

Fact Sheet

FACTS & FIGURES ON ABORTION

ABORTION LAW REFORM ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND

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- Roughly **one quarter** of all pregnancies in New Zealand end in an abortion, and **one in every four** women has an abortion in her lifetime. (Silva et al. 2010)
- In 2014, **13,137 abortions** were performed in New Zealand, the lowest number since 1994 and also the lowest rate in more than 20 years at 14.4. (The rate = abortions per 1,000 mean estimated women aged 15-44 years)
- **56 percent** of women who had an abortion were already mothers. (2014)
- **63 percent** of women who had abortions had never had one before; **24 percent** had already had one previous abortion; and **13 percent** had had two or more. (2014)
- In 2013, **97.6 percent** of all abortions were approved under the Crimes Act's Danger to Mental Health ground.
- **55 percent** of women who had abortions were using no contraception.
- **14 abortions** were carried out at 24 weeks gestation or over. That's **0.08 percent**. (2009)
- **56.7 percent** of abortions were performed at under 10 weeks gestation (2014), compared with around 80 percent in England, Scotland and Wales. (39 percent were at under 9 weeks compared with 69 percent in Scotland.)
- Only **10 percent** of abortions were carried out using medication (the abortion pill) (2013), compared with 51 percent in England and Wales.
- On average, women wait **25 days** from the time of first contact with a health provider to the time of pregnancy termination (Silva et al. 2010)
- **\$4.4 million** was paid to certifying consultants, two of whom must approve every abortion performed in New Zealand under grounds set out in the Crimes Act 1961. (2012-2013, ASC Report.)

Sources:

Abortion Supervisory Committee reports; Stats NZ; "Improving termination of pregnancy services in New Zealand." By M. Silva, T. Ashton, R. McNeill. *NZMJ*. 29 July 2011; "Ladies in Waiting: the timeliness of first trimester pregnancy." By Silva, Ashton, McNeill. *Reproductive Health*. 23 July 2010; Abortion Stats England and Wales.