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.

The following content has been updated, as of May 2013, with Quebec induced abortion data.



Table 1: Number of Induced Abortions* Reported in Canada[†] in 2010, 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	292	776	1,068
Prince Edward Island [‡]	0	0	0
Nova Scotia	2,125	08	2,125 [§]
New Brunswick	471	627	1,098
Quebec ^{‡‡}	Unreported	Unreported	26,106**
Ontario	12,626	16,139**	28,765**
Manitoba	2,539	1,611	4,150
Saskatchewan	1,915	08	1,915 [§]
Alberta	2,582	10,502	13,084
British Columbia	4,739	7,410 ^{††} (Clinic Data Is Incomplete)	12,149 ^{††} (Clinic Data Is Incomplete)
Yukon	147	0§	147 [§]
Northwest Territories	40	0§	40 [§]
Nunavut	100	08	100 [§]
Total Reported ^{‡‡}	27,576	37,065 ^{††} (Clinic Data for B.C. Is Incomplete)	90,747 ^{††} (Clinic Data for B.C. Is Incomplete)

- * 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's total count 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).
- †† Hospitals are mandated by their provincial/territorial ministry of health to report all hospital activity (not limited to abortions); therefore, coverage of abortions performed in Canadian hospitals can be considered complete. However, there is no such legislative requirement for clinics to report their activity (reporting is voluntary). For 2010, clinic data for British Columbia is incomplete.
- ‡‡ Hospital and clinic breakdowns for Quebec were not available for 2010 at the time of publication. Given this, in the "Quebec" and "Total Reported" rows, all Quebec cases are reported in the "total" column only.

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. Ontario Health Insurance Plan Data, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.
- 5. Manitoba Health.
- 6. Induced Abortion Clinics in Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and British Columbia.
- 7. Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec.

Canadian Institute for Health Information
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Table 2: Number of Induced Abortions* Reported in Canada[†] in 2010, 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
	≤19	47	115	162
	20–24	91	258	349
Newfoundland	25–29	69	188	257
and Labrador	30–34	43	136	179
	35+	42	79	121
	Unknown	0	0	0
	Total ≤19	292 0	776	1,068
	20–24	0	0	0
	25–29	0	0	o 0
Prince Edward Island [‡]	30–34	0	0	0
Timos Edward folding	35+	0	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0
	≤19	415	0 [§]	415 [§]
	20–24	725	0 [§]	725 [§]
	25–29	505	0 [§]	505 [§]
Nova Scotia	30–34	281	0§	281 [§]
	35+	199	0 [§]	199 [§]
	Unknown	0	0§	0§
	Total	2,125	0 [§]	2,125 [§]
	≤19	108	Unreported	Unreported
	20–24	156	Unreported	Unreported
	25–29	102	Unreported	Unreported
New Brunswick**	30–34	60	Unreported	Unreported
	35+	45	Unreported	Unreported
	Unknown	0	627	627
	Total	471	627	1,098
	≤19	Unreported	Unreported	4,411 ^{††}
	20–24	Unreported	Unreported	7,442 ^{††}
***	25–29	Unreported	Unreported	5,848 ^{††}
Quebec***	30–34	Unreported	Unreported	4,391 ^{††}
	35+	Unreported	Unreported	4,014 ^{††}
	Unknown	Unreported	Unreported	<5 ^{††,§§}
	Total	Unreported	Unreported	26,106 ^{††}
	≤19	2,228	2,397 ^{††}	4,625 ^{††}
	20–24	3,874	4,764 ^{††}	8,638 ^{††}
	25–29	2,779	3,771 ^{††}	6,550 ^{††}
Ontario	30–34	1,859	2,578 ^{††}	4,437 ^{††}
	35+	1,886	2,629 ^{††}	4,515 ^{††}
	Unknown	0	0 ^{††}	0 ^{††}
	Total	12,626	16,139 ^{††}	28,765 ^{††}

Table 2: Number of Induced Abortions* Reported in Canada[†] in 2010, 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
	≤19	511	Unreported	Unreported
	20–24	805	Unreported	Unreported
	25–29	594	Unreported	Unreported
Manitoba**	30–34	368	Unreported	Unreported
	35+	261	Unreported	Unreported
	Unknown	0	1,611	1,611
	Total	2,539	1,611 0 [§]	4,150
	≤19	353		353 [§]
	20–24	669	0 [§]	669 [§]
	25–29	415	0§	415 [§]
Saskatchewan	30–34	290	0§	290 [§]
	35+	188	0§	188 [§]
	Unknown	0	0§	O§
	Total	1,915	0 §	1,915 [§]
	≤19	357	1,592	1,949
	20–24	689	3,251	3,940
	25–29	646	2,592	3,238
Alberta	30–34	486	1,696	2,182
	35+	404	1,371	1,775
	Unknown	0	0	0
	Total	2,582 777	10,502	13,084
	≤19		Unreported ^{‡‡}	Unreported ^{‡‡}
	20–24	1,331	Unreported ^{‡‡}	Unreported ^{‡‡}
	25–29	1,057	Unreported ^{‡‡}	Unreported ^{‡‡}
British Columbia**	30–34	770	Unreported ^{‡‡}	Unreported ^{‡‡}
Dillisti Columbia	35+	804	Unreported ^{‡‡}	Unreported ^{‡‡}
	Unknown	0	7,410 ^{‡‡}	7,410 ^{‡‡}
	Total	4,739	7,410 ^{‡‡} (Clinic Data Is Incomplete)	12,149 ^{‡‡} (Clinic Data Is Incomplete)
	≤19	44	0 [§]	44 [§]
	20–24	44	0§	44 [§]
	25–29	30	0 [§]	30 [§]
Yukon	30–34	15	0 [§]	15 [§]
	35+	14	0 [§]	14 [§]
	Unknown	0	0 [§]	0 [§]
	Total	147	0 §	147 [§]
	≤19	<5 ^{§§}	0§	<5 ^{§, §§}
Northwest Territories		-	0° 0§	<5 ^{3, 33}
	20–24	14	-	
	25–29	10	0 [§]	10 [§]
	30–34	9	0 [§]	9§
	35+	<5 ^{§§}	0§	<5 ^{§, §§}
	Unknown	0	0§	O§
	Total	40	0 [§]	40 [§]

Table 2: Number of Induced Abortions* Reported in Canada[†] in 2010, 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
	≤19	17	0 [§]	17 [§]
	20–24	33	0 [§]	33 [§]
	25–29	25	0 [§]	25 [§]
Nunavut	30–34	17	0 [§]	17 [§]
	35+	8	0 [§]	8 [§]
	Unknown	0	0 [§]	0 [§]
	Total	100	0 [§]	100 [§]
	≤19	4,857 ^{§§}	4,104 ^{‡‡}	13,372 ^{‡‡, §§}
	20–24	8,431	8,273 ^{‡‡}	24,146 ^{‡‡}
	25–29	6,232	6,551 ^{‡‡}	18,631 ^{‡‡}
***	30–34	4,198	4,410 ^{‡‡}	12,999 ^{‡‡}
Total Reported ***	35+	3,851 ^{§§}	4,079 ^{‡‡}	11,944 ^{‡‡, §§}
	Unknown	0	9,648 ^{‡‡}	9,648 ^{‡‡}
	Total	27,576	37,065 ^{‡‡}	90,747 ^{‡‡}
			(Clinic Data for B.C. Is Incomplete)	(Clinic Data for B.C. Is Incomplete)

- † 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.
- *** Hospital and clinic breakdowns for Quebec were not available for 2010 at the time of publication. Given this, in the "Quebec" and "Total Reported" rows, all Quebec cases are reported in their respective age groups in the "total" column only.
- †† Ontario (clinic data only) and Quebec's total counts 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).
- ‡‡ Hospitals are mandated by their provincial/territorial ministry of health to report all hospital activity (not limited to abortions); therefore, coverage of abortions performed in Canadian hospitals can be considered complete. However, there is no such legislative requirement for clinics to report their activity (reporting is voluntary). For 2010, clinic data for British Columbia is incomplete.
- §§ In accordance with CIHI's privacy and confidentiality guidelines, small cell counts have been suppressed.

- 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. Ontario Health Insurance Plan Data, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.
- 5. Manitoba Health.
- 6. Induced Abortion Clinics in Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and British Columbia.
- 7. Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec.



^{*} 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.

Table 3: Number of Induced Abortions* Reported by Canadian Hospitals[†] in 2010, by Patient's Province/Territory of Residence

Patient's Province/Territory of Residence	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals
Newfoundland and Labrador	305
Prince Edward Island	76 [‡]
Nova Scotia	2,051
New Brunswick	471
Quebec [§]	21 [‡]
Ontario	12,655
Manitoba	2,398
Saskatchewan	1,926
Alberta	2,547
British Columbia	4,744
Yukon	162
Northwest Territories	38
Nunavut	162
Non-Resident of Canada	5
Unknown	15
Total	27,576

- * 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 and Quebec shown in this table refer to abortions performed for residents of those provinces who received an induced abortion in another province/territory.
- § Hospital breakdown for Quebec was not available for 2010 at the time of publication.

- 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 4: Number and Percentage Distribution of Induced Abortions* Reported by Canadian Hospitals[†] (Excluding Quebec) in 2010, by Gestational Age

Gestational Age [‡] (Weeks [§])	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals	Percentage of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals
≤8	8,300	30.1%
9–12	11,191	40.6%
13–16	1,794	6.5%
17–20	846	3.1%
21+	537	1.9%
Unknown	4,908	17.8%
Total	27,576	100.0%

- * 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.
- ‡ 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.

- 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 5: Number and Percentage Distribution of Induced Abortions* Reported by Canadian Hospitals[†] (Excluding Quebec) in 2010, by Number of Previous Deliveries

Number of Previous Deliveries	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals	Percentage of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals
None	9,632	34.9%
One	4,733	17.2%
Two	3,670	13.3%
Three or More	2,391	8.7%
Unknown	7,150	25.9%
Total	27,576	100.0%

† 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.

- 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.



^{*} 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.

Table 6: Number and Percentage Distribution of Induced Abortions* Reported by Canadian Hospitals[†] (Excluding Quebec) in 2010, 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	12,896	46.8%
One	4,798	17.4%
Two or More	2,916	10.6%
Unknown	6,966	25.3%
Total	27,576	100.0%

† 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.

- 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.



^{*} 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.

Table 7: Number and Percentage Distribution of Induced Abortions* Reported by Canadian Hospitals[†] (Excluding Quebec) in 2010, 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	23,797	86.3%
Dilation and Evacuation	1,226	4.4%
Dilation and Curettage	933	3.4%
Other Surgical Procedure [‡]	20	0.1%
Surgical and Medical Procedures		
Aspiration and Curettage and Any Medical Procedure	109	0.4%
Dilation and Evacuation and Any Medical Procedure	438	1.6%
Dilation and Curettage and Any Medical Procedure	64	0.2%
Medical Procedures Only		
Antacid Treatment	774	2.8%
Oxytocins	87	0.3%
Pharmacological Combination§	86	0.3%
Other**	42	0.2%
Total	27,576	100.0%

- * 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.
- ‡ 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.

- 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 2010, 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	26,927	97.6%
Hemorrhage	231	0.8%
Infection	107	0.4%
Retained Products of Conception	89	0.3%
Combination [§]	82	0.3%
Other	140	0.5%
Total	27,576	100.0%

- * 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.
- ‡ 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."

- 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.



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 2009)

O04.- Medical abortion

CCI (version 2009)

- 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. Ontario Health Insurance Plan Data, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.
- 5. Manitoba Health.
- 6. Induced Abortion Clinics in Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and British Columbia.
- 7. Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec.

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

