

**Table 13 – Demographic Yearbook 2003**

Table 13 presents legally induced abortions for as many years as possible between 1994 and 2003.

Description of variables: There are two major categories of abortion: spontaneous and induced. Induced abortions are those initiated by deliberate action undertaken with the intention of terminating pregnancy; all other abortions are considered as spontaneous.

The induction of abortion is subject to governmental regulation in most, if not all, countries or areas. This regulation varies from complete prohibition in some countries or areas to abortion on request, with services provided by governmental health authorities, in others. More generally, governments have attempted to define the conditions under which a pregnancy may lawfully be terminated and have established procedures for authorizing abortion in individual cases.

In an effort to provide more complete interpretation of these statistics, countries or areas providing data on legally induced abortions have been requested to communicate grounds for legally induced abortions in their country or area. This information is presented in table 13-1 below.

Reliability of data: Unlike data on live births and foetal deaths, which are generally collected through systems of vital registration, data on abortion are collected from a variety of sources. Because of this, the quality specification, showing the completeness of civil registers, which is presented for other tables, does not appear here.

Limitations: With regard to the collection of information on abortions, a variety of sources are used, but hospital records are the most common source of information. This implies that most cases that have no contact with hospitals are missed. Data from other sources are probably also incomplete. The data in the present table are limited to legally induced abortions, which, by their nature, might be assumed to be more complete than data on all induced abortions.

Earlier data: Legally induced abortions have been shown previously in all issues of the *Demographic Yearbook* since the 1971 issue.

**13-1 Grounds for legally induced abortions**

Country/area	Grounds for abortion					
	(a) Continuation of pregnancy would involve risk to the life of the pregnant woman greater than if the pregnancy were terminated.	(b) Continuation of pregnancy would involve risk of injury to the physical health of the pregnant woman greater than if the pregnancy were terminated.	(c) Continuation of pregnancy would involve risk of injury to the mental health of the pregnant woman greater than if the pregnancy were terminated.	(d) Continuation of pregnancy would involve risk of injury to the mental or physical health of any existing children of the family greater than if the pregnancy were terminated.	(e) 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.	(f) Other
Canada	x	x	x			
Mexico		x				
China Hong Kong SAR	x	x	x	x	x	x
Israel	x	x	x		x	x
Japan	x	x				x
Singapore	x	x	x	x	x	x
Czech Rep.	x	x	x		x	x
Denmark	x	x	x	x	x	
Estonia	x	x	x	x	x	
Finland	x	x	x		x	x
France	x	x	x	x	x	
Greece	x	x	x	x	x	
Hungary	x	x	x	x	x	

Country/area	Grounds for abortion					
	(a) Continuation of pregnancy would involve risk to the life of the pregnant woman greater than if the pregnancy were terminated.	(b) Continuation of pregnancy would involve risk of injury to the physical health of the pregnant woman greater than if the pregnancy were terminated.	(c) Continuation of pregnancy would involve risk of injury to the mental health of the pregnant woman greater than if the pregnancy were terminated.	(d) Continuation of pregnancy would involve risk of injury to the mental or physical health of any existing children of the family greater than if the pregnancy were terminated.	(e) 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.	(f) Other
Iceland	x	x	x	x	x	x
Italy	x	x	x		x	x
Latvia	x	x	x		x	
Lithuania						x
Netherlands	x	x	x		x	
Norway	x	x	x	x	x	x
Poland	x	x			x	x
Republic of Moldova	x	x	x	x	x	
Romania	x	x	x		x	
United Kingdom	x	x	x	x	x	