

FACTS: LATE-TERM ABORTIONS IN VICTORIA

1. AROUND 50% OF LATE-TERM ABORTIONS ARE HEALTHY BABIES OF HEALTHY WOMEN

Proponents of late-term abortion laws often argue that late-term abortion is only really for foetal abnormalities, and not for healthy babies. Data from Victoria completely contradicts this claim. Sadly, healthy late-term babies to physically healthy mothers are routinely aborted, and since 2001 until 2020 (which is the last year of public data) this group has represented about 47% of late-term abortions in the state, please see below table for numbers.

| YEAR | TERMINATIONS FOR PSYCHOSOCIAL INDICATIONS (healthy babies to physically healthy mothers). STILLBIRTHS | % of total abortions | ABORTIONS FOR CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED FOETAL ABNORMALITY | | TOTAL LATE-TERM TERMINATIONS (POST 20 WEEKS GESTATION) |
|------|---|----------------------|---|--|--|
| | | | STILLBIRTH (FOETAL DEATH) | NEONATAL DEATH (BABIES BORN ALIVE & THEN DIED) | |
| 2020 | 129 | 38% | 170 | 43 | 342 |
| 2019 | 172 | 44% | 182 | 34 | 388 |
| 2018 | 173 | 49% | 150 | 28 | 351 |
| 2017 | 140 | 43% | 155 | 28 | 323 |
| 2016 | 125 | 40% | 152 | 33 | 310 |
| 2015 | 107 | 35% | 171 | 31 | 309 |
| 2014 | 146* | 46% | 135 | 38** | 319 |
| 2013 | 179 | 50% | 136 | 43 | 358 |
| 2012 | 132 | 40% | 145 | 53 | 330 |
| 2011 | 183 | 48% | 155 | 40 | 378 |
| 2010 | 191 | 52% | 151 | 24 | 366 |
| 2009 | 214 | 52% | 154 | 42 | 410 |
| 2008 | 178 | 54% | 118 | 32 | 328 |
| 2007 | 164 | 48% | 129 | 52 | 345 |
| 2006 | 150 | 50% | 106 | 42 | 298 |
| 2005 | 178 | 57% | 84 | 45 | 309 |
| 2004 | 197 | 60% | 95 | 35 | 327 |
| 2003 | 103 | 47% | 75 | 41 | 219 |
| 2002 | 60 | 37% | 73 | 30 | 163 |
| 2001 | 45 | 28% | 71 | 35 | 151 |

*1 neonatal death; **1 psychosocial

Source: Victoria's Mothers, Babies and Children Annual Report, Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity Reports 2020-210, [2020](#) p.70, [2019](#) p. 50, [2018](#) p.71, [2017](#) p.90, [2016](#) p.111, [2015 & 2014](#) pp 92- 93, [2013 & 2012](#) pp 96-97, [2011 & 2010](#) pp 135-136; The Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity (CCOPMM), Annual Reports for the Years 2009-2001 (These annual reports are no longer on the Victorian Government's website – however Pro-Life Victoria has a soft copy of these annual reports (from 2001 to 2009) and can share them as required)

2. FULL-TERM HEALTHY BABIES TO HEALTHY WOMEN HAVE BEEN ABORTED IN VICTORIA

As well as around ½ of late-term abortions in Victoria being healthy babies of healthy women, it needs to be noted that data reveals some of these have been **full-term babies**.

The below table from *Victoria's Mothers, Babies and Children's Annual Report 2009* tells the very sad story, that in 2009 4 full-term healthy babies (37 weeks gestation or older) of healthy mothers were aborted.

| | 20–27 weeks | | 28–31 weeks | | 32–36 weeks | | 37 + weeks | | Total | |
|--|-------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|------------|------|-------|------|
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| 1. Congenital abnormality ^a | 182 | 26.9 | 26 | 29.5 | 31 | 31.3 | 27 | 21.1 | 266 | 26.8 |
| 2. Infection | 7 | 1.0 | 3 | 3.4 | 3 | 3.0 | 7 | 5.5 | 20 | 2.0 |
| 3. Hypertension | 13 | 1.9 | 4 | 4.5 | 5 | 5.1 | 2 | 1.6 | 24 | 2.4 |
| 4. Antepartum haemorrhage | 37 | 5.5 | 5 | 5.7 | 16 | 16.2 | 5 | 3.9 | 63 | 6.4 |
| 5. Maternal conditions ^b | 209 | 30.9 | 14 | 15.9 | 4 | 4.0 | 4 | 3.1 | 231 | 23.3 |
| 6. Specific perinatal conditions | 44 | 6.5 | 2 | 2.3 | 4 | 4.0 | 16 | 12.5 | 66 | 6.7 |
| 7. Hypoxic peripartum death | 1 | 0.1 | 1 | 1.1 | 3 | 3.0 | 15 | 11.7 | 20 | 2.0 |
| 8. Fetal growth restriction (FGR) | 28 | 4.1 | 9 | 10.2 | 8 | 8.1 | 14 | 10.9 | 59 | 5.9 |
| 9. Spontaneous preterm | 120 | 17.7 | 3 | 3.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 123 | 12.4 |
| 10. Unexplained antepartum death | 36 | 5.3 | 21 | 23.9 | 24 | 24.2 | 34 | 26.6 | 115 | 11.6 |
| 11. No obstetric antecedent | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 4 | 3.1 | 5 | 0.5 |
| Total | 677 | 100 | 88 | 100 | 99 | 100 | 128 | 100 | 992 | 100 |

a Congenital abnormality includes termination or induction ≥ 20 weeks (154 stillbirths and 42 neonatal deaths).

b Maternal conditions includes terminations ≥ 20 weeks for psychosocial indications (214 stillbirths).

Note: One case where gestation was unknown but weight ≥ 400 g was excluded from this table (one stillbirth PDC 5.8 Maternal condition – other specified maternal condition).

Source: Victoria's Mothers, Babies and Children Annual Report 2009, p. 112

NB: Maternal Conditions_“psychosocial indications” are physically healthy babies to physically healthy mothers aborted under the state’s provision for abortions past 24 weeks gestation (up to birth) which includes the criteria of maternal psychological or social circumstances (current or likely future).