

# The Daily

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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Canadian women obtained 104,400 abortions in 1993, a 2.3% increase from the previous year.  
More women are having abortions at earlier stages of pregnancy.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Therapeutic abortions

1993

In 1993, the number of therapeutic abortions and the abortion rate per 100 live births both increased, continuing the upward trend that has prevailed since 1989. Increases were reported in all provinces and territories except the Northwest Territories.

Most therapeutic abortions continued to be performed in hospitals, although the rise in the number and the rate between 1989 and 1992 was primarily because of abortions performed in clinics. The increase during 1992-93 came primarily from abortions in hospitals. As well, since 1982, the number of Canadian women obtaining abortions in the United States has fallen sharply.

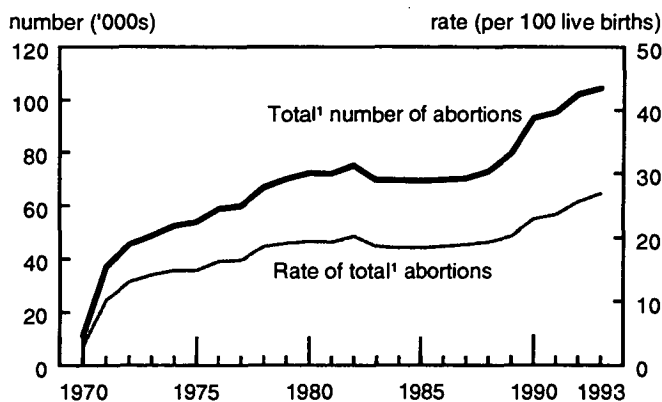
Young single women continued to account for most therapeutic hospital abortions. Over the past decade, the proportion of abortions performed on women who had at least one prior delivery and on those who had a prior induced abortion has grown. A rising share of abortions are being performed on women less than 13 weeks pregnant, which may account for a substantial decrease in the percentage of abortion-related complications.

#### Abortions and rates increase

The number of therapeutic abortions performed on Canadian women totalled 104,403 in 1993. This was a 2.3% increase over 102,085 in 1992, identical to the increase from 1990 to 1991, but less than one-third the 7.4% increase from 1991 to 1992.

The national rate (based on therapeutic abortions performed in hospitals and clinics in Canada and legal abortions obtained by Canadian women in the United States) was 26.9 abortions per 100 live births in 1993, up from 25.6 per 100 in 1992 and 23.6 per 100 in 1991.

### 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, therapeutic abortions performed in clinics in Quebec since 1978, and in clinics in other provinces since 1990.

Both the numbers and rates have increased annually from the 1985 low. The total number of abortions that year was 69,216 (18.4 abortions per 100 live births). From 1985 to 1993, the average annual increase was 6.3% for abortions and 5.7% for the rate.

### Therapeutic abortions among Canadian women, by source of report

	Total abortions	Abortions reported from:			Abortion rate per 100 live births
		hospitals	clinics <sup>1</sup>	the United States	
1985	69,216	62,712	3,706	2,798	18.4
1988	72,693	66,137	4,617	1,939	19.3
1989	79,315	70,705	7,059	1,551	20.2
1990	92,901	71,092	20,236	1,573	22.9
1991	95,059	70,277	23,343	1,439	23.6
1992 <sup>2</sup>	102,085	70,408	31,151	526	25.6
1993	104,403	72,434	31,508	461	26.9

<sup>1</sup> Before 1990, the data relate to Quebec. In 1990, in addition to Quebec, five provinces (Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia) reported data on abortions performed in clinics. For 1991 to 1993, Alberta also reported similar data.

<sup>2</sup> Revised figures.

### Clinic abortions—a major factor in the increase

The higher annual numbers and rates starting with 1989 are primarily attributable to increases in the number of clinic abortions. After a January 1988 decision of the Supreme Court of Canada struck down the 1969 abortion law, new clinics opened. By the end of 1991, clinics were operating in 7 of the 10 provinces, the exceptions being Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan. Quebec has reported data on clinic abortions since 1978. The annual number of clinic abortions in Canada more than tripled from 7,059 in 1989 to 31,508 in 1993.

As a percentage of total abortions, those performed in clinics increased to 30.2% in 1993, from 24.6% in 1991 and 8.9% in 1989. During this period, the annual number of hospital abortions remained relatively stable, whereas the number of abortions on Canadian women reported from the United States decreased to 461 in 1993, from 1,551 in 1989 and 2,798 in 1985.

The number of therapeutic abortions performed in Canadian hospitals increased 2.9% to 72,434 in 1993, from 70,408 in 1992. The 1993 rate of hospital abortions was 18.7 per 100 live births, compared with 17.7 per 100 for 1992, 17.5 per 100 in 1990 and 1991, and 16.7 per 100 in 1985.

### Higher provincial rates

Based on hospital abortions, all 10 provinces recorded higher abortion rates in 1993 than in 1992. Rates increased by less than the national average (+5.7%) in New Brunswick (+1.4%), Manitoba (+1.9%), Ontario (+2.5%), British Columbia (+2.6%) and Nova Scotia (+5.1%). Increases were above the national average in Alberta (+7.5%), Saskatchewan (+8.8%), Newfoundland (+15.6%) and Prince Edward Island (+28.6%). The abortion rate increased in the Yukon (+4.4%) and decreased in Northwest Territories (-15.5%).

Among the provinces in 1993, as in the past, the highest abortion rate per 100 live births was in British Columbia (23.5), followed by Ontario (20.6), Quebec (18.3), Nova Scotia (16.4), Manitoba and Alberta (15.8 each); rates in the other four provinces were less than 15. Because a small number of abortions are reported for the Yukon (165), the Northwest Territories (278) and Prince Edward Island (16), year-to-year changes in the data are unstable, and provincial comparisons of numbers and rates should be made cautiously.

### Women having hospital abortions tend to be young and single

The women who had therapeutic abortions in hospitals in Canada (except British Columbia) in 1993 tended to be young. However, over the 1983-to-1993 period, the proportion of therapeutic abortions performed in hospitals decreased among women under 20 (from 25.5% to 19.7%) and among those aged 20 to 29 (from 53.5% to 52.3%). Over the same period, the proportion increased for those aged 30 to 39 (from 19% to 25.2%). Women aged 40 and over accounted for a relatively stable share of abortions (2.7%). This may be partly attributed to the shift in female population from younger to older age groups. Or it might indicate that younger women are becoming more likely to have abortions in clinics, from which complete data on age are not available.

Among women who had hospital abortions in 1993, 63.7% were single, 22.4% were married and 11% were separated, divorced, widowed or living common law. Between 1983 and 1993, the proportion of married women declined from 27.7% to 22.4%; a slightly larger share of women obtaining abortions were living common law (4% versus 2%). In 1993, marital status was unspecified in 2.9% of cases.

In 1993, at the time of the abortion, 50.4% of women reported no prior deliveries, down from 60% in 1983. By contrast, 45.3% reported at least one prior delivery, up from 37.5% in 1983. Similarly, about 28% of the women had had at least one induced abortion before the abortion in 1993, up from 17.6% in 1983. For 4.3% of cases in 1993 and 2.5% in 1983, the number of prior deliveries was not reported. For prior induced abortions, the proportion of unspecified cases increased to 5.5% of abortions in 1993, from 2.8% in 1983.

A growing proportion of abortions are performed in the early stages of pregnancy. The share of abortions performed on women pregnant less than 13 weeks rose to 91.7% in 1993 from 87.6% in 1983. This may be one reason for the decrease in abortion-related complications, from 2.1% of total abortion cases in 1983 to 1.3% in 1993.

Complete data on the demographic and medical characteristics of the woman were available for 75.2% (54,444 cases) of hospital abortions, or 52.1% of all the abortions performed on Canadian women in 1993. British Columbia did not report data on gestation period, previous deliveries, previous abortions, and abortion complications for individual therapeutic abortions done in 1993.

To obtain tabulations of the 1993 data on abortions, contact the Information Requests Unit (613-951-1643), Health Statistics Division.

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

**Therapeutic abortions performed in hospitals and rates, by province or territory of residence**

	1981	1992	1993	1981	1992	1993
	number			rate per 100 live births		
<b>Canada<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>65,053</b>	<b>70,408</b>	<b>72,434</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>18.7</b>
Newfoundland	470	465	477	4.6	6.7	7.4
Prince Edward Island	27	13	16	1.4	0.7	0.9
Nova Scotia	1,689	1,851	1,899	14.0	15.6	16.4
New Brunswick	444	671	657	4.2	7.2	7.3
Quebec	9,042	15,986	16,914	9.5	16.6	18.3
Ontario	30,463	30,227	30,518	24.9	20.1	20.6
Manitoba	1,610	2,564	2,635	10.0	15.5	15.8
Saskatchewan	1,627	1,434	1,621	9.5	9.6	11.4
Alberta	6,757	6,165	6,379	15.8	14.7	15.8
British Columbia	12,619	10,558	10,813	30.4	22.9	23.5
Yukon	123	150	165	22.9	28.4	32.5
Northwest Territories	179	320	278	13.7	20.6	17.8

<sup>1</sup> Includes cases where area of residence was not reported.

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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Postal code—federal riding file

July 1995

The July 1995 version of the *Postal code—federal riding file* (92F0007) is a digital file that links the six-character postal codes and the federal ridings (electoral districts).

The file is a tool for use with administrative files that contain postal codes. Using the postal code as a link, data from administrative files can be organized and tabulated by federal riding. For example, federal government departments could use the file to respond more quickly and easily to requests from Members of Parliament for information about their ridings.

This release links over 670,000 postal codes (as of January 1995) to 295 federal ridings and updates the 1991 edition. The *Postal code—federal riding file* is available in ASCII format as a standard product for all of Canada or by province.

For further information on this release, or to order, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. ■

### Postal code conversion file

July 1995

The July 1995 version of the *Postal code conversion file* is a digital file that links six-character postal codes with standard 1991 Census geographic areas (such as enumeration areas, census tracts, and census subdivisions). It also locates each postal code by longitude and latitude to support mapping applications.

The file has been updated to include postal codes as of January 1995. Over 5,000 records have been added since the last release.

The *Postal code conversion file* is available in ASCII format on magnetic tape (1,600 and 6,250 bpi), cartridge (38,000 bpi), or 3.5 inch high-density diskette. It is available as a standard product for all of Canada or by province (subsets are also available). This edition updates the 1991 version.

For further information on this release, or to order, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. ■

### Oils and fats

May 1995

Production of all types of deodorized oils in May totalled 79 619 tonnes, a 10.2% decrease from 72 229 revised tonnes in April 1995. At the end of May 1995, year-to-date production totalled 373 531 revised tonnes, a 5.7% increase from 353 480 tonnes a year earlier.

Manufacturers' sales of packaged shortening totalled 11 370 tonnes in May 1995, up from 9 589 revised tonnes the previous month. At the end of May 1995, year-to-date sales totalled 50 985 tonnes, compared with 51 988 tonnes a year earlier.

Sales of packaged salad oil totalled 7 477 tonnes in May 1995, up from 4 793 revised tonnes the previous month. Year-to-date sales at the end of May 1995 totalled 29 494 revised tonnes, compared with 30 816 tonnes a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 184.

The May 1995 issue of *Oils and fats* (32-006, \$6/\$60) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511), Industry Division. ■

### Elementary and secondary school enrolment

1992-93

Data on enrolment in elementary and secondary schools for the 1992-93 school year are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 8012-8025, 8053-8066, 8080-8082, 8098-8112, 8126-8135 and 8138-8147.

For further information on this release, contact Marcel Bécharde (613-951-1520), Education, Culture and Tourism Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

### Characteristics of dual-earner families, 1993

#### Catalogue number 13-215

(Canada: \$27; United States: US\$33; other countries: US\$38).

### Pulpwood and wood residue statistics, May 1995

#### Catalogue number 25-001

(Canada: \$7/\$70; United States: US\$9/US\$84; other countries: US\$10/US\$98).

### Restaurant, caterer and tavern statistics, December 1994

#### Catalogue number 63-011

(Canada: \$7/\$70; United States: US\$9/US\$84; other countries: US\$10/US\$98).

### Building permits, May 1995

#### Catalogue number 64-001

(Canada: \$24/\$240; United States: US\$29/US\$288; other countries: US\$34/US\$336).

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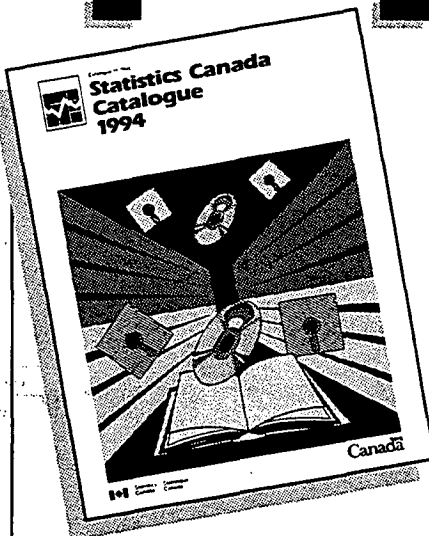
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