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CS82-211E-P/1973

# INFORMATION

## THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS, CANADA, 1973 ADVANCE INFORMATION

The ten provinces and Yukon Territory performed 43,245 therapeutic abortion operations during 1973. Patients with Canadian residence accounted for 43,201 therapeutic abortions, or 99.9% of the total abortions performed.

The 43,201 therapeutic abortions reported for Canadian residents was an increase of about 4,300 over the 38,853 reported in 1972. This increase of 4,300 was the smallest year-to-year increase since the amendment of the Criminal Code and was only about one-half of the increase recorded between 1971 and 1972.

The 43,201 abortions represented an abortion rate (number of therapeutic abortions as a percentage of live births) of 12.6%. Rates for the provinces for 1973 varied from about 27% in British Columbia, 18% in Ontario and Yukon, to less than 4% in Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

Incomplete figures for 1973 indicate that Canadian residents obtained about 6,200 abortions in New York State during 1973, almost exactly the same number as in 1972. The addition of these 6,200 abortions to the number performed in Canada would give a total of about 49,500 for 1973 and a rate of about 14% of live births.

The Canadian rate is lower than the rates for many other countries for which data are available. For example, the rate for England and Wales in 1972 was 15% and the rate for 28 reporting states in the United States in 1972 was 31%. The application of the number of abortions reported by these 28 states to all births in the United States produces a "national" rate of 18.0% compared to a rate of 12.6% (or 14% including abortions done in New York State) for Canada in 1973.



The complete report, to be released shortly, also includes medical and demographic information about patients who received abortions in the Yukon and the 8 provinces. Medical and demographic information on the abortions performed in the other 2 provinces (Ontario and British Columbia) will be available for 1974.

Summary therapeutic abortion statistics for Canada and information about selected foreign countries are contained in the following statistical tables.

#### SUMMARY STATISTICS

##### Canadian Residents Receiving Abortions in Canada

	1970	1971	1972	1973	Increases		
					1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
Number of abortions	11,152	30,923	38,853	43,201	19,771	7,930	4,348
Number as Percent of Live Births	3.0	8.6	11.2	12.6	5.6	2.6	1.4

#### SUMMARY STATISTICS (cont'd)

##### ABORTIONS AND ABORTION RATES, (ABORTIONS PER 100 LIVE BIRTHS) PROVINCES, CANADA, 1972 and 1973

Province	Therapeutic Abortions		Abortion Rate Per 100 Live Births	
	1972	1973	1972	1973
All Areas *	38,853	43,201	11.2	12.6
Newfoundland	133	193	1.0	1.6
Prince Edward Island	45	41	2.2	2.2
Nova Scotia	837	932	6.2	7.0
New Brunswick	183	341	1.6	3.0
Quebec	2,847	3,141	3.4	3.7
Ontario	20,272	22,603	16.2	18.3
Manitoba	1,178	1,259	6.8	7.4
Saskatchewan	1,043	1,219	6.7	8.2
Alberta	3,887	4,047	13.3	13.8
British Columbia	8,179	9,176	23.7	26.7
Yukon	48	76	10.6	18.1
Northwest Territories	44	51	3.6	4.2

\* Includes patients for which province of residence was not reported.



ABORTIONS AS A PERCENTAGE OF LIVE BIRTHS, SELECTED COUNTRIES \*

Country	Year	Rate Per 100 Live Births	Country	Year	Rate Per 100 Live Births
Canada	1973	12.6	Israel	1968	5.0
U.S. - 28 Reporting Areas	1972	31.5	Japan	1970	37.5
U.S. - National	1972	18.0	Korea	1970	36.9
England & Wales	1972	15.0	Norway	1971	18.6
Bulgaria	1971	98.5	Poland	1971	23.6
Czechoslovakia	1971	39.8	Scotland	1972	9.7
Denmark	1970-71	13.4	Singapore	1971	6.9
Finland	1971	33.7	Sweden	1971	17.1
Hungary	1971	122.8	Tunisia	1971	1.7
			Yugoslavia	1968	64.2

\* For source of information - See next page.

EIGHT PROVINCES AND YUKON, COMPARISONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES\*

	Year	Rate Per 100 Live Births	Percent of Women Under 20 Years of Age	Percent of Women, Gestation Under 13 Weeks
8 Provinces & Yukon	1973	6.2	33	69
U.S. (Reporting Areas)	1972	31.5	32	80
England & Wales	1972	15.0	23	78
Czechoslovakia	1972	39.8	9	99
Japan	1970	37.5	2	96
Sweden	1971	17.1	23	67

\* For source of information - See next page.



Eight Provinces and Yukon, Comparison with England and Wales

Item	8 Province and Yukon, 1973	England and Wales, 1972	United States (1) 1972
<u>Rate Per 100 Live Births</u>			
Abortion Rate .....	6.2 12.6(2)	15.0	31.5
<u>Marital Status - Percent Distribution</u>			
Married.....	30	43	29
Other.....	70	57	71
<u>Age - Percent Distribution</u>			
Under 20 Years.....	33	23	32
20-34 Years.....	55	59	58
35 Years and Over and Unknown.....	12	19	10
<u>Gestation - Percent Distribution</u>			
Under 9 Weeks.....	14	18	33
9-12 Weeks.....	55	60	47
13 Weeks and Over.....	31	20	17
Unknown .....	--	2	3
<u>Previous Deliveries - Percent Distribution</u>			
0.....	57	47	46
1.....	12	11	17
2.....	13	18	12
3 or More.....	18	24	25
<u>Surgical Procedure - Percent Distribution</u>			
Suction D&C.....	55 (3)	52	62
Surgical D&C .....	18	30	22
Hysterotomy.....	7	7	--
Hysterectomy.....	1	1	1
Saline.....	14 (4)	..	10
Other.....	5	9	5

(1) Reporting Areas

(2) Rate for 10 Provinces and Yukon.

(3) Includes Suction D&C plus Surgical D&C, and Suction D&C plus Saline.

(4) Includes Saline plus Surgical D&C.

\* Source:

- (a) Centre for Disease Control: Abortion Surveillance: 1972 issued April, 1974, U.S. Public Health Service.
- (b) The Registrar General's Statistical Review of England & Wales for the year 1972, issued 1974.
- (c) Induced Abortion: A Factbook - Christopher Tietze, M.D. and Deborah A. Dawson, The Population Council, New York, N.Y., December, 1973.

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