

TO NEWSDESK

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PRESS RELEASE

**Abortions in England & Wales on Residents of Irish Republic Fell
for 12th Consecutive Year**

Abortions on Irish Residents in English and Welsh clinics were 3,679 in 2013 according to the Report from the English Department of Health, released on 12th June. The figure for 2012 was 3,982.

The 3,679 abortions last year represent a rate of 3.6 per 1,000 Irish women aged 15--44. The rate for English and Welsh residents was 16.5 per 1,000 women aged 15-44 -- nearly five times the Irish rate. The Irish abortion rate is now approximately at the same level as it was in 1977, despite a significant increase in the female population.

In numerical terms, abortions levelled off in the 1980s, then rose sharply after 1992 up to a peak of 6,673 (7.5 per 1,000 women aged 15-44) in 2001. The 2013 figure of 3,679 abortions is a 45% reduction on what it was in 2001.

The English Department of Health reported counties of residence of Irish women who had abortions. 41% were from Dublin, 9% from Cork, 5% from Galway and the balance from remaining counties.

324 Irish teenagers had abortions in 2013. This compares with 347 last year and 939 in 2001. 108 women had abortions over 20 week's gestation.

97% of all abortions (both on residents and non-residents) were on Ground C alone and 99.84% of these were performed on mental health grounds. The concept of mental health grounds is what makes England a *de facto* abortion on demand jurisdiction. Unfortunately this concept has been imported into Irish law.

Comment: To those who champion right to life issues, the news is good. There is a 12 year decline in abortions despite quite an increase in the numbers of women aged 15-44 and the abortion rate has declined to the level of the mid 1970s.

Source: *Abortion Statistics, England & Wales 2013* released 12/6/2014

Note 1, For further information or clarification contact John at 01-6854038.

Note 2. The Second Look Project is a Charity founded in 2002. Its function is to protect human life at all stages from conception to natural death, by study, education and exploring and explaining the issues.