

Increase in Induced Abortions in Europe

- Chernobyl NPS Accident -

The Chernobyl NPS Accident occurred on April 26, 1986



Increase in induced abortions in remote places

Greece: sharp decline in birthrate in January 1987

⇒ Induced abortions for 23% of fetuses in the early stage of fetation in May 1986 (estimation)

Italy: Approx. 28 to 52 unnecessary abortions per day for five months after the accident (estimation)

Denmark: Slight increase

Sweden, Norway, Hungary: None

Source: Prepared based on the Proceedings of the Symposium on the effects on pregnancy outcome in Europe following the Chernobyl accident. Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy 45/No 6, 1991

Excessive concern over the health effects of radiation could be harmful both physically and mentally.

For example, resulting suicide attempts and alcohol addiction are harmful to the body.

There is a report that spontaneous abortions increased because of stress after the Chernobyl NPS Accident. There is also a report that induced abortions increased even in areas remote from the Chernobyl NPS. In Greece, the effect of the Chernobyl NPS Accident was minor within the level below 1 mSv, but the number of pregnant women who chose abortion increased in the next month after the accident and the number of births sharply declined in January of the next year. Based on the birth rate, it is estimated that 23% of fetuses in the early stage of fetation were aborted. On the other hand, in such countries as Hungary, where abortion is not allowed unless fetal exposure dose exceeds 100 mSv, no abortions were performed.

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