

Induced Termination of Pregnancy | **oklahoma**

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Abortion Surveillance In Oklahoma

2000-2004 Trend Report

Oklahoma State Department of Health

Center for Health Statistics
Health Care Information Division

James M. Crutcher, M.D., M.P.H. Commissioner and State Health Officer

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<http://www.health.state.ok.us/program/hci/2000-2004abttrends.pdf>



Fact Sheet - Abortion Surveillance, 2004

- In 2004, the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) received data on abortion from three reporting facilities.
- 6,712 legal induced abortions were reported in 2004.
- The abortion ratio for 2003 was 131 legal induced abortions per 1,000 live births, compared to 144 in 2000. *[2004 ratios not available at this time]*
- In 2004, the abortion rate was 9.2 per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years. For 2000, the abortion rate was 10 per 1,000 women in this age range.
- Most abortions were obtained by white women, unmarried women, and women less than 25 years of age.
- One in six women receiving abortions were 19 years old or younger.
- Of the women who had an abortion, 38 percent were known to have had no previous live births.
- As in previous years, more than half (61 percent) of reported legal induced abortions were performed during the first 8 weeks of pregnancy; 90 percent were performed during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

Abortion Surveillance – Oklahoma, 2000-2004

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Introduction

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) began routine abortion surveillance in 2000 to document the number and characteristics of women obtaining legal induced abortions, also known as induced termination of pregnancy (ITOP). Abortion surveillance provides the data necessary to examine the trend in total numbers, as well as the demographic characteristics of women who obtain legal induced abortions and to increase the awareness of an additional aspect in the spectrum of pregnancy outcomes. These data are necessary to improve the health and well being of both women and infants. This report attempts to summarize and describe those data reported to OSDH regarding legal induced abortions obtained in Oklahoma from 2000 through 2003.

Methods

In Oklahoma, "abortion" is defined as the purposeful termination of a human pregnancy, by any person with an intention other than to produce a live birth or to remove a dead unborn child (63 O.S. Section 1-730). Abortion may legally be performed if the unborn child is less than 24 weeks which at which point the law defines unborn child as viable (63 O.S. Section 1-738).

The reporting of abortions is required by Oklahoma statute (63 O.S. Section 1-738). These reports are legal records maintained by the Oklahoma State Department of Health and are designed to collect information for statistical and research purposes only. While Oklahoma statute requires that each attending physician that performs or induces an abortion report all medical facts pertinent to the procedure, with the exception of the name of the woman; there are currently only three facilities in Oklahoma that routinely report to the OSDH. Information reported to the OSDH includes general demographics, pregnancy history, termination method, complications, contraception recommendations and information relating to the consent form.

Total abortion numbers are available through 2004, however some rates and ratios are not available for 2004 as data that is required in order calculate them is unavailable. Abortion rates and ratios presented are defined as follows.

Abortion rate: number of abortions per 1,000 resident women. The most current rates available are for 2004 for Oklahoma and 2001 nationally.

Abortion ratio: number of abortions per 1,000 live births. The most current ratios available are for 2003 for Oklahoma and 2001 nationally.

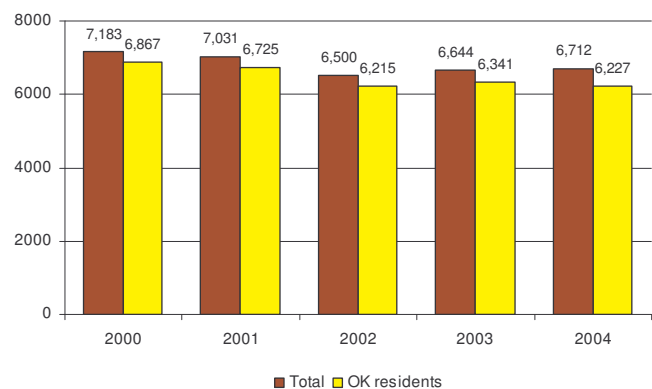
Caveats: Data in this report should be considered very generally. Total numbers presented are believed to be undercounted due to 1) the limited number of facilities who report procedures and 2) facilities are not submitting files on all procedures performed. In 2003, one facility was cited for submitting only 65% of the total procedures performed at that facility for 2002. The other two facilities appeared at that time to be submitting appropriately.

There is also concern as to the quality of the data submitted. Because identifying information is not submitted to the state, it is difficult at best to verify the data submitted. Not all facilities record all required demographics (such as resident county, race, ethnicity) in the chart, so for those measures, it is not possible to verify their accuracy. Of those fields that are recorded, errors in critical fields (DOB, Resident State, Resident City, Date of Termination, Last Menstrual Period (LMP), Estimated Gestation, Method of Termination, Complications, Contraceptive Received and Consent) were great. One facility was found to have submitted incorrect *Method of Termination* information on 53% of the records queried. *Last Menses* was incorrect on 33% of the records queried and *Estimated Gestation (wks)* was incorrect on 40% of the records queried.

Results

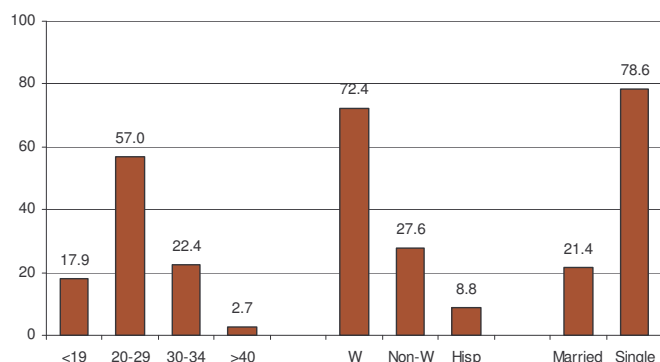
There were a total of 6,712 induced abortions reported to have been performed in Oklahoma for 2004. Of those, 6,227 abortions were reported as Oklahoma residents. The total number of procedures reported in 2004 decreased 7% since 2000 while the number of procedures among state residents decreased 9%. Nationally, the annual number of legal induced abortions increased from 615,831 in 1973 until it peaked in 1990 at 1,429,247. The numbers have declined in most years thereafter. In 2001, there were 853,485 reported nationally.

Figure 1. Number of abortions, Oklahoma residents 2000-2004



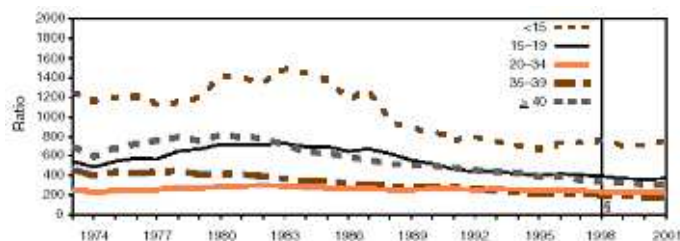
In 2004, the highest percentage of abortions reported were for women 20-29 years of age (52.8%), women who were white (72.4%), and unmarried women (78.6%) (Figure 2). Ninety percent of all abortions were performed before 13 weeks of gestation and 52% of all abortions were performed at eight or more weeks of gestation. Few abortions were performed after 15 weeks of gestation, approximately 4%.

Figure 2. Number of abortions, by age group, race/ethnicity and marital status – Oklahoma, 2004



Nationally, abortion trends by age indicate that since 1973 abortion ratios for women aged <15 years have been higher than for any other age group (Figure 3). For women aged ≤19 years and those aged ≥40 years, the abortion ratio increased overall from 1974 through the early 1980s and declined thereafter. The abortion ratio of women aged 20-34 years (the groups with the highest fertility rate) has remained essentially stable since the mid-1980s. The abortion ratio for women aged 35-39 years has gradually declined over time.¹

Figure 3. Abortion ratio*, by age group† of women who obtained a legal abortion – selected states§, United States, 1973-2001



* Number of abortions per 1,000 live births

† In years

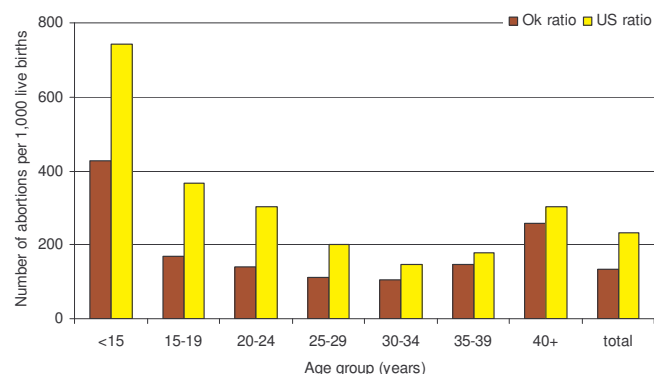
§ For 1998-1999, data are from 47 reporting areas; for 2000-2001, from 48 reporting areas

According to the 2001 national abortion report printed in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Review (MMWR) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this decrease may reflect multiple factors, including a decrease in the number of unintended pregnancies; a shift in the age distribution of women toward the older and less fertile ages; reduced or limited access to abortion services, including the passage of abortion laws that affect adolescents (e.g. parental consent or notification laws and mandatory waiting periods); and changes in contraceptive practices, including

increased use of contraceptives (e.g., condoms and, among young women, of long-acting hormonal contraceptive methods that were introduced in the early 1990s).

In Oklahoma, abortion ratios, which compare the number of abortions to the number of births, are highest among women less than 15 years of age (428 abortions per 1,000 live births). This group historically has few births, which contributes to the high ratio. The abortion ratio is lowest for women aged 30-34 (105 abortions per 1,000 live births) in 2001 (Figure 4).

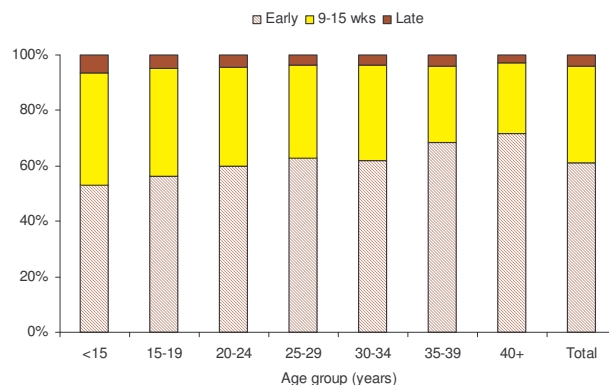
Figure 4. Abortion ratio*, by age group† of women who obtained a legal abortion – Oklahoma, United States, 2001



In contrast, abortion rates were highest among women aged 20-24 (19 abortions per 1,000 women) were a majority of the births occur and lowest for women at the extremes of reproductive age where the fewest births occur (less than one abortion per 1,000 women under the age of 15; 1.4 abortions per 1,000 women age forty or older).

In 2004, 61% of reported induced abortions in Oklahoma were obtained at less than eight weeks of gestation, and 90% were performed during the 1st trimester at less than 13 weeks of gestation. Few reported abortions occurred after 15 weeks of gestation: 4% were at 16-20 weeks, and less than 1% were at ≥21 weeks.

Figure 5. Percentage* of women who obtained early† or late§ abortions, by age group– Oklahoma, 2004



* Based on total known weeks of gestation

† ≤8 weeks of gestation

§ ≥16 weeks of gestation

Seventy-two percent of reported abortions were by suction curettage. This is a procedure generally used in the first 12 weeks of a pregnancy. RU-486 was used in 13% of the abortions performed. This is a chemical compound that, taken in pill form, can induce abortion in women up to nine weeks pregnant.

**Table 1. Reported abortions by type of procedure
Oklahoma, 2004**

Type of procedure	Number	Percent
Suction Curettage	4796	71.5
RU-486	893	13.3
Sharp Curettage	298	4.4
Dilation and Evacuation	270	4.0
Other	446	6.6
Unknown	9	0.1

Approximately 72% of women who obtained abortions in Oklahoma in 2004 were white, 18% were black, and 6% were Native American. The abortion ratio for black women (248 per 1,000 live births) was two times the ratio for white women (113 per 1,000 live births) and three times higher than that of Native American women (71 per 1,000 live births) in 2003.

The abortion rate for black women (16.6 per 1,000 women) was two times the rate for white women (7.9 per 1,000 women) and three times the rate for Native American women (5.2 per 1,000 women) in 2003.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Kristen Eberly, MPH, former HCI assistant director, who initially facilitated the development of this report before leaving to take on new challenges and Linda White, ITOP data coordinator, for the time she spends training and working with the individual facility representatives to get the data submitted and entered into the database. The author would also like to thank those individuals at the reporting clinics who are individually tasked with submitting the data.

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Abortion Surveillance – United States, 2001. In: Surveillance Summaries, November 26, 2004. MMWR 2004;53(No. SS-9).

The Oklahoma State Courts Network: OSCN.net

Table 2. Characteristic of women who obtained legal abortions – Oklahoma, 2000-2004

Characteristic	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Reported number of legal abortions	7,183	7,031	6,500	6,644	6,712

Characteristic	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Percent					
Age (yrs)					
≤19	21.4	19.5	18.5	19.5	17.9
20-24	34.6	34.8	35.1	35.0	35.0
25-29	22.1	22.0	21.6	21.8	22.0
30-34	11.4	13.6	13.9	14.0	14.5
35-39	8.0	7.2	7.9	6.8	7.9
≥40	2.5	2.8	3.1	2.9	2.7
Race					
White	69.1	67.2	67.6	71.6	72.4
Black	17.1	17.9	17.8	17.4	17.5
American Indian	6.0	5.3	5.5	5.8	5.7
Other	7.8	9.6	9.1	5.2	4.4
Ethnicity					
Hispanic	5.7	5.7	7.7	8.5	8.8
Non-Hispanic	94.3	94.3	92.3	91.5	91.2
Marital Status					
Married	19.6	20.3	19.2	18.0	17.9
Never married	61.1	66.3	66.8	63.9	64.3
Separated	3.1	2.5	2.1	2.9	3.5
Divorced	16.0	10.5	11.7	14.8	14.0

Characteristic	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Percent					
Residence					
In-state	95.6	95.6	95.6	95.4	92.8
Out-of-state	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.6	7.2
No. of live births					
0	40.5	38.9	38.3	38.9	37.9
1	27.7	29.0	28.0	28.0	28.1
2	20.2	20.3	21.5	20.9	22.3
3	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.6	8.5
≥4	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.5	3.3
Weeks of gestation					
≤8	52.0	52.8	61.3	60.4	61.1
≤6	23.1	25.3	26.5	25.6	27.3
7	12.8	12.7	19.1	19.9	20.4
8	16.1	14.9	15.7	14.9	13.4
9-10	15.5	22.0	20.0	20.2	18.7
11-12	6.5	16.3	10.2	10.4	10.4
13-15	1.8	5.7	5.6	6.0	5.6
16-20	1.1	3.0	2.8	3.0	4.0
≥21	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1

Table 3. Number of abortions by county of residence, Oklahoma, 2000-2004

County of Residence	No. of Legal Abortions					County of Residence	No. of Legal Abortions				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Adair	22	8	6	13	11	Lincoln	31	18	25	26	34
Alfalfa	2	3	7	1	4	Logan	52	47	57	43	38
Atoka	2	3	6	4	-	Love	7	3	6	1	6
Beaver	7	-	-	-	3	McClain	41	32	49	48	47
Beckham	30	29	24	18	25	McCurtain	11	10	4	5	7
Blaine	15	17	13	16	7	McIntosh	18	13	16	20	16
Bryan	7	5	9	7	5	Major	5	2	3	6	4
Caddo	41	44	37	38	37	Marshall	3	2	9	5	8
Canadian	138	130	158	171	153	Mayes	40	41	34	52	36
Carter	69	66	42	58	55	Murray	14	16	9	14	12
Cherokee	80	61	61	55	55	Muskogee	114	149	116	134	117
Choctaw	7	3	6	4	6	Noble	13	10	6	12	6
Cimarron	-	1	2	1	-	Nowata	15	17	14	13	11
Cleveland	460	454	386	387	440	Okfuskee	7	10	15	13	10
Coal	6	4	4	4	4	Oklahoma	2160	2090	1928	1903	1960
Comanche	280	260	238	252	249	Okmulgee	64	71	70	67	60
Cotton	9	9	11	7	7	Osage	50	63	31	49	39
Craig	26	18	22	18	20	Ottawa	26	33	18	37	27
Creek	102	109	86	94	102	Pawnee	28	24	15	20	22
Custer	52	35	42	41	41	Payne	165	158	147	135	120
Delaware	27	27	15	22	23	Pittsburg	38	38	42	34	43
Dewey	3	5	6	2	9	Pontotoc	60	57	56	41	52
Ellis	8	6	1	1	3	Pottawatomie	83	97	85	102	91
Garfield	76	76	70	76	65	Pushmataha	8	5	7	6	7
Garvin	30	41	36	32	33	Roger Mills	2	3	2	1	2
Grady	47	69	57	56	56	Rogers	108	106	98	106	79
Grant	5	4	3	1	2	Seminole	32	32	26	43	19
Greer	4	4	4	5	2	Sequoyah	45	29	30	36	29
Harmon	2	3	1	-	-	Stephens	52	41	35	29	25
Harper	5	4	5	-	-	Texas	13	8	8	5	2
Haskell	10	12	9	7	6	Tillman	7	5	8	6	3
Hughes	15	18	13	13	4	Tulsa	1620	1667	1592	1654	1559
Jackson	33	30	32	29	25	Wagoner	67	70	38	61	62
Jefferson	6	9	5	4	2	Washington	67	57	47	53	60
Johnston	6	5	5	2	11	Washita	14	12	7	9	7
Kay	33	25	31	31	37	Woods	9	7	10	3	3
Kingfisher	17	16	20	7	20	Woodward	28	27	28	21	31
Kiowa	17	10	8	6	6	Unknown	3	3	-	-	-
Latimer	7	4	9	6	7	State	6867	6725	6215	6341	6227
Leflore	41	25	34	39	30	Out-of-state	316	306	285	303	485

Table 4. Abortion ratio* by county of residence, Oklahoma, 2000-2004

County of Residence	Abortion Ratio**					County of Residence	Abortion Ratio**				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004***		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004***
Adair	57.1	20.9	17.2	38.3	n/a	Lincoln	80.5	44.2	66.7	66.5	n/a
Alfalfa	*	*	200	--	n/a	Logan	140.5	113.5	142.1	98.2	n/a
Atoka	*	*	37	*	n/a	Love	74.5	*	55	*	n/a
Beaver	142.9		*	*	n/a	McClain	104.3	87.4	128.6	124.4	n/a
Beckham	126.6	98	87.3	61.4	n/a	McCurtain	19.9	20.7	*	*	n/a
Blaine	117.2	125	117.1	114.3	n/a	McIntosh	82.2	57.5	69.9	82.6	n/a
Bryan	13.4	*	18.2	16.2	n/a	Major	*	*	*	84.5	n/a
Caddo	100.7	106.8	84.1	87.6	n/a	Marshall	*	*	57	*	n/a
Canadian	124.1	-	139.7	140.7	n/a	Mayes	71	81	65.1	105.9	n/a
Carter	108.8	108.6	62.1	86.4	n/a	Murray	93.3	104.6	56.3	88.1	n/a
Cherokee	129.4	100.7	95.8	90.8	n/a	Muskogee	117.9	149.7	118.6	139.3	n/a
Choctaw	33.8	*	26.8	*	n/a	Noble	92.2	71.4	43.5	71	n/a
Cimarron	*	*	*	*	n/a	Nowata	111.9	141.7	108.5	104.8	n/a
Cleveland	186.4	182.5	148.7	148.5	n/a	Okfuskee	49	69.9	110.3	93.5	n/a
Coal	77.9	*	*	*	n/a	Oklahoma	197.2	187.5	168.4	164.3	n/a
Comanche	144.9	139.3	125	134.9	n/a	Okmulgee	116.2	136.8	126.8	127.9	n/a
Cotton	136.4	108.4	157.1	95.9	n/a	Osage	95.6	131	67	116.1	n/a
Craig	130.7	87	122.2	87.4	n/a	Ottawa	56.9	75	44.4	99.7	n/a
Creek	116.2	121.2	99.3	104.7	n/a	Pawnee	132.7	125	70.4	95.7	n/a
Custer	166.7	95.4	112.3	110.2	n/a	Payne	208.1	183.3	180.1	157.9	n/a
Delaware	60.9	59.9	34.5	55	n/a	Pittsburg	76.8	71.2	92.3	62.7	n/a
Dewey	*	*	96.8	*	n/a	Pontotoc	111.3	119.2	117.6	80.7	n/a
Ellis	216.2	146.3	*	*	n/a	Pottawatomie	91	105	93.6	116.6	n/a
Garfield	93.3	89.3	85	84.9	n/a	Pushmataha	61.1	*	60.9	45.5	n/a
Garvin	75	109.6	100	100.6	n/a	Roger Mills	*	*	*	*	n/a
Grady	82	120.4	92.8	90.6	n/a	Rogers	116.8	118.2	105.6	109.2	n/a
Grant	*	*	*	*	n/a	Seminole	84.7	85.3	73.9	101.7	n/a
Greer	*	*	*	*	n/a	Sequoyah	86.4	52.4	53.2	83.5	n/a
Harmon	*	*	*	*	n/a	Stephens	101.8	80.4	65.9	55.6	n/a
Harper	*	*	*	*	n/a	Texas	33.6	21	19.9	*	n/a
Haskell	61.7	69	50.3	47.3	n/a	Tillman	64.2	*	75.5	67.4	n/a
Hughes	87.7	113.2	71.4	78.3	n/a	Tulsa	173.5	179.6	171.4	177.5	n/a
Jackson	68.9	67.4	71.6	62.8	n/a	Wagoner	93.1	94.1	50.1	82.4	n/a
Jefferson	81.1	112.5	*	*	n/a	Washington	113	96.8	83.8	85.5	n/a
Johnston	50.4	*	*	*	n/a	Washita	112	99.2	51.5	65.2	n/a
Kay	48.5	37.7	44.9	44.1	n/a	Woods	109.8	79.5	104.2	*	n/a
Kingfisher	98.3	79.2	101	37.2	n/a	Woodward	110.7	108.9	99.3	77.8	n/a
Kiowa	129.8	81.3	58.4	58.8	n/a	State	144.5	140.7	129.2	132.3	n/a
Latimer	55.1	*	76.3	55.6	n/a						
Leflore	55.9	31.9	46.8	57.7	n/a						

*Rates were not calculated for <5 abortions

** Number of abortions per 1,000 live births

***Birth figures were not yet available

Oklahoma Statute Abortion Related Compilation (63 O.S. Section 1-730 – 1-741).

Section 1-730 - Definitions.

As used in this article:

1. "Abortion" means the purposeful termination of a human pregnancy, by any person with an intention other than to produce a live birth or to remove a dead unborn child;
2. "Unborn child" means the unborn offspring of human beings from the moment of conception, through pregnancy, and until live birth including the human conceptus, zygote, morula, blastocyst, embryo and fetus;
3. "Viable" means potentially able to live outside of the womb of the mother upon premature birth, whether resulting from natural causes or an abortion;
4. "Conception" means the fertilization of the ovum of a female individual by the sperm of a male individual;
5. "Health" means physical or mental health;
6. "Department" means the State Department of Health;
7. "Inducing an abortion" means the administration by any person, including the pregnant woman, of any substance designed or intended to cause an expulsion of the unborn child, effecting an abortion as defined above; and
8. Nothing contained herein shall be construed in any manner to include any birth control device or medication or sterilization procedure.

Section 1-731 – Persons Who May Perform Abortions – Violations- Penalties.

- A. No person shall perform or induce an abortion upon a pregnant woman unless that person is a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Oklahoma. Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not less than one (1) year nor more than three (3) years in the State Penitentiary.
- B. No person shall perform or induce an abortion upon a pregnant woman subsequent to the end of the first trimester of her pregnancy, unless such abortion is performed or induced in a general hospital.

Section 1-732 – Viable Fetus – Grounds to Abort - Procedure.

- A. No person shall perform or induce an abortion upon a pregnant woman after such time as her unborn child has become viable unless such abortion is necessary to prevent the death of the pregnant woman or to prevent impairment to her health.
- B. An unborn child shall be presumed to be viable if more than twenty-four (24) weeks have elapsed since the probable beginning of the last menstrual period of the pregnant woman, based upon either information provided by her or by an examination by her attending physician. If it is the judgment of the attending physician that a particular unborn child is not viable where the presumption of viability exists as to that particular unborn child, then he shall certify in writing the precise medical criteria upon which he has determined that the particular unborn child is not viable before an abortion may be performed or induced.
- C. No abortion of a viable unborn child shall be performed or induced except after written certification by the attending physician that in his best medical judgment the abortion is necessary to prevent the death of the pregnant woman or to prevent an impairment to her health. The physician shall further certify in writing the medical indications for such abortion and the probable health consequences if the abortion is not performed or induced.
- D. The physician who shall perform or induce an abortion upon a pregnant woman after such time as her unborn child has become viable shall utilize the available method or technique of abortion most likely to preserve the life and health of the unborn child, unless he shall first certify in writing that in his best

medical judgment such method or technique shall present a significantly greater danger to the life or health of the pregnant woman than another available method or technique.

E. An abortion of a viable unborn child shall be performed or induced only when there is in attendance a physician other than the physician performing or inducing the abortion who shall take control of and provide immediate medical care for the child. During the performance or inducing of the abortion, the physician performing it, and subsequent to it, the physician required by this section to be in attendance, shall take all reasonable steps in keeping with good medical practice, consistent with the procedure used, to preserve the life and health of the child, in the same manner as if the child had been born naturally or spontaneously. The requirement of the attendance of a second physician may be waived when in the best judgment of the attending physician a medical emergency exists and further delay would result in a serious threat to the life or physical health of the pregnant woman. Provided that, under such emergency circumstances and waiver, the attending physician shall have the duty to take all reasonable steps to preserve the life and health of the child before, during and after the abortion procedure, unless such steps shall, in the best medical judgment of the physician, present a significantly greater danger to the life or health of the pregnant woman.

F. Any person violating subsection A of this section shall be guilty of homicide.

Section 1-733 – Self-Induced Abortions.

No woman shall perform or induce an abortion upon herself except under the supervision of a duly licensed physician. Any physician who supervises a woman in performing or inducing an abortion upon herself shall fulfill all the requirements of this article which apply to a physician performing or inducing an abortion.

Section 1-734 – Live-Born Fetus – Care and Treatment.

- A. No person shall purposely take the life of a child born as a result of an abortion or attempted abortion which is alive when partially or totally removed from the uterus of the pregnant woman.
- B. No person shall purposely take the life of a viable child who is alive while inside the uterus of the pregnant woman and may be removed alive therefrom without creating any significant danger to her life or health.
- C. Any person who performs, induces, or participates in the performance or inducing of an abortion shall take all reasonable measures to preserve the life of a child who is alive when partially or totally removed from the uterus of the pregnant woman, so long as the measures do not create any significant danger to her life or health.
- D. Any person violating this section shall be guilty of homicide.

Section 1-735 – Sale of Child, Unborn child or Remains of Child - Experiments.

- A. No person shall sell a child, an unborn child or the remains of a child or an unborn child resulting from an abortion. No person shall experiment upon a child or an unborn child resulting from an abortion or which is intended to be aborted unless the experimentation is therapeutic to the child or unborn child.
- B. No person shall experiment upon the remains of a child or an unborn child resulting from an abortion. The term "experiment" does not include autopsies performed according to law.

Section 1-736 – Hospitals – Advertising of Counseling to Pregnant Women

No hospital in which abortions are performed or induced shall advertise or hold itself out as also providing counseling to pregnant women, unless:

1. The counseling is done by a licensed physician, a licensed registered nurse or by a person holding at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in psychology or some similarly appropriate field;
2. The counseling includes factual information, including explicit discussion of the development of the unborn child; and
3. The counseling includes a thorough discussion of the alternatives to abortion and the availability of agencies and services to assist her if she chooses not to have an abortion.

Section 1-737 – Hospitals Which May Perform Abortions.

An abortion otherwise permitted by law shall be performed only in a hospital, as defined in this article, which meets standards set by the Department. The Department shall develop and promulgate reasonable standards relating to abortions.

Section 1-738 – Form to be Completed by Attending Physician.

A. The Department shall adopt a form which shall be completed by each attending physician who performs or induces an abortion which shall include all medical facts pertinent to the procedure and which shall allow the woman and her physician to volunteer other personal facts for statistical public health purposes. This abortion report shall also contain the following information about any consent form required by law:

1. Was the consent form signed?
2. Who signed the consent form? The patient, her parents, guardian, or a court?
3. If the consent is waived, what are the reasons? Forcible rape, incest or a medical necessity to save the life of the mother?

The Department shall be responsible for collecting all abortion reports and complication reports and collating and evaluating all data gathered therefrom.

B. The Department shall make available to all licensed physicians abortion report forms and complication report forms.

C. The report shall be confidential and shall not contain the name of the woman.

Section 1-739 – Records.

All hospitals shall keep records, including admission and discharge notes, histories, results of tests and examinations, nurses worksheets, social service records and progress notes of patients. All abortion facilities and hospitals in which abortions are performed shall also keep certifications of medical necessity, certifications of nonviability, certifications of nonavailability, abortion reports and complication reports as required in this act. Such records shall be maintained in the permanent files of the hospital for a period of not less than seven (7) years.

Section 1-740 – Abortion on Minor Without Parental Consent.

Any person who performs an abortion on a minor without parental consent or knowledge shall be liable for the cost of any subsequent medical treatment such minor might require because of the abortion.

Section 1-741 – Abortions – Refusal to Perform or Participate - Exemptions.

A. No private hospital, hospital director or governing board of a private hospital in Oklahoma, is required to permit abortions to be performed or induced in such hospital. Refusal to permit an abortion, in accordance with a standard policy, is not grounds for civil liability nor a basis for disciplinary or other recriminatory action.

B. No person may be required to perform, induce or participate in medical procedures which result in an abortion which are in preparation for an abortion or which involve aftercare of an

abortion patient, except when the aftercare involves emergency medical procedures which are necessary to protect the life of the patient, and refusal to perform or participate in such medical procedures is not grounds for civil liability nor a basis for disciplinary or other recriminatory action.

C. The rights and immunities granted by this section shall not include medical procedures in which a woman is in the process of the spontaneous, inevitable abortion of an unborn child, the death of the child is imminent, and the procedures are necessary to prevent the death of the mother.