Unintended abortion and pregnancy are experienced worldwide. These reproductive health outcomes occur irrespective of country income level, region or legal status of abortion.

- Roughly 121 million unintended pregnancies annually between 2015 and 2019.
- Of these pregnancies, 61% ended in abortion. This translates to 73 million abortions per year.

**Abortion restrictions**

- Abortion is sought and needed even in settings where it is restricted—that is, in countries where it is prohibited altogether or allowed only to save a woman’s life or to preserve her physical or mental health.
- Unintended pregnancy rates are highest in countries that restrict abortion access and lowest in countries where abortion is broadly legal.
- As a result, abortion rates are similar in countries where abortion is restricted and those where the procedure is broadly legal (i.e., where it is available on request or on socioeconomic grounds).
- In analyses that exclude China and India, whose large populations skew the data, the abortion rate is actually higher in countries that restrict abortion access than in those that do not.
- In countries that restrict abortion, the percentage of unintended pregnancies ending in abortion has increased during the past 30 years.

*All rates, percentages and numbers presented in this fact sheet are annual averages for the specified five-year period. Some graphics in this fact sheet present estimates with 80% uncertainty intervals, which correspond to the 10th and 90th percentiles of the posterior distributions. These intervals signify that there is a 10% chance that the true outcome is below the interval and a 10% chance that the true outcome is above the interval. Rates represent the number of events per 1,000 women aged 15–49.*
The worldwide unintended pregnancy rate has declined over the past 30 years, while the abortion rate has returned to levels last seen in the 1990s

Regional abortion rates, 2015–2019

Source

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