



Factsheet – Statistical activity and published results

Abortion Statistics

Description

The Abortion Statistics provide an overview of terminations of pregnancy (abortions) in Switzerland. The statistics show current termination of pregnancy numbers and changes over time.

Methodology

The Abortion Statistics are based on a comprehensive survey and use information provided by the reporting medical doctors (duty to report). First reference year of the statistics: 2006. Integration of older data from previous statistics. Available in electronic format from 2007 onward.

Variables used – short version of the FSO questionnaire:

- Terminations of pregnancy performed in Switzerland by authorised facilities (at the request of the woman concerned or for medical reasons)
- Canton of residence (under civil law)
- Age of the woman (year of birth)
- Duration of pregnancy before termination (in weeks)
- Date of intervention
- Method used

Additional variables for the cantons using the full version of the FSO questionnaire:

- Intervention setting (out- or inpatient)
- Place where medication was taken (medical abortion)
- Reason for termination of pregnancy
- Number of previous terminations
- Contraceptive method used at time of conception
- Nationality
- Residence permit (for non-Swiss nationals)
- Civil status
- Type of household
- Number of children
- Date of last birth (month/year)
- Current main job
- Highest educational attainment

Date of survey:

All year round

Periodicity:

Annual

Degree of regionalisation:

National and cantonal

Linkages

No data linkage is carried out for the production of the Abortion Statistics.

Quality of statistical data:

Data collected at national level enable comparisons to be made between regions or other countries. Shortcoming of the Abortion Statistics: the number of variables surveyed differs from canton to canton depending on the version of the questionnaire used (short or full version of the FSO questionnaire).

Policy on revisions

Questionnaire updated on 01.02.2021.

Legal bases

Swiss Criminal Code Art. 119 let.5 (Revision of 23 March 2001)
Federal Statistics Act (FStatA) of 9 October 1992 (SR 431.01)

Organisation

Federal Statistical Office (FSO) in collaboration with the cantonal medical officers Population Health Section
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