
Canada: Estimated abortions, 2001-2015

25 June 2016

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Abstract: This document reviews available abortion data for Canada for 2000-2014 and associated limitations and describes methodology and results for estimating total abortions through 2015.

Reporting of abortion data in Canada has become increasingly incomplete in recent years. As reviewed by the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC, 2012), abortion reporting by the Bureau of Statistics (later Statistics Canada) was fairly consistent through 1988 apart from an interruption in 1986. During this period abortions could only be performed in hospitals. In 1988 the Supreme Court struck down existing law, after which abortions were permitted in private clinics without required reporting and reporting of hospital abortions became more inconsistent. Statistics Canada stopped directly collecting abortion data in 1995 and instead reported data collected by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). In 2006, Statistics Canada dropped this limited role and abortion data is reported directly by CIHI since then. Subsequent data reporting has been inconsistent and incomplete, with underreporting of at least 22% nationally in 2012-2014. In particular, Ontario in 2012 ceased reporting nearly half of abortions performed there and has refused Freedom of Information requests for data on publicly funded abortions.

Table 1 provides available CIHI data on abortions by province/territory and year from 2000 to 2014 (CIHI, 2011a, 2011b, 2011c, 2013a, 2013b, 2014, 2015, 2016; Statistics Canada, 2006a, 2006b, 2007, 2008, 2009). Data highlighted is known incomplete with "ND" indicating no data reported.

Table 2 provides estimated abortions for each region/year of incomplete or missing data. For Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, and Ontario for 2014, estimated abortions are from ARCC (ARCC, 2016). For other years from 2002 to 2014, estimates are linear interpolations between complete data years. For 2015, estimates are extrapolated based on the average year-to-year percentage change from the last 5 years. Resulting estimates by region and estimated totals for Canada are highlighted.

Table 1. CIHI data on abortions by Canadian province and territory and Canada total, 2000-2014

year	Canada	AB	BC	MB	NB	NF	NT	NS	NU	ON	PE	QC	SK	YT
2000	105,454	10,780	14,070	3,511	1,117	871	278	2,089	108	39,541		31,185	1,761	143
2001	113,660	10,894	15,820	3,515	1,039	859	261	2,105	84	46,168		31,038	1,752	125
2002	113,957	10,962	16,076	3,441	1,062	798	238	1,996	ND	46,683		30,841	1,729	131
2003	114,917	10,227	15,669	3,882	991	880	266	2,064	ND	48,272		30,780	1,755	131
2004	111,479	11,283	14,738	2,752	1,042	901	270	1,936	ND	46,163		30,588	1,806	ND
2005	110,135	11,040	14,927	2,363	1,032	877	ND	1,944	ND	46,873		29,231	1,723	125
2006	97,384	11,936	ND	2,380	ND	894	271	2,082	118	48,726		29,105	1,741	131
2007	115,556	12,687	15,770	3,978	1,082	850	329	2,122	95	49,024	0	27,697	1,806	116
2008	113,558	13,264	12,914	4,025	1,096	904	171	2,126	105	49,628	0	27,295	1,891	139
2009	112,229	13,150	12,461	4,247	1,104	956	57	2,119	107	48,742	0	27,139	2,019	128
2010	108,596	13,084	12,149	4,150	1,098	1,068	40	2,125	100	46,614	0	26,106	1,915	147
2011	110,498	13,372	14,341	3,998	1,056	1,026	45	2,157	87	46,088	0	26,245	1,928	155
2012	83,708	13,287	7,128	3,988	1,058	1,054	35	2,119	93	27,386	0	25,400	2,015	145
2013	82,869	13,376	9,574	3,873	1,036	223	211	2,077	96	25,108	0	25,253	1,921	121
2014	81,897	13,815	9,196	4,015	528	1,051	255	2,061	85	23,746	0	25,083	1,960	102

Table 2. CIHI-reported abortions with supplementary estimates, Canadian regions, 2000-2015

year	Canada	AB	BC	MB	NB	NF	NT	NS	NU	ON	PE	QC	SK	YT
2000	105,454	10,780	14,070	3,511	1,117	871	278	2,089	108	39,541		31,185	1,761	143
2001	113,660	10,894	15,820	3,515	1,039	859	261	2,105	84	46,168		31,038	1,752	125
2002	114,000	10,962	16,076	3,441	1,062	798	238	1,996	90	46,683		30,841	1,729	131
2003	115,000	10,227	15,669	3,882	991	880	266	2,064	100	48,272		30,780	1,755	131
2004	112,900	11,283	14,738	3,910	1,042	901	270	1,936	100	46,163		30,588	1,806	130
2005	112,100	11,040	14,927	3,930	1,032	877	270	1,944	110	46,873		29,231	1,723	125
2006	115,400	11,936	15,350	3,950	1,060	894	271	2,082	118	48,726		29,105	1,741	131
2007	115,556	12,687	15,770	3,978	1,082	850	329	2,122	95	49,024	0	27,697	1,806	116
2008	116,100	13,264	15,420	4,025	1,096	904	171	2,126	105	49,628	0	27,295	1,891	139
2009	114,800	13,150	15,060	4,247	1,104	956	57	2,119	107	48,742	0	27,139	2,019	128
2010	111,100	13,084	14,700	4,150	1,098	1,068	40	2,125	100	46,614	0	26,106	1,915	147
2011	110,498	13,372	14,341	3,998	1,056	1,026	45	2,157	87	46,088	0	26,245	1,928	155
2012	107,700	13,287	13,740	3,988	1,058	1,054	35	2,119	93	44,760	0	25,400	2,015	145
2013	105,600	13,376	13,140	3,873	1,036	1,050	211	2,077	96	43,430	0	25,253	1,921	121
2014	104,100	13,815	12,547	4,015	1,030	1,051	255	2,061	85	42,100	0	25,083	1,960	102
2015	102,100	13,950	12,100	3,970	1,020	1,070	260	2,050	80	40,890	0	24,690	1,950	100

Incompleteness of national-level CIHI statistics based on these estimates is:

- 0.1% in 2001-2002
- 1.5% in 2003-2004
- 15.6% in 2006
- 2.2% in 2008-2010
- 21.7% in 2012-2014

Figure 1 compares CIHI-reported Canadian abortion totals for 2000-2014 to the estimates derived here.

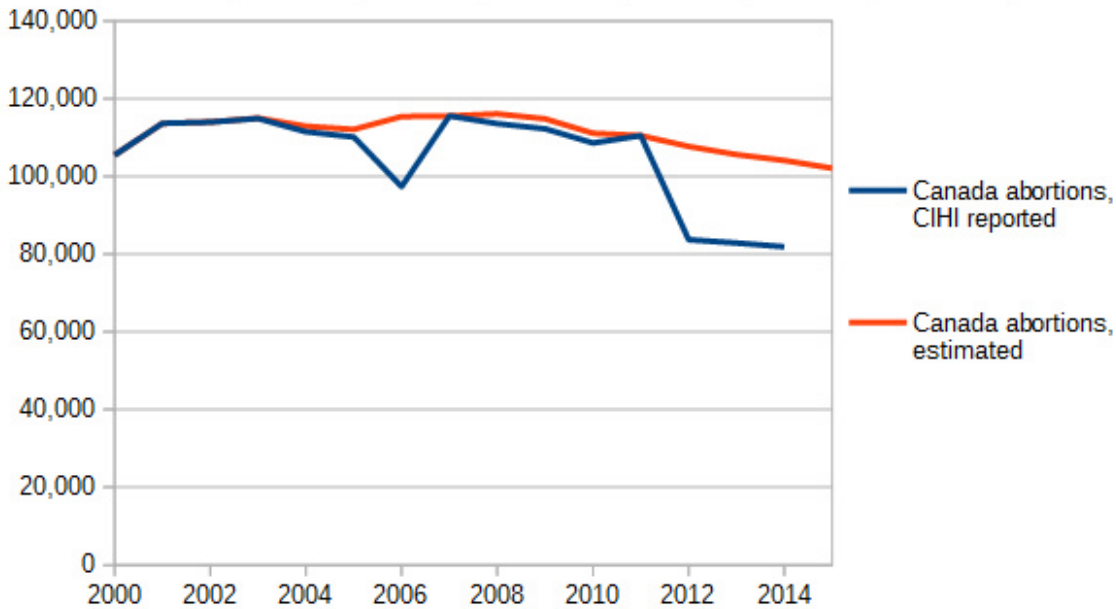


Figure 1. Canada abortions, CIHI reported and these estimates.

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