



Our Bodies, Our Choice

Is abortion legal in Canada?

Abortion was decriminalized in 1988 because the law was endangering women's health and violating their constitutional rights. Abortion is now managed as healthcare and is fully funded in most cases. People can choose either surgical abortion or the abortion pill.

How accessible is abortion?

The ability to access abortion in Canada can vary depending on where folks live. Those outside large cities often must travel. Some provincial governments may also obstruct access, such as refusing to fully fund abortion. This contravenes the law.

Who needs abortion?

About one in three Canadian women will have an abortion at some point in their lives. Some transgender people need abortions too. People aged 18-29 have almost half of all abortions, while teenagers have less than two percent. Most people feel relief after an abortion and very few regret it.

How common is abortion?

About 83,500 abortions occurred in 2019. The number has decreased steadily since 1997. Eighty-seven percent of abortions occur before 12 weeks gestation. Just over one percent happen after 20 weeks because something has gone wrong with the pregnancy, or the person's life or health is at risk.

Why do people have abortions?

No-one needs to give a reason or justify their pregnancy decision to others. However, studies show that people who have abortions usually cite at least one of these reasons:

- Can't afford to raise a child
- Responsibility to children and dependents
- Not finished school; still establishing career
- Relationship problems; partner abuse
- Don't want a child; don't want to be pregnant
- Too young; not mature enough
- Children are grown; family is complete
- Pregnancy caused by rape or incest
- Wanted pregnancy gone wrong (health issues or fetal anomaly)

Please support and protect abortion rights! More information can be found on our website: www.arcc-cdac.ca

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Abortion Rights
Coalition of
Canada



La Coalition pour le
droit à l'avortement
au Canada

Options Hotline by Action Canada
for Sexual Health & Rights

Call toll-free anywhere in Canada
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

1-888-642-2725

for information about abortion services
or counselling centres.