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THE
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S
STATISTICAL REVIEW
OF
ENGLAND AND WALES
FOR THE YEAR
1968

SUPPLEMENT ON ABORTION



LONDON

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. The Abortion Act 1967, which came into effect on 27th April 1968, permits termination of pregnancy by a registered medical practitioner subject to certain conditions. Regulations made under the Act (The Abortion Regulations 1968, Statutory Instrument 1968 No. 390, in relation to England and Wales) require any such termination to be notified within seven days, in a form prescribed in Schedule 2 of the Regulations, to the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health and Social Security. By arrangement with that Department the Registrar General undertakes the statistical processing and analysis of the notification forms. This Supplement to his Statistical Review gives some statistics derived from them for England and Wales covering the period from 27th April to 31st December 1968. The following paragraphs set out the background of these statistics and the definitions used in compiling them.

2. Grounds for Legally Induced Abortion

The Act lays down that such an abortion must be

- (a) performed by a registered medical practitioner,
- (b) performed, except in emergency, in a National Health Service Hospital or in a place for the time being approved for the purpose of the Act,
- (c) certified by two registered medical practitioners as necessary on one or other of the grounds:
 - 1. the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk to the life of the pregnant woman greater than if the pregnancy were terminated.
 - 2. the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk of injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman greater than if the pregnancy were terminated.
 - 3. the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk of injury to the physical or mental health of any existing children of the family greater than if the pregnancy were terminated.
 - 4. there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped, or in emergency cases, certified by the operating practitioner as immediately necessary-
 - 5. to save the life of the pregnant woman, or
 - 6. to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.

The above numbering of the grounds for termination appears in the notification form itself, and is used for brevity in the tables. Combinations of grounds are not infrequently recorded, and the tabulations distinguish two such: 2 and 4 together, and 3 with any others (usually 2 and/or 4). Where ground 1 is stated with any other, the case is treated as ground 1.

The Act also provides that in relation to grounds numbered above as 2 and 3 certifying practitioners may take account of the pregnant woman's actual or reasonably foreseeable environment.

3. Scope of data

The figures in these tables are derived from notification forms received up to the end of January 1969 relating to legally induced abortions which took place in England and Wales in the eight months four days from the commencement of the Act to the end of 1968; therapeutic abortions before 27th April 1968 in N.H.S. hospitals or elsewhere are not included.

The relative categories of the *International Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death, 8th Revision (1965)* are those numbered 640 (abortion induced for medical indications) and 641 (abortion induced for other legal indications).

Tables 2, 7-11, 14, 17, 18, 20 and 21, being primarily of demographic rather than medical interest, exclude abortions of women whose usual residence was stated to be outside England and Wales. These are shown in Table 15. The 1,309 cases in this table include 163 from other parts of the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

4. Rates

Tables 2a and b give annual abortion rates for England and Wales as a whole, and for standard regions and area aggregates, according to the declared usual residence of the woman. The denominator is the estimated population of women in the age-range 15-49 at mid-1968 multiplied by the factor 249/366. As population estimates by marital status for regions are not available, the regional rates are age-specific only.

5. Place of Termination

Except in emergency, abortion operations must be carried out in N.H.S. hospitals, in certain approved Services' hospitals, or in premises approved by the Secretary of State. At the end of 1968 there were 59 registered nursing homes which had received approval for an initial period up to 26th April 1969, and 13 approved Services' hospitals. In the tables these latter hospitals are included under the heading 'Other Places'.

In 1968 no operation was recorded as having been performed as an emergency, in places other than the three categories of premises mentioned.

6. Marital status

The categories of marital status distinguished on the notification form are (a) single (b) married (c) widowed (d) divorced or separated. Except in Tables 8, 10, 14 and 15, the relatively small categories (c) and (d) are combined for tabulation purposes.

7. Parity

The form requires the number of the woman's previous (a) live births (b) still-births (c) abortions to be stated. In Tables 7, 9, 11 and 16b analysis is by the number of previous live births, and in Tables 1d and 5 analysis is by the number of live and still births together. The answers under (c) are probably incomplete. Subject to any other information on the form, the absence of an answer under (a), (b) or (c) was assumed to mean 'nil'.

8. Type of Termination

Five main types of operation are listed on the form. Any other type should be specified. Where more than one type is shown on the form, in Table 13 and 16e the case is classified under the major type.

9. Gestation period

The form provides for a statement of the date of the last menstrual period as well as the date of operation. In accordance with international convention the gestation period is calculated as the number of completed weeks between these two dates. Where no exact date of l.m.p. is stated, a date is assumed, e.g. 'early April' becomes 7th April, 'third week June' becomes 22nd June. No date was stated in 2-4% of cases.

10. Duration of stay

Duration of stay in hospital or approved place is tabulated as the interval in days between date of admission and date of discharge (the latter actual or expected). An interval of 0 days means admission and discharge on the same date. As notification forms should be completed and forwarded within seven days of operation, the tabulated durations are limited at the upper end to '7 days and over'. A date of discharge was not stated and could not be inferred in 0.3% of cases.

11. Region of operation

Hospitals and approved places have been tabulated according to the hospital region in which they are situated, except that London teaching hospitals are shown as a separate group. The composition of hospital regions in terms of entire local government areas is set out in the Registrar General's Statistical Review from year to year, e.g. the 1968 volume, Part II, pages xxx-xxxiii.

12. Area of residence

Tables 2, 15, 17 and 18 are derived from the statement of the woman's usual address. Table 17 is limited to standard regions, conurbations, aggregates of types of area, and local government areas with a resident population of 100,000 or over. Figures for smaller areas are not provided in the interests of preserving confidentiality.

The composition of standard regions and conurbations is set out in the Registrar General's Statistical Review from year to year, e.g. the 1968 volume, Part II, pages xiv-xvii.

13. Sterilisation

Table 11 analyses by age and previous live-born children and occupation group those cases where sterilisation was performed in conjunction with the abortion operation. Where no answer was provided to the question, it was assumed that sterilisation was not performed unless the nature of the operation implied the opposite; all women who were stated to have had hysterectomy have been counted among those sterilised.

14. Occupation

The form asks for the woman's occupation, or that of her husband if she is married. Unfortunately, the information provided under this heading is often incomplete or too vague or general to permit reliable coding. However, in view of the sociological interest, an attempt has been made to analyse the data in terms of groups of occupations, whether of the woman or her husband, which correspond (to some extent) with conventional social classes used in various of the Registrar General's publications. Since, however, assessment of job status is not always possible, the classification is not strictly that of social class. These groups of occupations are:

Professional: e.g. doctors, civil engineers, architects.

Intermediate: e.g. shop proprietors, teachers, technicians.

Skilled: e.g. weavers, tailors, secretaries.

Semi-skilled: e.g. machine tool operators, farm workers.

Unskilled: e.g. dock labourers, kitchen hands.

Not classified: e.g. students, housewives, members of the armed forces, occupations inadequately described or not stated, unemployed.

15. Existing children

Table 10 analyses the data according to the number of existing children living in the woman's family. This means a woman's natural children and any adopted, foster or step-children up to the age of 16 years living with her.

16. Medical grounds

Questions 11(a) and (b) on the notification form ask about the medical condition of the woman in terms of any obstetric or non-obstetric disease found or reported, and any suspected medical condition of the foetus. The answers were coded according to the *International Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death, 8th Revision (1965)*, slightly adapted to this particular context.

The large variety of medical conditions reported are aggregated into significant groups of the International Classification (ICD) code numbers and presented in **Table 19**. This shows numbers of conditions stated, and not numbers of cases.

17. Conditions associated with medical grounds

Question 11(c) on the notification form asks about non-medical grounds for termination, pursuant to the statutory provision that certifying practitioners may take account of "the pregnant woman's actual or reasonably foreseeable environment" in relation to statutory grounds 2 and 3. Apart from cases where the answer to this question mistakenly referred back to the statutory grounds (1.6% of the total), there were 4,042 cases (17%) where such circumstances were stated. These have been analysed in **Table 12** according to a classification which has necessarily been empirical, but which attempts to indicate the nature of such environmental factors as the practitioner has seen fit to record. Where more than one classifiable condition was stated, assignment was to the condition which appeared to be of major importance.

18. Complications or death

The question under this heading relates to the occurrence of complications or death prior to notification of an abortion. Notification should be made within seven days and the notifying doctor may not hear of complications or death occurring after the patient has been discharged from the place of operation. Deaths recorded on the forms totalled three. They took place in N.H.S. hospitals in the S.E. Metropolitan, S.W. Metropolitan, and East Anglian hospital regions, and related to married women aged 25, 38 and 39 years.

19. Provisional data

Current figures of legally induced abortions are published in the *Registrar General's Weekly and Quarterly Returns*. The Weekly Return periodically shows the provisional numbers of abortions notified in the preceding four or five weeks by (a) statutory grounds, age and marital status, and (b) hospital region and place of termination. The Quarterly Return shows similar figures consolidated for the relative quarter.

Some additional analyses of the 1968 provisional figures, with notes, appeared in Appendix L of the Quarterly Return for the quarter ended 31st December 1968.

TABLES

SUMMARY TABLE 1. Legally induced abortions: age of woman by:-

- (a) marital status
- (b) type of premises
- (c) statutory grounds
- (d) number of previous live and still born children
- (e) gestation weeks

England and Wales
27th April - 31st December 1968
All cases

	All ages	under 16	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 and over	Not stated
Total	23,641	553	3,475	6,553	4,282	3,658	2,982	1,372	153	613
(a) Marital status										
Single	11,120	553	3,312	4,921	1,417	390	174	46	4	303
Married	10,497	-	123	1,274	2,308	2,752	2,447	1,190	135	268
Widowed, divorced or separated	1,945	-	36	345	541	497	345	129	13	39
Not stated	79	-	4	13	16	19	16	7	1	3
(b) Type of premises										
N H S hospitals	14,560	473	1,846	3,031	2,705	2,675	2,237	1,060	124	409
Approved places	9,030	78	1,626	3,515	1,564	976	734	307	29	201
Other places	51	2	3	7	13	7	11	5	-	3
(c) Statutory grounds*										
1	1,167	7	113	229	189	246	237	100	12	34
2	16,900	508	3,086	5,354	2,761	2,069	1,743	839	102	438
3	957	8	31	160	236	238	182	62	6	34
4	906	6	119	260	237	160	73	30	5	16
5	16	-	2	2	4	3	5	-	-	-
6	45	2	4	9	12	5	6	2	2	3
2 with 4	422	12	58	104	86	70	45	31	7	9
3 with others	3,228	10	62	435	757	867	691	308	19	79
(d) Number of previous live and stillborn children										
0	11,158	552	3,230	4,815	1,453	458	260	79	11	300
1	2,478	1	192	810	622	371	265	140	12	65
2	3,507	-	44	542	895	906	704	293	34	89
3	2,863	-	7	277	633	817	694	314	39	82
4	1,762	-	2	81	405	558	469	197	23	27
5 and over	1,873	-	-	28	274	548	590	349	34	50
(e) Gestation weeks†										
Under 9 weeks	2,970	40	322	882	589	507	387	134	23	86
9 and under 13 weeks	11,354	252	1,624	3,235	2,033	1,771	1,426	649	70	294
13 weeks and over	8,751	248	1,459	2,309	1,541	1,289	1,109	553	56	187
Not stated	566	13	70	127	119	91	60	36	4	46

* For statutory grounds see page 111.

† For definition of gestation weeks see page iv.

TABLE 2(a). Legally induced abortions: age by marital status, with rates per 1,000 women

England and Wales
27th April - 31st December 1968
Cases resident in England and Wales

Marital status	Under 15	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45 and over*	Age not stated	Total 15 and over†
Numbers								
All	180	3,648	6,105	7,472	4,186	150	591	22,152
Married	-	121	1,216	4,843	3,517	132	261	10,137
Single	180	3,489	4,542	1,605	192	4	290	10,122
Widowed	-	2	17	94	107	7	4	231
Divorced separated	-	33	317	896	347	6	33	1,632
Unknown	-	3	13	34	23	1	2	77
Rates‡								
All	-	3.19	5.49	3.80	2.07	0.13	-	Per 1,000 women 15-44 3.46 15-49 2.94
Married	-	1.38	1.88	2.86	1.97	0.14	-	2.35 1.92
Others**	-	3.34	9.10	9.69	2.88	0.10	-	5.76 5.34

* Rates per 1,000 women aged 45-49.

† Including age not stated.

‡ Cases of unknown marital status are distributed proportionately.

** Single, widowed, divorced and separated women. Rates per 1,000 single, widowed and divorced women.

TABLE 5. Legally induced abortions: age by number of previous live and still born children and marital status

England and Wales
27th April - 31st December 1968
All cases

Number of previous live and stillborn children	Marital status	All ages	England and Wales								45 and over	Not stated
			under 16	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44			
0	Total	11,158	552	3,230	4,815	1,453	458	280	79	11	300	
	Single	10,132	552	3,181	4,481	1,184	297	132	33	3	269	
	Married	722	-	39	244	181	103	93	32	6	24	
	Widowed divorced separated	280	-	8	83	82	55	31	14	2	5	
	Not stated	24	-	2	7	6	3	4	-	-	2	
1	Total	2,478	1	192	810	622	371	265	140	12	65	
	Single	780	1	124	374	171	60	19	6	1	24	
	Married	1,194	-	47	317	301	207	173	109	10	30	
	Widowed divorced separated	494	-	19	115	149	102	73	24	1	11	
	Not stated	10	-	2	4	1	2	-	1	-	-	
2	Total	3,507	-	44	542	895	906	704	293	34	89	
	Single	113	-	6	50	36	11	5	2	-	3	
	Married	2,862	-	29	400	702	756	603	268	29	75	
	Widowed divorced separated	512	-	9	91	154	133	89	21	4	11	
	Not stated	20	-	-	1	3	6	7	2	1	-	
3	Total	2,863	-	7	277	633	817	694	314	39	82	
	Single	44	-	-	7	12	11	8	3	-	3	
	Married	2,479	-	7	227	536	699	619	283	35	73	
	Widowed divorced separated	331	-	-	43	83	105	65	26	4	5	
	Not stated	9	-	-	-	2	2	2	-	-	1	
4	Total	1,762	-	2	81	405	558	469	197	23	27	
	Single	25	-	1	8	6	6	3	-	-	1	
	Married	1,566	-	1	63	356	496	419	185	23	23	
	Widowed divorced separated	163	-	-	9	40	53	46	12	-	3	
	Not stated	8	-	-	1	3	3	1	-	-	-	
5	Total	935	-	-	23	180	287	262	147	10	26	
	Single	11	-	-	-	2	4	3	-	-	2	
	Married	834	-	-	19	154	261	235	134	9	22	
	Widowed divorced separated	86	-	-	4	23	22	23	11	1	2	
	Not stated	4	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	
6	Total	482	-	-	2	67	151	160	81	9	12	
	Single	6	-	-	-	4	-	2	-	-	-	
	Married	436	-	-	2	56	134	152	73	9	10	
	Widowed divorced separated	37	-	-	-	7	15	5	8	-	2	
	Not stated	3	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	
7	Total	218	-	-	1	19	58	79	47	7	7	
	Single	7	-	-	1	2	1	2	1	-	-	
	Married	189	-	-	-	14	51	72	39	6	7	
	Widowed divorced separated	22	-	-	-	3	6	5	7	1	-	
	Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
8	Total	118	-	-	1	6	30	47	30	2	2	
	Single	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Married	109	-	-	1	6	27	43	28	2	2	
	Widowed divorced separated	8	-	-	-	2	2	4	2	-	-	
	Not stated	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
9 and over	Total	120	-	-	1	2	22	42	44	6	3	
	Single	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
	Married	106	-	-	1	2	18	38	39	6	2	
	Widowed divorced separated	12	-	-	-	-	4	4	4	-	-	
	Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

TABLE 6. Legally induced abortions: age by gestation weeks and marital status

England and Wales
27th April - 31st December 1968
All cases

Gestation weeks† and Marital status	All ages	England and Wales								45 and over	Not stated
		Under 16	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44			
Under 9 weeks											
Total	2,970	40	322	882	589	507	387	134	23	86	
Single	1,451	40	302	713	248	64	27	10	2	45	
Married	1,289	-	18	138	280	373	313	110	21	36	
Widowed divorced separated	222	-	2	30	60	68	43	14	-	5	
Not stated	8	-	-	1	1	2	4	-	-	-	
9 and under 13 weeks											
Total	11,354	252	1,624	3,235	2,033	1,771	1,426	649	70	294	
Single	5,440	252	1,569	2,475	701	197	83	20	1	142	
Married	5,005	-	42	597	1,082	1,348	1,176	563	61	136	
Widowed divorced separated	869	-	11	155	242	215	162	63	7	14	
Not stated	40	-	2	8	8	11	5	3	1	2	
13 weeks and over											
Total	8,751	248	1,459	2,309	1,541	1,289	1,109	553	56	187	
Single	4,007	248	1,377	1,652	440	119	61	16	1	93	
Married	3,912	-	58	502	870	960	910	485	49	78	
Widowed divorced separated	806	-	23	152	225	204	132	49	6	15	
Not stated	26	-	1	3	6	6	3	-	-	1	
Not stated											
Total	566	13	70	127	119	91	60	36	4	46	
Single	222	13	64	81	28	10	3	-	-	23	
Married	291	-	5	37	76	71	48	32	4	18	
Widowed divorced separated	48	-	-	8	14	10	8	3	-	5	
Not stated	5	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	

† For definition of gestation weeks see page iv.

TABLE 7(a). Legally induced abortions: all women by number of previous live born children and by age

England and Wales
27th April - 31st December 1968
Cases resident in England and Wales

Age	Total	Number of previous liveborn children							
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 and over
All ages	22,332	10,378	2,370	3,404	2,750	1,693	885	444	408
11	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	21	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	150	149	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	363	363	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	559	553	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	693	664	25	4	-	-	-	-	-
18	945	873	62	10	-	-	-	-	-
19	1,088	957	94	29	6	2	-	-	-
20	1,185	1,002	123	41	19	-	-	-	-
21	1,523	1,235	154	92	32	9	-	-	1
22	1,257	891	162	121	65	12	5	-	1
23	1,095	724	162	123	65	16	5	-	-
24	1,045	606	162	137	91	36	10	2	1
25	882	428	110	160	99	63	19	2	1
26	848	331	139	165	98	71	32	8	4
27	732	224	115	156	107	75	36	14	5
28	776	178	125	171	148	89	45	16	4
29	751	142	100	198	155	90	41	15	10
30	751	129	75	194	155	105	56	23	14
31	687	87	62	185	142	118	53	26	14
32	724	76	95	177	166	106	51	31	22
33	688	55	72	173	163	106	68	30	21
34	633	69	62	155	152	97	46	26	26
35	607	58	45	143	136	119	53	34	19
36	593	52	56	149	136	88	53	19	40
37	593	37	45	141	157	79	63	39	32
38	584	53	65	142	128	90	44	29	33
39	491	37	46	122	111	83	33	32	27
40	418	22	46	90	81	75	42	26	36
41	321	18	28	74	74	53	31	21	22
42	266	16	22	59	75	30	26	17	21
43	196	15	23	40	43	21	26	9	19
44	117	5	14	30	28	13	12	4	11
45	72	7	4	13	21	10	4	5	8
46	41	4	5	10	9	3	4	1	5
47	23	-	2	6	8	4	2	1	-
48	10	-	-	3	3	2	1	1	-
49 and over	4	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
Not stated	591	288	62	91	74	28	24	13	11

TABLE 7(b). Legally induced abortions: of married women by number of previous live born children and by age

England and Wales
27th April - 31st December 1968
Cases resident in England and Wales

Age	Total	Number of previous liveborn children							
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 and over
All ages	10,090	701	1,170	2,790	2,375	1,506	789	402	357
16	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	16	9	5	2	-	-	-	-	-
18	36	8	21	7	-	-	-	-	-
19	63	16	21	19	6	1	-	-	-
20	122	35	43	27	17	-	-	-	-
21	195	40	57	67	25	6	-	-	-
22	258	43	61	89	52	9	3	-	1
23	298	54	77	92	56	14	5	-	-
24	343	63	65	103	73	28	8	2	1
25	380	46	56	127	76	58	16	1	-
26	424	48	70	125	78	65	29	6	3
27	407	22	54	127	94	67	29	11	3
28	480	24	58	139	130	71	41	13	4
29	507	32	53	153	133	79	33	14	10
30	527	26	44	156	132	85	51	21	12
31	520	21	30	159	122	109	46	23	10
32	554	24	51	149	139	99	46	28	18
33	546	11	47	146	143	92	64	25	18
34	498	20	39	132	130	88	42	22	25
35	501	22	30	124	120	108	47	33	17
36	474	20	35	120	123	76	47	18	35
37	493	13	28	127	135	69	55	37	29
38	485	17	45	122	117	86	41	28	29
39	416	19	33	103	101	73	31	30	26
40	357	10	34	83	73	70	35	23	29
41	280	7	20	71	64	51	29	19	19
42	231	5	20	53	67	26	24	16	20
43	170	8	20	35	37	20	25	9	16
44	110	3	13	28	27	13	12	4	10
45	62	3	3	10	21	10	3	5	7
46	36	3	4	8	8	3	4	1	5
47	22	-	2	6	7	4	2	1	-
48	10	-	-	3	3	2	1	1	-
49 and over	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Not stated	261	23	30	78	65	24	20	11	10

TABLE 7(c). Legally induced abortions: of single women
by number of previous live born children and by age

England and Wales
27th April - 31st December 1968
Cases resident in England and Wales

Age	Total	Number of previous liveborn children							
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 and over
All ages	10,302	9,386	721	102	44	23	11	6	9
11	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	21	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	150	149	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	363	363	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	552	546	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	673	654	18	1	-	-	-	-	-
18	901	861	38	2	-	-	-	-	-
19	1,000	938	58	3	-	1	-	-	-
20	1,032	959	64	8	1	-	-	-	-
21	1,268	1,177	82	7	-	1	-	-	1
22	918	831	71	11	3	2	-	-	-
23	731	652	64	13	-	2	-	-	-
24	593	517	63	8	3	2	-	-	-
25	400	357	29	7	5	1	-	-	1
26	321	268	39	8	4	-	-	1	1
27	226	185	31	5	1	1	1	2	-
28	187	138	38	6	2	2	-	1	-
29	127	100	18	6	-	2	1	-	-
30	103	86	10	-	2	3	2	-	-
31	68	54	10	-	2	2	-	-	-
32	67	45	15	4	3	-	-	-	-
33	50	33	10	4	1	-	1	-	1
34	56	41	10	-	3	1	1	-	-
35	39	31	4	-	2	1	1	-	-
36	31	23	2	2	1	1	1	-	1
37	28	21	5	-	1	-	1	-	-
38	33	24	4	1	3	-	-	-	1
39	19	13	2	1	1	-	-	2	-
40	14	7	3	1	2	-	-	-	1
41	12	9	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
42	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
43	7	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
44	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
45	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
49 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not stated	290	258	22	3	3	1	2	-	1

TABLE 8. Legally induced abortions: age by occupation and marital status

England and Wales
27th April - 31st December 1968
Cases resident in England and Wales

Occupation and marital status	All ages	under 16	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 and over	Not stated
All occupations										
Total	22,332	543	3,285	6,105	3,989	3,483	2,868	1,318	150	591
Single	10,302	543	3,126	4,542	1,261	344	150	42	-	290
Married	10,090	-	121	1,216	2,198	2,645	2,369	1,148	132	261
Widowed	231	-	2	17	45	49	68	39	7	4
Divorced/separated	1,632	-	33	317	470	426	265	82	6	33
Not known	77	-	3	13	15	19	16	7	1	3
Professional										
Total	645	-	7	122	124	175	130	64	5	18
Single	133	-	4	73	35	12	3	-	-	6
Married	490	-	3	46	80	157	123	64	5	12
Widowed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Divorced/separated	20	-	-	3	9	5	3	-	-	-
Not known	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Intermediate										
Total	3,522	3	282	1,206	685	530	478	217	35	86
Single	1,913	3	274	1,066	364	101	39	8	-	58
Married	1,382	-	7	109	285	368	393	194	34	22
Widowed	29	-	1	1	4	8	10	3	-	2
Divorced/separated	187	-	-	28	47	51	46	12	1	2
Not known	11	-	-	2	5	2	-	-	-	2
Skilled										
Total	8,167	99	1,415	2,444	1,408	1,164	979	459	46	153
Single	4,155	99	1,368	1,898	507	132	56	13	2	80
Married	3,452	-	40	440	754	888	820	402	42	66
Widowed	39	-	-	2	8	9	11	6	-	1
Divorced/separated	493	-	7	100	136	129	82	33	1	5
Not known	28	-	-	4	3	6	10	3	1	1
Semi-skilled										
Total	2,324	15	297	657	437	356	331	166	15	50
Single	2,981	15	273	459	138	37	21	11	-	27
Married	1,118	-	19	156	241	268	266	136	14	18
Widowed	29	-	-	2	5	5	9	7	1	-
Divorced/separated	191	-	5	37	53	44	35	12	-	5
Not known	5	-	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
Unskilled										
Total	735	5	72	150	164	170	99	52	6	17
Single	157	5	52	60	26	4	3	-	-	7
Married	524	-	17	79	123	154	88	50	5	8
Widowed	6	-	-	1	1	3	1	1	-	-
Divorced/separated	48	-	3	11	14	11	5	1	1	2
Not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
*Not classified										
Total	6,939	421	1,212	1,526	1,171	1,088	851	360	43	267
Single	2,963	421	1,155	986	191	58	28	10	2	112
Married	3,124	-	35	386	735	810	689	302	32	135
Widowed	128	-	1	12	27	26	35	20	6	1
Divorced/separated	693	-	18	138	211	186	94	24	3	19
Not known	31	-	3	4	7	8	5	4	-	-

*Certain occupations in the 'not classified' group of the above table by marital status

Occupation	Total	Single	Married	Others
Not stated	3,349	873	2,065	411
Not occupied or student	2,150	2,020	80	50
Housewife	1,285	58	843	384

TABLE 12 - continued

Code	Description	NHS Hospitals		Approved and other places	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
CONCERNING HOUSING					
65	Inadequate housing	20	0.6	7	0.8
6	Material home conditions inadequate	8	0.2	15	1.8
8	Other specified environmental	11	0.3	9	1.0
9	Unspecified environmental reasons	3	0.1	4	0.5
	Total in sub-group	42	1.2	35	4.1
CONCERNING RAPE AND VIOLENCE					
70	Unwanted intercourse - under 16	1	0.0	2	0.2
1	- 16 or over	2	0.1	3	0.4
2	Rape - single girl under 16	13	0.4	1	0.1
3	- single girl 16 or over	28	0.8	6	0.7
4	- married woman	5	0.1	1	0.1
5	Incest	10	0.3	-	-
	Total in sub-group	59	1.7	13	1.5
	All cases with question 11(c) completed	3,561	100.0	858	100.0
	All cases with medical reasons and question 11(c) not completed	10,951		8,206	
	All cases with question 11(a)-(c) not completed	48		17	
	Total cases treated for abortion	14,560		9,081	

TABLE 13. Legally induced abortions: age by main operation and gestation weeks

England and Wales
27th April - 31st December 1968
All cases

Main operation	Gestation weekst	All ages	England and Wales							45 and over	Not stated
			Under 16	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44		
Hysterotomy-abdominal	Total	6,084	124	468	853	1,101	1,362	1,313	651	63	149
	under 9	167	2	3	13	35	46	49	14	-	5
	9-12	1,651	13	37	116	275	453	460	235	19	43
	13	683	9	28	66	124	160	179	90	7	20
	14	672	8	56	82	130	152	166	68	5	15
	15-16	1,121	24	103	179	207	246	225	108	12	17
	17-19	1,069	41	130	229	189	161	80	13	26	28
	20-23	454	18	81	127	86	50	43	34	3	12
	24 and over	100	5	14	19	15	18	19	7	1	2
	Not stated	167	4	16	22	40	39	21	15	3	7
Hysterotomy-vaginal	Total	135	3	16	27	23	21	31	8	2	4
	under 9	13	-	1	-	4	5	15	1	1	2
	9-12	47	1	7	10	5	2	2	2	-	-
	13	19	-	2	3	3	7	2	1	-	-
	14	12	-	1	1	3	2	3	1	1	-
	15-16	18	-	1	6	3	2	4	1	-	1
	17-19	12	1	2	4	3	-	-	2	-	-
	20-23	4	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
	24 and over	2	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
	Not stated	8	1	-	-	2	2	2	1	-	-
Hysterectomy	Total	353	1	1	7	30	73	114	106	15	6
	under 9	24	-	-	-	2	5	11	4	2	-
	9-12	130	-	-	1	9	26	44	42	6	2
	13	30	-	-	1	2	6	11	11	1	-
	14	44	-	1	1	3	6	12	17	1	1
	15-16	53	-	-	1	6	13	17	10	5	-
	17-19	46	-	-	1	5	8	13	17	1	1
	20-23	13	-	-	3	1	3	4	2	-	-
	24 and over	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	Not stated	12	1	-	-	2	3	2	3	-	1
Vacuum aspiration	Total	6,009	141	1,006	1,816	1,157	883	587	223	27	169
	under 9	925	10	107	263	195	167	110	38	6	29
	9-12	3,792	96	623	1,109	731	567	388	151	19	108
	13	550	16	114	189	110	61	36	9	2	13
	14	292	7	60	105	55	36	21	5	-	3
	15-16	222	5	52	86	27	26	13	6	-	7
	17-19	83	5	23	23	12	8	7	5	-	-
	20-23	20	-	8	7	2	3	-	-	-	-
	24 and over	3	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
	Not stated	122	2	18	34	25	14	12	8	-	9
Dilatation	Total	9,899	228	1,712	3,467	1,763	1,216	868	355	43	247
	under 9	1,815	28	204	595	349	284	212	78	15	50
	9-12	5,509	130	914	1,932	973	696	500	208	24	132
	13	908	32	199	331	154	84	63	25	3	17
	14	578	9	148	208	87	52	39	18	-	17
	15-16	572	13	135	224	94	54	31	12	1	8
	17-19	253	10	72	99	48	14	4	2	-	4
	20-23	47	2	12	13	12	5	1	2	-	-
	24 and over	9	-	5	1	1	-	1	2	-	-
	Not stated	208	4	28	60	45	27	17	8	-	19
Other types of termination (not listed above)	Total	1,068	55	258	356	192	93	61	24	2	27
	under 9	15	-	5	6	2	1	1	-	-	-
	9-12	177	12	36	51	31	18	17	9	-	3
	13	111	7	24	29	30	8	7	4	-	2
	14	122	4	29	51	17	11	4	2	1	3
	15-16	234	8	63	74	46	16	15	7	-	5
	17-19	270	16	64	100	50	24	8	2	-	6
	20-23	82	4	23	32	12	7	3	-	-	1
	24 and over	16	3	6	3	-	2	2	-	-	-
	Not stated	41	1	8	10	4	6	4	-	1	7
Not stated	Total	93	1	14	27	16	10	8	5	1	11
	under 9	11	-	2	5	2	1	-	-	-	1
	9-12	48	-	7	16	9	6	2	3	1	4
	13	7	-	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	1
	14	9	1	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	2
	15-16	4	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
	17-19	6	-	1	2	-	-	2	1	-	-
	20-23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	24 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Not stated	8	-	-	1	1	-	2	1	-	3

* For definition of gestation weeks see page iv.

TABLE 19 - continued

ICD 8th Rev.	Medical conditions	NUMBER OF REASONS GIVEN*											
		PRIMARY CONDITION MENTIONED				SECONDARY CONDITION MENTIONED				SUSPECTED MEDICAL CONDITION OF FOETUS			
		Relating to previous pregnancy		Relating to present pregnancy		Relating to previous pregnancy		Relating to present pregnancy		Condition of foetus in previous pregnancy		Suspected condition in present foetus	
		N H S	Non NHS	N H S	Non NHS	N H S	Non NHS	N H S	Non NHS	N H S	Non NHS	N H S	Non NHS
400-429	Other heart disease and hypertensive disease	1	-	193	18			42	8				
401	Essential benign hypertension			146	12			35	8				
430-438	Cerebrovascular disease	2	-	17	-	2	-	2	-				
440-458	Other diseases of circulatory system	1	1	66	21			19	4				
450, 451	Pulmonary embolism and infarction, phlebitis and thrombophlebitis, and other venous embolisms and thrombosis	1	-	43	8			13	1				
460-519	Diseases of respiratory system	1	-	152	25			23	3	1	-	1	-
491	Chronic bronchitis			12	-			1	-				
493	Asthma	1	-	103	13			10	1	1	-	1	-
518	Bronchiectasis			29	3			4	-				
520-569	Other diseases of digestive system			35	7			3	2				
563	Chronic enteritis and ulcerative colitis			23	2			1	-				
570-577	Diseases of liver, gallbladder and pancreas			9	1			1	2				
580-599	Diseases of urinary system			106	16			23	3				
582	Chronic nephritis			17	-			1	-				
590	Infections of kidney			27	5			5	2				
591	Hydronephrosis			10	-			-	-				
592	Calculus of kidney and ureter			11	1			-	1				
610-611	Diseases of breast			1	-								
612-629	Diseases of female genital tract	4	-	28	5			5	-				
623	Uterovaginal prolapse	3	-	10	1			1	-				
630-634	Complications of pregnancy	49	11	134	24	4	-	11	2				
632	Haemorrhage of pregnancy	1	-	13	5			1	1				
635-639	Urinary infections and toxæmias of pregnancy	88	16	120	24	4	-	9	3				
635+636	Urinary infections arising during pregnancy and puerperium, Renal diseases arising during pregnancy and the puerperium	6	-	3	3			2	1				
637	Pre-eclampsia, eclampsia and toxæmia unspecified	79	16	69	13	3	-	4	1				
638	Hyperemesis gravidarum	3	-	47	7			3	1				
638+639	Hyperemesis gravidarum, Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	3	-	48	8	1	-	3	1				
640-645	Complications of abortion (and previous abortions)	17	6	19	25	-	1	2	4			1	-
650-678	Complications of delivery and puerperium (and previous deliveries)	56	12	36	5	10	1	5	3				
669	Surgical procedure in present or previous pregnancy, previous caesarean section	3	1	25	2			5	1				
680-709	Disease of the skin and subcutaneous tissue			13	2					2	-		
710-739	Diseases of musculoskeletal system and connective tissue			78	11			14	2	1	-		
712-715	Rheumatoid arthritis and allied conditions, Osteo-arthritis and allied conditions, Other specified forms of arthritis, Arthritis unspecified			34	4			7	-				
725	Displacement of intervertebral disc			20	5			4	2				

*A single case may provide up to three reasons, one in each of the divisions, i.e. primary maternal, secondary maternal, and foetal.

TABLE 19 - continued

ICD 8th Rev.	Medical conditions	NUMBER OF REASONS GIVEN*											
		PRIMARY CONDITION MENTIONED				SECONDARY CONDITION MENTIONED				SUSPECTED MEDICAL CONDITION OF FOETUS			
		Relating to previous pregnancy		Relating to present pregnancy		Relating to previous pregnancy		Relating to present pregnancy		Condition of foetus in previous pregnancy		Suspected condition in present foetus	
		N H S	Non NHS	N H S	Non NHS	N H S	Non NHS	N H S	Non NHS	N H S	Non NHS	N H S	Non NHS
740-759	Congenital anomalies	1	-	30	4			9	-	105	2	111	63
760-779	Maternal conditions associated with perinatal morbidity (placenta and child)	4	-	4	2					16	4	77	45
780-796	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions (including medical reason unknown)	1	1	42	5			15	4			2	-
N800- N999	Accidents, poisonings and violence (nature of injury)			15	3			5	-			45	22
000-009 020-055	Intestinal infectious diseases, bacterial, viral and enteroviral diseases			13	2			1	2				
651-653	Delivery complicated by placenta praevia or antepartum haemorrhage, retained placenta, other postpartum haemorrhage	31	5	3	-	5	1						
654-678	Complication of delivery, anaesthetic death in uncomplicated delivery, and complications of the puerperium	25	7	33	5	5	-	5	3				
The following apply only to 'Condition of foetus':-													
315-	Unspecified mental retardation									6	1	15	1
3503	Progressive muscular dystrophy									2	-	9	1
7589	Unspecified congenital anomaly									9	-	50	58
7593	Down's disease									19	-	10	1
7599	Multiple congenital anomalies, unspecified									36	1	25	3
7750	Haemolytic disease of newborn, without mention of kernicterus with Rh. incompat.									7	1	52	3
7789	Other condition of foetus or newborn									-	1	9	39
9613	Adverse effect of other anti-infectives, Quinoline and hydroquinoline derivatives											3	14
TOTAL REASONS*		251	51	12,428	8,831	23	2	707	314	148	7	312	134

*A single case may provide up to three reasons, one in each of the divisions, i.e. primary maternal, secondary maternal, and foetal.



