

FREE STATE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
TOP REPORT
APRIL – JUNE
2006



Department of Health
Departement van Gesondheid
Lefapha La Bophelo Bo Botle
FREE STATE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

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AUGUST 2006

FREE STATE v/s OTHER PROVINCES

QUARTERLY REPORT ON

TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY

APRIL-JUNE 2006

Contents:

■ Introduction	1
■ Purpose	2
■ Pregnancy termination status, April to June 2006	2
■ Termination of pregnancy by province	2
■ Termination of pregnancy by gestational age of foetus	3
■ Termination of pregnancy by maternal age	5
■ Summary of Free State TOP`s	5
■ Analysis per CTOP in the Free State	6
■ Quarterly Analysis per CTOP sites in the Free State	11
■ Limitations to data	12
■ Summary	13
■ Acknowledgements	14
■ References	15

Introduction

Each year, throughout the world, approximately 210 million women become pregnant, as many as 80 million of these pregnancies are unwanted and unplanned. Estimates indicate that of these unwanted pregnancies, 46 million are voluntarily terminated each year – 27million legally and 19 million outside the legal system¹. Figure 1.1 shows estimated annual unsafe pregnancy termination rates per thousand women aged 15-49 by United Nations sub regions.

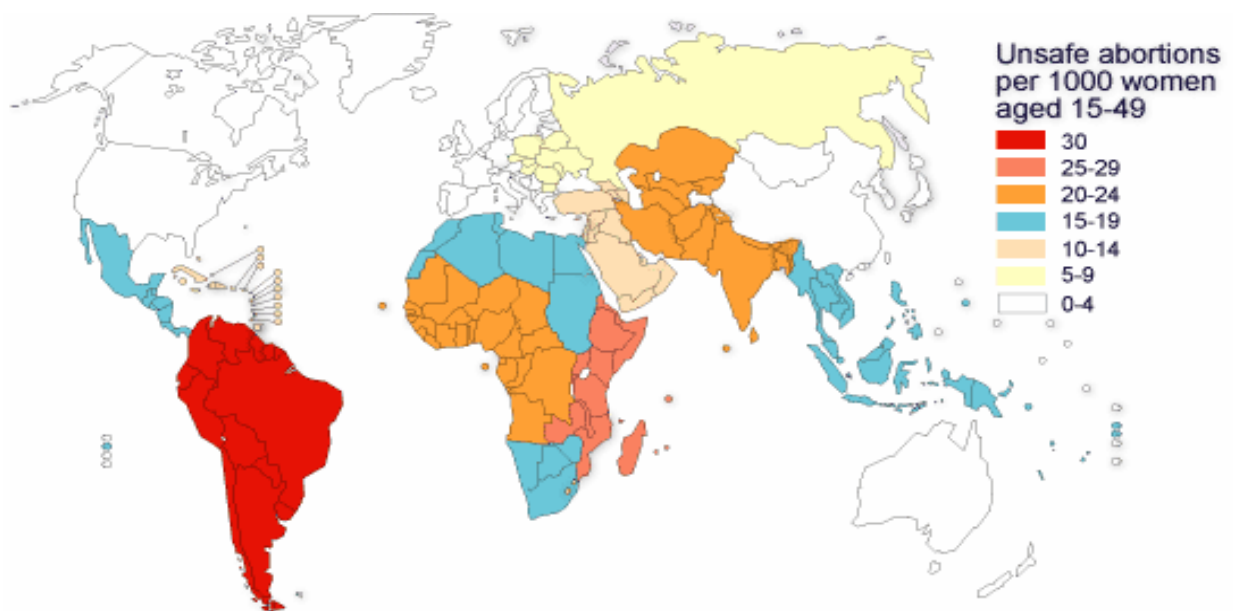
Pregnancy termination is defined by the World Health Organization as the termination of pregnancy from whatever cause before the foetus is capable of extrauterine life. "Spontaneous pregnancy termination" refers to those terminated pregnancies that occur without deliberate measures, whereas "induced pregnancy termination" refers to termination of pregnancy through a deliberate intervention intended to end the pregnancy².

The Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act (Act No. 92 of 1996) of South Africa was implemented from February 1997. Information from records prior to the passing of the CTOP Act indicates that between 800 and 1000 legal pregnancy terminations were performed per year nationwide, as compared to 6000 to 120 000 illegal pregnancy terminations performed³. In another research study done in 1994 that looked at the epidemiology of incomplete pregnancy terminations, it was estimated that of the 44 868 women admitted to South Africa's public hospitals each year with incomplete pregnancy terminations, at least one third had medical complications that indicated their pregnancy terminations were induced using unsafe procedures⁴. Data from the Department of Health indicate that since the implementation of the CTOP Act, more women have accessed legal TOP's at private and public health facilities, a cumulative total of 522852.

The liberal pregnancy termination law of the country, however, does not guarantee that all women can obtain safe terminations. Too many women still

undergo dangerous abortions performed by illegal, unqualified providers. Unsafe pregnancy terminations are still among the avoidable factors associated with maternal deaths in this country⁵. Despite the magnitude of the problem, data on this important reproductive health indicator is scarce because it still remains a very sensitive and a very private topic (Source: Epidemiology and Surveillance NDoH September 2006)

Figure 1.1: Estimated annual pregnancy termination rate per 1000 women aged 15-49, by United Nations sub-regions in 2000



Source: World Health Organization, 2000 (copied on the 26 October 2006)

Purpose

This report focuses on induced legal pregnancy terminations that occurred from April to June 2006 that were reported to the National Department of Health, by the 9 (nine) including Free State (Source: Epidemiology and Surveillance Directorate NDoH) September 2006.

1.2 Pregnancy termination status, April to June 2006

1.2.1 Termination of pregnancy by province


During the period April to June 2006 a total of 13678 pregnancy terminations were reported, down from the 21666 reported during the previous quarter Jan-Mar 2006 reported from the whole country (**2064 reported from the Free State province**) Table 1.1 shows the number of pregnancy terminations reported per province. It is important to note that at the time of the publication of this report, data from a number of provinces had still not been received, therefore drawing conclusions from the data would give an inaccurate picture of pregnancy terminations in the country *if data from the other 5 (five) provinces is not included.*

Table 1.1: Pregnancy terminations per province, Apr to Jun, 2006

Province	Month			Total
	Apr	May	Jun	
GP	2722	2848	2124	7694
MP				
FS	609	676	779	2064
KZN	733	865	1053	2651
NC	108	112	94	314
LP	434			434
WC	684	138		822
EC				
NW	319			319
Total	5608	4307	3763	13678

GP: Gauteng, MP: Mpumalanga, FS: Free State, KZN: KwaZulu-Natal, NC: Northern Cape, LP: Limpopo, WC: Western Cape, EC: Eastern Cape, NW: North West

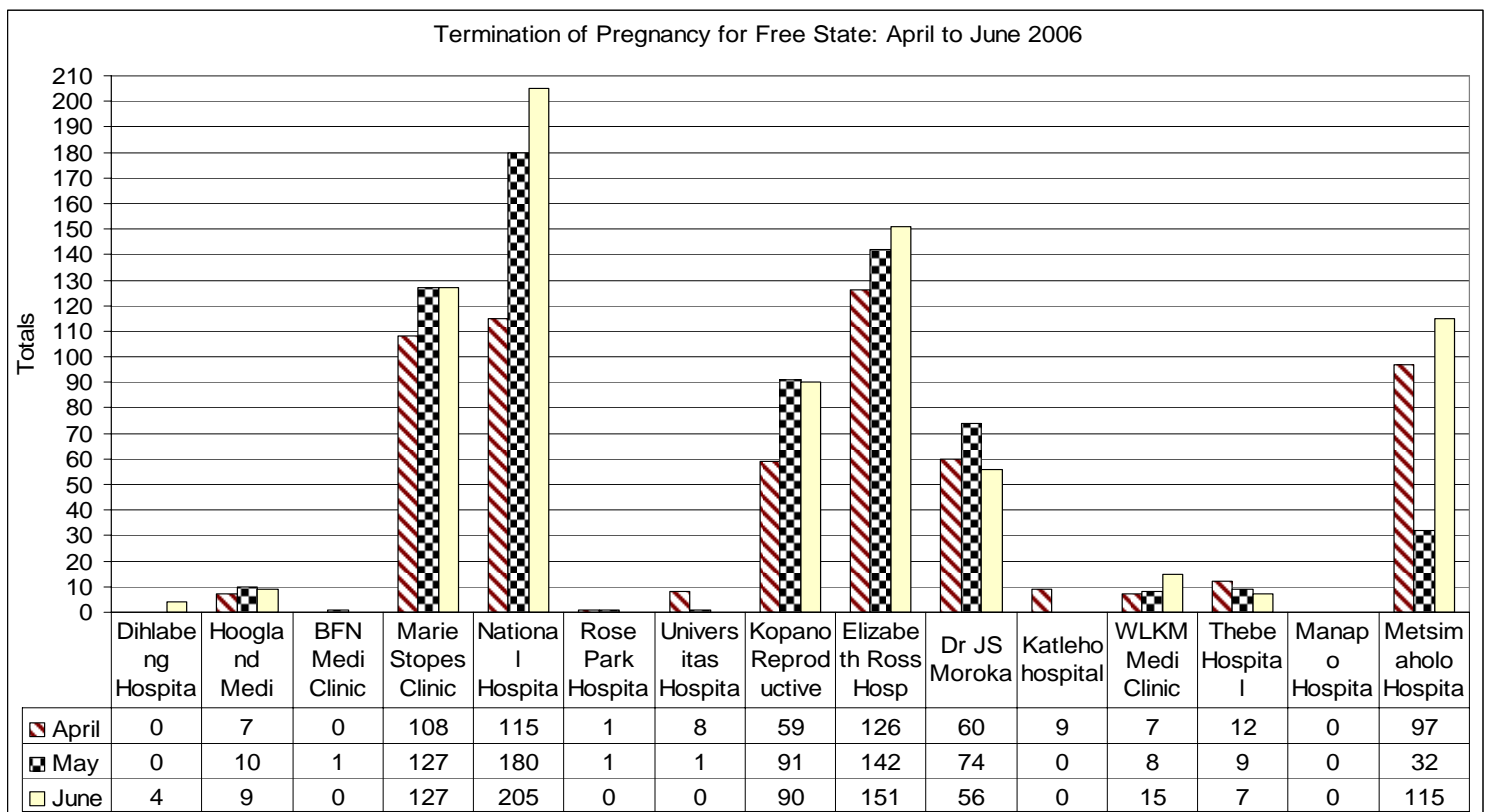
Source: Epidemiology and Surveillance Directorate NDoH September 2006

 : No data received

1.2. SUMMARY OF FREE STATE TOP (Over three months)

Months	Age < 18	Age > 18	Termination Of Pregnancy <13 Weeks	Termination Of Pregnancy >13 Weeks	African	Indian/Asian	Coloured	White	Total
April	50	559	341	268	566	1	19	23	609
May	50	626	393	283	636	1	15	24	676
June	29	750	467	312	739	1	14	25	779
Total	129	1935	1201	863	1941	3	48	72	2064
	2064		2064		2064				2064

1.3. ANALYSIS PER CTOP IN THE FREE STATE (Centre for Termination of Pregnancy).



Source: TOP Data Free State DoH

1.4. Quarterly analysis per CTOP sites in the Free State.

Province: Free State
Termination Of Pregnancies Statistics 2006
April - June

Dihlabeng Hospital (Bethlehem)	Months	Age < 18	Age > 18	Termination Of Pregnancy <13 Weeks	Termination Of Pregnancy >13 Weeks	African	Indian/ Asian	Colourd	White	Total
	April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
June	0	4	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	4
	0	4	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	
Total		4		4		4				4

Bethlehem Hoogland Medi Clinic	Months	Age < 18	Age > 18	Termination Of Pregnancy <13 Weeks	Termination Of Pregnancy >13 Weeks	African	Indian/ Asian	Colourd	White	Total
	April	0	7	5	2	2	0	3	2	7
May	0	10	7	3	5	0	0	5	10	
June	0	9	7	2	6	0	1	2	9	
	0	26	19	7	13	0	4	9		
Total		26		26		26				26

Bloemfontein Medi-Clinic	Months	Age < 18	Age > 18	Termination Of Pregnancy <13 Weeks	Termination Of Pregnancy >13 Weeks	African	Indian/ Asian	Colourd	White	Total
	April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	
June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Total		1		1		1				1

**Bloemfontein
Marie Stopes
Clinic**

Months	Age < 18	Age > 18	Termination Of Pregnancy <13 Weeks	Termination Of Pregnancy >13 Weeks	African	Indian/Asian	Colourd	White	Total
April	4	104	80	28	84	1	11	12	108
May	5	122	104	23	97	1	13	16	127
June	4	123	104	23	102	1	8	16	127
Total	13	349	288	74	283	3	32	44	362
	362		362		362				

**National
District
Hospital**

Months	Age < 18	Age > 18	Termination Of Pregnancy <13 Weeks	Termination Of Pregnancy >13 Weeks	African	Indian/Asian	Colourd	White	Total
April	16	99	26	89	112	0	2	1	115
May	11	169	30	150	176	0	2	2	180
June	9	196	55	150	203	0	2	0	205
Total	36	464	111	389	491	0	6	3	500
	500		500		500				

**Rosepark
Private
Hospital**

Months	Age < 18	Age > 18	Termination Of Pregnancy <13 Weeks	Termination Of Pregnancy >13 Weeks	African	Indian/Asian	Colourd	White	Total
April	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
May	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	2
	2		2		2				

**Universitas
Hospital**

Months	Age < 18	Age > 18	Termination Of Pregnancy <13 Weeks	Termination Of Pregnancy >13 Weeks	African	Indian/Asian	Colourd	White	Total
April	1	7	1	7	6	0	1	1	8
May	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	8	1	8	7	0	1	1	9
	9		9		9				

**Kopano
Reproductive
Health**

Months	Age < 18	Age > 18	Termination Of Pregnancy <13 Weeks	Termination Of Pregnancy >13 Weeks	African	Indian/ Asian	Colourd	White	Total
April	2	57	56	3	59	0	0	0	59
May	5	86	87	4	91	0	0	0	91
June	3	87	73	17	90	0	0	0	90
Total	10	230	216	24	240	0	0	0	240
	240		240		240				

**Elizabeth
Ross Hospital**

Months	Age < 18	Age > 18	Termination Of Pregnancy <13 Weeks	Termination Of Pregnancy >13 Weeks	African	Indian/ Asian	Colourd	White	Total
April	13	113	87	39	126	0	0	0	126
May	23	119	108	34	142	0	0	0	142
June	8	143	102	49	151	0	0	0	151
Total	44	375	297	122	419	0	0	0	419
	419		419		419				

**Dr. J.S.
Moroka
Hospital**

Months	Age < 18	Age > 18	Termination Of Pregnancy <13 Weeks	Termination Of Pregnancy >13 Weeks	African	Indian/ Asian	Colourd	White	Total
April	2	58	15	45	60	0	0	0	60
May	3	71	18	56	74	0	0	0	74
June	3	53	23	33	56	0	0	0	56
Total	8	182	56	134	190	0	0	0	190
	190		190		190				

**Katleho
Hospital**

Months	Age < 18	Age > 18	Termination Of Pregnancy <13 Weeks	Termination Of Pregnancy >13 Weeks	African	Indian/ Asian	Colourd	White	Total
April	0	9	9	0	9	0	0	0	9
May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	9	9	0	9	0	0	0	9
	9		9		9				

Welkom Medi-Clinic	Months	Age < 18	Age > 18	Termination Of Pregnancy <13 Weeks	Termination Of Pregnancy >13 Weeks	African	Indian/Asian	Colourd	White	Total
	April	0	7	0	7	1	0	1	5	7
May	0	8	7	1	7	0	0	1	8	
June	0	15	13	2	7	0	1	7	15	
Total	0	30	20	10	15	0	2	13	30	
	30		30		30					

Thebe Hospital Harrismith	Months	Age < 18	Age > 18	Termination Of Pregnancy <13 Weeks	Termination Of Pregnancy >13 Weeks	African	Indian/Asian	Colourd	White	Total
	April	1	11	6	6	11	0	0	1	12
May	2	7	6	3	9	0	0	0	9	
June	0	7	5	2	7	0	0	0	7	
Total	3	25	17	11	27	0	0	1	28	
	28		28		28					

Mofumahadi Manapo Mopedi	Months	Age < 18	Age > 18	Termination Of Pregnancy <13 Weeks	Termination Of Pregnancy >13 Weeks	African	Indian/Asian	Colourd	White	Total
	April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0		0		0					

Metsimaholo Hospital Sasolburg	Months	Age < 18yrs	Age > 18yrs	Termination Of Pregnancy <13 Weeks	Termination Of Pregnancy >13 Weeks	African	Indian/Asian	Colourd	White	Total
	April	11	86	56	41	95	0	1	1	97
May	1	31	25	7	32	0	0	0	32	
June	2	113	85	30	113	0	2	0	115	
Total	14	230	166	78	240	0	3	1	244	
	244		244		244					

Sources: TOP data Free State DoH.

1.3.1. Terminations of pregnancy by gestational age of foetus.

The Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act (Act No. 92 of 1996) of South Africa permits termination of pregnancy (TOP) upon the request of a woman up to 12 weeks gestation, under certain defined circumstances from the 13th to the 20th week of gestation, and in very limited circumstances after the 20th week of pregnancy and this depends on the clinicians` discretion to terminate the pregnancy. Table 1.3.2. shows the number of TOP's by gestational age for the period April to June 2006. Of the 13678 pregnancy terminations that were reported during this period, approximately 67% were done in the first trimester, while 17.4% were performed in the second trimester. The gestation period of a considerable number of pregnancy terminations v.i.z. 15.6% was not specified.

Table 1.3.2: Pregnancy Terminations By Gestation Age, South Africa, Apr to Jun 2006

Gestational age	Month			Total
	Apr	May	Jun	
<12 weeks	3690	2969	2490	9149
13 to 20 weeks	837	720	826	2383
Unspecified	1081	618	447	2146
Total	5608	4307	3763	13678

Source: Top data Free State Province and Stats from Epidemiology and Surveillance Directorate (NDoH)

1.3.4 Termination of pregnancy by maternal age

Table 1.3 shows the number of pregnancy terminations by age of the mother. Approximately 9% of the women who required pregnancy terminations were under the age of 18 years, while 90.09% were older than 18 years, the age of 0.01% of the women was not specified.

Table 1.3 Pregnancy Terminations By Maternal Age, South Africa, Apr- Jun 2006

Maternal age	Month			Total
	Apr	May	Jun	
<18 years	597	346	290	1233
>18 years	5010	3961	3472	12443
Unspecified	1	0	1	2
Total	5608	4307	3763	13678

Source: Epidemiology and Surveillance Directorate(NDoH)


1.3 Limitations of data

Data used for this analysis is mainly based on the monthly summaries received by NDoH from provinces and not on the raw data (which contains information obtained from individual pregnancy termination reporting forms even the TOP data used by data analysis unit Free State for the purpose of this report. It is therefore not possible to do a comprehensive analysis of the status of TOP between the provinces and in the country. Lastly, not all terminations were reported timeously to be included in this report. Table 1.4 illustrates the poor reporting trend of pregnancy terminations data from some provinces. The cut-of date for data submission to the National Department of Health, Epidemiology and Surveillance Directorate is every six weeks **and Free State has always submitted their report** in time. This is to allow for data validation, analysis and the production of reports at provincial and National level.

Table 1.4: Submission of pregnancy terminations data by provinces, January – June 2006

Province	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
GP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MP						
FS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
KZN*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NC*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LP	✓	✓	✓	✓		
WC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
EC	✓		✓			
NW*	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Source: NDOH, Epidemiology and Surveillance Directorate

 Shaded blocks indicate no data received

✓: Data has been received and entered into the national database.

*: Raw data received by NDoH Free State included.

1.4 Summary

Although very little may be determined from this data, an analysis of the data suggests the following:

- A total of 13678 TOP's were reported to the National Department of Health (*2064 reported from the Free State province which makes it to be the third highest province in the country*). This figure is lower than the figure reported during the previous quarter when 21666 TOP's were reported. This is mainly due to the fact that many of the provinces had not submitted their TOP data at the time this report was compiled and the data is thus incomplete.
 - The majority of pregnancy terminations occurred in the first trimester.
 - The majority of women who required pregnancy termination were older than 18 years.

- ***Gauteng reported the highest number of terminations, followed by KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State is the third highest.***
- Late reporting of termination of pregnancy data still remains a big challenge; provinces still do not submit data within the time limits specified by the National Department of Health but those provinces that submit their data analysis of the trend can be done on the data that is available.

1.5 Acknowledgements

We would like to thank those institutions that provided us with the data to compile quarterly report both in the private and the public sector. Special thanks to the Team in the Data Analysis Unit for making Free State to be one of the Provinces that complies in submitting data in time at National department of Health.

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