

2023 Ohio Abortion Statistics Report

This is an initial analysis of the 2023 Ohio abortion statistics report from Greater Columbus Right to Life. Each year the Ohio Department of Health provides information on the previous year's abortion statistics as required by Ohio law. We look at that report and get the information out to our friends and supporters in a way that we think will be helpful. Note that this document may be updated by GCRTL due to additional review and analysis or because of unintentional errors in reporting or calculating information. While we make every effort to provide accurate data, on occasion we make mistakes. If you think there is an error or if you have any questions, please contact our office. If you would like a member of the GCRTL team to come talk to your organization or church about this report or the status of Ohio's abortion climate in a post Article 1, Section 22 environment, please contact our office at 614-448-8508 or reach out to our [Speaker's Bureau](#).

Statewide Look:

As anticipated, the release of the [2023 Ohio Abortion Statistics Report](#) showed an increase in the number of abortions that occurred in Ohio and Central Ohio. In 2023, there were 22,000 abortions performed statewide. 19,229 were performed on Ohio residents and 2771 on non-residents. This compares to 2022, where a total of 18,488 abortions were performed. 17,201 were performed on Ohio women and 1,287 on non-residents. This is a significant increase – more than 3500 (18 percent) increase in total abortions with the number of women traveling from out of state more than doubling.

We attribute this rise to two main causes. First, there was a large decrease in abortions between 2022 and 2021. Some, but not all, of that can certainly be attributed to the fact that Ohio's heartbeat law was in effect for several months. A restraining order was granted halting enforcement of that law for the rest of 2022 and all of 2023. At the same time several states surrounding Ohio tightened their abortion protections, resulting in an uptick in women from out of state seeking abortions

When we look at Ohio's numbers from 2021, a time when the laws in place were more similar, the numbers are not as discouraging: an increase of 127 abortions from 2021. Similar statistics play out when we look at the number of abortions performed in Columbus and other metro areas as well as the number of abortions performed on women living in the Columbus MSA.

It is also worth noting that once again Black women were disproportionately impacted by abortion. Just under 44% of abortions were performed on Black women, just under 41% were performed on White women, about 3% were performed on Asian women, and about 13% did not report. Ohio tracks by race and ethnicity, so 7% of women having abortions reported as Hispanic, 74% non-Hispanic, and about 18% were unknown or did not report.

Abortions Locally

Abortions are reported not only by the location where the procedure was performed, but by the county (and zip code) where the mother lived.

In looking at the Greater Columbus MSA (metropolitan statistical area), we see that the statewide trend for increased abortions between 2022 and 2023 was largely consistent, apart from Licking and Madison Counties which had a decrease in abortions in 2023. Traditionally, Greater Columbus Right to Life has served the Greater Columbus MSA counties (shown below), but in recent years we have expanded to serve a large portion of central and southeast Ohio where there is no other organized pro-life organization. Note to those living outside of the MSA area – the numbers for your county and zip code are available in the full report and in the months and weeks to come we will expand our look to more counties.

We’ve compared these counties over the past two years and the past decade. These numbers are just one snapshot of what is happening in a community. The report does not consider other factors, such as population growth, birth rate, etc.

	2013	2021	2022	2023	1-Year Change	2-Year Change	10-Year Change
Delaware	145	166	152	177	25	11	32
Fairfield	144	152	144	159	15	7	15
Franklin	3448	3399	2739	3055	316	-344	-393
Licking	177	185	145	131	-14	-54	-46
Madison	21	30	43	37	-6	7	16
Morrow	21	18	12	20	8	2	-1
Pickaway	39	50	36	40	4	-10	1
Union	47	29	35	48	13	19	1

Abortions by Community

Most abortions that are reported to the Ohio Department of Health currently occur at either surgical or non-surgical clinics located in the five counties that correspond to Columbus (Franklin), Cincinnati (Hamilton), Cleveland (Cuyahoga), Dayton (Montgomery), Cuyahoga Falls (Summit), and Toledo (Lucas). In fact, 18,746 of all abortions were performed or distributed at a location that holds an Ambulatory Surgical Facility (ASF) license. Another 3120 were reported at a nonsurgical abortion clinic, and 134 were performed in a hospital setting.

Below we look at abortions by where they are being performed. In addition, the report also notes that one abortion was reported in each of Butler, Delaware, Fairfield, Marion, and Pickaway Counties. While we never know the story behind these procedures, it is more likely that they were performed as procedures for medical necessity (aka the life and health of the mother) as emergency procedures. We anticipate as more elements of 2023 Issue 1 take effect that we will see abortions, particularly abortion pill distribution, expand.

County	2023	2022	2021	2013	1-year Change	2-year Change	10-year Change
Cuyahoga	6111	5533	6778	9037	578	-667	-2926
Franklin	3600	2746	3480	4966	854	120	-1366
Hamilton	3611	3129	3508	4171	482	103	-560
Lucas	787	1063	1012	1511	-276	-225	-724
Montgomery	4283	3191	3458	1798	1092	825	2485
Summit	3603	2817	3551	1730	786	52	1873
All	22000	18488	21813	23216	3512	187	-1216

Other Observations

Each year, we also look at the prevalence of the abortion pill. A recent report by a pro-abortion think-tank estimated that nationally about 63% of abortions were committed via non-surgical methods, primarily the abortion pill. Last year, we saw that a significant number of the procedures locally – more than 85% were via the abortion pill. This year, it was 81%.

The total share of abortions performed by nonsurgical methods last year was 9,974. Of those, 13 utilized a drug called methotrexate (4 in Franklin, 7 in Summit, and 1 in each of Hamilton and Montgomery Counties). The rest utilized some combination of mifepristone and/or misoprostol (the abortion pill). This is an interesting drop from both 2022 and 2021 that does not reflect the national trend suggested by abortion researchers. We have no way of knowing if this was simply a shift in preferences or abortion pills administered outside of the system – either because an Ohio-based provider did not report to the Ohio Department of Health or because out-of-state (or out-of-country) groups provided the abortion pill by mail under lax policies announced by the Biden/Harris Administration.

We also want to point out the number of minor girls who had abortions last year dramatically increased to 71 for girls under the age of 15 (42 in 2022 and 57 in 2021) and 530 for girls between the ages of 15 and 18 (413 in 2022 and 481 in 2021). While so many in our culture are screaming to ensure that minor girls get abortions, the pro-life faithful need to shout that our children deserve to be protected from oversexualization, coercion, and abuse.

Finally, the abortion report gives us a partial view of the dangers that abortion poses to women. From Ohio's Medication Abortion Incident Reports, we know that at least 79 reports were filed detailing complications from the abortion pill and dozens of reports were filed for post-surgical abortion complications (including lacerations, hemorrhages, incomplete abortions, hematometras, failed abortions, infections, and unknown/other complications). This does not necessarily include reports from emergency rooms – where they are not required to report most abortion complications and may not even know that it was one.

In Conclusion

What does this mean? Well, we know that 60 babies are aborted each day (on average) in Ohio. That means that for each hour that passes, about 2.5 babies will die in Ohio. For those living in Central Ohio, that is about 10 a day, 69 each week. Those numbers will only increase in 2024. With the passage of 2023 State Issue 1, we have lost so many of the legal guardrails that served not only to protect unborn children from death, but also women from health and safety complications and coercion.

It is grim, but it is not without hope. Greater Columbus Right to Life and pro-life organizations around the state are working with partners in the pregnancy help, abortion pill reversal, and post-abortion healing communities to get more information and life-affirming help to the people who need it most. Churches, schools, and families have an opportunity – and an obligation, to speak the truth about the dignity of every human life. The 2023 abortion statistics report is both a reminder and a rallying cry that we cannot count on the laws to protect unborn children any longer, but we can count on you. [Join us.](#)