goldfields	305	319	259	215	213	180	1,491
Great Southern	111	88	81	58	67	82	487
Kimberley	713	727	752	618	544	468	3,822
Midwest	399	303	281	256	237	220	1,696
Pilbara	374	345	298	266	262	258	1,803
South West	192	144	111	108	110	102	767
Wheatbelt	232	157	115	119	127	121	871
WA	3,968	3,560	3,021	2,576	2,507	2,352	17,984

Source: System Policy and Planning Division, DoH, Epidemiology Branch website on 28th December 2012.

Data for 2012 estimates are not available.

Supplementary Table 39: Population of Infants Born Alive by Reproductive Age Group of Mother, WA, 2002–2012

Year	Age Group (years)						Total
	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	
2002	1431	4026	7139	7874	3481	659	24610
2003	1330	3788	6767	8173	3702	733	24493
2004	1392	3952	6924	8378	3956	741	25343
2005	1480	4123	7122	8775	4448	831	26779
2006	1523	4642	7470	8977	4943	901	28456
2007	1510	4846	8028	9191	5346	965	29886
2008	1528	4820	8229	9296	5544	1032	30449
2009	1471	4911	8551	9572	5389	1093	30987
2010	1352	4732	8837	9592	5384	1157	31054
2011	1386	4781	9169	10046	5468	1281	32131
2012	1324	4889	9563	10744	5635	1290	33445

Source: WA Midwives Notification System 1st March 2013

Appendix A: Induced Abortion Notification Form 1998 – 2001

FORM 1

(Regulation 2)

Health Act 1911

Health (Section 335 (5) (d) Abortion Notice) Regulations 1998

Notification by Medical Practitioner of Abortion

To Executive Director, Public Health¹

Under section 335 (5) (d) of the *Health Act 1911* I.....
[full name of medical practitioner]

of.....
[address of practice].....provide notice² of an abortion I performed

on.....
[date of abortion]

1. **Single/multiple pregnancy:** Single
 Multiple ⇨ Number aborted.....

2. **Gestation age at date of abortion (clinical estimate):**..... weeks

3. **If gestation age 20 or more weeks, name of approved facility at which abortion performed:**

4. **Sex of foetus/foetuses (if known):** Female
 Male

5. **Was patient: (circle one)**
 (a) under 16 years of age
 (b) between 16 and 19 years of age
 (c) between 20 and 29 years of age
 (d) between 30 and 39 years of age
 (e) 40 years of age or over

6. **Method of termination: (circle one)**
 (a) dilatation and curettage
 (b) hysterotomy – abdominal
 (c) hysterotomy – vaginal
 (d) hysterectomy
 (e) vacuum aspiration
 (f) intra-uterine injection
 (g) intravenous infusion
 (h) cervical prostaglandin instillation
 (i) dilatation and evacuation
 (j) other (specify)

Date:

Signature of Medical Practitioner

Notes

¹ Forward completed form to Executive Director, Public Health, PO Box 8172, Stirling Street, Perth 6849.

² As required by section 335 (5) (d) of the *Health Act 1911* notice must be given within 14 days of the abortion being performed.

June 1998

Appendix B: Induced Abortion Notification Form 2002 – Present

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 notice¹ 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

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