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 February 2014, with Quebec clinic and hospital induced abortion data.

Table 1: Number of Induced Abortions* Reported in Canada† in 2011, 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	232	794	1,026
Prince Edward Island‡	0	0	0
Nova Scotia	2,157	0§	2,157§
New Brunswick	414	642	1,056
Quebec	10,575**	15,670**	26,245**
Ontario	12,483	15,631**	28,114**
Manitoba	2,476	1,522	3.998
Saskatchewan	1,928	0§	1,928§
Alberta	2,292	11,080	13.372
British Columbia	4,306	10,035	14,341
Yukon	155	0§	155§
Northwest Territories	45	0§	45§
Nunavut	87	0§	87§
Total Reported	**37,150**	**55,374††**	**92,524††**

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).

†† 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).

Sources

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

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Table 2: Number of Induced Abortions* Reported in Canada† in 2011, 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	44	120	164
	20–24	55	277	332
	25–29	54	198	252
	30–34	38	119	157
	35+	41	80	121
	Unknown	0	0	0
	Total	**232**	**794**	**1,026**
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	392	0§	392§
	20–24	771	0§	771§
	25–29	518	0§	518§
	30–34	267	0§	267§
	35+	209	0§	209§
	Unknown	0	0§	0§
	Total	**2,157**	**0§**	**2,157§**
New Brunswick**	≤19	85	Unreported	Unreported
	20–24	145	Unreported	Unreported
	25–29	72	Unreported	Unreported
	30–34	65	Unreported	Unreported
	35+	47	Unreported	Unreported
	Unknown	0	642	642
	Total	**414**	**642**	**1,056**
Quebec***	≤19	Unreported	Unreported	4,139††
	20–24	Unreported	Unreported	7,695††
	25–29	Unreported	Unreported	5,572††
	30–34	Unreported	Unreported	4,726††
	35+	Unreported	Unreported	4,108††
	Unknown	10,575	15,670	5††
	Total	**10,575**	**15,670**	**26,245††**
Ontario	≤19	2,115	2,140††	4,255††
	20–24	3,923	4,696††	8,619††
	25–29	2,742	3,722††	6,464††
	30–34	1,832	2,564††	4,396††
	35+	1,871	2,509††	4,380††
	Unknown	0	0††	0††
	Total	**12,483**	**15,631††**	**28,114††**

Table 2: Number of Induced Abortions* Reported in Canada† in 2011, 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	461	Unreported	Unreported
	20–24	805	Unreported	Unreported
	25–29	573	Unreported	Unreported
	30–34	388	Unreported	Unreported
	35+	249	Unreported	Unreported
	Unknown	0	1,522	1,522
	Total	**2,476**	**1,522**	**3,998**
Saskatchewan	≤19	346	0§	346§
	20–24	672	0§	672§
	25–29	482	0§	482§
	30–34	255	0§	255§
	35+	173	0§	173§
	Unknown	0	0§	0§
	Total	**1,928**	**0§**	**1,928§**
Alberta	≤19	292	1,634	1,926
	20–24	593	3,392	3,985
	25–29	576	2,713	3,289
	30–34	465	1,813	2,278
	35+	366	1,528	1,894
	Unknown	0	0	0
	Total	**2,292**	**11,080**	**13,372**
British Columbia**	≤19	680	Unreported	Unreported
	20–24	1,170	Unreported	Unreported
	25–29	937	Unreported	Unreported
	30–34	751	Unreported	Unreported
	35+	768	Unreported	Unreported
	Unknown	0	10,035	10,035
	Total	**4,306**	**10,035**	**14,341**
Yukon	≤19	33	0§	33§
	20–24	54	0§	54§
	25–29	34	0§	34§
	30–34	22	0§	22§
	35+	12	0§	12§
	Unknown	0	0§	0§
	Total	**155**	**0§**	**155§**
Northwest Territories	≤19	8	0§	8§
	20–24	21	0§	21§
	25–29	10	0§	10§
	30–34	6	0§	6§
	35+	<5§§	0§	<5§, §§
	Unknown	0	0§	0§
	Total	**45**	**0§**	**45§**

Table 2: Number of Induced Abortions* Reported in Canada† in 2011, 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	13	0§	13§
	20–24	33	0§	33§
	25–29	19	0§	19§
	30–34	14	0§	14§
	35+	8	0§	8§
	Unknown	0	0§	0§
	Total	**87**	**0§**	**87§**
Total Reported* **	≤19	4,469	3,894‡‡	12,502‡‡, §§
	20–24	8,242	8,365‡‡	24,302‡‡
	25–29	6,017	6,633‡‡	18,222‡‡
	30–34	4,103	4,496‡‡	13,325‡‡
	35+	3,744§§	4,117‡‡	11,969‡‡, §§
	Unknown	10,575	27,869‡‡	12,204‡‡
	Total	**37,150**	**55,374‡‡**	**92,524‡‡**

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 Canada "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).

‡‡ 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).

§§ 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. Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec.
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.

Table 3: Number of Induced Abortions* Reported by Canadian Hospitals† in 2011, by Patient's Province/Territory of Residence

Patient's Province/Territory of Residence	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals
Newfoundland and Labrador	242
Prince Edward Island	79‡
Nova Scotia	2,077
New Brunswick	426
Quebec	10,601
Ontario	12,518
Manitoba	2,316
Saskatchewan	1,937
Alberta	2,283
British Columbia	4,261
Yukon	178
Northwest Territories	50
Nunavut	160
Non-Resident of Canada	7
Unknown	15
Total	**37,150**

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 those provinces who received an induced abortion in another province/territory.

Sources

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

Table 4: Number and Percentage Distribution of Induced Abortions* Reported by Canadian Hospitals† (Excluding Quebec) in 2011, by Gestational Age

Gestational Age‡ (Weeks§)	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals	Percentage of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals
≤8	7,974	30.0%
9–12	10,799	40.6%
13–16	1,853	7.0%
17–20	823	3.1%
21+	549	2.1%
Unknown	4,577	17.2%
Total	**26,575**	**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.

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 2011, by Number of Previous Deliveries

Number of Previous Deliveries	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals	Percentage of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals
None	9,334	35.1%
One	4,579	17.2%
Two	3,469	13.1%
Three or More	2,206	8.3%
Unknown	6,987	26.3%
Total	**26,575**	**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.

Sources

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

Table 6: Number and Percentage Distribution of Induced Abortions* Reported by Canadian Hospitals† (Excluding Quebec) in 2011, 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	12,455	46.9%
One	4,585	17.3%
Two or More	2,683	10.1%
Unknown	6,852	25.8%
Total	**26,575**	**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.

Sources

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

Table 7: Number and Percentage Distribution of Induced Abortions* Reported by Canadian Hospitals† (Excluding Quebec) in 2011, 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	22,411	84.3%
Dilation and Evacuation	1,341	5.0%
Dilation and Curettage	1,132	4.3%
Other Surgical Procedure‡	48	0.2%
Surgical and Medical Procedures		
Aspiration and Curettage and Any Medical Procedure	142	0.5%
Dilation and Evacuation and Any Medical Procedure	472	1.8%
Dilation and Curettage and Any Medical Procedure	10	0.0%
Medical Procedures Only		
Antacid Treatment	801	3.0%
Oxytocins	86	0.3%
Pharmacological Combination§	104	0.4%
Other**	28	0.1%
Total	**26,575**	**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.

Sources

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

Table 8: Number and Percentage Distribution of Induced Abortions* Reported by Canadian Hospitals† (Excluding Quebec) in 2011, 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	25,980	97.8%
Hemorrhage	221	0.8%
Infection	109	0.4%
Retained Products of Conception	97	0.4%
Combination§	69	0.3%
Other	99	0.4%
Total	**26,575**	**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."

Sources

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

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 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. Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec.
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.

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