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## Rates of induced abortion in Denmark according to age, previous births and previous abortions

Marie-Louise H. Hansen  
Ditte Mølgaard-Nielsen  
Lisbeth B. Knudsen  
Niels Keiding

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## Abstract

Background: Whereas the effects of various socio-demographic determinants on a woman's risk of having an abortion are relatively well-documented, less attention has been given to the effect of previous abortions and births. Objective: To study the effect of previous abortions and births on Danish women's risk of an abortion, in addition to a number of demographic and personal characteristics. Data and methods: From the Fertility of Women and Couples Dataset we obtained data on the number of live births and induced abortions by year (1981-2001), age (16-39), county of residence and marital status. Logistic regression analysis was used to estimate the influence of the explanatory variables on the probability of having an abortion in a relevant year. Main findings and conclusion: A woman's risk of having an abortion increases with the number of previous births and previous abortions. Some interactions were found in the way a woman's risk of abortion varies with calendar year, age and parity. The risk of an abortion for women with no children decreases while the risk of an abortion for women with children increases over time. Furthermore, the risk of an abortion decreases with age, but relatively more so for women with children compared to childless women. Trends for teenagers are discussed in a separate section.

## Author's affiliation

[Marie-Louise H. Hansen](#)  
University of Copenhagen, Denmark  
[Ditte Mølgaard-Nielsen](#)  
University of Copenhagen, Denmark  
[Lisbeth B. Knudsen](#)  
Aalborg University, Denmark  
[Niels Keiding](#)  
University of Copenhagen, Denmark

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