

STATISTICS ON LEGALLY-INDUCED ABORTION IN CANADA, 2010

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In 1995, Statistics Canada relayed the task of collecting and publishing statistics on legally-induced abortion in Canada to the National Institute for Health Information (CIHI). The most recent data available are for the 2010 reference year. They can be found at the following link: http://www.cihi.ca/cihi-ext-portal/pdf/internet/TA_10_ALLDATATABLES20120417_EN (see **Annex 1**).

In Table 1, the total number of legally-induced abortions declared in Canada is **64,641**. However:

1. The twelve-page document starts with an advisory entitled “Important notes regarding coverage” indicating that the data collected comes strictly from hospitals and abortion clinics **and not from “fee-for-service (FFS) payments”**, and that this leads to “underestimation” of induced abortion in Canada.
2. The notice also indicates that the province of **Quebec** has failed to provide on induced abortion for the 2010 reference year.
3. At page 1, in the last end note at the bottom of the page, it is indicated that **clinics** are in no way obligated by law to provide any information whatsoever on abortions they perform, which makes the data “incomplete”, as **no less than 57% of induced abortions in Canada in 2010 were performed in clinics** (see Table 1, where 37,065 of the 64,641 abortion counts for the country are found in the “Clinics” column).

COMPLICATIONS

In Table 8, which is dedicated to **immediate complications of legally-induced abortion**, i.e. “readmissions in the 28 days following the hospital abortion”, the third endnote indicates that it is possible that complications be “under reported” because of the absence of health insurance numbers during admissions for complications of abortion. One notices that complications for abortions performed in clinics do not appear in the Table, this when no less than 57% of induced abortions in Canada are clinic abortions. Clinics, of which many for-profit businesses, do not report their complication rates as this would hamper their business. Invoking this same reason of profit preservation, clinics refuse to be subjected to the same care standards as hospitals. Abortion clinics in Quebec waged just such a battle against the Quebec Government a few years back, threatening to close if they had to ascepticize like hospitals, so the government backed down and abortion clinics are exempted from health car regulations. It is to be noted that no statistics are collected on **long-term** consequences of induced abortion (fertility problems, breast cancer, etc.). However, these possible consequences are shown in a multitude of scientific studies published by world-renowned researchers in the best rated medical and scientific journals in the world (see “Sex Education in North America”, at www.abortinfo.org, for the complete list of these studies).

Furthermore, according to Mr. Henry Morgentaler, on page 83 of his book “Abortion and Contraception” of 1982, a fair number of complications following legally-induced abortion occur in the weeks following the procedure. These are not represented in Table 8, which only covers the 28 days following the procedure. Also to be noted is that a fair number of complications of legally-induced abortions are never officially linked to abortion because many women surround their abortion with the utmost secrecy.

AGE OF THE UNBORN CHILD (“GESTATIONAL AGE”)

In Table 4, the age of the unborn child at the moment of their abortion is detailed in six categories. We see that 13,831 of the 27,576 abortions performed in hospitals (clinic data are unknown), that is 50%, were performed between the 9th and 20th week of gestation, and that 537 of the 2,576 abortions performed in hospitals, that is 2%, were performed at “21 weeks gestation or older”. Indeed, in Canada, articles 223 and 238 of the Criminal Code stipulate that the abortion of an unborn child is acceptable as long as their head has not completely proceeded outside their mother’s body during the act of birth. See <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/fra/lois/C-46/> and select “article 222”. Let us add that gestational age for 4,908 of the 27,576 abortions performed in hospitals, that is 18%, is “unknown”, so it is not impossible that a certain share of these 4,908 abortions have been performed late-term. It is to be noted also that the age of “viability” of the unborn child, that is the moment where the latter can survive outside their mother’s body, is 21 weeks. In 2006, the youngest child to have survived premature birth was a girl born at the Miami Baptist Hospital, at 21 weeks and 6 days. http://www.baptisthealth.net/vgn/images/portal/cit_449/59/45/73662064factsheetTaylorbby.pdf). Statistics Canada does advise that immediate complication rates following legally-induced abortion increase with gestational age: “Between 17 and 20 weeks gestation, immediate complication rates are 14% for women 20 years or less; 18% for women between the ages of 20 and 29; and 22% for women between the ages of 30 et 39.” (Statistics Canada, “Second-Trimester Abortions: trends and medical complications”, *Health Reports*, 1994, Vol. 6, No. 4, P. 448-449, 442.) Mr. Morgentaler, on page 94 of his book “Abortion and Contraception”, indicates that “mortality risks following legally-induced abortion increase by 30% each week of gestation and double every two weeks after eight weeks gestation.” Mr. Morgentaler is the owner of eight abortion clinics in seven Canadian provinces. In 1992-1993, this business grossed him around 11 million \$ (see **Annex 2**). His book “Abortion and Contraception” is what helped strike down medical restrictions on access to abortion. With the testimony in his book, the Supreme Court concluded that legally-induce abortion was sufficiently threatening for the health, security and life of a woman that late-term abortion should absolutely be avoided by the striking down of hospital “therapeutic abortion committees”, so that abortion may be performed as early as possible in the pregnancy (see **Annexe 3**).

QUEBEC

For data concerning legally-induce abortion in Quebec, one must consult the Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ), at www.bdso.gouv.qc.ca (type in the words “*interruption volontaire grossesse*” in the “search by words” box, then click on “Table 1”, then click on “*Interruption volontaire de grossesse*” at the bottom of the screen – tables are in French only). The three-page table indicates a total of **26,124** induced abortions in Quebec in 2010 but, in the endnote at the bottom of the page, a warning is printed concerning multiple factors that render the data incomplete (see **Annex 4**).

With its **88,436** live births in **2010** (see “Naissances et taux de natalité” table of the Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ), at http://www.bdso.gouv.qc.ca/pls/ken/p_afch_tabl_clie?p_no_client_cie=FR&p_param_id_raprt=784) (**Annex 5**), Quebec therefore counted, in 2010, one abortion for every four live births.