

Ready-to-use file on family planning centres (*consultori familiari*) and objecting medical doctors in Italy 1978-2017

Starting from 1978, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health have the duty to compile every year a report on the implementation of the law for the protection of maternity and for the voluntary termination of pregnancy (Law n. 194, paragraph 6, May 22nd) to the Parliament. Originally, this report (*Relazione del Ministro della salute sulla attuazione della legge contenente norme per la tutela sociale della maternità e per l'interruzione volontaria di gravidanza - Legge 194/78*).

Until 1996 included, these reports contain information at the regional level on the number of abortions and the characteristics of the women who asked for it and the medical technicalities of the procedures, information on the number of centers for family planning and health available, and the number of medical doctors who refuse to perform abortions due to moral concerns. The reports include also information on how many legal actions have been pursued against violators of the Law n.194. This is also the reason why until then the report was compiled by both the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health – and only by the latter from then on.

The reports were retrieved from the website <https://storia.camera.it/> and <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/home.html>. Information on objecting doctors and on the family planning centres are missing for the years 1978, 1979 and 1980. For the year 1981 only data for the family planning centres was available. Furthermore, there was no data for the year 1996.

The reports collected information on the regional level “family_centers_objectors_1978_2017_overview.xlsx”. The regions were additionally organized into the macro-areas (North West, North East, Centre, South and Islands) according to the NUTS-1 level. The number of public family planning centres per 10.000 women highlighted in yellow were calculated from the total number of family planning centres given by the annually reports and the number of women aged 15 to 49 given by the Italian Statistical Institute (<http://dati.istat.it/>).

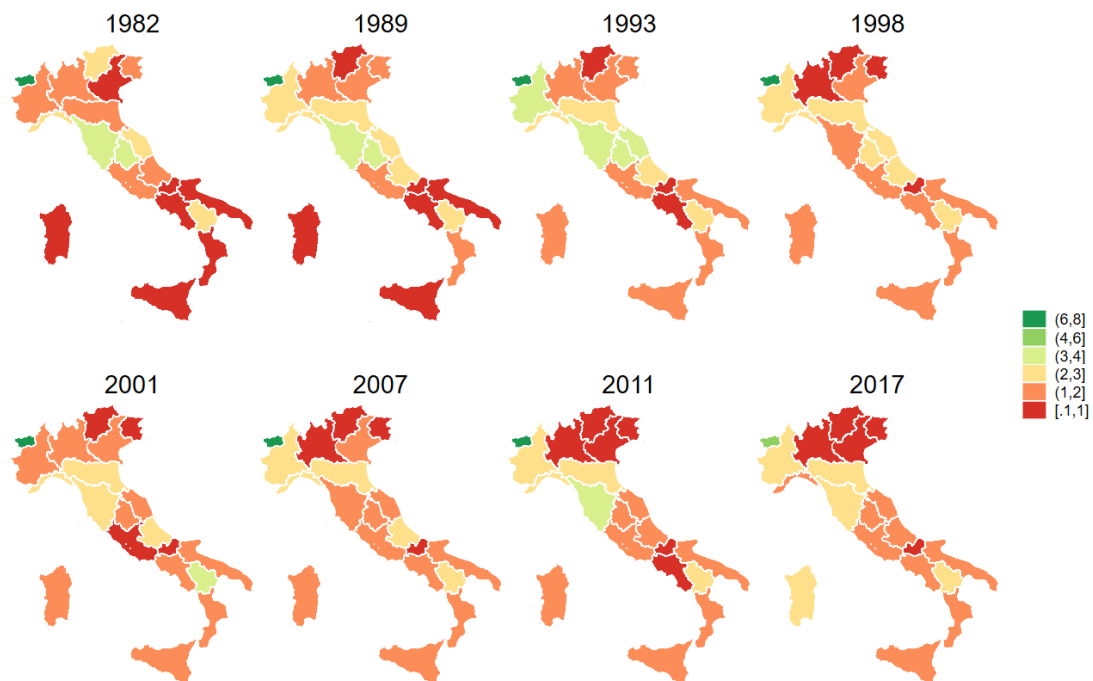
We provide a ready-to-use excel file that contains information retrieved from the reports 1978-2017 on the regional level and on the NUTS-1 level on:

- number of gynaecologists [column: Gynaecologists]
- number of anaesthetists [column: Anaesthetists]
- number of paramedics [column: Paramedics]
- percentage of gynaecologists who refused abortions due to a moral reason [column: Objecting Gynaecologists]
- percentage of anaesthetists who refused abortions due to a moral reason [column: Objecting Anaesthetists]
- percentage of paramedics who refused abortions due to a moral reason [column: Objecting Paramedics]
- number of public family planning centres in total [column: Public Family Centres]
- number of public family planning centres per 10.000 women between 15 to 49 year-old [column: Public Family Centres [per 10k women aged 15-49]]

- number of public family planning centres per 20.000 inhabitants [column: Public Family Centres [per 20k inhabitants]]
- the number of private family planning centres [column: Private Family Centres]

For some years, only the total number of family planning centres was available. We therefore calculate the number of family planning centres per 10,000 women between age 15 and 49 using statistics on the number of women aged 15 to 49 provided by the Italian Statistical Institute (<http://dati.istat.it/>). Some examples of visualization based on the data are in the following figure.

Figure 1. Number of family planning centres over time and across regions



Note: plotted with STATA15, package spmap (Pisati, M. 2004. Simple thematic mapping. The Stata Journal 4: 361-378.)

The data used for this procedure can be found in the file “family_centers_objectors_1978_2017_womennr.xlsx” and the data manually imputed are in yellow in the file “family_centers_objectors_1978_2017_overview.xlsx”.

Notes

- The excel files were compiled by Martin Gädecke (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) between May and December 2019.
- This documentation was compiled by Martin Gädecke (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) and Emanuela Struffolino (WZB Berlin Social Science Center and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin).
- If you have questions or remarks on the data, please send an email to emanuela.struffolino@wzb.eu
- If you use these data, please cite:

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