

DHSC Statsheet

Delaware Health Statistics Center

Division of Public Health
Department of Health
and Social Services

In 2006, a total of 846,181 legal induced abortions were reported to CDC from 49 reporting areas. ¹

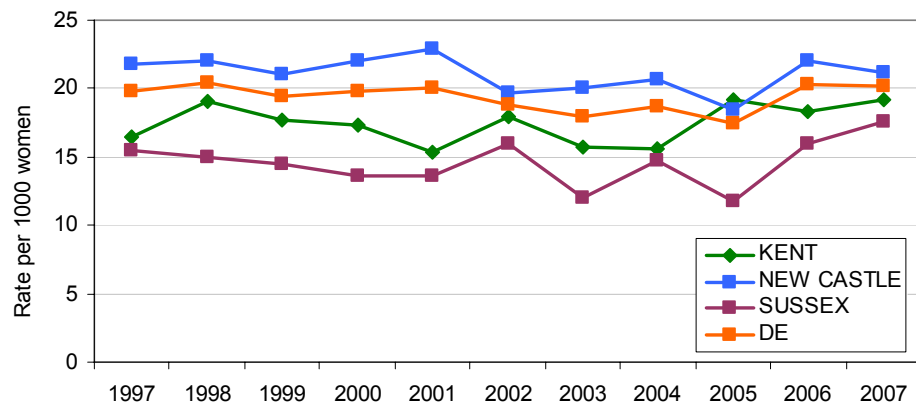
Abortions obtained by Delaware residents accounted for 0.5 percent of all abortions obtained by women whose residence was known. ¹

Snapshot of Abortion in Delaware

In 2007, there were 15691 pregnancies in Delaware. Seventy-seven percent of these pregnancies resulted in live births and 22.5 percent resulted in induced termination. There were 3532 Delaware women who had abortions with a rate of 20.2 abortions per 1,000 women of reproductive age (15-44).

Among the three counties, New Castle County residents had the highest rate of abortion, while Sussex residents had the lowest abortion rate.

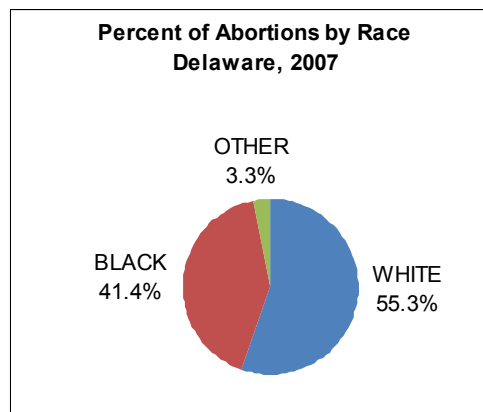
Rate of Abortion by Residence
Delaware, 1997 - 2007



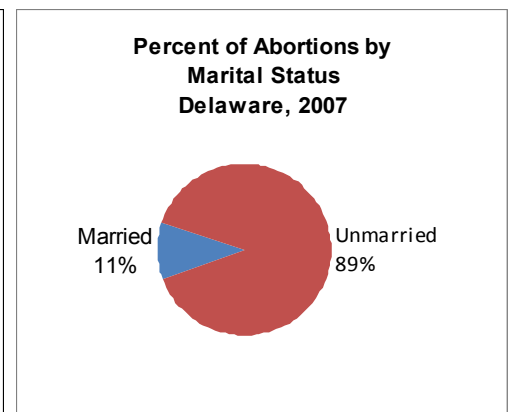
Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

White women accounted for 55 percent of the abortions in 2007 with a rate of 15.9 abortions per 1,000 women of reproductive age (15-44). The abortion rate for black women was more than twice that of the white women at 33.7 abortions per 1,000 women. Only 1 in 10 was of Hispanic origin.

The majority of abortions were obtained by unmarried women.



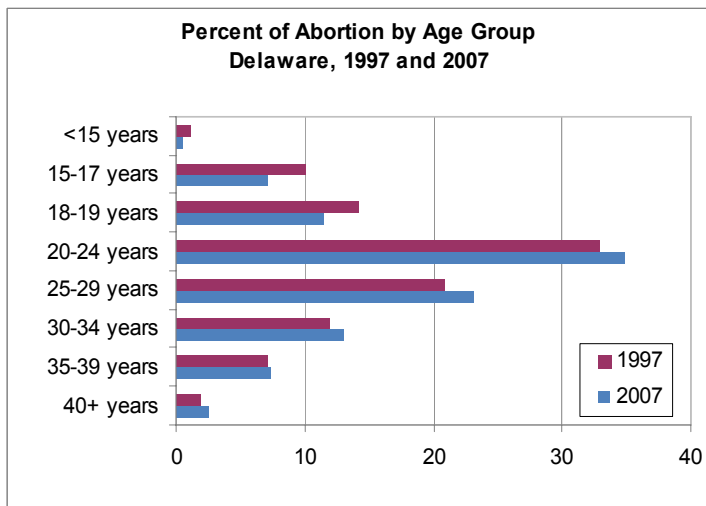
Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center



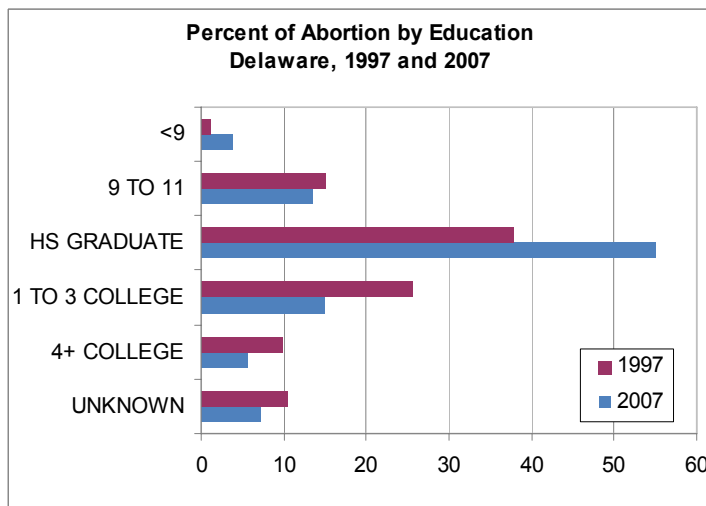
Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

Between 1997 and 2007, the proportion of abortions obtained by women younger than 20 decreased, while abortions obtained by women 20 and older increased. In both years, more than half of the women who had abortions were in the 20-24 and 25-29 age groups. In 2007, the proportion of minors (under 18 years old) and teens aged 18-19 dropped by 31 percent and 20 percent, respectively.

The proportion of abortions obtained by women who were high school graduates increased from 37.9 percent in 1997 to 54.9 percent in 2007. The percent of abortions obtained by women with one or more years in college decreased by 42 percent during the same time.



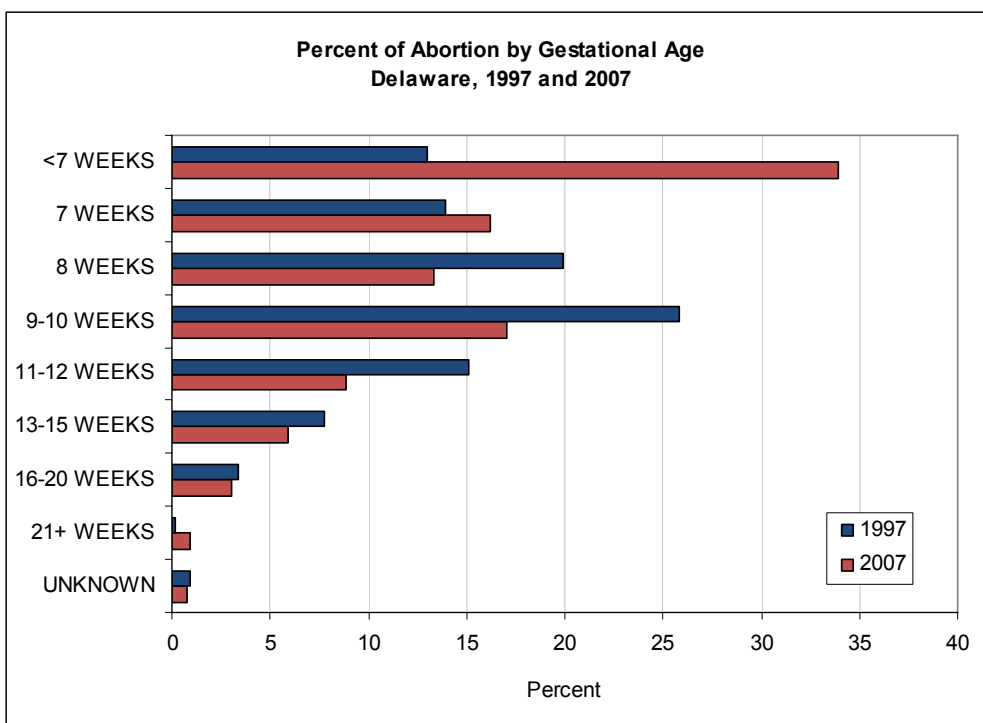
Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

The vast majority of abortions were performed in the first trimester of pregnancy (12 weeks or earlier). In 1997, the highest percentage of abortions (25.8 percent) were performed at 9 -10 weeks' gestation while in 2007 more women obtained abortions very early in pregnancy (less than 7 weeks). The proportion of abortions performed at this early stage increased from 13.0 percent in 1997 to 33.9 percent in 2007.

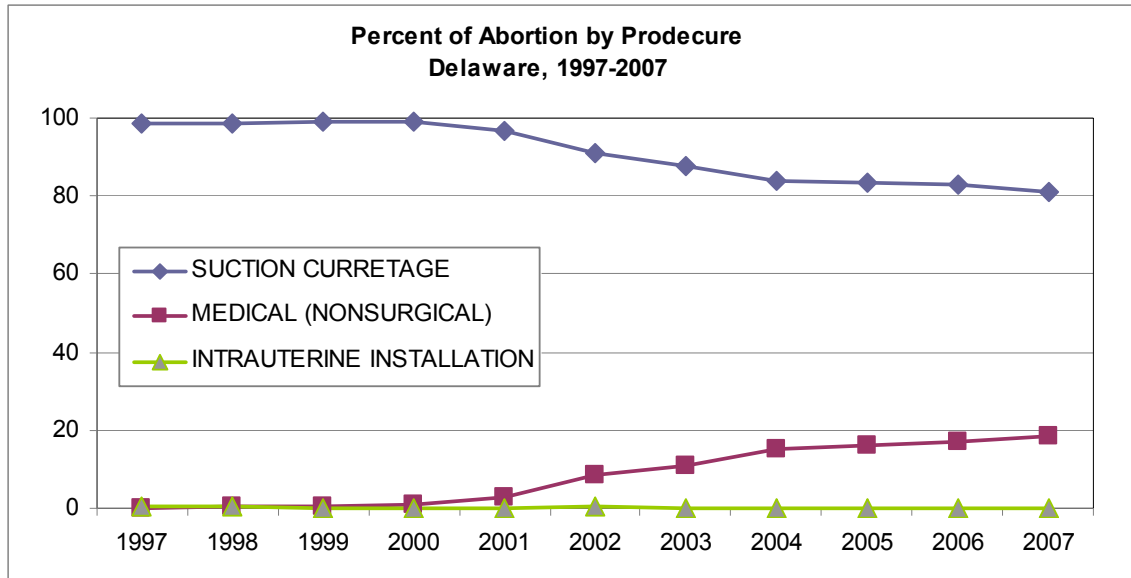
Less than 1 percent of abortions were performed after 20 weeks.



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

Suction curettage remained the most common abortion procedure despite an 18 percent decline since 1997. In 2007, it accounted for 80.8 percent of abortions.

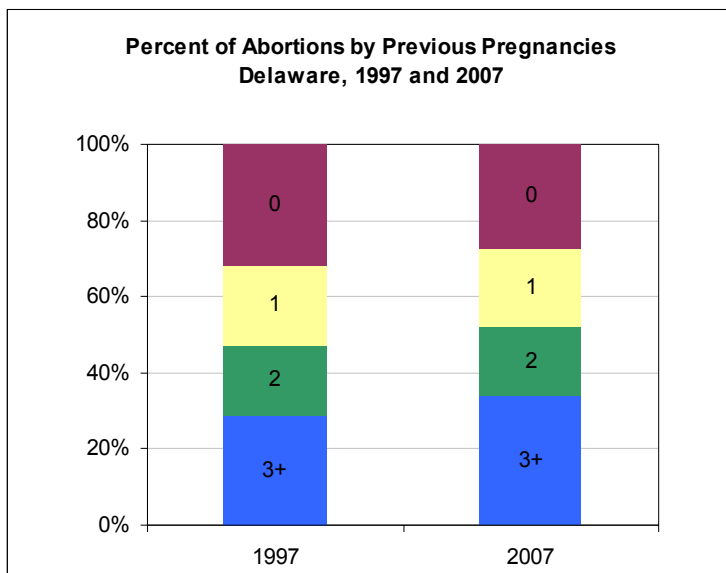
Medical (non-surgical) abortions increased from 2.1 percent in 1997 to 18.4 percent in 2007. Ninety-six percent of medical (non-surgical) abortions were performed before 9 weeks of gestation.



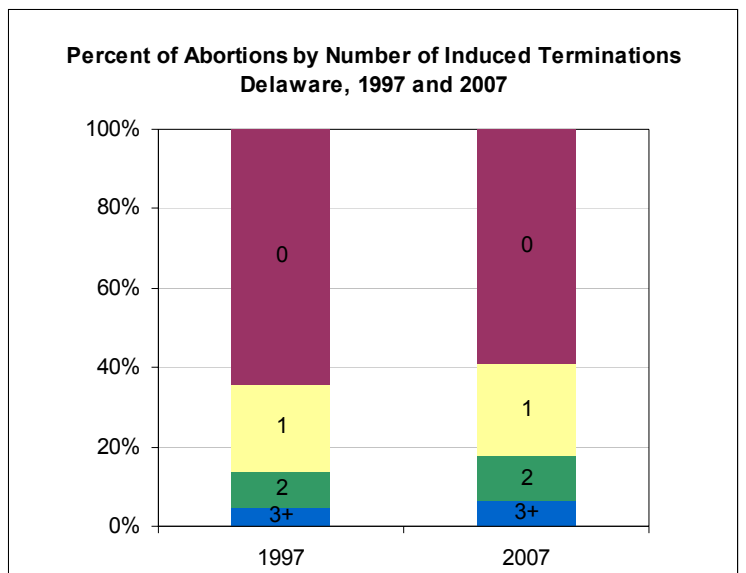
Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

There was a slight shift in the distribution of abortion by previous pregnancies. Abortions obtained by women without previous pregnancies decreased from 31.6 percent in 1997 to 27.4 percent in 2007, while the proportion of women who had one or more previous pregnancies increased to 72.6 percent of all abortions in 2007.

Women with no previous abortion accounted for 63.9 percent of abortions in 1997 and 58.8 percent in 2007.



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

References:

1. CDC. Abortion surveillance, 2006. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, CDC, Division of Reproductive Health; 2009.
2. Guttmacher Institute, Facts on Induced Abortion in the United States, <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_induced_abortion.html>, accessed May 17, 2010.

If you have comments, suggestions, and/or questions, please contact the Delaware Health Statistics Center at (302) 744-4541.



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Division of Public Health