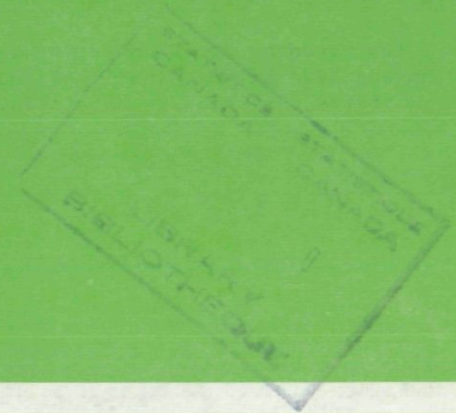




Statistics Canada Statistique Canada



THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS, CANADA, 1975

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 1975.

Total Therapeutic Abortions

The ten provinces and the two territories reported that the hospitals under their jurisdictions performed 49,390 therapeutic abortions during the 12-month period January to December 1975. Canadian residents accounted for 49,311 therapeutic abortions or 99.8% of the total abortions performed.

Therapeutic Abortion Rates

The 49,311 therapeutic abortions represented an abortion rate of 13.6 (number of therapeutic abortions for 1975 as a percentage of estimated live births for 1975). Abortion rates for the provinces based on the estimated live births(1) were 26% in British Columbia, 20% in Ontario, 15% in Yukon, 13% in Alberta and 9% or less in other reporting areas.

The 49,311 abortions reported for 1975 was an increase of 1,175 over the 48,136 abortions reported for 1974. This increase of 1,175 over the previous year is the smallest year-to-year increase recorded during the period 1970 to 1975. This small increase in the number of therapeutic abortions combined with an increase in the number of live births caused the therapeutic abortion rate to decline from 13.9% in 1974 to 13.6% in 1975. This is the first time during the period 1970 to 1975 that there has been a decrease in the abortion rate.

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

Incomplete figures for 1975 indicate that Canadian residents obtained 4,394 legal abortions in the United States — 3,344 abortions in upstate New York, 746 abortions in New York City, 156 abortions in the state of Vermont, 140 abortions in the state of Minnesota and a total of eight abortions in the states of Maine, Montana and New Hampshire. The addition of these 4,394 abortions to the number performed in Canada would give a total of 53,705 therapeutic abortions and an abortion rate of about 14.9% of estimated live births for 1975.

(1) Source: Vital Statistics Section, Statistics Canada.

December 1976
4-2304-504

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

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

Item	Canada 1975	England and Wales 1975	United States 1974
Abortion rate per 1,000:			
Population	2.2	2.2	4.2
Females 15-44 years	9.5	11.3	19.5
Abortion rate per 100:			
Live births	13.6	17.7	28.5
Live births plus abortions	12.0	15.0	22.2

Hospitals with Therapeutic Abortion Committees

The ten provinces and the two territories reported that as of January 1, 1975, there were 274 hospitals with therapeutic abortion committees. There were 110 hospitals with therapeutic abortion committees in Ontario, 54 in British Columbia, 35 in Quebec, 25 in Alberta, 13 in Nova Scotia and ten or less in the other provinces and the two territories.

Selected Demographic and Medical Characteristics

Reports on selected demographic and medical characteristics were available for 49,033 abortion cases or 99.4% of the total of 49,311 abortion cases for Canadian residents in 1975.

Fifty-eight per cent of the 49,033 women obtaining abortions were single; 31% were married and 10% were separated, divorced or living common law.

Thirty-one per cent of the women obtaining abortions were under 20 years old; 59% were between 20 and 34 years old and the remaining 9% were over 35.

Fifty-seven per cent of the women obtaining abortions had no previous delivery; 14% one previous delivery; another 14% had two previous deliveries and 12% had three or more previous deliveries. In the remainder of cases, the number of previous deliveries was not reported.

At the time of pregnancy termination, 81% of the women were under 13 weeks pregnant and the remaining 19% were 13 weeks and over.

The most common abortion procedure was Suction D&C with 70% of the pregnancies being terminated in this manner. The next most common procedure was Surgical D&C (14%); Saline (6%); Menstrual Extraction (5%) and other surgical procedures including Hysterotomy, Hysterectomy, Prostaglandin, etc. (5%).

Of the 49,033 women having abortions, 11% were sterilized at the same time.

There were one or more complications in 3% of the 49,033 cases.

The complete report, Therapeutic Abortions, Canada, 1975, Catalogue 82-211, to be issued later, will 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 1,000 females 15-44 years(1)	Abortion rate per 100 live births	Increase (+) or decrease (-) over previous year			
				Abortions		Abortion rate per 100 live births	
				Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
1970	11,152	2.4	3.0	...	...	...	...
1971	30,923	6.6	8.6	+ 19,771	+ 177.3	+ 5.6	+ 186.7
1972	38,853	8.2	11.2	+ 7,930	+ 25.6	+ 2.6	+ 30.2
1973	43,201	8.8	12.6	+ 4,348	+ 11.2	+ 1.4	+ 12.5
1974	48,136	9.5	13.9	+ 4,935	+ 11.4	+ 1.3	+ 10.3
1975	49,311	9.5	13.6(2)	+ 1,175	+ 2.4	- 0.3	- 2.2

(1) Rate based on abortions all ages.

(2) Rate based on estimated live births.

Hospitals with Therapeutic Abortion Committees, Therapeutic Abortions and
Abortion Rates by Province, Canada, 1974 and 1975

Area	Hospitals with therapeutic abortion committees as at January 1		Therapeutic abortions		Abortion rate per 1,000				Abortion rate per 100 live births	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	Population		Females 15-44 years		1974	1975
					1974	1975	1974	1975		
Canada	259	274	48,136	49,311	2.1	2.2	9.5	9.5	13.9	13.6
Newfoundland	6	6	184	176	0.3	0.3	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.6
Prince Edward Island	2	2	50	77	0.4	0.6	2.1	3.0	2.6	3.8
Nova Scotia	12	13	1,062	1,017	1.3	1.2	6.1	5.7	8.2	7.1
New Brunswick	7	8	440	379	0.7	0.6	3.1	2.5	3.8	3.1
Quebec	27	35	4,453	5,579	0.7	0.9	3.1	3.8	5.2	6.5
Ontario	108	110	24,795	24,921	3.1	3.0	13.7	13.3	20.0	19.5
Manitoba	9	9	1,411	1,298	1.4	1.3	6.6	5.9	8.2	7.2
Saskatchewan	10	10	1,176	1,282	1.3	1.4	6.5	6.8	7.8	8.1
Alberta	24	25	4,391	4,333	2.6	2.5	11.4	10.8	14.7	12.9
British Columbia	52	54	10,024	10,076	4.2	4.1	19.0	18.4	28.3	26.1
Yukon	1	1	63	77	3.3	3.7	14.6	15.7	12.7	14.9
Northwest Territories	1	1	75	95	2.0	2.5	9.4	11.9	7.2	8.7
Residence unknown .....	...	...	12	1	...	...	...	...	...	...

Selected Demographic and Medical Characteristics
of Abortion Cases, 1975

No.	Item	Canada	Newfound- land	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Quebec
1	Total abortions	49,033	176	77	1,017	379	5,579
		per cent distribution(1)					
		100	100	100	100	100	100
	Marital status:						
2	Single	58	60	75	67	68	58
3	Married	31	34	18	24	23	36
4	Other and unknown	10	6	6	9	9	6
	Age:						
5	Under 20 years	31	28	49	38	44	21
6	20-34 years	59	53	43	54	47	67
7	35 years and over	9	19	8	8	8	12
	Gestation:						
8	Under 9 weeks	22	10	22	13	15	48
9	9-12 weeks	59	53	61	58	60	35
10	13 weeks and over	19	36	17	28	25	17
	Previous deliveries:						
11	0	57	57	74	67	66	53
12	1	14	10	10	11	11	15
13	2	14	12	9	11	12	16
14	3 or more	12	20	6	11	12	15
15	Unknown	2	--	--	--	--	--
	Initial surgical procedure:						
16	Surgical D&C	14	43	54	9	5	14
17	Suction D&C	70	16	38	69	83	28
18	Hysterotomy	2	32	5	1	1	2
19	Hysterectomy	--	1	--	--	1	--
20	Saline	6	5	1	20	8	12
21	Urea	1	--	--	--	--	--
22	Prostaglandin	2	--	--	--	--	--
23	Menstrual Extraction	5	3	1	--	1	44
24	Other	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Concurrent sterilizations:						
25	Not sterilized	89	76	95	93	93	94
26	Sterilized	11	24	5	7	7	6
	Abortion complications:						
27	No complications	97	99	99	90	98	96
28	1 or more complications	3	1	1	10	2	4

(1) Because of rounding, percentage distribution may not add up to 100 in some cases.

-- Nil.

-- Amount too small to be expressed (less than .5%).

Selected Demographic and Medical Characteristics
of Abortion Cases, 1975

Ontario	Manitoba	Saskat- chewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Yukon	Northwest Territories	No.
24,921	1,298	1,282	4,333	9,799	77	95	1
per cent distribution(1)							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
56	62	70	66	59	60	78	2
34	27	21	23	28	19	15	3
10	11	9	11	13	21	7	4
30	35	46	39	32	34	32	5
60	54	45	53	60	60	66	6
10	11	8	8	7	6	2	7
20	9	16	16	20	12	17	8
62	61	61	62	63	58	74	9
18	30	23	22	17	30	9	10
53	59	69	66	63	60	61	11
15	13	11	12	14	12	14	12
16	14	9	12	13	18	12	13
12	14	10	10	10	10	13	14
4	--	--	--	--	--	1	15
5	17	11	16	33	4	58	16
85	61	72	71	60	88	32	17
2	5	2	3	1	1	7	18
--	--	--	1	--	--	--	19
5	5	4	6	2	6	--	20
1	--	--	1	--	--	--	21
1	10	10	2	2	--	--	22
--	--	--	--	--	--	1	23
--	1	--	1	--	--	2	24
88	81	89	86	90	86	95	25
12	19	11	14	10	14	5	26
98	95	96	95	97	97	98	27
2	5	4	5	3	3	2	28

Legal Abortions by Selected Demographic and Medical Characteristics, Canada,
England and Wales(1) and United States(1)

Item	Canada 1975	England and Wales 1975(2)	United States 1974(3)
Total legal abortions to residents	49,311	106,600	899,850
Abortion rate			
Abortion rate per 1,000 population	2.2	2.2	4.2
Abortion rate per 1,000 females 15-44 years	9.5	11.3	19.5
Abortion rate per 100 live births	13.6	17.7	28.5
Abortion rate per 100 live births plus abortions	12.0	15.0	22.2
Marital status - Per cent distribution			
Married	31	41	27
Others	69	59	73
Age - Per cent distribution			
Under 20 years	31	26	33
20-34 years	59	58	58
35 years and over and unknown	10	17	9
Gestation - Per cent distribution			
Under 9 weeks	22	22	41
9-12 weeks	59	58	43
13 weeks and over	19	18	12
Unknown	-	2	3
Previous deliveries - Per cent distribution			
0	57	48	46
1	14	11	19
2	14	19	14
3 or more	12	22	18
Unknown	2	-	3
Surgical procedure - Per cent distribution			
Suction D&C	70	61	77
Surgical D&C	14	20	12
Hysterotomy	2	4	1
Hysterectomy	--	1	1
Saline	6	--	8
Other and unknown	8	14	2

Sources: (1) Population Council, New York, N.Y.: Abortion and abortion rates for England and Wales and United States.
(2) Registrar General England and Wales, marital status and age data relate to 1975; gestation, previous deliveries and surgical procedure data relate to 1973.
(3) United States Department of Health Education and Welfare: Demographic and medical data for United States 1974.

Legal Abortions and Abortion Rates, Selected Countries, (1) 1974-1975

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 1975	49,311	2.2	9.5	13.6	12.0
United States 1974	899,850	4.2	19.5	28.5	22.2
England and Wales 1975	106,600	2.2	11.3	17.7	15.0
Bulgaria 1974	123,500	14.2	65.8	82.8	45.3
Cuba 1974	131,500	14.5	71.3	64.0	39.1
Czechoslovakia 1974	83,100	5.7	26.4	28.5	22.2
Denmark 1975	27,900	5.5	27.0	38.8	28.0
Finland 1975	21,500	4.6	20.4	32.3	24.4
German Democratic Republic 1974	99,700	5.8	28.8	55.7	35.7
German Federal Republic 1974	17,800	0.3	1.4	2.8	2.8
Hungary 1975	96,200	9.1	41.9	49.5	33.1
Norway 1974	15,200	3.8	19.9	25.5	20.3
Scotland 1974	7,500	1.4	7.4	10.7	9.7
Singapore 1975	11,900	5.3	22.2	29.8	28.9
Sweden 1975	32,500	4.0	20.3	31.4	23.9
Tunisia 1975	16,000	2.8	13.3	8.2	7.6

(1) Source: Population Council, New York, N.Y., U.S.A., November 1976.

Enquiries about this advance information should be directed to:

1. Mr. S. Wadhera (613-995-0861)
2. Mr. C. Nair (613-995-0862)
3. Mr. C. Baldwin (613-995-0747)

Health Division,
Statistics Canada,
Ottawa, K1A 0T6

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010485806

D