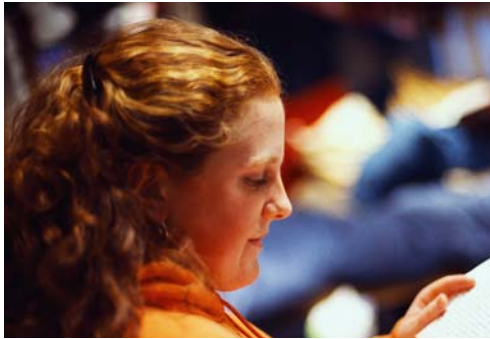


West Virginia Women's Right to Know Act



Annual Report 2009



*Women's Right to Know Act
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*Joe Manchin III, Governor
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Women's Right to Know Act Annual Report 2009

In accordance with West Virginia Code §16-2I-1, et seq., known as the Women's Right to Know Act (WRTK), the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) offers the following report.

The statute, enacted in 2002, requires informed consent for an abortion to be performed and requires certain information to be supplied to women considering abortion. The WRTK law establishes a minimum waiting period after women have been given the information. The law specifies exception for medical emergencies and requires physicians to report abortion statistics. Further, the WRTK law requires DHHR to publish printed information and develop a website on alternatives to abortion. The legislation protects privacy in court proceedings, exempts certain information from disclosure, and establishes administrative remedies, civil remedies, and penalties. The website is accessible at <http://www.wvdhhr.org/wrtk>.

Abortion procedures are reported to DHHR, Bureau for Public Health, Health Statistics Center using Report of Induced Termination of Pregnancy (ITOP) forms. These forms were revised in 2003 and 2007 to enable provider certification that patient counseling and guidance was conducted in accordance with the law for all non-emergency abortion procedures.

In CY2009, there were 1,771 abortion procedures reported to the Health Statistics Center. Most procedures reported (99.6 percent) were non-emergency procedures. In addition, 99.8 percent of ITOP forms submitted in 2009 contained certification of patient counseling and informational guidance.

The attached spreadsheet provides statistics for CY2003 through CY2009.