

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 2008, by Province/Territory of Hospital or Clinic

Province/Territory	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Clinics	Total
	278	626	904
Prince Edward Island‡	0	0	0
Nova Scotia	2,126	0§	2,126§
New Brunswick	468	628	1,096
Quebec	13,180**	14,115**	27,295**
Ontario	14,486	17,664**	32,150**
Manitoba	2,695	1,330	4,025
Saskatchewan	1,889	0§	1,889§
Alberta	3,166	9,896	13,062
British Columbia	5,672	7,242†† (Clinic Data is Incomplete)	12,914†† (Clinic Data is Incomplete)
Yukon	139	0§	139§
Northwest Territories	171	0§	171§
Nunavut	105	0§	105§
Total Reported	44,375	51,501†† (Clinic Data for B.C. is Incomplete)	95,876†† (Clinic Data for B.C. is Incomplete)

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). For 2008, clinic data for British Columbia is incomplete.

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 2: Number of Induced Abortions* Reported in Canada[†] in 2008, by Province/Territory of Hospital or Clinic and Age Group

Gestational Age [‡] (Weeks [§])	Age Group (Years)	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Clinics	Total
Newfoundland and Labrador	≤19	51	95	146
	20–24	81	227	308
	25–29	65	152	217
	30–34	41	87	128
	35+	40	65	105
	Unknown	0	0	0
	Total		278	626
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
Nova Scotia	≤19	413	0 [§]	413 [§]
	20–24	726	0 [§]	726 [§]
	25–29	479	0 [§]	479 [§]
	30–34	298	0 [§]	298 [§]
	35+	210	0 [§]	210 [§]
	Unknown	0	0 [§]	0 [§]
	Total	2,126	0[§]	2,126[§]
New Brunswick ^{**}	≤19	113	Unreported	Unreported
	20–24	154	Unreported	Unreported
	25–29	99	Unreported	Unreported
	30–34	53	Unreported	Unreported
	35+	49	Unreported	Unreported
	Unknown	0	628	628
	Total	468	628	1,096
Quebec ^{††}	≤19	Unreported	Unreported	5,088 ^{††}
	20–24	Unreported	Unreported	7,691 ^{††}
	25–29	Unreported	Unreported	6,097 ^{††}
	30–34	Unreported	Unreported	4,473 ^{††}
	35+	Unreported	Unreported	3,946 ^{††}
	Unknown	13,180 ^{††}	14,115 ^{††}	0 ^{††}
	Total	13,180^{††}	14,115^{††}	27,295^{††}
Ontario	≤19	2,754	2,744 ^{††}	5,498 ^{††}
	20–24	4,469	5,243 ^{††}	9,712 ^{††}
	25–29	2,978	3,964 ^{††}	6,942 ^{††}
	30–34	2,162	2,788 ^{††}	4,950 ^{††}
	35+	2,123	2,925 ^{††}	5,048 ^{††}
	Unknown	0	0 ^{††}	0 ^{††}
	Total	14,486	17,664^{††}	32,150^{††}

Table 2: Number of Induced Abortions* Reported in Canada[†] in 2008, 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	638	Unreported	Unreported
	20–24	849	Unreported	Unreported
	25–29	621	Unreported	Unreported
	30–34	361	Unreported	Unreported
	35+	226	Unreported	Unreported
	Unknown	0	1,330	1,330
	Total		2,695	1,330
Saskatchewan	≤19	391	0 [§]	391 [§]
	20–24	708	0 [§]	708 [§]
	25–29	408	0 [§]	408 [§]
	30–34	225	0 [§]	225 [§]
	35+	157	0 [§]	157 [§]
	Unknown	0	0 [§]	0 [§]
	Total	1,889	0[§]	1,889[§]
Alberta	≤19	467	1,733	2,200
	20–24	971	3,080	4,051
	25–29	783	2,424	3,207
	30–34	487	1,440	1,927
	35+	458	1,217	1,675
	Unknown	0	2	2
	Total	3,166	9,896	13,062
British Columbia **	≤19	1,045	Unreported ^{§§}	Unreported ^{§§}
	20–24	1,636	Unreported ^{§§}	Unreported ^{§§}
	25–29	1,312	Unreported ^{§§}	Unreported ^{§§}
	30–34	770	Unreported ^{§§}	Unreported ^{§§}
	35+	909	Unreported ^{§§}	Unreported ^{§§}
	Unknown	0	7,242 ^{§§}	7,242 ^{§§}
	Total	5,672	7,242^{§§} (Clinic Data is Incomplete)	12,914^{§§} (Clinic Data is Incomplete)
Yukon	≤19	33	0 [§]	33 [§]
	20–24	50	0 [§]	50 [§]
	25–29	25	0 [§]	25 [§]
	30–34	21	0 [§]	21 [§]
	35+	10	0 [§]	10 [§]
	Unknown	0	0 [§]	0 [§]
	Total	139	0[§]	139[§]
Northwest Territories	≤19	35	0 [§]	35 [§]
	20–24	54	0 [§]	54 [§]
	25–29	52	0 [§]	52 [§]
	30–34	15	0 [§]	15 [§]
	35+	15	0 [§]	15 [§]
	Unknown	0	0 [§]	0 [§]
	Total	171	0[§]	171[§]

Table 2: Number of Induced Abortions* Reported in Canada† in 2008, 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	22	0 [§]	22 [§]
	20–24	35	0 [§]	35 [§]
	25–29	20	0 [§]	20 [§]
	30–34	22	0 [§]	22 [§]
	35+	6	0 [§]	6 [§]
	Unknown	0	0 [§]	0 [§]
	Total		105	0[§]
Total Reported††	≤19	5,962	4,572 ^{§§}	15,622 ^{§§}
	20–24	9,733	8,550 ^{§§}	25,974 ^{§§}
	25–29	6,842	6,540 ^{§§}	19,479 ^{§§}
	30–34	4,455	4,315 ^{§§}	13,243 ^{§§}
	35+	4,203	4,207 ^{§§}	12,356 ^{§§}
	Unknown	13,180	23,317 ^{§§}	9,202 ^{§§}
	Total	44,375	51,501^{§§} (Clinic Data for B.C. is Incomplete)	95,876^{§§} (Clinic Data for B.C. is Incomplete)

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).

§§ 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 2008, clinic data for British Columbia are incomplete.

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.
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Table 3: Number of Induced Abortions* Reported by Canadian Hospitals[†] in 2008, by Patient's Province/Territory of Residence

Gestational Age [‡] (Weeks [§])	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals
Newfoundland and Labrador	291
Prince Edward Island	74 [‡]
Nova Scotia	2,042
New Brunswick	469
Quebec	13,204 [§]
Ontario	14,524
Manitoba	2,568
Saskatchewan	1,906
Alberta	3,090
British Columbia	5,683
Yukon	155
Northwest Territories	148
Nunavut	178
Non-Resident of Canada	29
Unknown	14
Total	44,375

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).

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 2008, by Gestational Age

Gestational Age‡ (Weeks§)	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals	Percentage of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals
≤8	9,338	29.9%
9–12	12,685	40.7%
13–16	2,062	6.6%
17–20	1,019	3.3%
21+	558	1.8%
Unknown	5,533	17.7%
Total**	31,195	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.

** 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 5: Number and Percentage Distribution of Induced Abortions* Reported by Canadian Hospitals† (Excluding Quebec) in 2008, by Number of Previous Deliveries

Gestational Age‡ (Weeks§)	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals	Percentage of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals
None	11,810	37.9%
One	5,689	18.2%
Two	4,447	14.3%
Three or More	2,636	8.5%
Unknown	6,613	21.2%
Total‡	31,195	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.

‡ 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 2008, by Number of Previous Induced Abortions

Gestational Age‡ (Weeks§)	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals	Percentage of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals
None	15,414	49.4%
One	6,103	19.6%
Two or More	3,317	10.6%
Unknown	6,361	20.4%
Total‡	31,195	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.

‡ 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 2008, by Method of Abortion

Gestational Age [‡] (Weeks [§])	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals	Percentage of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals
Surgical Procedures Only		
Aspiration and Curettage	26,894	86.2%
Dilation and Evacuation	1,449	4.6%
Dilation and Curettage	1,465	4.7%
Other Surgical Procedure [‡]	13	0.0%
Surgical and Medical Procedures		
Aspiration and Curettage and Any Medical Procedure	115	0.4%
Dilation and Evacuation and Any Medical Procedure	232	0.7%
Dilation and Curettage and Any Medical Procedure	28	0.1%
Medical Procedures Only		
Antacid Treatment	789	2.5%
Oxytocins	102	0.3%
Pharmacological Combination [§]	84	0.3%
Other**	24	0.1%
Total^{††}	31,195	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.

†† 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 2008, by Complication Within 28 Days of Initial Induced Abortion

Gestational Age‡ (Weeks§)	Number of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals	Percentage of Induced Abortions Reported by Hospitals
None	30,473	97.7%
Hemorrhage	261	0.8%
Infection	115	0.4%
Retained Products of Conception	121	0.4%
Combination§	85	0.3%
Other	140	0.4%
Total**	31,195	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."

** 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

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

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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