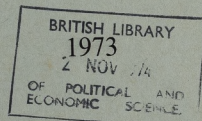


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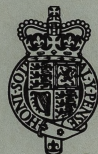
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THE
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S
STATISTICAL REVIEW
OF
ENGLAND AND WALES
FOR THE YEAR



SUPPLEMENT ON ABORTION



LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

65p net

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AND SURVEYS

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FOR THE YEAR

1973

SUPPLEMENT ON ABORTION

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HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1974

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CORRECTIONS

Statistical Review, 1972: Supplement on Abortion

Table 1B, Page 3

Rates per 1,000 women 15-44 (residents) 1972 for 11.47 read 11.27

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. General

The Abortion Act 1967, which came into effect on 27th April 1968, permits termination of pregnancy by a registered medical practitioner subject to certain conditions. Regulations made under the Act (The Abortion Regulations 1968, Statutory Instrument 1968 No.390 as amended by 1969 No.636, in relation to England and Wales) require any such termination to be notified within seven days, in a form prescribed in Schedule 2 of the principal Regulations, to the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health and Social Security or to the Chief Medical Officer of the Welsh Office, according to where the termination takes place. By arrangement the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys undertakes the statistical processing and analysis of the notification forms. This supplement to the Registrar General's Statistical Review gives some statistics derived from them for England and Wales for 1973. The following paragraphs set out the background to these statistics and the definitions used in compiling them.

2. Conditions of the Act

A legally induced abortion must be

- (a) performed by a registered medical practitioner,
- (b) performed, except in emergency, in a National Health Service Hospital or in a place for the time being approved for the purpose of the Act,
- (c) certified by two registered medical practitioners as necessary on one or other of the grounds:
 1. the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk to the life of the pregnant woman greater than if the pregnancy were terminated
 2. the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk of injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman greater than if the pregnancy were terminated
 3. the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk of injury to the physical or mental health of any existing children of the family greater than if the pregnancy were terminated
 4. there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped

or in emergency, certified by the operating practitioner as immediately necessary-

 5. to save the life of the pregnant woman, or
 6. to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.

The above numbering of the grounds for termination appears in the notification form itself, and is used for brevity in the tables. Combinations of grounds are not infrequently recorded, and the tabulations distinguish two such: 2 and 4 together, and 3 with any others (usually 2 and/or 4). Where ground 1 is stated with any other, the case is treated as ground 1.

The Act provides that in relation to grounds numbered above as 2 and 3 the certifying practitioner may take account of the pregnant woman's actual or reasonably foreseeable environment.

3. Scope of data

The figures in the main tables are derived from notification forms received during 1973 and up to the end of January 1974 relating to legally induced abortions which took place in England and Wales in 1973.

The relative categories of the *International Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death, 8th Revision (1965)* are those numbered 640 (abortion induced for medical indications) and 641 (abortion induced for other legal indications).

Tables 2, 4B, 5, 7-12, 14 and 16-22, being primarily of demographic rather than medical interest, exclude abortions of women whose usual residence was stated to be outside England and Wales. These are shown separately in Table 15.

4. Rates

Tables 2A and B give annual abortion rates for England and Wales as a whole and for standard regions according to the declared usual residence of the woman. The denominator is the estimated population of women in the age range 15-49 at mid 1973. Since population estimates by marital status do not distinguish separated women (included with married) while the abortion notification form distinguishes single, married, widowed, and divorced or separated women, abortion rates are given only for single and ever-married (married, widowed, divorced or separated). (See note 6). As population estimates by marital status for regions are not available, regional rates are age-specific only.

5. Category of premises

Except in emergency, abortion operations must be carried out in NHS hospitals, in certain approved Services' hospitals, or in other premises specifically approved by the Secretary of State. At the end of 1973 there were 57 such approved places and 13 approved Services' hospitals. In the tables these latter hospitals are included under the heading 'Other Places'.

In 1973 no operation was recorded as having been performed, as an emergency, in a place other than those in the three categories of premises mentioned.

6. Age and marital status

The notification form asks for the woman's date of birth and the age tabulated is that at the last birthday before the operation. The categories of marital status distinguished on the notification form are (a) single (b) married (c) widowed (d) divorced or separated. Except in Tables 8, 14 and 15(ii), the relatively small categories (c) and (d) are combined for tabulation purposes. This classification differs from that used in compiling population estimates. (See note 4).

7. Parity

The form requires the number of the woman's previous (a) live births (b) stillbirths (c) abortions to be stated. In Tables 7, 9 and 10 analysis is by the number of previous live births, and in Tables 5 and 16C(i) by the number of live births and stillbirths together. Answers under (c) are probably incomplete.

8. Previous abortion under the Act

A question on the form about the date of the last termination of pregnancy under the Act enables cases of previous therapeutic abortion since 27th April 1968, to be identified. These are shown in Table 16C(iii) by the woman's age and hospital region of residence.

9. Operation

Five main operative methods are listed on the form, with provision for specifying any other method. Where more than one is used, in Tables 1A(v), 13 and 16C(iv) the case is classified under the major operation.

10. Gestation period

The form provides for a statement of the date of the last menstrual period as well as the date of operation. In accordance with international convention the gestation period is calculated as the number of completed weeks between these two dates. Where the l.m.p. is stated vaguely, for example as in 'early April' or 'third week in June', a guessed single date is inserted, such as the 7th April and 22nd June. When no date is stated for a case it is included in the 'not stated' category.

11. Duration of stay

Duration of stay in hospital or approved place is tabulated as the interval in days between date of admission and date of discharge (the latter actual or expected). An interval of 0 days means admission and discharge on the same date. As notification forms should be completed and forwarded within seven days of operation, the tabulated durations are limited at the upper end to '7 days and over'. A date of discharge was not stated and could not be inferred in 6% of cases resident in England and Wales.

12. Region of operation

Hospitals and approved places are classified to the hospital region in which they are situated, except that London teaching hospitals are shown as a separate group. The composition of hospital regions in terms of entire local government areas is set out in the Registrar General's Statistical Review from year to year, e.g. the 1972 volume, Part II, pages xxxi-xxxiv.

13. Area of residence

Tables 2, 15, 16, 17 and 18 are derived from the statement of the woman's usual address. In so far as temporary residence in England and Wales may sometimes be stated, instead of the true usual residence, figures in Table 15 may be incomplete. Table 17 is limited to standard regions, hospital regions, conurbations, aggregates of types of area and local government areas with a resident population of 100,000 and over. Figures for smaller areas are not provided in the interests of preserving confidentiality.

The composition of standard regions and conurbations is set out in the Registrar General's Statistical Review from year to year, e.g. the 1972 volume, Part II, pages xv-xxx.

14. Sterilisation

Tables 4B, 10 and 11B provide analyses of cases where sterilisation accompanied the abortion operation, and Tables 16B and 16C(vi) give some additional figures for regions. Where no answer was provided to the question, it was assumed that sterilisation was not performed unless the nature of the operation implied the opposite; all women who were stated to have had hysterectomy have been counted among those sterilised.

15. Occupation

The form asks for the woman's occupation, or that of her husband if she is married. Unfortunately, the information provided under this heading is often incomplete or too vague or general to permit satisfactory classification. However, in view of the sociological interest, an attempt has been made to analyse the data in terms of groups of occupations, whether of the woman or her husband, which correspond (to some extent) with conventional social classes used in various of the Registrar General's publications. Since, however, assessment of job status is not always possible, the classification is not strictly that of social class. These groups of occupations, presented in Tables 8, 9, 10, 11, 18, 20 and 21 are:

Professional: e.g. doctors, architects, lecturers.

Intermediate: e.g. nurses, sales managers, entertainers.

Skilled: e.g. secretaries, salesmen, hairdressers.

Semi-skilled: e.g. waitresses, farm workers, telephonists.

Unskilled: e.g. kitchen hands, dock labourers, window cleaners.

Not classified: e.g. students, housewives, members of the Armed Forces, occupations inadequately described or not stated, unemployed.

16. Existing children

Tables 11A and B analyse the data according to the number of existing children living in the woman's family. These are defined on the form as a woman's natural children and any adopted, foster or step-children up to the age of 16 years living with her.

17. Medical grounds

Questions 11(a) and (b) on the notification form ask about the medical condition of the woman in terms of any obstetric or non-obstetric disease found or reported and any suspected medical condition of the foetus. The answers are coded according to the *International Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 8th Revision (1965)*, slightly adapted to the context of abortions. In particular, Category 307 (Transient situational disturbances) is used as a residual group and includes general and miscellaneous terms and vague references to the mental state of the pregnant woman, e.g. mental health (risk to), mental illness (risk of), attempted suicide or tendency to suicide. Also included are disorders not specified as psychotic associated with other or unspecified physical conditions, which would otherwise be included in ICD 309.9. Two codes outside the range of the ICD 649 and 669, have been added to accommodate certain reported conditions, as described in Table 19. The large variety of medical conditions reported are aggregated into significant groups of the International Classification (ICD) code numbers and presented in Table 19. This shows numbers of conditions and not numbers of cases.

18. Environmental and other conditions (non-medical)

Question 11(c) on the notification form asks about non-medical grounds for termination, pursuant to the statutory provision that certifying practitioners may take account of 'the pregnant woman's actual or reasonably foreseeable environment' in relation to statutory grounds 2 and 3. Apart from some cases where question 11(c) was mistakenly answered by a reference back to the statutory grounds already stated, thirty one per cent (34,360) of all cases included some information about social conditions. These were cited in most cases in addition to medical reasons. The reasons, as the practitioner has seen fit to record them, have been classified to broad social groupings which have been used in the analysis shown in Table 12. Where more than one condition was stated an arbitrary order of priority was used for selecting the condition to be tabulated.

19. Complications or death

The question under this heading relates to the occurrence of complications or death prior to notification of an abortion. Notification should be made within seven days and the notifying doctor may not hear of complications or death occurring after the patient has been discharged from the place of operation. Data available from answers to this question will, from time to time, be analysed and discussed and published in medical journals.

Deaths recorded on the forms totalled 6, including two women who were not normally resident in England or Wales. On reference to the death certificate in each case it was found that the certifying practitioner or coroner had not necessarily attributed cause of death to the abortion operation but sometimes to the illness which was considered the underlying cause of death. Of the 4 deaths of resident women, in 2 cases abortion was shown to be the underlying cause, whilst in the remaining 2, death was attributed to other conditions. The method of operation, period of gestation and age at death are presented in Table 22.

TABLES

TABLE 1A. Legally induced abortions by age of woman and:-
(SUMMARY) (i) marital status
(ii) category of premises
(iii) statutory grounds
(iv) gestation weeks
(v) operation

England and Wales, 1973
Residents and Non-residents

	All ages	Under 16	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 and over	Not stated
All legally induced abortions	167,149	3,660	31,838	44,209	33,121	24,623	18,382	8,079	736	2,501
(i) Marital status										
Single	82,026	3,658	30,252	31,265	10,781	3,242	1,318	371	27	1,112
Married	71,426	2	1,256	10,150	18,101	18,277	14,874	6,952	655	1,159
Widowed, divorced or separated	13,499	-	313	2,750	4,201	3,064	2,163	747	53	208
Unknown	198	-	17	44	38	40	27	9	1	22
(ii) Category of premises										
NHS hospitals	55,637	2,243	10,258	11,081	10,704	8,971	7,240	3,640	368	1,132
Approved places	111,040	1,402	21,483	33,049	22,305	15,585	11,085	4,415	364	1,352
Other places	472	15	97	79	112	67	57	24	4	17
(iii) Statutory grounds*										
1	5,271	43	600	1,469	1,117	802	761	377	28	74
2	126,046	3,558	30,091	37,143	22,680	14,709	10,761	4,787	454	1,863
3	3,672	11	145	632	938	917	670	257	28	74
4	1,191	5	104	309	399	198	87	46	11	32
5	7	-	-	3	1	3	-	-	-	-
6	12	-	2	-	2	3	3	1	-	1
2 with 4	1,219	10	120	212	256	225	178	162	31	25
3 with others	29,731	33	776	4,441	7,728	7,766	5,922	2,449	184	432
(iv) Gestation weeks†										
Under 9 weeks	38,878	459	4,738	9,273	8,566	7,326	5,575	2,215	162	564
9 to 12 weeks	92,424	1,938	18,269	24,700	18,155	13,332	9,901	4,449	404	1,276
13 weeks and over	32,186	1,121	8,251	9,399	5,643	3,423	2,493	1,241	145	470
Not stated	3,661	142	580	837	757	542	413	174	25	191
(v) Operation										
Hysterotomy - abdominal	5,156	103	410	644	1,001	1,154	1,055	644	60	85
Hysterotomy - vaginal	133	6	13	13	32	23	32	10	2	2
Hysterectomy	752	1	5	22	76	156	250	186	36	20
Vacuum aspiration	85,536	1,946	16,799	21,942	17,015	12,698	9,431	4,035	349	1,321
Dilatation and evacuation	48,533	798	8,949	13,909	9,869	6,967	5,088	2,089	184	680
Other types of termination	5,283	426	1,548	1,351	841	471	329	182	20	115
Multiple methods, including Not stated	21,756	380	4,114	6,328	4,287	3,154	2,197	933	85	278

* For statutory grounds see page v.
† For definition of gestation weeks see page vi.

TABLE 1B. Legally induced abortions. Quarterly and annual notifications;
(SERIAL) annual occurrences for residents of England and Wales and non-residents
by category of premises; rates per 1,000 women ages 15-44 (residents)

England and
Wales
1968-1973

Year	Notifications received				Occurrences reported						
	Quarter				Total	Total	Residents		Non-residents		Rates per 1,000 women 15-44 (residents)
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th			In NHS Hospital	Non NHS	In NHS Hospital	Non NHS	
1968 (8 months)	-	4,411	7,938	9,907	22,256	23,641	14,492	7,840	68	1,241	3.46
1969	11,342	13,116	13,871	15,828	54,157	54,819	33,562	16,267	166	4,824	5.26
1970	17,742	21,082	22,253	22,774	83,851	86,565	47,370	28,592	308	10,295	7.97
1971	22,808	31,202	34,449	38,315	126,774	126,777	53,455	41,115	251	31,956	10.03
1972	37,166	39,190	39,972	40,386	156,714	159,884	56,861	51,704	225	51,094	11.27
1973	43,457	40,930	41,029	43,946	169,362	167,149	55,456	55,112	181	56,400	11.39

TABLE 2A. Legally induced abortions by age and marital status, with rates per 1,000 women

England and Wales, 1973
Residents

Marital status	Under 15	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45 and over*	Not stated	Total 15 and over†
Numbers								
All	820	25,750	26,728	37,346	17,606	525	1,793	109,748
Married	-	843	6,305	23,822	14,503	466	827	46,766
Single	820	24,614	18,072	7,756	845	16	776	52,079
Widowed	-	10	48	314	319	12	10	713
Divorced/separated	-	268	2,276	5,398	1,916	30	159	10,047
Unknown	-	15	27	56	23	1	21	143
Rates‡								
All	-	15.43	15.65	11.52	6.26	0.35	-	11.39 15-44 9.88 15-49
Single	-	16.19	26.08	22.23	4.52	0.14	-	18.66 17.94
Married/widowed/divorced/separated	-	7.58	8.52	10.22	6.39	0.37	-	8.40 7.02

* Rates per 1,000 women aged 45-49.
† Including age not stated.
‡ Cases of unknown marital status are distributed proportionately.

TABLE 2B. Legally induced abortions by age and area of residence, with rates per 1,000 women

England and Wales, standard regions, Wales, conurbations, urban and rural aggregates 1973
Residents

Area of residence	All ages	Under 16	16-19*	20-24	25-34	35-44	45 and over†	Not stated	Total 16 and over‡
Numbers									
ENGLAND AND WALES	110,568	3,090	23,480	26,728	37,346	17,606	525	1,793	107,478
Standard regions:									
North	5,835	182	1,323	1,234	1,869	1,112	38	77	5,653
Yorkshire and Humberside	8,428	282	1,925	1,750	2,753	1,572	49	97	8,146
North West	12,604	362	2,846	3,062	4,038	2,081	57	158	12,242
East Midlands	6,131	220	1,471	1,222	2,038	1,072	19	89	5,911
West Midlands	11,722	381	2,841	2,644	3,740	1,893	65	158	11,341
East Anglia	2,994	119	630	602	996	576	18	53	2,875
South East	50,625	1,158	9,606	13,562	17,947	7,148	210	994	49,467
South West	7,113	252	1,706	1,526	2,276	1,174	41	138	6,861
Wales	5,116	134	1,132	1,126	1,689	978	28	29	4,982
Urban and rural aggregates:									
Conurbations	48,416	1,084	9,289	13,556	16,810	6,643	179	855	47,332
Areas outside conurbations:									
Urban areas with populations of 100,000 and over	13,981	449	3,316	3,428	4,381	2,159	51	197	13,532
Urban areas with populations of 50,000 and under 100,000	10,643	331	2,524	2,445	3,355	1,755	65	168	10,312
Urban areas with populations under 50,000	21,037	755	4,789	4,285	7,001	3,764	127	316	20,282
Rural districts	16,491	471	3,562	3,014	5,799	3,285	103	257	16,020
Rates									
ENGLAND AND WALES	-	-	14.07	15.66	11.52	6.26	0.35	-	9.84
Standard regions:									
North	-	-	11.05	11.16	9.04	5.72	0.37	-	7.70
Yorkshire and Humberside	-	-	11.65	10.72	8.95	5.72	0.34	-	7.71
North West	-	-	12.30	13.35	9.37	5.47	0.28	-	8.29
East Midlands	-	-	12.64	10.32	8.81	5.41	0.18	-	7.68
West Midlands	-	-	15.97	15.07	10.65	6.31	0.41	-	9.76
East Anglia	-	-	11.09	9.95	8.64	5.95	0.36	-	7.58
South East	-	-	16.72	21.38	15.14	7.15	0.40	-	12.62
South West	-	-	13.08	12.15	9.41	5.55	0.34	-	8.27
Wales	-	-	11.75	12.55	9.83	6.31	0.32	-	8.31

* Rates per 1,000 women aged 15-19.

† Rates per 1,000 women aged 45-49.

‡ Rates per 1,000 women aged 15-49. Not stated ages included.

Note. Rates are not given for urban and rural aggregates as population estimates are not yet available.

TABLE 2C. Legally induced abortions by age and area of residence

England and Wales, hospital regions 1973
Residents

Area of residence	All ages	Under 16	16-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45 and over	Not stated	Total 16 and over
Numbers									
ENGLAND AND WALES	110,568	3,090	23,480	26,728	37,346	17,606	525	1,793	107,478
Hospital regions:									
Newcastle	5,399	169	1,219	1,144	1,741	1,028	36	62	5,230
Leeds	5,709	185	1,257	1,236	1,863	1,067	31	70	5,524
Sheffield	8,246	286	2,005	1,616	2,707	1,484	38	110	7,960
East Anglian	3,146	122	663	625	1,051	609	19	57	3,024
North West Metropolitan	16,041	282	2,610	4,721	5,931	2,066	51	380	15,759
North East Metropolitan	8,492	171	1,766	2,020	2,974	1,316	36	209	8,321
South East Metropolitan	8,484	233	1,847	2,055	2,889	1,286	44	130	8,251
South West Metropolitan	11,495	232	2,016	3,462	4,095	1,458	47	185	11,263
Wessex	3,475	148	797	739	1,159	543	25	64	3,327
Oxford	4,391	172	989	904	1,462	783	17	64	4,219
South Western	6,170	212	1,475	1,352	1,980	1,005	31	115	5,958
Welsh	5,116	134	1,132	1,126	1,689	978	28	29	4,982
Birmingham	11,722	381	2,841	2,644	3,740	1,893	65	158	11,341
Manchester	8,316	277	1,844	1,958	2,707	1,386	36	108	8,039
Liverpool	4,366	86	1,019	1,126	1,358	704	21	52	4,280

Note. Abortion rates are not given in this table as population estimates for hospital regions are not yet available.

TABLE 5. Legally induced abortions by age, number of previous live and still born children and marital status

England and Wales, 1973

Previous live and still born children	Marital status	All ages	Residents								Not stated
			Under 16	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 and over	
0	Total	52,691	3,063	21,735	17,517	6,442	1,905	884	321	31	793
	Single	47,190	3,063	21,348	15,618	4,716	1,171	465	115	13	681
	Married	3,736	-	287	1,315	1,110	482	283	167	16	76
	Widowed/divorced/separated	1,712	-	89	571	609	243	133	38	2	27
	Unknown	53	-	11	13	7	9	3	1	-	9
1	Total	12,843	26	1,406	4,297	3,407	1,780	1,156	513	34	214
	Single	4,268	26	896	1,932	940	281	103	21	1	68
	Married	5,764	-	361	1,471	1,810	1,025	772	407	27	91
	Widowed/divorced/separated	2,789	-	146	888	851	483	280	85	6	50
	Unknown	22	-	3	6	6	1	1	-	-	5
2	Total	20,003	1	288	3,227	5,969	5,106	3,588	1,346	141	337
	Single	827	1	85	366	260	115	55	10	1	14
	Married	15,961	-	163	2,233	4,650	4,287	3,013	1,205	130	280
	Widowed/divorced/separated	3,088	-	40	603	1,051	698	515	131	10	40
	Unknown	27	-	-	5	8	6	5	-	-	3
3	Total	13,474	-	36	1,263	3,520	3,861	3,101	1,329	114	220
	Single	289	-	7	96	104	45	22	8	1	8
	Married	11,398	-	26	961	2,870	3,357	2,708	1,191	102	183
	Widowed/divorced/separated	1,764	-	3	203	541	481	367	129	11	29
	Unknown	23	-	-	3	5	8	4	1	-	2
4	Total	6,638	-	4	334	1,342	2,036	1,835	888	82	117
	Single	138	-	2	33	41	38	21	3	-	-
	Married	5,684	-	2	254	1,096	1,718	1,617	814	77	106
	Widowed/divorced/separated	808	-	-	47	203	279	194	70	4	11
	Unknown	8	-	-	-	2	1	3	1	1	-
5	Total	2,707	-	-	52	460	753	840	492	56	54
	Single	38	-	-	2	15	10	6	2	-	3
	Married	2,332	-	-	45	375	643	728	446	50	45
	Widowed/divorced/separated	333	-	-	5	70	99	104	43	6	6
	Unknown	4	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-
6	Total	1,204	-	1	10	140	321	426	260	29	17
	Single	21	-	-	2	6	5	5	2	-	1
	Married	1,020	-	1	8	101	274	366	230	27	13
	Widowed/divorced/separated	163	-	-	-	33	42	55	28	2	3
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Total	465	-	-	4	31	98	167	136	17	12
	Single	4	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-
	Married	419	-	-	2	26	89	144	129	17	12
	Widowed/divorced/separated	39	-	-	1	4	6	21	7	-	-
	Unknown	3	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
8	Total	204	-	-	1	12	39	72	68	9	3
	Single	5	-	-	-	2	1	1	2	-	-
	Married	179	-	-	1	8	34	65	59	9	3
	Widowed/divorced/separated	20	-	-	-	2	5	6	7	-	-
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 and over	Total	178	-	-	-	2	21	65	75	11	4
	Single	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
	Married	154	-	-	-	2	16	59	63	10	4
	Widowed/divorced/separated	21	-	-	-	-	4	5	11	1	-
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not stated	Total	161	-	10	23	40	21	27	17	1	22
	Single	16	-	6	2	3	1	1	1	-	3
	Married	119	-	3	15	32	17	24	13	1	14
	Widowed/divorced/separated	23	-	-	6	5	3	3	3	-	3
	Unknown	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

TABLE 6. Legally induced abortions by age, gestation weeks and marital status

England and Wales, 1973

Gestation weeks* and marital status	All ages	Residents and Non-residents								Not stated
		Under 16	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 and over	
Under 9 weeks										
Total	38,878	459	4,738	9,273	8,566	7,326	5,575	2,215	162	564
Single	16,639	459	4,528	6,835	3,065	1,010	401	106	7	228
Married	19,236	-	179	2,007	4,597	5,507	4,601	1,905	143	297
Widowed/divorced/separated	2,967	-	29	425	896	804	565	201	12	35
Unknown	36	-	2	6	8	5	8	3	-	4
9 to 12 weeks										
Total	92,424	1,938	18,269	24,700	18,155	13,332	9,901	4,449	404	1,276
Single	45,452	1,936	17,380	17,413	5,677	1,621	667	185	9	564
Married	39,413	2	709	5,671	10,131	10,026	8,047	3,864	364	599
Widowed/divorced/separated	7,456	-	173	1,595	2,320	1,660	1,174	397	30	107
Unknown	103	-	7	21	27	25	13	3	1	6
13 weeks and over										
Total	32,186	1,121	8,251	9,399	5,643	3,423	2,493	1,241	145	470
Single	18,409	1,121	7,812	6,514	1,846	559	222	72	11	252
Married	11,019	-	332	2,212	2,928	2,330	1,895	1,038	125	159
Widowed/divorced/separated	2,715	-	100	660	867	528	370	128	9	53
Unknown	43	-	7	13	2	6	6	3	-	6
Not stated										
Total	3,661	142	580	837	757	542	413	174	25	191
Single	1,526	142	532	503	193	52	28	8	-	68
Married	1,758	-	36	260	445	414	331	145	23	104
Widowed/divorced/separated	361	-	11	70	118	72	54	21	2	13
Unknown	16	-	1	4	1	4	-	-	-	6

* For definition of gestation weeks see page vi.

TABLE 12 - continued

Code	Description	NHS Hospitals		Approved and Other places	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
	Concerning economic factors	2,447	8.5	343	2.9
60	Insufficient income for family - husband not able to support	14	0.0	1	0.0
61	Loss of employment for woman	104	0.4	18	0.2
63	Other specified economic reasons	6	0.0	-	-
64	Unspecified economic reasons, financial difficulties	2,323	8.1	324	2.7
	Concerning housing	201	0.7	27	0.2
65	Inadequate housing	83	0.3	7	0.1
66	Material home conditions inadequate	8	0.0	-	-
68	Other specified environmental reasons	8	0.0	1	0.0
69	Unspecified environmental reasons	102	0.4	19	0.1
	Concerning rape and violence	57	0.2	4	0.0
70	Unwanted intercourse, under 16	3	0.0	-	-
71	Unwanted intercourse, 16 or over	5	0.0	-	-
72	Rape, single girl under 16	15	0.1	1	0.0
73	Rape, single girl 16 or over	19	0.1	2	0.0
74	Rape, married woman	6	0.0	-	-
75	Incest	9	0.0	1	0.0
	All cases with question 11(c) completed	28,856	100.0	11,951	100.0
	All cases with medical reasons and question 11(c) not completed	26,034		43,075	
	All cases with question 11 (a)-(c) not completed	566		86	
	Total cases treated for abortion	55,456		55,112	

TABLE 13. Legally induced abortions by age, operation and gestation weeks

England and Wales, 1973

Residents and Non-residents

Operation	Gestation weeks*	All ages	Residents and Non-residents								Not stated
			Under 16	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 and over	
Hysterotomy - abdominal	Total	5,086	98	399	626	987	1,142	1,050	641	60	83
	Under 9	189	1	4	16	30	57	50	25	2	4
	9-12	1,922	22	52	147	349	507	515	279	21	30
	13	663	11	36	78	137	154	150	80	7	10
	14	511	9	47	51	100	126	96	70	6	6
	15-16	714	12	89	119	162	125	106	82	8	11
	17-19	553	20	83	112	116	85	75	49	8	5
	20-23	298	14	70	69	43	45	24	25	4	4
	24 and over	40	4	5	12	13	2	-	3	-	1
	Not stated	196	5	13	22	37	41	34	28	4	12
	Hysterotomy - vaginal	Total	133	6	13	13	32	23	32	10	2
Under 9		15	2	1	3	4	-	3	2	-	-
9-12		60	1	6	5	13	11	18	4	1	1
13		12	-	1	-	-	4	5	2	-	-
14		6	1	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
15-16		17	-	1	2	7	2	3	1	1	-
17-19		9	-	1	1	4	1	1	-	-	1
20-23		5	1	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
24 and over		2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Not stated		7	1	-	2	1	2	1	-	-	-
Hysterotomy with others		Total	70	5	11	18	14	12	5	3	-
	Under 9	8	-	1	4	1	2	-	-	-	-
	9-12	30	2	2	7	8	4	3	2	-	2
	13	5	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	
	14	4	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	
	15-16	4	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	
	17-19	10	1	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	
	20-23	4	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	
	24 and over	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
	Not stated	3	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	
	Hysterectomy	Total	714	1	5	16	67	148	241	182	35
Under 9		66	-	-	1	6	17	27	12	-	3
9-12		375	1	-	5	29	82	123	105	21	9
13		79	-	2	1	11	14	31	17	3	-
14		57	-	-	2	5	12	19	17	2	-
15-16		48	-	1	3	4	6	12	15	3	4
17-19		35	-	1	1	3	7	14	6	2	1
20-23		13	-	1	-	3	1	2	3	3	-
24 and over		2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Not stated		39	-	-	3	6	9	13	5	1	2
Hysterectomy with others		Total	38	-	-	6	9	8	9	4	1
	Under 9	4	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
	9-12	20	-	-	3	6	4	5	-	1	1
	13	4	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	
	14	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	
	15-16	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
	17-19	4	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	
	20-23	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
	24 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Not stated	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
	Vacuum aspiration	Total	85,536	1,946	16,799	21,942	17,015	12,698	9,431	4,035	349
Under 9		20,504	292	4,676	4,462	3,884	2,960	1,163	88	88	324
9-12		54,181	1,294	11,339	14,217	10,553	7,621	5,655	2,516	223	763
13		4,995	141	1,434	1,436	880	526	336	156	14	72
14		2,127	75	585	648	386	187	140	77	6	23
15-16		1,262	60	332	375	213	130	88	32	5	27
17-19		374	13	108	107	78	30	22	8	2	6
20-23		127	5	22	46	24	16	9	2	-	3
24 and over		35	-	7	12	7	2	3	3	-	1
Not stated		1,931	66	317	425	412	302	218	78	11	102
Dilatation and evacuation		Total	48,533	798	8,949	13,909	9,869	6,967	5,088	2,089	184
	Under 9	12,060	115	1,376	3,024	2,764	2,227	1,689	661	46	158
	9-12	23,809	384	4,454	6,824	4,824	3,403	2,472	1,038	87	323
	13	3,833	69	893	1,230	724	439	307	111	9	51
	14	2,873	66	689	943	513	296	224	90	13	39
	15-16	3,508	85	928	1,144	619	346	235	92	17	42
	17-19	1,435	52	423	472	228	112	72	48	7	21
	20-23	224	1	60	75	43	22	14	4	-	5
	24 and over	34	2	5	11	7	4	1	4	-	-
	Not stated	757	24	121	186	147	118	74	41	5	41

* For definition of gestation weeks see page vi.

TABLE 19 - continued

ICD 8th Rev.	Medical conditions	NUMBER OF REASONS GIVEN*							
		PRIMARY CONDITION MENTIONED		SECONDARY CONDITION MENTIONED		SUSPECTED MEDICAL CONDITION OF FOETUS			
		Relating to present pregnancy		Relating to present pregnancy		Condition of foetus in previous pregnancy		Suspected condition in present foetus	
		NHS	Non NHS	NHS	Non NHS	NHS	Non NHS	NHS	Non NHS
360-389	Eye and ear diseases	39	2	6	-	3	-	7	-
390-398	Rheumatic heart disease and active rheumatic fever	108	2	10	1	-	-	-	-
394	Diseases of mitral valve	65	1	5	-	-	-	-	-
400-429	Other heart disease and hypertensive disease	425	24	66	7	-	-	-	-
401	Essential benign hypertension	332	18	54	7	-	-	-	-
429	Ill-defined heart disease	31	3	5	-	-	-	-	-
430-438	Cerebrovascular disease	29	1	4	-	-	-	-	-
440-458	Other diseases of circulatory system	208	16	21	3	-	-	-	-
450	Pulmonary embolism and infarction	38	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
451	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis	40	3	5	-	-	-	-	-
454	Varicose veins of lower extremities	56	7	8	2	-	-	-	-
460-519	Diseases of respiratory system	194	10	21	1	-	-	-	-
493	Asthma	136	8	11	-	-	-	-	-
518	Bronchiectasis	27	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
520-569	Other diseases of digestive system	85	3	9	-	-	-	-	-
563	Chronic enteritis and ulcerative colitis	56	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
570-577	Diseases of liver, gallbladder and pancreas	25	1	4	-	-	-	-	-
580-599	Diseases of urinary system	153	9	20	-	-	-	-	-
582	Chronic nephritis	14	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
590	Infections of kidney	56	3	6	-	-	-	-	-
610,611	Diseases of breast	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
612-629	Diseases of female genital tract	94	6	15	-	-	-	-	-
623	Uterovaginal prolapse	21	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
628	Disorders of menstruation	44	2	11	-	-	-	-	-
630-678	See next page								
680-709	Diseases of skin and subcutaneous tissue	24	1	2	-	3	-	-	-
710-738	Diseases of musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	121	8	12	-	-	-	-	-
712	Rheumatoid arthritis and allied conditions	34	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
725	Displacement of intervertebral disc	34	2	3	-	-	-	-	-
740-759	Congenital anomalies	89	11	11	-	188	12	1,112	87
741	Spina bifida	7	1	-	-	49	4	7	-
746	Congenital anomalies of heart	26	1	2	-	12	-	9	1
753	Congenital anomalies of urinary system	13	3	3	-	5	-	3	-
759	Congenital syndromes affecting multiple systems	5	1	-	-	42	3	92	4
760-779	Maternal conditions associated with perinatal morbidity (placenta and child)	-	1	-	-	24	2	267	28
775	Haemolytic disease of newborn without mention of kernicterus	-	-	-	-	7	2	164	12
780-796	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions (including medical reason unknown)	132	31	13	-	2	-	4	-
790	Nervousness and debility	18	25	2	-	-	-	-	-
N800-N999	Accidents, poisonings and violence (nature of injury)	38	5	26	1	-	-	249	24
N962	Adverse effect of hormones and synthetic substitutes	2	-	10	1	-	-	17	2
N990	Effects of radiation	1	1	-	-	-	-	135	9

* A single case may provide up to three reasons, one in each of the divisions, i.e. primary maternal, secondary maternal and foetal.

TABLE 19 - continued

ICD 8th Rev.	Medical conditions	NUMBER OF REASONS GIVEN*											
		PRIMARY CONDITION MENTIONED				SECONDARY CONDITION MENTIONED				SUSPECTED MEDICAL CONDITION OF FOETUS			
		Relating to previous pregnancy		Relating to present pregnancy		Relating to previous pregnancy		Relating to present pregnancy		Condition of foetus in previous pregnancy		Suspected condition in present foetus	
		NHS	Non NHS	NHS	Non NHS	NHS	Non NHS	NHS	Non NHS	NHS	Non NHS	NHS	Non NHS
630-634	Complications of pregnancy	171	11	200	20	10	-	16	1	-	-	-	-
632	Haemorrhage of pregnancy	3	-	23	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
635-639	Urinary infections and toxæmias of pregnancy	133	12	169	22	12	1	10	-	-	-	-	-
637	Pre-eclampsia, eclampsia and toxæmia unspecified	124	9	100	10	10	1	5	-	-	-	-	-
638	Hyperemesis gravidarum	3	3	62	10	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
640-645	Complications of abortion (and previous abortions)	24	3	3	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
643	Spontaneous abortion	21	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
649	Pregnancy in the presence of IUCD and/or previous recurrent premature or stillbirth deliveries	-	-	90	10	-	-	8	1	-	-	-	-
650-678	Complications of delivery and puerperium (and previous delivery)	83	7	163	17	13	2	25	-	-	-	-	-
669	Surgical procedures in present or previous pregnancy, previous Caesarean section	-	-	131	14	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	-

* A single case may provide up to three reasons, one in each of the divisions, i.e. primary maternal, secondary maternal and foetal.

TABLE 22. Deaths following legally induced abortions by age, gestation weeks and operation

England and Wales, .973

Residents

Gestation weeks*	Operation	Under 16	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 and over
Under 9 weeks	Abdominal (Hysterotomy (Hysterectomy)								
	Vaginal (Vacuum aspiration (Other methods)								
9 to 12 weeks	Abdominal (Hysterotomy (Hysterectomy)				(1)				(1)
	Vaginal (Vacuum aspiration (Other methods)			1					
13 to 16 weeks	Abdominal (Hysterotomy (Hysterectomy)								
	Vaginal (Vacuum aspiration (Other methods)								
	Other		1						
17 weeks and over	Abdominal (Hysterotomy (Hysterectomy)								
	Vaginal (Vacuum aspiration (Other methods)								
Not stated	Abdominal (Hysterotomy (Hysterectomy)								
	Vaginal (Vacuum aspiration (Other methods)								

On certification of cause of death see page viii.
Bracketed figures indicate that sterilisation was also performed in these cases.
There were also 2 deaths of non-resident women.

* For definition of gestation weeks see page vi.

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