

**Statistics Canada**  
**The Daily**  
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### **Induced Abortions 2001**

Canadian women obtained 106,418 abortions in 2001, a slight increase of almost 1% from 105,427 in the previous year. The rate of abortion has also marginally increased from 15.4 abortions per 1,000 women in 2000 to 15.6 abortions per 1,000 women in 2001.

The ratio of the number of induced abortions per 100 live births decreased from 32.2 in 2000 to 31.9 in 2001.

Induced abortions continue to be the most common among women in their 20s, who accounted for 51% of all women who obtained an abortion in 2001. On average, 27 women out of every 1,000 in their 20s obtained an abortion.

Induced abortion rates increased for residents of all provinces and territories except for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Yukon and Nunavut. The most significant rate increase was seen in British Columbia and is attributable to an improvement in the coverage of the Therapeutic Abortion Survey. A facility that previously did not participate in the survey began submitting counts of abortions as of 2001. Rates are based on induced abortions performed on Canadian residents in hospitals and clinics in Canada, as well as legal abortions obtained by Canadian women in some American states.

Data users should be aware of certain limitations to the Therapeutic Abortion Survey. There are recognized issues concerning coverage, increased submission of aggregate counts instead of detailed records, and an increased reliance on age estimation.

#### **Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3209.**

Selected tables for the years 1997 to 2001 are available online in the Canadian *Statistics* module of our website.

Historical statistics dating back to 1970 are available in *the publication Induced Abortion Statistics (82-223-XIE, free)*. From Our products and services page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Health*.

Induced abortion data for 2001 were collected by the Canadian Institute for Health Information. For more information on the Therapeutic Abortion Database, contact Media Relations (613-241-7860, ext. 4004), Canadian Institute for Health Information.

For information on long-term trends induced abortions, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Paula Woollam (613-951-0879), Health Statistics Division.

<b>Induced Abortions</b>						
	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2000 to 2001</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>
	<b>Number of abortions</b>			<b>% change</b>	<b>Rate per 1,000 women (1)</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>105,666</b>	<b>105,427</b>	<b>106,418</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>15.6</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	851	898	883	-1.7	7.3	7.5
Prince Edward Island	145	158	174	10.1	5.2	6.0
Nova Scotia	1,917	1,989	1,890	-5.0	9.5	9.4
New Brunswick	1,031	1,098	1,028	-6.4	6.6	6.3
Quebec	30,722	31,125	31,065	-0.2	19.4	19.6
Ontario	39,981	39,544	38,827	-1.8	15.1	14.7
Manitoba	3,517	3,366	3,375	0.3	13.8	13.9
Saskatchewan	1,898	1,956	1,900	-2.9	9.0	9.1
Alberta	10,188	10,432	10,603	1.6	14.9	15.1
British Columbia (2)	14,642	14,009	15,908	13.6	15.5	17.7
Yukon	111	135	122	-9.6	18.2	16.7
Northwest Territories	238	281	286	1.8	27.8	28.3
Nunavut	155	178	148	-16.9	28.2	22.7
Reported by American states	231	215	175	-18.6	...	...
Residence unknown	39	43	34	-20.9	...	...
... Not applicable						
(1) Rates are calculated using female population aged 15 to 44 years.						
(2) The count and rate increase in 2001 for British Columbia is a result of an improvement in coverage. A facility in that province that had not previously participated in the Therapeutic Abortion Survey submitted counts for the first time in 2001.						