

Global Obstacles to Abortion

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Overview of Obstacles

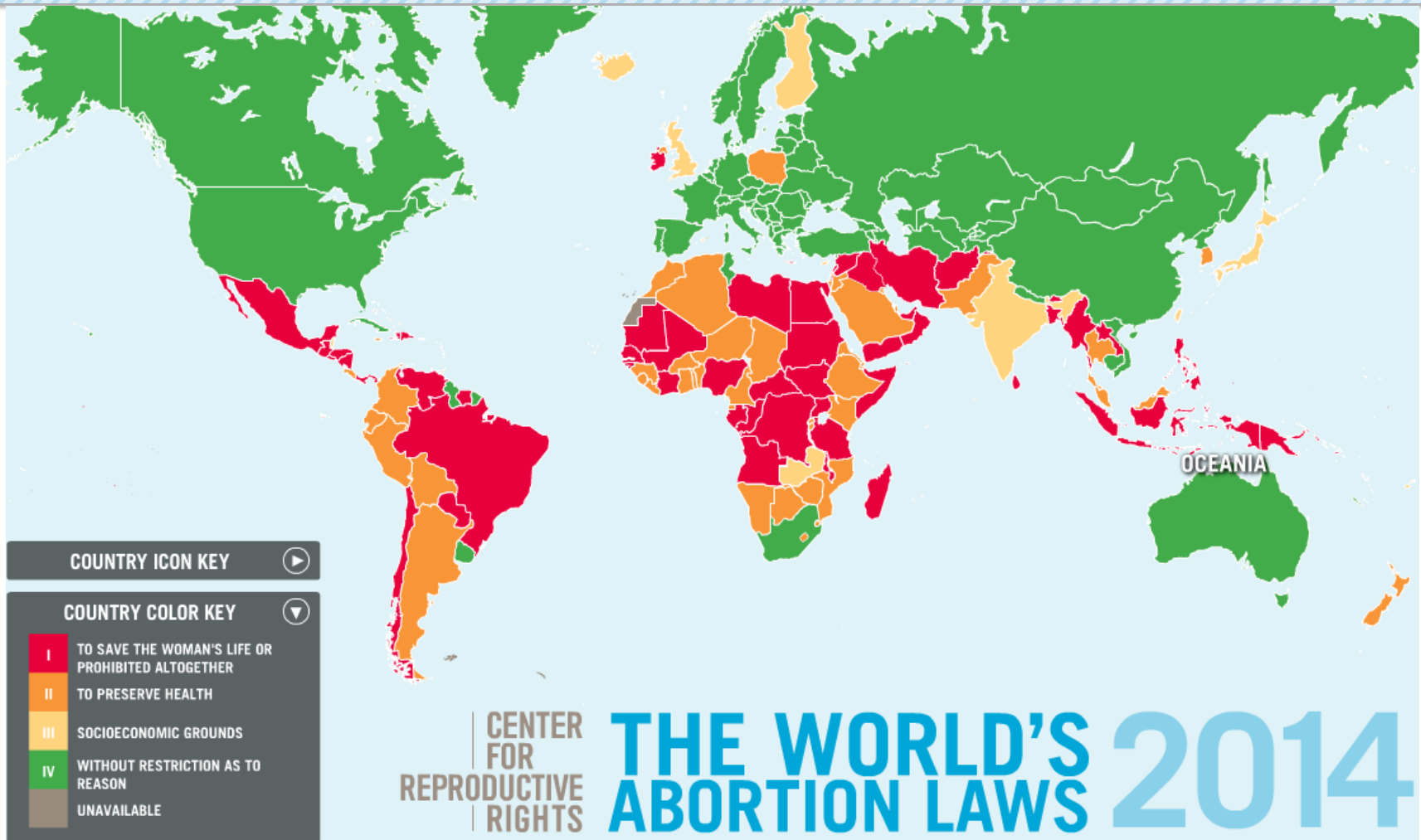
- Laws and policies
- Cost
- Few or inadequately trained providers
- Lack of access to abortion supplies or medications
- Lack of knowledge of law or services
- Stigma

Laws and Policies

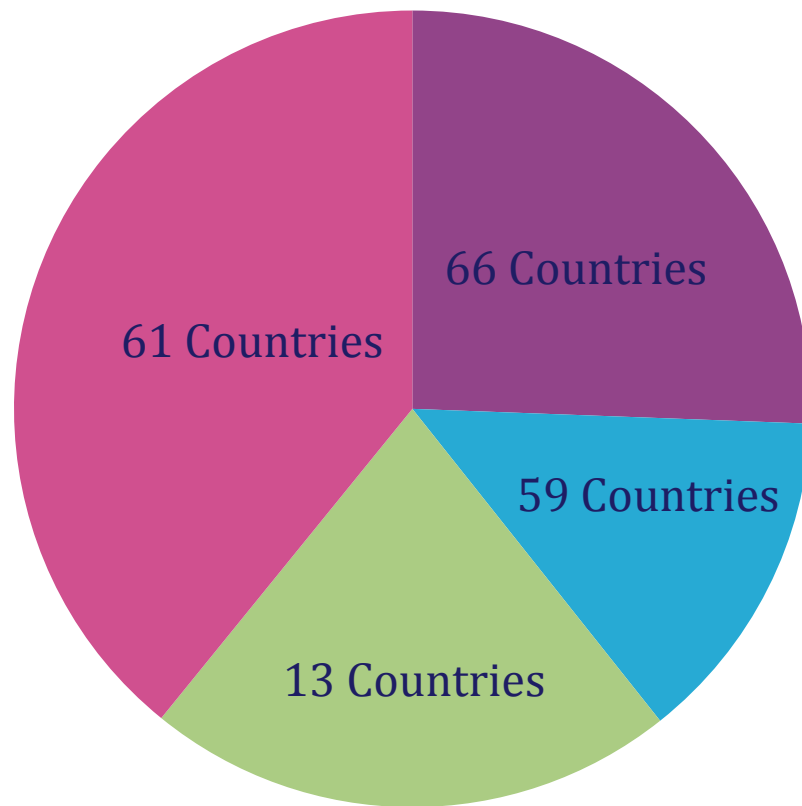
- Laws restricting abortion are a significant barrier to access
- In cases of limited legal indications, regulations may be unclear about how to access abortion services



Restrictive Abortion Laws



Percent of World Population Living in Countries with Restrictive Abortion Laws



- To Save the Woman's Life or Prohibited Altogether
- To Preserve Health
- Socioeconomic Grounds
- Without Restriction as to Reason

Process to Obtain Legal Abortion in Case of Rape in Mexico City Before 2007

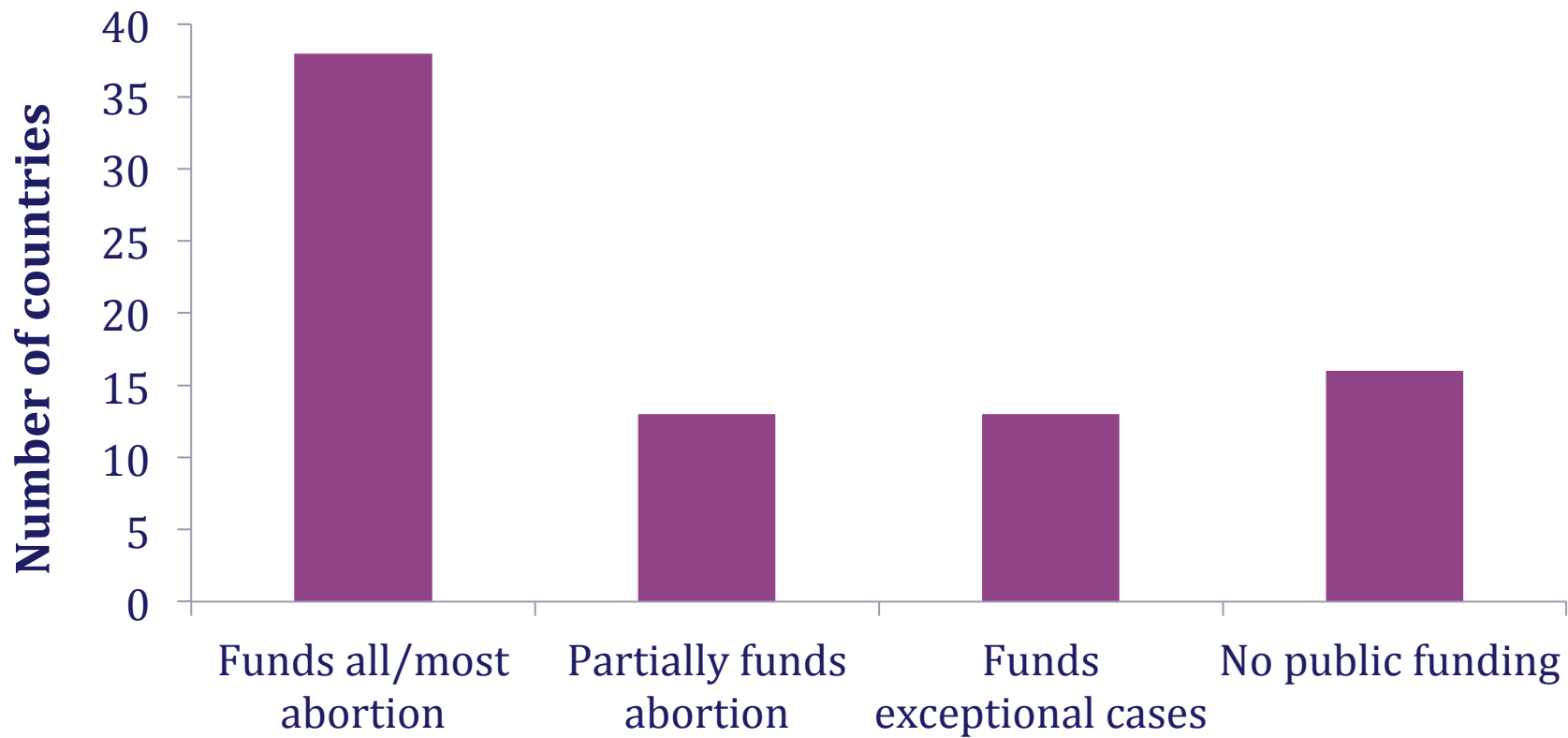


Cost of Abortion

- Where abortion is legally restricted, safe services are often expensive, making them inaccessible to poor women
- In countries with liberal laws, there may not be public funding for services

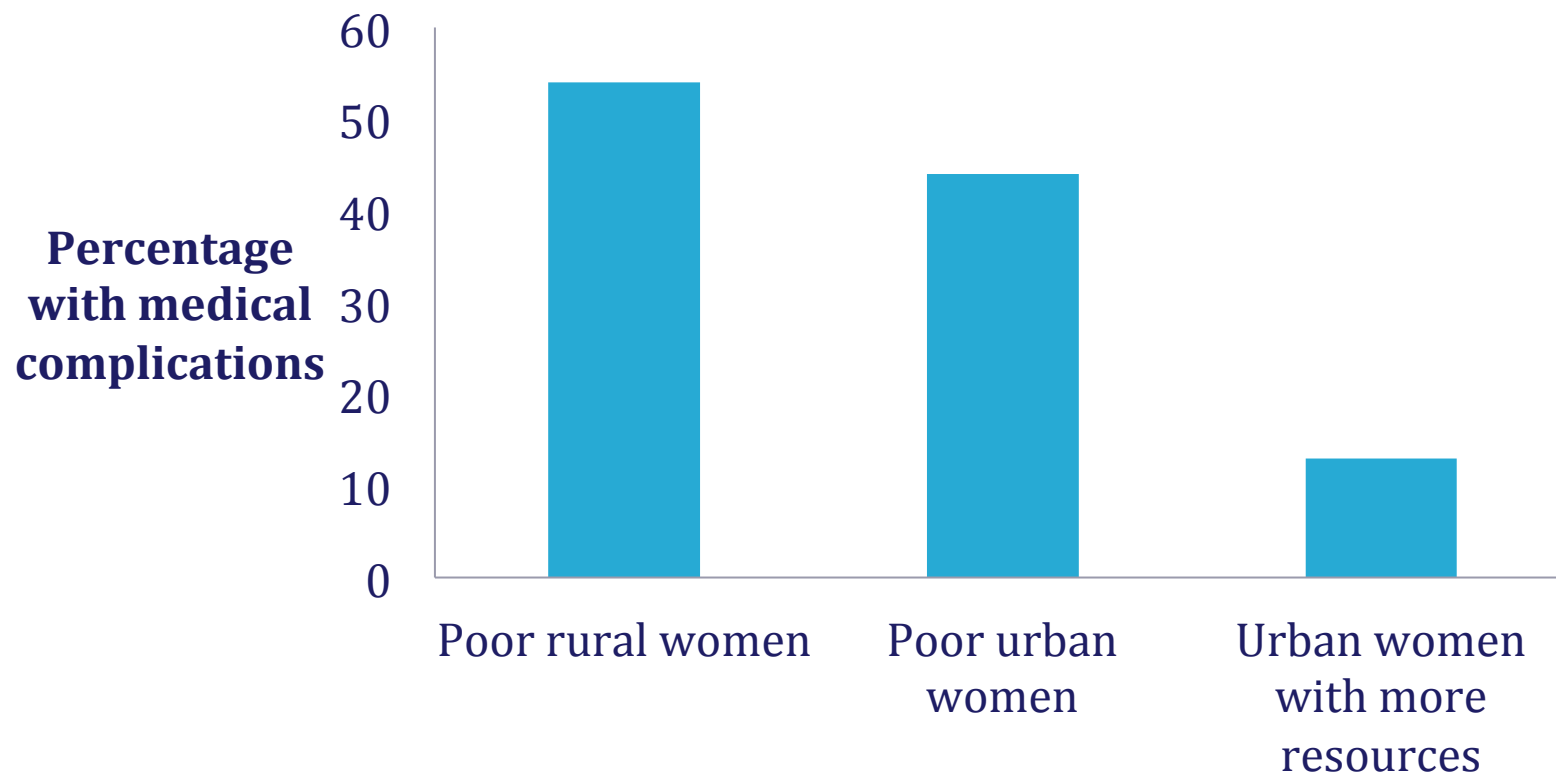


Public Funding of Abortion Among Countries with Liberal Laws



Poor women are more likely to suffer complications of unsafe abortion.

Abortion Complications

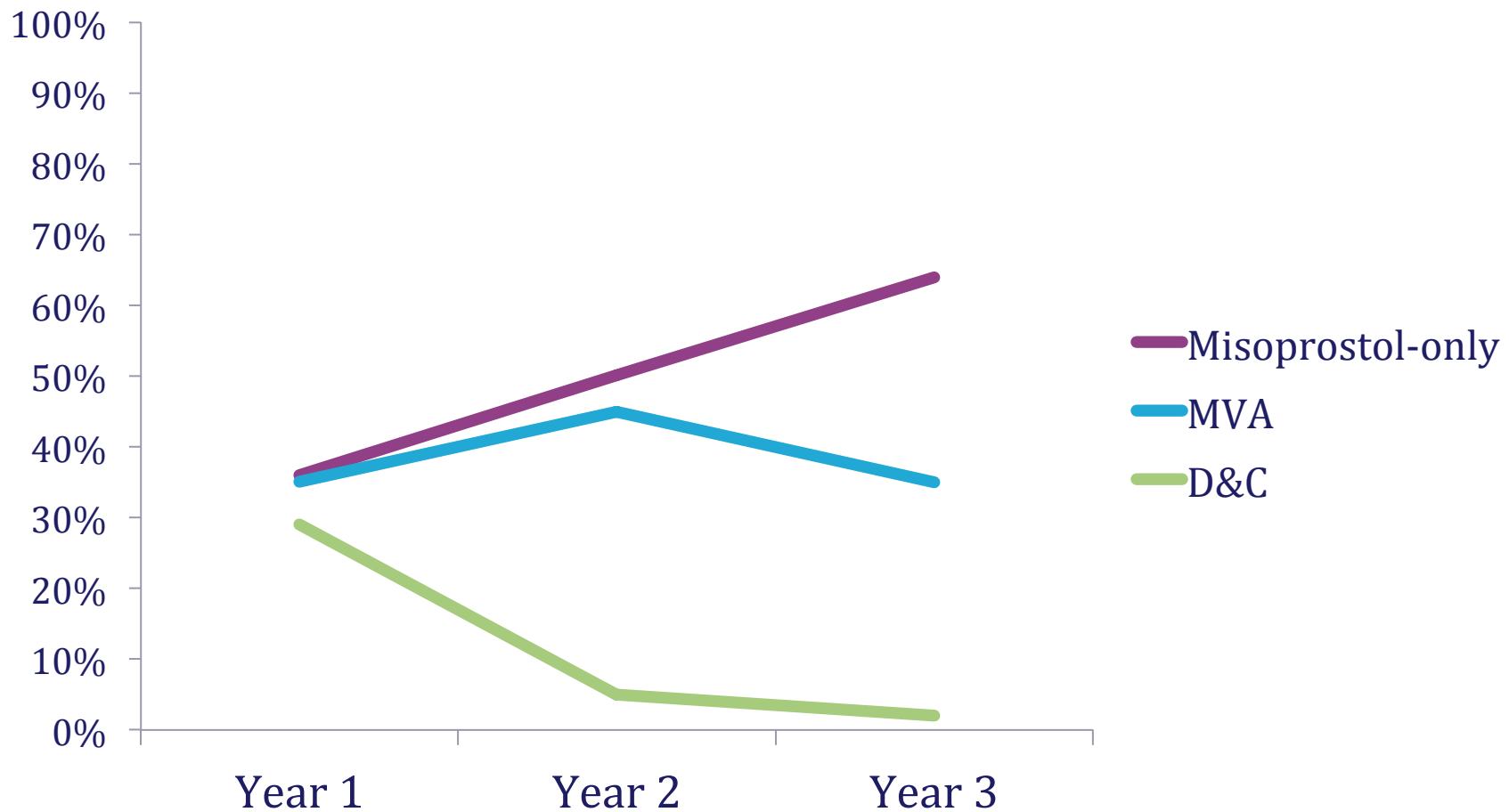


Few or Inadequately Trained Providers

- Lack of training on abortion in medical and nursing school
- Providers may be concentrated in urban areas
- Techniques not evidence-based



Abortion Techniques Used in Public Services in Mexico City, 2007-2010



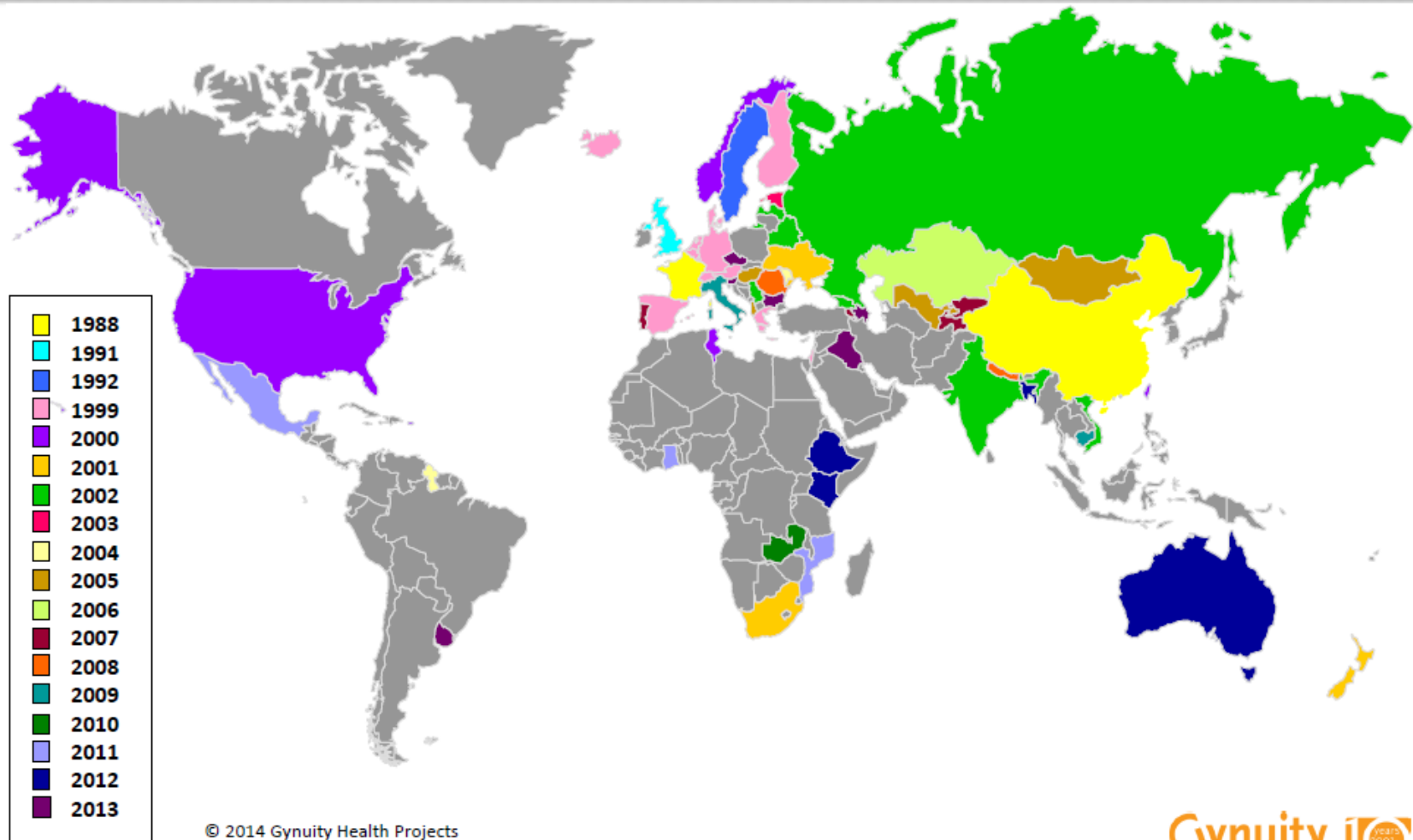
Lack of Access to Abortion Supplies or Medications

- Manual vacuum aspiration equipment may be expensive or difficult to access
- Mifepristone—the most effective abortion drug—is not available everywhere



RH Reality Check

Availability of Mifepristone



Lack of Knowledge of Law or Services

- Women may not know where services are located
- Women and physicians may be confused about the law



Stigma

- Abortion-related stigma may limit the services clinicians provide
- Stigma may also prevent women from seeking safe services and instead pursue self-induction



Conclusions

- The large number of unsafe abortions globally is related to the many obstacles women face accessing services
- Restrictive laws are an important barrier, but even in countries with liberal laws, multiple structural and societal barriers may limit access
- Future lectures will highlight innovative strategies to address these barriers