

# Statistics - Abortion in Canada

Updated April 8, 2023

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.

Hospital reporting of abortion numbers is mandatory, but clinic reporting is not. However, most 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.

**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](#).

**For 2015**, CIHI started reporting some unreported abortions from Ontario, going back to 2011.

**In 2023**, CIHI was able to report additional abortions for 2020 and 2021 based on physician billing data in five provinces: Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia. Future data releases will likely capture other provinces. The new numbers include abortions done in doctors' office, by nurse practitioners, and in non-hospital settings such as community clinics. Historically, these abortions were small in number but have grown significantly since 2017 because they mostly comprise medication abortions using Mifegymiso. The new CIHI methodology also includes the source of total abortion numbers and method of abortion for some provinces. **This means that 2021 results are not comparable with historical data.**



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## Abortion Rates

Description	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<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>	<b>85,195</b>	<b>83,576</b>	<del>74,155</del> <b>91,551♦</b>	<b>87,485</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	26,498	24,852	21,809	20,217
Non-hospital abortions: <b>2020 to 2021</b>	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	58,697	58,724	<del>52,346</del> 69,742♦	67,268
Clinic abortions: <b>2007 to 2019</b>															
<b>By Province/Territory:</b>															
Newfoundland/Labrador	850	904	956	1,068	1,026	1,054	223 *	1,051	1,019	978	987	1,107	999	<del>891</del> 910♦	928
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	147	205	234	252	209
Nova Scotia	2,119	2,126	2,119	2,125	2,157	2,119	2,077	2,061	1,924	1,908	1,791	1,450	1,268	<del>1,209</del> 1,893♦	2,007
New Brunswick	1,082	1,096	1,104	1,098	1,056	1,058	1,036	528*	676*	827*	699*	507*	529*	495*	895*
Quebec	27,697	27,295	27,139	26,106	26,245	25,400	25,253	25,083	24,193	23,393	22,966	22,093	23,291†	21,815	19,966
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	29,513	27,911	<del>21,428</del> 35,801♦	34,988
Manitoba	3,978	4,025	4,247	4,150	3,998	3,988	3,873	4,015	3,759	3,668	3,490	2,909	2,768	<del>2,196</del> 3,325♦	2,820
Saskatchewan	1,806	1,889	2,019	1,915	1,928	2,015	1,921	1,960	1,855	2,082	2,083	2,009	1,940	1,639	1,713
Alberta	12,590	13,062	13,150	13,084	13,372	13,287	13,376	13,815	13,358	12,948	12,706	12,848	12,328	11,983	11,223
British Columbia	15,770	12,914*	12,461*	12,149*	14,341	7,128 *	9,574 *	9,196*	13,166	13,116	13,182	12,206	11,939	<del>11,934</del> 13,125♦	12,395
Yukon	116	139	128	147	155	145	121	102	116	116	98	86	60	82	76
Northwest Territories	328	171	57	40	45	35	211	255	266	277	226	252	233	205	221
Nunavut	95	105	107	100	87	93	96	85	93	68	68	100	76*	26*	44*

See footnotes on next page.

\* **2014-21:** Fredericton NB clinic did not report. **2019-21:** Nunavut hospital data is incomplete. **2013-14:** At least one BC clinic did not report. **2013:** 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 6 for explanation on unreported Ontario abortions.

‡ The methodology for Quebec was revised in 2019 to include fee codes for medical abortions, resulting in an increase in reported abortion volumes for both hospitals and clinics.

◆ Strikeouts in the 2020 column were the previously reported numbers for Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia. The increase represents additional abortions counted that were done in doctors' offices, by nurse practitioners, and in other non-hospital settings.

## Aspiration or Surgical Abortions versus Medication Abortions

Note: Prior to 2021, medication abortions were counted only for hospitals, and were done via “antacid treatment, oxytocins, or pharmacological combination.” Before the availability of Mifegymiso in Jan 2017, methotrexate abortions were provided by some clinics but were not counted.

As of 2021, CIHI no longer breaks down method of abortion by hospital or non-hospital facility.

Description	Hospitals only					All facilities
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Surgical or aspiration abortion	21,773	20,888	18,074	15,943	13,245	55,073
Medication abortion	1,145	1,188	1,370	1,478	1,570	32,234
<b>Total</b>						87,307

## 2020: Gestational Age and Complication Rates (hospitals only and excluding Quebec)

**As of 2021**, CIHI no longer collects gestational age and complication rates from hospitals because this data represents only a small proportion of abortions in Canada, and is not representative of all abortions across all settings. **The table below will no longer be updated.**

Description	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<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	6,649	5,503	4,725
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	5,975	5,102	4,002
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	1,560	1,591	1,278
17 – 20 weeks	1,023	1,019	951	846	823	839	822	853	836	846	906	783	816	749
21+ weeks	549	558	552	537	549	563	564	605	587	616	706	659	703	652
Unknown	5,641	5,533	5,128	4,908	4,577	4,542	4,741	4,710	4,522	4,192	4,237	3,818	3,706	3,409
Total	33,030	31,195	28,814	27,576	26,575	26,072	25,443	24,739	23,561	22,918	22,087	19,444	17,421	14,815
<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	19,019	16,998	14,436
Hemorrhage	343	261	227	231	221	264	231	236	174	176	154	156	159	167
Infection	130	115	101	107	109	72	76	64	70	53	60	50	55	42
Retained products of conception	124	121	101	89	97	109	102	108	112	89	72	81	72	62
Combination	82	85	91	82	69	61	73	67	60	51	47	43	43	29
Other	215	140	133	140	99	104	83	89	85	78	109	95	94	79
Total	33,030	31,195	28,814	27,576	26,575	26,072	25,443	24,739	23,561	22,918	22,087	19,444	17,421	14,815

## 2020: Abortion rates at 21+ weeks, and total estimated abortions including unreported ones

**As of 2021**, CIHI no longer collects gestational age data from hospitals because it represents only a small proportion of abortions in Canada, and is not representative of all abortions across all settings. **The information on this page is based on 2020 abortion data and has not been updated.**

Abortion clinics that are not affiliated with a hospital do not perform abortions past 21 weeks (often stated as 23 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 2020: **74,605\***– the estimated percentage of abortions at 21+ weeks including Quebec is **1.29 percent** (652 + 308 for Quebec = **960** abortions at 21+ weeks).

\* Adding in estimated missing 2020 numbers from New Brunswick: **350** (based on past numbers and now decreasing numbers); and adding in a rough estimate of 100 people a year travelling to the U.S. for an abortion at 21+ weeks. (This estimate is based on about [25 people a year from Ontario](#) who are funded to go down to the U.S., adding in estimated numbers for people across Canada, whether funded privately or by government.)

## 2020: Abortion rates by 12 weeks

Only hospitals report abortion numbers by gestational limits. The 2020 CIHI data show that 18.1% 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. ([View statistics here](#)). Our estimated calculation for 2020 is as follows:

<b>2,679</b>	Number of hospital abortions after 12 weeks, excluding Quebec (18.1%)
<b>1,266</b>	Estimated number of hospital abortions after 12 weeks in Quebec (using 18.1% estimate)
<b>617</b>	Estimate of number of hospital abortions after 12 weeks in CIHI’s “Unknown” category (using 18.1% estimate)
<b>5,235</b>	Number of clinic abortions after 12 weeks, based on a <b>liberal</b> estimate that 10% of all clinic abortions (52,346) occur after 12 weeks.
<b>9,797</b>	Total estimated abortions done after 12 weeks.

Therefore, based on the total number of 74,155 reported abortions, an estimated **86.8%** are done by 12 weeks.

## 2020: Annual abortion rate per 1000 women\* of childbearing age (15-44)

CIHI does not publish the annual 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>7,372,063</b>	Canada’s population of women in the age group 15-44, from CANSIM, 2021: <a href="https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1710000501">https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1710000501</a>
<b>10.1 / 1000</b>	Annual abortion rate per 1000 women aged 15-44, based on official CIHI data for 2020: <b>74,155</b>

\* CIHI uses gendered language, but this population would include all people capable of pregnancy aged 15-44.

## 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. (The remaining three include Toronto Morgentaler Clinic, Cabbagetown Women’s Clinic, and Choice in Health 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 when the Progressive Conservative government of Mike Harris came into power in 1995, it made sweeping cuts to health care including restricting new licences under the Act – with abortion clinics likely singled out for ideological reasons. These non-funded clinics include the Bloor West Village Womens Clinic, 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](#) (original version) to the *Canada Health Act* by Health Canada ([Annex B of most recent annual report](#)) 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):

Note: Years **2007 to 2014** are unavailable from the CIHI website.

2013: <https://www.arcc-cdac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Stats-CIHI-abortion-2013.xlsx> (Excel spreadsheet)

2014: <https://www.arcc-cdac.ca/media/cihi-2014-induced-abortions.pdf> (scanned PDF of Excel tables)

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)

2018: <https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/induced-abortions-reported-in-canada-in-2018-updated-data-tables-en-web.xlsx> (Excel spreadsheet)

2019: <https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/induced-abortions-reported-in-canada-in-2019-en.xlsx> (Excel spreadsheet)

2020: <https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/induced-abortions-reported-in-canada-2020-en.xlsx> (Excel spreadsheet)

2021: <https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/induced-abortions-reported-in-canada-2021-data-tables-en.xlsx> (Excel spreadsheet)

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

2005: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/080521/dq080521c-eng.htm>

2000 to 2005: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/catalogue/82-223-X>

2001 to 2003: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/060315/dq060315c-eng.htm>

1999 to 2001: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/040331/dq040331c-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:

<https://www.arcc-cdac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/StatsCan-gestation-times-1995-2003.xls>

At the 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.