



Abortion: Facts and Figures

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About one fifth

of pregnancies in Aotearoa New Zealand ended in an abortion in 2012, and roughly one in every four women has an abortion in her lifetime.

14,745 abortions

were performed in 2012, the fewest since 1995, which also represented the lowest rate since then, at 16.1. (The rate = number of abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years.)

Women who were already mothers

made up 56% of the those who had abortions in 2012.

62%

of women who had abortions in 2012 had never had one before; 25% had already had one previous abortion; and 13% had had two or more.

Danger to mental health

of continuing the pregnancy was the legal ground given in 98% of all abortions in 2011.

No contraception

was being used by 53% of women who had abortions in 2012. Nearly 30% reported using a condom.

14 abortions

were carried out at 24 weeks' gestation or over in 2009 (the latest year for which these figures are available). That was 0.08% of the total.

Early medication abortions

made up only around 6% of the total in 2012. (The other methods were surgical, or a combination of surgical and medical.) This compares with 48% in England and Wales, and 73.5% in Scotland in 2011.

55%

of abortions were performed at under 10 weeks' gestation in 2012, compared with 77% in England and Wales. (The earlier an abortion is performed, the safer it is.)

Women wait 25 days

on average from the time of their first contact with a health provider until the time of their abortion in New Zealand. (Silva et al., 2010)

\$4.4 million

was paid in 2012 to certifying consultants, two of whom must approve every abortion performed according to the grounds set out in the Crimes Act.

Girls under 16

made up 1.3% of those who had abortions in 2012, with 188 performed. The age group with the highest rate of abortion was 20-24 year olds. (There were 51 abortions carried out on girls under 15 years, or 0.33% of all abortions in 2012.)