

# Jersey Abortion Statistics 2014

HIU INFORMATION READER

Document purpose	Jersey Abortion Statistics 2014
------------------	---------------------------------

<b>Title</b>	Jersey Abortion Statistics 2014
Author	Health Intelligence Unit
Publication date	19 June 2015
Target audience	Public
Circulation list	HSSD staff, CMEX, Statistics Unit.
Description	Annual report on Abortions conducted in Jersey in 2014 under the Termination of Pregnancy (Jersey) Law 1997. Information on demography, the method and the grounds for termination are presented.
Data Sources	Notifications (to the Medical Officer of Health) of abortions performed under the Termination of Pregnancy (Jersey) Law 1997
Date that data are acquired	Data normally extracted in June for the previous calendar year.
Frequency	Annual
Relevance and key uses of the statistics	Making information publicly available for planning, epidemiology, provisions of services and provides comparative information. To respond to information requests for a variety of customers e.g. researchers, charities, public companies, Freedom of Information Requests. To provide information to support answers to Ministerial Questions.
Accuracy	Information on forms is clerically checked, with additional validations on data entry. Data also compared to previous years' figures.
Completeness	Generally considered complete
Value Type	Numbers, percentages and crude rates are presented.
<b>Amendment history</b>	
Officer	Amendment date and detail
M Clarke	Report compiled May 2015 using 2014 abortion data, compiled from Termination of Pregnancy notification forms returned to the Jersey Medical Officer of Health for calendar year 2014.  Report updated to include comparative statistics for England which were released on 9 June 2015.
Contact details	HealthIntelligence@health.gov.je

Embargo/confidentiality	Embargoed until 00:01 19 June 2015
-------------------------	------------------------------------

# Abortion Statistics for Jersey 2014

## Summary:

This is the fourth report in the series of annual Abortion Statistics derived from the Notifications to the Jersey Medical Officer of Health under the Termination of Pregnancy (Jersey) Law 1997. This release includes annual data to December 2014.

## Key Findings:

In the year ending December 2014:

- 163 abortions were performed in Jersey, a 10% decrease on the previous year, 2013, and a 30% decrease on 2012;
- The abortion rate was 8.3 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years, down from 11.6 a decade earlier in 2004;
- More than half (56%) of abortions conducted in 2014 were to women between the ages of 20 and 29;
- The under-16 abortion rate was 0.6 per 1,000 in 2014, similar to that seen in the previous year, 2013, and the under-18 rate was 3.0 per 1,000 in 2014 compared with 4.8 in 2013;
- The surgical procedure vacuum aspiration was used in 60% of all abortions in 2014;
- Most abortions (63%) were a women's first abortion;
- 83% of abortions were performed before the 10<sup>th</sup> week of the pregnancy;
- The vast majority (98%) of abortions were undertaken due to distress of the women (Ground D), whilst the remaining 2% were conducted because of foetal abnormalities (Ground C);
- In 2014, 5 Jersey residents had an abortion in England and Wales.

## Introduction:

Induced abortion (also referred to as a 'termination of pregnancy') 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 in Jersey of all terminations carried out in Jersey. The Health Intelligence Unit is responsible for the collation of data derived from notifications on behalf of the Medical Officer of Health.

All notifications are validated prior to analysis. Occasionally, this results in information queries being sent to the named contact in the setting where the termination occurred. Data quality is, therefore, considered

to be high and given the timescale in reporting on calendar year 2014 abortions, any omissions or administrative errors in submitting notification forms will have been rectified over this time period.

This report is the fourth in a series of annual reports on abortions taking place in Jersey each year. The reports are intended to make publically available information relating to abortions being carried out in the Island. Information on demography, methods used and grounds for termination are presented using numbers, percentages and crude rates where appropriate. The report on abortions taking place during 2015 will be available in June 2016.

### **Legislative context:**

It is the legal requirement under Article 10 of the Termination of Pregnancy (Jersey) Law 1997 that any medical practitioner carrying out a termination in Jersey supplies information relating to the termination to the Jersey Medical Officer of Health. Within the terms of the Termination of Pregnancy (Jersey) Law 1997, only a registered medical practitioner can terminate a pregnancy.

Prior to 2005 Article 9 of the above law also required the Medical Officer of Health to lodge an annual report with the States of Jersey. The information contained in the report was derived from the notification forms (Certificate F) and summarised to aggregate numbers. Since 2005, information on abortions has been provided on an ad hoc basis. This series of reports is designed to make this information available annually and to provide answers to requests for information from a variety of sources, including Freedom of Information requests.

A legally induced abortion must be certified by one (or more where necessary) medical practitioners as justified under one of the following grounds:

- A. the termination was immediately necessary to save the life of the women (Termination of Pregnancy (Jersey) Law 1997 as amended, section 2 (1))
- B. the termination was necessary to save the life of the women or to prevent grave permanent injury to her physical or mental health (section 2 (2)(a))
- C. there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped (section 2 (2)(b))
- D. the woman's condition causes her distress and the requirements for consultation ('first consultation') have been complied with, the termination being carried out before the end of the twelfth week of pregnancy and the women is ordinarily resident in the Island or has been resident in Jersey for the period of 90 days immediately preceding that day (section 2 (2)(c)).

### **How the statistics are produced:**

The medical practitioner taking responsibility for a termination of a pregnancy is legally required to notify the Medical Officer of Health within 14 days of the termination. Notification forms (Certificate F) are submitted on paper.

The Health Intelligence Unit use a process for inspecting and recording the information received in order to monitor compliance with the legislation and the Medical Officer of Health is notified of any major discrepancy. The methods used ensure accurate, high quality statistics.

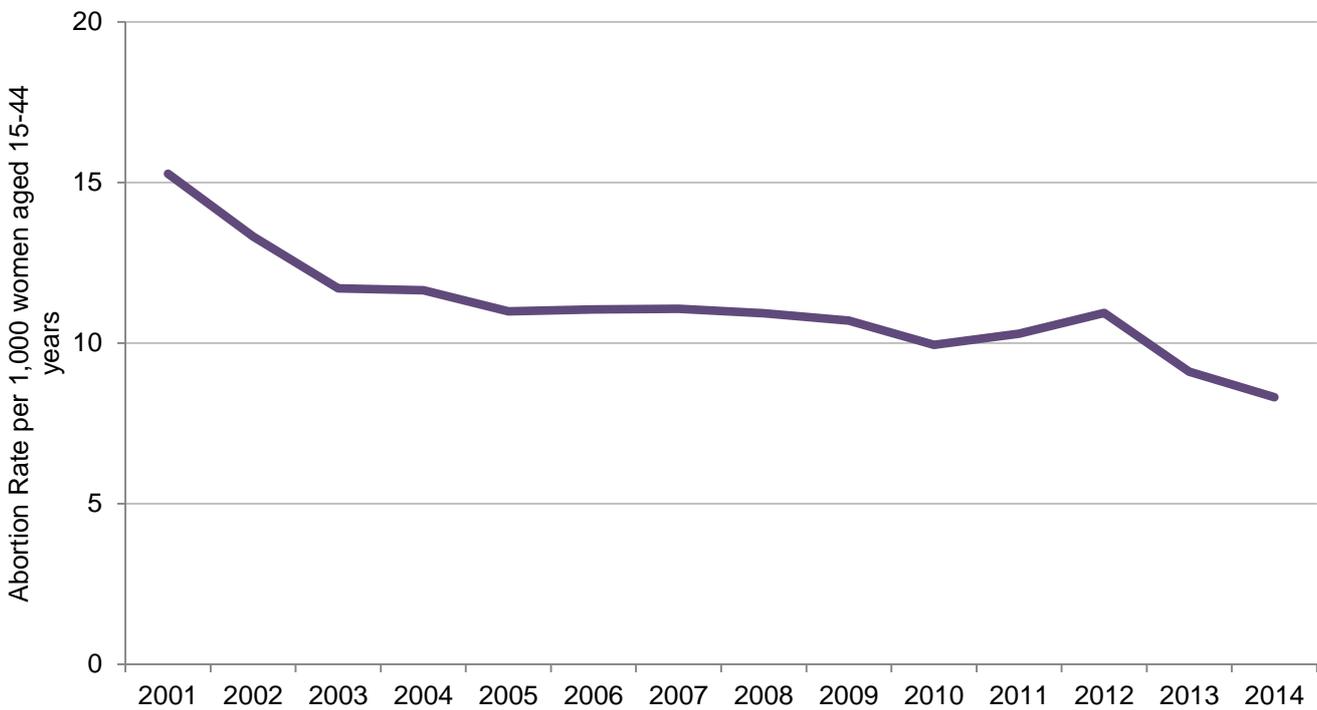
The data reported on includes the suppression of small numbers, where necessary, to avoid the disclosure of personal data.

### Overall Number and rate of Abortions

A total of 163 abortions were performed in Jersey in the year ending December 2014, representing a decrease of 10% on the previous year, in 2013, and a 30% decrease on the number performed in 2012. This latest figure is the lowest number of abortions reported for Jersey since the introduction of the Termination of Pregnancy (Jersey) Law 1997.

The abortion rate (abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years) was 8.3 in 2014, maintaining the low rate seen in recent years and a significant decrease from that recorded in the early 2000's (see Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Annual (crude) abortion rate per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years**



The abortion rate for Jersey has been consistently lower than that seen in England and Wales (Figure 2) and marginally lower than that seen for Scotland in recent years (Table 1).

**Table 1: Annual (crude) abortion rate per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years for Jersey, England & Wales and Scotland, 2012-2014**

Year	Jersey		England & Wales		Scotland	
	Number	Crude Rate	Number	Crude Rate	Number	Crude Rate
2012	215	10.9	185,122	16.4	12,569	12.0
2013	180	9.1	185,331	16.5	11,908	11.4
2014	163	8.3	184,571	16.5	11,475	11.0

Source: Jersey Health Intelligence Unit, Department of Health, Information Services Division Scotland

**Figure 2: Annual (crude) abortion rate per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years, Jersey and England & Wales**



Source: Jersey Health Intelligence Unit, Department of Health Abortion Statistics England & Wales 2014

The total period abortion rate measures the average number of abortions that a woman would have during their life (based on current age-specific abortion rates). The total period abortion rate for Jersey in 2014 was 0.26 or 260 abortions per 1,000 women. This compares with the latest available rate for England and Wales<sup>1</sup> of 0.49 in 2013.

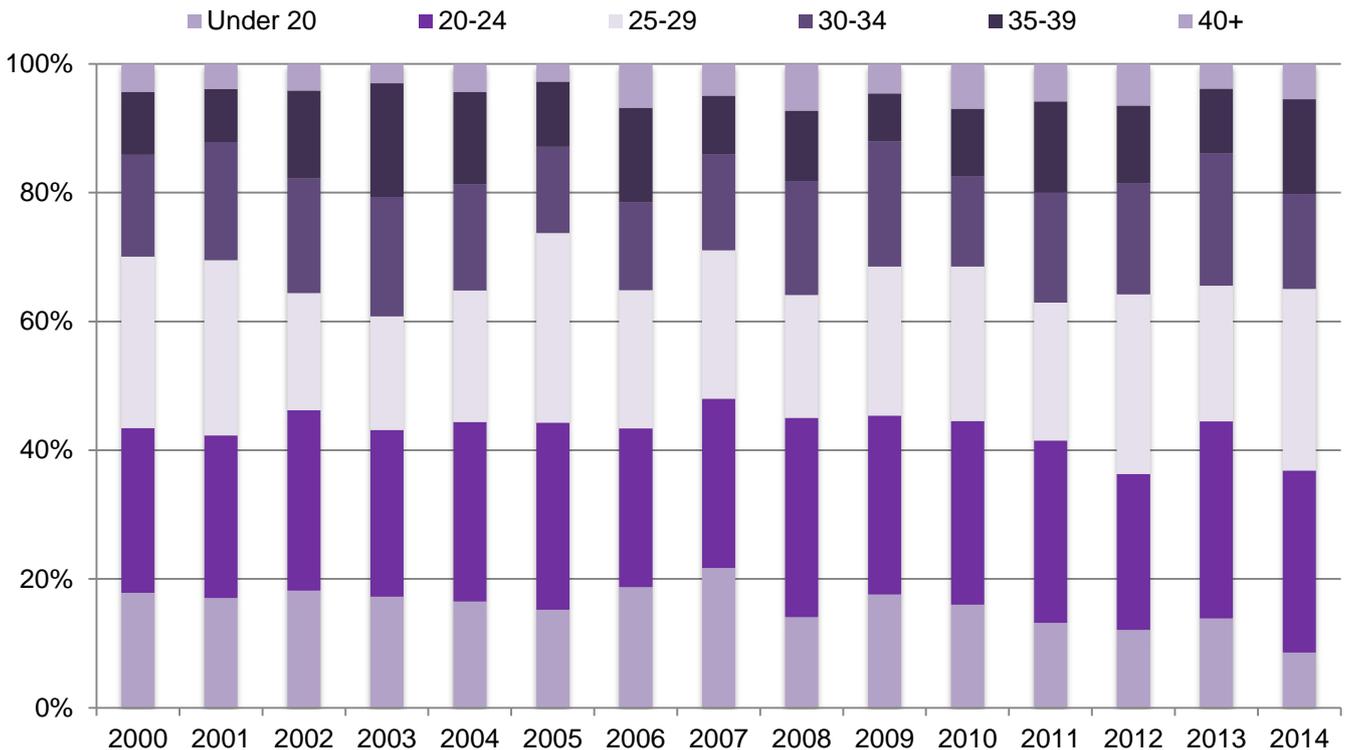
<sup>1</sup> HSCIC Indicator P00609 for England & Wales 2013, published February 2015, available from [www.indicators.ic.nhs.uk](http://www.indicators.ic.nhs.uk)

## Age of women

In Jersey, women aged 20-29 years have more abortions than any other age group, accounting for over half (56%) of all abortions performed in 2014 (Figure 3). Within this, approximately equal numbers of 20-24 and 25-29 year olds had a termination in 2014.

Around one in every 17 abortions (6%) was carried out for women aged 40 years and over in 2014.

**Figure 3: Percentage of abortions by age of women, 2000-2014**



There has been a notable and significant decrease in the Jersey abortion rate for women aged 15-19 years, down from 22.4 per 1,000 in 2001 to 5.2 per 1,000 in 2014.

The under-16 abortion rate was 0.6 per 1,000 in 2014, similar to that seen in the previous year, 2013, and the under-18 rate was 3.0 per 1,000 in 2014 compared with 4.8 in 2013. Comparative rates for England and Wales in 2014<sup>2</sup> were 2.5 and 11.1 per 1,000 for under-16 and under-18, respectively.

## Marital Status

Half (50%) of abortions in 2014 were carried out for single women, whilst just over a quarter (28%) were for co-habiting women. This latest year is the largest proportion of co-habiting women seen since the

<sup>2</sup> Abortion Statistics, England and Wales, 2014; Department of Health, published 9 June 2015, available from [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)

category of co-habiting was added to forms in 2009. Between 2009 and 2013, co-habiting women constituted on average 15% of annual abortions.

The proportion of married women having an abortion in 2014 (18%) remained similar to previous years.

### Statutory Grounds for Abortion

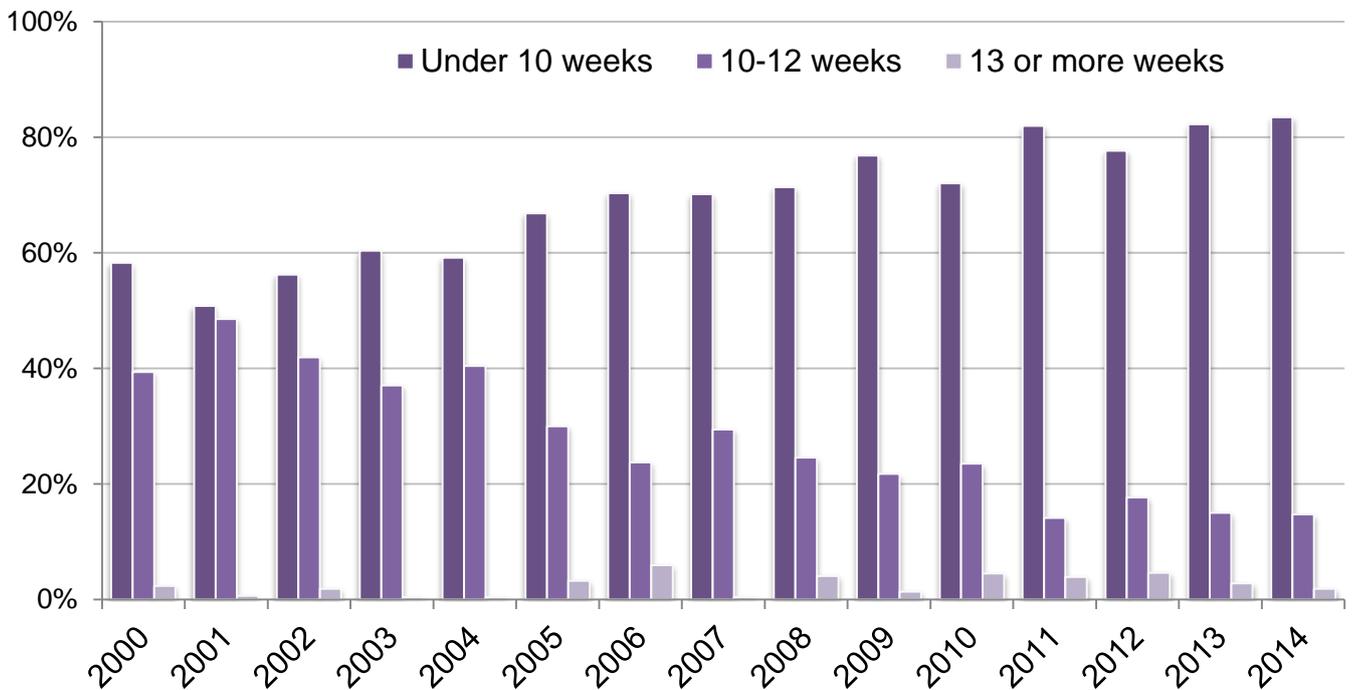
In 2014, the vast majority (98%) of abortions were undertaken due to distress of the women, whilst the remaining 2% were conducted because of foetal abnormalities.

### Gestation Period

A greater proportion of abortions are now performed earlier in the pregnancy, relative to a decade ago. In 2014, four-fifths (83%) of abortions were performed in the 9<sup>th</sup> week of gestation or earlier, compared with around three-fifths (59%) a decade earlier, in 2004. In contrast, 15% of abortions were performed between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> week in 2014, compared with 40% in 2004. Evidence shows that the risk of complications from abortions increases the later the gestation.

A similar trend has been seen in England and Wales.

Figure 4: Abortions by gestation, 2000-2014

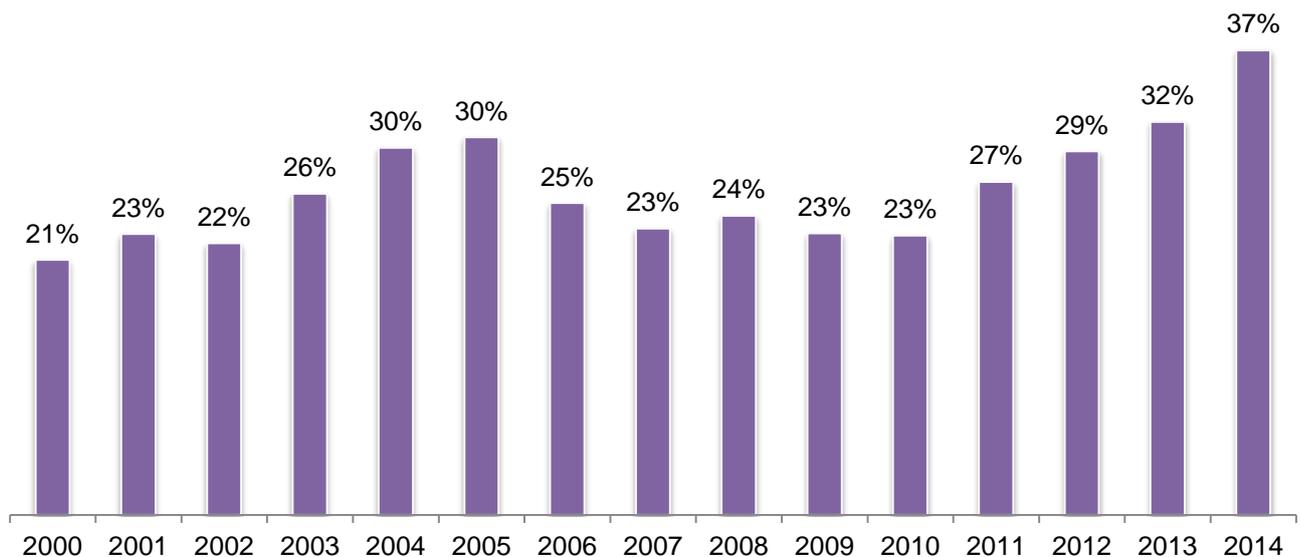


There were no abortions in 2014 where gestation exceeded twenty-four weeks.

## Previous Abortions

In 2014, more than a third (37%) of women undergoing abortions had had one or more previous terminations. The proportion has steadily increased over recent years, from around a quarter in 2006-2010, with the latest figure representing the greatest proportion recorded to date (Figure 5). 2014 saw a 5 percentage point increase compared to the previous year, 2013, with this latest figure being the same as that seen for England & Wales<sup>3</sup> of 37% in 2014.

**Figure 5: Percentage of women who had one or more previous abortions, 2000-2014**



Around a quarter (23%) of abortions to women aged under 25 in 2014 were to women who had one or more previous abortions.

## Previous Obstetric History

In 2014, 45% of women undergoing abortions had one or more previous pregnancies that resulted in a live or stillbirth. 17% of women had a previous pregnancy resulting in a miscarriage, up from 10% in 2004.

<sup>3</sup> Abortion Statistics, England and Wales, 2013; Department of Health, published 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014, available from [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)

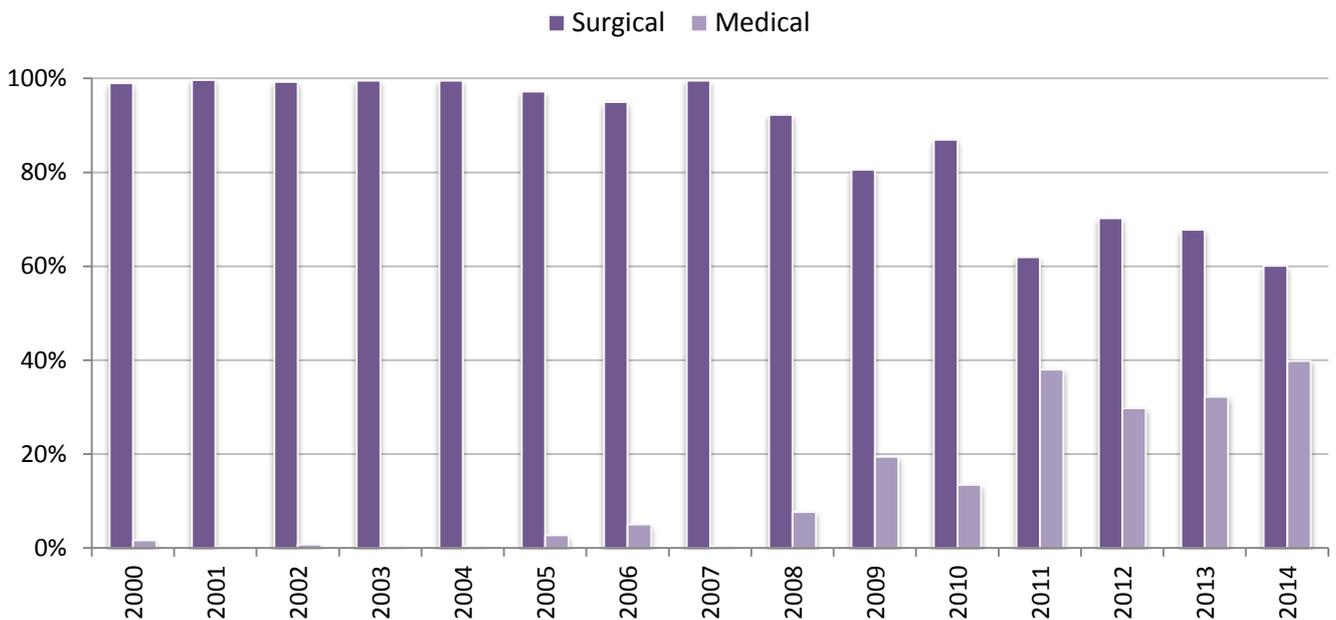
## Method of Termination

Different methods may be used to terminate a pregnancy, depending on the duration of the gestation, and other circumstances relating to the individual woman. There is one principal medical method, involving the use of abortifacient drugs. The main surgical methods are vacuum aspiration, recommended at up to 15 weeks gestation, and dilation and evacuation (D&E) recommended where gestation is greater than 15 weeks.

Medical methods accounted for 40% of the total in 2014. The proportion of medical abortions has increased since 2008, before which less than one in ten abortions used this method (Figure 6). In 2014, around half (46%) of abortions under ten weeks were medical abortions. The choice of early medical abortion as a method of abortion is likely to be contributing to the increase in the overall percentage of medical abortions. Early medical termination is less invasive than a surgical procedure and does not involve use of anaesthetics.

The surgical procedure vacuum aspiration was used in 60% of all abortions in 2014.

**Figure 6: Percentage of abortions by method, 2000-2014**



## Complications and Deaths

Complications were reported in 4% of abortions in 2014. There were no deaths reported.

## Place of residence

In 2014, there were no terminations to women who were temporarily resident in the Island.

## Abortions carried out for Jersey Residents in England and Wales

In 2014, 5 Jersey residents had an abortion in England and Wales, as reported in the Abortion Statistics, England and Wales annual reports<sup>4</sup>. The number of abortions performed each year in England and Wales for Jersey residents has ranged from 5 to 24 in any one year since 2003.

### Background Notes

1. Abortion is defined as foetal loss excluding stillbirths. Induced abortions are those initiated voluntarily with the intention of terminating a pregnancy. All other abortions are called spontaneous abortions (miscarriages), even if an external cause is involved, such as injury or high fever.
2. All abortion statistics and derived abortion rates included in this report are based on legally induced abortions registered in Jersey. In Jersey the grounds on which an abortion is permitted are described in the Termination of Pregnancy (Jersey) Law 1997. In any year, 94-100% of abortions are performed because of (serious) danger to the mental health of the woman. No information is available on spontaneous abortions.
3. All notifications are validated prior to analysis. Occasionally, this results in information queries being sent to the named contact in the setting where the termination occurred. This report is published six months in arrears to allow any queries to be dealt with prior to publication.
4. The results are based on analysis of all abortions occurring in Jersey in calendar year 2014 that were notified to the Medical Officer of Health.
5. A crude abortion rate refers to the number of abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years.
6. Total period abortion rates use the age-specific abortion rates to measure the average number of abortions per woman, or 1,000 women during their life. For comparative purposes, the rate is based on women aged 11-49 years, as per the HSCIC indicator; for more information on this indicator see [www.indicators.ic.nhs.uk](http://www.indicators.ic.nhs.uk).
7. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
8. This report provides statistics on a number of areas which have policy relevance. This report is also designed to answer Freedom of Information requests and information requests from a number of customers e.g. researchers, epidemiologists and charities.
9. Jersey rates for annual data are calculated using the average of the two corresponding end-year population estimates as published by the States of Jersey Statistics Unit. This estimate of the mid-year population assumes that half of births, deaths and migration occurs in the first half of the calendar year.

---

<sup>4</sup> Abortion Statistics, England and Wales, 2014; Department of Health, published 9 June 2015, available from [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)

10. All enquiries and feedback should be directed to:

Health Intelligence Unit  
Public Health  
Maison Le Pape  
The Parade  
St Helier  
JE2 3PU  
[HealthIntelligence@health.gov.je](mailto:HealthIntelligence@health.gov.je).