

# Statistics - Abortion in Canada



February 22, 2015 (updated May 25, 2015)

The following data were compiled from Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) annual statistics. See [Notes](#) for links to 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 [Notes](#).

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 Rates

Description	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Total</b>	<b>98,762</b>	<b>95,876</b>	<b>93,755</b>	<b>90,747</b>	<b>92,524</b>	<b>83,708</b>	<b>82,869</b>
Hospital abortions	47,281	44,375	41,640	38,611	37,150	36,002	35,003
Clinic abortions	51,481	51,501	52,115	52,136	53,374	47,706	47,866
<b>By Province/Territory :</b>							
Newfoundland/Labrador	850	904	956	1,068	1,026	1,054	223 *
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nova Scotia	2,119	2,126	2,119	2,125	2,157	2,119	2,077
New Brunswick	1,082	1,096	1,104	1,098	1,056	1,058	1,036
Quebec	27,697	27,295	27,139	26,106	26,245	25,400	25,253
Ontario <b>**</b>	32,331	32,150	30,268	28,765	28,114	27,386	25,108
Manitoba	3,978	4,025	4,247	4,150	3,998	3,988	3,873
Saskatchewan	1,806	1,889	2,019	1,915	1,928	2,015	1,921
Alberta	12,590	13,062	13,150	13,084	13,372	13,287	13,376
British Columbia	15,770	12,914*	12,461*	12,149*	14,341	7,128 *	9,574 *
Yukon	116	139	128	147	155	145	121
Northwest Territories	328	171	57	40	45	35	211
Nunavut	95	105	107	100	87	93	96

\* Newfoundland clinic did not report in 2013; one BC clinic did not report for 2008-10; at least two BC clinics did not report for 2012-13.

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

Description	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Gestational age: (Hospitals only, and excluding Quebec)</b> * See <a href="#">Notes</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
9 – 12 weeks	13,399	12,685	11,860	11,191	10,799	10,798	10,186
13- 16 weeks	2,442	2,062	1,957	1,794	1,853	1,767	1,740
17 – 20 weeks	1,023	1,019	951	846	823	839	822
21+ weeks	549	558	552	537	549	563	564
Unknown	5,641	5,533	5,128	4,908	4,577	4,542	4,741
Total	33,030	31,195	28,814	27,576	26,575	26,072	25,443
<b>Complication rate: (Hospitals only, and excluding Quebec)</b>							
None	32,136	30,473	28,161	26,927	25,980	25,462	24,878
Hemorrhage	343	261	227	231	221	264	231
Infection	130	115	101	107	109	72	76
Retained products of conception	124	121	101	89	97	109	102
Combination	82	85	91	82	69	61	73
Other	215	140	133	140	99	104	83
Total	33,030	31,195	28,814	27,576	26,575	26,072	25,443

### A note on abortions after 20 weeks: (added May 25, 2015)

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”). This means that the totals given above for 21+ week abortions are accurate totals, because hospital reporting is mandatory. Therefore, taking into account the total estimated numbers of *all* abortions for 2013: **105,193\*** – the estimated percentage of abortions after 20 weeks is **0.54** per cent.

\* Calculated as follows:

- Adopting an annual estimate of **18,000** unreported abortions from Ontario (see page 4).
- Estimated missing 2013 numbers from BC: **3,493**, based on BC [Ministry of Health](#) numbers for 2013/14.
- Estimated missing 2013 numbers from Newfoundland: **831**, based on adding the difference from 2012 numbers
- Therefore, CIHI reported abortions for 2013 (82,869) plus unreported abortions (22,324) = **105,193**

## Notes:

**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)

**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.

**\*\* Ontario:** *[revised Feb 23 to reflect more accurate information obtained]*

- About 15,000 to 20,000 abortions a year in Ontario are done by non-funded clinics and doctor's offices and not reported to CIHI (as FOI'd by an [anti-choice activist](#)), but those have never been counted by StatsCan or CIHI at any time. 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.
- 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.
- However, the 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 (as well as Ontario statutes on this issue).
- Because of the significant underreporting in Ontario, it's difficult to make any firm conclusions about trends in Canada's abortion rate, and the CIHI data should be treated with caution. However, the CIHI numbers do seem to show an overall small decline over time (after adjusting for missing clinic data from BC and Newfoundland), so it would make sense to assume that the proportion of unreported abortions may have correspondingly declined since the 1990's.

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)