

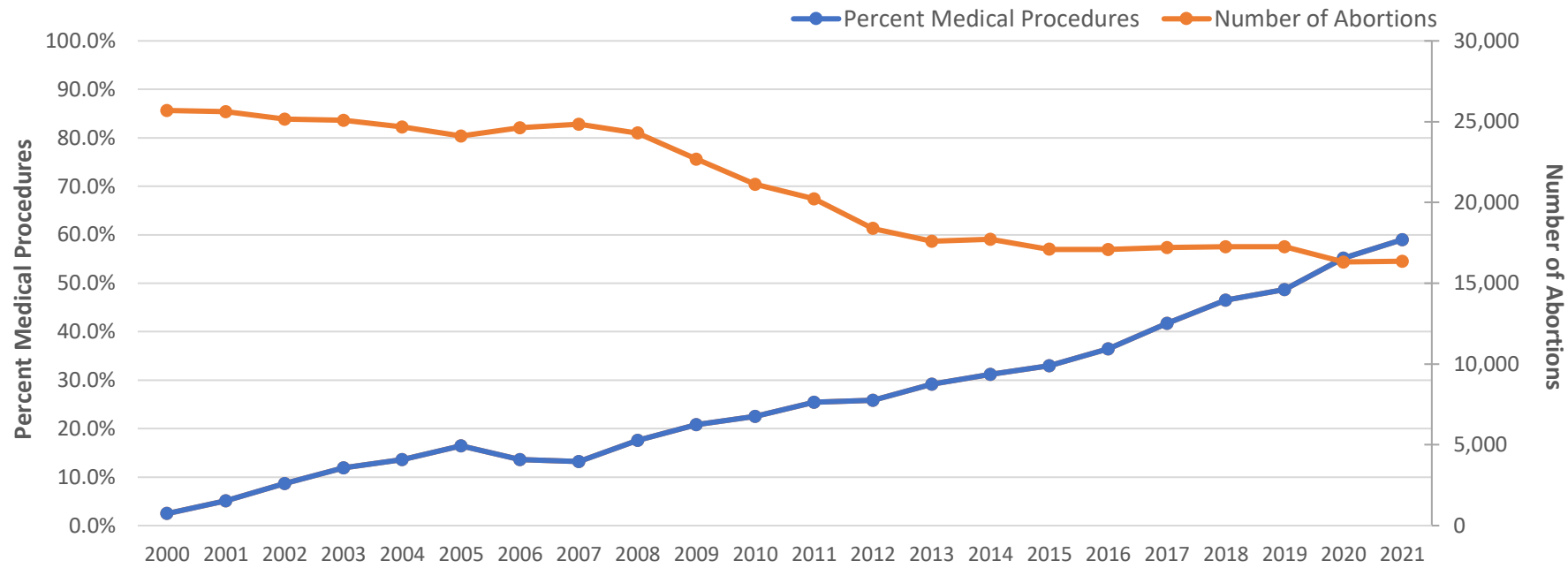
Abortion Medical Procedures and Complications - Washington State Occurrences¹ 2000-2021

Medical abortion is a procedure that uses prescribed medications like mifepristone and misoprostol to terminate a pregnancy. A medical abortion does not require surgery or anesthesia. It can be started in a medical office or at home with follow-up visits to a health care provider. Medical abortions are approved for use early in pregnancy. They are safe with a low rate of complications. In 2021, 59% of abortions occurring in WA were medical abortions. Since their inception in 2000, less than 3% of medical procedures done in WA had complications. The figures below describe the increasing trend in medical abortions occurring in WA 2000-2021 and the overall rate of complications. The rate of complications has not changed over time.

WA Occurrence¹ Abortion Medical Procedures 2000-2021

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Occurrence Abortions	25,692	25,620	25,148	25,084	24,664	24,108	24,627	24,850	24,297	22,672	21,124	20,225	18,386	17,592	17,710	17,098	17,080	17,207	17,264	17,262	16,317	16,349
# Medical	636	1,309	2,183	2,985	3,364	3,969	3,360	3,284	4,269	4,716	4,766	5,147	4,749	5,127	5,523	5,640	6,232	7,182	8,031	8,405	8,998	9,646
% Medical	2.5%	5.1%	8.7%	11.9%	13.6%	16.5%	13.6%	13.2%	17.6%	20.8%	22.6%	25.4%	25.8%	29.1%	31.2%	33.0%	36.5%	41.7%	46.5%	48.7%	55.1%	59.0%

WA Occurrence¹ Abortions Medical Procedures 2000-2021



WA Occurrence¹ Abortion Complications for Medical Procedures, Overall 2000-2021

Years	Medical Procedure						Total
	Retained Products ²		Failed Abortion ³		Other Complication ⁴		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	
2000-2021	1,785	1.6%	785	0.7%	347	0.3%	109,549

¹ Occurred in WA State, does not include WA State residents having procedures out of state

² Placental and/or fetal tissue that remains in the uterus after an abortion

³ The fetus continues to survive or is not fully expelled

⁴ Includes cervical laceration, perforation, hemorrhage, and infection

Source: WA DOH Center for Health Statistics, 3/2023



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