## Abortion Law and Women’s Health Worldwide

### Changes in abortion laws between 1997 and 2008

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

### Correlation between abortion law and abortion rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restrictive laws</th>
<th>Abortion rate per 1,000 women of childbearing age in 2008</th>
<th>Liberal laws</th>
<th>Abortion rate per 1,000 women of childbearing age in 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>.29</td>
<td>Eastern Europe</td>
<td>.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>.28</td>
<td>Western Europe</td>
<td>.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>.32</td>
<td>North America</td>
<td>.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Abortion-related deaths per 100,000 procedures

- **United States**: 0.6
- **Worldwide**: 220
- **Sub-Saharan Africa**: 460

### Yearly health impact of unsafe abortions in the Global South (2005 data)

- **Women who need medical attention for complications**: 8.5 million
- **Women who need medical attention but do not receive it**: 3 million

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1 Guttmacher Institute, “Facts on Induced Abortion Worldwide,” January 2012.