

**CATHOLICS  
FOR  
CHOICE**

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## Index: Abortion Law and Women's Health Worldwide

### Changes in abortion laws between 1997 and 2008<sup>1</sup>

Countries that expanded the grounds for legal abortions . . . . .	17
Benin, Bhutan, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Ethiopia, Guinea, Iran, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Portugal, Saint Lucia, Swaziland, Switzerland, Thailand and Togo	
Regions that liberalized abortion laws . . . . .	2
Mexico City, parts of Australia	
Countries that further limited restrictive laws . . . . .	3
El Salvador, Nicaragua, Poland	

### Correlation between abortion law and abortion rates<sup>2</sup>

Restrictive laws	Abortion rate per 1,000 women of childbearing age in 2008	Liberal laws	Abortion rate per 1,000 women of childbearing age in 2008
Africa . . . . .	29	Eastern Europe . . . . .	43
Asia . . . . .	28	Western Europe . . . . .	12
Latin America . . . . .	32	North America . . . . .	19

### Abortion-related deaths per 100,000 procedures<sup>3</sup>

United States . . . . .	0.6
Worldwide . . . . .	220
Sub-Saharan Africa . . . . .	460

### Yearly health impact of unsafe abortions in the Global South (2005 data)<sup>4</sup>

Women who need medical attention for complications . . . . .	8.5 million
Women who need medical attention but do not receive it . . . . .	3 million

<sup>1</sup> Guttmacher Institute, "Facts on Induced Abortion Worldwide," January 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Sedgh G et al., "Induced abortion worldwide in 2008: levels and trends," *Lancet*, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> World Health Organization (WHO), *Unsafe Abortion: Global and Regional Estimates of the Incidence of Unsafe Abortion and Associated Mortality in 2008, sixth ed.*, Geneva: WHO, 2011.

<sup>4</sup> Singh S, "Hospital admissions resulting from unsafe abortion: estimates from 13 developing countries," *Lancet*, 2006, 368(9550):1887-1892.