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THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN CANADA

December 11, 1972

JANUARY — JUNE, 1972

This statement reports on therapeutic abortions performed during the first six months of 1972. Minor amendments to the therapeutic abortion figures for January to June can be expected when the report for the calendar year 1972 is published.

Total Abortions, January to June, 1972

The ten provinces and Yukon Territory reported that hospitals under their jurisdictions performed 18,817 therapeutic abortions during the six month period January to June, 1972.

Residence of Patients

Patients with Canadian residence accounted for 18,801 abortions, or 99.9 % of the total reported, and patients with foreign residence for only 16 abortions, or 0.1 % of the total. One hundred and twenty eight abortions, or 0.7 % of the total, were reported for persons resident in a province other than the reporting province.

Therapeutic Abortion Rates, January to June, 1972

In terms of rates per 100 registered live births, the 18,801 therapeutic abortions reported for Canadian residents amounted to 10.1 % of live births. Therapeutic abortion rates for the same six month period for the provinces varied from about 22 % of live births for British Columbia to about 12 and 15 % of live births for Alberta and Ontario; to about 6 % of live births for Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Nova Scotia; and to 3 % or less of live births for the provinces of Quebec, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. For Yukon Territory the abortion rate was 9 % of live births.

Quarterly Changes 1971-72

Quarterly figures for 1971 and for the first two quarters of 1972 are given below and in tables 3a and 3b. Increases from one quarter to the next quarter were substantially smaller during the first six months of 1972 than in 1971.

Item	1971				1972	
	Jan. — Mar.	Apr. — June	July — Sept.	Oct. — Dec.	Jan. — Mar.	Apr. — June
Number of therapeutic abortions ...	6,707	7,461	7,804	8,951	9,321	9,480
Increase in numbers, one quarter over the preceding quarter	—	754	343	1,147	370	159
Percentage increase	—	11 %	5 %	15 %	4 %	2 %

Therapeutic abortions as a per cent of live births for the first six months of the years 1971 and 1972 for Canada and the provinces are shown below.

Therapeutic abortions as a percentage of live births, Jan. to June, 1971 and 1972

Period	Can.	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Qué.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon
1971	7.6	0.5	1.4	3.8	0.9	1.8	10.9	3.7	3.8	9.5	19.3	2.2
1972	10.1	1.2	2.5	5.5	1.4	2.9	14.8	6.3	6.1	11.5	22.4	9.0

Further detail is given in tables 1 to 3. Table 4 shows related information regularly published in Statistics Canada publications and republished here for ease of reference. Tables 5 to 9 give information on therapeutic abortions for selected countries and for selected states in the U.S.

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Statistics Canada.

Ottawa (613), 994-5157

TABLE 1. Therapeutic abortions by reporting province and residence of patients, Canada, January to June, 1972

Reporting Province/ Area	Total Therapeutic Abortions	Canadian residents			Residents of other countries
		Total	Residents of reporting province	Residents of other provinces	
All reporting areas ..	18,817	18,801	18,673	128	16
Newfoundland	77	77	77	—	—
Prince Edward Island	27	27	27	—	—
Nova Scotia	398	397	396	1	1
New Brunswick	83	83	83	—	—
Québec	1,386	1,384	1,353	31	2
Ontario	9,878	9,871	9,844	27	7
Manitoba	594	590	581	9	4
Saskatchewan	512	512	506	16	—
Alberta	1,864	1,864	1,823	41	—
British Columbia	3,974	3,972	3,959	13	2
Yukon	24	24	24	—	—

*TABLE 2. Therapeutic abortions, registered live births, and abortion rates (number of abortions per 100 live births) by province, Canada, January to June, 1972

Province/Area	Number of Therapeutic Abortions	Number of live births	Abortion rate per 100 live births
All areas	18,801	185,948	10.1
Newfoundland	77	6,306	1.2
Prince Edward Island	27	1,083	2.5
Nova Scotia	396	7,246	5.5
New Brunswick	83	6,095	1.4
Québec	1,353	47,217	2.9
Ontario	9,844	66,663	14.8
Manitoba	581	9,231	6.3
Saskatchewan	506	8,350	6.1
Alberta	1,823	15,802	11.5
British Columbia	3,959	17,688	22.4
Yukon Territory	24	267	9.0

- * Notes:
- (i) Registered live births relate to the calendar year 1971.
 - (ii) The number of therapeutic abortions for "All areas" does not include figures for patients from other countries.
 - (iii) The number of therapeutic abortions for individual provinces relates only to the residents reported by the reporting province.

*TABLE 3a. Number of therapeutic abortions by province and quarter, 1971-72

Province/Area	1971					1972		
	Total	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	Total	J-M	A-J
All areas	30,923	6,707	7,461	7,804	8,951	18,801	9,321	9,480
Newfoundland	78	13	17	13	35	77	42	35
Prince Edward Island	39	4	11	10	14	27	18	9
Nova Scotia	643	135	141	161	206	396	186	210
New Brunswick	146	27	26	39	54	83	52	31
Québec	1,881	427	428	423	603	1,353	638	715
Ontario	16,173	3,294	3,973	4,151	4,755	9,844	4,948	4,896
Manitoba	827	161	181	195	290	581	292	289
Saskatchewan	756	143	171	216	226	506	232	274
Alberta	3,116	762	735	781	838	1,823	874	949
British Columbia	7,045	1,698	1,717	1,762	1,868	3,959	1,964	1,995
Yukon	8	1	5	2	-	24	11	13

* See notes to Table 2.

*TABLE 3b. Therapeutic abortion rates (number of abortions per 100 live births) by province and quarter, 1971-72

Province/Area	1971					1972		
	Total	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	Total	J-M	A-J
All areas	8.6	7.2	8.0	8.6	10.6	10.1	10.1	10.2
Newfoundland	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1
Prince Edward Island	1.9	0.8	1.9	1.9	2.8	2.5	3.4	1.6
Nova Scotia	4.5	3.8	3.8	4.4	6.2	5.5	5.2	5.7
New Brunswick	1.2	0.9	0.9	1.3	1.8	1.4	1.7	1.0
Québec	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.9	3.1	2.9	2.8	3.0
Ontario	12.4	9.9	11.8	12.8	15.2	14.8	14.9	14.6
Manitoba	4.6	3.5	3.9	4.3	6.8	6.3	6.4	6.2
Saskatchewan	4.7	3.5	4.0	5.3	6.3	6.1	5.7	6.4
Alberta	10.2	9.7	9.3	10.2	11.9	11.5	11.1	12.0
British Columbia	20.2	18.6	20.0	20.3	22.0	22.4	21.5	23.3
Yukon	1.6	0.8	3.6	1.5	-	9.0	8.6	9.4

* Rates are based on 1971 registered live births.

TABLE 4. Registered Female deaths in Canada, 1967-71

Item	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
(a) Female deaths, all ages, all causes ...	61,983	63,662	64,241	64,853	65,449
(b) Deaths, females age 15-49, all causes	5,791	5,860	6,143	6,200	6,194
(c) Deaths, females, from deliveries and complications of pregnancy, child-birth and the puerperium - all ages	88	99	77	75	66
(d) Deaths, females, from abortions - all ages	8	13	13	14	6
(1) induced for medical or legal indication	-	3	-	4	2
(11) induced for other reasons (criminal; induced without medical or legal indication; self induced)	4	6	11	5	1
(111) spontaneous or unspecified and other	4	4	2	5	3

TABLE 5. (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
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(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 6. Abortion rates (abortions per 100 live births)
latest available years for selected countries

Country	Reference 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) Weekly and Quarterly returns - Registrar General, England and Wales.
 (2-4) The population Council, New York, N.Y.
 (5-6) Abortion: Law, Choice and Morality - Daniel Callahan.

TABLE 7. Percent distribution legal induced abortions by weeks of gestation for
England and Wales and selected states in U.S.A.

Country/Area	Period of reference	Total	Under nine weeks	Nine weeks to under thirteen weeks	Thirteen weeks and over	Not known
England and Wales ..	1969	100	14	51	34	1
<u>U.S.A.</u>						
Alaska	1971	100	24	50	24	2
Arkansas	1971	100	47	35	18	-
Colorado	1971	100	9	37	40	14
Georgia	1971	100	30	45	25	-
Hawaii	1971	100	32	49	17	2
Kansas	1971	100	35	54	10	1
Maryland	1971	100	21	45	34	-
Oregon	1971	100	24	50	26	-
South Carolina ...	1971	100	28	41	28	3
Total	1971	100	26	48	24	2

Sources of information:

- U.S.A.: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly report Vol. 20, No. 53 - U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.
 England and Wales: Registrar General's Statistical Review - Supplement on Abortion.

TABLE 8. Percent distribution legal induced abortions by age for selected countries/areas

Country/Area	Reference Period	Total	Under 20 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years and over
England and Wales	Jan. - Mar. 1971	100	20	----- 62 -----		----- 18 -----		
Japan	1968	100	2	18	27	27	18	8
Sweden	1966	100	19	23	17	17	15	9
<u>U.S.A.</u>								
Alaska	1971	100	34	29	16	12	6	3
Arkansas ..	1971	100	42	30	13	6	5	4
California	1971	100	31	34	17	10	6	2
Colorado ..	1971	100	35	31	16	19	6	3
Delaware ..	1971	100	40	22	17	10	8	3
Georgia ...	1971	100	31	27	16	13	9	4
Hawaii	1971	100	21	39	18	11	8	3
Kansas	1971	100	32	34	14	10	7	3
Maryland ..	1971	100	34	30	16	11	7	2
Oregon	1971	100	39	33	13	8	5	2
South Carolina	1971	100	34	24	16	11	11	4
Total ...	1971	100	32	34	16	10	6	2

Sources of Information:

England and Wales: Registrar General's Weekly and Quarterly returns.

Japan and Sweden: Daniel Callahan - Abortion: Law, Choice and Morality.

U.S.A.: U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare - Morbidity and Mortality Weekly report Vol. 20, No. 53.

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TABLE 9. Reported legal abortions, live births and abortion rates (per 100 live births) by state of occurrence, (1) selected states, (2) U.S.A., 1971

State	Abortions	Live births	Abortions per 100 live births
Alabama	494	66,386	0.7
Alaska	1,145	7,176	15.9
Arizona	380	19,161	1.9
Arkansas	637	35,120	1.8
California	116,749	339,113	34.4
Colorado	4,168	41,373	10.0
Connecticut	724	44,908	1.6
Delaware	1,129	9,904	11.4
District of Columbia	17,619	25,048	70.3
Georgia	1,579	95,287	1.6
Hawaii	4,135	15,857	26.0
Kansas	9,472	34,184	27.7
Maryland	8,306	57,363	14.4
Massachusetts	1,570	90,415	1.7
Mississippi	48	22,705	0.2
New Mexico	4,883	22,293	21.9
New York	257,055	285,218	90.1
New York (up state)	(49,305)	(153,308)	32.1
New York (city)	(207,750)	(131,910)	157.4
North Carolina	4,322	95,972	4.5
Oregon	6,997	33,999	20.5
Pennsylvania	4,839	181,134	2.6
South Carolina	727	53,131	1.3
Vermont	9	7,817	1.2
Virginia	1,919	40,126	4.7
Washington	5,519	26,009	21.2
Wisconsin	4,661	71,697	6.5
Total	459,086	1,721,396	26.6

(1) Source: Morbidity and Mortality weekly report Vol. 20, No. 53 - U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

(2) All states with data available.

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