



Abortion statistics on Italy

Abortion legislation

Legislation timeline

- 1978: abortion is allowed (Law No. 194 dated 22 May)
- 2020: Voluntary Termination of Pregnancy among activities considered non-deferrable (Ministerial circular)
- 2020: The Council of Health expressed a favorable opinion regarding recourse to voluntary termination of pregnancy by pharmacological method up to 63 days' or 9 complete weeks' gestation

Source: https://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C_17_pubblicazioni_3039_allegato.pdf

Abortion conditions

Ground	Gestational limit
To save a woman's life	No limit
Because foetal impairment	Up to foetal viability
To preserve a woman's mental health	
To preserve a woman's physical health	
For economic and social reasons	
On request	12 weeks + 6 days from LMP*

Source: Law No. 194 dated 22 May 1978 (English) (http://www.columbia.edu/itc/history/degrazia/courseworks/legge_194.pdf)

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	Yes

Source: <http://www.quotidianosanita.it/allegati/allegato228648.pdf>

Abortion statistics

Abortion rates per 1.000 women aged 15-49

8.0	7.9	7.6	7.1	6.6	6.5	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.4
2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020

Source: <https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioPubblicazioniDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=3236>

Overall number of induced abortions

111415	107192	102760	96578	87639	84926	80733	76328	73207	66413
2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020

Source: <https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioPubblicazioniDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=3236>

Abortion ratio per 1.000 live births: 165.9 (2020)

Source: <https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioPubblicazioniDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=3236>

Overall number of induced abortions vs. medical abortions

IA	111415	107192	102760	96578	87639	84926	80733	76328	73207	66413
MA	7432	7855	8114	10257	11134	13255	14267	18332	19865	23008
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020

Source: <https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioPubblicazioniDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=3236>

Induced abortions per gestational age

≤ 8 weeks	56
9-12 weeks	37
≥ 13 weeks	6

Source: <https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioPubblicazioniDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=3236>

Place of abortion

Public hospitals	
Private facilities	5.0%

Source: <https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioPubblicazioniDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=3236>

Characteristics of women having induced abortion

Abortion rate per 1,000 women according to age (2020)

6.5%	16.3%	20.2%	23.0%	21.6%	12.3%
≤19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	≥ 40

Source: <https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioPubblicazioniDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=3236>

Fertility and contraception

Fertility rates in women aged 15-49

1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021

Source: https://www.istat.it/it/files//2022/04/Demographic-indicators_year_2021.pdf

Country-specific characteristics

- Women have to give written consent.
- Abortion is not taught during health care professionals' (HCPs') medical studies.
- All HCPs have the right to conscientiously object except for women whose life is in danger.

Conscientious objection has to be declared in advance, and shall not exempt health personnel and allied health personnel from providing care prior to and following the abortion. In 2019, 67% of OBs/GYNs conscientiously objected.

- Both surgical and medical abortions are free of charge for resident and non-resident women.

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

- Law No. 194 dated 22 May 1978 (Italian)
(http://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C_17_normativa_845_allegato.pdf)
- Law No. 194 dated 22 May 1978 (English)
(http://www.columbia.edu/itc/history/degrazia/courseworks/legge_194.pdf)

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