
NSW Health

NSW Health Termination of Pregnancy Annual Report

2023/24

September 2025



Contents

Introduction.....	3
Data collection methods	3
Description of termination of pregnancy service availability by region	4
Access to, and waiting times for, termination of pregnancy services	5
Clinical performance of termination of pregnancy service delivery, including how safely and effectively termination of pregnancy services were delivered	5
Adverse events and clinical incidents reported in connection with terminations	6
Performance of termination of pregnancy in NSW by region and district	6

Introduction

This is the first NSW Health Termination of Pregnancy Annual Report following commencement of the Abortion Law Reform Amendment (Health Care Access) Act 2025 on 11 June 2025 and the addition of the new reporting requirements under section 15A of the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019 (the Act). Data included in this report was extracted from notifications of termination of pregnancy submitted to the NSW Ministry of Health between 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

A termination of pregnancy in this document is defined as an intentional termination of pregnancy in any way, such as by administering a drug or using an instrument. Terminations of pregnancy notifications are described as medical (where medication is prescribed) or surgical (where a surgical procedure is performed). For the purpose of this reporting, a termination of pregnancy refers to both medical and surgical methods of termination.

Termination of pregnancy in NSW

In NSW, the law on termination of pregnancy is governed by the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019. The Act amended the Crimes Act 1900 to repeal the provisions of that Act relating to termination of pregnancy and to abolish the common law offences relating to termination of pregnancy.

The Act ensure termination of pregnancy is treated as a health issue and allows:

- medical practitioners, nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives to perform a termination of pregnancy and
- certain registered health practitioners (nurses, midwives, pharmacists and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners) to assist in performing a termination. Assisting a termination includes a pharmacist dispensing medication on prescription of a medical practitioner subject to the requirements of the Act.

Note – in accordance with the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019, only medical practitioners were permitted to perform terminations of pregnancy in NSW in the 2023/24 reporting period.

Requirement to notify termination of pregnancy

In accordance with section 15 of the Act, all terminations must be notified to the NSW Ministry of Health within 28 days.

Section 15(1) of the Act states that the information must be given in a way decided by the Secretary of NSW Health, and section 15(2) states that registered health practitioners must provide the information in a manner approved by the Secretary, including for example, by using a form approved by the Secretary. Information provided to the Ministry must not include any details that would allow a woman to be identified.

Requirement to prepare annual report on termination of pregnancy

This NSW Health Termination of Pregnancy Annual Report is produced as per the legislative requirements of Section 15A of the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019.

Data collection methods

Notification of termination of pregnancy data for 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 is provided by medical practitioners to the Secretary of NSW Health within 28 days using the [secure online notification system](#), which is automatically added to the database. A notification form is able to be used in instances where internet is unavailable, these are then returned via email and the data is manually entered into a database, collated and analysed.

NSW Health updated the notification of termination of pregnancy form on 1 July 2025 to align with the legislative amendments to the Act. Updates to the form support the collection of information to meet the annual reporting requirements and will ensure that nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives also complete a notification form to the Secretary if they carry out a termination.

As the updated form was published on 1 July 2025, this information will be included in the annual report from 2027 onwards.

Further information regarding the notification process is described on the NSW Health [website](#).

The crude abortion rate is an indicative rate of the volume of terminations in the population. Numerator data is the total number of termination notifications where the age of the woman was up to and including 44. This includes women who were resident outside of NSW at the time of the termination. Denominator data is the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) estimated residential population for NSW as of June 2024, ages 15-44.

At the time this data was collected, the local health district (LHD) region where the provider is located was collected as postcode data. For this report, postcode data has been mapped to LHDs using the LHD 2010 Postcode 2018 concordance. Note that this reflects best fit for that concordance only – future changes to LHD boundaries may change where providers are allocated. As of 1 July 2025, notifications of termination of pregnancy will collect provider local health district, which will be included in future reports.

Data validation and limitations

There are potential limitations for the notifications data, e.g. it is possible some terminations may not have been notified by the abortion care provider, or a single termination may be notified more than once. While there are processes in place to remove duplicate case reports, complete removal is challenging. Further information about data caveats are available in the [Report on the Statutory Review of the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019](#). These potential limitations should be considered when interpreting termination of pregnancy notification data.

Additionally, the Act states that “information provided to the Ministry must not include any particulars that would allow a woman to be identified”. This means it is not possible to cross-validate information received for each notification with data collected in other health data systems.

For the small percentage of notification forms that were illegible, efforts were made to contact the termination of pregnancy provider to resubmit the form. The Ministry is working to improve the completeness and accuracy of the data submitted.

Illegible forms and notifications of termination of pregnancy where the woman resided outside of NSW, were included in the total number of termination of pregnancy notifications.

This report is based on termination of pregnancy notifications submitted between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024. As the annual reporting requirements began on 11 June 2025, some information was not collected and therefore is not available for this Report.

Please note that further data validation/limitations will be subject to analysis of data each year.

Description of termination of pregnancy service availability by region

NSW Health does not maintain a registry of all termination of pregnancy services and/or providers in NSW, however, services and providers are able to register their information with the Pregnancy Choices Helpline and/or healthdirect.

Availability of termination of pregnancy services is a whole-of-sector responsibility. In NSW, termination of pregnancy services are provided by the public health system, private providers, primary care (GPs) and accredited NGOs. In most cases, medical and surgical abortion is provided in the community or non-hospital settings.

The availability of termination of pregnancy services in public hospitals is determined by districts based on local needs, service capability and capacity. NSW public hospitals primarily provide pregnancy terminations at later gestations or for women with complex medical needs. All NSW local health districts provide emergency or life-threatening care for termination of pregnancy or have emergency referral pathways in place.

Notification of termination of pregnancy data submitted between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024 indicates

that care is provided and accessible in and across all local health district regions in NSW (for further information see *Performance of termination of pregnancy in NSW by region and district*).

NSW Health is investigating feasibility and options for providing more detailed description of termination of pregnancy service availability by region in future annual reports.

Access to, and waiting times for, termination of pregnancy services

Total termination of pregnancy notifications in NSW by year

There were 17,740 notifications of termination of pregnancy in NSW that occurred between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024.

Indicative rate of notified termination of pregnancy in NSW

Based on the notifications from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, the crude termination rate of pregnancy in NSW was 10.20 per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years. Female population in NSW was sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics *National, state and territory population* for June 2024. This crude termination rate in NSW should be viewed as indicative only (see further information in *Data Collection Methods*).

Waiting times for terminations of pregnancy

Information about access and waiting times for termination of pregnancy in NSW was not collected between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024 and therefore is not available for this report.

NSW Health is investigating feasibility and options for providing more information in future annual reports.

Clinical performance of termination of pregnancy service delivery, including how safely and effectively termination of pregnancy services were delivered

Termination of pregnancy notifications – by facility type

Most of the terminations of pregnancy notified to the NSW Ministry of Health between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024 were performed in non-hospital facilities (80.4 per cent). Non-hospital facilities include private healthcare provider clinics (including general practice), and non-for-profit clinics. Private hospitals performed 14.7 per cent of notified terminations, and public hospitals made up 4.9 per cent of the total number of terminations of pregnancy notifications (Table 1).

NSW Health is investigating options to determine if more detailed information can be provided on termination of pregnancy notifications by facility type in future annual reports.

Table 1.

**Termination of pregnancy notifications in NSW, by facility type,
1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024**

Facility type	Number of termination of pregnancy notifications	Percent of termination of pregnancy notifications
Non-hospital facility	14,262	80.4%
Private hospital	2,608	14.7%
Public hospital	869	4.9%
Other/not stated	1	0.0%
Total	17,740	100%

For information about how safely and effectively abortion services were delivered see following section – ‘Adverse events and clinical incidents reported for termination of pregnancy’.

Adverse events and clinical incidents reported in connection with terminations

Therapeutic Goods Administration:

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) monitors adverse events (such as side effects) related to medicines and vaccines to safeguard and enhance the health of the Australian community.

The adverse events reported to the TGA are deidentified and included in the publicly available [Database of Adverse Events Notifications \(DAEN\)](#).

The TGA advises that reporting of an adverse event to the TGA or publication in the Database of Adverse Event Notifications does not necessarily mean that a causal link with the medicine is established, while adverse events included in the Database of Adverse Event Notifications may also reflect known side effects for a particular medicine, or events related to the medical condition being treated.

The [Australian Product Information MS-2-Step \(Mifepristone and Misoprostol\) tablets](#) states:

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after registration of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit-risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions on the [TGA website](#) and to MS Health at 1300 515 883.

NSW Health:

In NSW Health, clinical incidents are reported as per the NSW Health Policy Directive *Incident Management* ([PD2020_047](#)). The NSW Health Clinical Risk Action Group (CRAG) is responsible for examining and monitoring serious clinical incidents reported to the Ministry of Health via reportable incident briefs and ensuring appropriate action is taken.

The CRAG analyses information reported to it on specific incidents, identifies issues relating to morbidity and mortality that may have statewide implications and provides strategic direction and advice on policy development to effect health care system improvement.

The workings of the CRAG are subject to special statutory privilege under section 23 of the Health Administration Act 1982.

Performance of termination of pregnancy in NSW by region and district

Termination of pregnancy notifications in NSW by region and district – by location of provider

The notification of termination of pregnancy form collects information on the postcode of the provider or clinic where the termination of pregnancy was performed.

Table 2 describes the number of terminations that were notified by providers located within the geographical boundary of each local health district (as identified by the provider’s postcode). This information is representative of where providers are physically located within local health districts and captures terminations of pregnancy notified by a range of providers, such as public hospitals, private providers, primary care and non-government organisations. For example, over two-thirds (68.2 per cent) of notifications of termination of pregnancy from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 were from providers located in metropolitan local health districts. Despite this, only 0.7 per cent and 0.8 per cent of notifications were from within the geographical boundaries of Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health Districts, respectively. This may be partly due to several termination of pregnancy providers being located just over the border in neighbouring local health district regions.

Note that the provider’s postcode has been mapped to the LHD using the LHD 2010 Postcode 2018

mapping. Mapping to LHDs is indicative of best fit only at that point in time.

Table 2.
**Termination of pregnancy notifications in NSW, by location of provider,
 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024**

Local health district region where provider is located	Number of termination of pregnancy notifications	Percent of termination of pregnancy notifications
<i>Metropolitan local health district regions</i>		
Nepean Blue Mountains	148	0.8%
Northern Sydney	2,238	12.6%
South Eastern Sydney	4,534	25.6%
South Western Sydney	1,826	10.3%
Sydney	128	0.7%
Western Sydney	3,226	18.2%
<i>Sub-total metropolitan local health districts</i>	12,100	68.2%
<i>Regional local health district region</i>		
Central Coast	1,171	6.6%
Far West	35	0.2%
Hunter New England	1,643	9.3%
Illawarra Shoalhaven	774	4.4%
Mid North Coast	610	3.4%
Murrumbidgee	136	0.8%
Northern NSW	348	2.0%
Southern NSW	244	1.4%
Western NSW	110	0.6%
<i>Subtotal regional local health district regions</i>	5,071	28.6%
Other/not stated	569	3.2%
<i>NSW total</i>	17,740	100%

Other/not stated includes notifications where the postcode was not reported, was erroneous, or outside NSW.

