

Uptake of Medical Abortion Training since approval of Mifepristone in Canada



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Mifepristone in Canada

- Mifepristone was approved in 2015
 - 62nd country globally to approve the medicine
- Combination Product
 - Mifepristone 200mg + Misoprostol 800mcg
- In 2012, a National survey of abortion providers identified 62 medical abortion providers, with 3.8% of all abortions being first-trimester medical ¹
 - Methotrexate/Misoprostol

Regulatory Restrictions

Health Canada introduced a Safe-Prescribers Agreement upon approval of mifepristone-misoprostol²

- 1) Physician Training
- 2) Pharmacist Training
- 3) Registration with Distributor
- 4) 24/7 Toll-Free (Freephone) Help Line
- 5) Witnessed Administration

Advocacy in Action

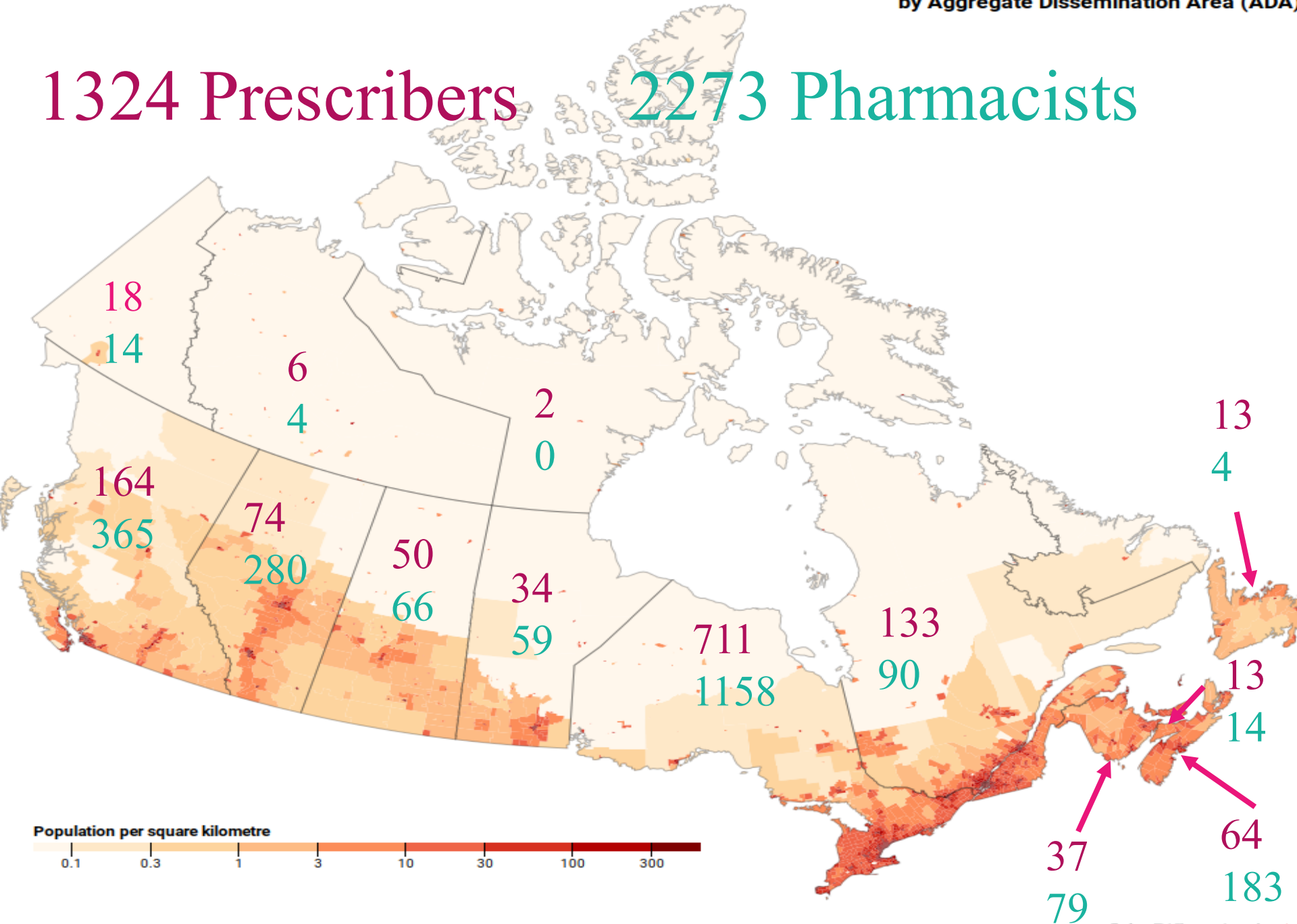
- Clinical Practice Guideline
 - Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada
- Online-Based Training Program
 - 6 Credit Hours
 - Accredited by OBGYN/Family Medicine/Pharmacy Associations
 - Approved by Regulator to meet training requirements
- Community of Practice
- Mifepristone is now funded for approximately 2/3 of Canadians³

Clinical Question and Methods

- Since approval of mifepristone, and introduction of Medical Abortion Training Programme, how many healthcare providers have been trained and where are they located?
- Descriptive Analysis of training from January 2016 to August 2018

1324 Prescribers

2273 Pharmacists



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population.

Results

- There are physicians and prescribers trained in every province and territory
 - Including PEI, where there has historically been no abortion clinic
 - Northern Territories are served by one clinic
- Compared to 2012, the number of trained medical providers has increased 2207% with the approval of mifepristone
- Medical abortion is available in areas where surgical facilities did not exist, though the number of providers largely follows population demographics

Discussion

- In 2017 there were 2099 OB/GYNs in Canada
 - 11.7% of OB GYNs have completed MA training
- In 2017 there are about 35 000 practicing family physicians
 - 1.9%
 - Family physicians with targeted practices (e.g. psychotherapy, emergency medicine) not excluded

Discussion

- Training is no longer mandatory as of 2018, therefore this may not represent all those who are trained
 - However it is the only MA training program available
- Training does not equal provision
 - We are unable to get prescribing information to know how many unique prescribers there are
- Midwives (N=47) were not considered providers, however pilots exist to engage midwives in providing MA

Thank You



@McMasterOBGYN
@BirthControlDoc



References

- 1) Guilbert ER, Hayden AS, Jones HE, et al. First-trimester medical abortion practices in Canada: National survey. *Can Fam Physician*. 2016 Apr;62(4):e201-e208
- 2) Costescu D, Guilbert E, Bernardin J et al. Medical Abortion. *J Obstet Gynecol Can* 2016 Apr; 38(4):366-89.
- 3) Canadian Pharmacists Association. Mifegymiso Access and Coverage in Canada. https://www.caps-cpca.ubc.ca/AnnokiUploadAuth.php/7/73/Canadian_CPhA_Mifegymiso_access_coverage_advocacy_KT_110817.pdf