



Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Therapeutic Abortions in Canada, 1971 May 3, 1972

This statement reports on therapeutic abortions performed during the calendar year 1971. The statement is based on summary monthly information supplied to Statistics Canada by provincial and territorial authorities.

Total Abortions, 1971

The ten provinces and Yukon Territory reported that hospitals under their jurisdiction performed 30,949 therapeutic abortions during the 12 month period January to December 1971.

Residence of Patients, 1971

Patients with Canadian residence accounted for 30,923 abortions, or 99.9 per cent of the total reported, and patients with foreign residence for 26 abortions, or 0.1 per cent of the total. Two hundred and twenty one, or 0.7 per cent of the total, were reported for persons resident in a province other than the reporting province.

Therapeutic Abortion Rates, 1971

In terms of rates per 100 live births, the 30,923 therapeutic abortions reported for Canadian residents amounted to 8.3 per cent of live births. Therapeutic abortion rates for this same period for the provinces varied from about 19 per cent of live births for British Columbia; to about 10 and 12 per cent of live births for Alberta and Ontario; to about 4.5 per cent of live births for Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Nova Scotia; and to 2 per cent or less of live births for the provinces of Québec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland.

Changes, 1970-71

The number of therapeutic abortions reported for Canadian residents increased from a little over 11,000 in 1970 to nearly 31,000 in 1971 and in terms of rates per 100 live births from 3.0 per cent of live births in 1970 to 8.3 per cent of live births in 1971.

Increases from one quarter to the next quarter were substantially smaller in 1971 than 1970. Quarterly figures for 1970 and 1971 are presented immediately below and in tables 6A and 6B.

Item	1970				1971			
	Jan-Mar.	Apr-June	July-Sept.	Oct-Dec.	Jan-Mar.	Apr-June	July-Sept.	Oct-Dec.
Number of therapeutic abortions	743	1,622	3,156	5,631	6,707	7,461	7,804	8,951
Increase in numbers in one quarter over preceding quarter	-	879	1,534	2,475	1,076	754	343	1,146
Percentage increase	-	118%	95%	78%	19%	11%	5%	15%

The differences in therapeutic abortion rates between the three provinces with the highest rates (British Columbia, Ontario, and Alberta) and other provinces were greater in 1971 than in 1970. Therapeutic abortion rates for 1970 and 1971, expressed as a percentage of live births are presented immediately below and in table 6B.

Therapeutic abortions as a percentage of live births, 1970 and 1971

YEAR	NFLD	PEI	NS	NB	QUE	ONT	MAN	SASK	ALTA	B.C.	YUKON
1971	0.6	2.0	4.5	1.3	2.0	12.0	4.5	4.6	9.7	19.1	1.8
1970	0.2	0.9	1.8	0.6	0.6	4.1	1.3	1.3	3.6	7.9	1.3

Further detail is given in Tables 1 to 6. Table 7 shows related information regularly published in Statistics Canada publications and republished here for ease of reference. Tables 8 to 12 give information on therapeutic abortions for selected countries and for selected states in the U.S.

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Table 1. Therapeutic abortions by reporting province and residence of patients, Canada, 1971

Reporting Province/Area	Total therapeutic abortions	Canadian residents			Residents of other country(ies)
		Total	Residents of reporting province	Residents of other provinces	
All reporting areas	30,949	30,923	30,712	211	26
Newfoundland	80	79	78	1	1
Prince Edward Island	39	39	39	—	—
Nova Scotia	645	644	643	1	1
New Brunswick	146	146	146	—	—
Québec	1,903	1,901	1,881	20	2
Ontario	16,244	16,235	16,173	62	9
Manitoba	864	864	827	37	—
Saskatchewan	760	760	756	4	—
Alberta	3,169	3,167	3,116	51	2
British Columbia	7,090	7,079	7,045	34	11
Yukon territory	9	9	8	1	—

*Table 2. Therapeutic abortions, registered live births and abortion rates (number of abortions per 100 live births) by province, Canada, 1971

Reporting Province/Area	Number of therapeutic abortions	Number of registered live births	Abortion rate per 100 live births
All reporting areas	30,923	370,651	8.3
Newfoundland	78	12,539	0.6
Prince Edward Island	39	1,957	2.0
Nova Scotia	643	14,159	4.5
New Brunswick	146	11,545	1.3
Québec	1,881	91,757	2.0
Ontario	16,173	134,724	12.0
Manitoba	827	18,248	4.5
Saskatchewan	756	16,443	4.6
Alberta	3,116	31,967	9.7
British Columbia	7,045	36,861	19.1
Yukon territory	8	451	1.8

- *Notes: (i) The registered live births relate to the calendar year 1970.
(ii) The number of therapeutic abortions for "All reporting areas" excludes figures for patients resident of other country(ies).
(iii) The number of therapeutic abortions for individual reporting province relates only to residents reported by the reporting province.

Table 3. Therapeutic abortions by month of report
and residence of patients, Canada, 1971

Month of Report	Total therapeutic abortions	Canadian residents			Residents of other country(ies)
		Total	Residents of reporting province	Residents of other provinces	
January — December, 1971	30,949	30,923	30,712	211	26
January	1,889	1,883	1,866	17	6
February	2,240	2,237	2,221	16	3
March	2,589	2,587	2,578	9	2
April	2,516	2,512	2,493	19	4
May	2,429	2,429	2,411	18	—
June	2,525	2,520	2,501	19	5
July	2,673	2,671	2,650	21	2
August	2,420	2,420	2,407	13	—
September	2,714	2,713	2,696	17	1
October	2,924	2,922	2,896	26	2
November	2,939	2,939	2,920	19	—
December	3,091	3,090	3,073	17	1

*Table 4. Therapeutic abortions, registered live births
and abortion rates per 100 live births
by month, Canada, 1971

Month	Number of therapeutic abortions	Number of registered live births	Abortion rate per 100 live births
January — December, 1971	30,923	370,651	8.3
January	1,883	29,640	6.4
February	2,237	27,561	8.1
March	2,587	32,413	8.0
April	2,512	32,043	7.8
May	2,429	32,649	7.4
June	2,520	31,779	7.9
July	2,671	32,418	8.2
August	2,420	30,594	7.9
September	2,713	31,503	8.6
October	2,922	30,028	9.7
November	2,939	29,479	10.0
December	3,090	30,544	10.1

*Notes: (i) The registered live births relate to the calendar year 1970.

(ii) The number of therapeutic abortions and number of registered live births by month relate to Canadian residents only.

Table 5. (A) Therapeutic abortions by reporting province and month in Canada, 1971
 (B) Therapeutic abortion rates (per 100 live births) by reporting province and month in Canada, 1971

Reporting Province/Area	January - Dec. 1971												
	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
All reporting areas	30,923	1,833	2,237	2,587	2,512	2,429	2,520	2,671	2,420	2,713	2,922	2,939	3,029
Newfoundland	78	1	4	8	6	6	5	1	6	6	5	14	16
Prince Edward Island	39	1	1	2	3	6	2	4	4	2	6	5	3
Nova Scotia	643	34	39	62	51	42	48	57	43	61	62	73	71
New Brunswick	146	6	10	11	10	6	10	8	14	17	19	18	17
Québec	1,881	126	134	167	157	127	144	162	124	137	200	178	225
Ontario	16,173	860	1,140	1,294	1,334	1,305	1,334	1,446	1,246	1,459	1,553	1,576	1,626
Manitoba	827	36	49	76	56	57	68	58	63	74	106	91	93
Saskatchewan	756	43	49	51	57	54	60	62	70	84	66	80	80
Alberta	3,116	244	228	290	262	240	233	278	232	271	269	281	288
British Columbia	7,045	514	567	617	555	566	596	573	605	584	610	604	654
Yukon Territory	8	1	-	-	2	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
(A) Number of therapeutic abortions													
All reporting areas	8.3	6.4	8.1	8.0	7.8	7.4	7.9	8.2	7.9	8.6	9.7	10.0	10.1
Newfoundland	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.4	1.5
Prince Edward Island	2.0	0.6	0.6	1.4	1.7	2.9	1.2	2.5	2.4	1.2	3.8	3.2	2.2
Nova Scotia	4.5	3.2	3.7	5.1	4.2	3.3	4.1	5.0	3.5	4.9	5.4	6.3	5.6
New Brunswick	1.3	0.7	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.6	1.0	0.8	1.4	1.8	2.1	1.9	1.6
Québec	2.0	1.6	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.5	1.8	2.0	1.6	1.8	2.8	2.6	3.4
Ontario	12.0	8.2	11.6	11.2	11.8	11.3	11.7	12.3	11.2	12.5	13.9	14.2	14.0
Manitoba	4.5	2.4	3.6	4.8	3.7	3.6	4.3	3.7	4.3	4.7	6.8	6.0	6.3
Saskatchewan	4.6	3.2	3.9	3.6	3.9	3.8	4.3	4.3	5.2	6.0	5.2	6.2	5.6
Alberta	9.7	9.7	9.8	10.4	9.4	8.5	8.8	9.9	8.6	10.0	10.1	11.2	10.7
British Columbia	19.1	17.7	20.9	19.5	17.1	17.4	19.1	17.5	20.2	18.5	20.4	20.6	20.9
Yukon territory	1.8	2.6	-	-	4.6	5.4	2.3	2.1	-	2.5	-	-	-
(B) Therapeutic abortion rates (per 100 live births)													

Note: See notes to table 2.

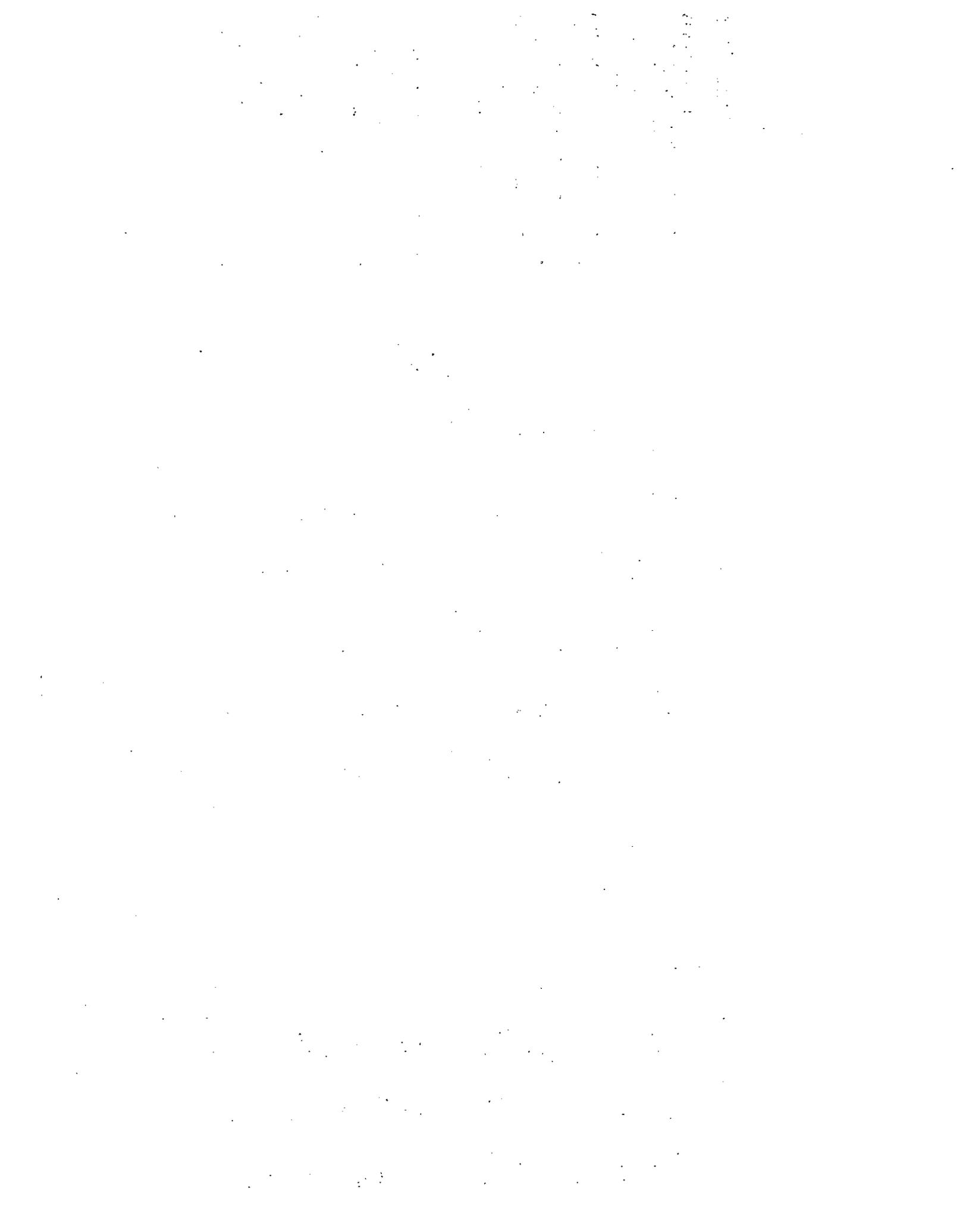


Table 6. (A) Number of therapeutic abortions by province and by quarter in Canada, 1970 and 1971.
 (B) Therapeutic abortion rates (per 100 live births) by province and quarter in Canada, 1970 and 1971

Reporting Province/Area	1970					1971				
	Total	J - M	A - J	J - S	O - D	Total	J - M	A - J	J - S	O - D
	(A) Number of therapeutic abortions									
All reporting areas	11,152	743	1,622	3,156	5,631	30,923	6,707	7,461	7,804	8,951
Newfoundland	25	2	2	8	13	78	13	17	13	35
Prince Edward Island	17	3	2	8	4	39	4	11	10	14
Nova Scotia	261	19	48	68	126	643	135	141	161	206
New Brunswick	72	2	25	17	28	146	27	26	39	54
Québec	534	33	63	151	287	1,881	427	428	423	603
Ontario	5,568	379	850	1,525	2,814	16,173	3,294	3,973	4,151	4,755
Manitoba	238	23	34	48	133	827	161	181	195	290
Saskatchewan	215	20	27	56	112	756	143	171	216	226
Alberta	1,154	62	144	326	622	3,116	762	735	781	838
British Columbia	2,901	192	406	880	1,423	7,045	1,698	1,717	1,762	1,868
Yukon Territory	6	1	2	-	3	8	1	5	2	-
(B) Therapeutic abortion rates per 100 live births										
All reporting areas	3.0	0.8	1.7	3.3	6.2	8.3	7.5	7.7	8.3	9.9
Newfoundland	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4	1.1
Prince Edward Island	0.9	0.6	0.4	1.6	0.9	2.0	0.8	2.0	2.0	3.1
Nova Scotia	1.8	0.6	1.3	1.9	3.5	4.5	4.0	3.9	4.5	5.8
New Brunswick	0.6	0.1	0.8	0.6	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.9	1.3	1.9
Québec	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.6	1.4	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.8	2.9
Ontario	4.1	1.2	2.5	4.4	8.3	12.0	10.3	11.6	12.0	14.0
Manitoba	1.3	0.5	0.7	1.0	2.9	4.5	3.6	3.9	4.2	6.4
Saskatchewan	1.3	0.5	0.6	1.3	2.8	4.6	3.6	4.0	5.2	5.6
Alberta	3.6	0.8	1.7	4.0	7.9	9.7	10.0	8.9	9.5	10.6
British Columbia	7.9	2.2	4.2	9.3	15.7	19.1	19.3	17.9	18.7	20.6
Yukon territory	1.3	1.0	1.6	-	2.9	1.8	1.0	4.1	1.7	-

Note: See notes to table 2.

Table 7 Registered female deaths in Canada, 1966-70

Item	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
(a) Female deaths, all ages, all causes	61,950	61,983	63,662	64,241	64,853
(b) Deaths, females age 15-49, all causes	5,779	5,791	5,860	6,143	6,200
(c) Deaths, females, from deliveries and complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium — all ages	135	88	99	77	75
(d) Deaths, females, from abortions — all ages	13	8	13	13	14
(1) induced for medical or legal indication	—	—	3	—	4
(11) induced for other reasons (criminal; induced without medical or legal indication; self induced)	9	4	6	11	5
(111) spontaneous or unspecified and other	4	4	4	2	5

Table 8 (A) Live birth rates per 1,000 population for selected countries, 1963 to 1967.

(B) Abortion rates per 100 live births for the selected countries, 1963-1967.

Country	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
(A) Live birth rate (Live births per 1,000 persons)					
1. Bulgaria	16.4	16.1	15.3	14.9	15.0
2. Czechoslovakia	16.9	17.2	16.4	15.6	15.1
3. Denmark	17.6	17.7	18.0	18.4	16.8
4. Hungary	13.1	13.0	13.1	13.6	14.6
5. Japan	17.3	17.7	18.5	—	19.3
6. Poland	19.2	18.1	17.3	16.7	16.3
(B) Abortion rate (Abortions per 100 live births)					
1. Bulgaria	63	69	75	76	79
2. Czechoslovakia	30	29	35	40	44
3. Denmark	4	5	6	6	8
4. Hungary	131	140	136	135	126
5. Japan	57	51	46	—	38
6. Poland	33	32	42	42	N.A.

Note: (i) Source of information: Abortion-Law, Choice and Morality by Daniel Callahan.

(ii) Comparable information for Japan for the year 1966 is not available.

Table 9 Abortion rates (abortions per 100 live births) for the latest available year for selected countries in the world

Country/Area	Period	Abortion rate per 100 live births
1. England and Wales	1970	11
2. Czechoslovakia	1969	46
3. Hungary	1969	134
4. Japan	1968	40
5. Rumania	1965	40
6. Yugoslavia	1964	37

Sources of Information:

- (1) The Registrar General's Weekly and Quarterly Returns.
- (2-4) The Population Council, New York, N.Y.
- (5-6) Abortion: Law, Choice and Morality — Daniel Callahan.

Table 10 Per cent distribution of induced abortions by weeks of gestation for England and Wales and some states in U.S.A.

	Period of Reference	Total	Under nine weeks	Nine weeks to Under thirteen weeks	Thirteen weeks & over	Not known
England and Wales	1969	100	14	51	34	1
U.S.A.						
Georgia	1970	100	29	46	25	—
Hawaii	March 11 — Dec. 31, 1970	100	31	49	17	3
Maryland	July — Dec. 1970	100	18	41	41	—
New York City	July 1970 — June 1971	100	78	—	21	1
Oregon	1970	100	16	50	34	—
South Carolina	Feb. — Dec. 1970	100	6	40	50	4

Sources of Information:

- (a) Registrar General's Statistical Review of England and Wales for the year 1969, supplement on abortions.
- (b) U.S.A.: Abortion Surveillance Report — Legal Abortions, U.S.A., Annual Summary, 1970 and
- (c) Legal abortion 1970-71, The New York Experience from New York City Health Department.

Table 11 Per cent distribution of induced abortions by ages of women for selected countries and states in U.S.A.

	Period of Reference	Total	Under 20 yrs.	20-24 yrs.	25-29 yrs.	30-34 yrs.	35-39 yrs.	40 yrs. and over
England and Wales	Jan. - March 1971	100	20	18	27	27	18	8
Japan	1968	100	2	23	17	17	15	9
Sweden	1966	100	19	23	17	17	15	9
<u>U.S.A.</u>								
Alaska	July 29 - Dec. 31, 1970	100	25	28	25	13	6	3
California	Jan. - June 1970	100	31	32	16	10	6	5
Colorado	Jan. - Dec. 1970	100	33	31	16	10	10	
Delaware	Jan. - Dec. 1970	100	31	28	15	13	9	4
Georgia	Jan. - Dec. 1970	100	29	22	22	13	10	4
Hawaii	March 11 - Dec. 31, 1970	100	20	39	20	10	7	4
New York City	Jan. - Dec. 1970	100	22	37	19	11	7	4
Upstate New York	July - Dec. 1970	100	25	34	17	11	9	4
Oregon	Jan. - Dec. 1970	100	34	36	14	9	5	2
South Carolina	Feb. - Dec. 1970	100	29	29	16	12	7	7

Sources of Information:

- (1) The Registrar General's Weekly return for England and Wales.
- (2) Japan and Sweden: Abortion: Law, Choice and Morality - Daniel Callahan.
- (3) U.S.A.: (a) HSMHA Health Reports, May, 1971, U.S. Public Health Service.
 (b) Abortion Surveillance Report, Legal abortions, United States, Annual Summary 1970.

Table 12: Reported Legal Abortion Ratios by State of Occurrence¹
 Selected States², January-March 1971

<u>State</u>	<u>Abortions</u>	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Abortions per 100 Live Births</u>
Alaska	237	1,926	12.8
Arkansas	130	9,212	1.4
California	23,880	92,911	25.7
Colorado	678	10,223	6.6
Delaware	252	2,658	9.5
Georgia	320	25,307	1.3
Hawaii	938	3,978	23.6
Kansas	2,772	8,881	31.2
Maryland	1,880	14,716	12.8
New York	57,737	73,888	78.1
(Upstate)	(12,004)	(39,062)	(30.7)
(City)	(45,733)	(34,826)	(131.3)
North Carolina	561	24,305	2.3
Oregon	1,809	8,723	20.7
South Carolina	192	13,814	1.4
Virginia	875	20,597	4.2
Washington	2,158	12,132	17.8
Total	94,419	323,271	29.2

¹Source: U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare/Public Health Service.

²All states with data available.

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