

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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### ● Therapeutic abortions, 1992

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In 1992 the number of therapeutic abortions performed on Canadian women totalled 100,497, up 5.7% from 95,059 in 1991. The increase was mainly due to a 26% increase in the abortions done in abortion clinics. Women had one abortion for every four live births.

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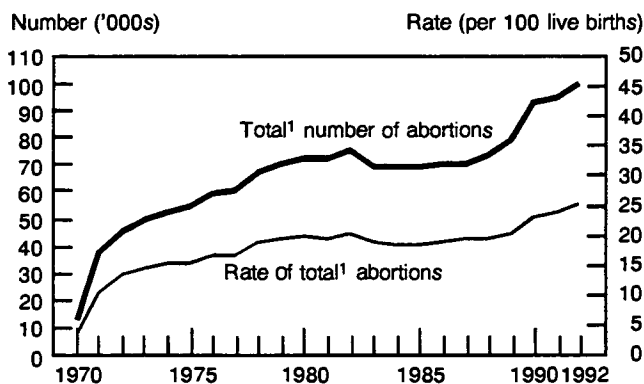
## MAJOR RELEASE

### Therapeutic abortions

1992

In 1992, the number of therapeutic abortions performed on Canadian women totalled 100,497, a 5.7% increase from 95,059 in 1991. The national rate—based on abortions performed in hospitals, clinics, and legal abortions done in the United States—increased to 25.2 abortions per 100 live births in 1992, from 23.6 per 100 in 1991.

#### Number and rate of therapeutic abortions performed on Canadian women



<sup>1</sup> Relates to therapeutic abortions performed on Canadian women in Canadian hospitals and in the United States since 1970, to therapeutic abortions performed in clinics in Quebec since 1978 and in clinics in other provinces since 1990.

#### Clinic abortions increase

The increase in both the annual number and the rate of abortions since 1989 can be attributed to increases in the number of abortions performed in abortion clinics. In 1992, three of every 10 (29.4%) abortions were performed in clinics, compared with fewer than one in 10 (8.9%) in 1989 (Table 1). During the same period, the number of abortions performed in hospitals remained relatively constant. The number of women who obtained abortions in the United States declined to 526 in 1992 from 1,551 in 1989.

The concept of private clinic abortions in Canada gained rapid momentum after January 1988, when the Supreme Court of Canada struck down the prevailing abortion law. Prior to that, Quebec was the only province reporting clinic abortions.

Table 1

#### Therapeutic abortions for Canadian women by source of report

	Total abortions	Percent of abortions reported from		
		Hospitals	Clinics <sup>1</sup>	United States
1988	72,693	91.0	6.3	2.7
1989	79,315	89.1	8.9	2.0
1990	92,901	76.5	21.8	1.7
1991	95,059	73.9	24.6	1.5
1992	100,497	70.1	29.4	0.5

<sup>1</sup> Prior to 1990, information relates to province of Quebec. For 1990, in addition to Quebec, five provinces (Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia) reported clinic abortions. For 1991 and 1992, Alberta also reported similar data.

By 1992, private abortion clinics were operating in six additional provinces: Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia. Consequently, the number of abortions reported from clinics increased by more than three times, from 7,059 in 1989 to 29,563 in 1992.

#### Hospital abortions

A total of 70,408 therapeutic abortions were performed in Canadian hospitals in 1992, slightly higher (+0.2%) than the 1991 level of 70,277. The number of hospital abortions peaked in 1990 at 71,092. The 1992 rate of hospital abortions was 17.7 for each 100 live births, almost unchanged from 17.5 the year before. (Data about selected demographic and medical characteristics are available only for women who obtained hospital abortions.)

The age-specific abortion rate (abortions per 1,000 women of a given age) was highest for women aged 20 to 24 (20.6). This was followed by women under 20 (14.5), and women aged 25 to 29 (13.3). The rates for women in the 30-and-over age groups were about one-third the rate for women in their early twenties or lower. Similar rankings were observed in past years.

For women who obtained hospital abortions in 1992, two-thirds were single and one-quarter were married. Half had no deliveries prior to abortion. About 28% had previously had one or more induced abortions.

#### Abortion rates for provinces and territories

Among the 10 provinces, based on hospital abortions, British Columbia had the highest abortion rate in 1992 at 22.9 abortions for every 100 live births—even though it had dropped substantially from 30.4 in 1981 (Table 2).

The 1992 rate of 28.4 abortions per 100 live births for the Yukon was higher than that for British Columbia. However, because of the small number of abortions in the Yukon (150), the Northwest Territories (320) and Prince Edward Island (13), year-

to-year and provincial comparisons of these figures should be made with caution.

Over the past decade, Quebec's abortion rate has increased most rapidly, rising from 9.5 abortions for every 100 live births in 1981 to 16.6 in 1992—third among the provinces. Ontario, the most populated province, recorded the most hospital abortions (30,227) in 1992. But that figure was down from 31,344 in 1991. In addition, Ontario's abortion rate of 20.1 for every 100 live births in 1992 had dropped from 24.9 in 1981.

Further tabulations of 1992 statistics on therapeutic abortions may be obtained from the Information Requests Unit (613-951-1746), Health Statistics Division.

For further information on the release, contact Surinder Wadhwa (613-951-3415), Health Statistics Division.

Table 2

#### Therapeutic abortions performed in hospitals and rates by province or territory of residence of women who obtained these abortions

Area of residence	Number of therapeutic abortions			Rate per 100 live births		
	1992	1991	1981	1992	1991	1981
<b>Canada<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>70,408</b>	<b>70,277</b>	<b>65,053</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>17.5</b>
Newfoundland	465	437	470	6.7	6.1	4.6
Prince Edward Island	13	23	27	0.7	1.2	1.4
Nova Scotia	1,851	1,778	1,689	15.6	14.8	14.0
New Brunswick	671	602	444	7.2	6.3	4.2
Quebec	15,986	14,727	9,042	16.6	15.1	9.5
Ontario	30,227	31,344	30,463	20.1	20.7	24.9
Manitoba	2,564	2,524	1,610	15.5	14.6	10.0
Saskatchewan	1,434	1,289	1,627	9.6	8.4	9.5
Alberta	6,165	6,335	6,757	14.7	14.8	15.8
British Columbia	10,558	10,726	12,619	22.9	23.5	30.4
Yukon	150	147	123	28.4	25.9	22.9
Northwest Territories	320	330	179	20.6	20.2	13.7

<sup>1</sup> May include cases not reported for residence.

## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Quality management practices

1994

Data from the 1994 survey of quality management practices, which focussed on selected services industries, are now available.

For further information on this release, contact Elaine Wilson (613-951-7529), Small Business and Special Surveys Division. ■

### Steel wire and specified wire products

August 1994

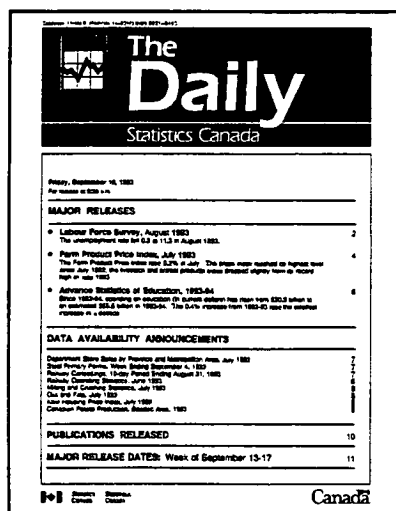
Shipments totalled 67 614 tonnes in August 1994, up 17.7% from 57 459 tonnes the previous month.

Data on factory shipments of steel wire and specified wire products for August 1994 are now available, as are production and export market data for selected commodities.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (series 19).

The August 1994 issue of *Steel wire and specified wire products* (41-006, \$6/\$60) will be available later.

For further information on this release, contact Bruno Pépin (613-951-9837), Industry Division. ■



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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Fruit and vegetable production, September 1994.  
Catalogue number 22-003**

(Canada: \$26/\$104; United States: US\$32/US\$125;  
other countries: US\$37/US\$146).

**Production and inventories of process cheese  
and instant skim milk powder, August 1994.**

**Catalogue number 32-024**

(Canada: \$6/\$60; United States: US\$8/US\$72; other  
countries: US\$9/US\$84).

**Construction type plywood, July 1994.**

**Catalogue number 35-001**

(Canada: \$6/\$60; United States: US\$8/US\$72; other  
countries: US\$9/US\$84).

**Production, shipments and stocks on hand of  
sawmills in British Columbia, July 1994.**

**Catalogue number 35-003**

(Canada: \$8/\$80; United States: US\$10/US\$96; other  
countries: US\$12/US\$112).

**Causes of death, 1992.**

**Catalogue number 84-208**

(Canada: \$30; United States: US\$36; other countries:  
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