

# Publication Summary



## Termination of Pregnancy Statistics

Year ending 31 December 2014

Publication date – 26 May 2015



### About this Release

The Abortion Statistics are published annually and are derived from the Notifications to the Chief Medical Officer for Scotland under the Abortion Act 1967. This release includes annual data to December 2014.

### Key Points

- There were 11,475 terminations in 2014, the lowest reported since 1995. The number of terminations in Scotland peaked in 2008 (13,908) but since then the number of terminations has reduced by 17.5%. This has been the most sustained period of reduction, although small dips for short periods have been observed previously.
- Termination rates have tended to be higher in women aged 20-24 and 16-19. Since 2008 the rates in both age groups have been falling, particularly in the 16-19 group. In 2014 the rate for the 16-19 age group dipped below the 25-29 age group termination rate. Historically, the lowest termination rates have been in the 40+ age group but in 2014 the lowest rate was in the under 16s.
- Between 2008 and 2014 the rate of terminations in Scotland dropped from 13.1 per 1,000 women aged 15-44 to 11.0 per 1,000. The overall rate of terminations has been falling since 2008, however the rate of repeat terminations has remained fairly static. The repeat termination rate has fluctuated slightly, from 3.6 per 1,000 in 2008 to 3.5 per 1,000 in 2014, peaking at 3.7 per 1,000 in 2012.
- Under the [published standards for Sexual Health Services](#), 70% of women seeking termination of pregnancy should undergo the procedure at nine weeks gestation or earlier. In 2014, this was the case for 72.1% women (69.0% in 2013).

## Background

There is a legal requirement to notify the Chief Medical Officer in Scotland of all terminations carried out in Scotland. The Information Services Division is responsible for the collation of data derived from notifications of abortions on behalf of the Chief Medical Officer in Scotland.

All notifications are validated prior to analysis. Occasionally, this results in information queries being sent to a named contact in the unit where the termination occurred. Data quality is, therefore, considered to be high, although occasional omissions and administrative errors in submitting notification forms are inevitable, leading to some under-reporting. All late submissions of notification forms are included in the following year's statistics release as revised figures.

## Contact

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## Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

### **About ISD**

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up.

Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

### **Official Statistics**

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/) [www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/)