

FACT SHEET:

WHC services:

WHC first opened our doors in 1981 and provides a range of services:

- Abortion program
- Medical program
- Provincial Eating Disorder Prevention and Recovery Program
- Counselling Program
- Parenting, Pre- and Post-Natal Support Programs
- Midwifery services via Ode'imín
- Community Safe Space

WHC began offering abortion care in 2006.

Number of abortion services provided per year:

WHC is currently funded to provide 1600 abortions per year and has consistently exceeded this target over the past few years, including:

- 2016-17: 1587 with more 1900 bookings/intake
- 2017-18: 1509 with more than 1800 bookings/intake
- 2018-19: 1713 with more than 2000 bookings/intake
- 2019-2020: 1745 with more than 2100 bookings/intake
- 2020-21: 1662 with more than 2100 bookings/intake*
- 2021-2022: 1640 with more than 2100 bookings/intake*

For the 2020-21 and 2021-22 years, we reduced 1/3 of the appointments in the Abortion Program (Portage Site) to comply with COVID-19 requirements for Surgical outpatient services. However, due to the level of demand for these services, we still exceeded the target number of abortions provided. Additionally, over the last two years (since we started tracking), after reviewing our intake records, **we realized we had to turn away another 500 (approximately) clients/year because we lacked the staffing to provide the care safely.*

WHC strategies undertaken to address increasing service demands:

WHC has enacted several strategies in an attempt to address the growing demands for abortion services. For example:

- We have trained all of our practitioners to provide medication abortions through our Health Services program (at our Graham site) as well as through the Abortion Program (at the Portage Site);
- We have initiated and maintained a list of practitioners across Manitoba that provide medication abortion services through their regular practices, and we refer people to them if it is closer to where clients live;
- We maintain a database of pharmacies that stock Mifegymiso and Misoprostol that can facilitate medication abortions for rural clients;
- We have scheduled a dedicated staff person to complete intakes on non-slate days in order to manage the inundation of calls from clients requesting appointments.



Costs:

Community Clinic-based abortion care is less expensive; providing a more economical option for government than hospital-based abortion (i.e. Abortion Services Provided through at WHC = \$500-\$750.00 x per uninsured client versus Abortion Services provided through HSC = \$5,000.00 - \$10,000.00 x per uninsured client).

Abortions performed at WHC are done during the course of one day, versus a hospital session where they are performed over the course of two days. This reduces the amount of time someone may have to take off work to travel to and recover from the procedure, making it a more efficient and cost-effective way to provide care.