

More people than ever are accessing abortion pills in the UK



Jasmine Andersson for metro.co.uk

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(Picture: Getty)

A study by leading health academics has revealed that more British women than ever are accessing abortion pills in the UK.

In the four month research period, academics writing for journal sexual health journal Contraception found that 519 women attempted to access the pills in Britain, even in areas where abortion is lawful and funded.



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In a bid to access the pills, the British women contacted Woman on Web, a self-described digital community of women who have had abortions, medical doctors, researchers, and individuals and organizations that support abortion rights.

And although the site has a global focus when it comes to providing abortion pills, it still received hundreds of requests from within the United Kingdom.

Recent data from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) showed that the number of abortion pills seized in Britain has increased dramatically in recent years, from just 5 pills in 2013 to 375 in 2016.



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‘The numbers of women in Britain seeking abortion pills online documented in this study are quite staggering, particularly given that it covers just one service over a 4 month period,’ says Clare Murphy, Director of External Affairs at the British Pregnancy Advisory Service.

‘It really underlines the need for a thorough overhaul of our abortion laws so that no woman faces clinically unnecessary obstacles in accessing care. It also concerns us deeply that women using pills bought online are at risk of life in prison if caught.’

And under laws which date back to 1861, any woman who uses these pills to induce a

miscarriage can be sentenced to life in prison.

‘Ultimately if we do not think that a woman who turns to online pills to end her own pregnancy should go to prison, we should no longer accept a law that says she should,’ says the BPA Director.

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‘As we prepare to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Abortion Act next month, it’s high time to create a framework that meets the needs of women today, respects their ability to make their own decisions about their own pregnancies, and provides them with accessible high-quality healthcare services to exercise that choice,’ she added.



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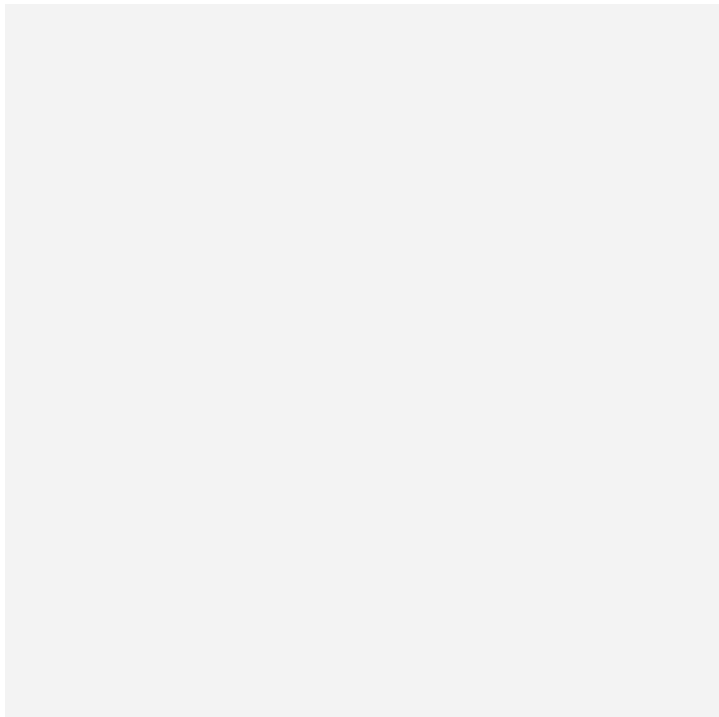
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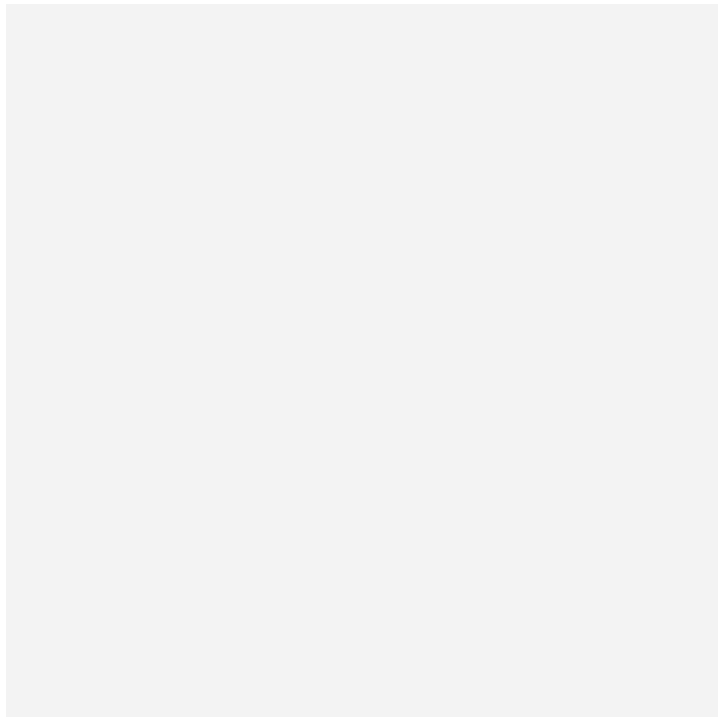
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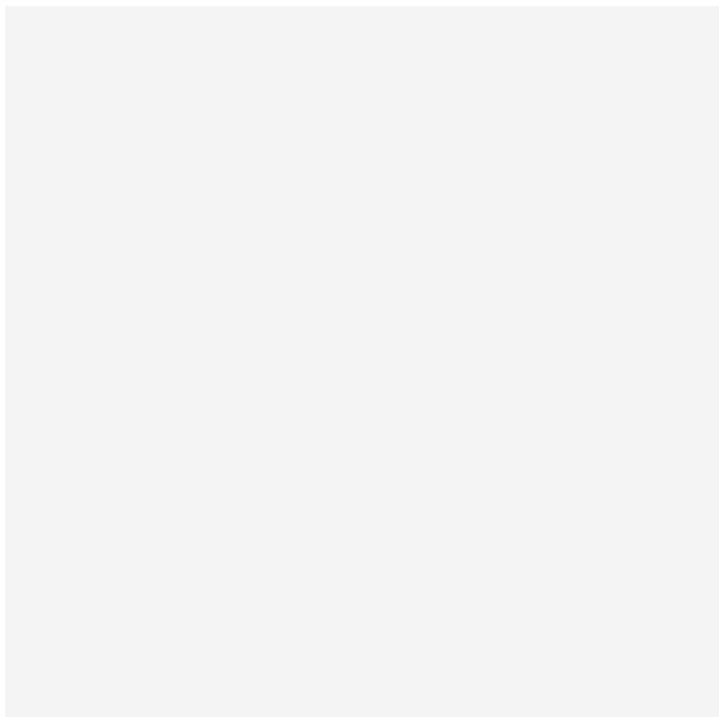
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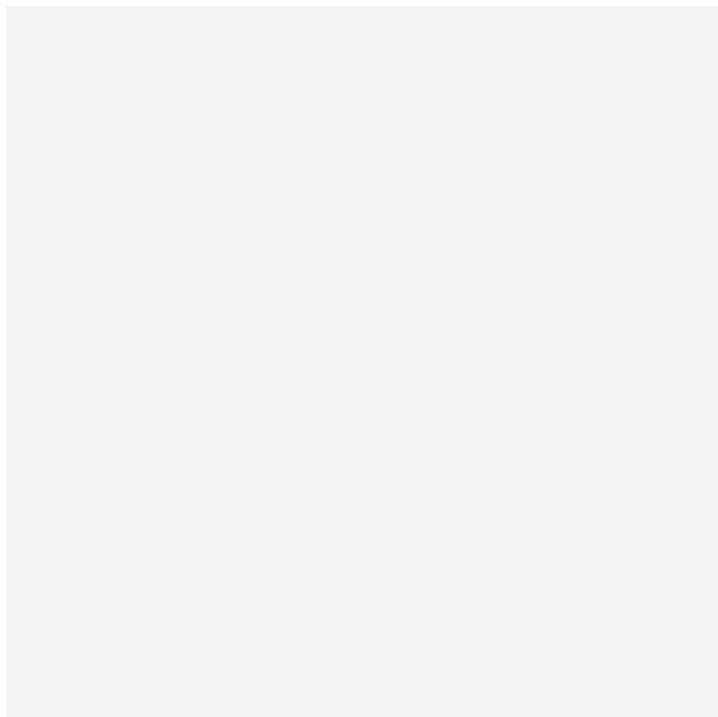
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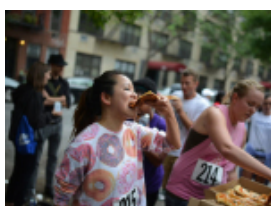
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