

Connecticut Catholic Conference

Representing the Archdiocese of Hartford, Diocese of Bridgeport,
Diocese of Norwich and Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Stamford

The State of Abortion In Connecticut

Second Annual Report

October 2009

SUMMARY:

Abortion Rate Continues to Increase

A review of the most currently available abortion and population data for Connecticut reveals that the abortion rate in the state has grown by 15.5% between 2000 and 2007. The abortion rate, which is the most significant measurement of abortion activity, increased from 18 abortions per 1,000 women of childbearing age in 2000 to 20.79 abortions in 2007. The increasing abortion rate reflects a growing and continuing increase in the use of abortion as a means of ending undesired pregnancies within our state. Unfortunately, despite the slight decrease in actual numbers of abortions performed, the abortion rates continue to increase for all age groups. This rate exceeds the most currently reported national rate for 2005 of 19.4% (Guttmacher Institute, January 2008). Connecticut's abortion rate appears to be increasing as the national trend continues to decrease.

Abortion Pill Usage Increases

The abortion rate increase may be reflective of an increasing use of the abortion pill, RU-486, among Connecticut women. The use of this drug has grown by over 6400% between 2002 and 2008. Over the last several years, it has become increasingly available at the numerous abortion clinics throughout the state.

Incomplete Reporting of Abortion Information To the State Remains a Problem

Abortion providers increasingly continue to not accurately report the age and gestation period of their patients to the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), as required by law. The number of incomplete reports to the DPH increased from a low of 343 in 2005 to 1,511 cases in 2008. Age and gestation period are items necessary to provide proper medical treatment and to comply with laws concerning mandatory reporting of sexual abuse of minors. Either the providers are totally unaware of these facts when they perform the abortion, or just choose to disregard legal reporting requirements. This situation also raises concern about compliance with other mandatory state laws, such as counseling requirements for minors. In response to these reported findings, the Connecticut Department of Public Health is attempting to address this problem.

Abortions Generate Millions in Revenue for Providers

The estimated annual revenue from abortions performed in Connecticut during 2008 was approximately \$8.7 million. This is a conservative estimate based on the lowest fee charged by an abortion provider for an early abortion. The actual revenue generated may well exceed this estimate due to later term abortions, which incur a higher fee.

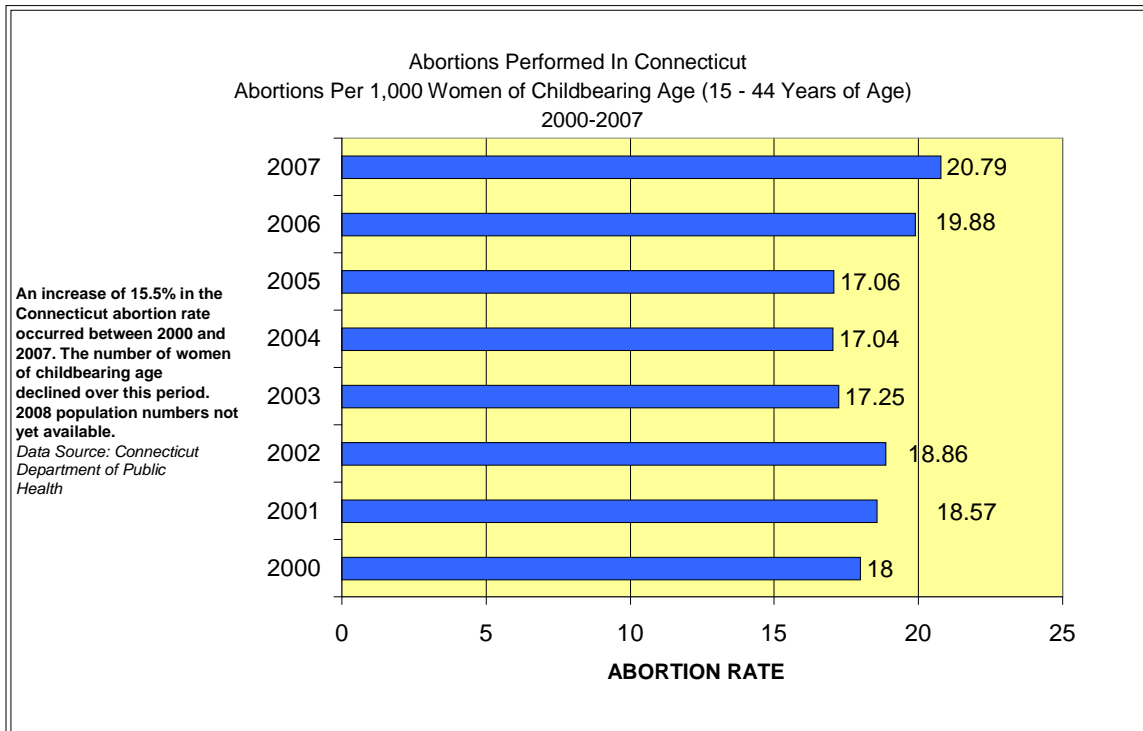
Other Trends

- Most abortions in Connecticut are performed on state residents.
- The number of teens coming into Connecticut to receive an abortion declined slightly from 111 in 2007 to 98 in 2008.

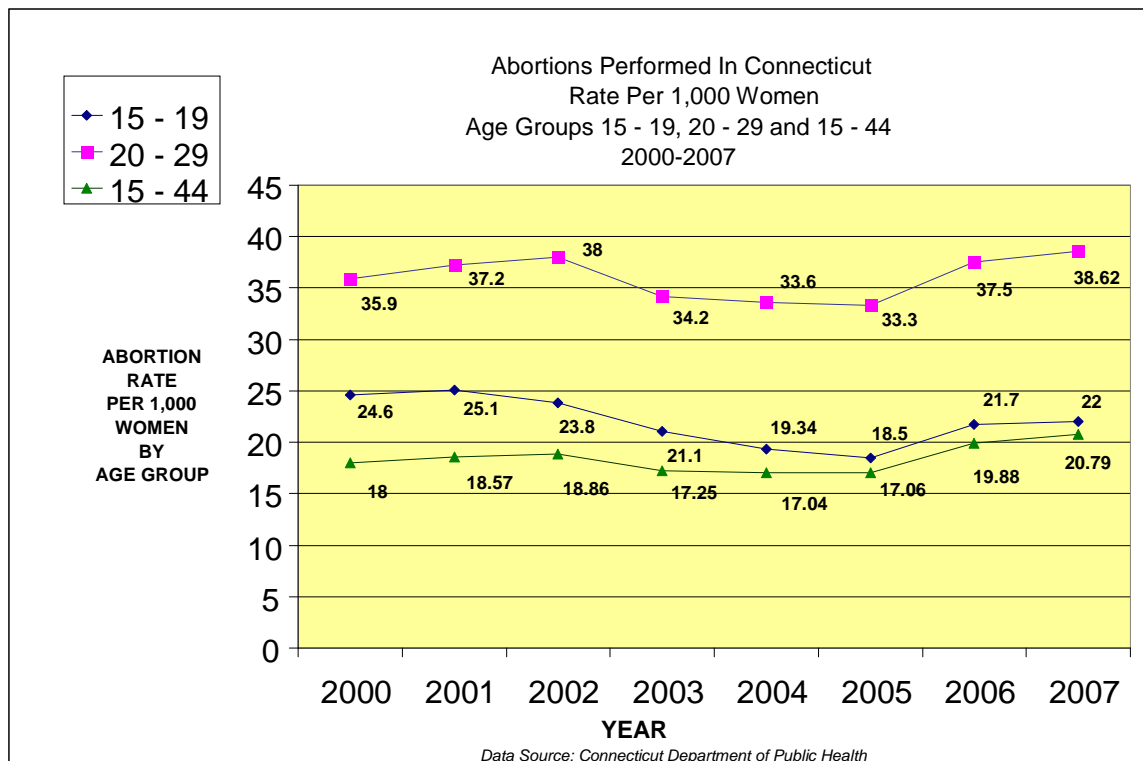
The increasing abortion rate within Connecticut appears to be unaffected by the ease of access to, and public knowledge of, various forms of contraceptives. This would be especially true of women in the 20-30 year age range, which is the age group accounting for most abortions.

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

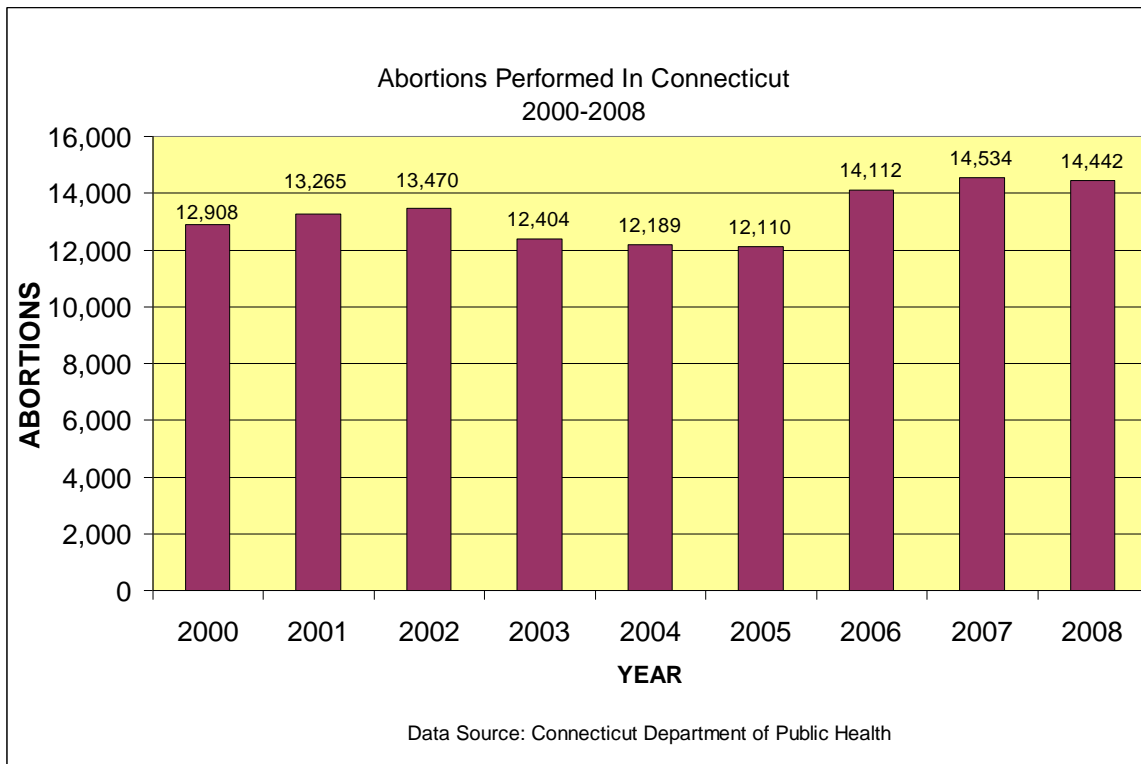
The abortion rate has increased by 15.5% from 2000 -2007. This signifies a continuing increase in the use of abortion to terminate unwanted pregnancies by women of childbearing age (15-44 years of age). Population estimates necessary for determining the 2008 abortion rate are not yet available.



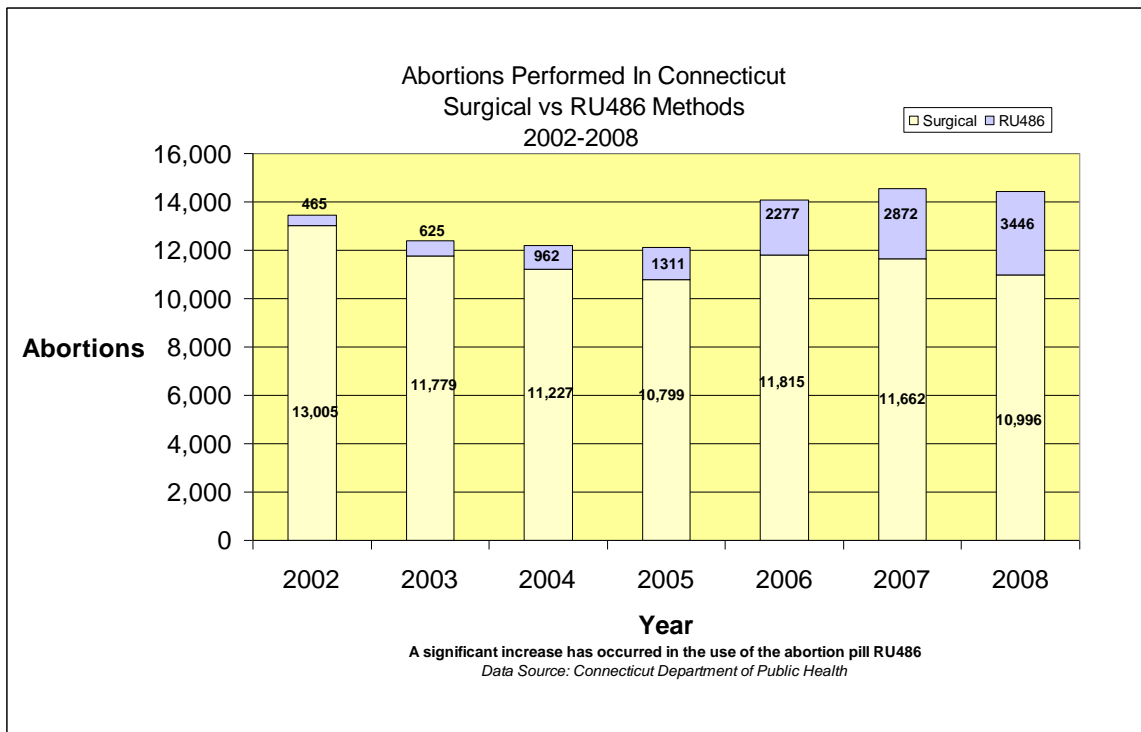
- The abortion rates for women in their twenties and those between 15 – 19 years of age have also increased significantly over the last several years.



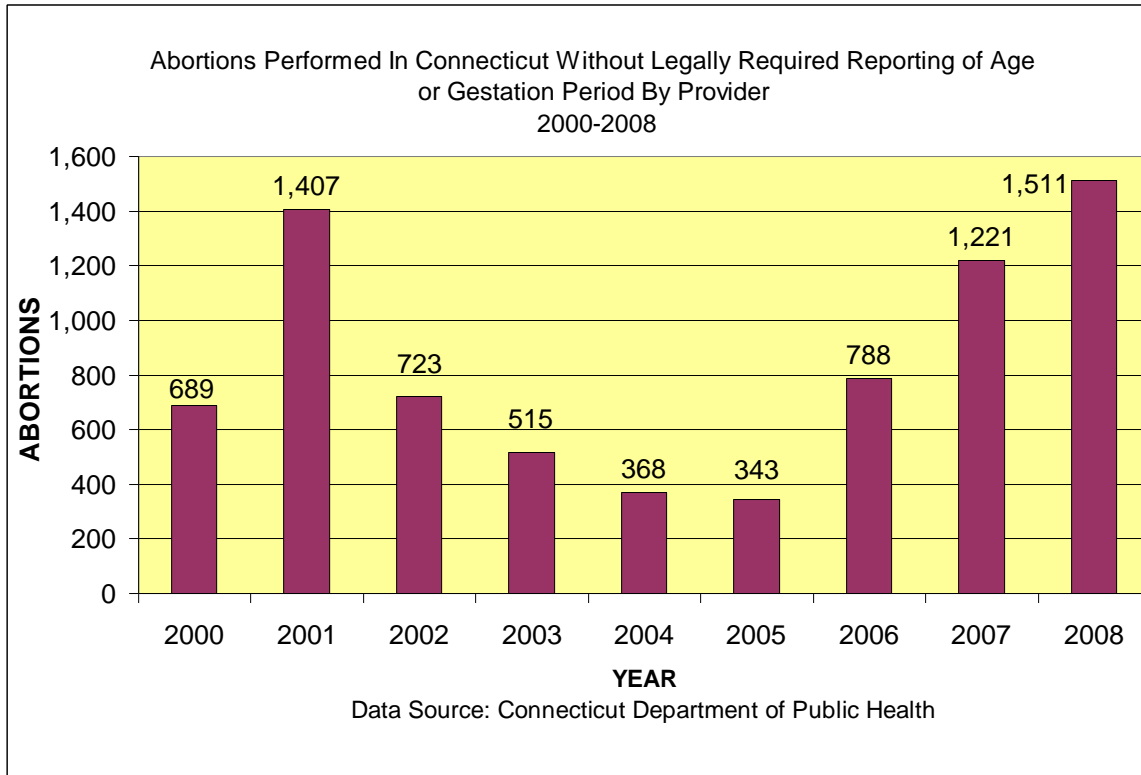
- The number of actual abortions performed in Connecticut declined slightly between 2007 and 2008, with 92 fewer abortions occurring.



- Medical abortions which utilize abortion medications, such as RU486, have increased significantly from 2002 to 2008. In 2002 only 465 cases were reported, compared to 3,446 cases in 2008.

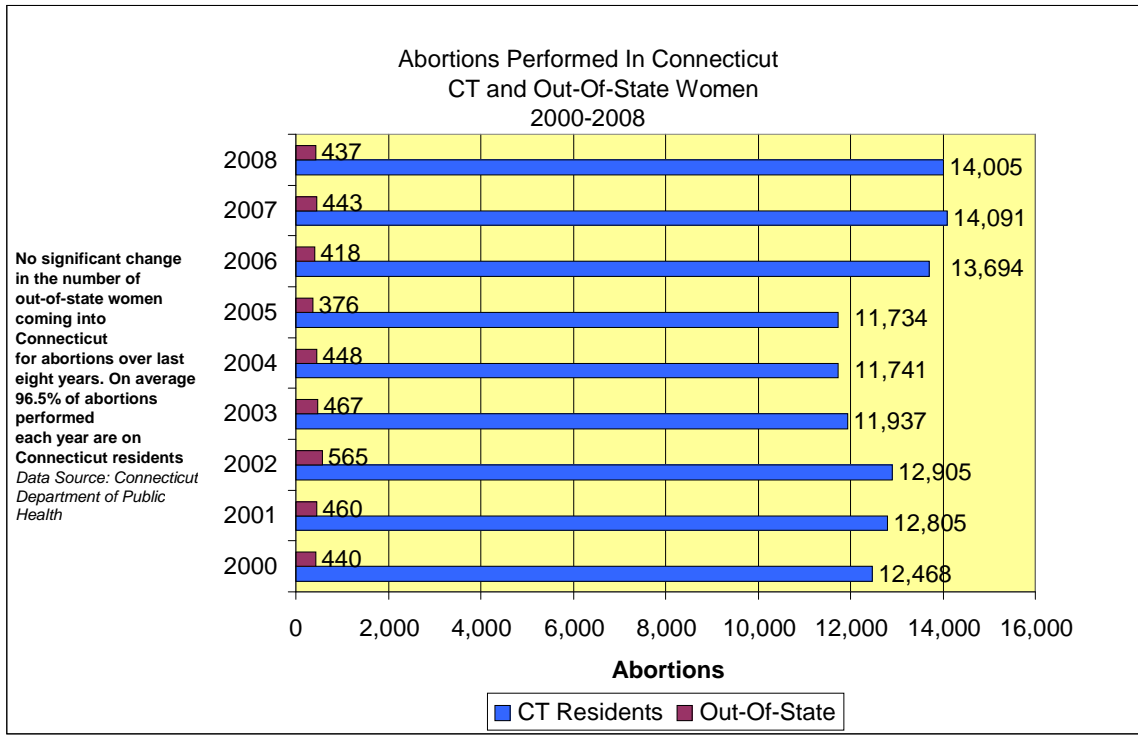


- Between 2000 and 2008, there were 7,565 abortions performed where the provider failed to report the age of the patient or the weeks of gestation at the time of the abortion as required by law. Over the last three years, the number of cases where this information was missing increased by 340% (343 cases – 2005, 1,511 cases – 2008).

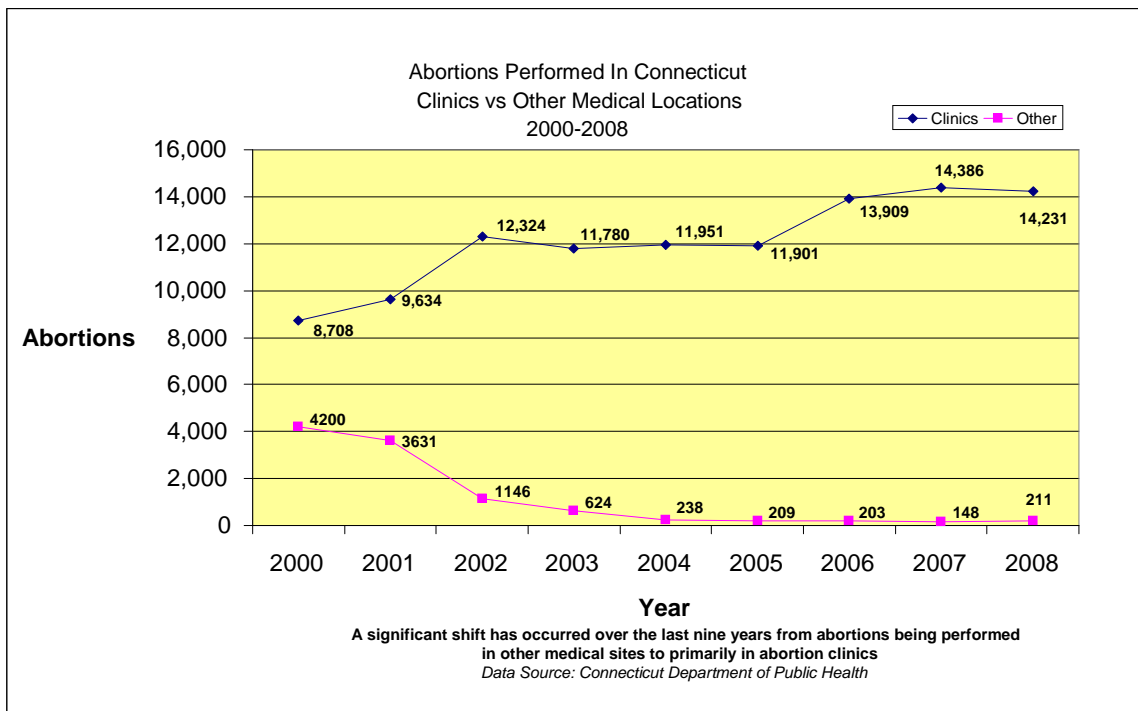


ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

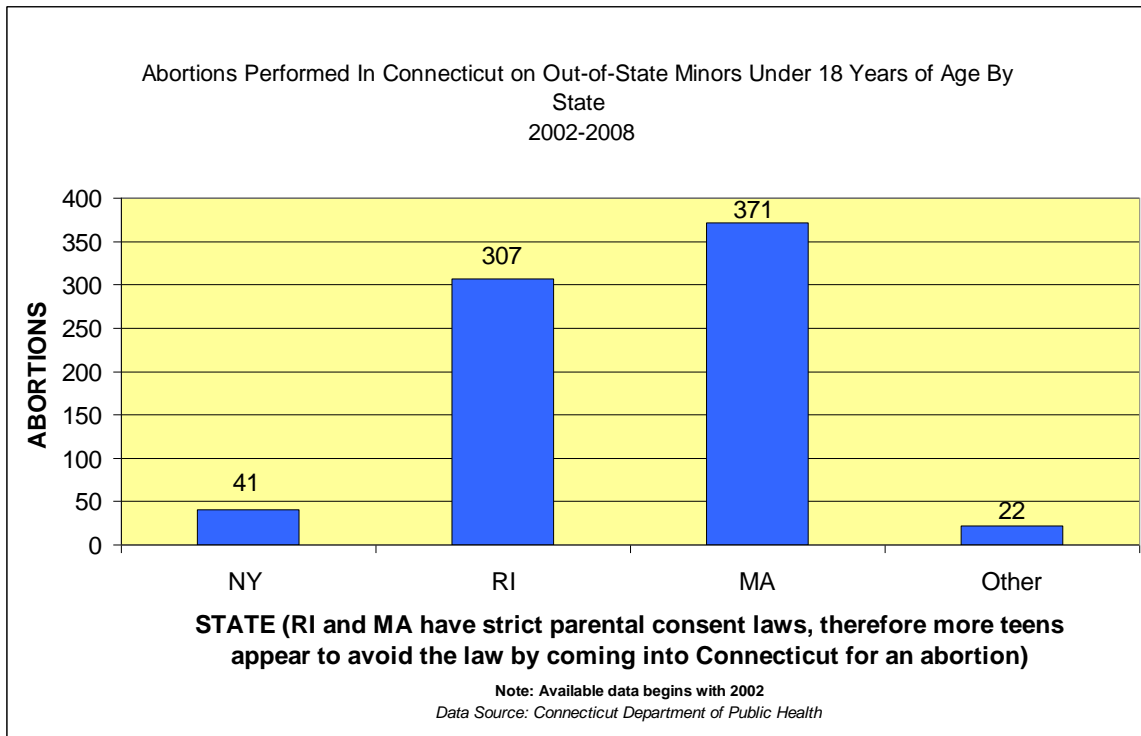
- A review of the state of residence of women receiving abortions revealed that there has been no significant change in the number of women coming into Connecticut to obtain an abortion. On average 96.5% of the abortions performed in Connecticut each year have involved state residents.



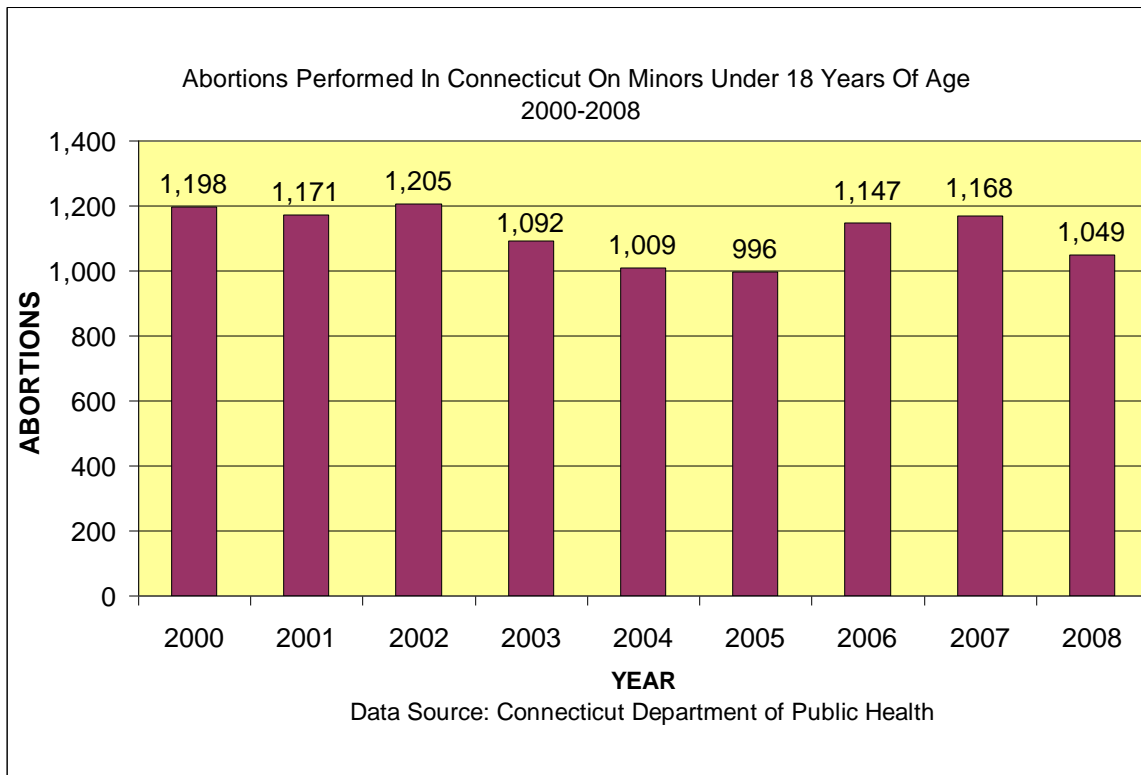
- Most abortions in Connecticut are now being performed in abortion clinics. Currently, there are 24 clinics in Connecticut (see Addendum A) that offer either surgical and/or medical (abortion pill) abortions either on site or through referrals.

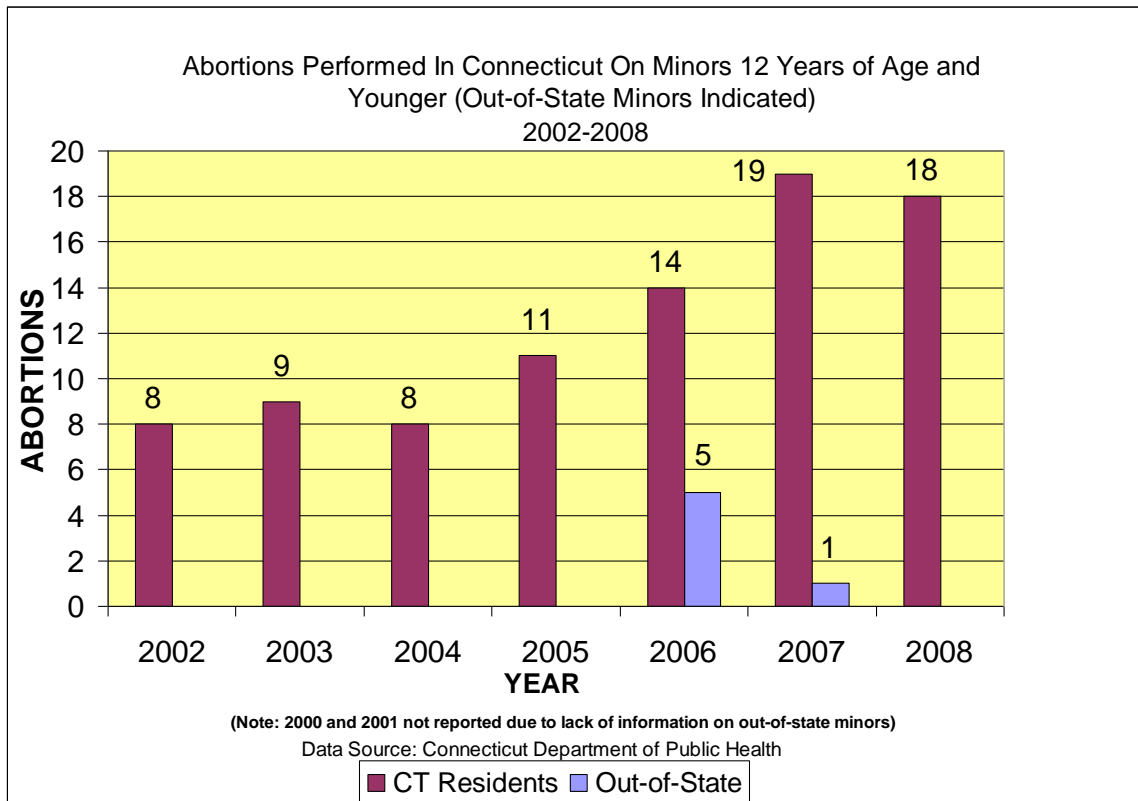
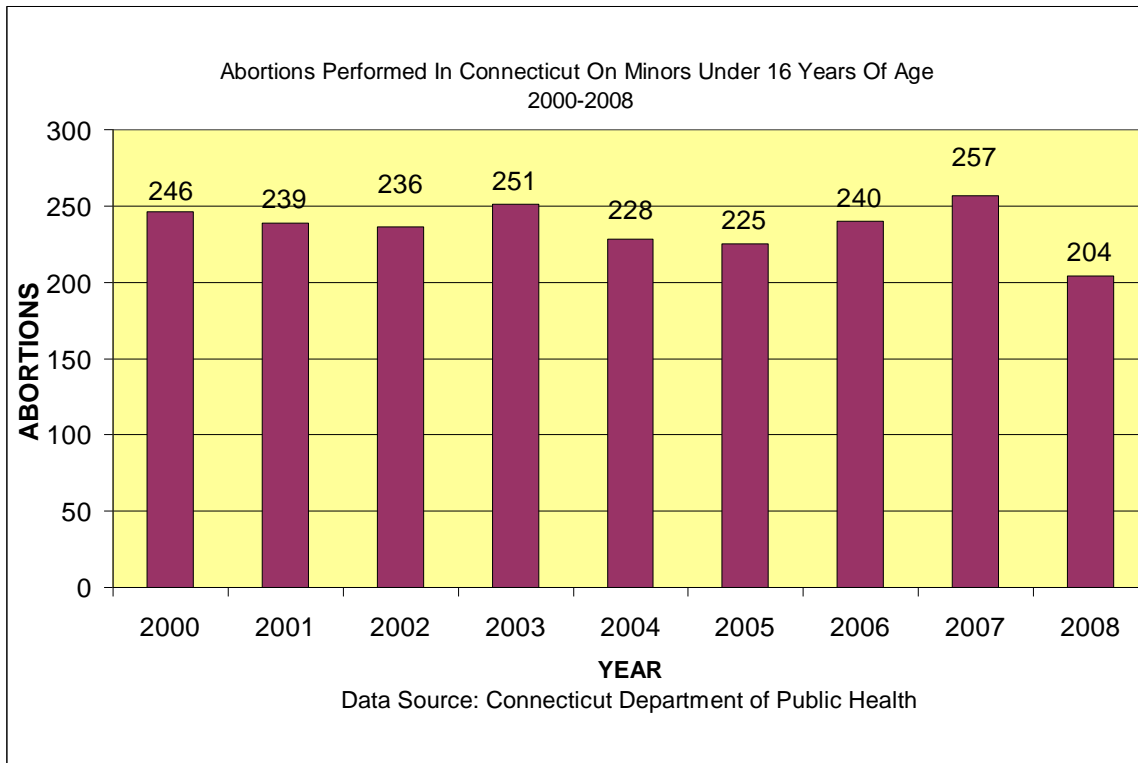


- Of the 740 abortions performed on minors from out-of-state between 2002 and 2008, 678 minors (92% of the cases) came from states with parental consent laws (Massachusetts and Rhode Island). This number is significant when compared to the very low number of girls that came from New York (41), which does not require parental consent or notification..



- The number of abortions on minors has declined slightly in 2008.
(Note: the actual abortion rate for these age groups continues to increase)





Addendum A

Connecticut Abortion Clinics

August 2009

Full Abortion Services

Summit Women's Center – Bridgeport
Summit Women's Center – Hartford
Medical Options – Danbury
Womancare – Danbury
Hartford GYN Center – Hartford
Women's Health Services – New Haven
Planned Parenthood – New Haven
Planned Parenthood – Norwich
Planned Parenthood – Stamford
Planned Parenthood – West Hartford

Medical Abortion Services (Abortion Pill) or Referrals Only

Planned Parenthood – New London Health Center
Planned Parenthood – Bridgeport
Planned Parenthood – Danielson Health Center
Planned Parenthood – Enfield Health Center
Planned Parenthood – Manchester Health Center
Planned Parenthood – Meriden Health Center
Planned Parenthood – Torrington Health Center
Planned Parenthood – Waterbury Health Center
Planned Parenthood – Danbury Health Center
Planned Parenthood – Hartford North End Health Center
Planned Parenthood - New Britain Health Center
Planned Parenthood - Old Saybrook Health Center
Planned Parenthood – Shelton Health Center
Planned Parenthood – Willimantic Health Center