

Abortion Statistics for Wirral: 5-year review, 2012-2016

Wirral Intelligence Service

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For further information please contact:

Wirral Intelligence Service

Email: wirralintelligenceservice@wirral.gov.uk

Version Number	Date	Authors
1.0	June 2017	Hannah Cotgrave - Wirral Intelligence Service

Content overview

Abstract	Summary of abortion statistics in Wirral, with national and regional comparisons, between 2012 and 2016.
Intended or potential audience	External <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group• Wirral Community Trust Internal <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DMT• Wider Public Health team
Links with other topic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sexual Health• Risk & Resilience• Children & Young People

Table of Contents

Section	Page
Introduction	3
Legal Abortion Rates	3
Repeat Abortions	4
Abortion Method	5
Gestation Period	6
Funding	7
References	8

List of Figures

No.	Description	Page
1	Rate of legal abortions by age group and all age (15-44 years), Wirral, 2012 to 2016	3
2	Rate of legal abortions by age group, Wirral, regional comparators and England, 2015 and 2016	4
3	Rate (%) of repeat abortions (aged 15-44), Wirral, regional comparators and England, 2012-16	4
4	Rate (%) of repeat abortions (in under 25s) Wirral, regional comparators and England, 2012-16	5
5	Proportion of abortions, by method, Wirral, 2012 to 2016	5
6	Proportion of abortions, by method, Wirral, regional comparators and England, 2016	6
7	Proportion of abortions, by gestation period, Wirral, 2012 to 2016	6
8	Proportion of abortions, by gestation period, Wirral, regional comparators and England, 2016	7
9	Proportion of abortions, by purchaser, Wirral, regional comparators and England, 2016	7

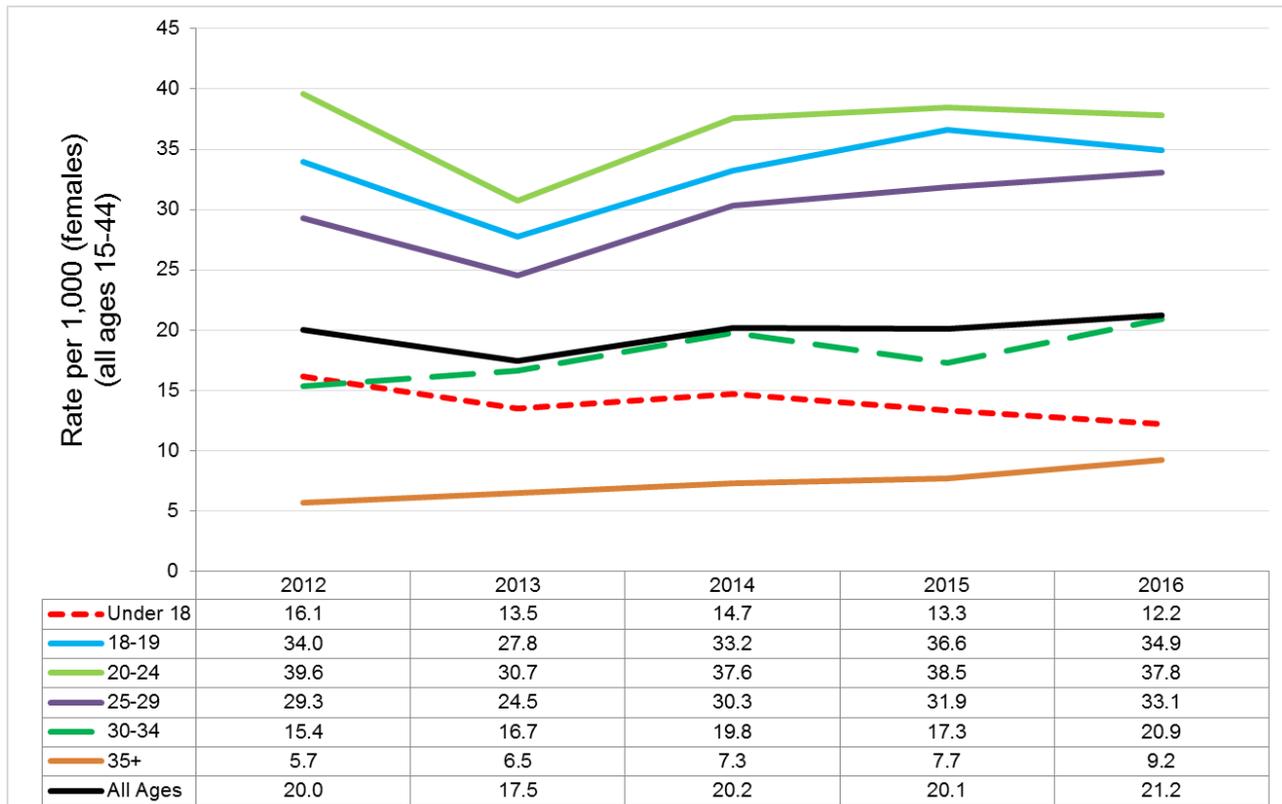
Introduction

This report presents statistics on abortion published by the Department of Health for the period 2012 to 2016, for Wirral. The report also compares current Wirral data (2016) with regional localities (Cheshire, Warrington & Wirral, and Merseyside) and England.

Legal Abortion Rates

The total number of abortions in Wirral in 2016 was 1,187, compared to 1,145 in 2015.

Figure 1: Rate of legal abortions by age group and all age (15-44 years), Wirral, 2012 to 2016



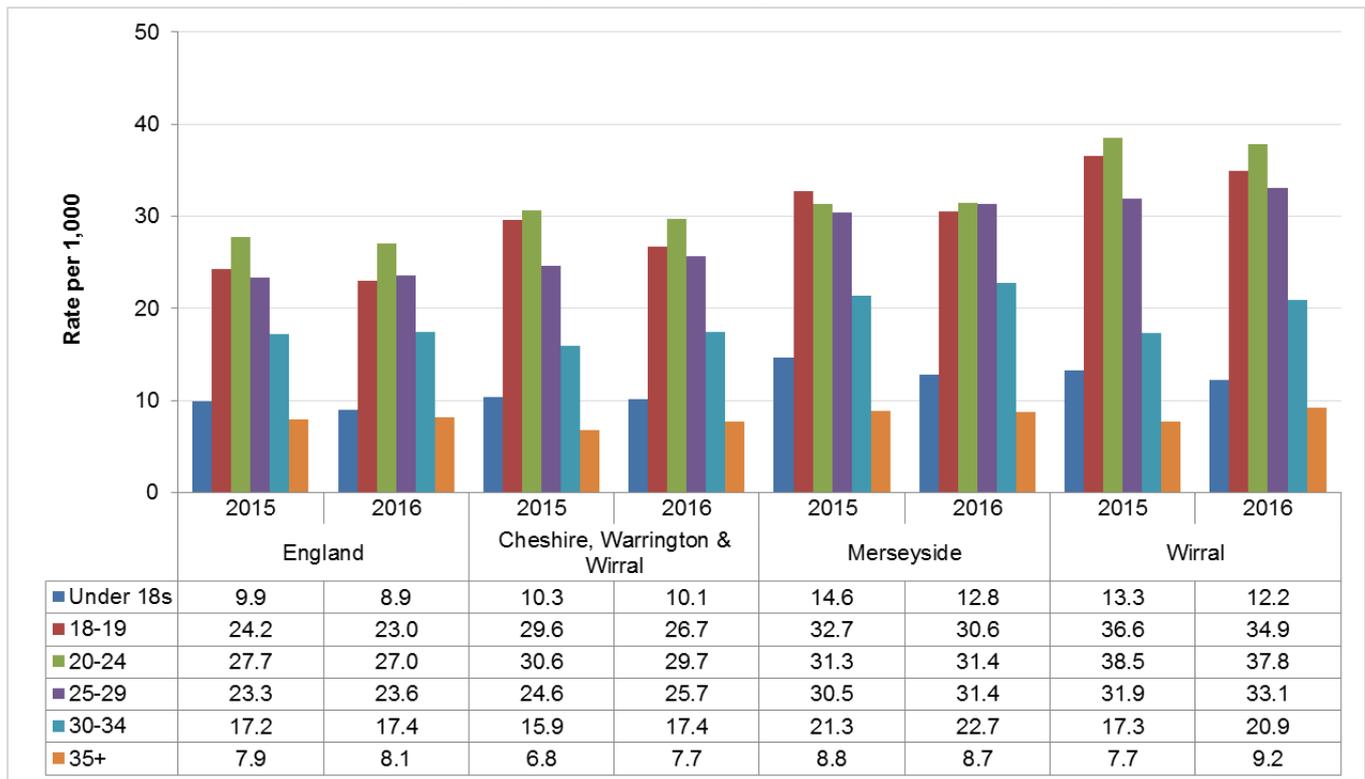
Note: Individual age group rates are calculated as a crude rate per 1,000 females in the age bracket using ONS mid-2015 population estimates. The all age rate is an age-standardised rate per 1,000 females ages 15-44, using the European Standard Population 2013

As Figure 1 shows, the age group with the highest rate of legal abortions during 2012-16 is those aged 20-24 years; 39.6 in 2012, decreasing to slightly to 37.8 in 2016. The age group with the lowest abortion rate over the same duration is those aged 35+ (5.7 in 2012, increasing to 9.2 in 2016). All age groups (excluding under 18s and 35+) show slight decreases in 2013 before increasing again from 2014. The rate for those aged 35+ has increased annually from 5.7 (2012) to 9.2 (2016). Comparatively, in those age Under 18, the abortion rate has decreased from 16.1 (2012) to 12.2 (2016).

Comparing 2015 and 2016 data for Wirral with regional and national areas (Figure 2), it is apparent that Wirral's trend in rates for Under 18s is consistent with other areas; England saw a decrease between 2015 and 2016 (9.9 to 8.9 per 1,000 respectively), Cheshire, Warrington & Wirral saw a decrease from 10.3 to 10.1 per 1,000 and Merseyside from 14.6 to 12.8 per 1,000.

All age groups under 25 saw a decrease in the abortion rate in Wirral, compared to increase in those aged 25 years and over. These patterns are also discernible in Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral, Merseyside and England.

Figure 2: Rate of legal abortions by age group, Wirral, regional comparators and England, 2015 and 2016



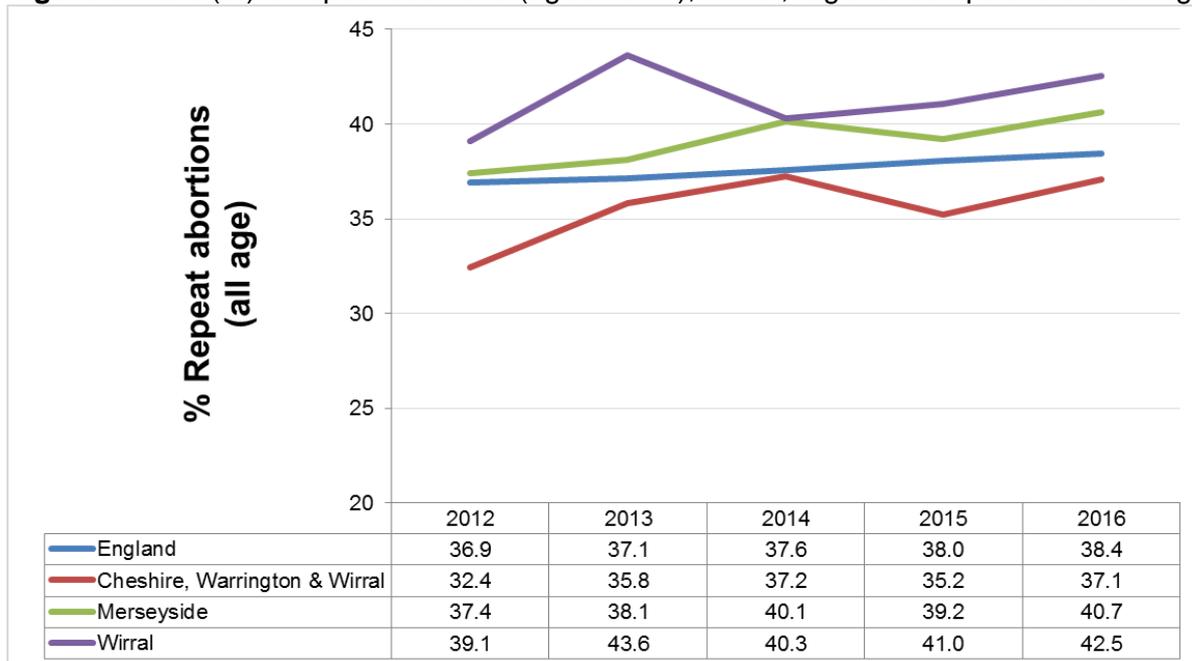
Note: Individual age group rates are calculated as a crude rate per 1,000 females in the age bracket using ONS mid-2015 population estimates.

Repeat Abortions

Repeat abortions: All ages

The below chart shows the percentage of abortions that were to women aged 15-44 years, who had had one or more previous abortions.

Figure 3: Rate (%) of repeat abortions (aged 15-44), Wirral, regional comparators and England, 2012-16



As Figure 3 shows, Wirral has consistently had a higher repeat abortion rate than Cheshire, Warrington & Wirral, Merseyside and England.

Repeat Abortions: Under 25 years

The below chart shows the percentage of abortions that were to women aged under 25 years, who had had one or more previous abortions.

Figure 4: Rate (%) of repeat abortions (in under 25s) Wirral, regional comparators and England, 2012-16



Figure 4 shows that the rate of repeat abortions in those aged under 25 years fluctuates substantially for smaller areas. However, despite this, Wirral's repeat abortion rate for this age group has been consistently higher than Cheshire, Warrington & Wirral, Merseyside and England; in 2013, Wirral was 8.2% higher than England and 5.3% higher than both regional comparators.

Abortion Method

There are two different methods of abortion, medical and surgical, depending on the gestation period and other circumstances relating to an individual.

Figure 5: Proportion of abortions, by method, Wirral, 2012 to 2016

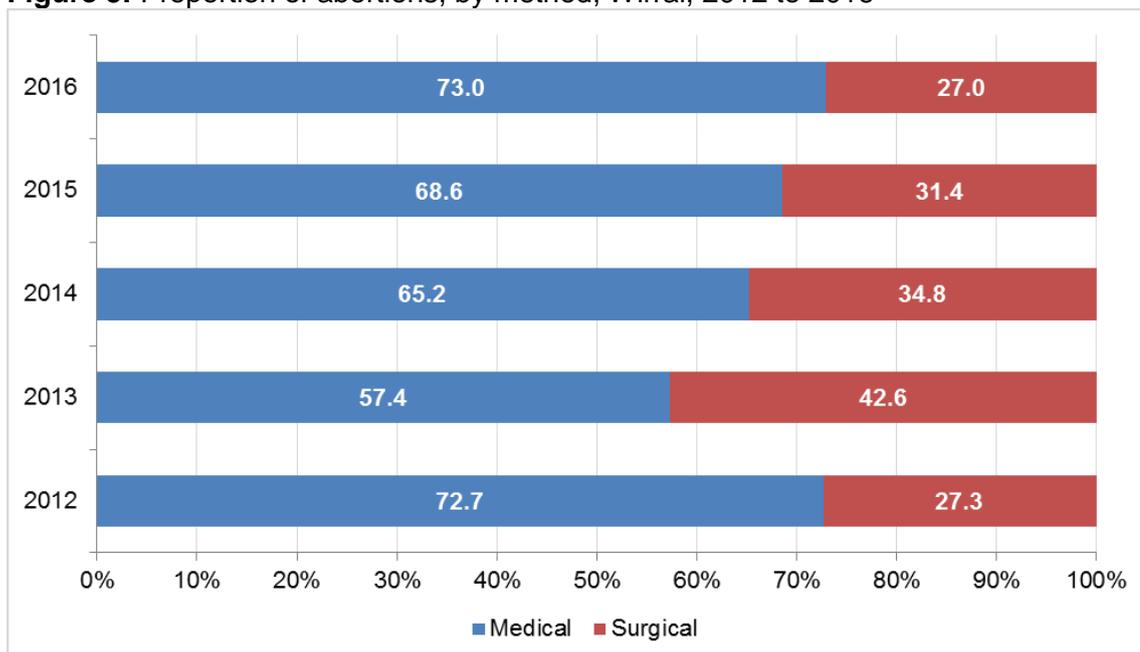
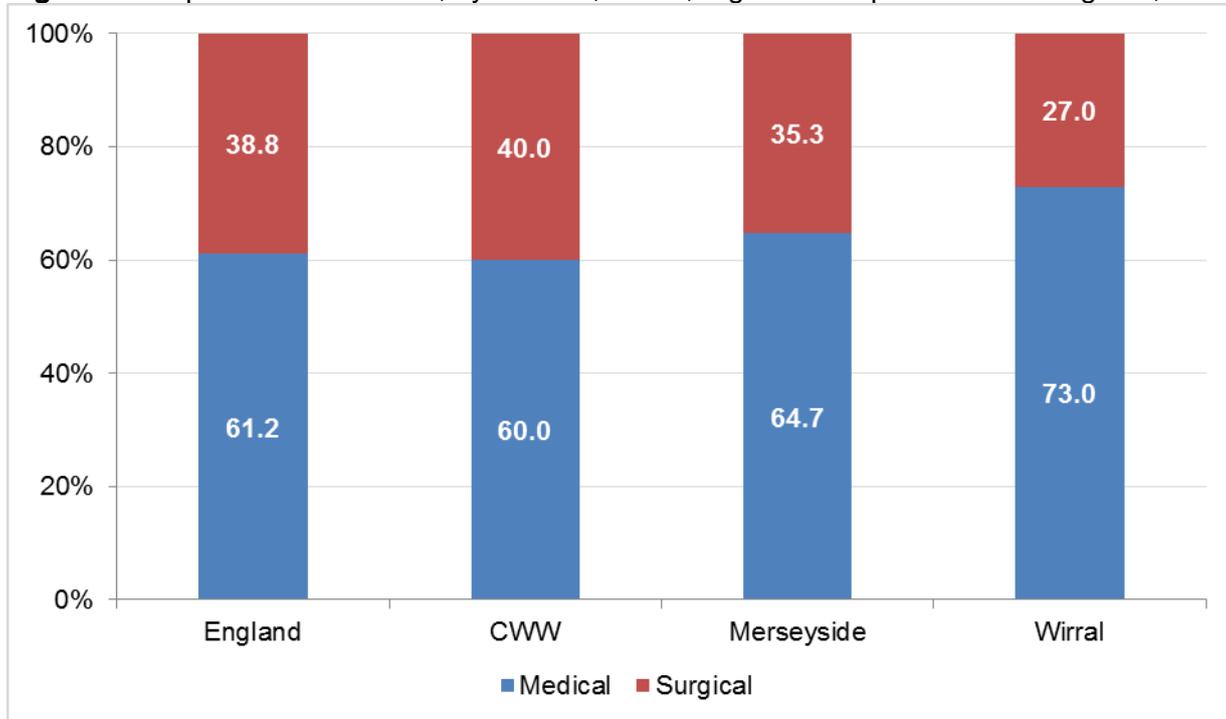


Figure 5 shows that the proportion of medical abortions decreased between 2012 (72.7%) and 2013 (57.4%) before increasing annually to 2016 (73.0%).

The proportion of medical abortions in Wirral is substantially higher than those seen in regional comparators and England, as shows in Figure 6.

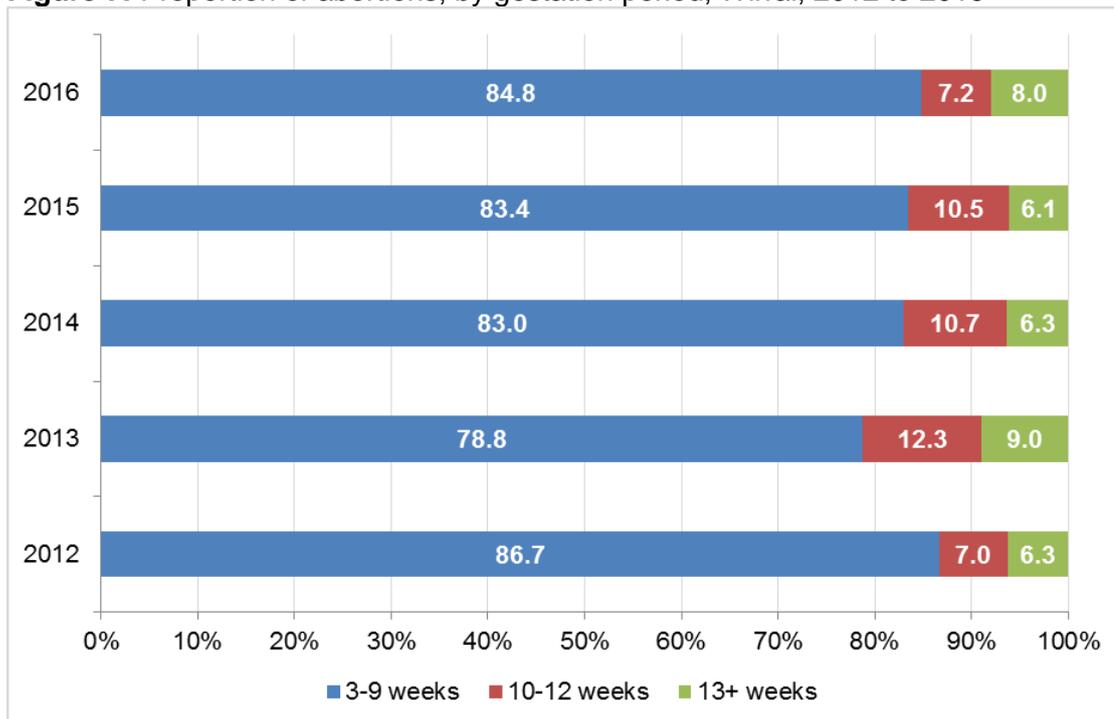
Figure 6: Proportion of abortions, by method, Wirral, regional comparators and England, 2016



Gestation Period

Nationally there has been an increase in abortions being performed under 10 weeks; 81% in 2016 compared to 68% in 2006.

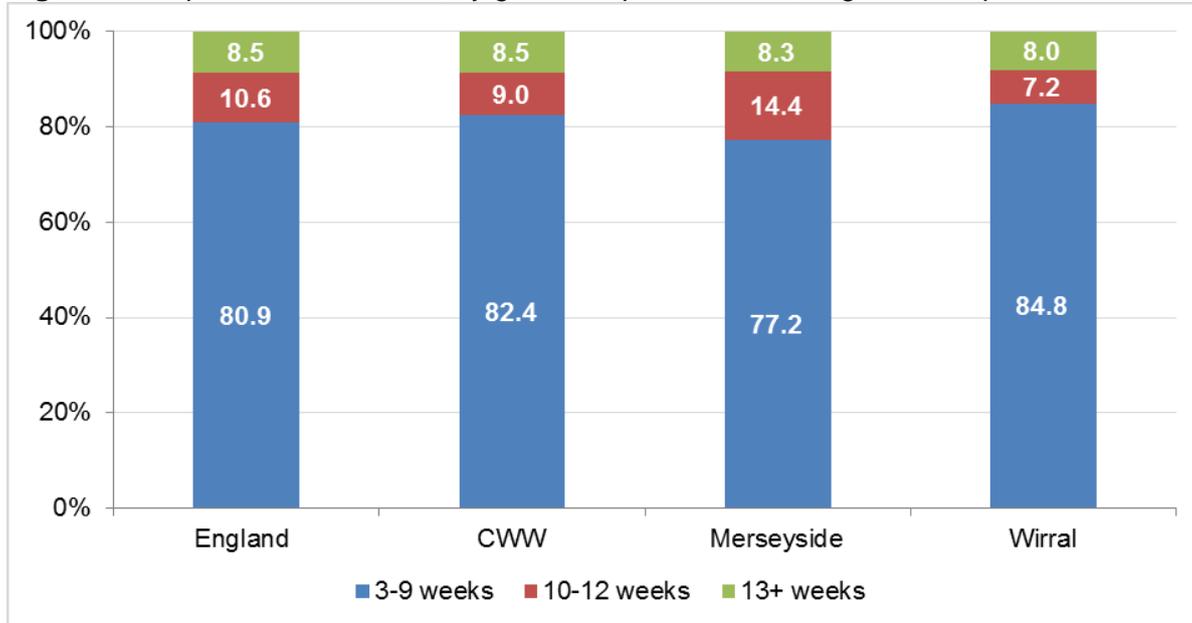
Figure 7: Proportion of abortions, by gestation period, Wirral, 2012 to 2016



This is also apparent in rates for Wirral; despite a decrease between 2012 (86.7%) and 2013 (82.4%), abortions performed under 10 weeks has increased to 84.8% in 2016 (see Figure 7). The proportion of abortions performed between 10-12 weeks has seen the greatest decrease; 12.3% in 2013 compared to 7.2% in 2016.

As Figure 8 shows, the proportion of abortions performed under 10 weeks is higher than that seen in local regions and nationally.

Figure 8: Proportion of abortions, by gestation period, Wirral, regional comparators and England, 2016

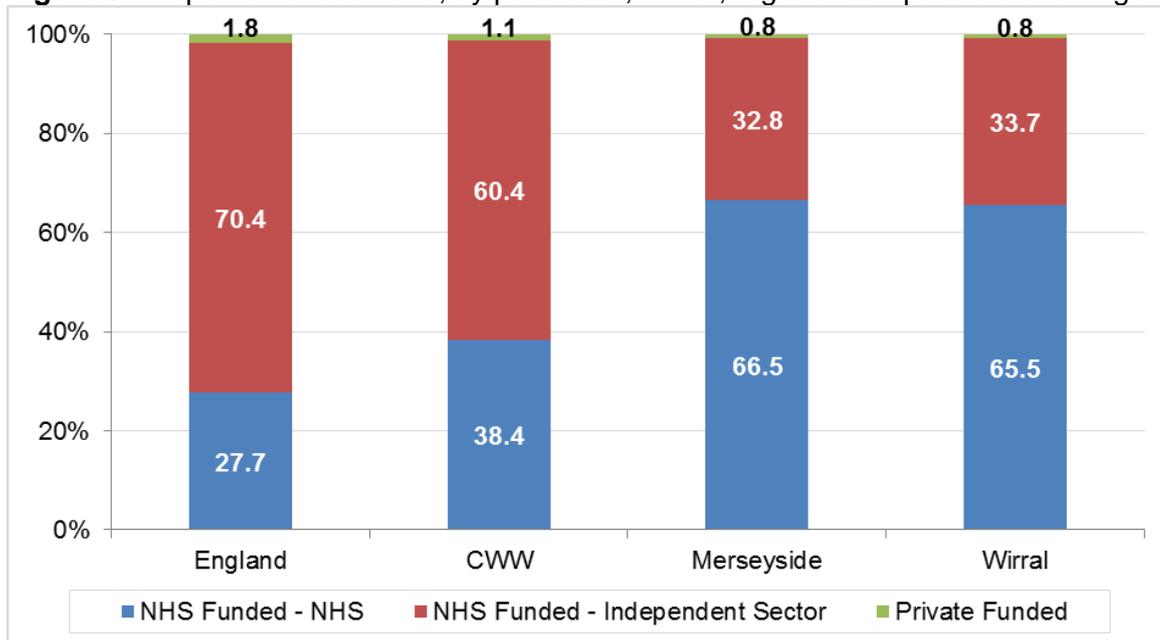


Funding

All abortions must take place within NHS hospitals or approved independent sector clinics; at 24 weeks gestation, abortions must take place within an NHS hospital.

In Wirral in 2016, 99.2% of abortions were funded by the NHS; 65.5% being performed in an NHS hospital and 33.7% in the independent sector. As Figure 9 shows, the proportion of abortions being performed in an NHS hospital is significantly greater than nationally; 65.5% compared to 27.7%.

Figure 9: Proportion of abortions, by purchaser, Wirral, regional comparators and England, 2016



References

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