

# Statistics - Abortion in Canada

Updated January 30, 2019

The following data were compiled from Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) annual statistics. See [Links to Sources](#) for each year's stats, including footnotes that explain and qualify the data.

In 2007, CIHI took over the collection and compilation of abortion statistics from Statistics Canada (StatsCan). For stats prior to 2007, see [Links to Sources](#).

Hospital reporting of abortion numbers is mandatory, but clinic reporting is not. However, all clinics do report for most years as far as we know (despite some CIHI footnotes to the contrary). Known exceptions are noted with stars in the first table.



Abortion Rights  
Coalition of Canada

Coalition pour le droit à  
l'avortement au Canada

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## Abortion Rates

Description	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Total</b>	<b>98,762</b>	<b>95,876</b>	<b>93,755</b>	<b>90,747</b>	<del>92,524</del> <b>108,844**</b>	<del>83,708</del> <b>100,958**</b>	<del>82,869</del> <b>102,446**</b>	<del>81,897</del> <b>100,194**</b>	<b>100,104</b>	<b>97,764</b>	<b>94,030</b>
Hospital abortions	47,281	44,375	41,640	38,611	37,150	36,002	35,003	33,931	23,561	30,799	29,597
Clinic abortions	51,481	51,501	52,115	52,136	<del>53,374</del> 69,694**	<del>47,706</del> 64,946**	<del>47,866</del> 66,623**	<del>47,966</del> 66,263**	76,543	66,965	64,433
<b>By Province/Territory:</b>											
Newfoundland/Labrador	850	904	956	1,068	1,026	1,054	223 *	1,051	1,019	978	987
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	147
Nova Scotia	2,119	2,126	2,119	2,125	2,157	2,119	2,077	2,061	1,924	1,908	1,791
New Brunswick	1,082	1,096	1,104	1,098	1,056	1,058	1,036	528*	676*	827*	699*
Quebec	27,697	27,295	27,139	26,106	26,245	25,400	25,253	25,083	24,193	23,393	22,966
Ontario **	32,331	32,150	30,268	28,765	<del>28,114</del> 44,434**	<del>27,386</del> 44,636**	<del>25,108</del> 43,865**	<del>23,746</del> 42,043**	39,679**	38,383	35,587
Manitoba	3,978	4,025	4,247	4,150	3,998	3,988	3,873	4,015	3,759	3,668	3,490
Saskatchewan	1,806	1,889	2,019	1,915	1,928	2,015	1,921	1,960	1,855	2,082	2,083
Alberta	12,590	13,062	13,150	13,084	13,372	13,287	13,376	13,815	13,358	12,948	12,706
British Columbia	15,770	12,914*	12,461*	12,149*	14,341	7,128 *	9,574 *	9,196*	13,166	13,116	13,182
Yukon	116	139	128	147	155	145	121	102	116	116	98
Northwest Territories	328	171	57	40	45	35	211	255	266	277	226
Nunavut	95	105	107	100	87	93	96	85	93	68	68

\* **2017/2016/2015/2014:** Fredericton NB clinic did not report. **2014:** At least one BC clinic did not report. **2013:** At least one BC clinic did not report. Newfoundland clinic did not report. **2012:** At least two BC clinics did not report. **2008-10:** One BC clinic did not report.

\*\* Ontario started reporting unfunded clinic abortions for 2015, and new totals also became available for 2011 to 2014. Strikeouts in the table were the previously reported numbers. The apparent increase represents a change in reporting, not an actual increase. See page 5 for explanation on unreported Ontario abortions.

## Gestational Age and Complication Rates (hospitals only and excluding Quebec)

Description	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Gestational age: (Hospitals only, and excluding Quebec)</b> See <a href="#">Links to Sources</a> for some data prior to 2007.											
8 weeks or less	9,976	9,338	8,366	8,300	7,974	7,563	7,390	7,214	7,330	7,366	6,724
9 – 12 weeks	13,399	12,685	11,860	11,191	10,799	10,798	10,186	9,652	8,701	8,241	7,861
13- 16 weeks	2,442	2,062	1,957	1,794	1,853	1,767	1,740	1,705	1,585	1,657	1,653
17 – 20 weeks	1,023	1,019	951	846	823	839	822	853	836	846	906
21+ weeks	549	558	552	537	549	563	564	605	587	616	706
Unknown	5,641	5,533	5,128	4,908	4,577	4,542	4,741	4,710	4,522	4,192	4,237
Total	33,030	31,195	28,814	27,576	26,575	26,072	25,443	24,739	23,561	22,918	22,087
<b>Complication rate: (Hospitals only, and excluding Quebec)</b>											
None	32,136	30,473	28,161	26,927	25,980	25,462	24,878	24,175	23,060	22,471	21,645
Hemorrhage	343	261	227	231	221	264	231	236	174	176	154
Infection	130	115	101	107	109	72	76	64	70	53	60
Retained products of conception	124	121	101	89	97	109	102	108	112	89	72
Combination	82	85	91	82	69	61	73	67	60	51	47
Other	215	140	133	140	99	104	83	89	85	78	109
Total	33,030	31,195	28,814	27,576	26,575	26,072	25,443	24,739	23,561	22,918	22,087

## Abortion rates after 20 weeks, and total estimated abortions including unreported ones

Abortion clinics that are not affiliated with a hospital do not perform abortions past 20 weeks (often stated as 22 weeks from last menstrual period, “LMP”). About one-third of reporting hospitals don’t report details on gestational ages, presumably all in Quebec, but we can assume that the proportion of 21+ week abortions are similar for that one-third. Therefore, taking into account the total estimated numbers of abortions for 2017: **94,230\***– the estimated percentage of abortions at 21+ weeks is **0.66** percent.

\* Adding in estimated missing 2017 numbers from New Brunswick: **200**, based on email communication with the clinic.

## Abortion rates by 12 weeks

Only hospitals report abortion numbers by gestational limits. The 2017 CIHI data show that 14.8% of hospital abortions are done after 12 weeks. For clinics however, some do not go past 16 weeks, while less than a third go as far as 20 or 22 weeks (see <http://www.arcc-cdac.ca/list-abortion-clinics-canada.pdf>). Our estimated calculation for 2017 is as follows:

<b>3,265</b>	Number of hospital abortions after 12 weeks (14.8%)
<b>627</b>	Estimate of number of hospital abortions after 12 weeks in CIHI’s “Unknown” category (using 14.8% estimate)
<b>6,443</b>	Number of clinic abortions after 12 weeks, based on a <b>liberal</b> estimate that 10% of all clinic abortions (64,433) occur after 12 weeks.
<b>10,335</b>	Total estimated abortions done after 12 weeks.

Therefore, based on the total number of 94,030 reported abortions, an estimated **91%** are done by 12 weeks.

## Abortion rate per 1000 women of childbearing age (15-44)

CIHI does not publish the abortion rate per 1000 women of childbearing age, even though this is a standard measurement used throughout the world. We have calculated it as follows:

<b>7,167,620:</b>	Canada’s population of women in the age group 15-44, from CANSIM, 2018: <a href="https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1710000501&amp;pickMembers%5B0%5D=1.1&amp;pickMembers%5B1%5D=2.3">https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1710000501&amp;pickMembers%5B0%5D=1.1&amp;pickMembers%5B1%5D=2.3</a>
<b>13.1 / 1000</b>	Abortion rate per 1000 women aged 15-44, based on official CIHI data for 2017: <b>94,030</b>

## Unreported abortions in Ontario

- In 2015, CIHI finally started reporting the unreported abortions from Ontario, going back to 2011. See Note and Table below.
- **Previous data:** In 2010 in Ontario, 18,402 abortions were done by non-funded clinics and doctor’s offices and not reported to CIHI (as FOI’d by an [anti-choice activist](#)). In 2014, there were 21,725 unreported abortions in Ontario ([anti-choice source](#)). This ongoing phenomenon began in the 1990s, but these abortions had never been counted by StatsCan or CIHI until now. They are all (or virtually all) first trimester abortions. Some other provinces also have small numbers (not statistically significant) of unreported abortions occurring in doctors’ offices. These abortions are billed by the individual doctors to provincial Medicare, so provincial records exist for them but they are not shared with CIHI.
- **Why did Ontario have so many unreported abortions?** The large majority of unreported abortions occur in Ontario because the NDP Bob Rae government only funded the five Toronto clinics that existed around 1990, as well as the Ottawa Morgentaler Clinic. They were funded as “Independent Health Facilities,” a Liberal program that was completed by Rae’s NDP government. Since then, several more abortion clinics have opened, but as they fell outside the IHF program, they weren’t funded. These non-funded clinics include the Brampton Women’s Clinic, Mississauga Women’s Clinic, and Women’s Care Clinic in Toronto. However, patients pay only the costs that are apart from the doctor’s fee, which is paid by OHIP.
- But the Ontario clinics **should be fully funded** by the Ontario Ministry of Health. The 1995 clarification to the *Canada Health Act* by Health Canada (<http://www.arcc-cdac.ca/backgrounders/HC-letter-Jan1995.pdf>) instructed all provincial/territorial Health Ministers to fully fund any private clinic doing medically required procedures, and that user fees charged directly to the patient were illegal. The Progressive Conservative government under Mike Harris did not abide by these requirements, and Ontario has been violating the *Canada Health Act* ever since.

### Note and table from [CIHI 2015 report, Table 1:](#)

“To improve the accuracy of Ontario’s reported abortion volumes, the methodology has been updated. Total volumes were derived by using the total abortion volumes reported to the National Physician Database (NPDB) at CIHI and adding both hospital-based abortions for non-Ontario residents and hospital-based medical-method-only abortions for Ontario residents (as reported to the Discharge Abstract Database and the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System). For Ontario, volumes reported in the column Number of induced abortions reported by clinics include services from non-hospital settings. Volumes for non-hospital settings (clinics/surgical facilities/physician offices) were estimated using the total abortion volumes as described above and subtracting hospital-based abortions. This methodology results in induced abortions occurring in physician offices and in clinics being included in non-hospital settings volumes. This estimation approach for non-hospital volumes was required because information on the location where the service is rendered (e.g., clinic, hospital, physician's office) may not be included in the NPDB data.”

Year	Number of induced abortions reported by Ontario hospitals	Number of induced abortions reported by clinics in Ontario	Ontario total	Canada total
2011	12,483	31,951	44,434	108,844
2012	12,137	32,499	44,636	100,958
2013	11,408	32,457	43,865	102,446
2014	10,977	31,066	42,043	100,194

## Links to Sources

### Original CIHI statistics (including footnotes that qualify above data):

- 2007: [http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA\\_07\\_ALLDATATABLES20101124\\_EN](http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA_07_ALLDATATABLES20101124_EN)  
2008: [http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA\\_08\\_ALLDATATABLES20101124\\_EN](http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA_08_ALLDATATABLES20101124_EN)  
2009: [http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA\\_09\\_ALLDATATABLES20111028\\_EN](http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA_09_ALLDATATABLES20111028_EN)  
2010: [http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA\\_10\\_ALLDATATABLES20120417\\_EN](http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA_10_ALLDATATABLES20120417_EN)  
2011: [http://www.cihi.ca/cihi-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA\\_11\\_ALLDATATABLES20130221\\_EN](http://www.cihi.ca/cihi-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA_11_ALLDATATABLES20130221_EN)  
2012: [http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA\\_11\\_ALLDATATABLES20140221\\_EN](http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA_11_ALLDATATABLES20140221_EN)  
2013: [http://www.cihi.ca/web/resource/en/data\\_induced\\_ab\\_en.xlsx](http://www.cihi.ca/web/resource/en/data_induced_ab_en.xlsx) (Excel spreadsheet)  
2014: [https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/induced\\_abortion\\_can\\_2014\\_en\\_web.xlsx](https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/induced_abortion_can_2014_en_web.xlsx) (Excel spreadsheet)  
2015: <https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/induced-abortion-can-2015-en-web.xlsx> (Excel spreadsheet)  
2016: <https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/induced-abortion-can-2016-en-web.xlsx> (Excel spreadsheet)  
2017: <https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/induced-abortion-2017-en-web.xlsx> (Excel spreadsheet)

### Earlier StatsCan data (Available in different formats):

- 2002 to 2006: <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a05?lang=eng&id=1069005>  
2001 to 2005: <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/olc-cel/olc.action?objId=82-223-X&objType=2&lang=en&limit=0>  
2001 to 2003: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/060315/dq060315c-eng.htm>  
1970 to 2001: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-223-x/2004000/4153194-eng.htm>

A more accessible source for a summary of the above StatsCan data may be: <http://abortionincanada.ca/stats/annual-abortion-rates/>  
(be warned this is an anti-choice site).

### StatsCan gestational age stats from 1995-2003:

<http://www.arcc-cdac.ca/StatsCan-gestation-times-1995-2003.xls>

If you get a password prompt, click OK and it will open the file as read-only. You will see 3 tables (tabs at bottom). This data was purchased from StatsCan by the National Abortion Federation around 2005 and is not publicly available except on ARCC's website. Therefore, no data on gestational ages is available for the years 2004-2006, or before 1995.

*This document is located at: [www.arcc-cdac.ca/backgrounders/statistics-abortion-in-canada.pdf](http://www.arcc-cdac.ca/backgrounders/statistics-abortion-in-canada.pdf)*