

SUMMARY:

COST AND PAYMENT AT CLINIC 554



Reproductive Justice
Access Project New
Brunswick

Projet Accès à la justice
reproductive Nouveau-
Brunswick

A secondary review of anonymized clinic data revealed that 1,007 procedural abortions were performed at Clinic 554 between 2015 and 2022. A significant drop in numbers beginning in 2018 was likely due to a combination of factors, including the introduction of Medicare's coverage of Mifegymiso, the closure of the Clinic 554 family practice, and COVID-19 restrictions on travel. Procedural abortions performed at Clinic 554, the only clinic in New Brunswick that offers the service, cost \$700 to \$850 depending on gestational age, with the higher cost to cover additional expenses associated with abortions after 14 weeks. These patient fees have remained unchanged since the days of the Morgentaler Clinic.

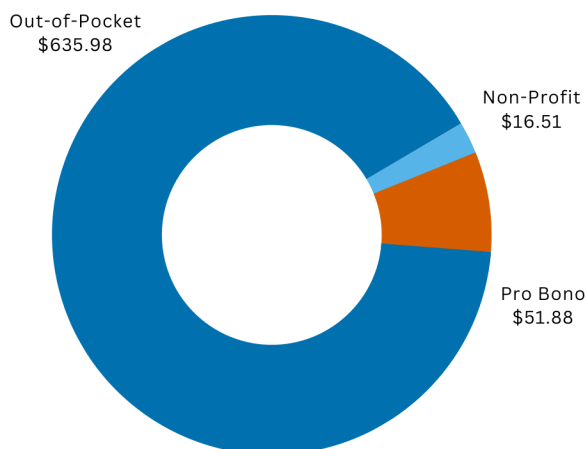
The question for researchers interested in the operation and impact of health care policies, such as Regulation 84-20 of the Medical Services Payment Act, is how these 1,007 procedural abortions were paid for.

Consistent with many services not covered by Medicare, the majority of clinic abortions are paid for by patients. 85.3% of patients who received a procedural abortion at Clinic 554 paid the entire fee themselves, 7.94% paid partially out of pocket and partially through financial assistance, and 5.46% paid the entire fee with financial assistance. The remaining 1.29% had full funding from other sources. Financial assistance came in the form of donations, subsidies from non-profit organizations and pro bono work from the Clinic, and the Clinic provided administrative support for securing the needed funding free of charge.

In total, more than 93% of people contributed financially to their procedural abortion at Clinic 554. Together, these full and partial out-of-pocket payments add up to \$640,430. Of this total, \$549,530 is known to have been paid by people who reported living in New Brunswick. This excludes payments made by the 132 people who did not disclose an address to Clinic 554 and could have been living inside or outside of New Brunswick.

Nearly 12% of people relied on some pro bono work to access their abortion. Clinic 554 provided \$52,245 in pro bono work between 2015 and 2022 to ensure that access to abortion was maintained. The average amount the Clinic provided for each person who needed pro bono assistance was \$439.03.

AVERAGE COST BREAKDOWN



Just over 5% of people relied on non-profit subsidies and clinic donations to secure the funding necessary for their abortion. This amounted to a grand total of \$16,625.00. On average, each of these individuals received \$302.27 from these sources.

Looking at it another way, the average person who went to Clinic 554 for a procedural abortion during those years paid \$635.98 out of pocket, received \$51.88 in pro bono work, and received \$16.51 in non-profit subsidies and Clinic donations.

MEANS OF PAYMENT

6% of patients
required full
financial
assistance

1% of patients
received other
financial
assistance

8%
of patients
required
some
financial
assistance

85% of
patients
paid
completely
out of pocket

