

The State of Abortion in Connecticut 2023



***Connecticut Abortion
Numbers Increase
Slightly
- Reversing Declining
Trend***

***CT Taxpayers Paid Out
a Total of
\$9.1 Million for
Medicaid Funded
Abortions in 2021 and
2022***

***Did Out-of-State Women Come to Connecticut for
Abortions?***

***Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
Flush with Cash
- How We Stopped Abortion Tourism -***

Published by The Connecticut Catholic Conference

Special Note: The State Department of Public Health has delayed the production of their annual abortion numbers. Due to this change the latest abortion numbers available are for 2021.

These numbers are not reflective of the Dobbs Supreme Court decision which occurred in June 2022, which overturned Roe v Wade.

The abortion data in this report is based on the annual “Statistical Summary of Legal Induced Abortions” from the Connecticut Department of Public Health. All historical trends and comparisons are calculated by the Connecticut Catholic Conference.

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Executive Summary

The Connecticut Catholic Conference continues to monitor the issue of abortion in Connecticut with the publication of its fourteenth annual *The State of Abortion in Connecticut* report. Throughout the years, this report has provided a concise overview of abortion trends in the state. The Conference hopes the information presented in this report will be informative and shape the public debate on this issue within Connecticut.

Connecticut Abortion Trends:

- ◆ ***Connecticut has experienced a slight increase in the reported numbers of abortion (surgical and medical) performed over the last ten years (2012—2021).*** This increase follows a nine year decline in the number of abortions. The 2021 number is still significantly below the number of abortions in 2012. The reason for the 11.3% increase is not easily explainable.
- ◆ ***Abortion rates across all age groups have seen a slight increase since 2020.*** This figure adjusts for population changes over the years and is an even better indicator of abortion activity.
- ◆ ***How are abortions performed in Connecticut?*** Over the last ten years, the number of surgical abortions have significantly decreased when compared to the number of medical abortions. In 2021, medical abortions constituted 65% of all abortions performed. Medical abortions are non-surgical, drug-induced abortions, using the drug combination commonly referred to as RU486.
- ◆ ***Where are abortions performed in Connecticut?*** Most reported abortions are performed in abortion clinics, not in hospitals or doctors' offices. Currently, there are 15 abortion clinics in Connecticut. Five of these clinics provide surgical abortions. The remaining ten clinics provide medical abortions or refer patients to one of the five surgical clinics.

CT Taxpayers Pay Millions for Abortions Performed on Low-Income Women

Based on data provided by the Connecticut Department of Social Services, state taxpayers, paid \$9.1 million for 12,469 abortions during 2021 and 2022 under the HUSKY program. Federal Medicaid funds cannot be used for abortions, so Connecticut is one of 17 states (see Attachment B) that uses taxpayer money to pay for abortions for low-income residents. This practice raises a serious moral concern for those taxpayers who view abortion as the taking of a defenseless human life.

Read more on page 7

Just How Many Out-of-State Women Come to Connecticut for Abortions?

What is the reality? In July of 2023, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (Connecticut and Rhode Island) said they have seen a 56 percent increase in patients from abortion restrictive states. However this amounted to only 19 patients. This does not indicate a significant increase in women from out-of-state seeking abortions in Connecticut.

Read more on Page 8

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England is Rolling in Cash

The financial numbers revealed in this report show that despite the COVID pandemic and a reduction in the number of abortions in Connecticut, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) is in strong financial shape. In PPSNE's 2022 fiscal year, they had revenue of \$62 million and end the fiscal year with a cash balance of \$29 million.

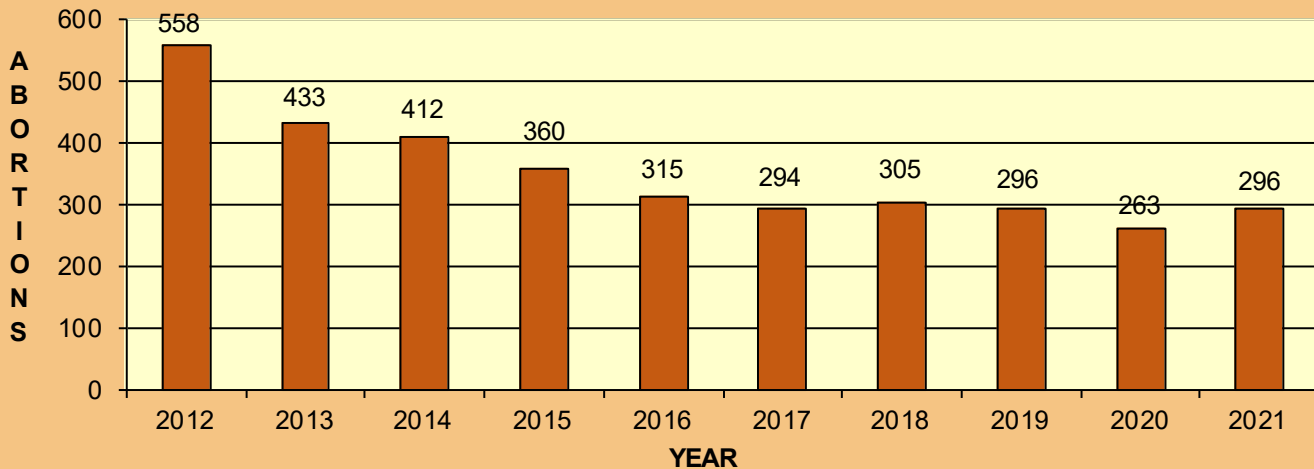
Abortion Trends - 2021

- ◆ **Although the number of abortions increased slightly in 2021, over the last ten years Connecticut has experienced a 15% decline in the number of reported abortions.** This trend is reflective of a national decline in the number of abortions. The total number of abortions for 2021 of 10,146 is still significantly below the high of 14,534 abortions in 2007.
- ◆ **The number of teen abortions in 2021 also increased slightly by 12.5%.** Abortions performed on girls younger than 18 years of age has declined by 47% since 2012.

Table 1
Abortions Performed In Connecticut
2012-2021



Table 2
Abortions Performed In Connecticut On Minors Under 18 Years Of Age
2012-2021



◆ **Abortion rates across all age groups experienced a slight increase in 2021. (Tables 3 and 4).** The abortion rates in Connecticut still fell from 17.4 abortions per thousand women of childbearing age in 2012 to 14.8 in 2021. This statistic takes into consideration yearly population changes in relation to the number of abortions reported.

Table 3
Abortions Performed In Connecticut
Abortions Per 1,000 Women of Childbearing Age (15 - 44 Years of Age)
2012-2021

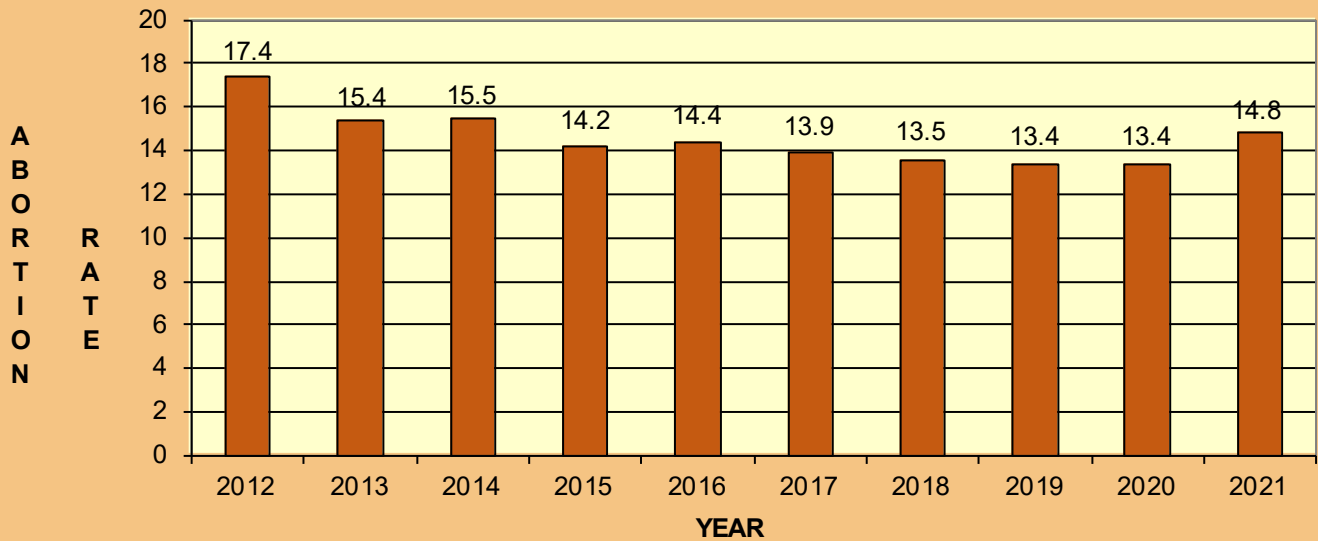
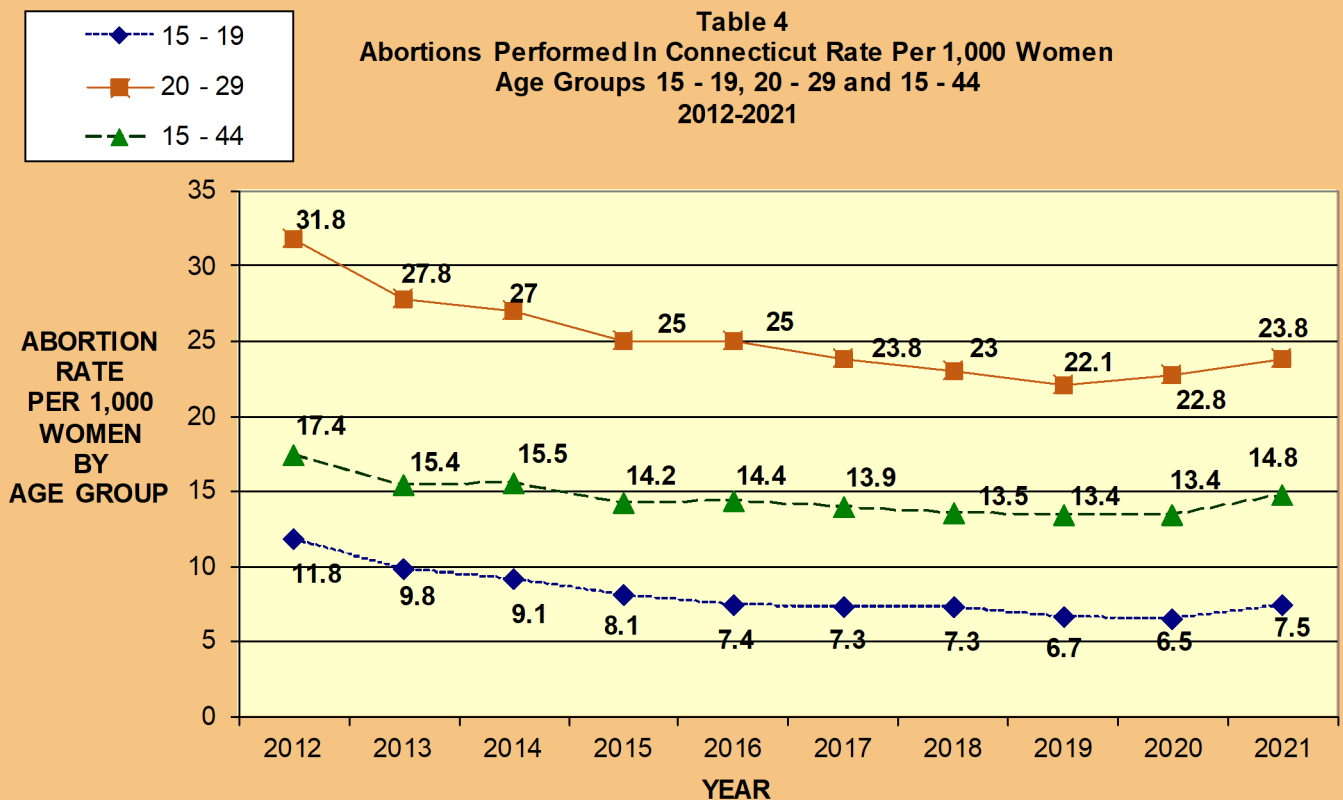
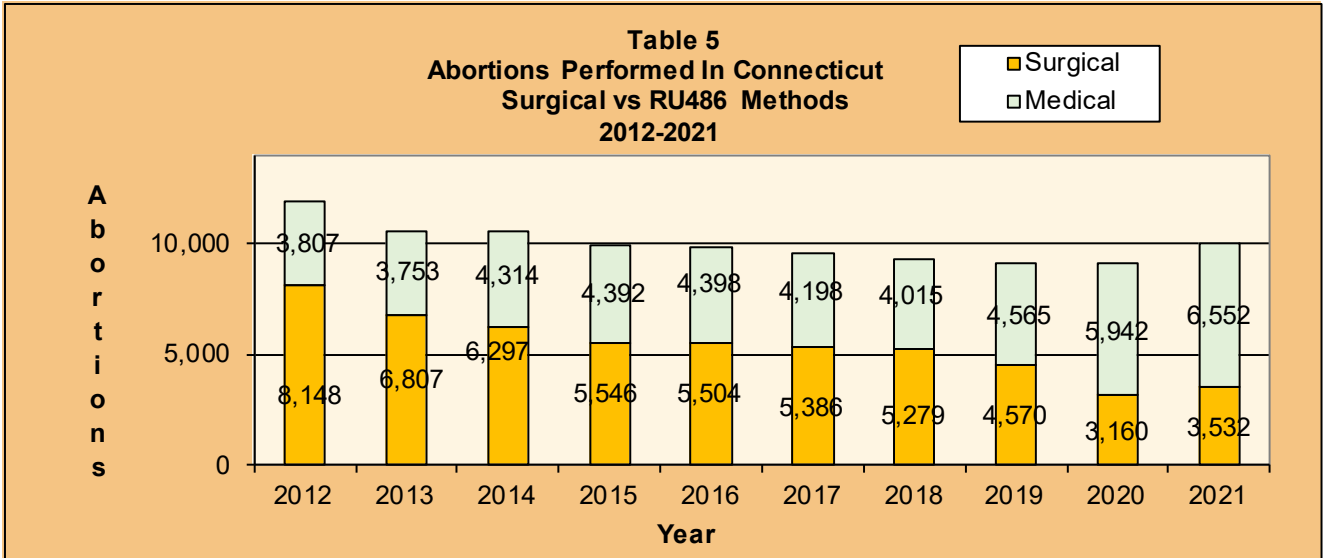


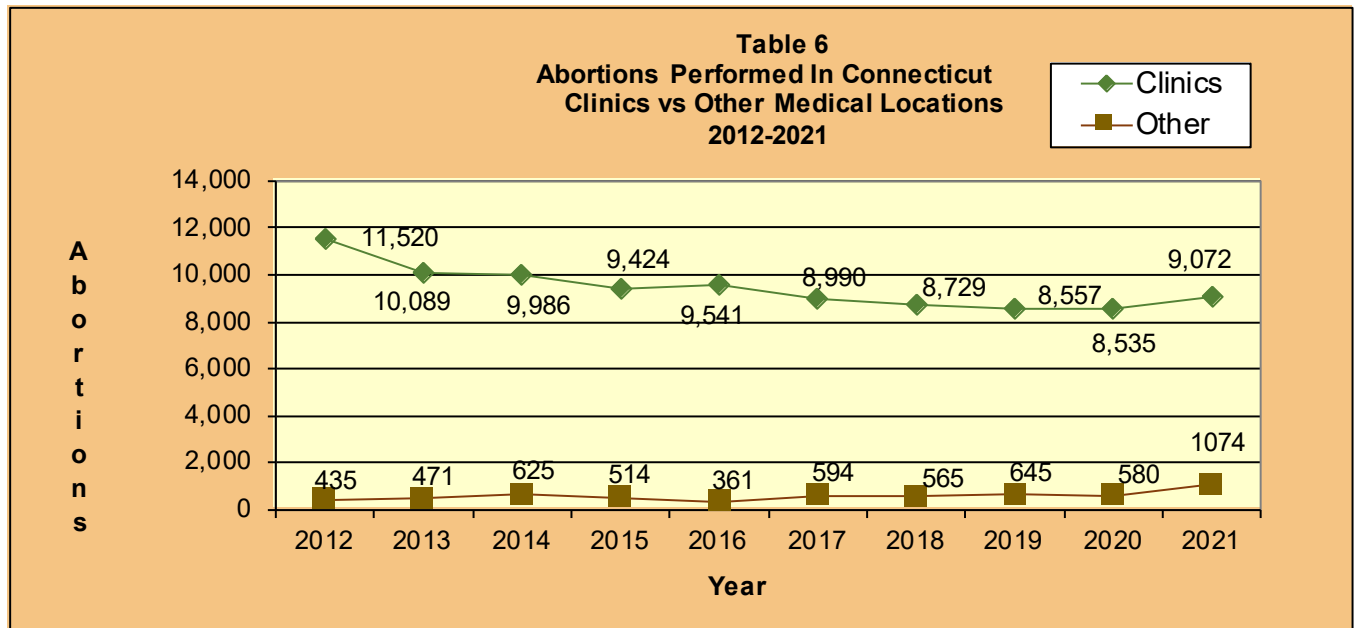
Table 4
Abortions Performed In Connecticut Rate Per 1,000 Women
Age Groups 15 - 19, 20 - 29 and 15 - 44
2012-2021



◆ **How are abortions performed in Connecticut?** Over the last ten years, the number of surgical abortions have significantly decreased when compared to the number of medical abortions (Table 5). In 2012, medical abortions accounted for 29% of all abortions performed. By 2021, medical abortions constituted 65% of all abortions performed. Medical abortions are non-surgical, drug-induced abortions, using the drug combination commonly referred to as RU486.



◆ **Where are abortions performed in Connecticut?** Most reported abortions are performed in abortion clinics, not in hospitals or doctors' offices (Table 6). Currently, there are 15 abortion clinics in Connecticut (see Attachment A); five of these clinics provide surgical abortions. The remaining ten clinics provide medical abortions or refer patients to one of the five surgical clinics. Planned Parenthood of Southern New England operates fourteen of the 15 clinics.



CT Taxpayers Paid \$9.1 Million for Abortions in Last Two Years!

State Pays for 60% of All Abortions in 2021

Are these low-income and vulnerable women being urged to obtain an abortion by the clinics?

Based on numbers provide by the Connecticut Department of Social Services, state taxpayers, paid \$9.1 million for 12,469 abortions during 2021 and 2022 under the state's Medicaid program, known as HUSKY. Federal Medicaid funds cannot, excepted in very limited situations, be used for abortions. Connecticut is one of 17 states (see Attachment A) that uses taxpayer money to pay for abortions for low -income residents.

State Taxpayers pay 100% of the cost of an abortion for a Medicaid (HUSKY) Patient in Connecticut.

- ◆ Based on a 1986 Superior Court ruling, the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) must pay for all abortion services under the various HUSKY Programs from state funds. The State Attorney General at the time, Richard Blumenthal, a long time abortion rights supporter, never challenged the ruling.
- ◆ The abortion provider is reimbursed 100% of the cost under Medicaid. This is far above the lower reimbursements rates for all other medical providers.

Targeting low-income women for financial gain? The vast number of abortions funded through state taxpayer dollars make it appear as if the abortion clinics in Connecticut, most of them operated by Planned Parenthood and located in urban areas, are targeting low-income women in urban areas. As the number of abortions drop nationally, and within Connecticut, these centers become more financially dependent on state taxpayer money and other federal grants.



The ethical question surrounding this issue is whether or not those state taxpayers who are strongly opposed to abortion, due to moral and ethical concerns, should be forced to pay for these elective procedures. Another concern is whether or not abortion clinics in Connecticut are providing a woman with a full list of options, when the clinics so desperately need the revenue from the abortion procedures to keep their doors open.

Why Does Connecticut Pay? In a 1986 court case, *Doe v Maher*, a Connecticut Superior Court ruled that the State had to cover abortion services, even if the federal government did not. This ruling meant that the taxpayers of Connecticut would have to pay 100% of the cost of the abortions. ***The ruling was not appealed to a higher court by Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, even though the decision would have a significant impact on public policy and the state taxpayers.***

In 1998, then Attorney General Blumenthal issued an opinion addressing the HUSKY B program. The Attorney General ruled that the *Doe v Maher* decision applied equally to the HUSKY B program which covers children. The issue was that teenage girls covered by HUSKY B may not be able to receive funding for an abortion.

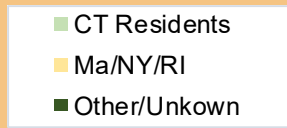
How Many Women are Coming to Connecticut for Abortions? Only the Abortion Providers Can Say, but be Wary of Their Answers.

Even before the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the historic *Roe v. Wade* abortion ruling in June of 2022, abortion providers in Connecticut were busy working with General Assembly and Governor Ned Lamont to make sure Connecticut would be one of the most abortion friendly states in the nation. Legislation was passed broadening the type of providers that could perform early abortions and protecting abortion providers from legal actions originating in other states.

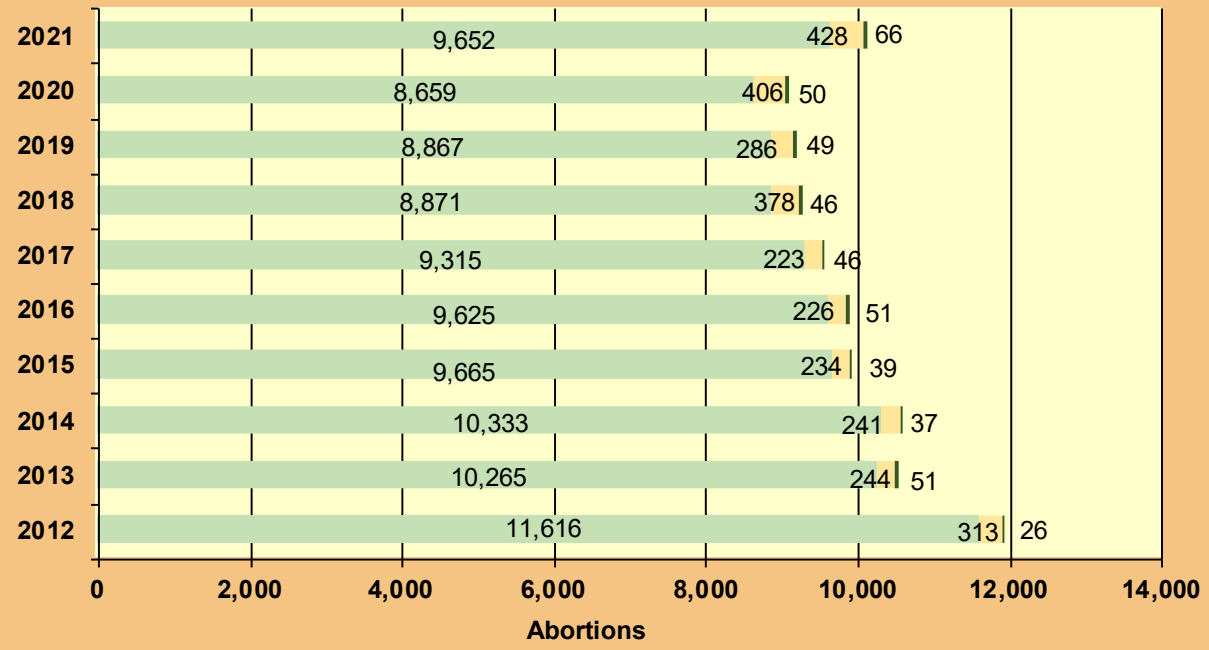
The need for these pieces of legislation was to financially capitalize on women seeking abortions from other states. In the 2023 legislative session, abortion advocates even sought \$2 million dollars in taxpayer money to help these women get to Connecticut. A form of abortion tourism. The Conference helped defeat this funding request.

What is the reality? At this point in time, the reality is whatever the abortion providers say it is. The reason for this is that only they have the information. In July of 2023, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (Connecticut and Rhode Island) said they have seen a “56 percent increase” in patients from abortion restrictive states, the actual total was 19 patients.* The Conference has been unable to obtain any current information to analyze and verify these numbers.

Women from out-of-state have sought abortions in Connecticut for many years (Table 7). Many have come from Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island, which also do not restrict abortions. A much smaller number are from other states. Over the last ten years, only an average of 46 women per year came from states that *may* have had abortion restrictions.



**Table 7
Abortions Performed On Connecticut
Residents vs Out-Of-State Women
2012-2021**



* “Abortion Advocates: CT is Becoming a Destination for Reproductive Care”, July 2023, www.sfgate.com/politics/article/abortion-advocates-ct-becoming-abortion-18207412.php

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England Flush with Cash

The financial numbers below show that despite the COVID pandemic and a reduction in the number of abortions in Connecticut, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) is in strong financial shape.

During the 2023 legislative session, PPSNE supported legislation to provide \$2 million of taxpayer money to help women from states that have abortion restrictions to obtain an abortion in Connecticut. These funds would have covered transportation and hotel accommodation expenses. The numbers below show that as a non-profit PPSNE could have easily covered these expenses for their clients without any state aid.

It should be noted that Planned Parenthood, nationally and within Connecticut, has begun to supplement their income by providing puberty blockers and hormone medications to individuals suffering from gender dysphoria. The skill and knowledge of their medical staff to diagnosis and treat gender dysphoria is highly questionable.



Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) operates 14 abortion clinics in Connecticut and one in Rhode Island. Not all of these clinics provide surgical abortions. The Hartford GYN Clinic in Bloomfield is the only independent abortion clinic left in Connecticut.

PPSNE receives revenue from multiple sources. Based on its most currently available public IRS 990 filing for its fiscal year ending June 2022, PPSNE took in \$62 million in revenue. Over the last two fiscal years, PPSNE had a total operating surplus of \$23.5 million. They also reported having \$19.9 million in publicly traded securities, which earned them \$1.3 million in investment income. PPSNE ended their 2022 fiscal year with a cash balance of \$29 million. These numbers and others show a very financially strong organization in Connecticut. It does not appear that PPSNE really needs increased assistance from the State of Connecticut to meet the needs of their clients or assisting women from other states to come to Connecticut for an abortion.

See next page for detailed financial information.

PPSNE's sources of Income:

State Budget:

- ◆ **State taxpayer funding**
- ◆ **Federal funds that are received by the state and then passed through to PPSNE. This funding is comprised primarily of Title V and Title XX funds.**

Direct Federal Funds:

Title X funds. These funds specifically support family planning and reproductive health care programs.

Other Sources of Income:

Insurance Payments:

- ◆ **The Medicaid Husky Program**
- ◆ **Insurance plans held by clients.**

◆ **Self-pay**

Donations

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
Flush with Cash
- Comparison of 2018 to 2022 -

The Connecticut Catholic Conference last reported on the finances of PPSNE in its 2019 report, which covered PPSNE’s 2018 fiscal year. Below is a chart comparing the fiscal years of 2018 to 2022. These numbers come from PPSNE IRS 990 forms. Financially, PPSNE has grown stronger, even though they are always looking for increased public funding.

Please note that despite having a very strong financial base and receiving emergency COVID funding from the state and federal governments the two centers PPSNE closed in July of 2020 (Danielson, Old Saybrook) remain closed. Abortion advocates constantly say Connecticut has several abortion service “deserts”, especially in the northeast corner of the state. However, it is clear Planned Parenthood’s goal is to make taxpayers, even those morally opposed, to continue paying for the taking of innocent human life.



<u>Category</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2022</u>
Total Revenue	\$38,875,273	\$62,159,072
Operating Surplus	\$3,808,351	\$23,296,878
Securities Investments	\$12,713,015	\$19,972,860
Investment Income	\$408,305	\$1,318,141
Government Grants (State and Federal) Excludes Medicaid Payments	\$5,412,841	\$8,694,335
Endowment Funds	\$12,813,015	\$23,670,987

Attachment A
States Covering Abortion
As of August 2023

The following 17 states cover abortion costs in low-income medical insurance programs.

**Funds All or Most Medically Necessary Abortions,
Exceeding Federal Requirements
(CO indicates by Court Order)**

Alaska (CO)
California (CO)
Connecticut (CO)
Hawaii
Illinois
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts (CO)
Minnesota (CO)
Montana (CO)
New Jersey (CO)
New Mexico (CO)
New York
Oregon
Rhode Island
Vermont (CO)
Washington

Source: <https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/state-funding-abortion-under-medicaid>



***Representing the Archdiocese of Hartford, Diocese of Bridgeport, Diocese of
Norwich and Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Stamford***

The statistical information presented in this report has been compiled by the Connecticut Catholic Conference using data obtained solely from various reports of the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) Department of Social Services (DSS).

Christopher Healy, Executive Director