



Abortion statistics on England & Wales

Abortion legislation

Legislation timeline

- 1967: abortion is allowed (Abortion Act dated 17 October)
- 1990: Human Fertilization and Embryology Act (24 April)
- 2022: The temporary measures, put in place in March 2020 to allow women in Wales to take both abortion medications at home, were made permanent from 24 February 2022.
- 2022: On 30 March 2022, Parliament voted in favour of an amendment to the Health and Care Bill, making the temporary approval allowing home use of both pills for early medical abortions permanent in England and Wales. These provisions will supersede the arrangements made permanent in Wales in February 2022.

Source: IPPF European Network - Updated January 2012 (<http://www.ippfen.org/>), Department of Health (<http://www.dh.gov.uk/>), <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2021/abortion-statistics-england-and-wales-2021#key-points-in-2021>

Abortion conditions

Ground	Gestational limit
To save a woman's life	None
Because foetal impairment	None
To preserve a woman's mental health	24 weeks from LMP
To preserve a woman's physical health	24 weeks from LMP
For economic and social reasons	24 weeks from LMP
On request	

Source: IPPF European Network - Updated January 2012 (<http://www.ippfen.org/>), Department of Health (<http://www.dh.gov.uk/>)

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	Yes	Yes

Source: IPPF European Network - Updated January 2012 (<https://www.ippfen.org/>), Department of Health (<http://www.dh.gov.uk/>), <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2021/abortion-statistics-england-and-wales-2021>

Abortion statistics

Abortion rates per 1.000 women aged 15-49

16.4	16.5	16.5	17.0	16.6	17.3	18.0	18.6	18.9	19.2
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2021/abortion-statistics-england-and-wales-2021>

Overall number of induced abortions

190972	190800	190092	191014	190406	197533	205295	209519	210860	214869
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2021/abortion-statistics-england-and-wales-2021>

Abortion ratio per 1.000 live births: 344 (2021)

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2021/abortion-statistics-england-and-wales-2021>, <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/livebirths/bulletins/birthsummarytable> senglandandwales/2021

Overall number of induced abortions vs. medical abortions

IA	190972	190800	190092	191014	190406	197533	205295	209519	210860	214869
MA	90176	91646	95009	103637	115824	125286	142158	152076	178301	186402
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2021/abortion-statistics-england-and-wales-2021>

Induced abortions per gestational age

0-5 weeks	23
6-7 weeks	47
8-9 weeks	19
10-12 weeks	5
≥13 weeks	6

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2021/abortion-statistics-england-and-wales-2021>

Place of abortion

Public hospitals	21.0%
Private facilities	77.0%

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2021/abortion-statistics-england-and-wales-2021>

Characteristics of women having induced abortion

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

14.0%	25.0%	25.0%	21.0%	19.0%	%
≤19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	≥ 40

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2021>

Fertility and contraception

Fertility rates in women aged 15-49

1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021

Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/livebirths/bulletins/birthsummarytablesenglandandwales/2021>

Country-specific characteristics

- Consent of 2 physicians required.
- All HCPs have the right to conscientiously object.
- Both surgical and medical abortions are free of charge for resident women and non-resident women from Northern Ireland.
- Other non-resident women have to pay:
 - surgical abortion (up to 14 weeks): around €810
 - medical abortion (up to 10 weeks): around €570
 - medical abortion (11-14 weeks): around €1810

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/>)
- Department of Health (<http://www.dh.gov.uk/>)
- British Pregnancy Advisory Service (<https://www.bpas.org/abortion-care/considering-abortion/prices/>)

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