

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 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	0 [§]	2,125 [§]
New Brunswick	471	627	1,098
Quebec	11,035	15,071	26,106 ^{**}
Ontario	12,626	16,139 ^{**}	28,765 ^{**}
Manitoba	2,539	1,611	4,150
Saskatchewan	1,915	0 [§]	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	0 [§]	100 [§]
Total Reported	38,611	52,136^{††} (Clinic Data for B.C. Is Incomplete)	90,747^{††} (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 2010, 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. 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.

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
Newfoundland and Labrador	≤19	47	115	162
	20–24	91	258	349
	25–29	69	188	257
	30–34	43	136	179
	35+	42	79	121
	Unknown	0	0	0
	Total		292	776
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	415	0 [§]	415 [§]
	20–24	725	0 [§]	725 [§]
	25–29	505	0 [§]	505 [§]
	30–34	281	0 [§]	281 [§]
	35+	199	0 [§]	199 [§]
	Unknown	0	0 [§]	0 [§]
	Total	2,125	0[§]	2,125[§]
New Brunswick**	≤19	108	Unreported	Unreported
	20–24	156	Unreported	Unreported
	25–29	102	Unreported	Unreported
	30–34	60	Unreported	Unreported
	35+	45	Unreported	Unreported
	Unknown	0	627	627
	Total	471	627	1,098
Quebec***	≤19	Unreported	Unreported	4,411 ^{††}
	20–24	Unreported	Unreported	7,442 ^{††}
	25–29	Unreported	Unreported	5,848 ^{††}
	30–34	Unreported	Unreported	4,391 ^{††}
	35+	Unreported	Unreported	4,014 ^{††}
	Unknown	11,035	15,071	<5 ^{††,§§}
	Total	11,035	15,071	26,106^{††}
Ontario	≤19	2,228	2,397 ^{††}	4,625 ^{††}
	20–24	3,874	4,764 ^{††}	8,638 ^{††}
	25–29	2,779	3,771 ^{††}	6,550 ^{††}
	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
Manitoba**	≤19	511	Unreported	Unreported
	20–24	805	Unreported	Unreported
	25–29	594	Unreported	Unreported
	30–34	368	Unreported	Unreported
	35+	261	Unreported	Unreported
	Unknown	0	1,611	1,611
	Total		2,539	1,611
Saskatchewan	≤19	353	0 [§]	353 [§]
	20–24	669	0 [§]	669 [§]
	25–29	415	0 [§]	415 [§]
	30–34	290	0 [§]	290 [§]
	35+	188	0 [§]	188 [§]
	Unknown	0	0 [§]	0 [§]
	Total		1,915	0[§]
Alberta	≤19	357	1,592	1,949
	20–24	689	3,251	3,940
	25–29	646	2,592	3,238
	30–34	486	1,696	2,182
	35+	404	1,371	1,775
	Unknown	0	0	0
	Total		2,582	10,502
British Columbia**	≤19	777	Unreported ^{††}	Unreported ^{††}
	20–24	1,331	Unreported ^{††}	Unreported ^{††}
	25–29	1,057	Unreported ^{††}	Unreported ^{††}
	30–34	770	Unreported ^{††}	Unreported ^{††}
	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)
Yukon	≤19	44	0 [§]	44 [§]
	20–24	44	0 [§]	44 [§]
	25–29	30	0 [§]	30 [§]
	30–34	15	0 [§]	15 [§]
	35+	14	0 [§]	14 [§]
	Unknown	0	0 [§]	0 [§]
	Total		147	0[§]
Northwest Territories	≤19	<5 ^{§§}	0 [§]	<5 [§] , §§
	20–24	14	0 [§]	14 [§]
	25–29	10	0 [§]	10 [§]
	30–34	9	0 [§]	9 [§]
	35+	<5 ^{§§}	0 [§]	<5 [§] , §§
	Unknown	0	0 [§]	0 [§]
	Total		40	0[§]

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
Nunavut	≤19	17	0 [§]	17 [§]
	20–24	33	0 [§]	33 [§]
	25–29	25	0 [§]	25 [§]
	30–34	17	0 [§]	17 [§]
	35+	8	0 [§]	8 [§]
	Unknown	0	0 [§]	0 [§]
	Total		100	0[§]
Total Reported***	≤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 ^{††}
	35+	3,851 ^{§§}	4,079 ^{††}	11,944 ^{††, §§}
	Unknown	11,035	24,719	9,648 ^{††}
	Total	38,611	52,136^{††} <small>(Clinic Data for B.C. Is Incomplete)</small>	90,747^{††} <small>(Clinic Data for B.C. Is Incomplete)</small>

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). For 2010, clinic data for British Columbia is incomplete.

§§ 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. 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.



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 [§]	11,056
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	38,611

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.
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%

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.

‡ 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.
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%

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.

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 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%

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.

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 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**		
Other**	42	0.2%
Total	27,576	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.

‡ The "other surgical procedure" category includes hysterectomy, hysterotomy and menstrual extraction. Cases where one of the 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.
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%

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.

‡ 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.
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 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.