

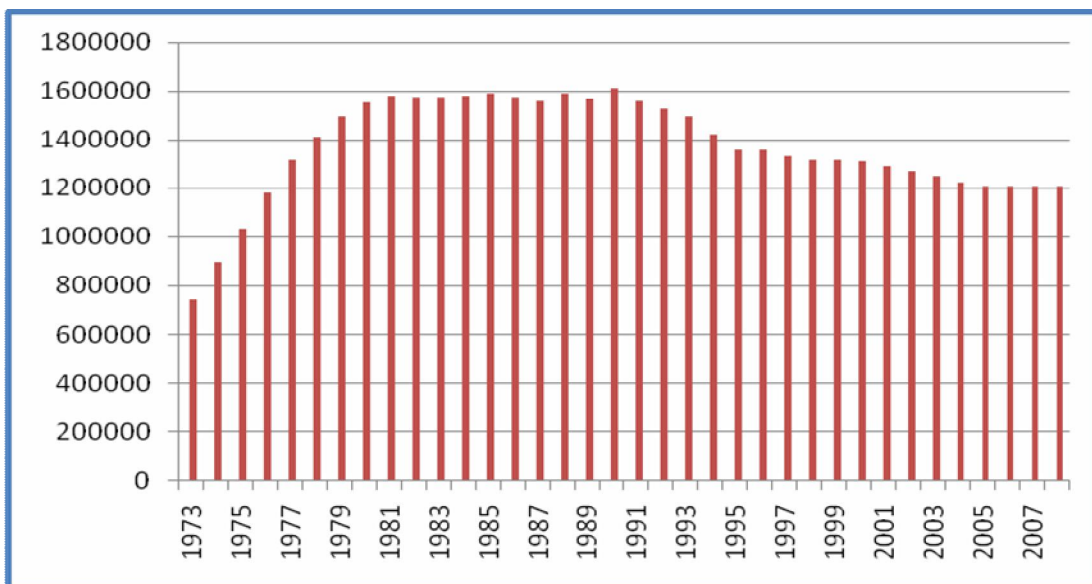
# North Carolina Reported Abortion Statistics 2008

**On the national level**, to date more than **50,000,000** babies have died to abortion since 1973. (1)

## United States Abortion Statistics

**50,766,279 abortions 1973-2008**

Reported abortions in the United States, by year 1973 – 2008



(2)

**North Carolina** makes up approximately 2.3 percent of the national yearly average of 1.2 million. (3)

**The following statistical information** is provided by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Epidemiology, State Center for Health Statistics in Raleigh, North Carolina. Additional abortion information for North Carolina can be found on their web site at <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/>.

### Summary of Reported Abortions in North Carolina, 2008

**On average**, about 75 abortions per day were performed on North Carolina residents in 2008. (4)

**During 2008**, there were a total of 31,882 abortions reported to the State Center for Health Statistics. Of the abortions performed in North Carolina, 5,215 were to

residents of other states, including South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, and Florida. (5)

**North Carolina Reported Abortions (6)**

	Live Births	Total	State Residents
2003	118,292	31,006	26,708
2004	119,773	33,954	29,337
2005	123,040	32,335	27,674
2006	127,646	35,088	29,430
2007	130,886	33,233	28,545
2008	130,758	31,882	27,234

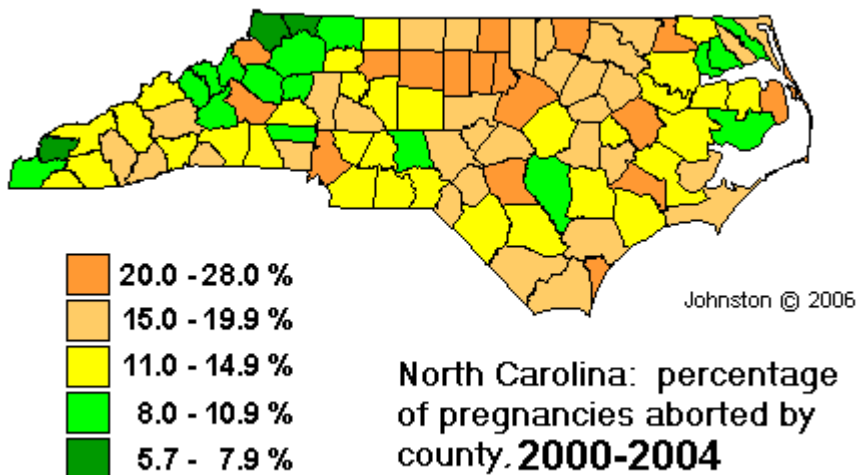
In 2008 the **ratio of total abortions** to live births was reported to be just under 1 abortion per 4 live births. (7)

Since 2003, approximately 18% of **all pregnancies to residents** in North Carolina ended with an abortion. (8)

**Since 2003**, the yearly average of total reported abortions in North Carolina is 32,916. (9)

**In 2008**, there were a total of 27,234 abortions to **residents** of North Carolina, representing a 4.6 percent decrease from 2007. The percentage of abortions of residents to total pregnancies decreased from 17.8% in 2007 to 17.1% in 2008. (10)

**Of the 2008 reported abortions**, only .6 percent were performed in hospital settings. The remaining 99.4 percent occurred in 17 non-hospital facilities, primarily free-standing clinics. (11)



(12)

The numbers, for abortions to residents, varied widely **by county of residence during 2008** with all of the 100 counties represented. The number of abortions



**INDUCED ABORTIONS**

**TOTAL PREGNANCIES**

	TOTAL	White	Minority	Unknown	TOTAL	White	Minority	Unknown
<b>UNMARRIED - TOTAL</b>	20,467	8,178	10,479	1,810	75,934	38,839	35,285	1,810

**75.2 percent** of North Carolina residents who obtained an abortion in 2008 were not “legally married” (this includes women who were separated but not legally divorced). The marital status of 6.2% of the women was unknown. (21)

**INDUCED ABORTIONS**

	TOTAL	White	Minority	Unknown
Unmarried 10 - 14	131	37	79	15
Unmarried 15 - 19	3,770	1,620	1,849	301
Unmarried 20 - 24	7,259	3,055	3,611	593

**85.5 percent** of women aged 24 and younger who obtained an abortion in 2008 were not legally married. (22)

**NC RESIDENT ABORTIONS: CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN RECEIVING ABORTIONS**

North Carolina Residents with percentages, 2003-2008

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
<b>TOTALS</b>	26708	100	29337	100	27674	100	29430	100	28545	100	27234	100
<b>AGE</b>												
14 and under	179	0.7	185	0.6	205	0.7	146	0.5	163	0.6	140	0.5
15-19	4106	15.4	4479	15.3	4234	15.3	4395	14.9	4435	15.5	4147	15.2
20-24	8967	33.6	9762	33.3	8954	32.4	9600	32.6	9268	32.5	8765	32.2
25-29	6125	22.9	6853	23.4	6521	23.6	6931	23.6	6533	22.9	6353	23.3
30-34	4013	15	4483	15.3	4035	14.6	4163	14.1	4046	14.2	3817	14
35 and over	2672	10	2916	9.9	2985	10.8	3227	11	3211	11.2	3010	11.1
Unknown	646	2.4	659	2.2	740	2.7	968	3.3	889	3.1	1002	3.7
<b>RACE</b>												
White	11941	44.7	12568	42.8	11931	43.1	12594	42.8	12307	43.1	11169	41
Minority	13471	50.4	14226	48.5	13102	47.3	13772	46.8	13201	46.2	13040	47.9
Unknown	1296	4.9	2543	8.7	2641	9.5	3064	10.4	3037	10.6	3025	11.1
<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>												
Married	5858	21.9	6437	21.9	5798	21	6185	21	5525	19.4	5075	18.6
Unmarried	19516	73.1	21525	73.4	20505	74.1	21338	72.5	21414	75	20467	75.2
Unknown	1334	5	1375	4.7	1371	5	1907	6.5	1606	5.6	1692	6.2

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
EDUCATION												
8 and under	846	3.2	1063	3.6	918	3.3	911	3.1	981	3.4	967	3.6
9 to 11	3273	12.3	3662	12.5	3425	12.4	3537	12	3448	12.1	3249	11.9
12	9245	34.6	9742	33.2	8797	31.8	9583	32.6	8825	30.9	8508	31.2
13 and over	10515	39.4	11865	40.4	11637	42.1	12324	41.9	12394	43.4	11643	42.8
Unknown	2829	10.6	3005	10.2	2897	10.5	3075	10.4	2897	10.1	2867	10.5
LIVING CHILDREN												
None	9966	37.3	10878	37.1	10415	37.6	11142	37.9	11081	38.8	10777	39.6
1	7620	28.5	8364	28.5	7546	27.3	8049	27.3	7673	26.9	7367	27.1

**Trends in characteristics** of women obtaining abortions who reside in North Carolina has been consistent throughout the period beginning in the year 2003 and concluding in the year 2008.

**During the period of 2003 to 2008:**

The average yearly totals of N.C. resident abortion rates with 2008 comparison

The average yearly total is 28,155 (2008 total 27,234).

The average yearly total for woman age 15-19 is 4,299 (2008 total-4,147).

The average yearly total for woman age 20-24 is 9,219 (2008 total-8,765).

The average yearly total for woman age 25-29 is 6,553 (2008 total-6,353).

The average yearly total for white women is 12,085 (2008 total-11,169).

The average yearly total for minority women is 13,469 (2008 total-13,040).

The average yearly total for unmarried women is 20,794 (2008 total-20,467). (23)

**Suction curettage** was the most common reported abortion procedure in 2008, accounting for 44.2 percent of all resident abortion procedures. The suction curettage procedure involves dilating a woman's cervix, inserting a flexible tube into her uterine cavity, and suctioning out the unborn baby's tissue and the placenta using an electric vacuum pump. (24)

**Dilation and Evacuation (D&E)** was the second most common abortion procedure for North Carolina residents in 2008 at 37 percent. During the D&E procedure, an abortionist dilates a woman's cervix and inserts sharp instruments, as well as suction devices and forceps, which are then used to cut up and extract her unborn baby, piece by piece. (25)

**It is important to note that in 1977**, Congress adopted the Hyde Amendment, which prohibited the use of any federal funds contributed to the Medicaid program for abortions except when the pregnant woman's life would be endangered if she were to carry the pregnancy to term. As a result of this loss of federal funds, in 1978 the General Assembly established the State Abortion Fund, from which payments were made for abortions for eligible women. (26)

**In 1978**, Governor James B. Hunt took \$250,000 that been appropriated by the legislature for mental health and used these funds to pay for abortions. In 1979, he transferred \$303,000 that had been appropriated for rest homes and used that money to pay for medically unnecessary abortions beyond the \$1 million the General Assembly had appropriated at his request. In 1980, Gov. Hunt transferred \$367,000 from Aid to Families with Dependent Children for tax paid abortions. This was in addition to the \$1 million allocated by the General Assembly. Finally, in 1981, Gov. Hunt transferred \$235,000 from Aid to Families with Dependent Children to increase the State Abortion Fund. This transfer was also in addition to the \$1 million the General Assembly appropriated for tax paid abortions. (27)

**In 1995**, the General Assembly drastically reduced payments for abortions by the adoption of the following provision:

(b) Eligibility for services of the State Abortion Fund shall be limited to women whose income is below the federal poverty level, as revised annually, and who are not eligible for Medicaid. The State Abortion Fund shall be used to fund abortions only to terminate pregnancies resulting from cases of rape or incest, or to terminate pregnancies that, in the written opinion of one doctor licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina, endanger the life of the mother. (28)

**In 1995**, the State Abortion Fund was reduced to \$50,000 with stipulations that the money could only be used to pay for abortions when the life of the mother was at risk or in cases of rape and incest. Prior to this time, there were virtually no restrictions on the use of taxpayers' money to fund abortions. In 1997, public funds (including Medicaid) paid for five abortions to preserve the woman's life, 59 abortions for the case of rape, and two abortions for the case of incest. (29)

## **Resources**

1. "Factsheets: Abortion In The US." National Right to Life. Available from <http://www.nrlc.org/Factsheets/index.html>. Internet; accessed 9 December 2009.
2. Ibid.  
-Graphic represents totals and estimates provided by the National Right to Life Committee.
3. Ibid.  
-This percentage was reached by dividing the total number of abortions in the state of North Carolina in 2008 (27,234) by the total number of estimated abortions nationwide in 2008 (1.2million).

4. "Reported Pregnancies 2008". North Carolina Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/pregnancies/2008/intro.html>. Internet; accessed 9 December 2009.  
-This average was reached by dividing the total number of resident abortions in 2008 (27,234) by the average number of days in a year (365).
5. Ibid.
6. "Reported Pregnancies 2003" through "Reported Pregnancies 2008". North Carolina Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/pregnancies/2003/intro.html> through <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/pregnancies/2008/intro.html>. Internet; accessed 9 December 2009.
7. "Reported Pregnancies 2008". North Carolina Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/pregnancies/2008/intro.html>. Internet; accessed 9 December 2008.  
-The ratio was reached by comparing the reported total live births (130,758) to the reported total abortions (31,882) to occur in North Carolina in 2008.
8. "Reported Pregnancies 2003" through "Reported Pregnancies 2008". North Carolina Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/pregnancies/2003/intro.html> through <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/pregnancies/2008/intro.html>. Internet; accessed 9 December 2009.  
-This percentage was reached by comparing the total pregnancies (reported live births and abortions) to the reported total amount of abortions during the period of 2003-2008.
9. Ibid.  
-The average was reached by totaling the number of reported abortions during the period of 2003-2008 and dividing it by the number of years (6) during the period.
10. "Reported Pregnancies 2007" and "Reported Pregnancies 2008". North Carolina Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/pregnancies/2007/intro.html> and <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/pregnancies/2008/intro.html>. Internet; accessed 9 December 2009.  
-These percentages were reached by comparing the reported totals from 2007 to 2008.
11. "Reported Pregnancies 2008". North Carolina Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/pregnancies/2008/intro.html>. Internet; accessed 9 December 2009.
12. Johnston, Wm. Robert. "North Carolina abortion percentages by county, 2000-2004." Abortion statistics and other data-Johnston's Archive. Available from <http://www.johnstonsarchive.net/policy/abortion/usac/ab-usac2-nc>. Internet; accessed 9 December 2009.

13. "Reported Pregnancies 2008." North Carolina Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/pregnancies/2008/intro.html>. Internet; accessed 9 December 2009.
14. Ibid.
15. "2008 Total North Carolina Resident Pregnancies." North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/pregnancies/2008/totalpregnc.pdf>. Internet; accessed 10 December 2009.
  - The percentage was reached by comparing the reported total of abortions for the group ages 20-24 (8,765) to the total number of reported resident abortions (27,234).
16. Ibid.
  - The percentage was reached by comparing the reported total of abortions for the group ages 15-19 (4,147) to the total number of reported pregnancies (19,398) for that age group.
17. Ibid.
  - The percentage was reached by comparing the reported total abortions for women ages 24 and younger (13,052) to the reported total abortions (27,234).
18. "Reported Pregnancies 2008." North Carolina Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/pregnancies/2008/intro.html>. Internet; accessed 9 December 2009.
19. "NC Resident Abortions, 1999-2008: Characteristics of Women Receiving Abortions." North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/pregnancies/2008/abortioncharacteristics.pdf>. Internet; accessed 10 December 2009.
20. "2008 Total North Carolina Resident Pregnancies." North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/pregnancies/2008/totalpregnc.pdf>. Internet; accessed 10 December 2009.
  - The percentages were reached by comparing the total reported abortions of each group (white 11,169 – minority 13,040) to the total reported number of pregnancies of each group (white 104,865 – minority 50,980).
21. "NC Resident Abortions, 1999-2008: Characteristics of Women Receiving Abortions." North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/pregnancies/2008/abortioncharacteristics.pdf>. Internet; accessed 10 December 2009.
22. "2008 Total North Carolina Resident Pregnancies." North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/pregnancies/2008/totalpregnc.pdf>. Internet; accessed 10 December 2009.
  - The percentage was reached by comparing the reported total of abortions for Unmarried women ages 24 and younger(11,160) to the reported total of

abortions for that same group (13,052).

23. "NC Resident Abortions, 1999-2008: Characteristics of Women Receiving Abortions." North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/pregnancies/2008/abortioncharacteristics.pdf>. Internet; accessed 10 December 2009.

-These averages were reached by totaling the number of reported abortions for Each category during the period of 2003-2008 and dividing the total by the number of years (6) during the period.

24. Ibid, page 2.

-For definition of "Suction Curettage," see: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, "Reported Pregnancies 2008," Glossary of Terms: Letters "S-Z" (scroll down to find term).

25. Ibid.

-For definition of "Dilation and Evacuation (D&E)," see: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, "Reported Pregnancies 2008," Glossary of Terms: Letters "A-F" (scroll down to find term).

26. "Rosie J. v. N.C. Dept. of Human Resources." North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts. Available from <http://www.aoc.state.nc.us/www/public/sc/opinions/1997/232-96-1.htm>. Internet; accessed 10 December 2009.

27. The information about the history of the State Abortion Fund was provided by N.C. State Representative Paul "Skip" Stam (R-37th).

28. "Rosie J. v. N.C. Dept. of Human Resources." North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts. Available from <http://www.aoc.state.nc.us/www/public/sc/opinions/1997/232-96-1.htm>. Internet; accessed 10 December 2009.

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