

## Women traveling between countries in Europe for late abortions

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[www.misoprostol.org](http://www.misoprostol.org)

[www.fiapac.org](http://www.fiapac.org)

International Association of Abortion and Contraception Associates

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## Background

Who is travelling:

- Women
- Doctors

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## Background

Why do women travel:

- National limits vary widely
- Voluntary abortion above the national limit
- Medical indication not recognised (foetal malformation)
- Abortion for non-residents only legal in some countries (UK, NL, SP, A)
- Restrictions in access to abortion
- To avoid possible registration

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## Background

Why do doctors travel:

- Few countries have training for abortion care
- High demand in a few countries with high gestational limit
- Surgical method frequently used in tourism cases (time restraints)
- Few doctors willing to perform surgical abortions beyond 12-14 weeks
- Economical reasons

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## Background

Abortion tourism is an old phenomena.

- In the past: High numbers - first trimester: legal access only in few countries
- Today: numbers much lower - beyond first trimester: legal limits in most countries, restrictive interpretation of medical indications

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## Gestational age limits in European Countries

The gestational limit is given for voluntary abortion, social indication or psychological health of the woman

	weeks	Law
Netherlands	24	1981
UK	24	1967/75
Sweden	18	
Austria	16	
France	14	
Spain	no limit?	1985/91
Germany	14	
Belgium	14	
Italy	13	
Denmark	12	
Canada	No law, no limit	1988

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## Where do women travel?

	weeks
Netherlands	24
UK	24
Spain	no limit?

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## UK statistics

- Non-residents 7'900 abortions in England and Wales

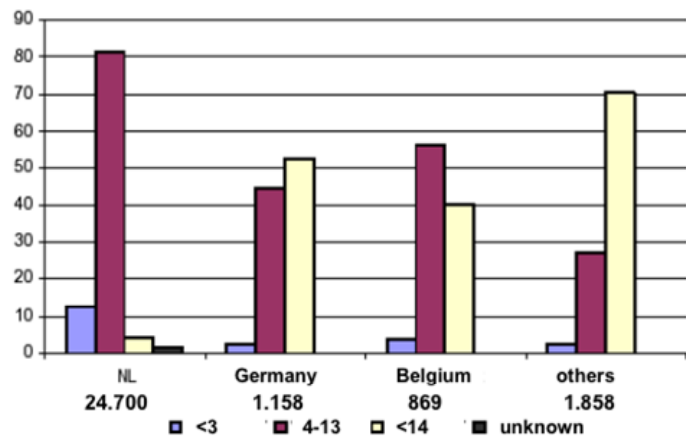
	residents	Ireland, Scotland	From the continent
13-19	17'298	927	242
Over 20	2'637	219	81

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Department of Health, London, 2005

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## NL statistics



2005 Rutgers Nisso Groep

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## Spain statistics

No statistics available

Several clinics specialising on late abortion

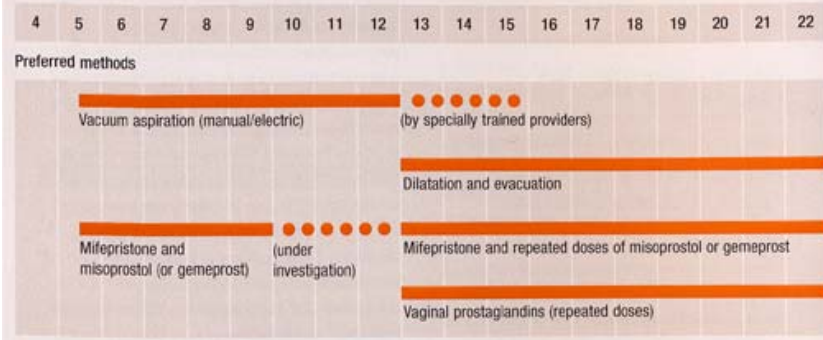
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## Safe Abortion:

## Technical and Policy Guidance for Health Systems

Figure 2.1 Methods of abortion

Completed weeks since last menstrual period



[www.who.int/reproductive-health/publications/safe\\_abortion/safe\\_abortion.html](http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/publications/safe_abortion/safe_abortion.html)

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## Abortion tourism and method

2<sup>nd</sup> trimester method in NL  
(mostly done in non-residents)

	2002	2003	2004
D&E	82%	84%	86%
Medical	18%	16%	14%

2<sup>nd</sup> trimester method in UK

	13-19	20-23
D&E	79%	66%
Medical	21%	34%

2005 Rutgers Nisso Groep  
Department of Health, London, 2005

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**New Museum wants  
old contraceptives**

**Museum of Contraception  
and Abortion**

**Wanted:  
Objects  
(IUDs, Cervical caps etc.),  
Reports, posters, publications**

**Real museum: Vienna, Austria**

**Virtual museum:  
[www.muvs.org](http://www.muvs.org)**