A descriptive study was conducted on the factors related to induced abortions among women of reproductive age at Can Giuoc District, Long An Province, Vietnam, during March 2001. Two hundred women who just had an abortion were purposively interviewed with the aim to identify the socio-demographic factors which affect their abortions, family planning factors and the rights of women in decision making concerning abortion. The research instrument was a questionnaire and the data was analyzed using SPSS: descriptive statistic and chi-square.

On average, each woman had 1.46 abortions. The majority of the women belonged to the low educational level, were married, had a low or average income, and were farmers. The tendency to repeat abortions was seen among women who were in the older age group, married, and who had low education and more living children. More than half of the women were currently using family planning methods. Economic difficulties and having enough children were the major causes of abortions. Most people learned contraceptive methods from village health staff. Lack of knowledge and fear of side effects were the main causes for not using contraception. Almost half of the women sought abortion services at 6-8 weeks of pregnancy. Complications occurred in only 9% of the abortions, and the main complication was excessive bleeding. Complications occurred in women who were in the older age group, who were at an older gestational age, who had more children and who had multiple pregnancies. More than half of the abortions were decided by the women themselves. Only 27 percent of the women went to the abortion services with their husbands.

Following the results of this research, it is recommended that family planning programs be improved to encourage people to apply contraceptive methods in order to avoid abortion.