Induced abortion: incidence and legal status

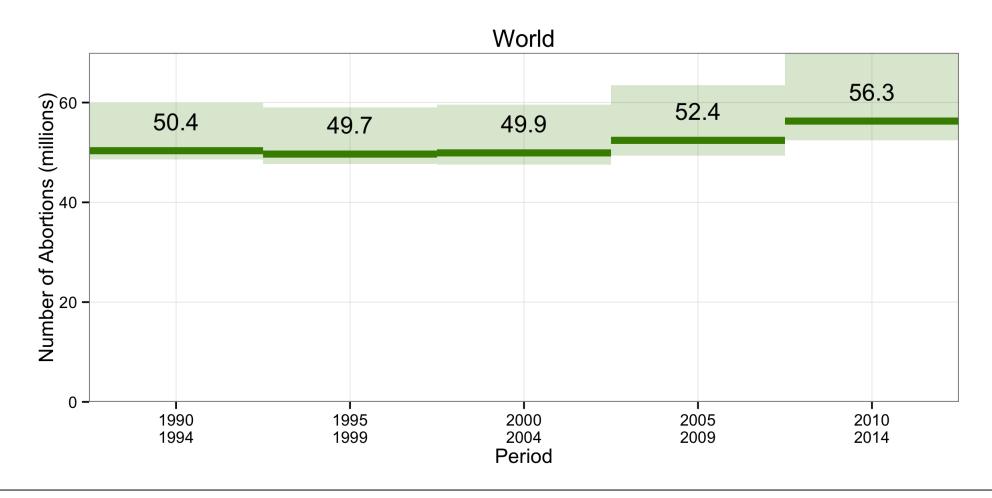
Gilda Sedgh, ScD Guttmacher Institute

Irish Citizens' Assembly February 2017



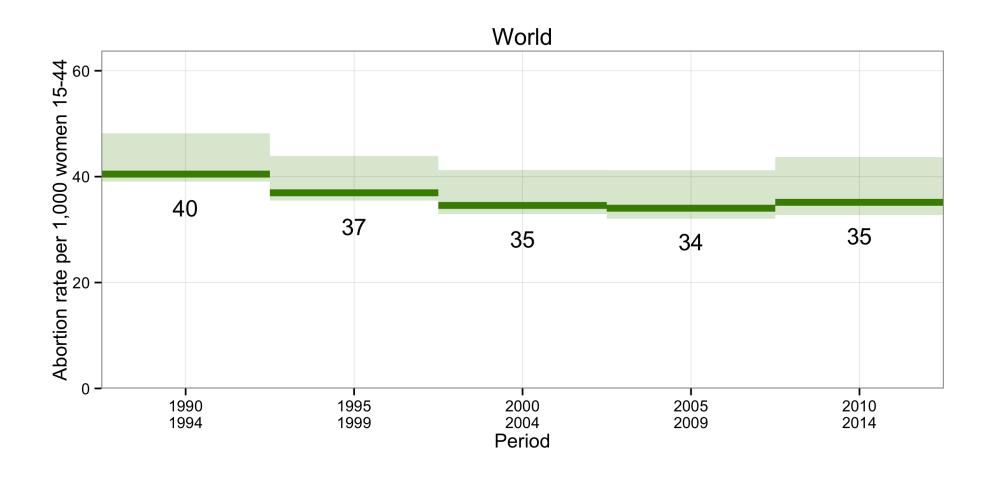


About 56 million abortions took place each year in 2010-2014



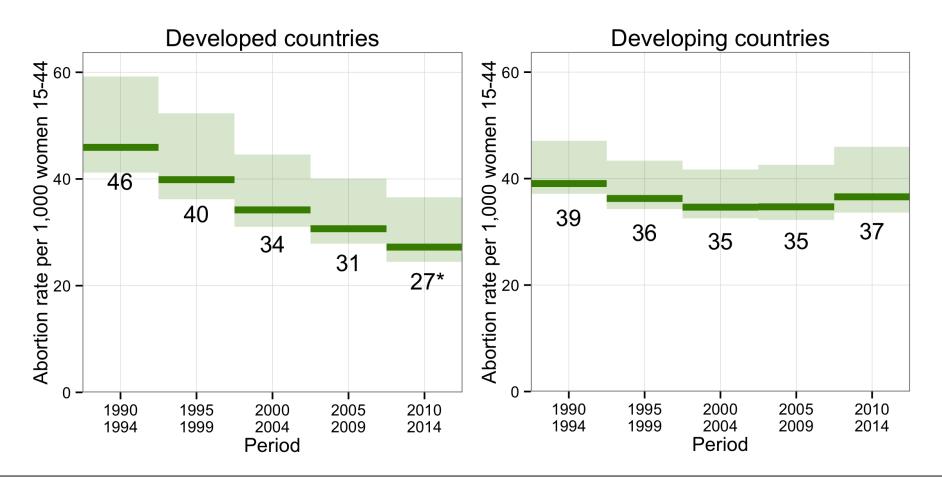


The global abortion rate fell slightly

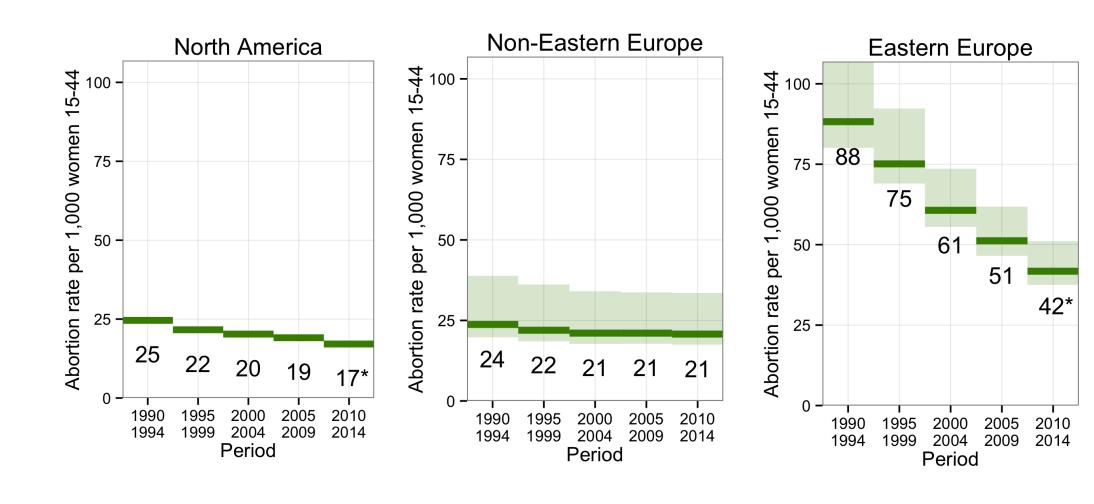




The abortion rate fell significantly in the developed world, but not in the developing world

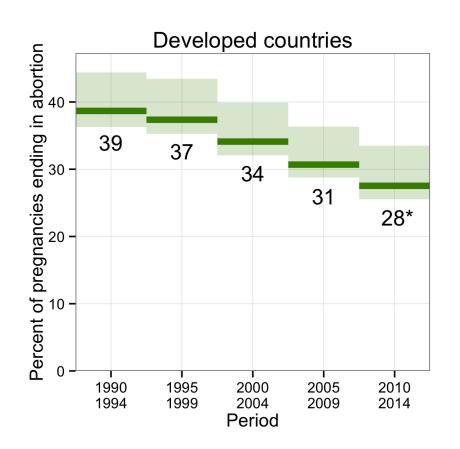


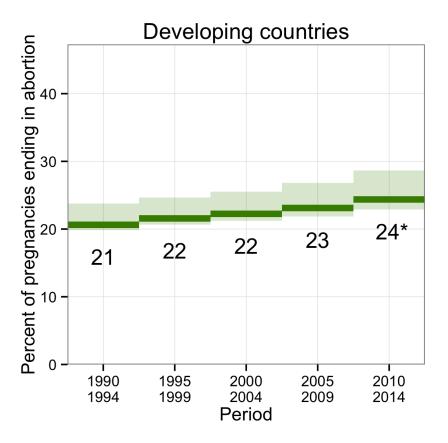






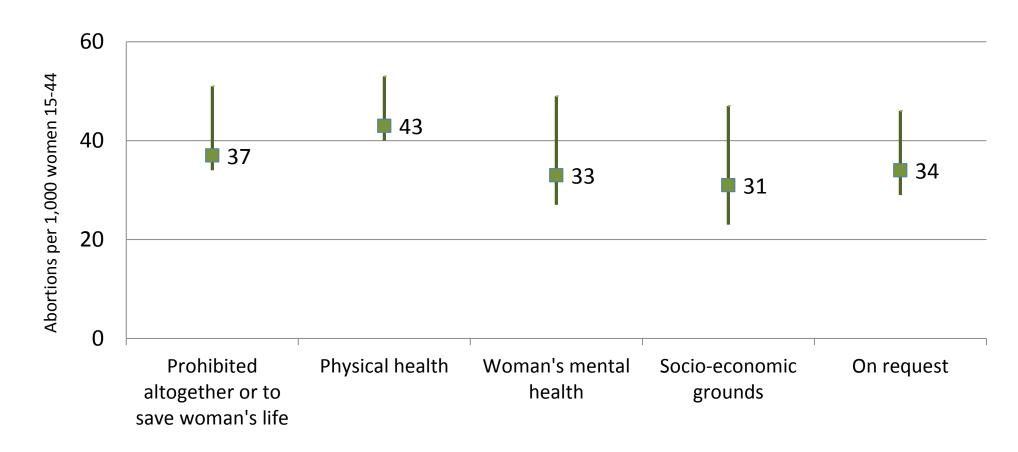
The percent of pregnancies ending in abortion is increasing in the developing world





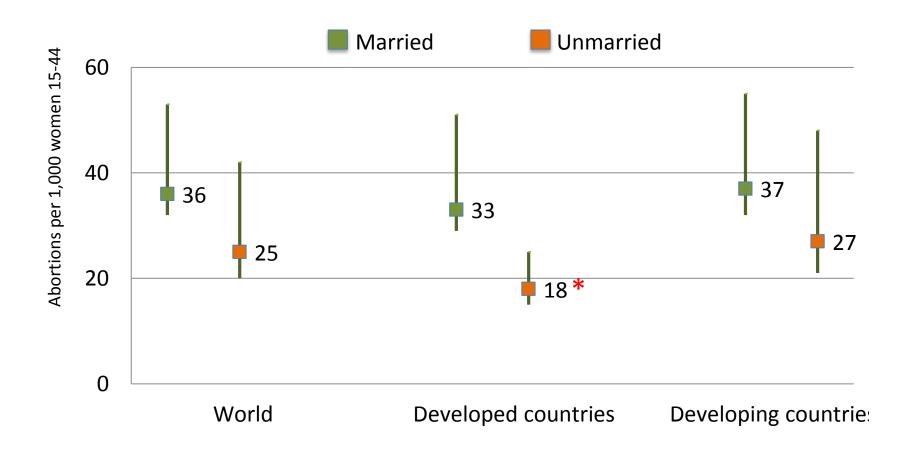


The abortion rate is similar in countries grouped by legal status



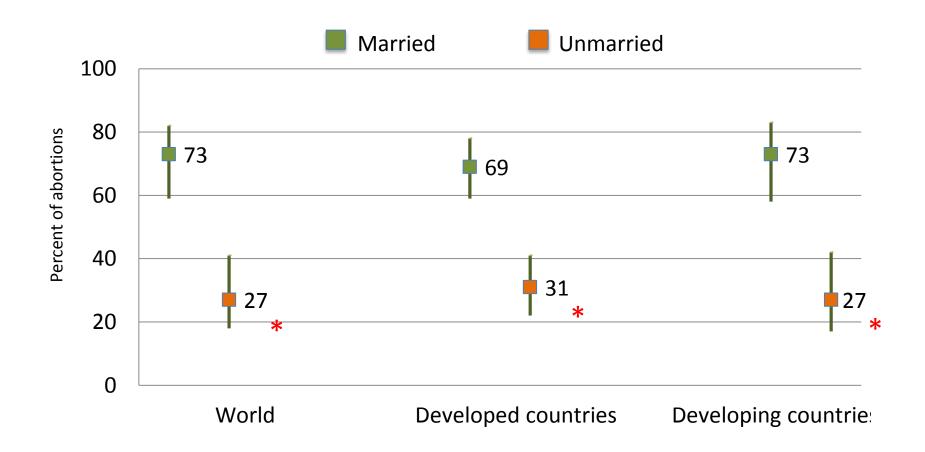


The abortion rate is higher among married women than unmarried women



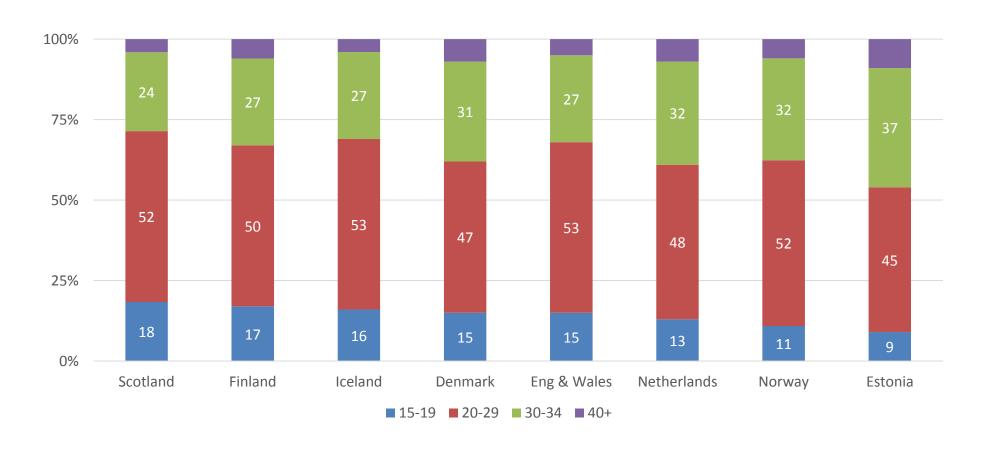


Married women account for the majority of abortions



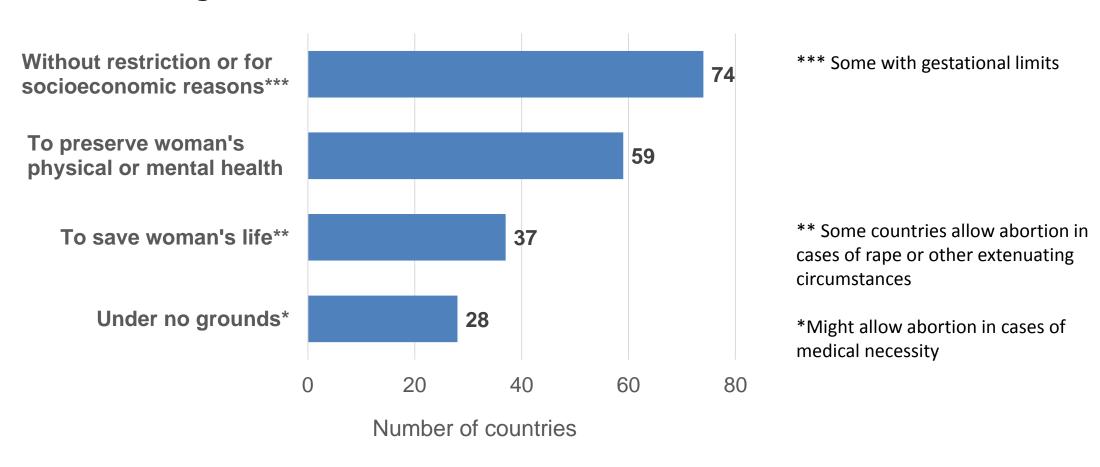


Adolescents account for 10-20% of abortions in European countries with data



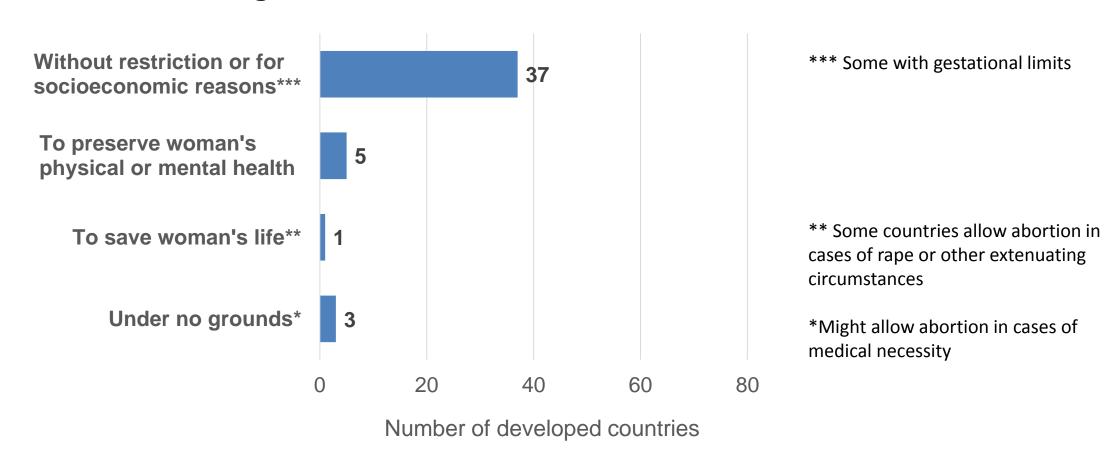


Worldwide, 65 countries do not legally allow abortion, or allow it only to save a woman's life



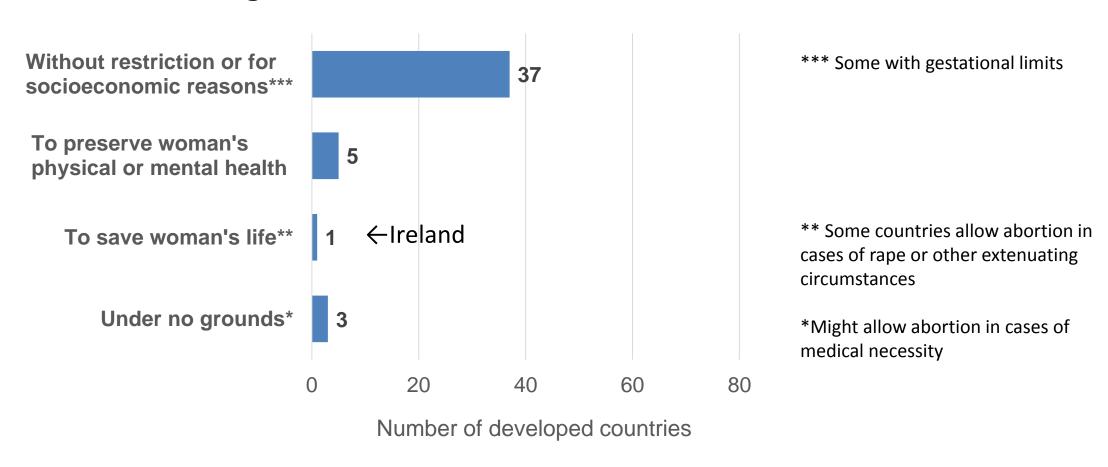


Four developed countries do not legally allow abortion, or allow it only to save a woman's life





Four developed countries do not legally allow abortion, or allow it only to save a woman's life





In Ireland, abortion is allowed to save a woman's life

- Prohibited altogether:
 - Andorra, Malta, San Marino
- Allowed to save woman's life:
 - Ireland
- Allowed preserve physical or mental health:
 - New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Poland
- Allowed on request or for socioeconomic reasons:
 - Rest of Europe (34 countries), Australia, Canada, US



A number of countries have changed the grounds for legal abortion between 1994 and 2014

	Worldwide	Developed countries
Expanded grounds for legal abortion	34	6
Narrowed grounds for legal abortion	2	0



Six European countries revised their abortion laws since 1994

- Expanded grounds for legal abortion:
 - Albania (1996), Switzerland (2002), Portugal (2007), Monaco (2009),
 Spain (2010), Luxembourg (2012)
- Narrowed grounds for legal abortion:
 - None



Some European countries have enacted or changed the regulations that accompany their abortion laws

- Enhanced access to legal abortion:
 - France, Denmark, Sweden, Ireland
- Restricted access to legal abortion:
 - Hungary, Russia, Latvia, Slovakia, Germany, Macedonia, Belarus



UK Government Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction