

Collection

Abortion statistics in England and Wales

Data sets and publications relating to abortion statistics for England and Wales.

From:

Office for Health Improvement and Disparities

(/government/organisations/office-for-health-improvement-and-disparities) and **Department of Health and Social Care**

(/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care)

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Office for Statistics Regulation compliance review

The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) completed a compliance review of the Abortion statistics in England and Wales publication in April 2026. The review assessed whether the statistics continued to meet the standards of

trustworthiness, quality and value under the Code of Practice for Statistics, particularly given the time since the statistics were last assessed and subsequent changes to legislation and data processing systems.

The review concluded that “the statistics on abortions for England and Wales continue to meet the standards set out in the Code of Practice for Statistics and should retain their accredited official statistics status”.

The report also made recommendations for further improvements - see the full [OSR compliance review of abortion statistics for England and Wales](https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/compliance-review-of-abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales/) (<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/compliance-review-of-abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales/>).

Delay to 2024 statistics

The ‘Abortion statistics for England and Wales 2024’ publication is delayed due to several operational issues. These include several technical challenges that have significantly reduced our ability to process paper HSA4 notifications efficiently. This coincided with an increase in the overall number of abortion notifications the department receives each year.

Together, these factors have created a backlog of data that still requires processing and quality assurance. The data is being validated but the resulting delays to the publication timetable have impacted the timeliness of the now published 2023 statistics and continue to delay publication of 2024 and 2025 statistics.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is currently working to deliver an improved service for collecting abortion notifications, designed to support more efficient processing of abortion data and enable more timely publications.

The statistics will be published once the required processing and quality assurance checks have been completed. We will announce the date for publication of the 2024 statistics in due course.

In England and Wales, within the terms of the Abortion Act 1967 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1967/87/contents>), only a registered practitioner can terminate a pregnancy. Practitioners carrying out an abortion must complete an abortion notification form (HSA4) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/abortion-notification-forms-for-england-and-wales>) and submit it to the Chief Medical Officer.

DHSC has a responsibility

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-department-of-healths-role-in-monitoring-abortion>) to monitor the Abortion Act and produce abortion statistics. It has processes in place to check the abortion notification forms (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-the-department-of-health-checks-abortion-notification-forms>) and to publish the subsequent data.

Using abortion statistics

With approval from the Chief Medical Officer, the abortion statistics are used for research.

DHSC publishes:

- information on who uses abortion statistics and how they use them (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-use-of-abortion-statistics>)
- a guide for academic researchers who want to use abortion statistics: protocol for the release of personal data (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/abortion-statistics-protocol-for-the-release-of-personal-data>)

- information on the codes used in processing information from the HSA4 forms
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coding-for-information-recorded-on-the-hsa4-abortion-notification-form>)

Abortion statistics before 2011

Abortion statistics on this site start at 2011. Statistics for previous years are available on The National Archives website
(<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130123231223/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/StatisticalWorkAreas/Statisticalpublichealth/index.htm>).

Contact

To give feedback on 'Abortion statistics for England and Wales' or if you have any queries, contact abortion.statistics@dhsc.gov.uk.

Documents

Abortion statistics for England and Wales: 2023

(</government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2023>)
19 March 2026 Accredited official statistics

Abortion statistics: protocol for the release of personal data

(</government/publications/abortion-statistics-protocol-for-the-release-of-personal-data>)
23 August 2024 Guidance

Abortion statistics for England and Wales: 2022

(</government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2022>)
15 January 2026 Accredited official statistics

Abortion statistics for England and Wales: January to June 2022

[\(/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-january-to-june-2022\)](/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-january-to-june-2022)

24 August 2023 Official Statistics

Complications from abortions in England, 2017 to 2021

[\(/government/statistics/complications-from-abortions-in-england-2017-to-2021\)](/government/statistics/complications-from-abortions-in-england-2017-to-2021)

23 November 2023 Official Statistics

Abortion statistics for England and Wales: 2021

[\(/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2021\)](/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2021)

15 January 2026 Accredited official statistics

Abortion statistics for England and Wales: 2020

[\(/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2020\)](/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2020)

15 January 2026 Accredited official statistics

Abortion statistics for England and Wales: 2019

[\(/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2019\)](/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2019)

1 June 2021 Accredited official statistics

Abortion statistics for England and Wales: 2018

[\(/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2018\)](/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2018)

5 March 2020 Accredited official statistics

Abortion statistics for England and Wales: 2017

[\(/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2017\)](/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2017)

23 May 2025 Accredited official statistics

Abortion statistics for England and Wales: 2016

[\(/government/statistics/report-on-abortion-statistics-in-england-and-wales-for-2016\)](/government/statistics/report-on-abortion-statistics-in-england-and-wales-for-2016)

13 October 2017 Accredited official statistics

Abortion statistics for England and Wales: 2015

[\(/government/statistics/report-on-abortion-statistics-in-england-and-wales-for-2015\)](/government/statistics/report-on-abortion-statistics-in-england-and-wales-for-2015)

1 June 2016 Accredited official statistics

Abortion statistics, England and Wales: 2015

[\(/government/statistical-data-sets/abortion-statistics-england-and-wales-2015\)](/government/statistical-data-sets/abortion-statistics-england-and-wales-2015)

1 June 2016 Statistical data set

Report on abortion statistics in England and Wales for 2014

[\(/government/statistics/report-on-abortion-statistics-in-england-and-wales-for-2014\)](/government/statistics/report-on-abortion-statistics-in-england-and-wales-for-2014)

9 June 2015 Accredited official statistics

Abortion statistics, England and Wales: 2014

[\(/government/statistical-data-sets/abortion-statistics-england-and-wales-2014\)](/government/statistical-data-sets/abortion-statistics-england-and-wales-2014)

9 June 2015 Statistical data set

Reporting of abortions with fetal abnormalities 2013

[\(/government/publications/reporting-of-abortions-with-fetal-abnormalities-2013\)](/government/publications/reporting-of-abortions-with-fetal-abnormalities-2013)

9 June 2015 Research and analysis

Report on abortion statistics in England and Wales for 2013

[\(/government/statistics/report-on-abortion-statistics-in-england-and-wales-for-2013\)](/government/statistics/report-on-abortion-statistics-in-england-and-wales-for-2013)

12 June 2014 Accredited official statistics

Abortion statistics, England and Wales: 2013

[\(/government/statistical-data-sets/abortion-statistics-england-and-wales-2013\)](/government/statistical-data-sets/abortion-statistics-england-and-wales-2013)

12 June 2014 Statistical data set

Abortion statistics, England and Wales: 2011

[\(/government/statistical-data-sets/abortion-statistics-england-and-wales-2011\)](/government/statistical-data-sets/abortion-statistics-england-and-wales-2011)

29 May 2012 Statistical data set

Report on abortion statistics in England and Wales for 2012

[\(/government/statistics/report-on-abortion-statistics-in-england-and-wales-for-2012\)](/government/statistics/report-on-abortion-statistics-in-england-and-wales-for-2012)

11 July 2013 Accredited official statistics

Abortion statistics, England and Wales: 2012

[\(/government/statistical-data-sets/statistics-on-abortions-carried-out-in-england-and-wales-in-2012\)](/government/statistical-data-sets/statistics-on-abortions-carried-out-in-england-and-wales-in-2012)

11 July 2013 Statistical data set

Report on abortion statistics in England and Wales for 2011

[\(/government/statistics/report-on-abortion-statistics-in-england-and-wales-for-2011\)](/government/statistics/report-on-abortion-statistics-in-england-and-wales-for-2011)

29 May 2012 Accredited official statistics

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