

Abortion in the International Context: Why, Who, and When?

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Contraceptive Use and Unmet Need

Percentage of married or cohabitating women using a family planning method and the percentage with unmet need in less-developed regions and subregions, 2007

	Women using any family planning method (%)	Women with unmet need for family planning (%)
Developing regions	61.7	11.2
Sub-Saharan Africa	21.1	24.2
Africa	28	22.2
Eastern Africa	26.2	27.7
Middle Africa	18.6	22.8
Northern Africa	50.3	14.1
Southern Africa	58.4	16.2
Western Africa	14.5	22.2
Asia	67	9.2
Eastern Asia	84.8	2.3
South-Central Asia	54.2	14.6
South-Eastern Asia	60.7	10.4
Western Asia	54.4	n.a.
Latin American and the Caribbean	71.7	10.5
Caribbean	62.3	20.1
Central America	68.4	13.2
South America	73.9	8.5

Consequences of Contraceptive Failure

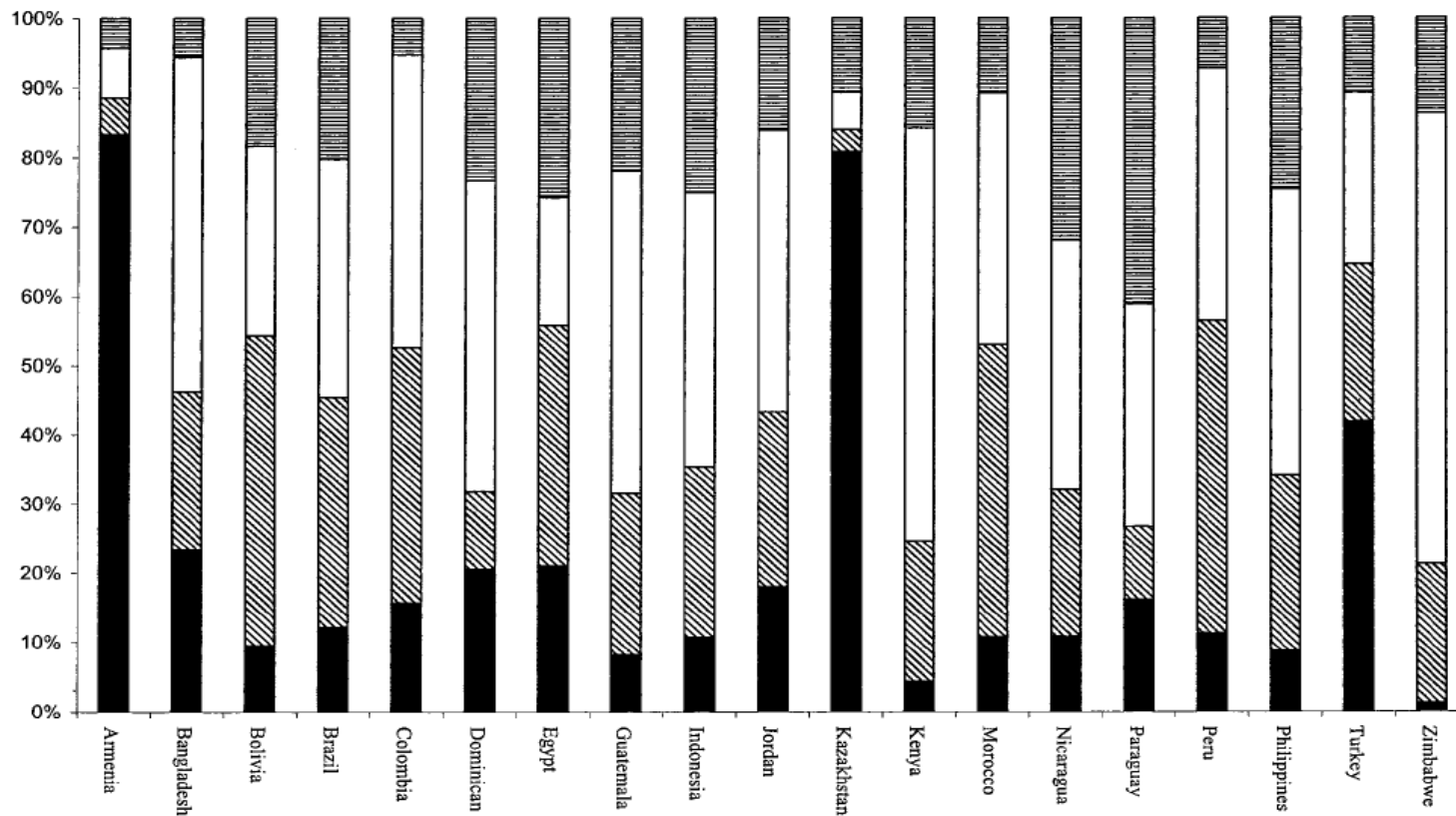
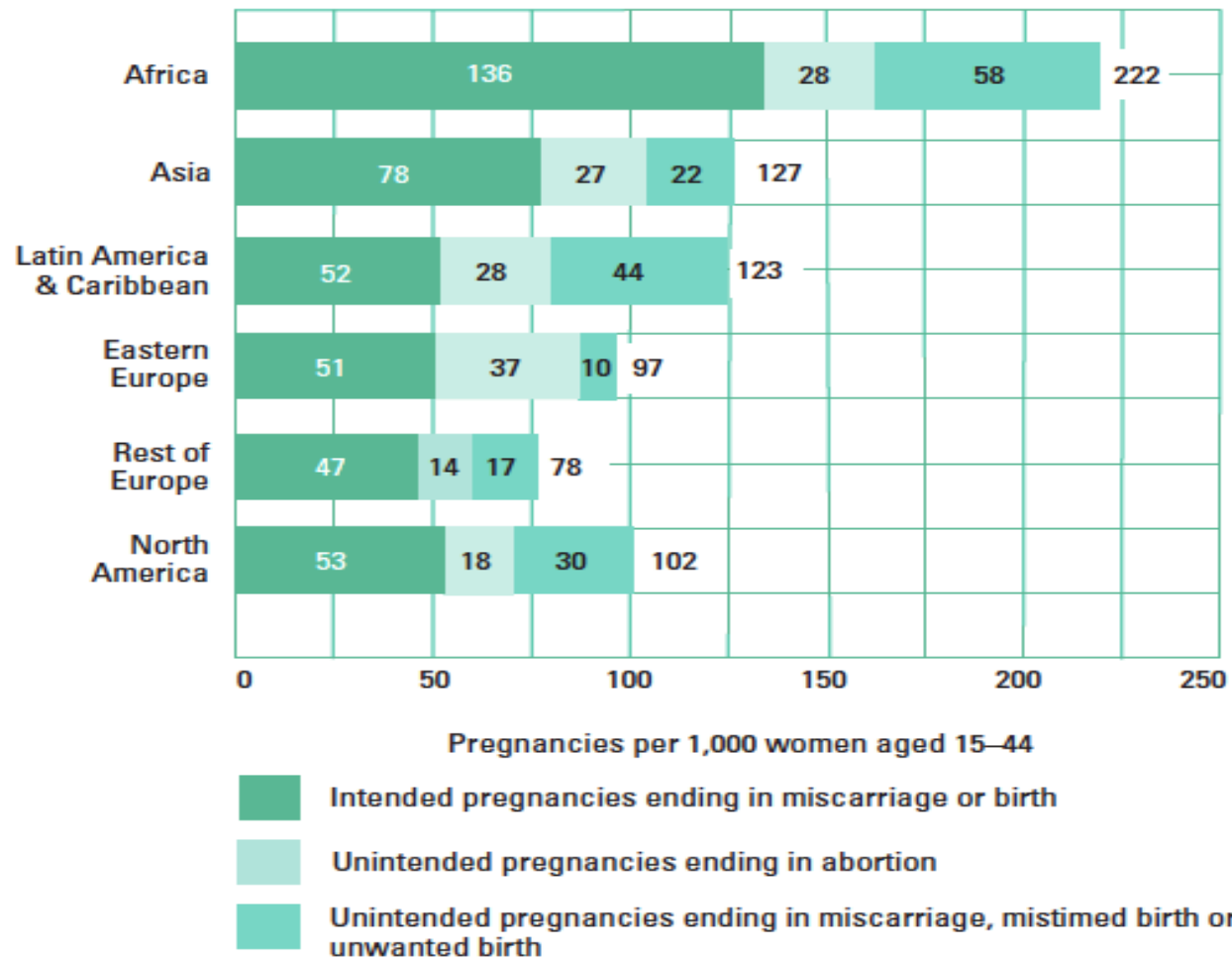


Fig. 2. Percentage distribution of reproductive consequences of contraceptive failure (per 100 episodes), by country. *Horizontal lines*, wanted live birth; *white bars*, mistimed live birth; *diagonal lines*, unwanted live birth; and *black bars*, fetal loss.

Pregnancy Outcomes by Region



**What are the consequences of limiting
access to a safe abortion?**

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Savita Halappanavar report: Tragic. Devastating.
 Doctors need to know when they can intervene



More women c
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Embarazo de niñas chilenas violadas reaviva debate sobre aborto

Redacción BBC Mundo
 Lunes, 8 de julio de 2013



Aunque es un país lai... e es conservador en temas como el aborto.
 Los casos de niñas embarazadas tras ser violadas reavivaron el debate sobre el aborto en Chile, uno de los más conservadores de América Latina. Los jueces que se encargan de decidir si se permite o no el aborto arriesgan el peligro de ser considerados abortistas.

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Las mexicanas que son encarceladas por abortar

Alberto Nájjar
 BBC Mundo, Ciudad de México
 Miércoles, 7 de agosto de 2013

Una tarde Hilda ayudó a su madre a cargar cubetas con agua hasta su casa en Las Palmas, una zona rural de San Luis Potosí, México. El esfuerzo le provocó una hemorragia al día siguiente y, asustada, fue a un hospital a pedir ayuda.

No la encontró. Una doctora la acusó de haberse provocado un aborto, aunque la chica de 18 años lo negó. Luego le dijo que sólo le ayudaría si confesaba haberse tomado una píldora para interrumpir el embarazo. Adolorida, con la hemorragia cada vez más intensa, Hilda aceptó.



Hilda fue encarcelada por un aborto. Imágen cortesía de GIRE.

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El Salvador niega aborto a mujer con riesgo de muerte

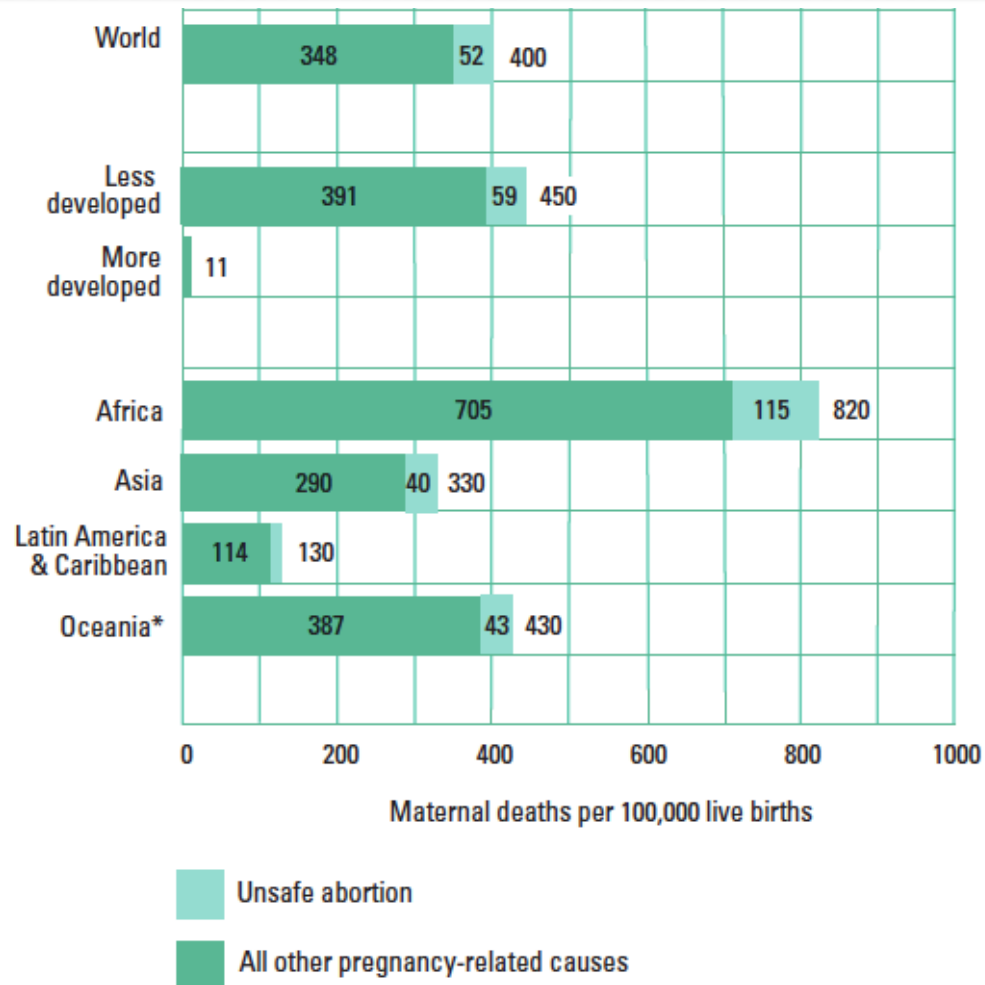
Redacción BBC Mundo
 Jueves, 30 de mayo de 2013



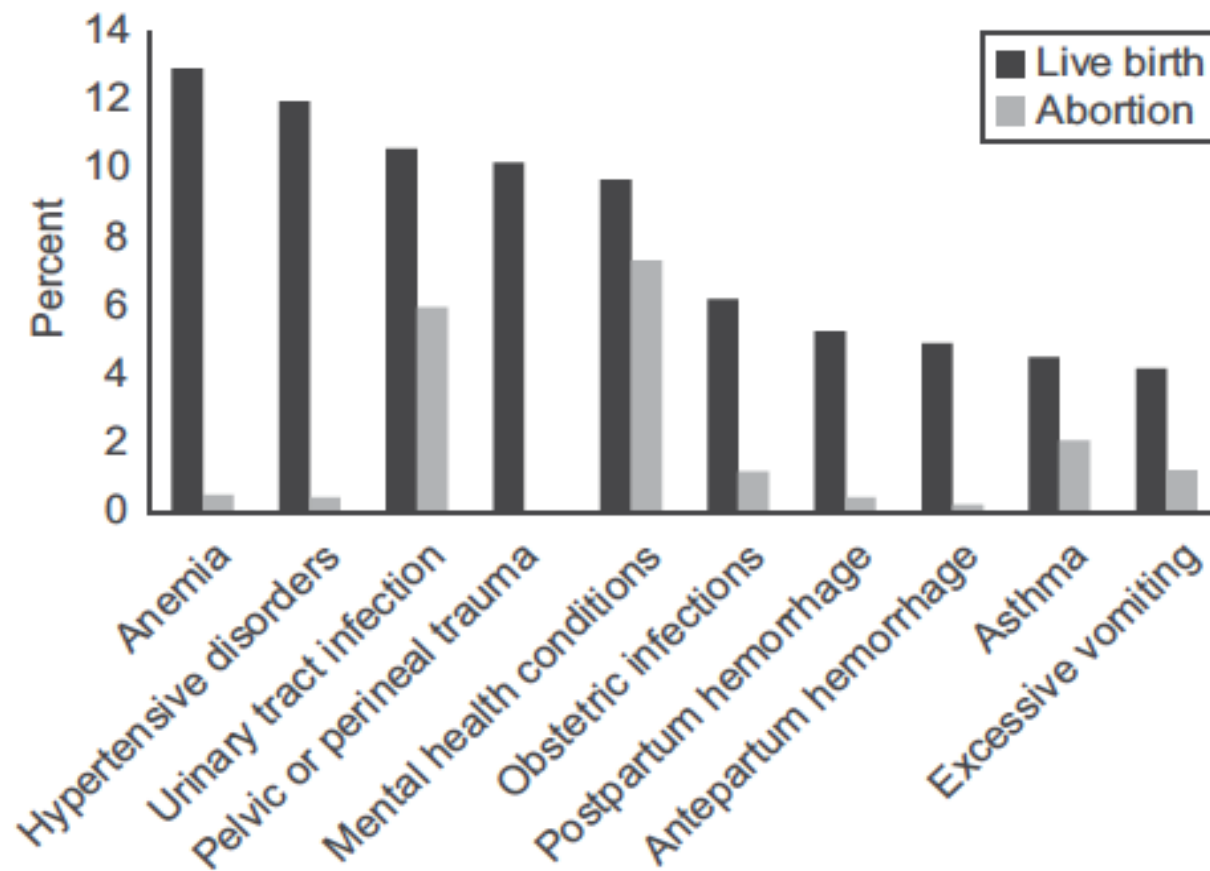
"Saquen sus rosarios de nuestros ovarios", dice esta manifestante.
 El caso de Beatriz, una salvadoreña que solicitó interrumpir su embarazo porque padece lupus y una enfermedad renal, tuvo un nuevo capítulo el miércoles.

Unsafe Abortion is a Human Rights Issue

Maternal Deaths from Unsafe Abortion

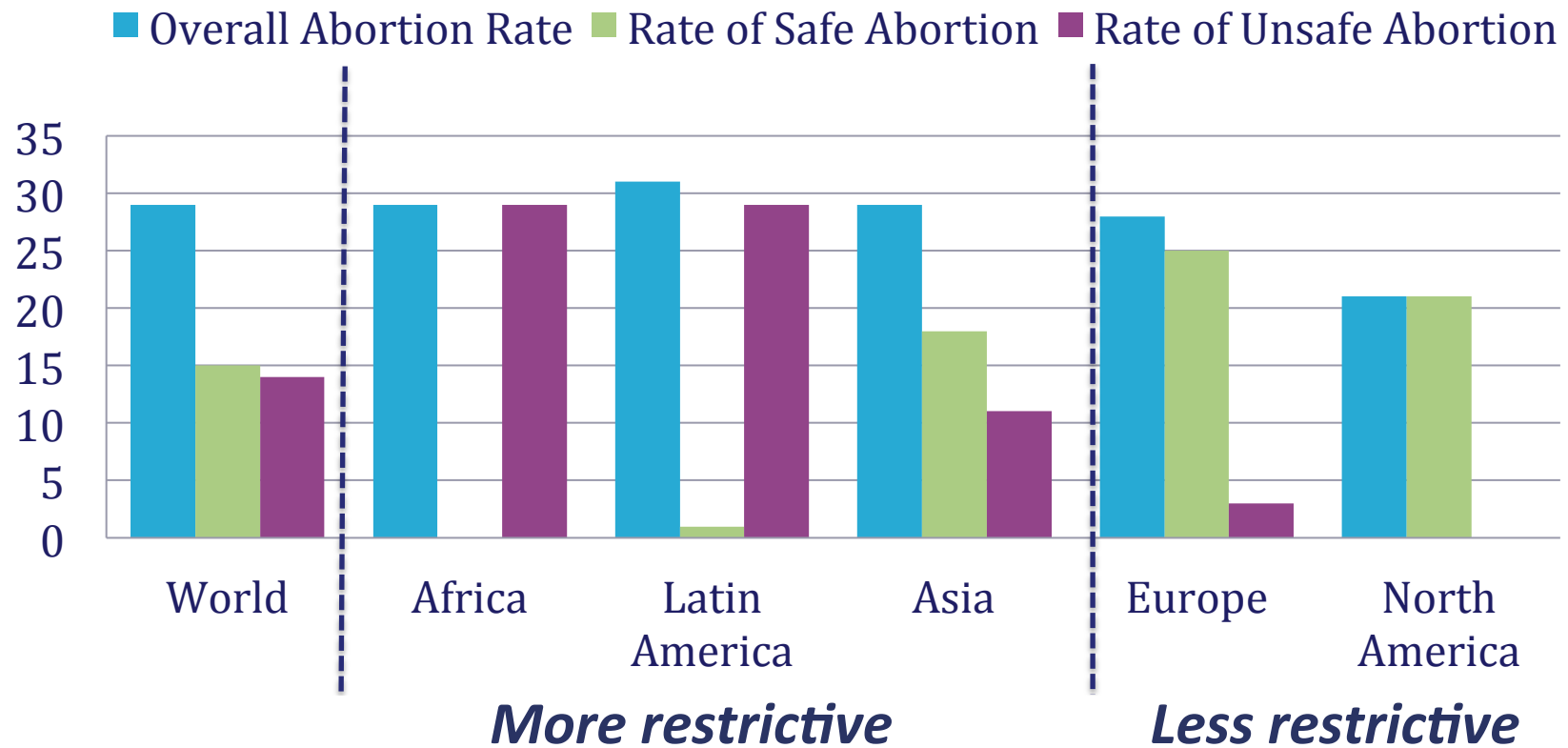


Risks of Childbirth are Greater than Abortion

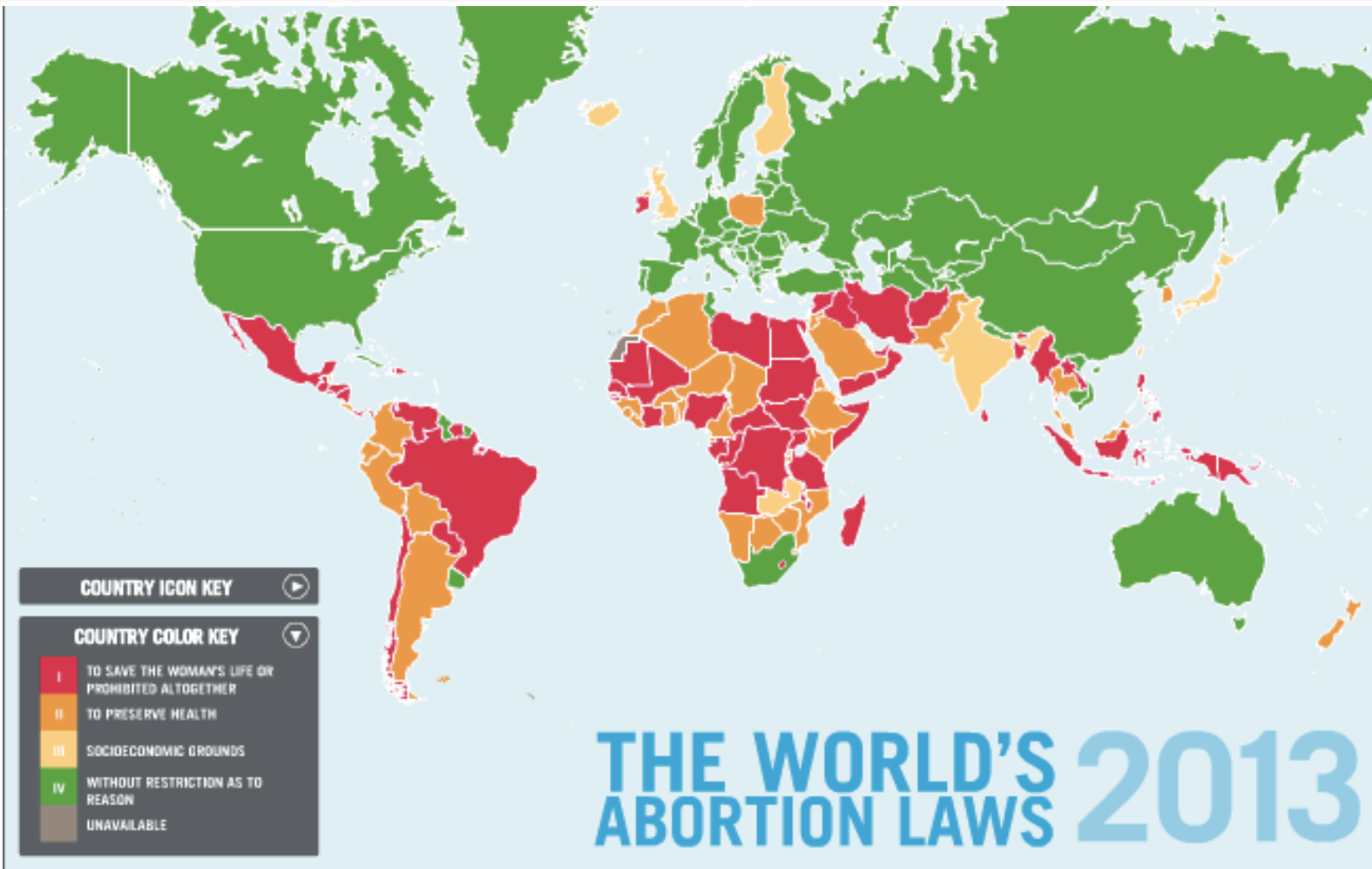


Abortion Rate Constant Regardless of Restrictions or Safety

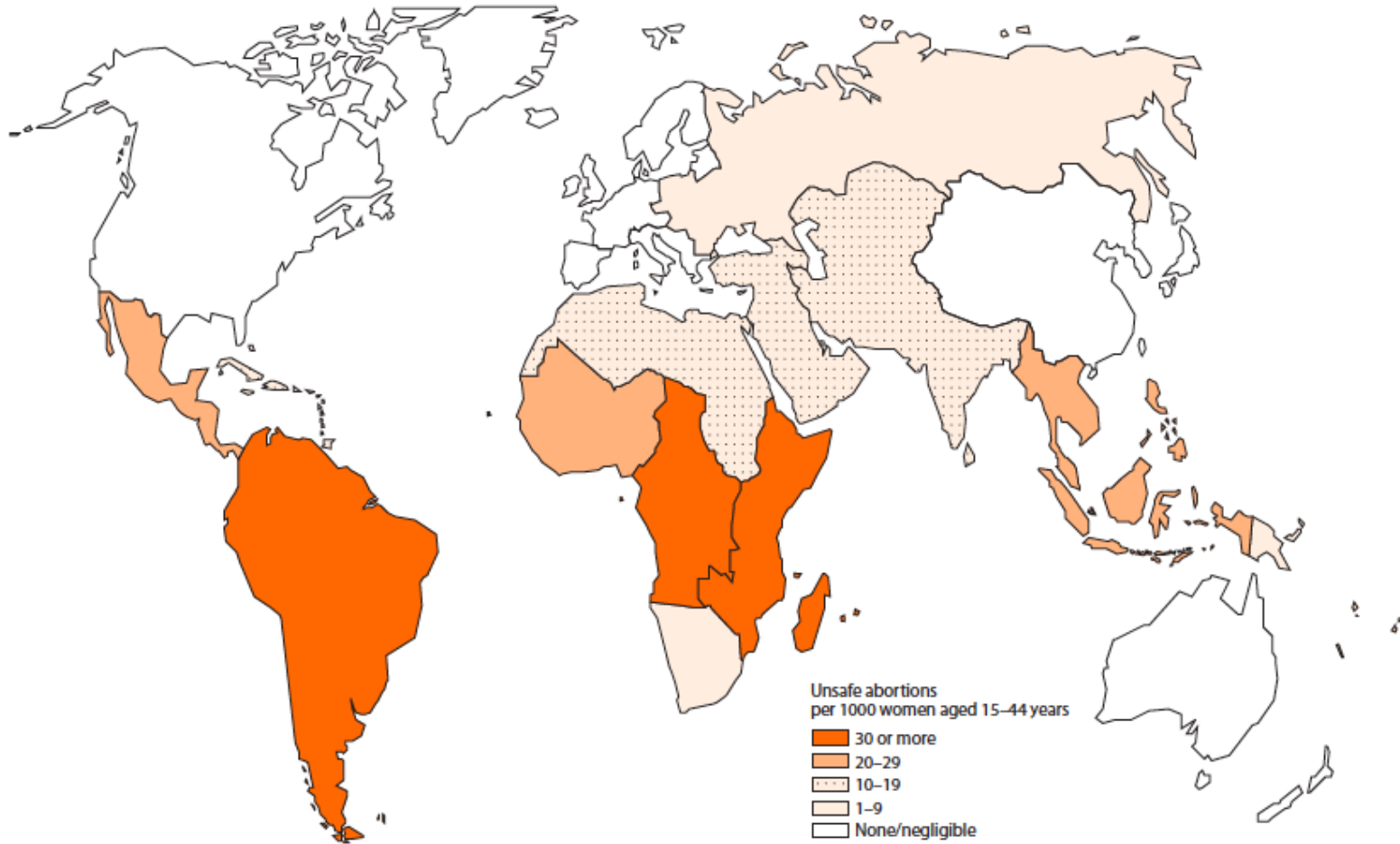
Overall abortion rate by safety



Abortion Restrictions Around the World



Unsafe Abortion Worldwide



Abortion Restrictions Make Abortion Unsafe

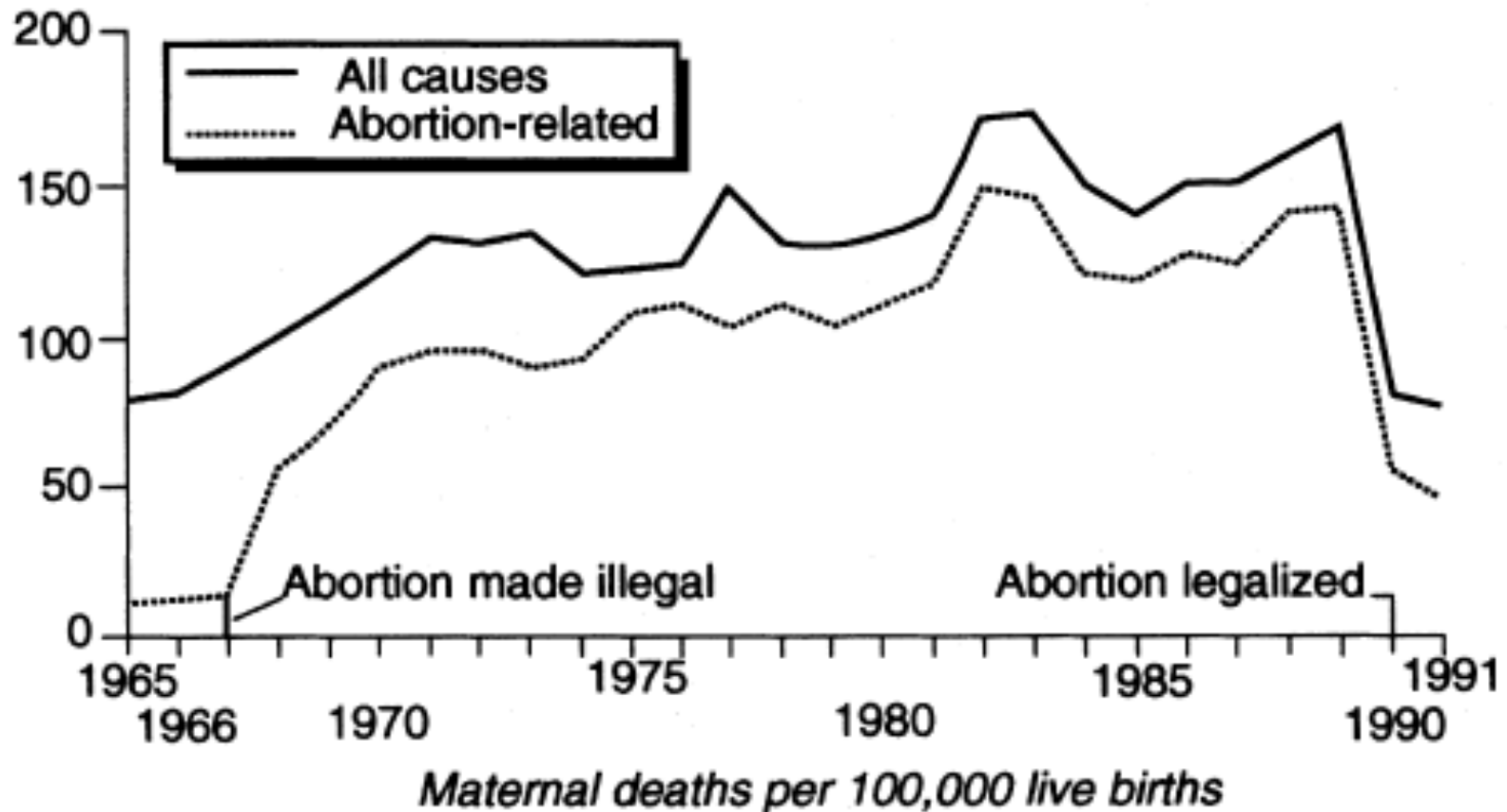
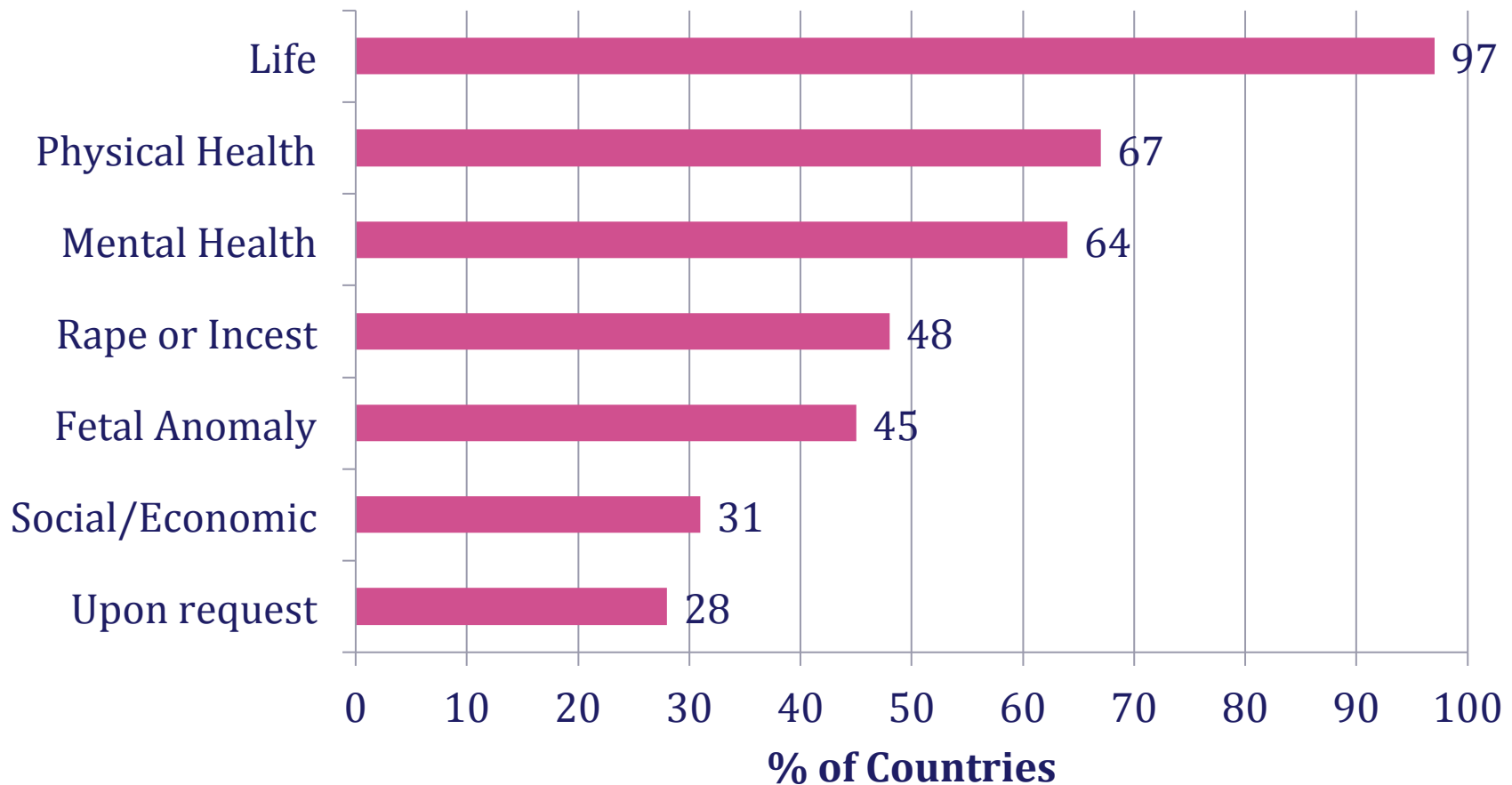


Fig. 6. Maternal mortality in Romania between 1965 and 1991

Legal Indications for Abortion



Colombian Abortion Law C-355/2006

Abortion decriminalized when:

- Risk to life or health of the woman
- Fetal anomaly incompatible with life
- Rape, incest, or unconsented artificial insemination

Barriers to Access

- Lack of access to information
- Blocking access to medications
- Requiring legal reporting or evidence of coerced sex
- Requiring unnecessary approvals or tests
- Unregulated conscientious objection
- Arbitrary gestational age limits
- Stigma, harassment, coercion, extortion

Take-Home Points

- About 50% of pregnancies are not intended
- Making abortion illegal does not make it go away, it only makes it unsafe
- While most countries have legal abortion, many women cannot access it
- Having an abortion is safer than carrying a pregnancy to term
- Restricting access to abortion hurts poor and vulnerable women, increasing social inequity and death

***Women are not dying because
of a disease we cannot treat.
They are dying because societies
have yet to make the decision
that their lives are worth saving.***

Mahmoud Fathalla, President of the
International Federation of Gynecology and
Obstetrics (FIGO), World Congress,
Copenhagen, 1997