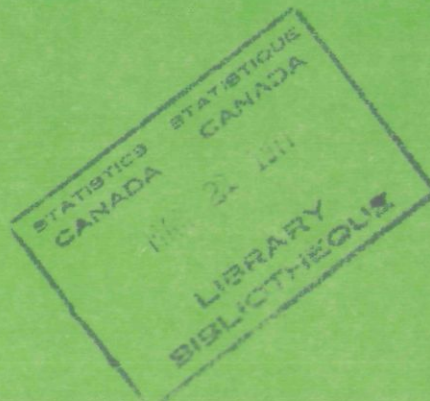




Statistics Canada
Statistique Canada



THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS, CANADA, 1974

ADVANCE INFORMATION

This advance information relates to the therapeutic abortions authorized under Section 18 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1969 and reported to Statistics Canada for 1974.

Total Therapeutic Abortions

The ten provinces and the two territories reported that the hospitals under their jurisdictions performed 48,198 therapeutic abortions during the twelve month period January to December, 1974. Canadian residents accounted for 48,136 therapeutic abortions or 99.9% of the total abortions performed.

Therapeutic Abortion Rates

The 48,136 therapeutic abortions represented an abortion rate of 14.0 (number of therapeutic abortions for 1974 as a percentage of live births for 1973)(1): Abortion rates for the provinces based on live births were 29% in British Columbia, 20% in Ontario, and 15% in Alberta and Yukon, 8% in Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and less than 7% in rest of the areas.

Legal Abortions to Canadian Residents in U.S.A.

Incomplete figures for 1974 indicate that Canadian residents obtained 4,299 legal abortions in United States - 1,319 abortions in New York City, 2,855 abortions in upstate New York, 95 abortions in Vermont and 30 abortions in Minnesota. The addition of these 4,299 abortions to the number performed in Canada would give a total of 52,435 therapeutic abortions for 1974 and an abortion rate of about 15.3% of live births.

Comparison with England and Wales and U.S.A.

The Canadian abortion rate(s) based on total population; female population 15-44 years; live births; and live births plus legal abortions was lower than the rate for England and Wales and United States, as shown in the table on the following page:

(1) 1974 live birth data not yet available.

December - 1975 - Décembre
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Item	Canada 1974	England and Wales 1973	U.S.A. 1973
Abortion rate, per 1,000:			
Population	2.1	2.2	2.9
Females 15-44 years	8.0	11.7	13.7
Abortion rate per 100:			
Live births	14.0	17.0	19.5
Live births plus abortions	12.3	14.5	16.3

Hospitals with Therapeutic Abortion Committees

The ten provinces and the two territories reported that as of January 1, 1974, there were 259 hospitals with therapeutic abortion committees. There were 108 hospitals with therapeutic abortion committees in Ontario, 52 in British Columbia, 27 in Quebec, 24 in Alberta, 12 in Nova Scotia, and 10 or less in rest of the provinces and the two territories.

Selected Demographic and Medical Characteristics

Selected demographic and medical characteristics were reported for 41,227 abortion cases or 85.6% of the total of 48,136 abortion cases for Canadian residents in 1974.

Of the 41,227 cases 58% were single, 31% married and the remaining 11% separated, divorced, widowed or living common law. In relation to age, 31% were under 20 years, 58% between 20 and 34 years and the remaining 11% 35 years or older. 57% of the abortion cases had no previous delivery, another 14% one previous delivery and two previous deliveries each and the remaining 15% three or more previous deliveries. At the time of the pregnancy termination, 79% of the abortion cases were pregnant for less than 13 weeks and the remaining 21% were pregnant for 13 weeks or more. The most common surgical procedure used to terminate pregnancies was Suction D&C with 63% of cases, followed by Surgical D&C 21%, Saline 9% and Hysterotomy in the remainder 3% of the reported cases.

The complete report, "Therapeutic Abortions, Canada, 1974", Catalogue 82-211, to be released later, is to contain more detailed information.

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

Canadian Residents Obtaining Abortions in Canada

Year	Abortions	Abortion Rate per 100 live births	Increase over previous year	
			Abortions	Abortion Rate
1970	11,152	3.0	-	-
1971	30,923	8.6	19,771	5.6
1972	38,853	11.2	7,930	2.6
1973	43,201	12.6	4,348	1.4
1974	48,136	14.0	4,935	1.4

Hospitals with Therapeutic Abortion Committees, Abortions and Abortion Rates (Abortions per 100 Live Births) Provinces, Canada, 1973 and 1974

Province	Hospitals with therapeutic abortion committees as at January 1		Therapeutic abortions		Abortion rate per 100 live births	
	1973	1974	1973	1974	1973	1974
All areas	261	259	43,201	48,136	12.6	14.0
Newfoundland	7	6	193	184	1.6	1.5
Prince Edward Island	2	2	41	50	2.2	2.6
Nova Scotia	12	12	932	1,062	7.0	8.0
New Brunswick	7	7	341	440	3.0	3.8
Quebec	31	27	3,141	4,453	3.7	5.3
Ontario	108	108	22,603	24,795	18.3	20.0
Manitoba	9	9	1,259	1,411	7.4	8.3
Saskatchewan	10	10	1,219	1,176	8.2	7.9
Alberta	23	24	4,047	4,391	13.8	15.0
British Columbia	51	52	9,176	10,024	26.7	29.2
Yukon	1	1	76	63	18.1	15.0
Northwest Territories	—	1	51	75	4.2	6.2
Residence unknown	—	—	122	12	—	—

Legal Abortions by Selected Demographic and Medical Characteristics, Canada,
England and Wales and United States

Item	Canada 1974	England and Wales 1973(1)	United States 1973(2)
Total legal abortions to residents	48,136	110,600	615,800
Abortion Rate			
Abortion rate per 1,000 population	2.1	2.2	2.9
Abortion rate per 1,000 females 15-44	8.0	11.7	13.7
Abortion rate per 100 live births	14.0(3)	17.0	19.5
Abortion rate per 100 live births and abortions	12.3(3)	14.5	16.3
Marital status - Per cent distribution			
Married	31	42	26
Others	69	58	74
Age - Per cent distribution			
Under 20 years	31	24	31
20-34 years	58	58	58
35 years and over and unknown	11	18	11
Gestation - Per cent distribution			
Under 9 weeks	21	22	34
9-12 weeks	58	58	44
13 weeks and over	21	18	15
Unknown	-	2	7
Previous deliveries - Per cent distribution			
0	57	48	47
1	14	11	18
2	14	19	14
3 or more	15	22	21
Surgical procedure - Per cent distribution			
Suction D&C	63	61	74
Surgical D&C	21	20	13
Hysterotomy	3	4	-
Hysterectomy	-	1	1
Saline	9	..	10
Other and unknown	4	14	2

Notes: (1) Registrar General's Statistical Review of England and Wales for the year 1973, issued 1974.
(2) Center for Disease Control: Abortion Surveillance, 1973 issued May, 1975.
(3) Live births used to calculate abortion rate are for 1973.

Legal Abortions and Abortion Rates, Selected Countries(2)

Country	Legal abortions	Abortion rate per 1,000		Abortion rate per 100	
		Total population	Females 15-44 years	Live births	Live births plus abortions
Canada 1974	48,136	2.1	8.0	14.0	12.3
United States 1973	615,800	2.9	13.7	19.5	16.3
England and Wales 1973	110,600	2.2	11.7	17.0	14.5
Bulgaria 1972	133,600	15.6	71.0	98.4	49.6
Cuba 1972	100,000	11.2	55.7	38.8	28.0
Czechoslovakia 1972	91,300	6.3	29.2	34.7	25.8
Denmark 1973	16,500	3.3	16.3	23.2	18.9
Finland 1972	22,200	4.8	20.4	38.4	27.8
Hungary 1973	169,600	16.3	73.5	102.3	50.6
Israel 1968	3,600	2.3	6.1	5.0	4.7
Japan 1972	732,600	6.8	27.6	35.3	26.1
Norway 1972	12,300	3.1	16.4	19.2	16.1
Poland 1971	135,000	4.1	17.7	23.6	19.1
Scotland 1972	7,600	1.5	7.1	9.7	8.8
Singapore 1972	3,500	1.6	7.1	7.1	6.6
Sweden 1973	26,000	3.2	16.3	24.0	19.4
Tunisia 1972	4,600	0.8	3.9	2.2	2.1
Yugoslavia 1968	245,800	12.2	51.8	64.2	39.1

(2) Source: (a) Center for Disease Control: Abortion Surveillance, 1973 issued May, 1975.

(b) The Registrar General's Statistical Review of England and Wales for the year 1973, issued 1974.

(c) Population Council, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.

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