Abortion Rates
Generally, country abortion rates show an inverted u-shaped pattern by women’s age (Table 3, page 148). In 23 of the 41 countries with relevant data, the highest age-specific abortion rate was among 20–24-year-olds, and in 10 countries, the highest rate was among 25–29-year-olds. The rate among women aged 30–34 was slightly higher than those among women aged 20–24 and 25–29 in seven countries (all former Soviet bloc countries, except Portugal). In just one country, Cuba, the highest age-specific abortion rate was among adolescents.

The highest recent adolescent abortion rates were observed in England and Wales, New Zealand, Sweden, Scotland and the United States (20–22 per 1,000 women; Figure 3). The lowest adolescent abortion rates among countries with complete reporting were in Germany, Slovakia, Slovenia, Italy, the Netherlands and Portugal (6–7).

*The rate also rose by 28% since 2003 in Spain, where a complete rate for the mid-1990s is not available.

DISCUSSION
This assessment provides the most recent estimates of the age patterns of abortion incidence in countries with liberal abortion laws, and the first known estimates of the average age distribution of legal abortions to women in subregions and regions where liberal or liberally interpreted laws prevail. We found that adolescents account for a larger proportion of all abortions in North America than in Europe, although adolescents’ share of all abortions in Northern Europe is similar to their share in North America. In addition, adolescents account for a smaller share of abortions than their population size would predict in the majority of countries with liberal abortion laws and relevant data. Both age-specific abortion rates and the share of all abortions by age-group are generally highest in the mid-range of women’s reproductive years.

This assessment was limited to the distribution of legal abortions, but nearly all abortions in North America...