Important Notes Regarding Coverage

CIHI captures administrative, clinical and demographic data on induced abortions performed in acute care, day surgery and emergency departments in Canadian hospitals. Data is supplied by provincial and territorial ministries of health, hospitals and independent abortion clinics in Canada. The figures in the following tables include induced abortions performed in a hospital or clinic setting in Canada.

CIHI has explored using fee-for-service (FFS) payments to produce more comprehensive induced abortion statistics at the national level. Our study revealed that the use of FFS payments for induced abortions varies significantly across the provinces and territories; thus this data would not allow CIHI to produce a pan-Canadian comparable series of statistics. As a result, CIHI will continue to report on induced abortions performed in hospitals and abortion clinics only. While this is probably an underestimate of induced abortions done in the country, it is currently the best way to produce pan-Canadian comparable data.

For more information, please send an email to communications@cihi.ca.

Table 1: Number of Induced Abortions* Reported in Canada† in 2007, by Province/Territory of Hospital or Clinic

Province/Territory	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Clinics	Total
Newfoundland and Labrador	268	582	850
Prince Edward Island‡	0	0	0
Nova Scotia	2,119	0§	2,119§
New Brunswick	408	674	1,082
Quebec	14,251**	13,446**	27,697**
Ontario	15,193	17,138**	32,331**
Manitoba	2,844	1,134	3,978
Saskatchewan	1,806	0§	1,806§
Alberta	3,925	8,665	12,590
British Columbia	5,928	9,842	15,770
Yukon	116	0§	116§
Northwest Territories	328	0§	328§
Nunavut	87–95††	0§	87–95§, ††
Total Reported	**47,273–47,281††**	**51,481**	**98,754–98,762††**

Notes

* Induced abortion is defined as the medical termination of pregnancy. Equivalent terms include artificial abortion, therapeutic abortion, voluntary termination of pregnancy, elective termination of pregnancy and active termination of pregnancy.

† Figures include induced abortions performed in a hospital or clinic setting in Canada (numbers are presented by the province/territory in which the abortion was performed).

‡ Induced abortions are not performed in Prince Edward Island. Figures for Prince Edward Island residents who received an induced abortion in a hospital in another province/territory are provided in Table 3: Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Canadian Hospitals, by Patient's Province/Territory of Residence.

§ Induced abortions are not performed in clinics in Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Yukon, the Northwest Territories or Nunavut.

** Ontario (clinic data only) and Quebec (clinic and hospital data) include only induced abortions covered by their respective provincial health insurance plans. Data from all other provinces/territories (including Ontario hospital data) includes all induced abortions, whether paid for by the patient or by a different health insurance plan. For example, patients with coverage under Quebec's health insurance plan receiving care in Manitoba are reported by Manitoba. However, patients with coverage under Manitoba's health insurance plan receiving care in Quebec are not reported (by either Quebec or Manitoba).

†† In accordance with CIHI's privacy and confidentiality guidelines, small cell counts have been suppressed.

Sources

1. Discharge Abstract Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.
2. National Ambulatory Care Reporting System, Canadian Institute for Health Information.
3. Alberta Ambulatory Care Reporting System, Alberta Health and Wellness.
4. Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec.
5. Ontario Health Insurance Plan Data, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.
6. Manitoba Health.
7. Induced Abortion Clinics in Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and British Columbia.

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Table 2: Number of Induced Abortions* Reported in Canada† in 2007, by Province/Territory of Hospital or Clinic and Age Group

Province/Territory	Age Group (Years)	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Clinics	Total
Newfoundland and Labrador	≤19	55	114	169
	20–24	106	189	295
	25–29	50	124	174
	30–34	36	91	127
	35+	21	64	85
	Unknown	0	0	0
	Total	**268**	**582**	**850**
Prince Edward Island‡	≤19	0	0	0
	20–24	0	0	0
	25–29	0	0	0
	30–34	0	0	0
	35+	0	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	0
	Total	**0**	**0**	**0**
Nova Scotia	≤19	443	0§	443§
	20–24	692	0§	692§
	25–29	492	0§	492§
	30–34	270	0§	270§
	35+	222	0§	222§
	Unknown	0	0§	0§
	Total	**2,119**	**0§**	**2,119§**
New Brunswick**	≤19	97	Unreported	Unreported
	20–24	129	Unreported	Unreported
	25–29	87	Unreported	Unreported
	30–34	63	Unreported	Unreported
	35+	32	Unreported	Unreported
	Unknown	0	674	674
	Total	**408**	**674**	**1,082**
Quebec††	≤19	Unreported	Unreported	5,071‡‡
	20–24	Unreported	Unreported	8,005‡‡
	25–29	Unreported	Unreported	6,215‡‡
	30–34	Unreported	Unreported	4,358‡‡
	35+	Unreported	Unreported	4,048‡‡
	Unknown	14,251‡‡	13,446‡‡	0‡‡
	Total	**14,251‡‡**	**13,446‡‡**	**27,697‡‡**
Ontario	≤19	2,794	2,816‡‡	5,610‡‡
	20–24	4,720	5,270‡‡	9,990‡‡
	25–29	3,225	3,765‡‡	6,990‡‡
	30–34	2,127	2,581‡‡	4,708‡‡
	35+	2,327	2,706‡‡	5,033‡‡
	Unknown	0	0‡‡	0‡‡
	Total	**15,193**	**17,138‡‡**	**32,331‡‡**

Table 2: Number of Induced Abortions* Reported in Canada† in 2007, by Province/Territory of Hospital or Clinic and Age Group (cont'd)

Province/Territory	Age Group (Years)	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Clinics	Total
Manitoba**	≤19	619	Unreported	Unreported
	20–24	902	Unreported	Unreported
	25–29	654	Unreported	Unreported
	30–34	394	Unreported	Unreported
	35+	275	Unreported	Unreported
	Unknown	0	1,134	1,134
	Total	**2,844**	**1,134**	**3,978**
Saskatchewan	≤19	413	0§	413§
	20–24	655	0§	655§
	25–29	369	0§	369§
	30–34	214	0§	214§
	35+	155	0§	155§
	Unknown	0	0§	0§
	Total	**1,806**	**0§**	**1,806§**
Alberta	≤19	681	1,555	2,236
	20–24	1,240	2,883	4,123
	25–29	864	2,058	2,922
	30–34	588	1,170	1,758
	35+	552	999	1,551
	Unknown	0	0	0
	Total	**3,925**	**8,665**	**12,590**
British Columbia**	≤19	1,195	Unreported	Unreported
	20–24	1,765	Unreported	Unreported
	25–29	1,214	Unreported	Unreported
	30–34	830	Unreported	Unreported
	35+	924	Unreported	Unreported
	Unknown	0	9,842	9,842
	Total	**5,928**	**9,842**	**15,770**
Yukon	≤19	31	0§	31§
	20–24	45	0§	45§
	25–29	11	0§	11§
	30–34	17	0§	17§
	35+	12	0§	12§
	Unknown	0	0§	0§
	Total	**116**	**0§**	**116§**
Northwest Territories	≤19	77	0§	77§
	20–24	112	0§	112§
	25–29	76	0§	76§
	30–34	36	0§	36§
	35+	27	0§	27§
	Unknown	0	0§	0§
	Total	**328**	**0§**	**328§**

Table 2: Number of Induced Abortions* Reported in Canada† in 2007, by Province/Territory of Hospital or Clinic and Age Group (cont'd)

Province/Territory	Age Group (Years)	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Clinics	Total
Nunavut	≤19	17	0§	17§
	20–24	30	0§	30§
	25–29	29	0§	29§
	30–34	10–15§§	0§	10–15§, §§
	35+	<5§§	0§	<5§, §§
	Unknown	0	0§	0§
	Total	**87–95§§**	**0§**	**87–95§, §§**
Total Reported††	≤19	6,422	4,485	15,978
	20–24	10,396	8,342	26,743
	25–29	7,071	5,947	19,233
	30–34	4,585–4,590§§	3,842	12,785–12,790§§
	35+	4,548–4,551§§	3,769	12,365–12,368§§
	Unknown	14,251	25,096	11,650
	Total	**47,273–47,281§§**	**51,481**	**98,754–98,762§§**

Notes

* Induced abortion is defined as the medical termination of pregnancy. Equivalent terms include artificial abortion, therapeutic abortion, voluntary termination of pregnancy, elective termination of pregnancy and active termination of pregnancy.

† Figures include induced abortions performed in a hospital or clinic setting in Canada (numbers are provided by the province/territory in which the abortion was performed).

‡ Induced abortions are not performed in Prince Edward Island. Figures for Prince Edward Island residents who received an induced abortion in a hospital in another province/territory are provided in Table 3: Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Canadian Hospitals, by Patient's Province/Territory of Residence.

§ Induced abortions are not performed in clinics in Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Yukon, the Northwest Territories or Nunavut.

** Detailed age information is not available from clinics in New Brunswick, Manitoba and British Columbia. Age data is included only in the "by hospital" column for these provinces. For the "Total Reported" row, hospital cases are included in both the "by hospital" and "total" columns.

†† Age information by hospital and clinic is not available for Quebec but is provided in the "total" column. In the "Total Reported" row, all Quebec cases are reported in the *unknown* category in the "by hospital" and "by clinic" columns but are included in their respective age groups in the "total" column.

‡‡ Ontario (clinic data only) and Quebec (clinic and hospital data) include only induced abortions covered by their respective provincial health insurance plans. Data from all other provinces/territories (including Ontario hospital data) includes all induced abortions, whether paid for by the patient or by a different health insurance plan. For example, patients with coverage under Quebec's health insurance plan receiving care in Manitoba are reported by Manitoba. However, patients with coverage under Manitoba's health insurance plan receiving care in Quebec are not reported (by either Quebec or Manitoba).

§§ In accordance with CIHI's privacy and confidentiality guidelines, small cell counts have been suppressed.

Sources

1. Discharge Abstract Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.
2. National Ambulatory Care Reporting System, Canadian Institute for Health Information.
3. Alberta Ambulatory Care Reporting System, Alberta Health and Wellness.
4. Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec.
5. Ontario Health Insurance Plan Data, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.
6. Manitoba Health.
7. Induced Abortion Clinics in Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and British Columbia.

Table 3: Number of Induced Abortions* Reported by Canadian Hospitals† in 2007, by Patient's Province/Territory of Residence

Patient's Province/Territory of Residence	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals
Newfoundland and Labrador	288
Prince Edward Island	66‡
Nova Scotia	2,039
New Brunswick	409
Quebec	14,275§
Ontario	15,234
Manitoba	2,692
Saskatchewan	1,824
Alberta	3,796
British Columbia	5,975
Yukon	134
Northwest Territories	276
Nunavut	187
Non-Resident of Canada	65
Unknown	13–21**
Total	**47,273–47,281****

Notes

* Induced abortion is defined as the medical termination of pregnancy. Equivalent terms include artificial abortion, therapeutic abortion, voluntary termination of pregnancy, elective termination of pregnancy and active termination of pregnancy.

† Figures include induced abortions performed in a hospital setting in Canada (numbers are provided by the province/territory in which the abortion was performed). Information on a patient's province/territory of residence is not available from clinic data.

‡ Induced abortions are not performed in Prince Edward Island. Figures for Prince Edward Island shown in this table refer to abortions performed for residents of that province who received an induced abortion in another province/territory.

§ Quebec hospitals report only induced abortions covered by the provincial health insurance plan. Data from all other provinces/territories includes all induced abortions, whether paid for by the patient or by a different health insurance plan. For example, patients with coverage under Quebec's health insurance plan receiving care in Manitoba are reported by Manitoba. However, patients with coverage under Manitoba's health insurance plan receiving care in Quebec are not reported (by either Quebec or Manitoba).

** In accordance with CIHI's privacy and confidentiality guidelines, small cell counts have been suppressed.

Sources

1. Discharge Abstract Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.
2. National Ambulatory Care Reporting System, Canadian Institute for Health Information.
3. Alberta Ambulatory Care Reporting System, Alberta Health and Wellness.
4. Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec.

Table 4: Number and Percentage Distribution of Induced Abortions* Reported by Canadian Hospitals† (Excluding Quebec) in 2007, by Gestational Age

Gestational Age‡ (Weeks§)	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals	Percentage of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals
≤8	9,976	30.2%
9–12	13,399	40.6%
13–16	2,442	7.4%
17–20	1,015–1,023§	3.1%
21+	549	1.7%
Unknown	5,641	17.1%
Total††	**33,022–33,030****	**100.0%**

Notes

* Induced abortion is defined as the medical termination of pregnancy. Equivalent terms include artificial abortion, therapeutic abortion, voluntary termination of pregnancy, elective termination of pregnancy and active termination of pregnancy.

† Figures include induced abortions performed in a hospital setting in Canada (numbers are provided by the province/territory in which the abortion was performed), excluding Quebec. Information on gestational age is not available from clinic data or from Quebec data.

‡ The Gestational Age (GA) for the majority of induced abortion records is based on clinical assessment. However, in a small proportion of cases where GA by clinical assessment is unavailable, it is based on the date of last menses. When interpreting induced abortion statistics, it is important to note that GA derived from the date of last menses can produce estimates that are less accurate than those provided through clinical assessment.

§ Gestational age based on the date of last menses is defined as the number of completed weeks from the first day of the last normal menstrual period until the induced abortion. It is calculated by dividing the number of elapsed days by 7 (to obtain the number of weeks) and rounding down. For example, if the first day of the last normal menstrual period was January 1 and the induced abortion occurred on March 3, the calculation would be 61 days divided by 7 days/week = 8.7 weeks. The gestational age would therefore be 8 weeks, since only completed weeks are counted.

** In accordance with CIHI's privacy and confidentiality guidelines, small cell counts have been suppressed.

†† The total number of induced abortions reported by hospitals in this table is different from the total in tables 1, 2 and 3 because Quebec data is not included in this table.

Sources

1. Discharge Abstract Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.
2. National Ambulatory Care Reporting System, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

Table 5: Number and Percentage Distribution of Induced Abortions* Reported by Canadian Hospitals† (Excluding Quebec) in 2007, by Number of Previous Deliveries

Number of Previous Deliveries	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals	Percentage of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals
None	12,844	38.9%
One	6,014	18.2%
Two	4,565	13.8%
Three or More	2,742	8.3%
Unknown	6,857–6,865‡	20.8%
Total§	**33,022–33,030‡**	**100.0%**

Notes

* Induced abortion is defined as the medical termination of pregnancy. Equivalent terms include artificial abortion, therapeutic abortion, voluntary termination of pregnancy, elective termination of pregnancy and active termination of pregnancy.

† Figures include induced abortions performed in a hospital setting in Canada (numbers are provided by the province/territory in which the abortion was performed), excluding Quebec. Information on the number of previous deliveries is not available from clinic data or from Quebec data.

‡ In accordance with CIHI's privacy and confidentiality guidelines, small cell counts have been suppressed.

§ The total number of induced abortions reported by hospitals in this table is different from the total in tables 1, 2 and 3 because Quebec data is not included in this table.

Sources

1. Discharge Abstract Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.
2. National Ambulatory Care Reporting System, Canadian Institute for Health Information.
3. Alberta Ambulatory Care Reporting System, Alberta Health and Wellness.

Table 6: Number and Percentage Distribution of Induced Abortions* Reported by Canadian Hospitals† (Excluding Quebec) in 2007, by Number of Previous Induced Abortions

Number of Previous Induced Abortions	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals	Percentage of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals
None	16,515	50.0%
One	6,335	19.2%
Two or More	3,546	10.7%
Unknown	6,626–6,634‡	20.1%
Total§	**33,022–33,030‡**	**100.0%**

Notes

* Induced abortion is defined as the medical termination of pregnancy. Equivalent terms include artificial abortion, therapeutic abortion, voluntary termination of pregnancy, elective termination of pregnancy and active termination of pregnancy.

† Figures include induced abortions performed in a hospital setting in Canada (numbers are provided by the province/territory in which the abortion was performed), excluding Quebec. Information on the number of previous induced abortions is not available from clinic data or from Quebec data.

‡ In accordance with CIHI's privacy and confidentiality guidelines, small cell counts have been suppressed.

§ The total number of induced abortions reported by hospitals in this table is different from the total in tables 1, 2 and 3 because Quebec data is not included in this table.

Sources

1. Discharge Abstract Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.
2. National Ambulatory Care Reporting System, Canadian Institute for Health Information.
3. Alberta Ambulatory Care Reporting System, Alberta Health and Wellness.

Table 7: Number and Percentage Distribution of Induced Abortions* Reported by Canadian Hospitals† (Excluding Quebec) in 2007, by Method of Abortion

Method of Abortion	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals	Percentage of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals
Surgical Procedures Only		
Aspiration and Curettage	28,982	87.8%
Dilation and Evacuation	1,240	3.8%
Dilation and Curettage	1,561	4.7%
Other Surgical Procedure‡	30	0.1%
Surgical and Medical Procedures		
Aspiration and Curettage and Any Medical Procedure	63	0.2%
Dilation and Evacuation and Any Medical Procedure	45	0.1%
Dilation and Curettage and Any Medical Procedure	154	0.5%
Medical Procedures Only		
Antacid Treatment	661	2.0%
Oxytocins	160	0.5%
Pharmacological Combination§	91	0.3%
Other**	35–43††	0.1%
Total‡‡	**33,022–33,030††**	**100.0%**

Notes

* Induced abortion is defined as the medical termination of pregnancy. Equivalent terms include artificial abortion, therapeutic abortion, voluntary termination of pregnancy, elective termination of pregnancy and active termination of pregnancy.

† Figures include induced abortions performed in a hospital setting in Canada (numbers are provided by the province/territory in which the abortion was performed), excluding Quebec. Detailed information on the method of abortion is not available from clinic data or from Quebec data.

‡ The "other surgical procedure" category includes hysterectomy, hysterotomy and menstrual extraction. Cases where one of these surgical procedures took place and a medical procedure also took place are included in the "other" category.

§ The "pharmacological combination" category includes cases where more than one type of pharmacological agent was administered.

** The "other" category includes cases where the following was administered or occurred: only an antimetabolite, only an emollient, only a salt solution, a salt solution in combination with any other pharmacological procedure, only cervical dilation, an other surgical procedure with any medical procedure, a procedure not elsewhere classified or an unknown procedure.

†† In accordance with CIHI's privacy and confidentiality guidelines, small cell counts have been suppressed.

‡‡ The total number of induced abortions reported by hospitals in this table is different from the total in tables 1, 2 and 3 because Quebec data is not included in this table.

Sources

1. Discharge Abstract Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.
2. National Ambulatory Care Reporting System, Canadian Institute for Health Information.
3. Alberta Ambulatory Care Reporting System, Alberta Health and Wellness.

Table 8: Number and Percentage Distribution of Induced Abortions* Reported by Canadian Hospitals† (Excluding Quebec) in 2007, by Complication Within 28 Days of Initial Induced Abortion

Complication‡	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals	Percentage of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals
None	32,136	97.3%
Hemorrhage	343	1.0%
Infection	130	0.4%
Retained Products of Conception	124	0.4%
Combination§	82	0.2%
Other	207–215**	0.6%
Total††	**33,022–33,030****	**100.0%**

Notes

* Induced abortion is defined as the medical termination of pregnancy. Equivalent terms include artificial abortion, therapeutic abortion, voluntary termination of pregnancy, elective termination of pregnancy and active termination of pregnancy.

† Figures include induced abortions performed in a hospital setting in Canada (numbers are provided by the province/territory in which the abortion was performed), excluding Quebec. Information on complications is not available from clinic data or from Quebec data.

‡ Complications that occur during the initial visit or hospitalization, as well as complications on subsequent visits, transfers or readmissions within 28 days for the same patient, are included. Complications during subsequent visits, transfers or readmissions for cases where the health care number was not recorded during the initial visit or hospitalization are not included; complications may therefore be undercounted.

§ The "combination" category includes cases where more than one type of complication was recorded. For example, cases with both an infection and a hemorrhage are included under "combination."

** In accordance with CIHI's privacy and confidentiality guidelines, small cell counts have been suppressed.

†† The total number of induced abortions reported by hospitals in this table is different from the total in tables 1, 2 and 3 because Quebec data is not included in this table.

Sources

1. Discharge Abstract Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.
2. National Ambulatory Care Reporting System, Canadian Institute for Health Information.
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Notes

Induced Abortions

CIHI captures administrative, clinical and demographic data on induced abortions performed in acute care, day surgery and emergency departments in Canadian hospitals. Clinic data is submitted voluntarily to CIHI.

Definition

Induced abortion is defined as the medical termination of pregnancy. Equivalent terms include artificial abortion, therapeutic abortion, voluntary termination of pregnancy, elective termination of pregnancy and active termination of pregnancy.

Record-level data is coded using the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision, Canada (ICD-10-CA) and the Canadian Classification of Health Interventions (CCI).

Cases are considered induced abortions if they include the following ICD-10-CA code and any of the following CCI codes:

ICD-10-CA (version 2006)
O04.– Medical abortion

CCI (version 2006)
5.CA.20.^^ Pharmacotherapy (in preparation for), termination of pregnancy
5.CA.24.^^ Preparation by dilating cervix (for), termination of pregnancy
5.CA.88.^^ Pharmacological termination of pregnancy
5.CA.89.^^ Surgical termination of pregnancy

Information is presented by calendar year (January 1 to December 31).

Sources

1. Discharge Abstract Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.
2. National Ambulatory Care Reporting System, Canadian Institute for Health Information.
3. Alberta Ambulatory Care Reporting System, Alberta Health and Wellness.
4. Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec.
5. Ontario Health Insurance Plan Data, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.
6. Manitoba Health.
7. Induced Abortion Clinics in Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and British Columbia.

National abortion statistics for years 2006 and earlier are available through Statistics Canada at: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/090824/dq090824e-eng.htm.

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