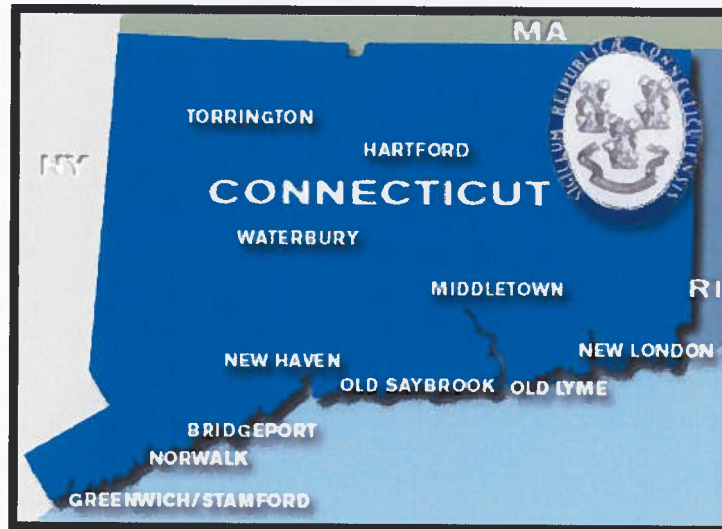


# *The State of Abortion in Connecticut*

## *Third Annual Report*

**October 2010**



*Including Special Supplemental Report  
on  
State/Federal Funding  
of  
Planned Parenthood in Connecticut  
State Fiscal Years 2008 thru 2010*

Prepared by the

**CONNECTICUT CATHOLIC PUBLIC  
AFFAIRS CONFERENCE**

134 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

## **Findings:**

### **Abortion Activity Declines in State During 2009**

*Connecticut experienced a 5% decline in the number of abortions performed in the state from 2008 to 2009.<sup>1</sup> This reflects a significant decrease in the number of abortions among teens, with the lowest number of teen abortions (914) occurring over the last ten years. There were 13,732 total abortions performed in Connecticut during 2009. This is the second year of decline in the actual number of abortions performed following the decade high of 14,534 abortions performed in 2007. However, it is still well above the low of 12,110 abortions performed in 2005.*

*The abortion rate, which is the most significant measurement of abortion activity, also declined by 4.5% since 2008. The rate for 2009 was 19.96 abortions per 1,000 women of childbearing age. This was the first decline since 2004, when it was at a ten year low of 17.04 abortions per 1,000 women of childbearing age. The abortion rate among teens (15 -19 years of age) declined by 10.4%, reflective of the significant decrease in actual teen abortions.*

Although it is hard to identify a particular reason for the decline in abortions in Connecticut, it may well be reflective of the growing attitude revealed in national polls.<sup>2</sup> More Americans are viewing abortion in a negative perspective and are indicating they are pro-life. This change in attitude has been slowly growing in the United States over the last several years, especially among young people. However, it has been slow to be reflected in Connecticut's abortion numbers until now. Connecticut's 2009 abortion rate still exceeds the most currently reported national rate for 2005 at 19.4 (Guttmacher Institute, January 2008).

### **Incomplete Reporting of Abortion Information Still Remains a Problem**

*Abortion providers 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 decreased by 56% between 2008 and 2009. This decrease is the result of a more vigilant effort by the Department of Public Health to increase reporting compliance. Despite this effort, there were still 661 abortions performed in the state where the age and gestation period information was not reported. It is also still well above the decade low of 343 in 2005. 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.*

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<sup>1</sup> The statistical information presented in this report has been compiled by the Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference using data obtained from various reports of the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health.

<sup>2</sup> More Americans "Pro-Life" Than "Pro-Choice" for First Time, Lydia Saad ,  
[www.gallup.com/poll/118399/more-americans-pro-life-than-pro-choice-first-time.aspx](http://www.gallup.com/poll/118399/more-americans-pro-life-than-pro-choice-first-time.aspx)

## **Out-of-State minors come to Connecticut to avoid parental consent laws in home states**

*Over the past eight years, 801 girls under the age of eighteen entered Connecticut to receive abortions. 91% of these teens came from the bordering states of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, which have strict parental consent laws. This trend is a clear indication that, for various reasons, many teens come to Connecticut to have an abortion so they can avoid the parental consent laws in their home state. Avoidance of parental consent or notification laws, and traveling across state lines to do so, can occur for many reasons. However, the ability to do so makes it easier for young girls to be placed into a situation where they could be forced to have an abortion in order to cover up a sexual assault or under pressure from the father's family.*

Thirty-six states currently have some form of parental consent or notification laws in effect. Alaska will become the thirty-seventh in December, when a new law recently passed in a referendum goes into effect. The Connecticut General Assembly needs to address this issue in order to protect not only young girls from Connecticut, but also from our bordering states.

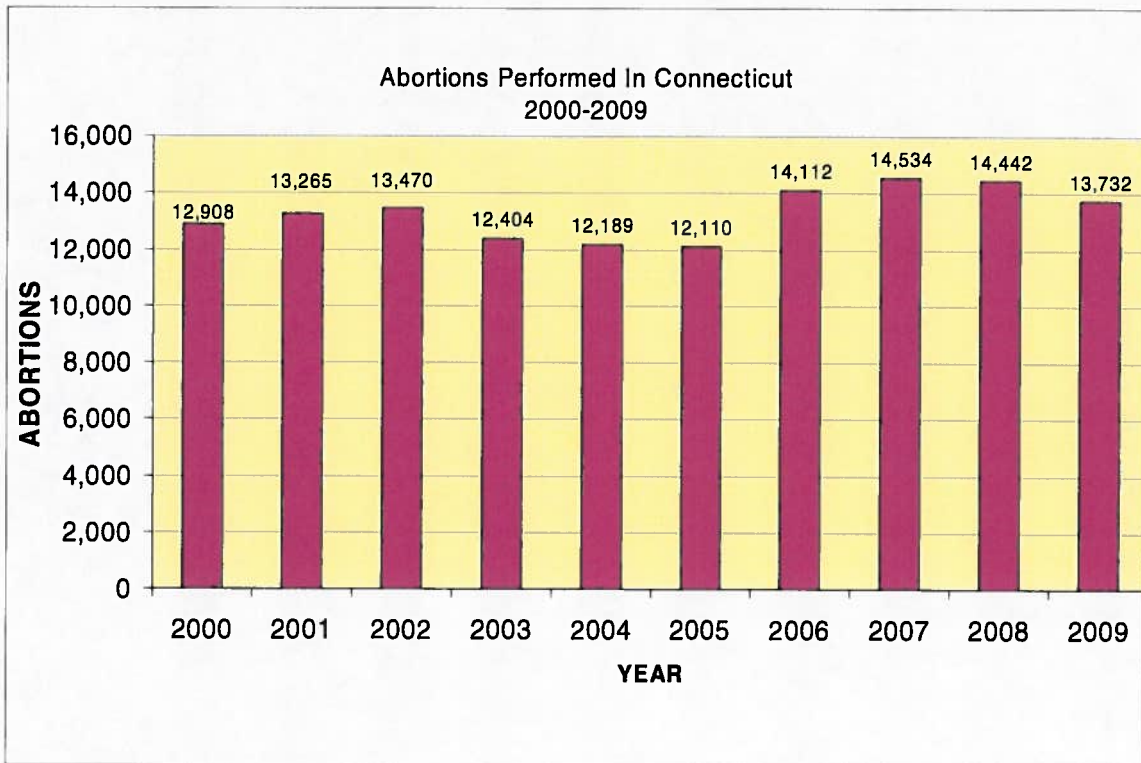
## **Recommendations:**

Based on the findings of this report, the Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference recommends the following efforts be undertaken:

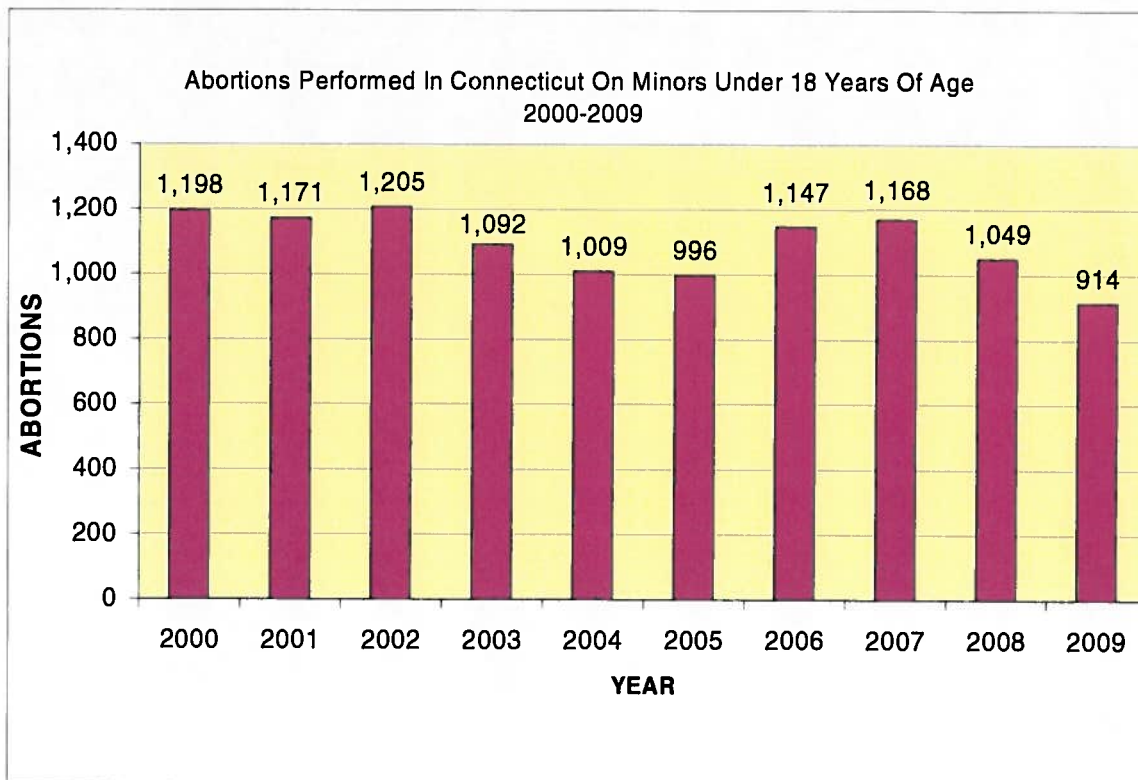
- **In response to the Conference's 2009 annual abortion report, the Connecticut Department of Public Health took significant steps to improve the quality and accuracy of abortion reporting done by providers. The Department of Public Health should continue these efforts until 100% of abortion providers are in compliance with the law. Consideration of a financial penalty should be considered to insure future compliance.**
- **Changes in state statutes should be considered in order to prevent out-of-state minors, who may be victims of sexual abuse or exploitation, from receiving abortions in Connecticut, especially when their state of residence has a parental consent/notification law. If the resident state of a minor has a parental notification or consent law, that law should be respected in Connecticut. Enactment of an adult notification law in Connecticut would be the surest means of accomplishing this objective, while at the same time protecting minor girls within our own state.**

### SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

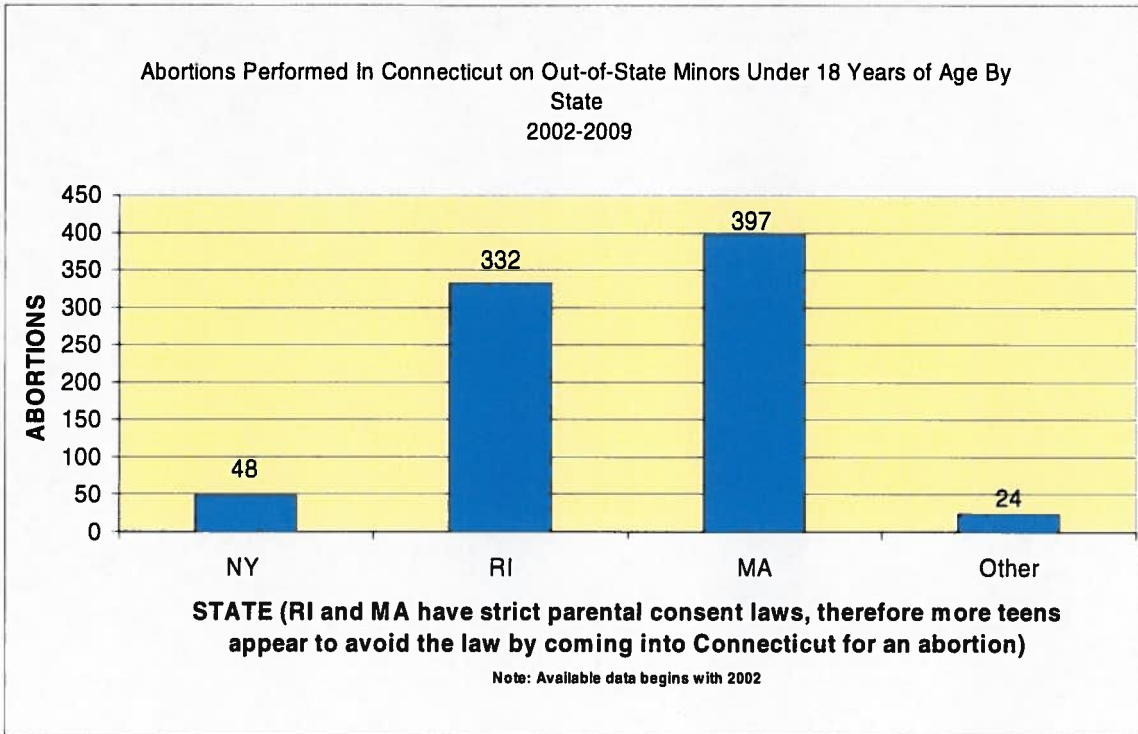
- The number of actual abortions performed in Connecticut declined by 5% between 2008 and 2009.



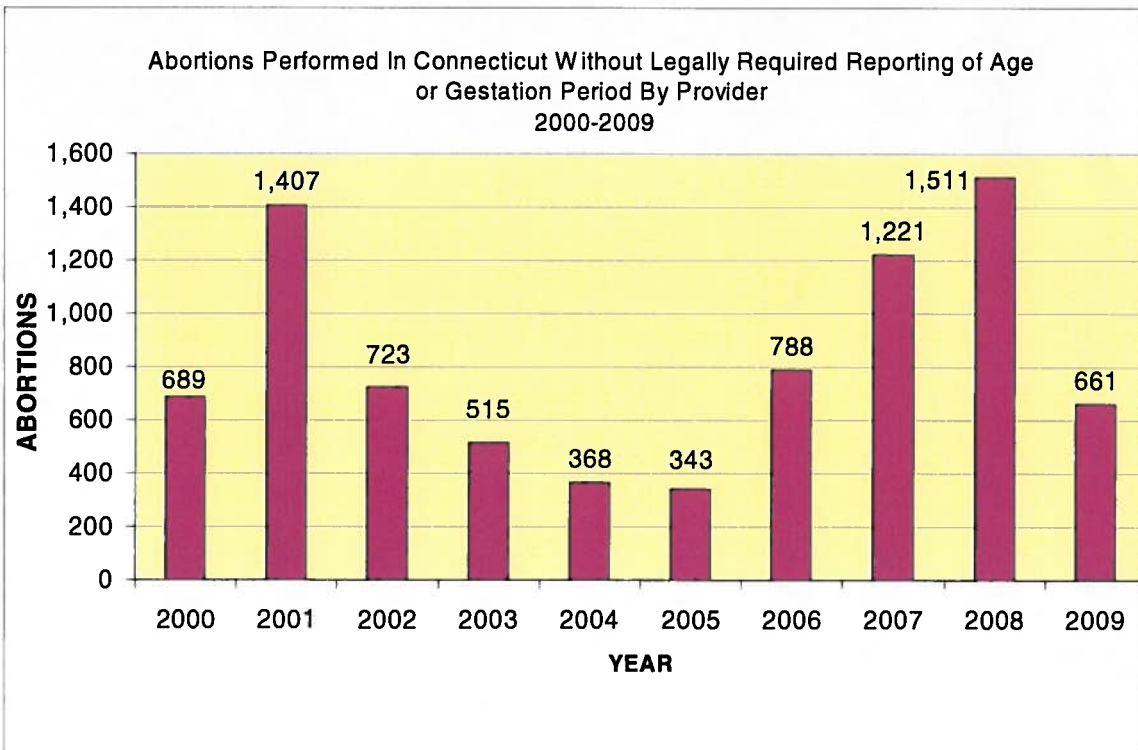
- The number of abortions performed on minors continued its decline in 2009.



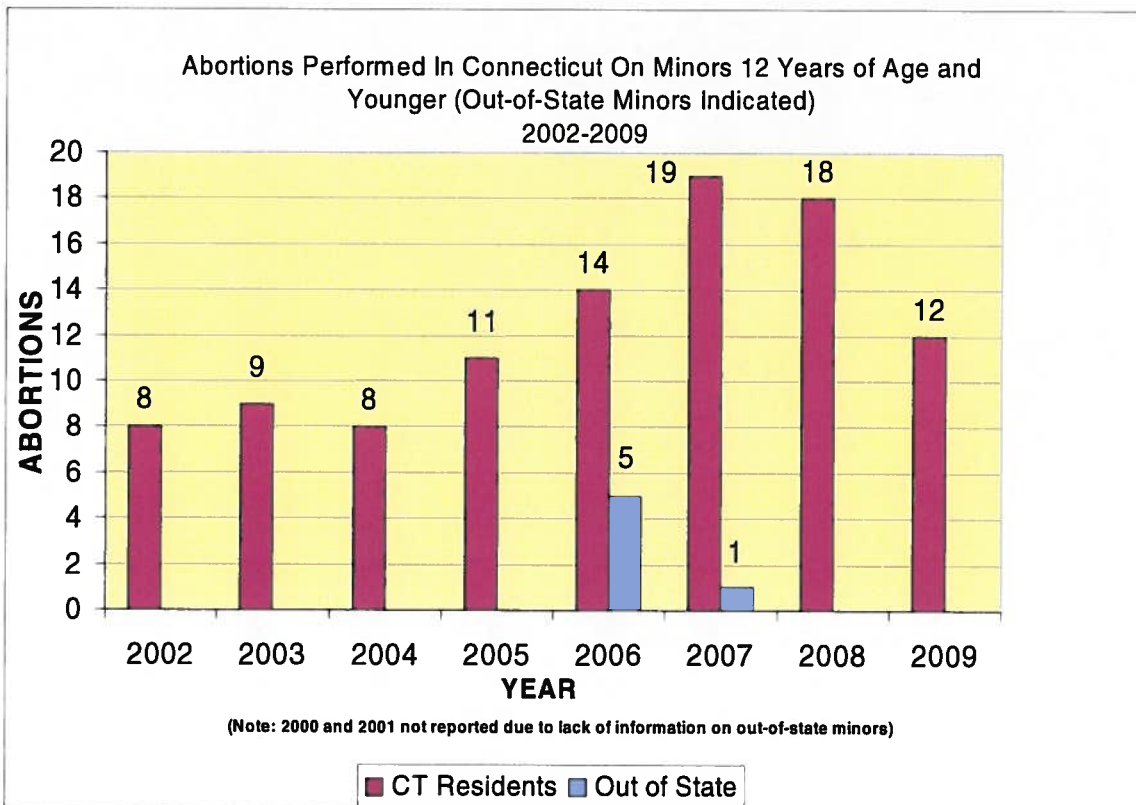
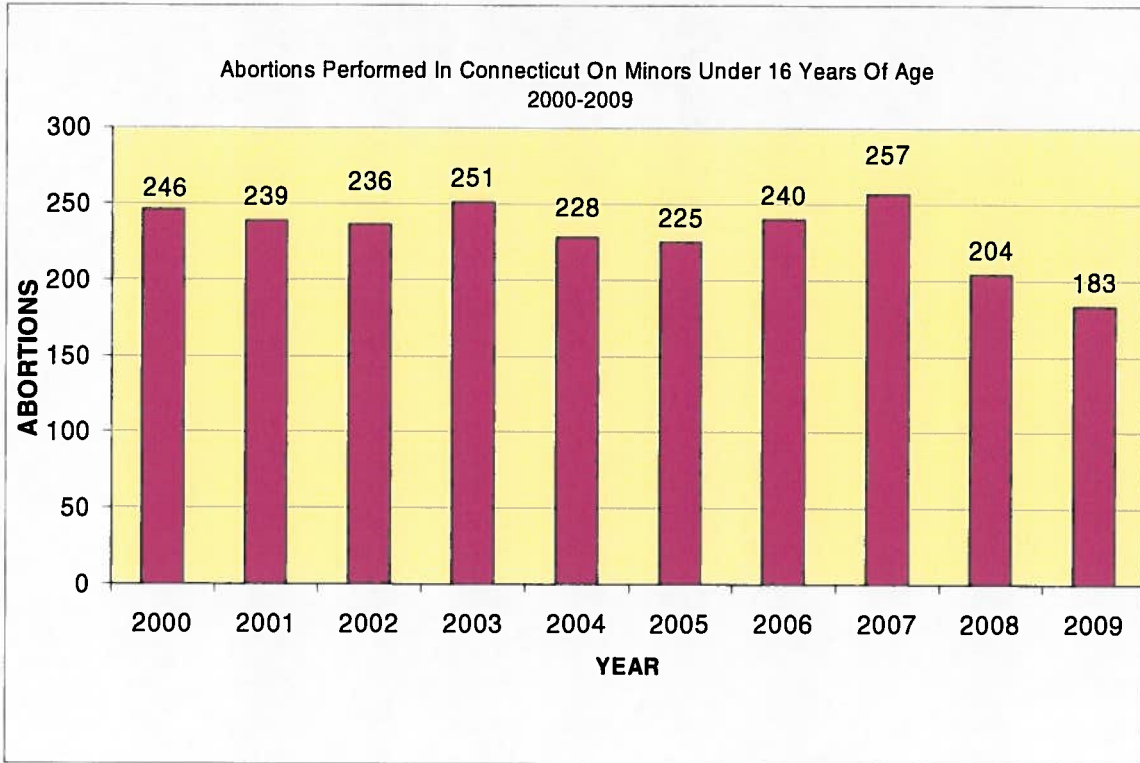
- Of the 801 abortions performed on minors from out-of-state between 2002 and 2009, 91% of the cases came from states with parental consent laws (Massachusetts and Rhode Island).



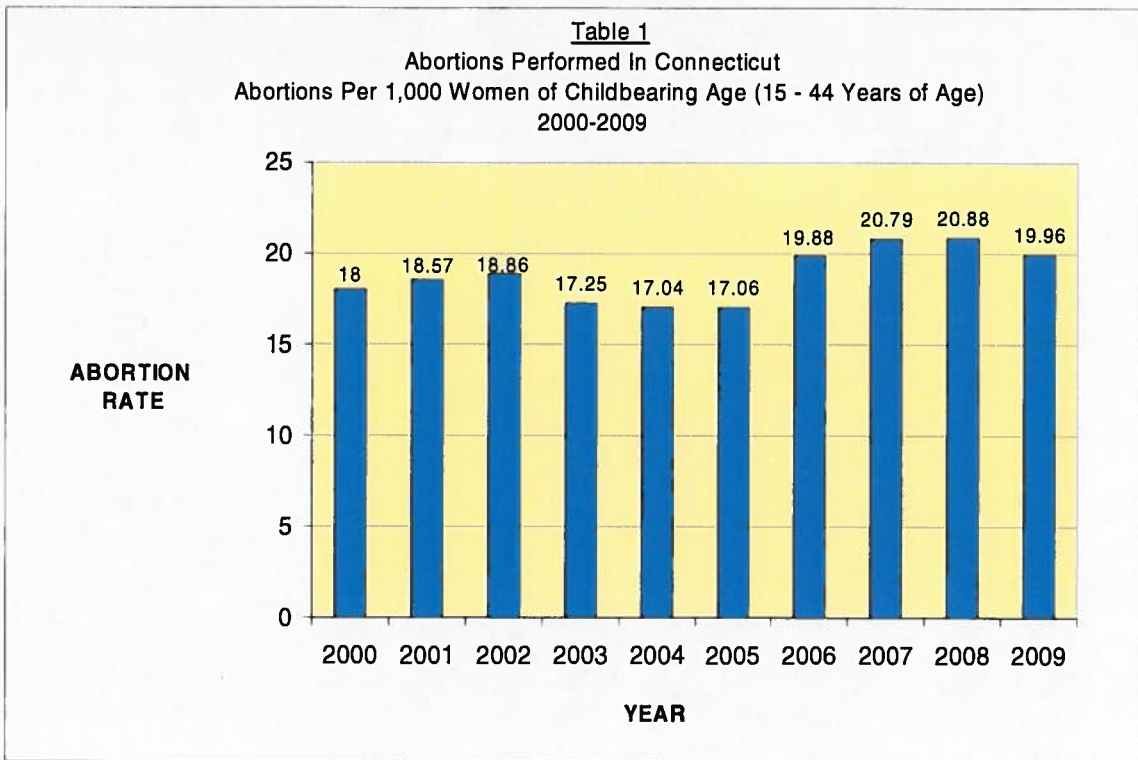
- The number of cases where abortion providers failed to report the age of the patient or the weeks of gestation at the time of the abortion, as required by law, decreased by 56% between 2008 and 2009. This reflects a significant effort by the Department of Public Health to enforce abortion reporting requirements.



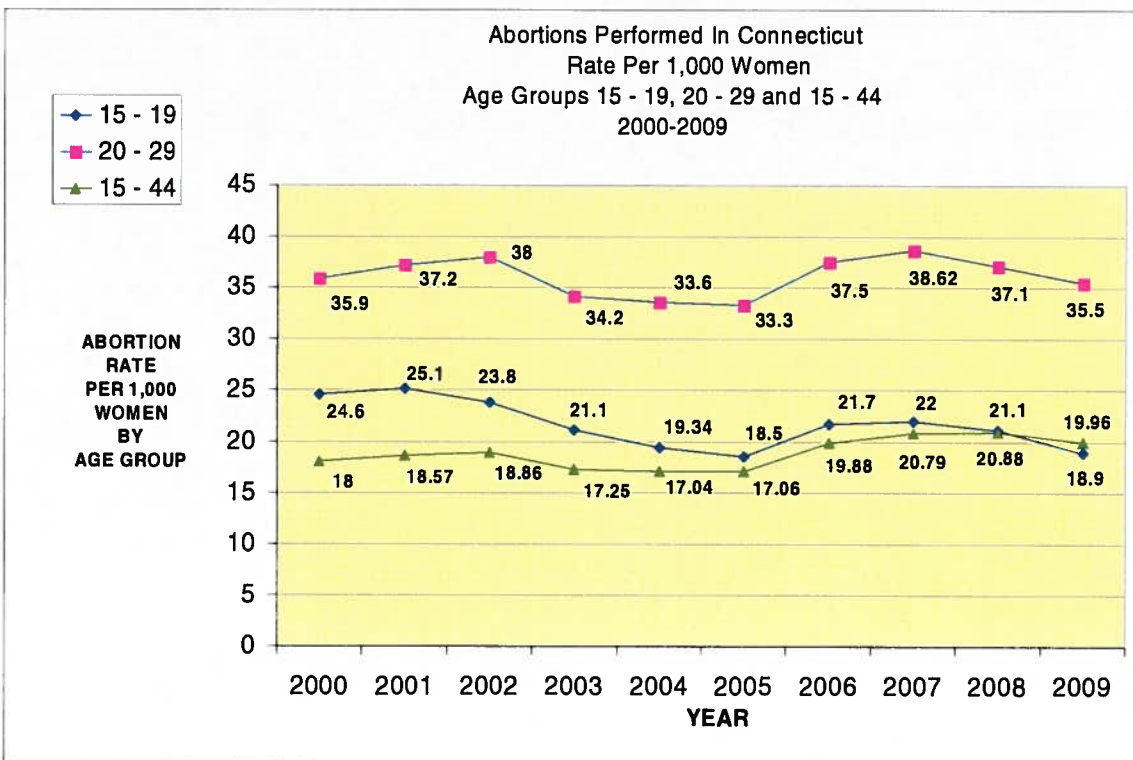
- The number of abortions performed on minors under 16 years of age declined by 60% over the last three years. A significant decline also occurred in the 12 and younger age group.



- The abortion rate declined by 4.5%. This is the first decline since 2004.



- The abortion rates for women in their twenties and those between 15 – 19 years of age also decreased significantly.



## **Supplemental Report**

### ***State/Federal Funding of Planned Parenthood in Connecticut State Fiscal Years 2008 thru 2010***

For the first time, this supplemental report provides information on the amount of taxpayer funding Planned Parenthood receives in Connecticut. Several factors provided the impetus for this report: (1) the current national debate over whether taxpayer funds should be used to fund abortion providers, and (2) concerns over how to address the projected \$3.4 billion Connecticut state budget deficit. The information used in this report was provided under the Freedom of Information Act by the Connecticut Departments of Public Health and Social Services.

#### **Findings:**

- **Planned Parenthood in Connecticut receives a total of \$5 million a year in total state and federal funding, which comprises one quarter (25%) of their annual operating budget. \$4.6 million of this total is for family planning services.**
- **The \$4.6 million for family planning is obtained from the following sources:**
  - **Approximately \$2.1 million a year in state general funds, and federal Title V and Title XX funds, are awarded to Planned Parenthood through the state budget, using no-bid multi-year contracts.**
  - **Planned Parenthood also receives an additional \$2.5 million in Title X funding directly from the federal government for family planning services. Title X funding exists specifically to support family planning and reproductive health care programs**
- **Family planning contracts are expensed in a way that allows funding to be used to assist in covering the general operations of the clinics, which also provide abortion services.**
- **In some instances, Planned Parenthood receives a duplication of funding from the state for the same services. An example of these disbursements relates to sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevention and education programs. Planned Parenthood receives funding for these programs from the federal Infertility Prevention Project and through the state Department of Public Health family planning grant.**

## **Background:**

Funding to Planned Parenthood through the State budget has two primary sources, direct state revenue and federal tax dollars. It should also be noted that most of these funds are provided through no-bid contracts with the State of Connecticut.

The federal funds are “pass-through” monies primarily from the Title V and Title XX programs. Funds from these grants are provided to Planned Parenthood for family planning services at the sole discretion of the General Assembly and the Governor.

Title V and Title XX funds can be used for a vast array of social services, in addition to family planning services, such as; (1) increasing the availability of child care, (2) child abuse prevention programs, (3) community-based care for the elderly and disabled, and (4) programs to meet the nutritional and developmental needs of mothers, children and families.

Although the state contracts list specific family planning services that the funding is intended to support, in reality the funds are used to support the general operations of the Planned Parenthood clinics. As an example, the funding helps cover the salary of the clinic director and clinicians, office supplies, telephone expenses and other general overhead expenditures. Therefore, these funds do assist in covering the operations of abortion clinics within our state.

Medicaid reimbursements from the Department of Social Services for qualifying services, which includes abortion, are not reflected in this report. The inclusion of these dollars would increase the total amount of federal and state funds received by Planned Parenthood.

## **Recommendations:**

The information provided in this supplemental report raises several questions that the Conference feels should be addressed by the 2011 General Assembly:

- **With the state facing a \$3.4 billion deficit next fiscal year, should this funding continue in such difficult economic times?**
- **Should the \$2.1 million for family planning be used by the legislature to support other various “safety net “ social programs? This question is clearly valid when considering the fact that Planned Parenthood receives federal funding for family planning services outside of the state budget.**
- **Should the \$2.1 million in state and federal funds, *under the control of the General Assembly*, be used to support clinics that provide abortions?**

