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**Subject:** Termination of pregnancy statistics 2022  
**Date of report:** 29 June 2023

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## Background

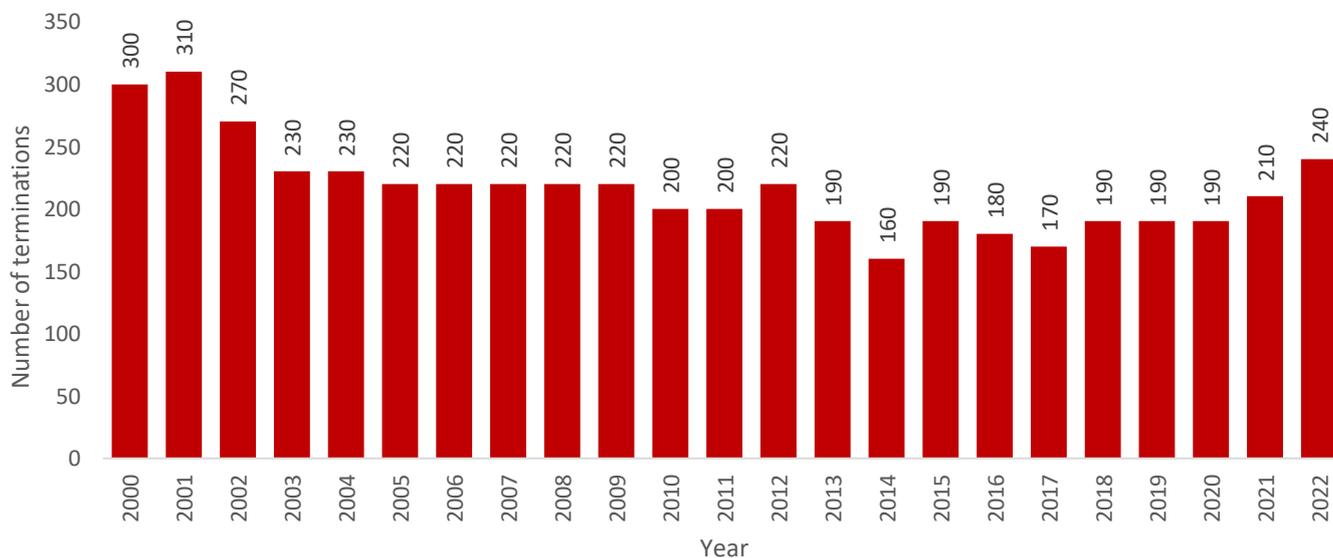
An abortion is a procedure to end a pregnancy, also referred to as ‘termination of pregnancy’ or T.O.P. Induced abortion is carried out under the terms of the Termination of Pregnancy (Jersey) Law 1997. There is a legal requirement to notify the Medical Officer of Health of all terminations carried out in Jersey. Public Health Jersey collate the data derived from these notifications. A full data table is provided in the Appendix.

## Overall number

In 2022:

- there were 240 abortions notified as having taken place in Jersey<sup>1</sup>, 12% higher than 2021 (210) and highest since 2002.
- less than 10 abortions for Jersey residents were carried out annually in England and Wales<sup>2</sup>, this has remained at a similar level since 2008

**Figure 1: Number of abortions carried out annually, Jersey, (2000 to 2022)**



Source: Health Community Services  
Rounded to the nearest 10

<sup>1</sup> The commentary, charts and tables relate to abortions carried out in Jersey for Jersey residents only. Figures do not include abortions for Jersey residents that are carried out in England or outside the UK

<sup>2</sup> Abortion Statistics 2021 (Table 12a) - [Abortion statistics, England and Wales: 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-2021)

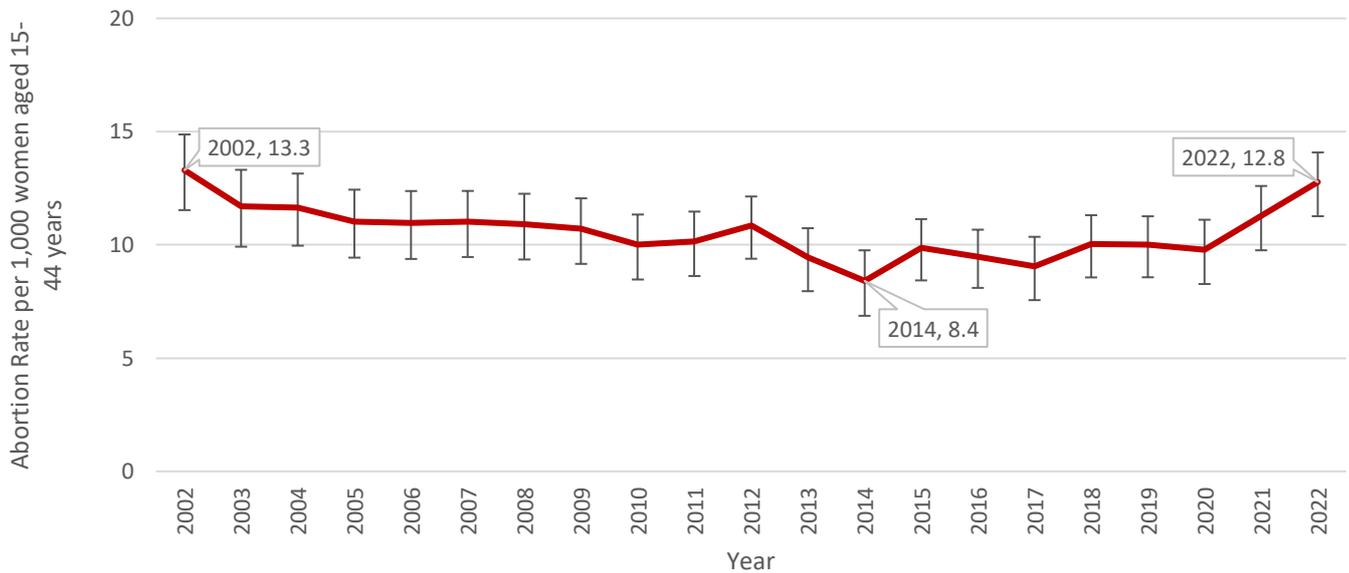
# Abortion rate: abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years

In 2022:

- the abortion rate in Jersey was 12.8 per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years<sup>3</sup>; the rate is statistically similar to the rate in 2021, but higher than the rate between 2013 and 2020 (see Figure 2). The rate in 2022 was statistically similar to the rate in 2002 (20 years ago), which was 13.3 per 1,000 women

A full data table for abortion rate per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years can be found in Appendix table A1.

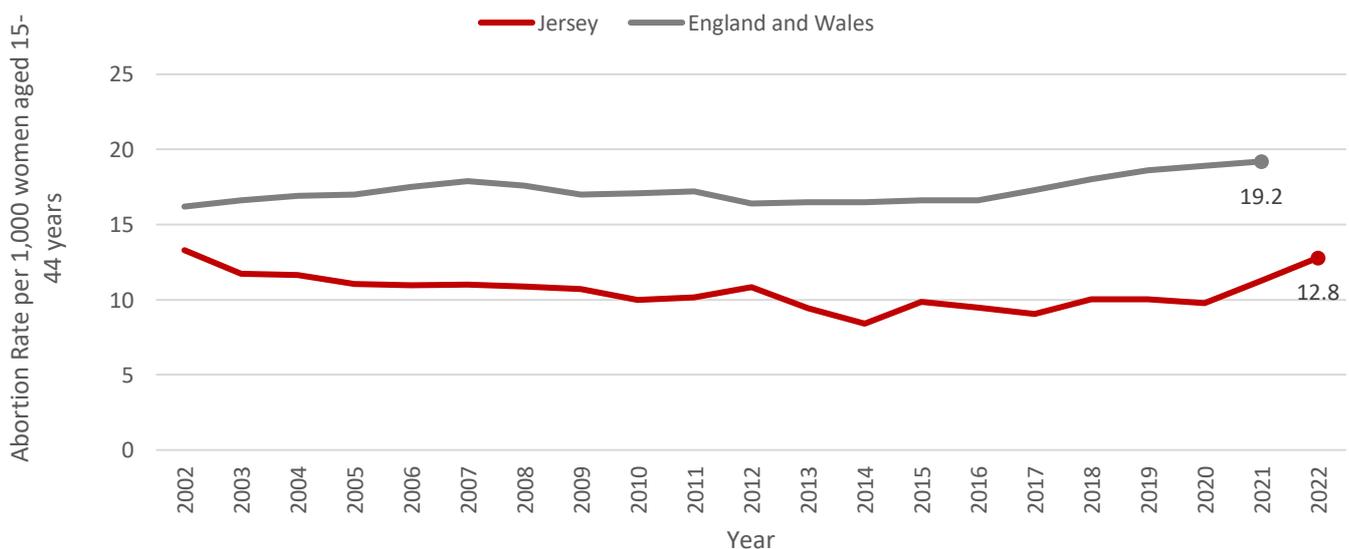
**Figure 2: Abortion rate per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years, Jersey (2002 to 2022)**



Source: Health Community Services

- the abortion rate in Jersey over the period 2002 to 2021 was consistently lower than in England and Wales<sup>4</sup> (Figure 3)

**Figure 3: Abortion rate per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years - Jersey compared to England & Wales (2002 to 2022)**



Source: Health Community Services

<sup>3</sup> 2022 rates are calculated using 2021 population estimates in lieu of a population estimate being available at time of publishing. Rates from 2011 -2021 are calculated based on the most recent [Population And Migration Statistics](#), meaning some historic rates may differ when compared with previous publications using older population denominator figures.

<sup>4</sup> [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) National Statistics, Abortion Statistics for England and Wales: 2021 (Abortion Statistics: Data Tables)

**Table 1: Number and crude rate (number per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years) of abortions in Jersey and in England and Wales**

| Year | Jersey |      | England & Wales |      |
|------|--------|------|-----------------|------|
|      | Number | Rate | Number          | Rate |
| 2015 | 190    | 9.9  | 191,010         | 16.6 |
| 2016 | 180    | 9.5  | 190,410         | 16.6 |
| 2017 | 170    | 9.1  | 197,530         | 17.3 |
| 2018 | 190    | 9.5  | 205,300         | 18.0 |
| 2019 | 190    | 10.0 | 209,520         | 18.6 |
| 2020 | 190    | 9.8  | 210,860         | 18.9 |
| 2021 | 210    | 11.3 | 214,256         | 19.2 |
| 2022 | 240    | 12.8 | *               | *    |

Source: Health Community Services

\*2022 abortion statistics for England and Wales are due to be released on 01 January 2024

## Abortion ratio: abortions per 1,000 live births

In 2022:

- the abortion ratio in Jersey was 287 abortions for every 1,000 live births; this has decreased by around 8% when compared with 2001 (311 abortions per 1,000 live births)

Table 2 shows the comparative abortion ratios per 1,000 live births in Jersey, the EU overall, and selected countries<sup>5</sup> for 2018, 2019 and 2020 (the most recently available comparison data).

- Jersey had a lower ratio than Bulgaria, Russia, Sweden, Great Britain and France; but was higher than the average for EU Members, Portugal, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany and Ireland.

**Table 2: Abortions per 1,000 live births (2018-2020) selected countries**

| Country              | Abortions per 1,000 live births |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bulgaria             | 355                             |
| Russia               | 351                             |
| Sweden               | 316                             |
| Great Britain        | 311                             |
| France               | 306                             |
| <b>Jersey (2022)</b> | <b>287</b>                      |
| Spain                | 276                             |
| EU Members (average) | 210                             |
| Portugal             | 176                             |
| Italy                | 170                             |
| Netherlands          | 164                             |
| Germany              | 130                             |
| Ireland              | 111                             |
| Switzerland          | 110                             |

<sup>5</sup> World Health Organisation, European Health Information Gateway, Abortions per 1000 live births - [Abortions per 1000 live births - European Health Information Gateway \(who.int\)](https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/Reproductive-health/Abortion/Short-report-2018)

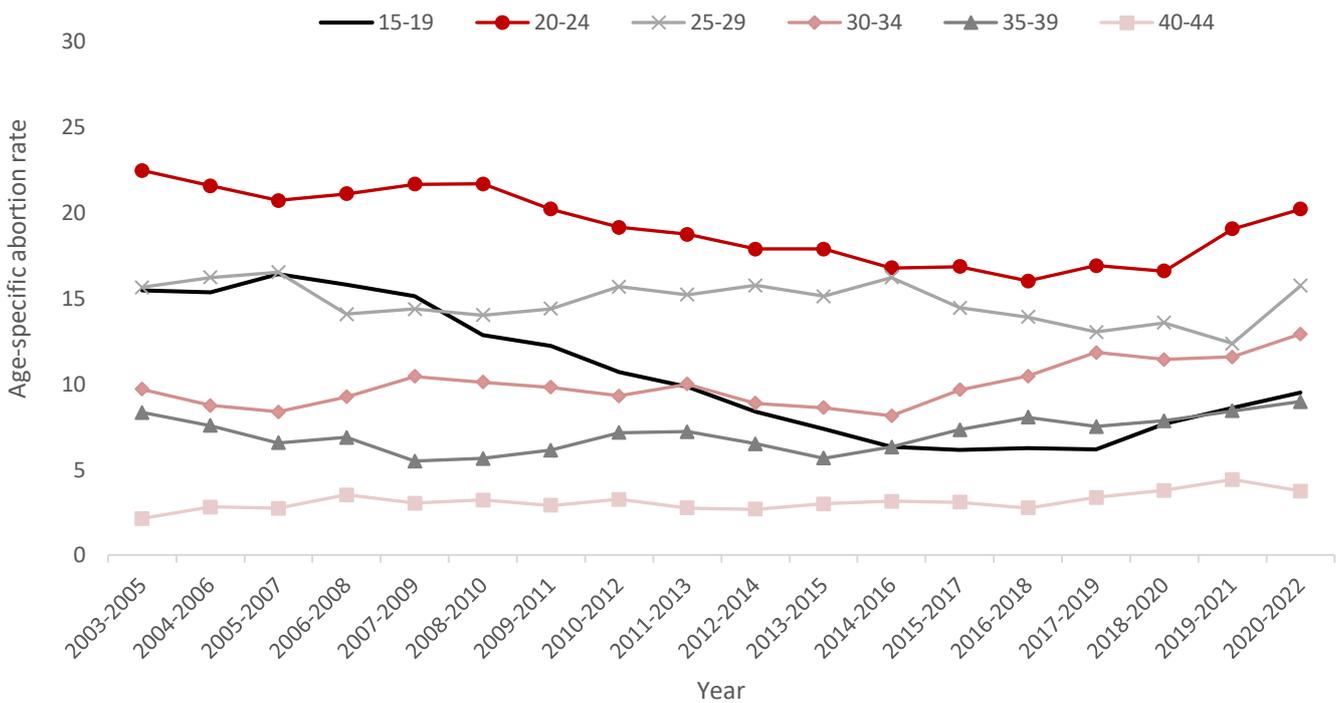
## By age of woman

Abortion rate by age of woman is considered as a 3-year rolling average. When looking at trends over time, data combined over several years is more reliable than a single year to year comparisons. A full data table can be found in Appendix table A2.

In 2020-2022:

- the age group with the highest age-specific abortion rate in Jersey was women aged 20-24 (20.2 per 1,000 resident women); see Figure 4
- for women aged 15 to 19 years the abortion rate was 9.5 per 1,000 women; this has decreased from a rate of 16.4 per 1,000 in 2005-2007
- over the period 2011-2021 there was an average of around 20 abortions per year where the woman has been under 20 years; the proportion of women under 18 in Jersey is similar to that in England and Wales
- for other age groups aged 25 and over, the age-specific rates of termination have remained relatively constant across the two decades
- around two thirds (63%) of all women having abortions were aged between 20 and 34 years

**Figure 4: Age-specific abortion rates per 1,000 women, Jersey, 3-year averages (2003-2005 to 2020-2022)**



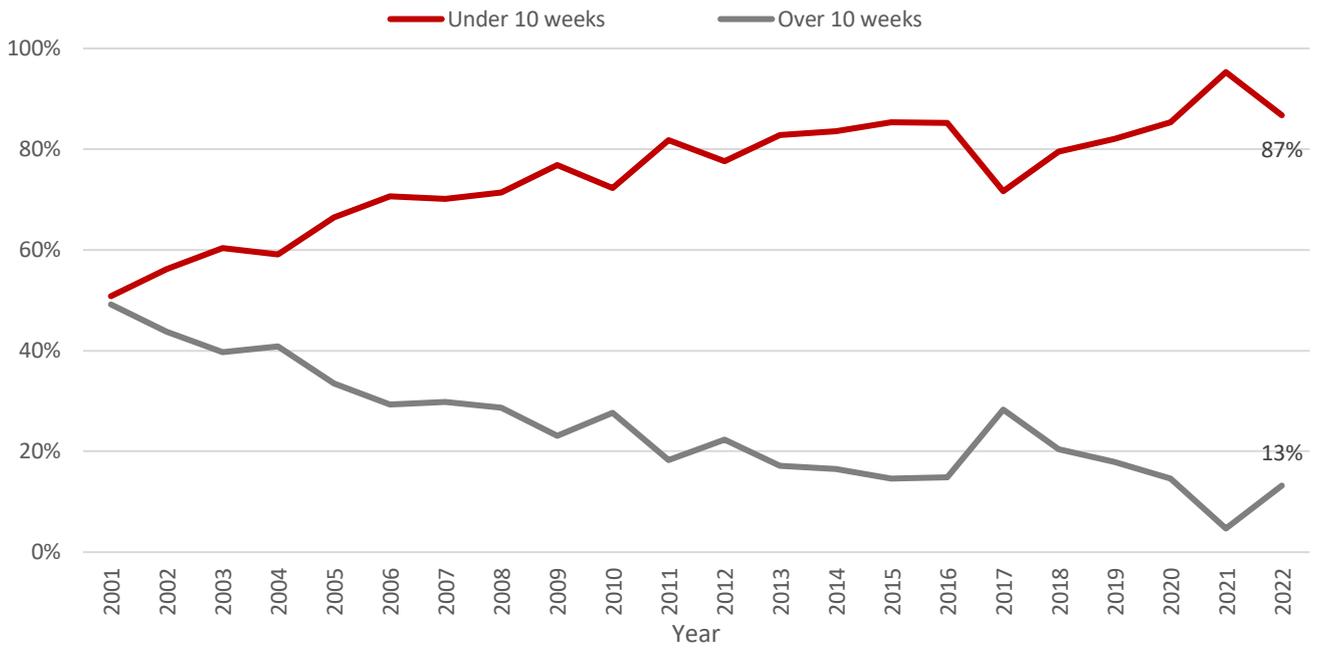
Source: Health Community Services

## By gestation period

In 2022:

- 87% of terminations were performed at less than 10 weeks gestation
- the proportion of terminations performed in Jersey at less than 10 weeks (87%) was similar to England (89%)
- the proportion of terminations performed at 10-12 weeks was 10%, this has fallen from 49% in 2001
- the proportion of terminations being performed at 13 or more weeks gestation has been lower than 5% during the last decade

**Figure 5: Proportion of abortions by gestation period<sup>6</sup>, Jersey (2001 to 2022)**



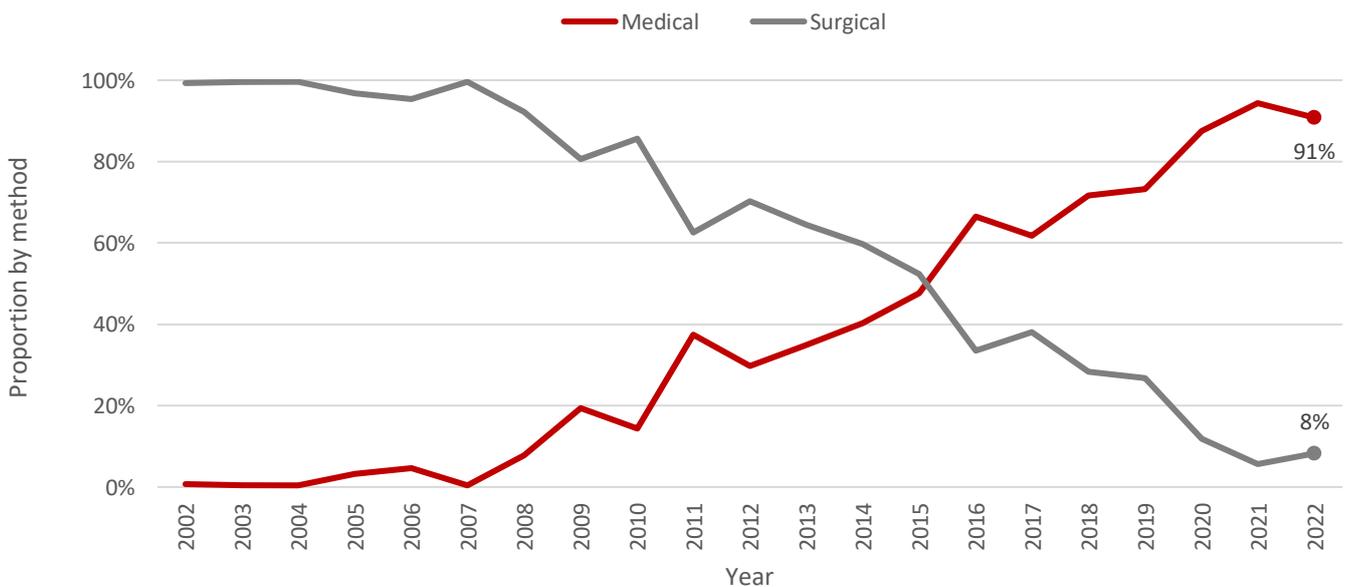
Source: Health Community Services

## By method of termination

In 2022:

- the use of medical methods has increased over time compared to surgical methods (Figure 6)
- medical abortions became the most common method of termination in 2016, and in 2022 accounted for 91% of all terminations, statistically similar to 2021

**Figure 6: Proportion of abortions by method of termination, Jersey (2002 to 2022)**



Source: Health Community Services

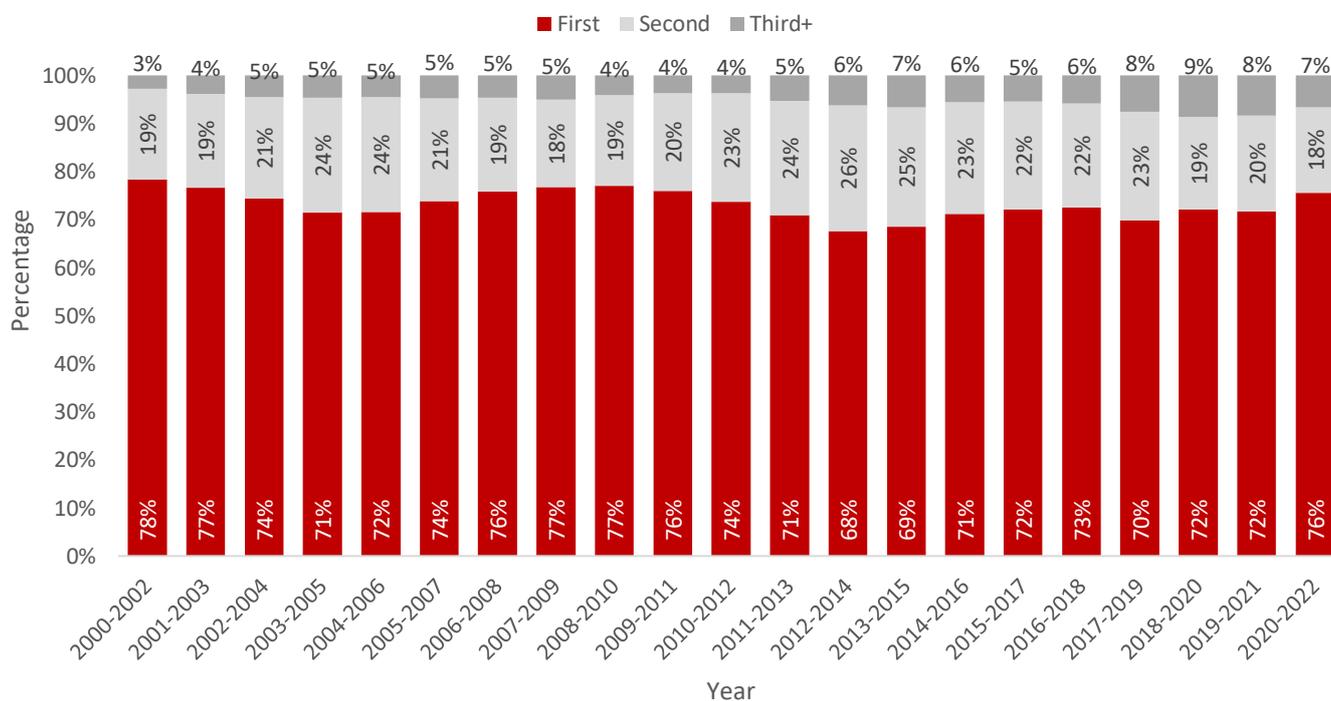
<sup>6</sup> Proportion of terminations performed at over 12 weeks gestation not shown due to small numbers

## By number of previous terminations

In 2020-2022:

- for around three quarters (76%) of women it was their first termination; for 18% it was their second termination; these were similar proportions compared to 2019-2021
- 7% of the women who had a termination had had three or more terminations, higher than in 2000-2002, when 3% of women had had three or more terminations
- 16% of abortions to women under 25 years were repeat abortions; this proportion has remained relatively constant since 2002-2004, and is lower than that in England (30%)<sup>7</sup>

**Figure 7: The proportion of women having an abortion by number of previous abortions, Jersey, 3-year averages (2000-2002 to 2020-2022)**



Source: Health Community Services

<sup>7</sup> [Abortion statistics for England and Wales 2021 \(table 11d\)](#)

## Appendix: Table A1

Total number of terminations, abortion rate, distribution by gestation period, method and number of previous terminations, 2000-2022

Numbers less than 10 have been suppressed to prevent disclosure and shown by the symbol '+' below.

All other numbers have been rounded independently to the nearest 10

| Year | Total number | Abortion rate <sup>8</sup> | Number of terminations by gestation Period |             |                  | Number of terminations by method |         | Number of terminations by previous terminations |                                   |
|------|--------------|----------------------------|--|-------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---|-----------------------------------|
|      |              |                            | <10 Weeks                                  | 10-12 Weeks | 13 or more weeks | Surgical                         | Medical | No previous terminations                        | At least one previous termination |
| 2000 | 300          | 14.8                       | 170  | 120         | +                | 290                              | +       | 240   | 60                                |
| 2001 | 310          | 15.2                       | 160  | 150         | +                | 300                              | +       | 240   | 70                                |
| 2002 | 270          | 13.3                       | 150  | 110         | +                | 260                              | +       | 210   | 60                                |
| 2003 | 230          | 11.7                       | 140  | 90          | +                | 230                              | +       | 170   | 60                                |
| 2004 | 230          | 11.6                       | 140  | 90          | +                | 230                              | +       | 160   | 70                                |
| 2005 | 220          | 11.0                       | 150  | 70          | +                | 210                              | +       | 150   | 70                                |
| 2006 | 220          | 11.0                       | 150  | 50          | 10               | 210                              | 10      | 160   | 60                                |
| 2007 | 220          | 11.0                       | 160  | 70          | +                | 220                              | +       | 170   | 50                                |
| 2008 | 220          | 10.9                       | 160  | 50          | +                | 200                              | 20      | 170   | 50                                |
| 2009 | 220          | 10.7                       | 170  | 50          | +                | 170                              | 40      | 170   | 50                                |
| 2010 | 200          | 10.0                       | 150  | 50          | +                | 170                              | 30      | 160   | 50                                |
| 2011 | 200          | 10.1                       | 170  | 30          | +                | 130                              | 80      | 150   | 60                                |
| 2012 | 220          | 10.8                       | 170  | 40          | 10               | 150                              | 60      | 150   | 60                                |
| 2013 | 190          | 9.4                        | 160  | 30          | +                | 120                              | 70      | 130   | 60                                |
| 2014 | 160          | 8.4                        | 140  | 20          | +                | 100                              | 70      | 100   | 60                                |
| 2015 | 190          | 9.7                        | 160  | 30          | +                | 100                              | 90      | 140   | 50                                |
| 2016 | 180          | 9.3                        | 160  | 20          | +                | 60                               | 120     | 140   | 40                                |
| 2017 | 170          | 8.9                        | 120  | 50          | +                | 70                               | 110     | 110   | 60                                |
| 2018 | 190          | 9.8                        | 150  | 40          | +                | 50                               | 140     | 140   | 50                                |
| 2019 | 190          | 9.9                        | 160  | 30          | +                | 50                               | 140     | 130   | 60                                |
| 2020 | 190          | 9.7                        | 160  | 20          | 10               | 20                               | 160     | 140   | 50                                |
| 2021 | 210          | 11.3                       | 200  | 10          | +                | 10                               | 200     | 160   | 60                                |
| 2022 | 240          | 12.8                       | 210  | 20          | 10               | 20                               | 220     | 190   | 50                                |

<sup>8</sup> Abortion rate per 1,000 population of women aged 15-44.

## Appendix: Table A2

Age-specific rates of termination 2001-2022 (3-year averages)

*Due to small numbers, three years of data have been combined to calculate the specific rates*

| <b>3-YEAR PERIOD</b> | <b>UNDER 20 YRS</b> | <b>20-24 YRS</b> | <b>25-29 YRS</b> | <b>30-34 YRS</b> | <b>35-39 YRS</b> | <b>40-44 YRS</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 2001-03              | 20.1                | 25.1             | 17.6             | 12.4             | 8.5              | 2.8              |
| 2002-04              | 17.9                | 23.5             | 13.9             | 11.0             | 9.3              | 2.5              |
| 2003-05              | 15.7                | 22.2             | 15.7             | 9.6              | 8.2              | 2.1              |
| 2004-06              | 15.6                | 21.4             | 16.2             | 8.5              | 7.5              | 2.8              |
| 2005-07              | 16.8                | 20.6             | 16.5             | 8.2              | 6.4              | 2.8              |
| 2006-08              | 16.2                | 21.0             | 14.0             | 9.1              | 6.7              | 3.6              |
| 2007-09              | 15.5                | 21.4             | 14.3             | 10.2             | 5.3              | 3.1              |
| 2008-10              | 13.1                | 21.5             | 14.0             | 10.0             | 5.5              | 3.3              |
| 2009-11              | 12.3                | 20.2             | 14.3             | 9.7              | 6.0              | 2.9              |
| 2010-12              | 10.7                | 19.3             | 15.6             | 9.3              | 7.1              | 3.2              |
| 2011-13              | 9.8                 | 18.7             | 15.2             | 10.1             | 7.2              | 2.8              |
| 2012-14              | 8.4                 | 17.9             | 15.7             | 10.0             | 6.5              | 2.7              |
| 2013-15              | 7.3                 | 17.9             | 15.1             | 8.9              | 5.6              | 3.0              |
| 2014-16              | 6.1                 | 16.8             | 16.2             | 8.6              | 6.3              | 3.1              |
| 2015-17              | 6.2                 | 16.8             | 14.4             | 9.7              | 7.3              | 3.1              |
| 2016-18              | 6.2                 | 16.0             | 13.9             | 10.4             | 8.0              | 2.7              |
| 2017-19              | 5.6                 | 16.9             | 13.0             | 10.5             | 7.5              | 3.4              |
| 2018-20              | 7.7                 | 16.6             | 13.6             | 11.8             | 7.8              | 3.8              |
| 2019-21              | 8.6                 | 19.1             | 12.4             | 11.6             | 8.4              | 4.4              |
| 2020-22              | 9.5                 | 20.2             | 15.7             | 12.9             | 9.0              | 3.7              |

## Notes

### i. Time limits:

Under the Termination of Pregnancy (Jersey) Law 1997, there are time limits that apply depending on the reason for the termination. Jersey's laws prevent abortions being performed after the 12th week (other than in certain circumstances, see section ii). The length of a pregnancy is worked out from the first day of the woman's last period. Where this date is not known, the doctor's belief of the length of the pregnancy is acceptable in law.

After the 12-week period is exceeded, the only option available to a pregnant woman wanting to have an abortion is to travel off-Island, usually to the UK, unless circumstances for lawful abortion (see section ii) are met.

During 2021, the government of Jersey approved legislation to abolish the requirement for women and girls to wait seven days between two medical consultations when accessing abortion services. This brings abortion law on the island more into line with international standards.

### ii. Circumstances in which termination is lawful:

Two doctors approved by the Health and Community Services Department must agree that one of the following applies:

- a termination is needed to save the woman's life or to prevent serious permanent injury to her physical or mental health. There is no time limit under this reason so a termination can take place at any time
- the woman is no more than 24 weeks pregnant and there is a serious risk that if born, the child would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to have a serious disability
- the woman is no more than 12 weeks pregnant, and her condition causes her distress

On the day the procedure is carried out, the woman must have lived in Jersey, or have been resident in Jersey for ninety days.

### iii. Methods of abortion

Different methods can be used to terminate a pregnancy, depending on the duration of gestation, and other circumstances relating to the individual woman.

There is one principal medical method, involving the use of an abortifacient drug. Early medical abortion in the first 9 weeks of pregnancy (10 weeks during the Covid-19 crisis) requires the administration of 2 tablets. Medical abortions can also happen after the first 10 weeks of pregnancy.

The main surgical methods are:

- vacuum aspiration, recommended at up to 15 weeks gestation
- dilatation and evacuation (D and E) recommended where gestation is greater than 15 weeks

D and E may be used in combination with vacuum aspiration

#### iv. Population estimates used for rates of abortion

Abortion rates are calculated using the conventional age range for women in their child-bearing years, 15 to 44.

Abortion rates per 1,000 women between 2011 to 2021 were calculated using the estimates recently published by Statistics Jersey (June 2023)<sup>9</sup>. As such, rates presented in this report for the 2011 to 2021 period may differ slightly to those presented in previous publications, which will have used older population estimates. Rates for earlier years (2010 and earlier) have not been revised.

Note that rates for 2022 were calculated using the 2021 population figure, in lieu of an estimate for 2022 being available at time of publication.

#### v. Confidence intervals and statistical significance

Confidence intervals (CI) have been used in this report to compare Jersey rates and numbers over time, and with those of England. Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. The confidence interval indicates the range within which the true value for the population as a whole can be expected to lie, taking natural random variation into account.

It is often expressed as a % whereby a population mean lies between an upper and lower interval. The 95% confidence interval is a range of values that one can be 95% confident contains the true mean of the population. Due to natural sampling variability, the sample mean (centre of the CI) will vary from sample to sample.

Comparisons between rates or over time have been tested to determine whether differences are likely to be statistically significant or the result of natural random variation. Only those differences deemed as statistically significant have been described in this report using terms such as 'increase', 'decrease', 'higher' or 'lower'.

<sup>9</sup> [Population And Migration Statistics](#) – Statistics Jersey, June 2023