

28 September 2001

Coverage

England and Wales

Theme

Health and Care

Abortions in England and Wales, 2000

The Annual Reference volume of abortion statistics is published today by National Statistics*. It updates the provisional figures on legal abortions in 2000, published in *Health Statistics Quarterly* on 24 May 2001. It shows:

- There were 185,375 legal abortions carried out in England and Wales in 2000, a rise of 2,125 (1.2 per cent) compared with 1999.
- The abortion rate for women resident in England and Wales in 2000 was 16.94 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44, 0.9 per cent higher than in 1999 when the rate was 16.79 abortions per 1,000 women.
- Abortion rates increased for women aged under 34 and decreased for women aged 35 and over, in 2000. The rate increased by 0.2 per cent for women under 20, by 2.4 per cent for women in their twenties and by 0.4 per cent for women aged 30-34. The rate decreased by 1.4 per cent in the 35-44 age-group.
- Eighty-eight per cent of terminations were performed before 13 weeks of gestation and 10 per cent between 13 and 19 weeks gestation, similar to last year.

The report contains more detailed analyses of abortions in England and Wales by age, marital status, period of gestation, grounds for abortion, previous live births and stillborn children, procedure and complications, country of residence and health authority within England and Wales.

An electronic version of the publication is available from the National Statistics website:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/products/p68.asp>

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BACKGROUND NOTES

1. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
2. **National Statistics** are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. © Crown copyright 2001.