

Table 3-2 • Legal abortions by weeks of gestation, 1975, 1985, 1995, and 2000¹

There were more than 350,000 fewer abortions in 2000 than in 1995, a drop of 29.2 percent. Most—58.1 percent—were performed before the ninth week of pregnancy; the overwhelming majority—94.3 percent—before the 16th week.

<i>Weeks of gestation¹</i>	<i>Percent distributions</i>			
	<i>1975</i>	<i>1985</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>2000</i>
8 weeks or less	44.6	50.3	54.0	58.1
9–10 weeks	28.4	26.6	23.1	19.8
11–12 weeks	14.9	12.5	10.9	10.2
13–15 weeks	5.0	5.9	6.3	6.2
16–20 weeks	6.1	3.9	4.3	4.3
21 weeks or more	1.0	0.8	1.4	1.4
Total percentage	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	854,853	1,328,570	1,210,883	857,475

¹ Week of gestation is calculated from the last menstrual period.

Source: Centers for Disease Control, *MMWR Abortion Surveillance — United States, 2000* 51, no. SS-12, November 28, 2003, Table 1.

Table prepared by the Women's Research and Education Institute (WREI), 2005.