
Subject: Termination of pregnancy statistics 2021
Date of report: 28 July 2022

Background

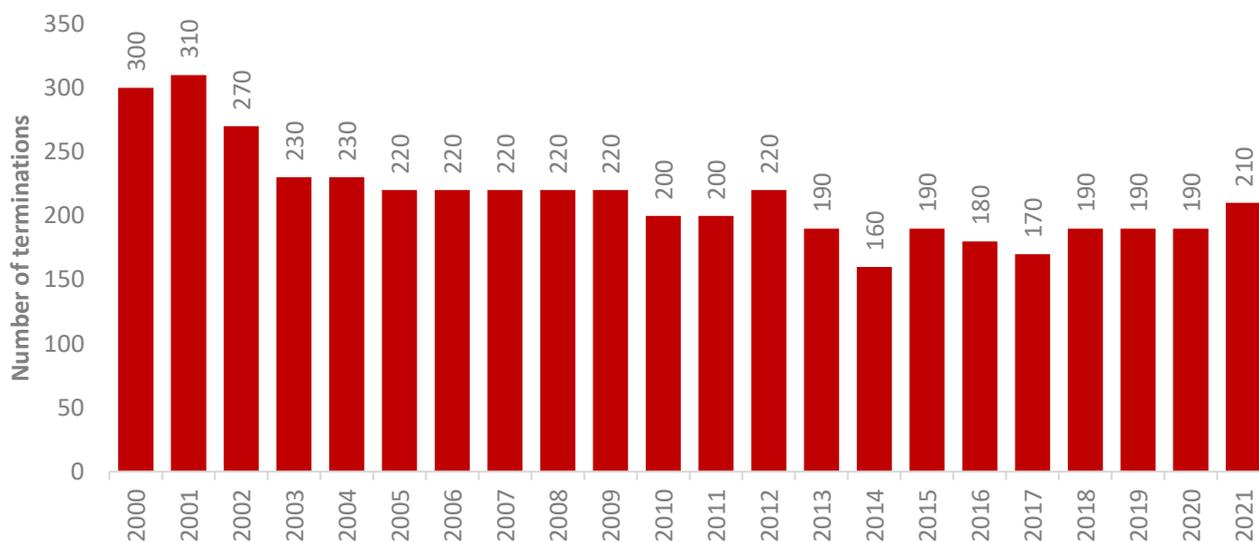
Induced abortion (also referred to as ‘termination of pregnancy’ or T.O.P.) is carried out under the terms of the Termination of Pregnancy (Jersey) Law 1997. There is a legal requirement to notify the Medical Officer of Health of all terminations carried out in Jersey. Public Health Jersey collate and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

Overall number

In 2021:

- there were 210 abortions notified as having taken place in Jersey¹, 13% higher than 2020 (190)
- the number of abortions has decreased over the last two decades, with around 90 fewer terminations in 2021 (210) than reported in 2001 (310)
- less than 10 abortions for Jersey residents were carried out annually in England and Wales², this has remained at a similar level since 2008

Figure 1: Number of abortions carried out annually, Jersey, 2000-2021, (rounded,10)



¹ The commentary, charts and tables relate to abortions carried out in Jersey for residents of Jersey only. Figures do not include abortions for residents of Jersey that are carried out in other parts of the United Kingdom or outside the UK

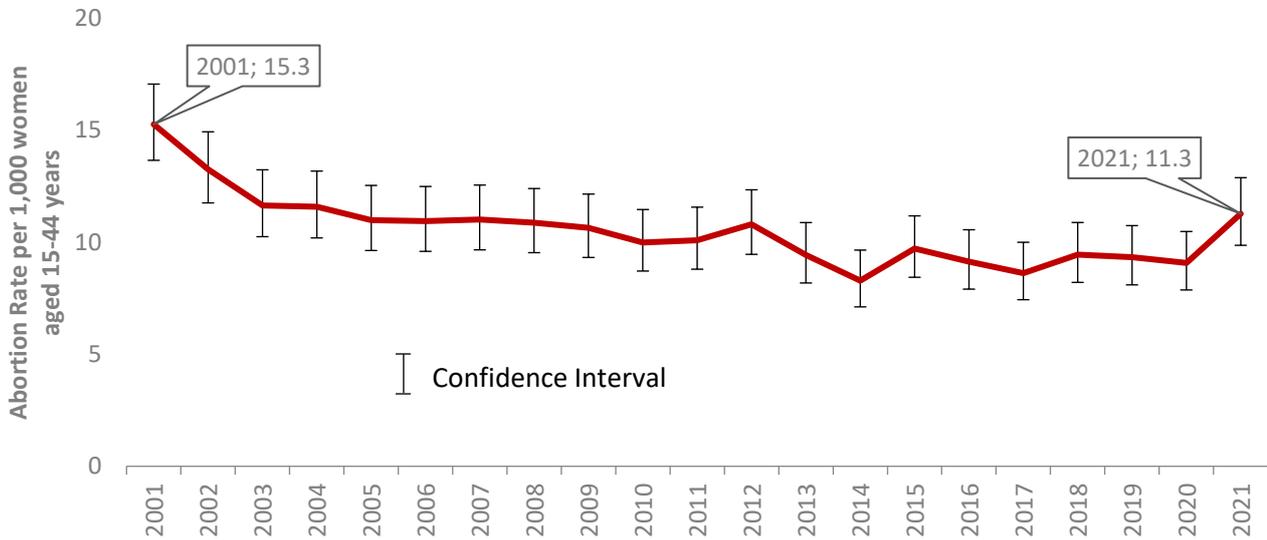
² Abortion Statistics 2021 (Table 12a) - [Abortion statistics, England and Wales: 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-england-and-wales-2021)

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

In 2021:

- the abortion rate in Jersey was 11.3 per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years³; the rate has not changed significantly over the period 2005-2021 (see Figure 2)

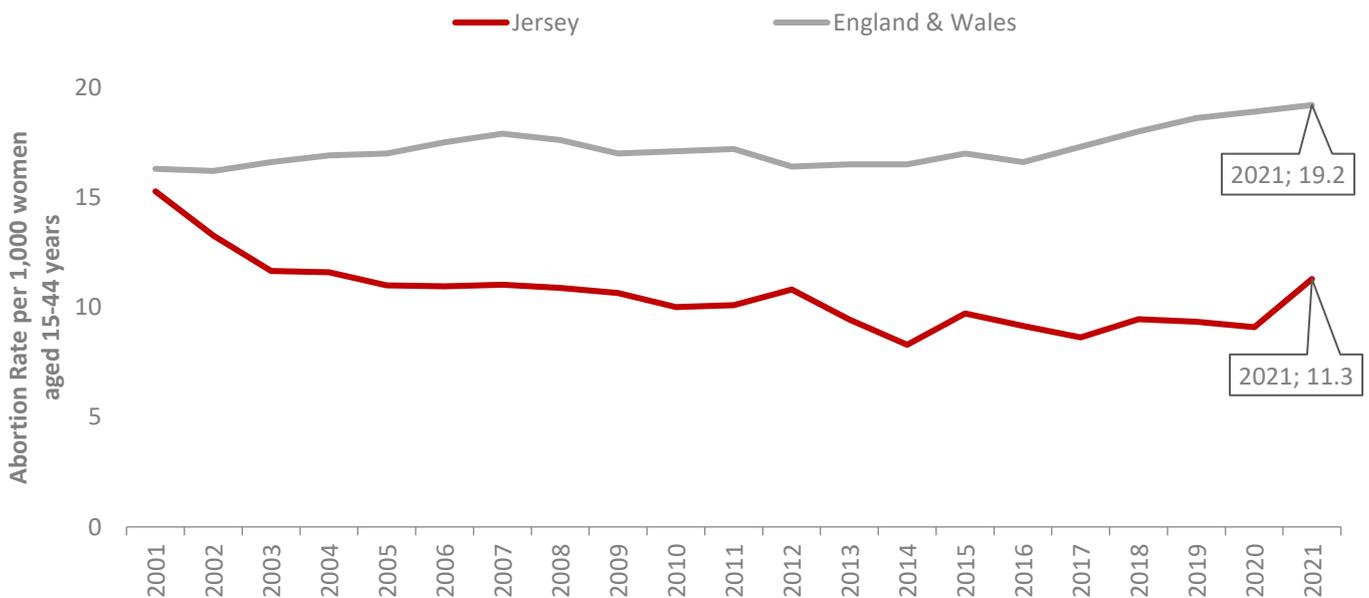
Figure 2: Abortion rate per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years, Jersey, 2001 to 2021



*The confidence interval indicates the range that could be expected from 'random fluctuations'

- the abortion rate in Jersey over the period 2002-2021 was consistently lower than in England and Wales⁴ (Figure 3)

Figure 3: Abortion rate - Jersey compared to England & Wales, 2001-2021



³ Rates for 2021 are calculated based on the usual resident population of Jersey on Census Day, 21 March 2021. Previous rates are calculated using most recently available population estimates at the time of publication (see www.gov.je/statistics)

⁴ 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	9.7	191,010	17.0
2016	180	9.1	190,410	16.6
2017	170	8.6	197,530	17.3
2018	190	9.5	205,300	18.0
2019	190	9.3	209,520	18.6
2020	190	9.1	210,860	18.9
2021	210	11.3	214,256	19.2

Abortion ratio: abortions per 1,000 live births

In 2021:

- the abortion ratio in Jersey was 235 abortions for every 1,000 live births; this has decreased by around a quarter (24%) 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, and selected countries⁵ for 2018, 2019 and 2020 (the most recently available comparison data).

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

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

Country	Abortions per 1,000 live births
Bulgaria	355
Russia	351
Sweden	316
Great Britain	311
France	306
Spain	275
Jersey (2020)	213
EU Members (average)	210
Portugal	176
Italy	170
Germany	129
Netherlands	164
Switzerland	115
Germany	130
Ireland	111

⁵ World Health Organisation, European Health Information Gateway, Abortions per 1000 live births - [Abortions per 1000 live births - European Health Information Gateway \(who.int\)](#)

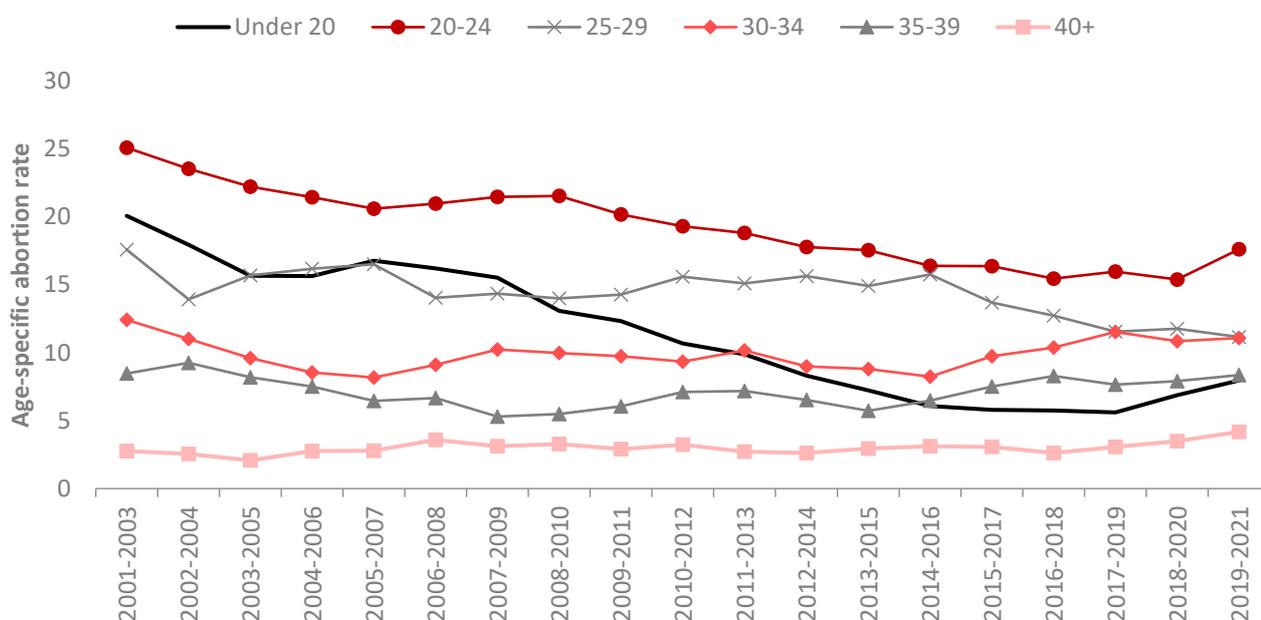
By age of woman⁶

Abortion rate by age of woman is considered as a 3-year rolling average. The combined data is more reliable than a single year.

In 2019-2021:

- the age group with the highest age-specific abortion rate in Jersey was for women aged 20-24 (17.6 per 1,000 resident women); there was an increase from the rate for 2018-2020 (15.4 per 1,000) see Figure 4
- for women aged under 20 the abortion rate was 7.9 per 1,000 women; this has decreased from a rate of 20.1 per 1,000 in 2001-2003
- over the period 2011-2021 there was an average of around 20 abortions per year where the mother has been under 20 years; the proportion of teenage mothers in Jersey is similar to that in England and Wales
- for other age groups, the age-specific rates of termination have remained relatively more constant across the two decades
- around two in three (64%) of all women having abortions were aged between 20 and 34 years

Figure 4: Age-specific abortion rates, Jersey, 2001-2021 (3-year averages)



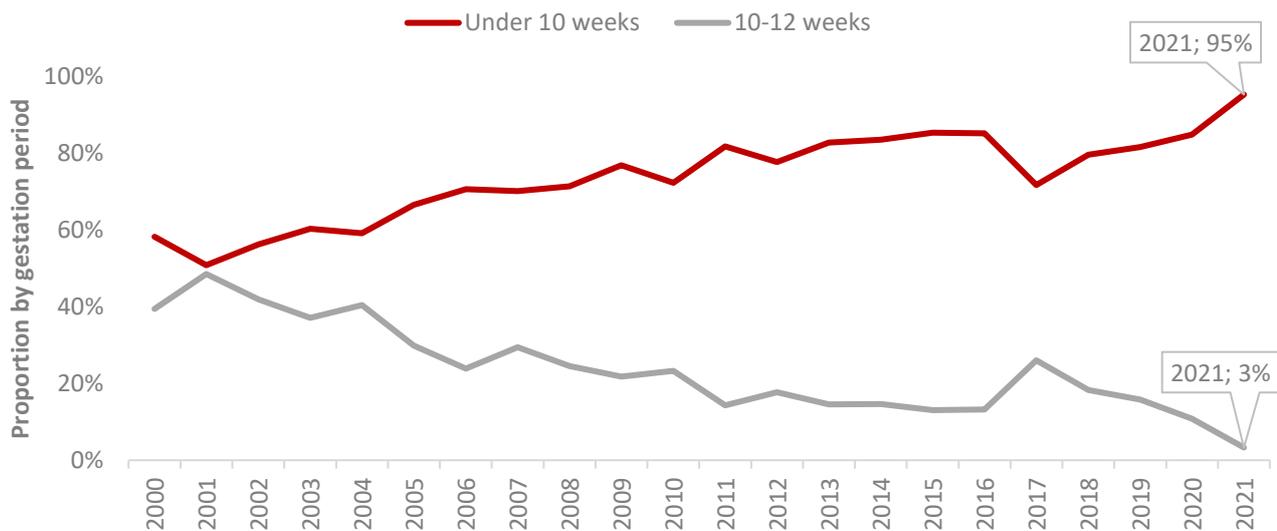
By gestation period

In 2021:

- 95% of terminations were performed at less than 10 weeks gestation, this proportion was the highest recorded since 2000
- the proportion of terminations performed in Jersey (95%) at less than 10 weeks was higher than England (89%)
- the proportion of terminations performed at 10-12 weeks was 3%, this has fallen from 49% in 2001
- the proportion of terminations being performed at 13 or more weeks gestation has been 5% or lower during the last decade

⁶ Due to small numbers, three years of data have been combined to calculate the age-specific rates

Figure 5: Proportion of abortions by gestation period⁷, Jersey, 2000-2021

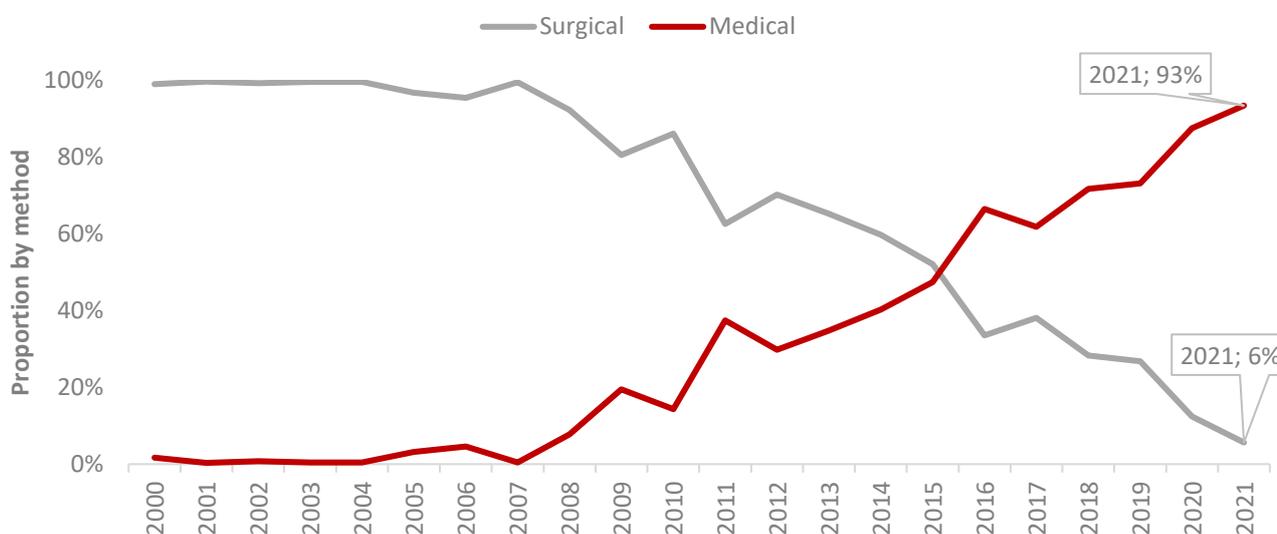


By method of termination

In 2021:

- the use of medical methods has increased compared to surgical methods (Figure 6)
- medical abortions became the most common method of termination in 2016, and in 2021 accounted for 93% of all terminations
- as part of the temporary measures put in place for the COVID-19 pandemic (see notes), a majority of the second tablet doses given for the early medical abortion were administered at home rather than at the hospital clinic (96% of medical abortions)

Figure 6: Proportion of abortions by method of termination, Jersey, 2000-2021



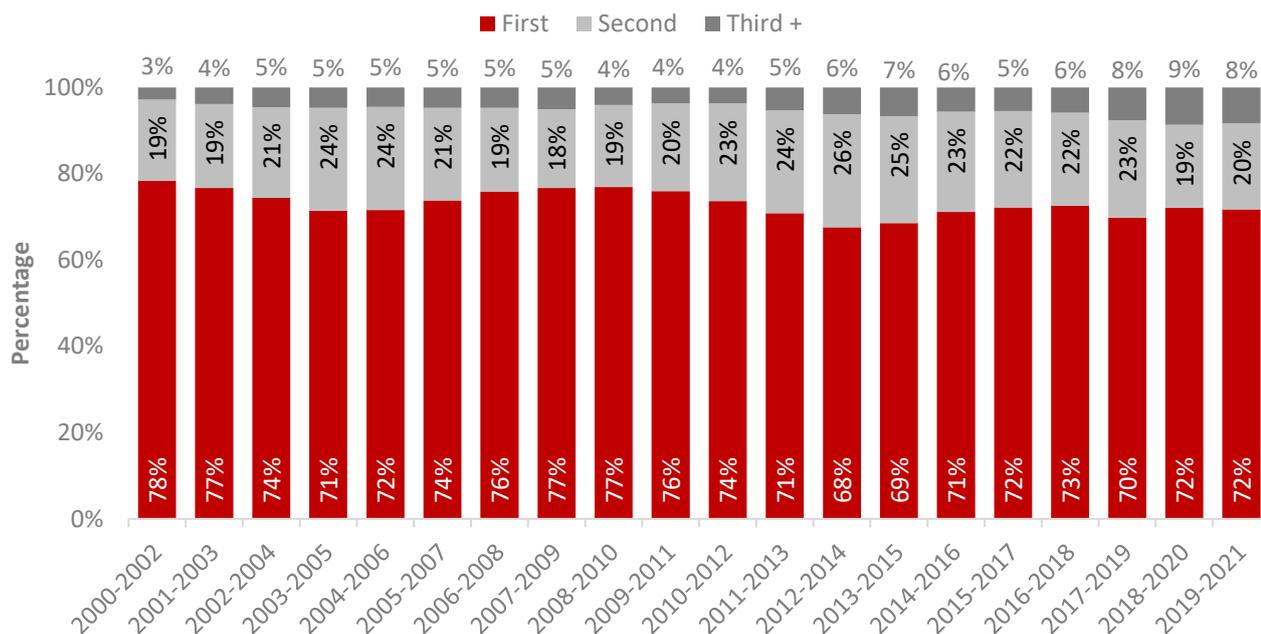
⁷ Proportion of terminations performed at over 12 weeks gestation not shown due to small numbers

By number of previous terminations

In 2019-2021:

- for around seven in ten (72%) of women it was their first termination; for 20% it was their second termination; these were similar proportions compared to 2018-2020
- one in twelve (8%) of the women who had a termination had had three or more terminations, higher than in 2000-2002, when 3% of women had three or more terminations
- 17% of abortions to women under 25 years were repeat abortions; this proportion has remained relatively constant since 2000-2001, and is lower than that in England (30%)

Figure 7: The proportion of women having an abortion by number of previous abortions⁸, Jersey, three-year periods (2000-2021)



⁸ Proportion of terminations performed for those having two or more previous terminations not shown due to small numbers

Appendix: Table A1

Total number of terminations, abortion rate, distribution by gestation period, method and number of previous terminations, 2000-2021

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	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	n/a	170	120	+	290	+	240	60
2001	310	15.3	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	10.6	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	8.3	140	20	+	100	70	100	60
2015	190	9.7	160	30	+	100	90	140	50
2016	180	9.1	160	20	+	60	120	140	40
2017	170	8.6	120	50	+	70	110	110	60
2018	190	9.5	150	40	+	50	140	140	50
2019	190	9.3	160	30	+	50	140	130	60
2020	190	9.1	160	20	10	20	160	140	50
2021	210	11.3	200	10	+	10	200	160	60

Appendix: Table A2

Age-specific rates of termination 2001-2021 (3-year averages)

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

3-YEAR PERIOD	UNDER 20 YRS	20-24 YRS	25-29 YRS	30-34 YRS	35-39 YRS	40-44 YRS
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	9.9	18.8	15.1	10.1	7.2	2.7
2012-14	8.3	17.8	15.6	9.0	6.5	2.6
2013-15	7.2	17.5	14.9	8.8	5.7	3.0
2014-16	6.1	16.4	15.7	8.2	6.5	3.1
2015-17	5.8	16.4	13.7	9.7	7.5	3.1
2016-18	5.8	15.4	12.7	10.4	8.3	2.6
2017-19	5.6	16.0	11.5	11.5	7.7	3.1
2018-20	6.5	15.4	11.8	10.8	8.1	3.5
2019-21	7.9	17.6	11.2	11.1	8.3	4.2

Notes

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. 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.

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.

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.

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

Temporary abortion measures

Women in Jersey have been able to take pills for an early abortion at home as part of temporary measures to make the process safer for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim is to reduce contact between patients seeking an abortion and their doctors to help guard against the spread of the disease.

General Practitioners have been able to give women an initial telephone consultation before referring them to a termination clinic.

As part of the temporary measures, the second of the tablets given for the early medical abortion will be administered at home rather than at a clinic.

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 for 2021 were calculated using the census 2021 population for Jersey. Rates for earlier years were calculated using the latest population estimates available at the time the relevant annual reports were produced and have not been revised, either by using population estimates for the year in question or by using updated population estimates.

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'.