



# Northern Ireland Termination of Pregnancy Statistics

2016/17



Department of  
**Health**

An Roinn Sláinte

Máinnystrie O Poustie

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## Reader Information

Purpose	This publication presents information on the number of admissions with a diagnosis of medical abortion and termination of pregnancy to Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland during 2007/08 to 2016/17. It details information by HSC Trust, Country of Residence and Age Band.
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Statistical Quality	Information detailed in this release has been provided by HSC Trusts. The HSC Board has issued guidelines which must be adhered to by HSC Trusts to ensure that the information is produced in accordance with UK-wide National Clinical Coding Standards.
Target Audience	DoH, Chief Executives of HSC Board and Trusts in Northern Ireland, health care professionals, academics, general public, media and Health & Social Care stakeholders.
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## Key Points

- There were 13 terminations of pregnancy in HSC hospitals in Northern Ireland during 2016/17. This was three less than the 16 reported in 2015/16 (Table 1). It should be noted that due to small numbers, relatively large fluctuations may be expected from year to year.
- Of the 13 terminations of pregnancy during 2016/17, 12 were carried out on women normally resident in Northern Ireland (Table 3).
- During 2016/17 there were 7 terminations of pregnancy carried out on women aged 30 years and over, 1 termination of pregnancy carried out on a woman aged 25 to 29, and 5 on women aged 24 and under (Table 4).

## Tables

The way in which a medical abortion is defined was amended from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013, following an update to the National Clinical Coding Standards, which apply across the UK. Definitions currently applicable and those applicable prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 are detailed in Appendix 1.

**Table 1: Medical abortions and terminations of pregnancy, 2007/08 to 2016/17**

Year	Medical Abortion	Termination of Pregnancy
2007/08	76	47
2008/09	71	44
2009/10	64	36
2010/11	73	43
2011/12	56	35
2012/13	75	51
2013/14 <sup>B</sup>	25	23
2014/15	22	16
2015/16	30	16
2016/17	20	13

Source: HSC Trusts

<sup>B</sup> Break in series.

Figures for medical abortion prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 included readmissions with retained products of conception, following a missed miscarriage or a spontaneous abortion that had been treated in the first admission with an evacuation of the products of conception. These are no longer part of the definition of medical abortion.

It should be noted that from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 retained products of conception in the same episode as the termination that required surgical treatment must be considered a complete termination of pregnancy.

Terminations of pregnancy are unaffected by the definitional change.

Please refer to Appendix 1 (p.4) for further detail.

**Table 2: Terminations of pregnancy by HSC Trust of treatment, 2007/08 to 2016/17**

Year	Belfast	Northern	South Eastern	Southern	Western	Total
2007/08	18	12	12	*	*	47
2008/09	13	*	16	*	*	44
2009/10	*	*	12	*	*	36
2010/11	14	12	*	*	*	43
2011/12	15	*	13	*	*	35
2012/13	13	11	17	*	*	51
2013/14	14	*	*	*	*	23
2014/15	12	*	*	*	*	16
2015/16	*	*	*	*	*	16
2016/17	7	*	*	*	*	13

Source: HSC Trusts

\*Due to the small populations of each area, masking has been used in this table to protect patient confidentiality.

**Table 3: Terminations of pregnancy by country of residence, 2007/08 to 2016/17**

Year	Inside Northern Ireland	Outside Northern Ireland	Total
2007/08	47	0	47
2008/09	43	1	44
2009/10	36	0	36
2010/11	43	0	43
2011/12	35	0	35
2012/13	50	1	51
2013/14	23	0	23
2014/15	14	2	16
2015/16	16	0	16
2016/17	12	1	13

Source: HSC Trusts

**Table 4: Terminations of pregnancy by age band, 2007/08 to 2016/17**

Year	24 & Under	25 – 29	30 & Over	Total
2007/08	12	9	26	47
2008/09	9	8	27	44
2009/10	6	9	21	36
2010/11	7	10	26	43
2011/12	8	4	23	35
2012/13	14	11	26	51
2013/14	4	8	11	23
2014/15	3	7	6	16
2015/16	2	5	9	16
2016/17	5	1	7	13

Source: HSC Trusts

## **Appendix 1 – Definitions**

The way in which a medical abortion is defined was amended for activity from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013, following an update to the National Clinical Coding Standards on termination of pregnancy.

The National Clinical Coding Standards ICD-10 4<sup>th</sup> Edition reference book provides specific national clinical coding standards to reduce ambiguity and differences in any interpretation. It incorporates all changes notified in the National Clinical Coding Standards ICD-10 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Addendum 2013. This was published in August 2013 following a public consultation on the changes (carried out by the Health and Social Care Information Centre, England), which closed in January 2013.

### **Current definitions, applicable throughout the UK from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.**

All HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland have confirmed that the below definitions have been applied from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 in the identification of medical abortions and terminations of pregnancy.

#### **Medical Abortion**

Within the confines of ICD-10 code O04, this refers to the interruption of a live pregnancy for legally acceptable, medically approved indications. It also includes readmission with retained products of conception following a previous medical termination of pregnancy.

#### **Termination of pregnancy (medical)**

This is defined as any patient who has a live pregnancy terminated for indications that are legally acceptable and medically approved in Northern Ireland. Medical termination of pregnancy is a subset of medical abortion.

## **Definitions applicable throughout the UK prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.**

All HSC Trusts used the below definitions to identify medical abortions and terminations of pregnancy during the period 2007/08 to 2012/13.

### **Medical Abortion**

Within the confines of ICD-10 code O04, this refers to the interruption of a live pregnancy for legally acceptable, medically approved conditions. It also includes readmissions with retained products of conception following a previous termination of pregnancy, a missed miscarriage or a spontaneous abortion that had been treated in the first admission with an evacuation of the products of conception and a patient who had a termination of pregnancy and had retained products of conception in the same episode that required surgical treatment.

### **Termination of pregnancy (medical)**

This is defined as any patient who has a live pregnancy terminated for indications that are legally acceptable and medically approved in Northern Ireland. Medical termination of pregnancy is a subset of medical abortion.

## **Summary of definitional changes from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013**

Readmissions with retained products of conception following a missed miscarriage or a spontaneous abortion that had been treated in the first admission with an evacuation of the products of conception are no longer part of the definition of medical abortion.

Retained products of conception in the same episode as the termination that required surgical treatment are now considered a complete termination of pregnancy.