



Abortion statistics on Belgium

Abortion legislation

Legislation timeline

- 1990: Abortion is allowed (Law on termination of pregnancy dated 03 April) and a National Evaluation Committee is created (Law dated 13 August)
- 2018: Abortion is out of the penal code (Law on termination of pregnancy dated 15 October)

Source: Belgisch Staatsblad / Moniteur Belge

(http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi_loi/change_lg.pl?language=fr&la=F&cn=2018101503&table_name=loi), IPPF European Network - Updated January 2012 (<http://www.ippfen.org/>), SENSOA (<https://www.sensoa.be/>), Fédération Laïque de Centres de Planning Familial (FLCPF) (<https://www.planningfamilial.net>), LUNA (www.abortus.be)

Abortion conditions

Ground	Gestational limit
To save a woman's life	No limit
Because foetal impairment	No limit
To preserve a woman's mental health	
To preserve a woman's physical health	
For economic and social reasons	
On request	14 weeks from LMP*

Source: Belgisch Staatsblad / Moniteur Belge

(http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi_loi/change_lg.pl?language=fr&la=F&cn=2018101503&table_name=loi), IPPF European Network - Updated January 2012 (<http://www.ippfen.org/>), SENSOA (<https://www.sensoa.be/>), Fédération Laïque de Centres de Planning Familial (FLCPF) (<https://www.planningfamilial.net>), LUNA (www.abortus.be)

Practical conditions

Medical abortion conditions

Place	Prescription	1 st drug taken	2 nd drug taken
OB/GYN department of a hospital/clinic	Yes	Yes	Yes
Another physician office	No	No	No
Midwife office	No	No	No
Abortion centre/clinic	Yes	Yes	Yes
At home	No	No	No

Source: Belgisch Staatsblad / Moniteur Belge

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Abortion statistics

Abortion rates per 1.000 women aged 15-49

9.6	9.4	9.5	9.3	9.2	8.9	8.5	8.8	8.4	7.8
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021

Source: https://organesdeconcertation.sante.belgique.be/sites/default/files/documents/rapport_2020-2021_fr_-_fevrier_2023.pdf

Overall number of induced abortions

19155	19551	19107	19013	17878	17257	18272	18027	16585	16702
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021

Source: https://organesdeconcertation.sante.belgique.be/sites/default/files/documents/rapport_2020-2021_fr_-_fevrier_2023.pdf

Overall number of induced abortions vs. medical abortions

IA	19155	19551	19107	19013	17878	17257	18272	18027	16585	16702
MA	4605	4786	4811	4734	4870	4900	5138	5155	5643	6359
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021

Source: https://organesdeconcertation.sante.belgique.be/sites/default/files/documents/rapport_2020-2021_fr_-_fevrier_2023.pdf

Induced abortions per gestational age

≤ 2 weeks	2
3-4 weeks	32
5 weeks	24
6-7 weeks	27
8-10 weeks	12
11-12 weeks	2
≥ 13 weeks	1

Source: https://organesdeconcertation.sante.belgique.be/sites/default/files/documents/rapport_2020-2021_fr_-_fevrier_2023.pdf

Place of abortion

Public hospitals	16.0%
Private facilities	84.0%

Source: https://organesdeconcertation.sante.belgique.be/sites/default/files/documents/rapport_2020-2021_fr_-_fevrier_2023.pdf

Characteristics of women having induced abortion

Abortion rate per 1,000 women according to age (2021)

7.7%	19.6%	24.4%	24.2%	17.2%	6.9%
≤19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	≥ 40

Source: <https://organesdeconcertation.sante.belgique.be/fr/documents/rapport-lattention-du-parlement-1-janvier-2020-31-decembre-2021>

Fertility and contraception

Fertility rates in women aged 15-49

1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021

Source: <https://statbel.fgov.be/fr/themes/population/naissances-et-fecondite#figures>

Country-specific characteristics

- Counselling has to be in the same place as abortion
- Abortion is not taught during health care professionals' (HCPs') medical studies.
- All HCPs have the right to conscientiously object, but they are required to immediately inform the woman and give her contact details of abortion providers. Moreover, they also have to hand over woman's medical details to that provider, if requested.
- Both surgical and medical abortions are reimbursed to resident women; they only have to pay €3.60. Non-resident women have to pay €500.

Abbreviations

EFTA = European Free Trade Association | EU = European Union | IUD = intra-uterine device | LARC = long-acting reversible contraception | LMP = last menstruation period | GYN = gynaecologist | HCP = health care professional | hCG = human chorionic gonadotropin | HIV = human immunodeficiency virus | OB = obstetrician | Rh = Rhesus | US = ultrasound

References

- IPPF European Network - Updated January 2012 (<http://www.ippfen.org/>)
- SENSOA (<https://www.sensoa.be/>)
- Fédération Laïque de Centres de Planning Familial (FLCPF) (<https://www.planningfamilial.net>)
- LUNA (www.abortus.be)

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