

Induced abortion

Year 2012

In 2012, a total of 103,191 induced abortions were performed in Italy, 6,850 fewer than in 2011.

Italy is one of the EU countries with the lowest level of induced abortion. In 2012 the rate of induced abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-49 was 7.6 (7.8 per one thousand in 2011).

Regional differences are reducing over time: in 2012 the highest value of induced abortion rate was referred to Liguria (10.2) and the lowest to Bolzano (4.3). In 1982 the rate for Puglia was 26.0 while for Bolzano was 8.7.

The highest rate of induced abortion was recorded in the age group 25-29 (12.8 per one thousand). In all age groups there has been a decline in abortion rates, but at a lesser extent in the young age classes.

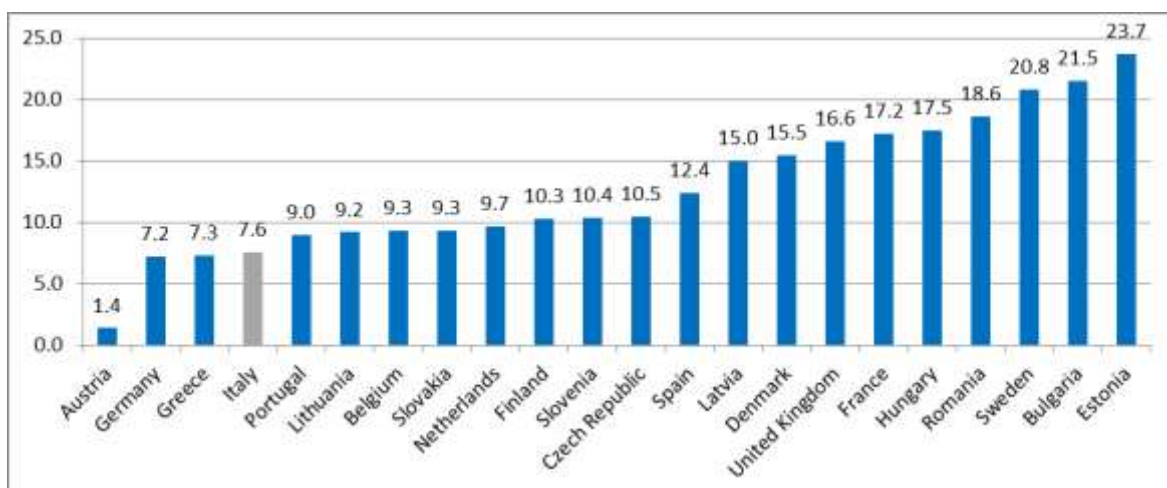
Induced abortion rate was higher for unmarried women (8.1 per one thousand) than for married ones (6.5 per one thousand).

Foreign women had higher levels of abortion compared to Italian women and they were on average two years younger: the former had a median age of voluntary abortion of approximately 29 years, while the latter 31 years.

Among the largest groups of foreign residents in Italy, the highest induced abortion rate was reported for Chinese women (30.0 cases per 1,000 Chinese women aged 15-49 years), followed by women from Romania (22.7), Albania (16.6) and Morocco (16.2).

The percentage of repeated induced abortions was 26.6% of the total abortions. In particular the second order abortions (i.e. preceded by a single abortion) were 18.7%, the third-order were 5.3% and the remaining (higher order) were 2.6%.

FIGURE 1. INDUCED ABORTION RATE PER 1,000 WOMEN IN SOME COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION. YEAR 2012



Notes: Austria rate refers to 2000; Greece rate refers to 2008; Belgium, France, Spain and Sweden rates refer to 2011.

Finnish, French and Italian rates are calculated considering women aged 15-49 years. Other countries' rates are calculated considering the age class 15-44. Italian rate referred to women aged 15-44 is equal to 9.2.

Source for Italy: Istat, Survey on Induced abortion.

Source for other countries: United Nations – Department of Economic and Social Affairs – Population Division (2014), Abortion Policies and Reproductive Health around the World.

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/policy/AbortionPoliciesReproductiveHealth.pdf>

For more details please refer to the Italian version

Contact person:

Marzia Loghi (loghi@istat.it).

phone +39 06 4673.7390

Socio-demographic and environmental statistics directorate
Istat – National Institute of Statistics