

How pregnancies end.



There are approximately 85,000 pregnancies in Ireland each year.

- approximately three-quarters or 65,500 result in live births
- 260 die just before or during birth
- 13,270 end in miscarriage
- approximately 980 are diagnosed as ectopic and ended in Irish hospitals
- 25 are considered a direct threat to the pregnant woman's life and are ended in Irish hospitals
- approximately 5,000 are estimated to end in abortion abroad or by way of imported pills

How does abortion happen?

An abortion is the medical process of ending a pregnancy that does not result in the birth of a baby. The pregnancy is ended either by taking medication or having a minor surgical procedure.

Medical abortion (the 'abortion pill') – the pregnant woman takes two medications, usually 24 to 48 hours apart, to induce a miscarriage.

Surgical abortion – the pregnant woman has a minor procedure to remove the pregnancy in a hospital and normally goes home soon afterwards.

What is 'late term' abortion?

Where a wanted pregnancy turns into a crisis pregnancy at a later stage in pregnancy, access to abortion would be restricted to circumstances where it is considered medically necessary to protect the mental and physical health of the woman.

