

Focused Indicators
Health Risk Behaviors
Abortions



Source: Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics, MDCH

How are we doing?

Abortion is defined as the purposeful induced termination of a pregnancy. Induced abortions are typically the result of unintended pregnancies, which can be reduced through access to adequate family planning services. Adequate access to family planning services can reduce the incidence of unintended pregnancies and therefore reduce the need for abortion.

There were a total of 27,208 induced abortions among Michigan women in 2001, resulting in a rate of 12.6 per 1,000 women aged 15-44. Abortion rates have declined 15.4 percent since 1992 when the abortion rate was 14.9.

In 2001, 52.4 percent of Michigan women who obtained an induced abortion had no previous induced abortion. In general, a gradual increase has been observed with the proportion of women reporting two or more induced abortions from 17.3 percent in 1992 to 21.1 percent in 2001.

How does Michigan compare with the U.S.?

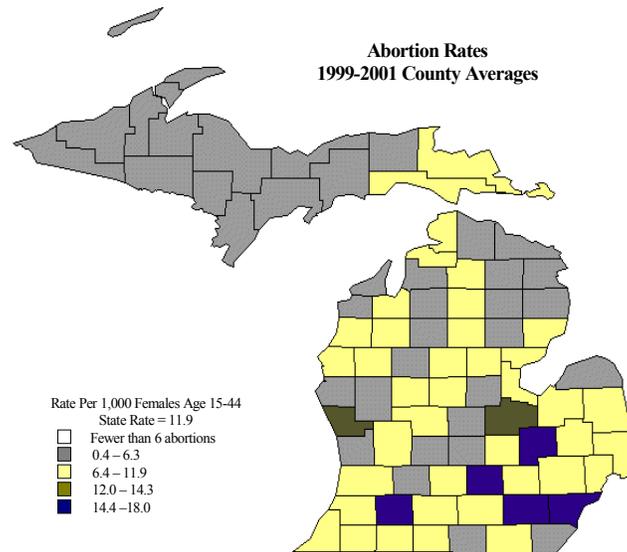
Typically the Michigan abortion rate has been lower than the U.S. rate. In 1999, the most recent year for which national figures are available, the Michigan induced abortion rate of 11.6 was 32 percent lower than the U.S. rate of 17.0.

How are different populations affected?

Eighty-four percent of induced abortions were to unmarried women in 2001. It should be noted, however, that women of all reproductive ages, married and unmarried, and in all income categories have abortions.

Almost half of all abortions are to Michigan women age 25 and older. The proportion of younger women having abortions has decreased significantly

in recent years. In 1990, 58.2 percent of abortions were to Michigan women under 25 years old; this percentage had decreased to 51.8 percent in 2001. Abortions to teenagers account for most of the decline; the proportion of abortions to teenagers decreased from 25.3 percent in 1990 to 18.5 percent in 2001.



What other information is important to know?

Abstinence is the most effective means of avoiding unintended pregnancy. Effective family planning and the avoidance of unintended pregnancy can reduce the number of abortions.

What is the Department of Community Health doing to affect this indicator?

The department is actively working towards abortion prevention through family planning services and efforts of the Michigan Abstinence Partnership and the Michigan Teen Outreach Program. Family planning providers, through contracts with the department, offer contraceptives and reproductive health services to encourage fertility control that promotes the health and well-being of women, children, and families. The strong educational and counseling components of the program help to reduce health risks and promote healthy behaviors. In 2002, services were provided to 179,931 women and 5,449 men through the family planning program.

The Michigan Abstinence Partnership (MAP) Program was developed by the department in 1993. The MAP Program aims to positively impact adolescent health problems by promoting abstinence from sexual activity and related risky behaviors such as the use of alcohol, tobacco,

and other drugs. A comprehensive approach targeting 9-17 year old youth and their parents is used and includes activities that are designed to meet the specific needs of the community. These activities are developed and implemented by local coalitions that are made up of members that reflect the diversity of the community and target population. Each community develops a community action plan detailing coalition-based activities uniquely targeted to the youth and families in their area. In fiscal year 2002, seventeen (17) funded communities provided programming to 43,840 youth and parents.

The Michigan Teen Outreach Program (MTOP) strives to increase the number of adolescents in Michigan who are making positive choices to abstain from risky behaviors, including sexual activity and the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs through participation in service learning and abstinence education intervention. Five community organizations are funded through MTOP.

An advisory steering committee is in place in each funded community. Each community is expected to reach a minimum of 300 youth with 55-70 hours of intervention per participant. The Cornerstone Consulting Group's Teen Outreach Program is the service-learning curriculum utilized at all sites. The abstinence-plus portion of this curriculum is replaced with a community selected abstinence-only curriculum in order to meet the definition of abstinence education as outlined in Section 510 of Title V of the Social Security Act and the Michigan Department of Community Health appropriation boilerplate. Parent education is also implemented in order to encourage parents to talk openly with their children about sexuality and the benefits of abstinence.

Last Updated: May 2003

Induced Abortion Rates
by County of Residence, State of Michigan 1999 – 2001

County of Residence	Average Rate
Michigan	11.9
Wayne	18.0
City of Detroit	25.9
Genesee	17.7
Kalamazoo	16.5
Ingham	16.0
Washtenaw	14.3
Saginaw	13.6
Muskegon	13.2
Calhoun	11.7
Mackinac	11.5
St. Clair	11.2
Van Buren	11.2
Berrien	11.2
Jackson	10.8
Kent	10.7
Macomb	10.5
Oakland	9.5
Mason	9.2
Grand Traverse	8.7
Bay	9.1
Roscommon	8.7
Charlevoix	8.6
Isabella	8.6
Emmet	8.5
St. Joseph	8.4
Livingston	7.9
Iosco	8.2
Eaton	7.8
Montcalm	7.7
Lapeer	7.6
Branch	7.5
Mecosta	7.5
Allegan	7.2
Chippewa	7.1
Wexford	7.1
Lake	7.0
Otsego	7.0
Sanilac	7.0
Shiawassee	7.0
Cass	6.8
Gladwin	6.5
Manistee	6.5
Arenac	6.4
Clare	6.4
Lenawee	6.4

County of Residence	Average Rate
Tuscola	6.4
Antrim	6.3
Crawford	6.3
Gratiot	6.3
Leelanau	6.1
Montmorency	6.1
Osceola	6.0
Midland	5.9
Monroe	5.9
Luce	5.8
Oscoda	5.7
Barry	5.7
Ottawa	5.6
Kalkaska	5.6
Huron	5.5
Oceana	5.5
Baraga	5.4
Ionia	5.4
Ogemaw	5.3
Newaygo	5.3
Hillsdale	5.3
Alpena	5.1
Missaukee	5.0
Alcona	5.0
Clinton	4.8
Presque Isle	4.8
Marquette	4.8
Cheboygan	4.7
Benzie	4.7
Alger	3.0
Houghton	2.8
Schoolcraft	2.4
Keweenaw	2.2
Delta	1.9
Iron	1.6
Dickinson	1.0
Ontonagon	1.0
Gogebic	0.5
Menominee	0.4

Note: Unknown county of residence is included in the state total only. The rate is the number of reported induced abortions to Michigan residents per 1,000 Michigan women aged 15-44.

Source: Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics, MDCH.

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