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February 10th, 2017

#### Press Release

## The March for Life 2017 – "Help the Mother and Child! They Depend on You"

Saturday, March 25th, 2017

In many cities across Romania and the Republic of Moldova, March 2017 will be *The Pro-Life Month 2017* – "*Help the Mother and the Child! They Depend on You*". Its highlight will be *The March for Life 2017* – "*Help the Mother and Child! They Depend on You*", organized on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

The March for Life is at its **7-th national edition**. This year's theme, "Help the Mother and the Child! They Depend on You", creates the opportunity to debate on the need, possibility and efficiency of supporting women in pregnancy crisis.

This series of thematic events has not a unique organizer, but in each town and city it has different independent local organizers from local pro-life organizations and institutions.

Here are a few aspects motivating the theme chosen for this year:

Romania is second in the world (after Russia) in terms of the total number of abortions ever made compared to its actual population: 22,832,650 legally made surgical abortions have been made – only in Romanian state hospitals –, between year 1958 and June 2016, compared to a population of 19,760,000 inhabitants as registered on January 1st, 2016.

Since traditional Romanian civilization and spirituality have never valued abortion, the huge number of abortions can be explained by lack of knowledge regarding the issue of pregnancy crisis and by a pro-abortion public mindset – both originating in the communist regime and ideology.

### The pregnancy crisis

The pregnancy crisis appears when a woman considers interrupting the natural course of her pregnancy, which would normally lead to giving birth to her baby, and thinks of abortion instead. Pregnancy crisis is triggered by outside issues she cannot cope with.

The most frequent causes of the pregnancy crisis are:

- the father does not want the child;
- the father leaves the future mother;
- •the woman is financially dependent on the child's father, who asks her to have an abortion;



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- the woman lives in a violent relationship which she cannot break;
- •the woman is unmarried and fears she could be marginalized if she gave birth to the child.

Pregnancy crisis is deepened by third-party pressure on the woman to have an abortion: 64% of the women who had an abortion felt pressured to do so, according to a study published in a prestigious medical journal<sup>1</sup>.

Most of the times, women in pregnancy crisis want to have other options beside abortion. But these options become available only if somebody else offers support. Lack of support leads to lack of options. Thus, the option of abortion becomes not a real option, but the only way out of the pregnancy crisis. The decision to have an abortion in pregnancy crisis is best illustrated by the American writer Frederica Mathewes-Green: "No woman wants an abortion as she wants an ice cream cone or a Porsche. She wants an abortion as an animal caught in a trap wants to gnaw off its own leg".

Testimonies from women who have had an abortion (www.avorturiregretate.ro) and from women who have chosen to give birth to their child despite having also considered abortion (www.femeifericite.com) show how traumatizing pregnancy crisis is. In case of abortion, the crisis is usually followed by post-abortion stress syndrome (PASS), which could even lead to suicide. Studies show that women who have had abortions are 6 times more prone to suicide<sup>2</sup>.

## The pro-abortion mindset

Liberalization of abortion on demand by the communist regime through the Decree 463 of 1957 has not only impacted those who wanted to have an abortion. It has thoroughly transformed public mentality and society. This explains the peak in abortion numbers in the years following liberalization of abortion on demand in Romania:

•1958: 112,100
•1959: 578,000
•1960: 769,776
•1961: 859,533
•1962: 961.679
•1963: 1,034,987
•1964: 1,097,932

By associating "it's *legal*, therefore *correct*" and by presenting abortion as an empowerment offered to women by communism (unlike the previous political

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> VM Rue et. al., "Induced abortion and traumatic stress: A preliminary comparison of American and Russian women," *Medical Science Monitor* 10(10): SR5-16 (2004).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> M Gissler et. al., "Pregnancy Associated Deaths in Finland 1987-1994 -- definition problems and benefits of record linkage," *Acta Obsetricia et Gynecologica Scandinavica* 76:651-657 (1997); and M. Gissler, "Injury deaths, suicides and homicides associated with pregnancy, Finland 1987-2000," *European J. Public Health* 15(5):459-63 (2005).

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regime), abortion has been positively valued. This has enabled a public mindset in favor of abortion. According to it, abortion would be the only safe and efficient option in pregnancy crisis.

The last decades of communism saw restrictions to abortion, enforced in 1967 on reasons of population decline. That is why, when it was completely liberalized after the fall of communism, abortion could again be presented as women empowerment, facilitated by the new post-communist regime.

The establishment of the pro-abortion mindset in society has almost entirely eliminated the possibility to correctly understand pregnancy crisis, the alternatives to abortion and the fact that supporting a woman in pregnancy crisis is the natural thing to do. People have practically developed indifference to women in pregnancy crisis and no legal steps have been taken to stimulate alternatives to abortion.

The pro-abortion public mindset has had the following consequences in society:

- lack of information about the full humanity of the preborn child in every stage of its life in the womb;
- lack of information about the painful and complex reality of pregnancy crisis;
  - lack of sufficient support for the woman in pregnancy crisis;
- invariably silencing public pro-life messages and blaming pro-life voices for allegedly being anti-woman.

Under these circumstances, for lack of information and support, women are practically pushed to abort their babies, while protecting the unborn is regarded as uncivil attitude.

In fact, abortion itself is uncivil attitude, lack of compassion, lack of respect, and lack of love for the woman and the child!

#### Abortion has harmed Romania more than any war

In year 2018, Romania will celebrate 100 years from its 1918 Unification. Romania's involvement in the First World War, which ensured its Unification, meant losing 1,125,000 Romanian lives, sacrificed to make possible the Proclamation of December 1st, 1918.

But it is not into this war<sup>3</sup> that most Romanians have lost their lives. In fact, the most Romanians ever to have lost their lives to an unnatural cause are those who have lost their lives to abortion: in total, Romania has already seen 22,832,650 surgical abortions only in its state hospitals:

- •7,500,158 abortions during the liberalization period 1958–1966 (9 years);
- •7,409,042 abortions during the restriction period 1967–1989 (23 years);

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Nor in the other armed conflicts during modern Romanian history: the Romanian Independence War killed around 4,300 Romanians, and around 833,000 Romanians have lost their lives to the Second World War.



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•7,889,700 abortions during the present liberalization period 1990–June 2016 (26 years and a half).

The average abortion number for the first 6 months of year 2016 was 185.4 surgical abortions daily only in Romanian state hospitals.

To these data one must add the following categories of abortions unaccounted for in Romanian statistics:

- surgical abortions made in private clinics;
- •chemical abortions prescribed in state hospitals and private clinics;
- abortions made abroad by Romanian women of reproductive age who work outside the country and who represent an important part of Romania's fertile population.

Also, the number of illegal abortions remains unknown — both during the communist regime and after 1990.

Should the above-mentioned unregistered abortion categories be taken into account, the total number of abortions would probably be double the actual statistics.

In the Republic of Moldova, whose population on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 was of 3,553,056 inhabitants, statistics show 2,112,158 surgical abortions in state hospitals between year 1960 and January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. These numbers place the Republic of Moldova on the 10<sup>th</sup> place in the world in terms of total number of abortions compared to its actual population. Real statistics in this country should also include chemical abortions and abortions made by women of reproductive age working abroad.

# A country project: valuing the gift of life and supporting women in pregnancy crisis

Given these facts, we consider that a vital country project for Romanians on both banks of the Prut River is raising awareness and accountability regarding the gift of life, towards those who can be their future. And awareness and accountability can only be shown by supporting women in pregnancy crisis and their unborn babies.

Firstly, everybody can help a woman in pregnancy crisis! The experience of those involved has shown that support from the unborn child's father, from a friend, from a psychologist or a member of the clergy can make the difference between abortion and giving birth to the baby.

Secondly, society can create instruments to support women in pregnancy crisis, such as:

•legislating an allowance for the pregnant woman, to be granted starting from the 14<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy; this will help her cover the special needs she has in this period;



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• establishing help centers for pregnant women, where women in pregnancy crisis can benefit on request from free psychological counseling and the support of a social worker specialized in pregnancy crisis;

- •legislating placement of special installations of the "baby box" type on the outside walls of hospitals, where mothers who consider that they cannot take care of their children can safely place their newborn babies; as the last solution to a crisis situation, these installations can prevent infanticide and abandonment of the newborn; one can find such devices all over the world.
- legislating the possibility for the mother who has been through a miscarriage to have, on her request, a burial of the miscarried baby; allowing, on the mother's request, for a proper religious burial ceremony as the one allowed for babies who die shortly after birth without having been baptized;
- creating the legal options for the pregnant woman who considers that she cannot raise her child to give her baby for adoption immediately after birth: starting legal proceedings for the adoption process during pregnancy, on the model offered by US, British and Australian legislation;
- •legislating open adoption, which could facilitate consent for adoption from the mother, the parents or relatives who cannot care for the child anymore;
- •sending messages in society that all those involved in adoption are valuable, with the purpose of fighting the prevailing contempt for adopted children, for adoptive parents and especially for biological mothers and parents who entrust their children to adoptive parents when they consider that they cannot properly care for them.

Without adequate information and without a national network of help centers for women in pregnancy crisis, the abortion trauma will continue to harm children, mothers, families and the whole society.

The Pro-Life Month and the March for Life are apolitical and non-confessional events, but they welcome the participation of all religious confessions and political parties.

The March for Life does not promote legislation to forbid abortion and condemns all forms of violence against women, wishing to promote social awareness and support for the woman to give birth to the life she is carrying.

The above-mentioned possibilities are not necessarily meant to involve only state institutions, but mainly society as a whole, in its diverse forms of civil actions, such as non-governmental organizations. We cannot expect the state to do what we do not do individually and through the associative possibilities existing today! This means real solidarity, love and civilization.



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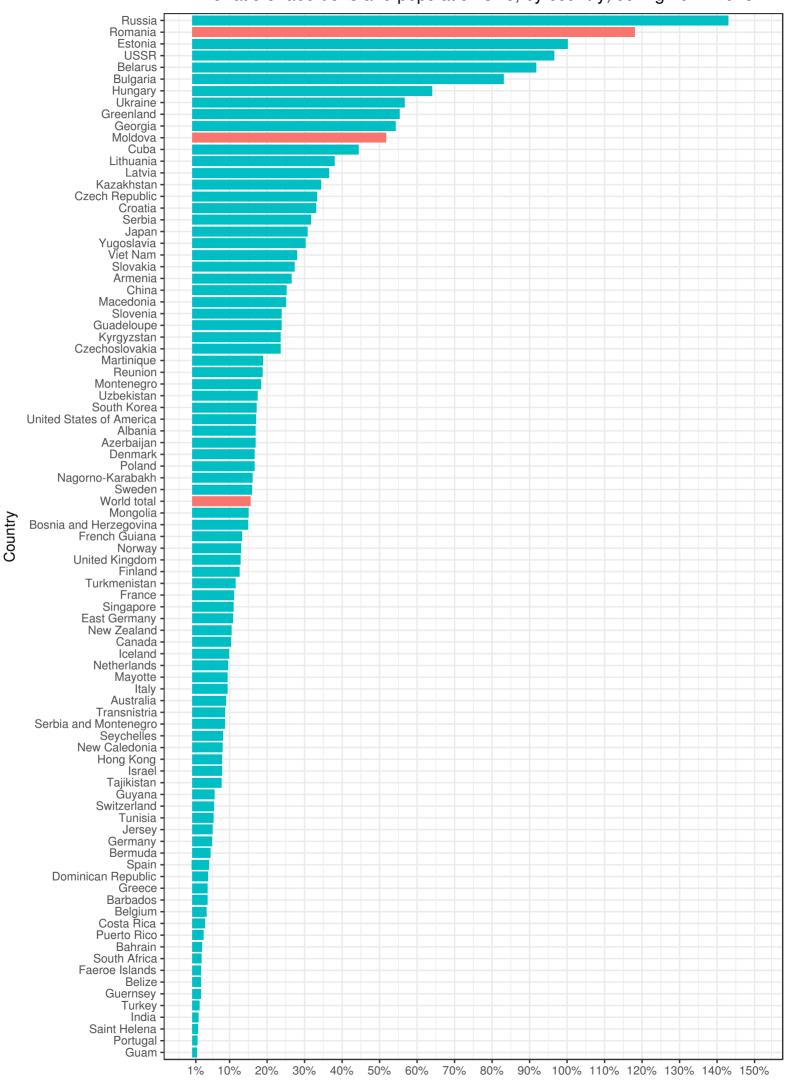
The dynamics of the *March for Life* in the last three years has been as following:

- 2014: 40 cities and towns from Romania;
- **2015:** 77 cities and towns (75 from Romania, 2 from the Republic of Moldova);
- **2016:** 130 cities and towns (110 from Romania, 20 from the Republic of Moldova).

Starting from March  $1^{st}$ , 2017, the <u>www.marsulpentruviata.ro</u> website will publish details from local organizers.

Alexandra Nadane, President

Studenți pentru viață Romania's independent pro-life students association



# The ratio of abortions and population size, by country, during 1921-2015

Country	Year range	Time interval	${f Abortions}^{[1]}$	Estimated population 2017 <sup>[2]</sup>	Percent aborted / population
Russia	1957-2013	57	205.001.230	143.375.006	143,0%
Romania	1958-2015	58	22.798.900	19.237.513	118,5%
Estonia	1963-2014	52	1.307.358	1.305.755	100,1%
USSR	1921-1991	71	282.813.855	293.000.000	96,5%
Belarus	1960-2014	55	8.671.969	9.458.535	91,7%
Bulgaria	1953-2014	62	5.853.362	7.045.259	83,1%
Hungary	1949-2014	66	6.256.285	9.787.905	63,9%
Ukraine	1980-2013	34	25.123.472	44.405.055	56,6%
Greenland	1967-2013	47	31.102	56.239	55,3%
Georgia	1975-2014	40	2.153.975	3.972.532	54,2%
Moldova	1960-2014	55	2.098.089	4.054.640	51,7%
Cuba	1968-2013	46	5.048.106	11.390.184	44,3%
Lithuania	1980-2014	35	1.074.881	2.830.582	38,0%
Latvia	1986-2014	29	709.962	1.944.565	36,5%
Kazakhstan	1983-2013	31	6.202.507	18.064.470	34,3%
Czech Republic	1953-2015	63	3.511.536	10.555.130	33,3%
Croatia	1965-2014	50	1.387.831	4.209.815	33,0%
Serbia	1985-2013	29	2.783.482	8.776.940	31,7%
Japan	1949-2014	66	38.784.250	126.045.211	30,8%
Yugoslavia	1955-1991	37	7.155.535	23.720.000	30,2%
Viet Nam	1976-2012	37	26.734.408	95.414.640	28,0%
Slovakia	1958-2014	57	1.480.403	5.432.157	27,3%
Armenia	1980-2014	35	804.622	3.031.670	26,5%
China	1963-2012	50	350.046.418	1.388.232.693	25,2%
Macedonia	1980-2012	33	521.249	2.083.308	25,0%
Slovenia	1955-2013	59	492.483	2.071.252	23,8%
Guadeloupe	1976-2013	38	112.282	472.462	23,8%
Kyrgyzstan	1980-2013	34	1.446.511	6.124.945	23,6%
Czechoslovakia	1953-1992	40	3.676.501	15.600.000	23,6%
Martinique	1976-2013	38	74.754	396.071	18,9%
Reunion	1976-2013	38	163.589	873.356	18,7%
Montenegro	1985-2014	30	114.640	626.250	18,3%
Uzbekistan	1971-2013	43	5.363.743	30.690.914	17,5%
South Korea	1961-2010	50	8.680.733	50.704.971	17,1%
USA	1926-2015	90	55.371.152	326.474.013	17,0%
Albania	1975-2013	39	491.776	2.911.428	16,9%
Azerbaijan	1973-2014	42	1.677.906	9.973.697	16,8%
Denmark	1939-2014	76	950.177	5.711.837	16,6%
Poland	1955-2013	59	6.388.040	38.563.573	16,6%

Country	Year range	Time interval	${f Abortions}^{[1]}$	Estimated population 2017 <sup>[2]</sup>	Percent aborted / population
Nagorno-Karabakh	1996-2014	19	23.488	146.573	16,0%
Sweden	1939-2014	76	1.580.422	9.920.624	15,9%
World total	1921-2015	95	1.167.235.780	7.515.284.153	15,5%
Mongolia	1984-2014	31	459.086	3.051.900	15,0%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1980-1990	11	566.353	3.792.759	14,9%
French Guiana	1984-2013	30	37.664	282.761	13,3%
Norway	1954-2015	62	691.508	5.330.800	13,0%
United Kingdom	1958-2014	57	8.462.039	65.511.098	12,9%
Finland	1951-2015	65	698.594	5.541.274	12,6%
Turkmenistan	1989-2012	24	632.704	5.502.586	11,5%
France	1936-2013	78	7.247.042	64.938.716	11,2%
Singapore	1970-2014	45	639.111	5.784.538	11,0%
East Germany	1948-1989	42	1.744.200	16.110.000	10,8%
New Zealand	1964-2014	51	484.463	4.604.871	10,5%
Canada	1970-2014	45	3.783.001	36.626.083	10,3%
Iceland	1960-2014	55	32.735	334.303	9,8%
Netherlands	1970-2014	45	1.631.925	17.032.845	9,6%
Mayotte	1992-2013	22	23.693	253.068	9,4%
Italy	1978-2013	36	5.589.918	59.797.978	9,3%
Australia	1970-2015	46	2.226.048	24.641.662	9,0%
Transnistria	2000-2014	15	41.621	475.665	8,8%
Serbia and Montenegro	1992-2005	14	941.652	10.830.000	8,7%
Seychelles	1986-2014	29	7.988	97.539	8,2%
New Caledonia	1997-2013	17	21.846	269.736	8,1%
Hong Kong	1973-2013	41	590.255	7.401.941	8,0%
Israel	1979-2014	36	656.736	8.323.248	7,9%
Tajikistan	1989-2014	26	688.359	8.858.115	7,8%
Guyana	1970-2007	38	45.746	774.407	5,9%
Switzerland	1966-2014	49	487.996	8.454.083	5,8%
Tunisia	1965-2009	45	656.702	11.494.760	5,7%
Jersey	1990-2014	25	5.467	100.080	5,5%
Germany	1944-2015	72	4.256.544	80.636.124	5,3%
Bermuda	1983-2014	32	2.953	61.352	4,8%
Spain	1941-2014	74	2.091.135	46.070.146	4,5%
Dominican Republic	1995-2014	20	456.325	10.766.564	4,2%
Greece	1970-2009	40	449.647	10.892.931	4,1%
Barbados	1984-2006	23	11.526	285.744	4,0%
Belgium	1979-2013	35	433.818	11.443.830	3,8%
Costa Rica	1995-2014	20	167.275	4.905.626	3,4%
Puerto Rico	1991-2010	20	112.482	3.679.086	3,1%
Bahrain	1997-2014	18	36.668	1.418.895	2,6%

Country	Year range	Time interval	${\bf Abortions}^{[1]}$	Estimated population 2017 <sup>[2]</sup>	Percent aborted / population
South Africa	1975-2014	40	1.333.794	55.436.360	2,4%
Faeroe Islands	1966-2013	48	1.117	48.335	2,3%
Belize	1985-1996	12	8.609	374.651	2,3%
Guernsey	1997-2012	16	1.446	62.948	2,3%
Turkey	1993-2013	21	1.519.800	80.417.526	1,9%
India	1972-2012	41	22.263.303	1.342.512.706	1,7%
Saint Helena	1985-1990	6	61	3.970	1,5%
Portugal	1984-2014	31	148.166	10.264.797	1,4%
Guam	2000-2014	15	2.281	174.214	1,3%

#### **Data sources:**

http://www.johnstonsarchive.net/policy/abortion/#BS.

https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>[1]</sup> Summary of Reported Abortions Worldwide, through August 2015, compiled by Wm. Robert Johnston, online at

<sup>[2]</sup> Current world population, 2017 estimates based on "United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision", online at

The number of abortions, abortions/pregnancies ratio and live births/pregnancies ratio in Romania, 1958–2015

Year	Abortions	Live births <sup>[3]</sup>	<b>Pregnancies</b>	Abortion ratio	Live births ratio	Graphical representation
1958	$112.100^{[1]}$	390.500	502.600	22%	78%	
1959	578.000 <sup>[1]</sup>	368.007	946.007	61%	39%	
1960	769.776 <sup>[1]</sup>	352.241	1.122.017	69%	31%	
1961	859.533 <sup>[1]</sup>	324.859	1.184.392	73%	27%	
1962	961.679 <sup>[1]</sup>	301.985	1.263.664	76%	24%	
1963	1.034.987 <sup>[1]</sup>	294.886	1.329.873	78%	22%	
1964	1.097.932 <sup>[1]</sup>	287.383	1.385.315	79%	21%	
1965	1.112.704 <sup>[1]</sup>	278.362	1.391.066	80%	20%	
1966	973.447 <sup>[1]</sup>	273.678	1.247.125	78%	22%	
1967	205.783 <sup>[1]</sup>	527.764	733.547	28%	72%	
1968	220.193 <sup>[1]</sup>	526.091	746.284	30%	70%	
1969	257.496 <sup>[1]</sup>	465.764	723.260	36%	64%	
1970	292.410 <sup>[1]</sup>	427.034	719.444	41%	59%	
1971	341.740 <sup>[1]</sup>	400.146	741.886	46%	54%	
1972	380.625 <sup>[1]</sup>	389.153	769.778	49%	51%	
1973	375.572 <sup>[1]</sup>	378.696	754.268	50%	50%	
1974	334.621 <sup>[1]</sup>	427.732	762.353	44%	56%	
1975	359.417 <sup>[1]</sup>	418.185	777.602	46%	54%	
1976	383.220 <sup>[1]</sup>	417.353	800.573	48%	52%	
1977	378.990 <sup>[1]</sup>	423.958	802.948	47%	53%	
1978	394.636 <sup>[1]</sup>	416.598	811.234	49%	51%	
1979	403.776 <sup>[1]</sup>	410.603	814.379	50%	50%	
1980	413.093 <sup>[1]</sup>	398.904	811.997	51%	49%	
1981	427.081 <sup>[1]</sup>	381.101	808.182	53%	47%	
1982	468.041 <sup>[1]</sup>	344.369	812.410	58%	42%	
1983	421.486 <sup>[1]</sup>	321.498	742.884	57%	43%	
1984	303.123 <sup>[1]</sup>	350.741	653.864	46%	54%	
1985	302.838 <sup>[1]</sup>	358.797	661.635	46%	54%	
1986	183.959 <sup>[1]</sup>	376.896	560.855	33%	67%	
1987	182.442 <sup>[1]</sup>	383.199	565.641	32%	68%	
1988	185.416 <sup>[1]</sup>	380.043	565.459	33%	67%	
1989	193.084 <sup>[1]</sup>	369.544	562.628	34%	66%	
1990	992.265 <sup>[2]</sup>	314.746	1.307.011	76%	24%	
1991	866.934 <sup>[2]</sup>	275.275	1.142.209	76%	24%	
1992	691.863 <sup>[2]</sup>	260.393	952.256	73%	27%	
1993	585.761 <sup>[2]</sup>	249.994	835.755	70%	30%	
1994	530.191 <sup>[2]</sup>	246.736	776.927	68%	32%	
1995	502.840 <sup>[2]</sup>	236.640	739.480	68%	32%	

Year	Abortions	Live births <sup>[3]</sup>	Pregnancies	Abortion ratio	Live births ratio	Graphical representation
1996	455.340 <sup>[2]</sup>	231.348	686.688	66%	34%	
1997	346.468 <sup>[2]</sup>	236.891	583.359	59%	41%	
1998	270.930 <sup>[2]</sup>	237.297	508.227	53%	47%	
1999	259.266 <sup>[2]</sup>	234.600	493.866	53%	47%	
2000	257.267 <sup>[2]</sup>	234.521	491.788	52%	48%	
2001	253.426 <sup>[2]</sup>	220.368	473.794	54%	46%	
2002	246.714 <sup>[2]</sup>	210.529	457.243	54%	46%	
2003	223.914 <sup>[2]</sup>	212.459	436.373	51%	49%	
2004	189.683 <sup>[2]</sup>	216.261	405.944	47%	53%	
2005	162.087 <sup>[2]</sup>	221.020	383.107	43%	57%	
2006	149.598 <sup>[2]</sup>	219.483	369.081	41%	59%	
2007	136.647 <sup>[2]</sup>	214.728	351.375	39%	61%	
2008	127.410 <sup>[2]</sup>	221.900	349.310	37%	63%	
2009	115.457 <sup>[2]</sup>	222.388	337.845	34%	66%	
2010	101.271 <sup>[2]</sup>	212.199	313.470	32%	68%	
2011	102.896 <sup>[2]</sup>	196.242	299.138	34%	66%	
2012	87.477 <sup>[2]</sup>	201.104	288.581	31%	69%	
2013	85.742 <sup>[2]</sup>	214.932	300.674	30%	70%	
2014	77.806 <sup>[2]</sup>	195.612	273.418	30%	70%	
2015	70.447 <sup>[2]</sup>	201.023	271.470	26%	74%	

#### **Sursa datelor:**

<sup>[1]</sup> Abortion statistics and other data—Johnston's Archive, "Historical abortion statistics, Romania", September 2015, compiled by Wm. Robert Johnston, online la <a href="http://www.johnstonsarchive.net/policy/abortion/ab-romania.html">http://www.johnstonsarchive.net/policy/abortion/ab-romania.html</a>

<sup>[2]</sup> Institutul Național de Statistică, 2016, Baza de date Tempo-Online, "Întreruperi de sarcină, pe grupe de vârstă", online la

http://statistici.insse.ro/shop/?page=tempo3&lang=en&ind=POP201G#

Institutul Național de Statistică, "Anuarul Demografic al României ediția 2015, Mișcarea naturală a populației". Notă: Născuții-vii din anii 2012 și 2013 nu includ născuții-vii din străinătate. Începând cu anul 2014 sunt incluși numai născuții-vii cu reședința obișnuită în România.