

THE MEDICO-SOCIAL RESEARCH BOARD

TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY

ENGLAND 1984

WOMEN FROM THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

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G.Dean, MD, FRCP, FRCPI.  
D.Walsh, MB, FRC.Psych, FRCPI.  
A.O'Hare, M.Soc.Sc.  
H.McLoughlin.

The Medico-Social Research Board,  
73, Lower Baggot Street,  
Dublin 2.

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TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY - ENGLAND 1984  
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Summary

During 1984 approximately 4,000 women giving an address in the Republic of Ireland had their pregnancies terminated in England. The termination rates were highest in Dublin and Dun Laoghaire County Boroughs, as high or higher than occurred in five cities of similar size in England. Termination rates in England for women resident in the Republic were higher than they were for women resident in Northern Ireland over the age of 20. The increase in the number of terminations in 1984 compared with 1983 is due to a big increase in second or subsequent terminations.

Although the majority of single women in Ireland decide to have the baby rather than have an abortion, women in Dublin County aged 25-29 are more likely to have an abortion. The majority of women had not used contraception prior to becoming pregnant and a high proportion had never used contraception. The sheath and the pill were the most popular form of contraception. The professional/managerial social class was more likely to have used contraception than the other social classes. The highest termination rates were in the other non-manual, followed by the professional/managerial social class. Women resident in the 25 counties outside of County Dublin had a higher proportion of terminations after the first 12 weeks of pregnancy than those resident in the County of Dublin.

## INTRODUCTION

Since 1968 the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS) London, has provided some statistics and information about women who gave an address in the Republic of Ireland and who had their pregnancies terminated in England.<sup>1</sup> This information has been regularly analysed by Dr. Dermot Walsh and reported by the Medico-Social Research Board.<sup>2-5</sup> Starting in 1983, the Medico-Social Research Board asked the major private clinics in England where pregnancies were terminated to complete a form for women who gave an address in the Republic of Ireland. This was in order to obtain further information, e.g. the area of residence in Ireland, occupation, the use of contraceptives, etc. These forms are forwarded to the Medico-Social Research Board. Appendix 1. Very few women from the Republic of Ireland had their pregnancies terminated at the National Health Service hospitals.

At the clinics in England, chiefly in London, Birmingham and Liverpool, the patients generally stay one night. The cost is approximately £120/£150 sterling.

## RESULTS OF SURVEY 1984

The number of Irish women terminating their pregnancy continues to increase and there were approximately 4,000 terminations in women giving an address in the Irish Republic in 1984 (3,026 for first nine months). Figure 1. The number of completed forms which were returned to the Medico-Social Research Board increased from 2,032 in 1983 to 2,502 in 1984. The month of the interview in England, the age distribution and marital status of

the women in the two years, 1983 and 1984, are shown in Tables 1-3. The age and marital status distribution are the same as reported to the OPCS, evidence that the 2,502 forms received represent a random sample of the women. The county of residence of the women who gave an Irish address is shown in Table 4. As in 1983, the majority of the women gave County Dublin as their area of residence, although the proportion resident outside of Dublin has increased slightly between the two years. As the women must provide an address at the clinics, area of residence in Ireland can be accepted as reasonably accurate. The percentage of women, aged 15-29, in each county at the 1981 census is also shown. (Table 4).

Ninety-nine percent of the women below the age of 20 and 96% between the ages of 20-24 were single. (Table 3). When the abortion rates for women resident in the Republic of Ireland are compared with those from Northern Ireland, the rates are higher in Northern Ireland below the age of 20 and higher in the Republic of Ireland above the age of 20. Table 5. If the women from the Republic had the same rates as occurred in Northern Ireland in 1983, there would have been 263 fewer abortions in the Republic. Table 6.

The actual terminations of pregnancy and the calculated numbers if there had been a 100% return are shown in Tables 7,7a,8,8a and 9,9a for Dublin and Dun Laoghaire County Boroughs, for all of County Dublin and for the remaining 25 counties, both for 1984 and 1983. In 1984, as in 1983, the highest rates were in Dublin and Dun Laoghaire County Boroughs. Overall there is no change in the total of calculated first terminations; the increase is due to a two-fold increase in second and

subsequent terminations to over 700 in 1984. In 1984 the age group range has been extended from age 39 to age 44 because in 1984 there was a sufficient number over the age of 40. For all ages, the rates are much higher, as might be expected, in the single except for married women over 40 in Dublin and Dún Laoghaire. The highest rates are in Dublin and Dún Laoghaire County Boroughs.

The three areas, Dublin and Dún Laoghaire County Boroughs, all County Dublin and the remaining 25 counties, for single, ever-married and the total for the Republic of Ireland for 1984 and 1983 are contrasted with England and Wales, 1983, the latest year for which this information is available in England and Wales. Tables 10, 10a. The rates are higher in England and Wales as a whole than in the Republic of Ireland, the difference is greatest for ever-married Irish women among whom the rates are low. Among the single the rates are higher among the residents of Dublin and Dún Laoghaire County Boroughs and of all of County Dublin, except below the age of 20 years, than in England and Wales.

A comparison of Dublin and Dún Laoghaire with five cities in England

The abortion rates for Dublin and Dún Laoghaire County Boroughs 1984 are compared with five cities in England in 1982, the latest year for which the information is available. The cities are Liverpool, Birmingham, Bristol, Leicester and Norwich. Table 11. The rates are much lower below the age of 20 in Dublin and Dún Laoghaire County Boroughs but over the age of 20 they are similar to that in the five English cities. For the age group 25-34, they are higher in Dublin and Dún Laoghaire County Boroughs than in the five cities in England.

### Having the baby or having an abortion

A comparison was made of the proportion of single women who had the baby or had an abortion in age groups comparing Dublin County with the remaining 25 counties of the Republic. Table 12. Overall, more single women had the baby, 5,030, compared with those who had an abortion, 2,988 (calculated). This is overall 37% had an abortion. In County Dublin women were more likely to have had an abortion than in the remaining 25 counties and in this county, in the age group 25-29, more single women who became pregnant had an abortion than had the baby.

### Social Class

Eighty percent of the women provided information about their occupation which made it possible to analyse the social class using the new Irish Social Class Scale (Census 1981). The highest termination rates per 1,000 women were in the other non-manual and the second highest in the professional/managerial social class. The rates were higher in all social class groups in the County of Dublin than in the remaining 25 counties of Ireland. Tables 13,13a,13b. The rates in the other non-manual group were three times higher than in the skilled manual social class group of women.

The census population is not yet available (1981) by social class and age group cross-tabulated by marital status but the distribution by social class and whether single or ever married at all ages is shown in Table 14.

### The use of contraception

The age group of the women and their use of contraception prior to the current pregnancy are shown in Table 15. Under the

age of 20, 83.4% in 1984 stated that no contraception was used. Over the age of 30, 63.7% said they had used no contraception (1984). Table 15. Of those who had used contraception prior to their previous pregnancy, the largest proportion had used a sheath rather than an alternative form of contraception. Table 16. The general experience of using contraception is shown in Tables 17, 17a. The pill and the sheath were the two most popular methods and over the age of 30 a higher proportion of the women were using the safe period than under this age. Under the age of 20, 42% had no general experience of using a contraceptive in 1984. When there had been previous terminations they were more likely to have used contraception. Table 18. The ever-married were more likely to have used contraception than the single, Table 19, and to have more general experience of using contraception. Tables 20, 20a. The social class by general experience of using contraceptives is shown in Tables 21 and 21a. In 1984, as in 1983, a higher proportion of the professional/managerial social class group had previous experience of contraception than the other social classes with the lowest proportion in the semi- and unskilled manual group. The general experience was greatest in the use of the pill and the sheath. Those with previous terminations were more likely to have had previous experience of using contraception. Table 22. Just prior to the current pregnancy the professional/managerial class were the highest users of contraception and the semi- and unskilled workers the lowest. Table 23. Most women gave no reason why the contraception, if they had used it, had failed.

Number of weeks pregnant

Women resident in Dublin County were more likely to have the termination in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy than women resident in the other 25 counties. Table 24.



DISCUSSION

The number of women having a pregnancy terminated in England and giving an address in the Republic of Ireland in 1984 was the highest yet reported and was approximately 4,000 terminations. (Latest estimate from the OPCS, London, 3,946). This does not include the women resident in Ireland who gave an address in England, for instance that of a relative. As in 1983, more than half of the women gave their area of residence as Dublin, although in 1984 a slightly higher proportion of women resided outside of County Dublin than in 1983. Over the age of 20, the abortion rates in England were higher for women resident in the Republic of Ireland than they were for those in Northern Ireland. The abortion rates for women resident in Dublin and Dun Laoghaire County Boroughs were as high or higher than in five cities of similar size in England; they were particularly high in the age groups 25-29 and 30-34. The overall rates for women resident in the Republic of Ireland were lower than those who were resident in England and Wales as a whole. On the other hand, the rates for single women resident in Dublin and Dun Laoghaire County Boroughs and in all of Dublin County were higher than they were in England and Wales.

In the Republic more single women who became pregnant were likely to have had their baby than to have had an abortion, except in Dublin County between the ages of 25-29, when they were more likely to have had an abortion (55%).

The termination rates were three times higher among "other non-manual" than in the skilled manual social class group. A high proportion of women in the social class other non-manual workers were living in Dublin /

and Dun Laoghaire County Boroughs. Although many women had some general experience of contraception, the majority were not using contraception immediately prior to becoming pregnant.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

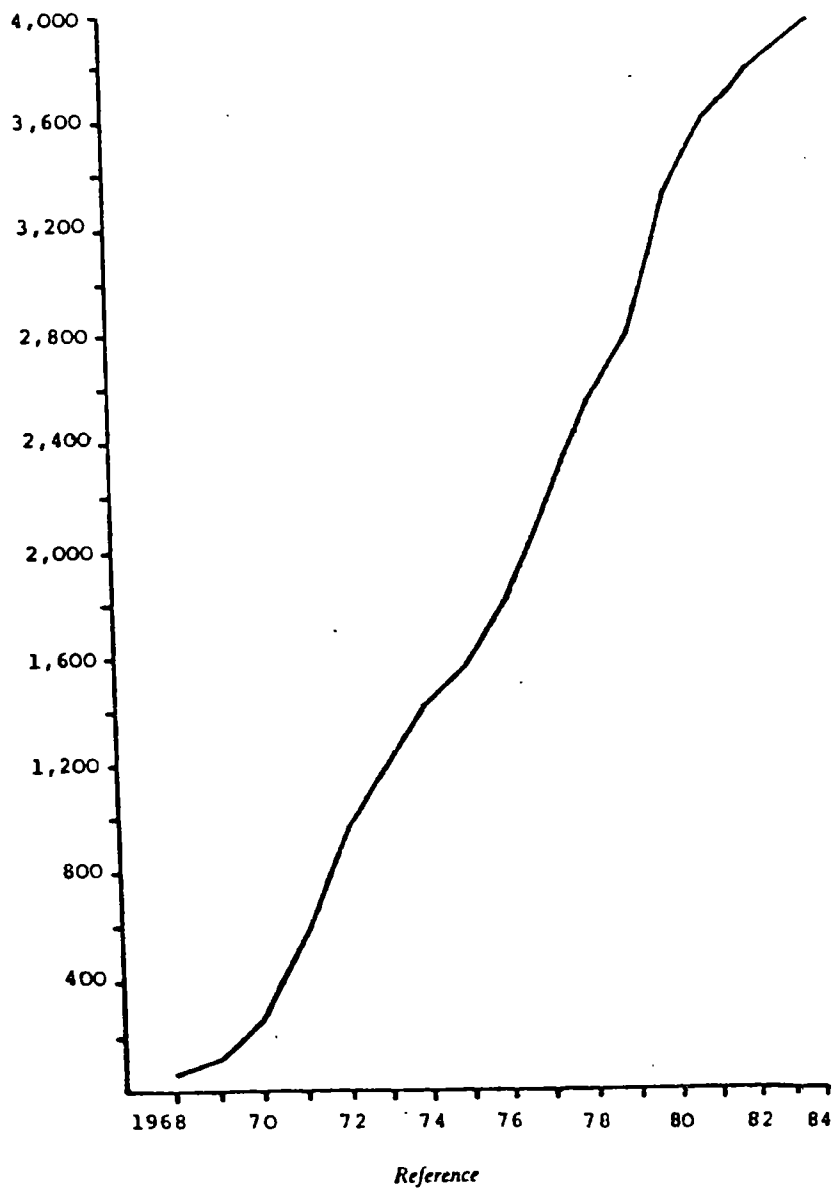
We would like to thank the directors, matrons and staff of the various agencies and nursing homes who have collaborated with us. We would also like to thank the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, London and Titchfield, and the Department of Health and Social Security, London, for their help in supplying statistical data. Mr. A. Vincent, statistician, Trinity College, Dublin, and his staff prepared the tables and provided statistical advice. We express our appreciation to the members of our staff who assisted with the study.

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FIGURE 1

Irish Republic Residents — Legally Induced Abortions in  
England and Wales, 1968-1984.



Office of Population Censuses and Surveys Monitor of Legal abortions. London.

TABLE 1

Month of Interview

	<u>1984</u>		<u>1983</u>	
	%	Number	%	Number
January	9.2	229	6.8	138
February	8.8	219	9.9	201
March	9.5	238	10.2	207
April	8.0	201	7.6	154
May	7.8	195	9.2	187
June	8.6	216	9.1	185
July	10.2	255	9.1	184
August	8.3	208	8.7	176
September	7.8	196	7.0	142
October	8.4	211	7.0	142
November	7.9	197	7.5	152
December	4.6	115	3.3	68*
Unknown/ Unspecified	0.9	22	4.7	96
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,502</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,032</b>

\*Further forms for December were received too late to include in the analysis.

TABLE 2

Age groups compared with OPCS Reports

	<u>1984</u> Study		<u>1983</u> Study		OPCS 1983
	%		%		%
Under 20	14.3		14.5		15.2
20 - 24	38.6		42.0	] 74.7	
25 - 29	21.9	73.0	22.1		72.9
30 - 34	12.5		10.6		
35 +	11.6		10.1		11.8
Not stated	1.1		0.7		0.1
Total %	100.0		100.0		100.0

TABLE 3

AGE GROUP AND MARITAL STATUS

	<u>Single</u>			<u>Ever married</u>			<u>Number</u>	
	1984 Study	1983 Study	All OPCS 1983	1984 Study	1983 Study	All OPCS 1983	1984 Study	1983 Study
	%	%	%	%	%	%		
Under 20	99.2	99.3	98.6	0.8	0.7	1.3	359	295
20-24	95.5	94.6	93.0	4.5	5.4	5.6	961	850
25-29	80.6	82.9	78.4	19.4	17.1	20.0	546	449
30-34	46.3	34.9	44.5	53.7	65.1	53.9	311	418
35-44	19.5		20.6	80.5		62.5	287	

**TABLE 4**

**Termination Study - Irish women by county of residence**

	Terminations 1984 study		Terminations 1983 study		Women 15-29 1981 census
	Number	%	Number	%	%
Dublin	1,392	55.6	1,188	58.5	34.6
Cork	194	7.8	124	6.1	11.3
Limerick	102	4.1	84	4.1	4.7
Galway	92	3.7	58	2.9	4.8
Kildare	50	2.0	50	2.5	3.0
Waterford	50	2.0	46	2.3	2.5
Tipperary	58	2.3	46	2.3	3.5
Meath	40	1.6	35	1.7	2.6
Wicklow	51	2.0	34	1.7	2.4
Louth	35	1.4	34	1.7	2.6
Donegal	35	1.4	32	1.6	3.1
Wexford	44	1.8	31	1.5	2.6
Clare	35	1.4	28	1.4	2.1
Kerry	39	1.6	27	1.3	3.1
Mayo	27	1.1	24	1.2	2.8
Sligo	25	1.0	21	1.0	1.5
Westmeath	35	1.4	19	0.9	1.7
Cavan	22	0.9	18	0.9	1.3
Offaly	14	0.6	17	0.8	1.5
Carlow	16	0.6	13	0.6	1.1
Leitrim	8	0.6	13	0.6	0.6
Longford	13	0.5	13	0.6	0.8
Monaghan	17	0.7	13	0.6	1.3
Kilkenny	29	1.2	11	0.5	1.9
Laois	21	0.8	11	0.5	1.3
Roscommon	10	0.4	6	0.3	1.2
Unknown/ Unspecified	48	1.9	36	1.8	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,502</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,032</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

TABLE 5

TERMINATION RATES 1983 - REPUBLIC OF IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND

<u>Age group.</u>	<u>Republic</u>			<u>Northern Ireland</u>		
	<u>Population</u> 1981	<u>Abortions</u> 1983	<u>Rate/</u> 1,000	<u>Population</u> 1981	<u>Abortions</u> 1983	<u>Rate/</u> 1,000
15-19	159,752	559	3.5	68,806	415	6.0
20-34	371,027	2,680	7.2	154,214	896	5.8
35-50	249,216	435	1.7	124,107	147	1.2

Below aged 20 termination rate higher in Northern Ireland

Above aged 20 termination rate higher in the Republic



TABLE 6

Expected number of terminations if Republic of Ireland  
had Northern Ireland rates

<u>Age group</u>	<u>1981</u> N. Ireland female population	<u>1983</u> N. Ireland abortions	<u>1981</u> Republic female population	<u>Expected number</u> abortions at N. Ireland rate
15-19	68,806	415	159,752	963.5
20-34	154,214	896	371,027	2155.6
35-50	124,107	147	249,216	295.2
				<hr/> 3414.3

Abortions 1983 Republic. Actual 3,677  
" " " " " "  
Republic " expected at N. Ireland rates 3,414  
Difference ... 263

If we had N. Ireland rates we would have had 263 fewer abortions in 1983

TABLE 7

Calculated rates of terminations of pregnancy 1984 - Dublin residents (Dublin County Borough) and Dun Laoghaire Borough. Single and Ever-married

Age group	1981 census population	1984 study		100% terminations calculated		Terminations		% of women in 1984
		62.5% terminations First	All	First	All	First	All	
<u>SINGLE</u>								
15-19	33,810	143	159	229	254	1/147.6	1/133.1	0.8
20-24	27,230	401	472	642	755	1/42.4	1/36.1	2.8
25-29	10,945	192	242	307	387	1/35.7	1/28.3	3.5
30-34	4,977	64	85	102	136	1/48.8	1/36.6	2.7
35-39	2,885	24	27	38	43	1/75.9	1/67.1	1.5
40-44	2,679	5	5	8	8	1/334.9	1/334.9	0.3
<u>Total</u>	82,526	829	990	1,326	1,583	1/62.2	1/52.1	1.9
<u>EVER-MARRIED</u>								
15-19	650	1	1	2	2	1/325.0	1/325.0	0.3
20-24	6,897	15	19	24	30	1/287.4	1/229.9	0.4
25-29	10,383	49	55	78	88	1/133.1	1/118.0	0.8
30-34	11,818	69	84	110	134	1/107.4	1/88.2	1.1
35-39	11,718	56	62	90	99	1/130.2	1/118.4	0.8
40-44	12,185	24	27	38	43	1/320.7	1/283.4	0.4
<u>Total</u>	53,651	214	248	342	396	1/156.9	1/135.5	0.7
<u>TOTAL</u>								
15-19	34,460	144	160	231	256	1/367.2	1/329.9	0.3
20-24	34,127	416	491	666	785	1/51.2	1/43.4	2.3
25-29	21,328	241	297	385	475	1/55.3	1/44.9	2.2
30-34	16,795	133	169	212	270	1/78.8	1/62.2	1.6
35-39	14,603	80	89	128	142	1/114.1	1/102.8	1.0
40-44	14,864	29	32	46	51	1/323.1	1/291.4	0.3
<u>Total</u>	136,177	1,043	1,238	1,668	1,979	1/81.6	1/68.8	1.5

Excluded: Under 15 (N= 1), marital status unstated N= 20).

See footnote Table 9.

TABLE 7a. Calculated rates of terminations of pregnancy 1983  
 Dublin residents (Dublin County Borough and Dun Laoghaire Borough)  
Single and Ever-married

Age group.	1981 Census Population	1983 study		100% terminations calculated		Terminations		% of all in 1983
		55% terminations First	All	First	All	First	All.	
<u>SINGLE</u>								
15-19	33,810	157	167	285	304	1/118.6	1/111.2	0.9
20-24	27,230	391	427	710	776	1/38.4	1/35.1	2.8
25-29	10,945	186	208	338	378	1/32.4	1/29.0	3.4
30-34	4,977	56	65	102	118	1/48.8	1/42.2	2.4
35-39	2,885	13	20	24	36	1/120.2	1/80.1	1.2
<u>EVER MARRIED</u>								
15-19	650	2	2	4	4	1/162.5	1/162.5	0.6
20-24	6,897	22	23	40	42	1/172.4	1/164.2	0.6
25-29	10,383	40	44	73	80	1/142.2	1/129.8	0.8
30-34	11,818	49	56	89	102	1/132.8	1/115.9	0.9
35-39	11,718	48	52	87	95	1/134.7	1/123.3	0.8
<u>TOTAL</u>								
15-19	34,460	159	169	289	308	1/119.2	1/111.9	0.9
20-24	34,127	413	450	750	818	1/45.5	1/41.7	2.4
25-29	21,328	226	252	411	458	1/51.9	1/46.6	2.1
30-34	16,795	105	121	191	220	1/87.9	1/76.3	1.3
35-39	14,603	61	72	111	131	1/131.5	1/111.5	0.9
<u>Total</u>	121,313	964	1,064	1,752	1,935	1/69.2	1/62.7	1.6

Under 15 and over 40 and county unstated excluded.

TABLE 8

Calculated rates of terminations of pregnancy 1984 - All of County Dublin. Single and Ever-married

Age group	1981 census population	1984 study		100% terminations calculated		Terminations		% of women in 1984
		62.5% First	All	First	All	First	All	
<u>SINGLE</u>								
15-19	52,065	161	178	258	285	1/201.8	1/182.7	0.5
20-24	36,935	441	517	706	827	1/52.3	1/44.7	2.2
25-29	14,432	210	266	336	426	1/43.0	1/33.9	2.9
30-34	6,699	68	90	109	144	1/61.5	1/46.5	2.2
35-39	4,017	24	27	38	43	1/105.7	1/93.4	1.1
40-44	3,666	5	6	8	10	1/458.3	1/366.6	0.3
<u>Total</u>	117,814	909	1,084	1,455	1,735	1/81.0	1/67.9	1.5
<u>EVER-MARRIED</u>								
15-19	975	1	1	2	2	1/487.5	1/487.5	0.2
20-24	13,239	17	21	27	34	1/490.3	1/389.4	0.3
25-29	26,679	52	60	83	96	1/321.4	1/277.9	0.4
30-34	29,317	78	96	125	154	1/234.5	1/190.4	0.5
35-39	25,637	67	74	107	118	1/239.6	1/217.7	0.5
40-44	22,536	31	34	50	54	1/450.7	1/417.3	0.2
<u>Total</u>	118,383	246	286	394	458	1/300.5	1/258.5	0.4
<u>TOTAL</u>								
15-19	53,040	162	179	259	286	1/204.8	1/185.5	0.5
20-24	50,174	458	538	733	861	1/68.5	1/58.3	1.7
25-29	41,111	262	326	419	522	1/98.1	1/78.8	1.3
30-34	36,016	146	186	234	298	1/153.9	1/120.9	0.8
35-39	29,654	91	101	146	162	1/203.1	1/183.0	0.5
40-44	26,202	36	40	58	64	1/451.8	1/409.4	0.2
<u>Total</u>	236,197	1,155	1,370	1,849	2,193	1/127.7	1/107.7	0.9

Excluded: Under 15 (N=2), marital status unstated (N=20)

See footnote Table 9.

TABLE 8a

## Calculated rates of terminations of pregnancy 1983

All of County Dublin  
Single and Ever-Married

Age group.	1981 Census Population	1983 study		100% terminations calculated		Terminations		% of all in 1983
		55% terminations First	All	First	All	First	All.	
<u>SINGLE</u>								
15-19	52,065	165	175	300	318	1/173.6	1/163.7	0.6
20-24	36,935	427	463	776	842	1/47.6	1/43.9	2.3
25-29	14,432	198	227	360	413	1/40.1	1/34.9	2.9
30-34	6,699	58	67	105	122	1/63.8	1/54.9	1.8
35-39	4,017	14	22	25	40	1/160.6	1/100.4	1.0
<u>EVER MARRIED</u>								
15-19	975	2	2	4	4	1/243.8	1/243.8	0.4
20-24	13,239	24	25	44	45	1/300.9	1/294.2	0.3
25-29	26,679	42	47	76	85	1/351.0	1/313.9	0.3
30-34	29,317	58	66	105	120	1/279.2	1/244.3	0.4
35-39	25,637	51	56	93	102	1/275.7	1/251.3	0.4
<u>TOTAL</u>								
15-19	53,040	167	177	304	322	1/174.5	1/164.7	0.6
20-24	50,174	451	488	820	887	1/61.2	1/56.6	1.8
25-29	41,111	240	274	436	498	1/94.3	1/82.6	1.2
30-34	36,016	116	133	210	242	1/171.5	1/148.8	0.7
35-39	29,654	65	78	118	142	1/251.3	1/208.8	0.5
<u>Total</u>	209,995	1,039	1,150	1,888	2,091	1/111.2	1/100.4	0.9

Under 15 and over 40 and county unstated excluded

TABLE 9

Calculated rates of terminations of pregnancy 1984 - Remaining 25 counties of Republic of Ireland  
Single and Ever-married

Age group	1981 census population	1984 study		100% terminations calculated		Terminations		% of women in 1984
		62.5% terminations First	All	First	All	First	All	
<u>SINGLE</u>								
15-19	103,968	132	164	211	262	1/492.7	1/396.8	0.3
20-24	54,893	307	388	491	621	1/111.8	1/88.4	1.1
25-29	20,573	127	168	203	269	1/101.3	1/76.5	1.3
30-34	9,908	27	48	43	77	1/230.4	1/128.7	0.8
35-39	6,525	13	20	21	32	1/310.7	1/203.9	0.5
40-44	5,822	0	1	0	2	0	1/2911	0.0
<u>Total</u>	201,689	606	789	969	1,263	1/208.1	1/159.7	0.6
<u>EVER-MARRIED</u>								
15-19	2,744	2	2	3	3	1/914.7	1/914.7	0.1
20-24	30,614	16	20	26	32	1/1177.5	1/956.7	0.1
25-29	59,991	32	42	51	67	1/1176.3	1/895.4	0.1
30-34	67,747	59	68	94	109	1/720.7	1/621.5	0.2
35-39	58,364	67	83	107	133	1/545.5	1/438.8	0.2
40-44	48,580	34	38	54	61	1/899.6	1/796.4	0.1
<u>Total</u>	268,040	210	253	335	405	1/800.1	1/661.8	0.2
<u>TOTAL</u>								
15-19	106,712	134	166	214	266	1/498.7	1/401.2	2.5
20-24	85,507	323	408	517	653	1/165.4	1/130.9	0.8
25-29	80,564	159	210	254	336	1/317.2	1/239.8	0.4
30-34	77,655	86	116	137	186	1/566.8	1/417.5	0.2
35-39	64,889	80	103	128	165	1/506.9	1/393.3	0.3
40-44	54,402	34	39	54	62	1/1007.4	1/877.5	0.1
<u>Total</u>	469,729	816	1,042	1,304	1,668	1/360.2	1/281.6	0.4

Excluded: Under 15 (N = 3), marital status unstated (N = 17)

Footnote: All County Dublin = 1,392, Remaining 25 counties = 1,062, County unstated = 48.

Total returned forms = 2,502

TABLE 9a

Calculated rates of terminations of pregnancy 1983  
 Remaining 25 counties of Republic of Ireland  
Single and Ever-Married

Age group.	1981 Census Population	1983 study		100% terminations calculated		Terminations		% of in 1983
		55% First	terminations All	First	All	First	All.	
<u>SINGLE</u>								
15-19	103,968	109	113	198	205	1/525	1/507.2	0.2
20-24	54,893	303	326	551	593	1/99.6	1/92.6	1.1
25-29	20,573	126	142	229	258	1/89.8	1/79.7	1.3
30-34	9,908	28	33	51	60	1/194.3	1/165.1	0.6
35-39	6,525	8	11	15	20	1/435	1/326.3	0.3
<u>EVER MARRIED</u>								
15-19	2,744	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-24	30,614	19	20	34	36	1/900.4	1/850.4	0.1
25-29	59,991	25	28	45	51	1/2333.1	1/1176.3	0.1
30-34	67,747	40	46	73	84	1/928.0	1/806.5	0.1
35-39	58,364	43	45	78	82	1/748.3	1/711.8	0.1
<u>TOTAL</u>								
15-19	106,712	109	113	198	205	1/538.9	1/520.5	0.2
20-24	85,507	322	346	585	629	1/146.2	1/135.9	0.7
25-29	80,564	151	170	274	309	1/294.0	1/260.7	0.4
30-34	77,655	68	79	124	144	1/626.3	1/539.3	0.2
35-39	64,889	51	56	93	102	1/697.7	1/636.2	0.2
<u>Total</u>	415,327	701	764	1,274	1,389	1/326	1/299	0.3

Under 15 and over 40 and county unstated excluded.

Table 10 - Terminations of Pregnancy

Comparison of rates per 1,000 women between residents of the Republic of Ireland (1984) and residents of England and Wales (1982).

Age Group	England and Wales 1982	Republic of Ireland 1984	Dublin (County Borough and Dun Laoghaire Borough)	All County Dublin	Remaining 25 Counties
<u>SINGLE</u>					
15-19	15.8	3.5	7.5	5.5	2.5
20-24	23.1	15.8	27.7	22.4	11.3
25-29	22.6	19.9	35.3	29.5	13.1
30-34	16.4	13.3	27.3	21.5	7.8
35-39	9.4	7.1	14.9	10.7	4.9
40-44	-	1.3	3.0	2.7	0.3
<u>EVER MARRIED</u>					
15-19	10.3	1.3	3.1	2.1	1.1
20-24	11.8	1.5	4.3	2.6	1.0
25-29	10.5	1.9	8.5	3.6	1.1
30-34	9.4	2.7	11.3	5.3	1.6
35-39	7.6	3.0	8.4	4.6	2.3
40-44	-	1.6	3.5	2.4	1.3
<u>TOTAL</u>					
15-19	15.5	3.5	7.4	5.4	2.5
20-24	18.3	11.2	23.0	17.2	7.6
25-29	13.2	7.1	22.3	12.7	4.2
30-34	10.1	4.3	16.1	8.3	2.4
35-39	7.7	3.5	9.7	5.5	2.5
40-44	-	1.6	3.4	2.4	1.1

Under 15 excluded (N = 5).  
Unknown/Unstated excluded (N = 85).



TABLE 10a

Terminations of Pregnancy

Comparison of rates per 1,000 women between residents of the Republic of Ireland (1983)  
and residents of England and Wales (1982)

Age Group	England and Wales 1982	Republic of Ireland 1983	Dublin (County Borough and Dun Laoghaire Borough)	All County Dublin	Remaining 25 Counties
<u>SINGLE</u>					
15-19	15.8	3.4	9.0	6.1	2.0
20-24	23.1	15.6	28.5	22.8	10.8
25-29	22.6	19.2	34.5	28.7	12.6
30-34	16.4	11.0	23.7	18.2	6.1
35-39	9.4	5.7	12.9	10.0	3.1
<u>EVER MARRIED</u>					
15-19	10.3	1.1	6.2	4.1	-
20-24	11.8	1.9	6.1	3.4	1.2
25-29	10.5	1.6	7.7	3.2	0.9
30-34	9.4	2.1	8.6	4.1	1.2
35-39	7.6	2.2	8.1	4.0	1.4
<u>TOTAL</u>					
15-19	15.5	3.3	8.9	6.1	1.9
20-24	18.5	11.2	24.0	17.7	7.4
25-29	13.2	6.6	21.5	12.1	3.8
30-34	10.1	3.4	13.1	6.7	1.9
35-39	7.7	2.6	8.9	4.8	1.6

TABLE 11

A comparison of termination rates in Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Borough (1984)  
and five cities in England (1982)

		Rates/1000 women				
1984 Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Borough		1982				
		Liverpool	Birmingham	Bristol	Leicester	Norwich
under 16		2.8	6.1	4.7	6.5	7.8
16-19	7.4 *	21.7	26.6	19.9	21.3	21.0
20-24	23.0	21.6	25.4	17.7	20.4	20.3
25-34	19.2	14.2	15.6	10.4	13.5	12.7
35-44	6.6	5.7	6.9	4.7	5.1	9.2
45+	-	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.3	1.3

\* Age group 15-19

TABLE 12

## Republic of Ireland - 1984

Pregnancy in single women - County Dublin v. remaining 25 counties  
 The proportion who have the baby and who have a termination

Age	Have termination	Have <sup>(1)</sup> the baby	Total	% having abortion
<u>15-19</u>				
Dublin	285	729	1,014	28.1
25 counties	262	1,018	1,280	20.5
Irish Republic	547	1,747	2,294	24.0
<u>20-24</u>				
Dublin	827	951	1,778	46.5
25 counties	621	1,088	1,709	36.3
Irish Republic	1,448	2,039	3,487	41.5
<u>25-29</u>				
Dublin	426	347	773	55.1
25 counties	269	315	584	46.1
Irish Republic	695	662	1,357	51.2
<u>30-34</u>				
Dublin	144	179	323	44.6
25 counties	77	148	225	34.2
Irish Republic	221	327	548	40.3
<u>35-39</u>				
Dublin	43	76	119	36.1
25 counties	32	50	82	39.0
Irish Republic	75	126	201	37.3
<u>40-44</u>				
Dublin	10	11	21	47.6
25 counties	2	8	10	20.0
Irish Republic	12	19	31	38.7
<u>&gt;45</u>				
Dublin		1		
25 counties		3		
Irish Republic		4		
<u>All Ages</u>				
Dublin county.	1,735	2,298*	4,033	43.0
25 counties	1,263	2,732	3,995	31.6
Irish Republic	2,998	5,030	8,028	37.3

\*Includes 106 'age unspecified' and excludes 2 under 15 years.

(1). Central Statistics Office, Dublin and Dr. B. O'Donnell, Dublin.

TABLE 13

## SOCIAL CLASS

Abortion rates per 1,000 population (female). All Republic - 1981 census  
Based on 2,502 completed questionnaires

Age group	I II Professional/ Managerial		III Other Non-manual		IV Skilled manual		V VI Semi- and Unskilled manual		Total	
	Pop. 1981 census	Abortion rate/ 1,000	Pop. 1981 census	Abortion rate/ 1,000	Pop. 1981 census	Abortion rate/ 1,000	Pop. 1981 census	Abortion rate/ 1,000	Pop. 1981 census	Abortion rate/ 1,000
15-19	30,376	1.2	38,403	2.6	26,584	1.0	47,236	1.6	142,599	1.7
20-24	25,275	8.8	46,552	8.2	15,146	3.0	39,191	4.2	126,164	6.4
25-29	31,782	4.6	31,556	7.0	23,284	1.0	28,966	2.8	115,588	4.1
30-34	86,306	1.7	55,138	2.9	63,881	1.2	64,804	1.3	270,189	1.7
Total	173,739	3.2	171,649	5.0	128,895	1.4	180,197	2.3	654,540	3.0

Census Social Class unspecified excluded (N= 51,386)  
Abortions unspecified excluded (N= 504).

TABLE 13a

## SOCIAL CLASS

Abortion rates per 1,000 population (female). All of County Dublin - 1981 census

Age group	I II Professional/ Managerial		III Other Non-manual		IV Skilled manual		V VI Semi- and Unskilled manual		Total	
	Pop. 1981 census	Abortion rate/ 1,000	Pop. 1981 census	Abortion rate/ 1,000	Pop. 1981 census	Abortion rate/ 1,000	Pop. 1981 census	Abortion rate/ 1,000	Pop. 1981 census	Abortion rate/ 1,000
15-19	11,656	1.4	15,353	3.1	7,238	1.8	13,724	2.6	47,971	2.3
20-24	10,337	13.9	20,156	10.9	3,995	6.0	11,596	6.0	46,084	9.9
25-29	11,398	7.9	12,495	10.8	6,425	2.5	8,333	4.0	38,651	7.1
30-44	29,385	2.7	18,782	4.7	18,675	2.2	18,722	2.4	85,564	2.9
Total	62,776	5.2	66,786	7.4	36,333	2.6	52,375	3.4	218,270	5.0

Census Social Class unspecified excluded (N = 17,927).

Abortions unspecified excluded (N= 300)

TABLE 13b  
SOCIAL CLASS

Abortion rates per 1,000 population (female). Remaining 25 counties - 1981 census

Age group	I II Professional/ Managerial		III Other Non-manual		IV Skilled manual		V VI Semi- and Unskilled manual		Total	
	Pop. 1981 census	Abortion rate / 1,000	Pop. 1981 census	Abortion rate/ 1,000	Pop. 1981 census	Abortion rate/ 1,000	Pop. 1981 census	Abortion rate / 1,000	Pop. 1981 census	Abortion rate/ 1,000
15-19	18,720	1.2	23,050	2.3	19,346	0.8	33,512	1.2	94,628	1.4
20-24	14,938	5.2	26,396	6.1	11,151	2.0	27,595	3.4	80,080	4.4
25-29	20,384	2.8	19,061	4.5	16,859	0.5	20,633	2.4	76,937	2.6
30-44	56,921	1.2	36,356	2.0	45,206	0.8	46,142	0.9	184,625	1.2
Total	110,963	2.0	104,863	3.5	92,562	0.9	127,882	1.8	436,270	2.1

Census Social Class unspecified excluded (N = 33,459)  
Abortions unspecified excluded (N = 204)

TABLE 14  
SOCIAL CLASS  
Population - All Republic - 1981 census

	I II Professional/ Managerial		III Other Non-manual		IV Skilled manual		V VI Semi- and unskilled manual		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Single	220,323	27.0	192,989	23.7	178,983	22.0	222,424	27.3	814,719
Ever married	177,247	26.3	133,044	19.8	161,110	23.9	201,915	30.0	673,316
Total	397,570	26.7	326,033	21.9	340,093	22.9	424,339	28.5	1,488,035

Social Class unspecified excluded (N= 226,015)

NB. These figures include All age groups, i.e. 0-85+





TABLE 15

Age-group and use of contraception prior to current pregnancy.

	<u>1984</u>			<u>1983</u>		
	Stated No Contraception used	Stated Contraception used	N	Stated No Contraception used	Stated Contraception used	N
	%	%		%	%	
19 & under	83.4	16.6	344	85.2	14.8	290
20 - 24	79.3	20.7	938	74.7	25.3	830
25 - 29	72.1	27.9	530	68.3	31.7	439
30 & over	63.7	36.3	570	62.2	37.8	413
Total Number	1,776	606	2,382*	1,424	548	1,972**

\*Unknown/Unspecified cases excluded (N = 120).

\*\*Unspecified/Unknown cases excluded (N = 60).

TABLE 16  
CONTRACEPTIVE USED PRIOR TO CURRENT PREGNANCY

	Sheath %	Pill %	Safe Period %	Other %	N
19 and under	44.4	31.5	11.1	13.0	54
20-24	43.5	31.4	10.5	14.7	191
25-29	40.1	24.7	12.7	22.5	142
30+	40.1	19.8	21.3	18.8	197
Total No.	243	151	86	104	584

No method excluded (N = 24)

Non-users and unknown/unspecified cases excluded (N=1,894)

TABLE 17

Age-group and general experience of using contraceptive methods.1984

	No Method	Pill	Sheath	Safe Period	Withdrawal	Cap	Coil	Chemical	Other	N
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
19 & under	42.1	15.3	13.1	6.7	5.8	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.6	359
20 - 24	28.4	29.0	18.2	8.6	4.7	2.8	0.7	0.7	1.0	965
25 - 29	22.2	40.8	21.7	8.4	6.6	4.2	2.5	1.5	0.7	549
30 +	13.5	38.4	26.4	16.8	8.8	6.5	8.5	1.2	2.2	602
Total Number	628	790	501	254	155	91	73	23	29	2,475

Unknown/Unspecified cases excluded (N = 27).

TABLE 17a

AGE-GROUP AND GENERAL EXPERIENCE OF USING CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS 1983

<u>Age</u>	<u>No Method used</u>	<u>Pill</u>	<u>Sheath</u>	<u>Safe Period</u>	<u>Withdrawal</u>	<u>More than one method</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>N</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
19 & under	50.8	11.5	12.7	5.7	5.7	13.5	100	244
20 - 24	36.9	18.6	12.9	7.2	4.9	19.5	100	735
25 - 29	26.1	29.9	7.1	8.1	3.3	25.4	100	394
30 & over	18.5	18.5	9.2	8.2	3.0	42.7	100	368
<b>Total (N)</b>	<u>566</u>	<u>351</u>	<u>188</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>433</u>		<u>1,741*</u>

\* Unspecified/unknown cases excluded (N=291).

TABLE 18

Previous terminations and use of contraception prior to current pregnancy.

	1984			1983		
	No Contraception used	Contraception used	N	No Contraception used	Contraception used	N
	%	%		%	%	
No previous terminations	75.5	24.5	1,971	75.8	24.2	1,460
One or more previous terminations	62.7	37.3	236	63.8	36.2	185
Total Number	1,637	570	2,207*	1,224	421	1,645**

\*Unknown/Unspecified cases excluded (N = 295).

\*\*Unknown/Unspecified cases excluded (N = 387).

TABLE 19

Marital status and use of contraception prior to current pregnancy.

	1984			1983		
	No Contraception used	Contraception used	N	No Contraception used	Contraception used	N
	%	%		%	%	
Single	78.7	21.3	1,866	75.2	24.8	1,587
Ever married	60.5	39.5	531	60.3	39.7	390
Total Number	1,789	608	2,397*	1,429	548	1,977**

\*Unknown/Unspecified cases excluded (N = 105).

\*\*Unknown/Unspecified cases excluded (N = 55).

TABLE 20

Marital status and general experience of using contraception 1984

	No Method	Pill	Sheath	Safe Period	Withdrawal	Cap	Coil	Chemical	Other	N
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Single	30.5	29.1	17.9	8.3	5.4	2.5	0.8	0.8	0.8	1,930
Ever married	7.7	42.0	27.7	17.3	9.1	7.3	10.2	1.4	2.5	559
Total Number	632	797	501	258	155	90	73	23	29	2,489

TABLE 20A

Marital status and general experience of using contraception 1983

	<u>No</u> <u>Method</u>	<u>Pill</u>	<u>Sheath</u>	<u>Safe</u> <u>Period</u>	<u>Withdrawal</u>	<u>More than</u> <u>one method</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>N</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Single	36.7	19.9	11.5	6.9	4.9	20.2	100	1379
Ever Married	15.7	21.3	8.3	9.4	2.2	43.1	100	362
Total	<u>563</u>	<u>351</u>	<u>189</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>434</u>		<u>1741*</u>

Unspecified/Unknown cases excluded. (N=291)



TABLE 21

Social class and general experience of using contraception. 1984

	No Method	Pill	Sheath	Safe Period	Withdrawal	Cap	Coil	Chemical	Other	N.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Professional/ Managerial	19.6	36.0	26.1	14.2	6.9	8.1	3.1	1.3	1.8	556
Other Non-manual	29.1	30.5	19.3	9.0	6.9	2.2	1.5	0.9	0.7	874
Skilled Manual	21.3	34.8	26.4	10.7	6.2	2.3	4.5	0.6	1.1	178
Semi and unskilled Manual	32.4	31.4	15.6	6.8	4.4	2.9	2.2	0.5	1.2	411
Total Number	534	658	425	205	127	80	47	18	23	2,019*

\*Unknown/Unspecified cases excluded (N = 483).

TABLE 21a

Social class and general experience of using contraception 1983

	No method	Pill	Sheath	Safe period	With- drawal	Other (incl. combinations	N
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Professional/ Managerial	25.5	18.1	10.4	9.5	3.5	33.1	432
Other Non-manual	31.0	20.2	12.0	8.7	5.1	23.1	633
Skilled Manual	34.3	16.8	10.2	3.6	2.2	32.8	137
Semi- and unskilled Manual	38.4	22.2	10.5	6.0	5.7	17.1	333
Total (N)	481	303	170	121	69	391	1,535*

\* Unspecified/unknown cases excluded (N = 497).

TABLE 22

Previous experience of contraception and previous terminations

	1984			1983		
	No previous terminations	One or more previous terminations	No.	No previous terminations	One or more previous terminations	N
	%	%		%	%	
No experience of contraception	95.6	4.4	546	93.4	6.6	469
Previous experience of contraception	87.5	12.5	1,747	86.6	13.4	966
Total Number	2,050	243	2,293*	1,275	160	1,435**

\*Unknown/Unspecified cases excluded (N = 209).

\*\*Unknown/Unspecified cases excluded (N = 597).

TABLE 23

Social class and use of contraception prior to current pregnancy

	1984			1983		
	No Contraception Used	Contraception Used	No.	No Contraception Used	Contraception Used	N
	%	%		%	%	
Professional and Managerial	66.1	33.9	537	64.7	35.3	470
Other Non-manual	77.6	22.4	840	74.5	25.5	736
Skilled Manual	71.9	28.1	171	71.2	28.8	146
Semi and Unskilled Manual	81.0	19.0	394	77.5	22.5	386
Total Number	1,449	493	1,942*	1,255	483	1,738**

\*Unknown/Unspecified cases excluded (N = 560).

\*\*Unknown/Unspecified cases excluded (N = 294).

Table 24

County of residence and number of weeks pregnant at termination 1984

	3-6 weeks %	7-12 weeks %	13-18 weeks %	19-22 weeks %	22+ weeks %	N
Dublin County	5.4	82.3	10.9	0.8	0.0	1,358
Other counties	6.3	74.0	16.7	2.6	0.4	1,040
Total No.	139	1,888	327	40	4	2,398

Unspecified/unknown cases excluded (N =104)

TERMINATION INFORMATION. MEDICO-SOCIAL RESEARCH BOARD, DUBLIN.

Strictly Confidential

Tick box or write answer as appropriate

Patient No. 4-9

Within county

Referred by agency   
 Came direct.

City or  <sup>16</sup>  
 Town/village/rural  <sup>17</sup>

Age:  
 Under 15  30-34   
 15-19  35-39   
 20-24  40 & over   
 25-29  Not known  <sup>16</sup>

If city residence  
 Dublin/Dun Laoghaire  <sup>18</sup>  
 Cork  <sup>19</sup>  
 Limerick  <sup>20</sup>  
 Galway  <sup>21</sup>  
 Waterford  <sup>22</sup>

Marital status  
 Single  Divorced/  
 Married  Separated   
 Widowed  Co-habiting   
 Not known  <sup>11</sup>

Gestation weeks   <sup>23 24</sup>  
 (At time of interview)

Occupation

Contraceptive data  
 Contraceptive used immediately prior  
 to this pregnancy.  <sup>25</sup>  
 Yes  No

(Please give maximum detail.)

Patient's usual occupation  
 \_\_\_\_\_  <sup>12</sup>  
 \_\_\_\_\_

If yes. Type \_\_\_\_\_  <sup>26</sup>

Reason for failure \_\_\_\_\_  <sup>27</sup>

Husband's or patient's father's  
 usual occupation.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  <sup>13</sup>  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Experience of contraceptives  
 Safe period  <sup>28</sup> Sheath  <sup>29</sup>  
 Coil  <sup>30</sup> Chemical  <sup>31</sup>  
 Cap  <sup>32</sup> Other method  <sup>32</sup>  
 Withdrawal  <sup>33</sup> No method  <sup>34</sup>  
 Pill  <sup>35</sup>

Usual place of residence  
 County in Republic of Ireland.  
 \_\_\_\_\_   <sup>14 15</sup>

Number of previous terminations. \_\_\_\_\_  <sup>36</sup>  
 Completed by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

Boxes 10,11,12,13,14,15,23,24,25,  
 26,27,37 for office use.