

TABLE 1. Lifetime number of abortions, miscarriages and stillbirths among married women aged 15–49; and percentage distribution of such women, by lifetime number of abortions, miscarriages and stillbirths, Tehran Survey of Fertility, 2009 and 2014

Measure	2009 (N=2,934)		2014 (N=3,012)		
	Abortion	Miscarriage	Abortion	Miscarriage	Stillbirth
NUMBERS/PERCENTAGES					
No. of women with outcome	244	581	169	575	42
No. of outcomes	311	769	195	731	49
% of women with outcome	8.3	19.8	5.6	19.1	1.4
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTIONS					
No. of outcomes					
0	91.7	80.2	94.4	80.9	98.6
1	6.6	15.2	4.8	15.2	1.2
2	1.2	3.2	0.6	3.1	0.2
3	0.3	1.1	0.2	0.6	0.0
≥4	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

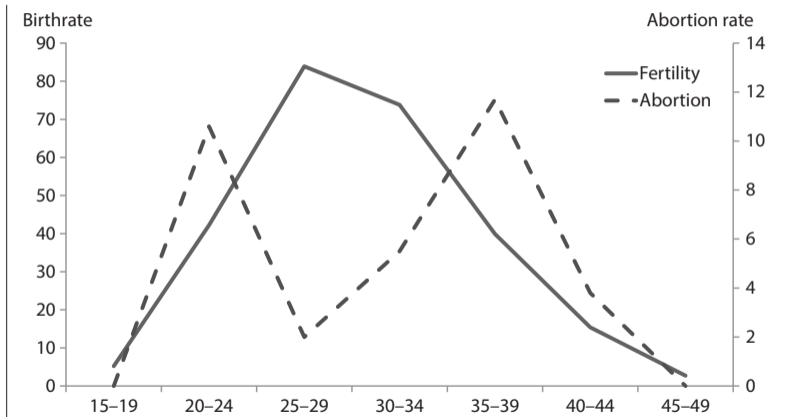
Notes: Women were not asked about stillbirths in the 2009 survey. Percentages may not total 100.0 because of rounding.

TABLE 2. Selected abortion measures for married women aged 15–49, for the year and the six years preceding the survey, Tehran Survey of Fertility, 2009 and 2014

Measure	2009		2014	
	Past year	Past six years	Past year	Past six years
Mean age at abortion	33.5	31.3	33.4	30.7
Median age at abortion	33.0	32.0	33.5	31.0
Age-specific abortion rate				
15–19	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20–24	3.8	1.7	10.6	5.4
25–29	5.6	5.3	2.0	2.1
30–34	12.1	6.9	5.5	6.4
35–39	9.9	10.2	11.7	8.7
40–44	2.1	3.3	3.8	2.4
45–49	2.5	1.8	0.0	0.0
Total abortion rate	0.18	0.15	0.17	0.13
Annual general abortion rate	6.6	5.6	5.4	4.7
% of known pregnancies ending in abortion	8.7	7.3	8.8	6.6
No. of abortions performed annually	10,656	na	8,734	na

Notes: Age-specific abortion rate is number of abortions per 1,000 woman-years in the age-group. Total abortion rate is the average lifetime number of abortions per woman. Annual general abortion rate is annual number of abortions per 1,000 women aged 15–49. na=not applicable.

FIGURE 1. Age-specific rates of fertility and abortion, Tehran Survey of Fertility, 2014



Note: Rates are annual number of events per 1,000 married women aged 15-49.

TABLE 3. Selected measures of abortions and pregnancies in the past six years among married women aged 15–49, by women's characteristics, Tehran Survey of Fertility, 2014

Characteristic	No. of abortions	No. of known pregnancies*	% of pregnancies ending in abortion	Annual abortion rate
All	75	1140	6.6	4.7
Age at abortion				
15–19	3	29	10.3	16.1
20–24	7	175	4.0	5.4
25–29	21	435	4.8	6.3
30–34	26	348	7.5	6.7
≥35	18	153	11.8	2.5
No. of live births				
0	15	15	100.0	13.0
1	29	550	5.3	5.4
2	28	456	6.1	4.2
≥3	3	119	2.5	1.1
Ideal no. of children				
1	28	294	9.5	7.0
2	37	646	5.7	4.3
≥3	10	200	5.0	3.0
Desires more children				
Yes	19	293	6.1	5.9
No	56	772	6.8	4.4
Woman's yrs. of education				
<12	14	267	5.2	3.0
12	28	441	6.3	4.5
>12	33	432	7.6	6.5
Husband's yrs. of education				
<12	17	311	5.5	3.7
12	29	427	6.8	4.9
>12	29	402	7.2	5.3
Employed				
No	55	981	5.6	4.1
Yes	20	159	12.6	7.8
Importance of religion				
Very important	26	647	4.0	2.9
Somewhat important	23	361	6.4	4.5
Not very/not at all important	26	132	19.7	14.2
Woman's ethnicity				
Fars	35	576	6.1	4.0
Turk	17	364	4.7	3.5
Gilak/Mazandarani	7	74	9.5	6.4
Lur/Kurd/other	16	126	12.7	14.2
Husband's ethnicity				
Fars	41	581	7.1	4.7
Turk	21	381	5.5	4.1
Gilak/Mazandarani	5	63	7.9	5.3
Lur/Kurd/other	8	115	7.0	6.9
Household income				
Low	27	625	4.5	3.9
Medium	15	202	7.4	3.2
High	33	313	10.5	5.7
Residential district				
Northern	32	345	9.3	5.8
Central	23	430	5.3	3.9
Southern	20	365	5.5	4.5
Migrant status				
Nonmigrant	51	754	6.7	4.7
Migrated from urban area	21	271	7.7	5.8
Migrated from rural area	3	115	2.6	2.0

*Includes only pregnancies ending in a live birth or abortion, because information on the timing of miscarriages and stillbirths was unavailable.

TABLE 4. Percentage distribution of abortions in the six years preceding survey, by women's most important reason for having an abortion, Tehran Survey of Fertility, 2009 and 2014

Reason for abortion	2009 (N=89)	2014 (N=75)
Fertility-related	46.0	64.1
To limit births	33.6	52.9
To space next birth	6.7	10.3
To postpone first birth*	5.7	1.0
Health-related	31.5	18.5
Risk to maternal health	7.9	7.7
Risk to fetal health	19.1	9.2
Bleeding during pregnancy	4.5	1.5
Socioeconomic	22.5	17.4
Economic difficulties	19.1	13.3
Marital problems	3.4	3.6
Sex preference	na	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0

*All of these pregnancies had occurred before or during the engagement period (*aghd*) or outside a marital relationship. Note: na=not applicable.

TABLE 5. Percentage distribution of abortions in the six years preceding survey, by contraceptive methods women used at time of conception and after abortion, Tehran Survey of Fertility, 2009 and 2014

Method	2009 (N=89)	2014 (N=75)	
	At time of conception	At time of conception	After abortion
None	18.0	18.7	14.7
Any modern	28.1	32.0	48.0
Condom	9.0	14.7	26.7
Pill	14.6	13.3	12.0
IUD	4.5	4.0	5.3
Vasectomy	0.0	0.0	4.0
Any traditional	53.9	49.3	37.3
Withdrawal	47.2	48.0	37.3
Rhythm	6.7	1.3	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

TABLE 6. Percentage distribution of married women aged 15–49 who had had an abortion in the past six years, by contraceptive method used after abortion, according to method used at the time of conception, Tehran Survey of Fertility, 2014

Method at time of conception	Method after abortion			
	None	Modern	Traditional	Total
None (N=14)	14.3	42.9	42.9	100.0
Traditional (N=37)	18.9	32.4	48.6	100.0
Modern (N=24)	8.3	75.0	16.7	100.0

TABLE 7. Percentage distribution of abortions in the six years preceding the survey, by characteristics of abortions; and percentage of abortion recipients who experienced selected complications, Tehran Survey of Fertility, 2014

Characteristic	% (N=75)
Gestational age (wks.)	
1–4	40.0
5–8	38.7
9–12	14.7
13–16	6.6
Abortion method	
Curettage	36.0
Injection (prostaglandin or oxytocin)	36.0
Misoprostol	24.0
Herbal product/insertion of catheter	4.0
Place of abortion	
Woman's home	28.0
Physician's private office	28.0
Midwife's private office	24.0
Public hospital	9.3
Private hospital	5.3
Provider's home	5.3
Provider	
Midwife	40.0
Obstetrician	32.0
Nonmedical provider	12.0
Woman (self-induced)	9.3
General physician	6.7
Total	100.0
Complications*	
None	42.7
Bleeding	32.0
Menstrual disorder	13.3
Infection	12.0
Chronic pelvic pain	6.7
Infertility	2.7
Other†	3.9

*Total of percentages is greater than 100.0 because respondents could list up to three complications. List in table excludes depression (29.3%) and feelings of guilt (2.7%). †Blood transfusion, shortness of breath, spasms and overweight.