

# Statistics - Abortion in Canada

Updated April 5, 2017

The following data were compiled from Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) annual statistics. See [Notes](#) for links to each year's stats, including footnotes that explain and qualify the data.

In 2007, CIHI took over the collection and compilation of abortion statistics from Statistics Canada (StatsCan). For stats prior to 2007, see [Links to Sources](#).

Hospital reporting of abortion numbers is mandatory, but clinic reporting is not. However, all clinics do report for most years as far as we know (despite some CIHI footnotes to the contrary). Known exceptions are noted with stars in the first table.



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## Abortion Rates

| Description                   | 2007          | 2008          | 2009          | 2010          | 2011                                  | 2012                                  | 2013                       | 2014                       | 2015           |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>98,762</b> | <b>95,876</b> | <b>93,755</b> | <b>90,747</b> | <del>92,524</del><br><b>108,844**</b> | <del>83,708</del><br><b>100,958**</b> | 82,869<br><b>102,446**</b> | 81,897<br><b>100,194**</b> | <b>100,104</b> |
| Hospital abortions            | 47,281        | 44,375        | 41,640        | 38,611        | 37,150                                | 36,002                                | 35,003                     | 33,931                     | 23,561         |
| Clinic abortions              | 51,481        | 51,501        | 52,115        | 52,136        | <del>53,374</del><br>69,694**         | 47,706<br>64,946**                    | 47,866<br>66,623**         | 47,966<br>66,263**         | 76,543         |
|                               |               |               |               |               |                                       |                                       |                            |                            |                |
| <b>By Province/Territory:</b> |               |               |               |               |                                       |                                       |                            |                            |                |
| Newfoundland/Labrador         | 850           | 904           | 956           | 1,068         | 1,026                                 | 1,054                                 | 223 *                      | 1,051                      | 1,019          |
| Prince Edward Island          | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0                                     | 0                                     | 0                          | 0                          | 0              |
| Nova Scotia                   | 2,119         | 2,126         | 2,119         | 2,125         | 2,157                                 | 2,119                                 | 2,077                      | 2,061                      | 1,924          |
| New Brunswick                 | 1,082         | 1,096         | 1,104         | 1,098         | 1,056                                 | 1,058                                 | 1,036                      | 528*                       | 676*           |
| Quebec                        | 27,697        | 27,295        | 27,139        | 26,106        | 26,245                                | 25,400                                | 25,253                     | 25,083                     | 24,193         |
| Ontario **                    | 32,331        | 32,150        | 30,268        | 28,765        | <del>28,114</del><br>44,434**         | <del>27,386</del><br>44,636**         | 25,108<br>43,865**         | 23,746<br>42,043**         | 39,679**       |
| Manitoba                      | 3,978         | 4,025         | 4,247         | 4,150         | 3,998                                 | 3,988                                 | 3,873                      | 4,015                      | 3,759          |
| Saskatchewan                  | 1,806         | 1,889         | 2,019         | 1,915         | 1,928                                 | 2,015                                 | 1,921                      | 1,960                      | 1,855          |
| Alberta                       | 12,590        | 13,062        | 13,150        | 13,084        | 13,372                                | 13,287                                | 13,376                     | 13,815                     | 13,358         |
| British Columbia              | 15,770        | 12,914*       | 12,461*       | 12,149*       | 14,341                                | 7,128 *                               | 9,574 *                    | 9,196*                     | 13,166         |
| Yukon                         | 116           | 139           | 128           | 147           | 155                                   | 145                                   | 121                        | 102                        | 116            |
| Northwest Territories         | 328           | 171           | 57            | 40            | 45                                    | 35                                    | 211                        | 255                        | 266            |
| Nunavut                       | 95            | 105           | 107           | 100           | 87                                    | 93                                    | 96                         | 85                         | 93             |

\* **2015/2014:** Fredericton NB clinic did not report. **2014:** At least one BC clinic did not report. **2013:** At least one BC clinic did not report. Newfoundland clinic did not report. **2012:** At least two BC clinics did not report. **2008-10:** One BC clinic did not report.

\*\* Ontario started reporting unfunded clinic abortions for 2015, and new totals also became available for 2011 to 2014. Strikeouts in the table were the previously reported numbers. The apparent increase represents a change in reporting, not an actual increase. See page 5 for explanation on unreported Ontario abortions.

## Gestational Age and Complication Rates (hospitals only and excluding Quebec)

| Description  | 2007   | 2008   | 2009   | 2010   | 2011   | 2012   | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>Gestational age: (Hospitals only, and excluding Quebec)</b> See <a href="#">Links to Sources</a> for some data prior to 2007. |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 8 weeks or less  | 9,976  | 9,338  | 8,366  | 8,300  | 7,974  | 7,563  | 7,390  | 7,214  | 7,330  |
| 9 – 12 weeks   | 13,399 | 12,685 | 11,860 | 11,191 | 10,799 | 10,798 | 10,186 | 9,652  | 8,701  |
| 13- 16 weeks   | 2,442  | 2,062  | 1,957  | 1,794  | 1,853  | 1,767  | 1,740  | 1,705  | 1,585  |
| 17 – 20 weeks  | 1,023  | 1,019  | 951    | 846    | 823    | 839    | 822    | 853    | 836    |
| 21+ weeks  | 549    | 558    | 552    | 537    | 549    | 563    | 564    | 605    | 587    |
| Unknown  | 5,641  | 5,533  | 5,128  | 4,908  | 4,577  | 4,542  | 4,741  | 4,710  | 4,522  |
| Total  | 33,030 | 31,195 | 28,814 | 27,576 | 26,575 | 26,072 | 25,443 | 24,739 | 23,561 |
| <b>Complication rate: (Hospitals only, and excluding Quebec)</b>   |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| None   | 32,136 | 30,473 | 28,161 | 26,927 | 25,980 | 25,462 | 24,878 | 24,175 | 23,060 |
| Hemorrhage   | 343    | 261    | 227    | 231    | 221    | 264    | 231    | 236    | 174    |
| Infection  | 130    | 115    | 101    | 107    | 109    | 72     | 76     | 64     | 70     |
| Retained products of conception  | 124    | 121    | 101    | 89     | 97     | 109    | 102    | 108    | 112    |
| Combination  | 82     | 85     | 91     | 82     | 69     | 61     | 73     | 67     | 60     |
| Other  | 215    | 140    | 133    | 140    | 99     | 104    | 83     | 89     | 85     |
| Total  | 33,030 | 31,195 | 28,814 | 27,576 | 26,575 | 26,072 | 25,443 | 24,739 | 23,561 |

## Abortion rates after 20 weeks, and total estimated abortions including unreported ones

Abortion clinics that are not affiliated with a hospital do not perform abortions past 20 weeks (often stated as 22 weeks from last menstrual period, “LMP”). About one-quarter of reporting hospitals don’t report details on gestational ages, presumably all in Quebec, but we can assume that the proportion of 21+ week abortions are similar for that one-quarter. Therefore, taking into account the total estimated numbers of abortions for 2015: **100,612\***– the estimated percentage of abortions at 21+ weeks is **0.59** percent.\*\*

\* Adding in estimated missing 2015 numbers from New Brunswick: **508**, based on adding the difference from 2013 numbers.

\*\* Our estimated number of abortions for 2014 was 104,158, representing an apparent decrease for 2015.

## Abortion rates by 12 weeks

Only hospitals report abortion numbers by gestational limits. The 2015 CIHI data show that 12.7% of hospital abortions are done after 12 weeks. For clinics however, some do not go past 16 weeks, while less than a third go as far as 20 or 22 weeks (see <http://www.arcc-cdac.ca/list-abortion-clinics-canada.pdf>). Our estimated calculation for 2015 is as follows:

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>3,008</b>  | Number of hospital abortions after 12 weeks (12.7%)   |
| <b>574</b>    | Estimate of number of hospital abortions after 12 weeks in CIHI’s “Unknown” category (using 12.7% estimate)                                   |
| <b>6,819</b>  | Number of clinic abortions after 12 weeks, based on a <b>liberal</b> estimate that 10% of all clinic abortions (68,193) occur after 12 weeks. |
| <b>10,401</b> | Total estimated abortions done after 12 weeks.  |

Therefore, based on the total number of 100,104 reported abortions, an estimated **90.6%** are done by 12 weeks.

## Abortion rate per 1000 women of childbearing age (15-44)

CIHI does not publish the abortion rate per 1000 women of childbearing age, even though this is a standard measurement used throughout the world. We have calculated it as follows:

**7,131,726:** Canada’s population of women in the age group 15-44, from CANSIM, 2016:  
<http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=0510001&p2=17>

**14 / 1000** Abortion rate per 1000 women aged 15-44, based on official CIHI data for 2015: **100,104**

## Unreported abortions in Ontario

- CIHI has finally started reporting the unreported abortions from Ontario, going back to 2011. See Note and Table below.
- **Previous data:** In 2010 in Ontario, 18,402 abortions were done by non-funded clinics and doctor’s offices and not reported to CIHI (as FOI’d by an [anti-choice activist](#)). In 2014, there were 21,725 unreported abortions in Ontario ([anti-choice source](#)). This ongoing phenomenon began in the 1990s, but these abortions had never been counted by StatsCan or CIHI until now. They are all (or virtually all) first trimester abortions. Some other provinces also have small numbers (not statistically significant) of unreported abortions occurring in doctors’ offices. These abortions are billed by the individual doctors to provincial Medicare, so provincial records exist for them but they are not shared with CIHI.
- **Why did Ontario have so many unreported abortions?** The large majority of unreported abortions occur in Ontario because the NDP Bob Rae government only funded the five Toronto clinics that existed around 1990, as well as the Ottawa Morgentaler Clinic. They were funded as “Independent Health Facilities,” a Liberal program that was completed by Rae’s NDP government. Since then, several more abortion clinics have opened, but as they fell outside the IHF program, they weren’t funded. These non-funded clinics include the Brampton Women’s Clinic, Mississauga Women’s Clinic, and Women’s Care Clinic in Toronto. However, patients pay only the costs that are apart from the doctor’s fee, which is paid by OHIP.
- But the Ontario clinics **should be fully funded** by the Ontario Ministry of Health. The 1995 clarification to the *Canada Health Act* by Health Canada (<http://www.arcc-cdac.ca/backgrounders/HC-letter-Jan1995.pdf>) instructed all provincial/territorial Health Ministers to fully fund any private clinic doing medically required procedures, and that user fees charged directly to the patient were illegal. The Progressive Conservative government under Mike Harris did not abide by these requirements, and Ontario has been violating the *Canada Health Act* ever since.

### Note and table from [CIHI 2015 report, Table 1:](#)

“To improve the accuracy of Ontario’s reported abortion volumes, the methodology has been updated. Total volumes were derived by using the total abortion volumes reported to the National Physician Database (NPDB) at CIHI and adding both hospital-based abortions for non-Ontario residents and hospital-based medical-method-only abortions for Ontario residents (as reported to the Discharge Abstract Database and the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System). For Ontario, volumes reported in the column Number of induced abortions reported by clinics include services from non-hospital settings. Volumes for non-hospital settings (clinics/surgical facilities/physician offices) were estimated using the total abortion volumes as described above and subtracting hospital-based abortions. This methodology results in induced abortions occurring in physician offices and in clinics being included in non-hospital settings volumes. This estimation approach for non-hospital volumes was required because information on the location where the service is rendered (e.g., clinic, hospital, physician’s office) may not be included in the NPDB data.”

| Year | Number of induced abortions reported by Ontario hospitals | Number of induced abortions reported by clinics in Ontario | Ontario total | Canada total |
|------|---|--|---------------|--------------|
| 2011 | 12,483  | 31,951   | 44,434        | 108,844      |
| 2012 | 12,137  | 32,499   | 44,636        | 100,958      |
| 2013 | 11,408  | 32,457   | 43,865        | 102,446      |
| 2014 | 10,977  | 31,066   | 42,043        | 100,194      |

## Links to Sources

### Original CIHI statistics (including footnotes that qualify above data):

- 2007: [http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA\\_07\\_ALLDATATABLES20101124\\_EN](http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA_07_ALLDATATABLES20101124_EN)  
2008: [http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA\\_08\\_ALLDATATABLES20101124\\_EN](http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA_08_ALLDATATABLES20101124_EN)  
2009: [http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA\\_09\\_ALLDATATABLES20111028\\_EN](http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA_09_ALLDATATABLES20111028_EN)  
2010: [http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA\\_10\\_ALLDATATABLES20120417\\_EN](http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA_10_ALLDATATABLES20120417_EN)  
2011: [http://www.cihi.ca/cihi-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA\\_11\\_ALLDATATABLES20130221\\_EN](http://www.cihi.ca/cihi-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA_11_ALLDATATABLES20130221_EN)  
2012: [http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA\\_11\\_ALLDATATABLES20140221\\_EN](http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA_11_ALLDATATABLES20140221_EN)  
2013: [http://www.cihi.ca/web/resource/en/data\\_induced\\_ab\\_en.xlsx](http://www.cihi.ca/web/resource/en/data_induced_ab_en.xlsx) (Excel spreadsheet)  
2014: [https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/induced\\_abortion\\_can\\_2014\\_en\\_web.xlsx](https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/induced_abortion_can_2014_en_web.xlsx) (Excel spreadsheet)  
2015: <https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/induced-abortion-can-2015-en-web.xlsx> (Excel spreadsheet)

### Earlier StatsCan data (Available in different formats):

- 2002 to 2006: <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a05?lang=eng&id=1069005>  
2001 to 2005: <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/olc-cel/olc.action?objId=82-223-X&objType=2&lang=en&limit=0>  
2001 to 2003: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/060315/dq060315c-eng.htm>  
1970 to 2001: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-223-x/2004000/4153194-eng.htm>

A more accessible source for a summary of the above StatsCan data may be: <http://abortionincanada.ca/stats/annual-abortion-rates/>  
(be warned this is an anti-choice site).

### StatsCan gestational age stats from 1995-2003:

<http://www.arcc-cdac.ca/StatsCan-gestation-times-1995-2003.xls>

If you get a password prompt, click OK and it will open the file as read-only. You will see 3 tables (tabs at bottom). This data was purchased from StatsCan by the National Abortion Federation around 2005 and is not publicly available except on ARCC's website. Therefore, no data on gestational ages is available for the years 2004-2006, or before 1995.

*This document is located at: [www.arcc-cdac.ca/backgrounders/statistics-abortion-in-canada.pdf](http://www.arcc-cdac.ca/backgrounders/statistics-abortion-in-canada.pdf)*