

Global Abortion Overview

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Reasons Women Seek Abortion

- Globally estimated that 40% of pregnancies are unplanned
 - Non-use of contraception
 - Ineffective contraceptive use
 - Method failure
- 215 million worldwide are estimated to have an unmet need for contraception
- Sexual violence
- Financial reasons, life plans, other children

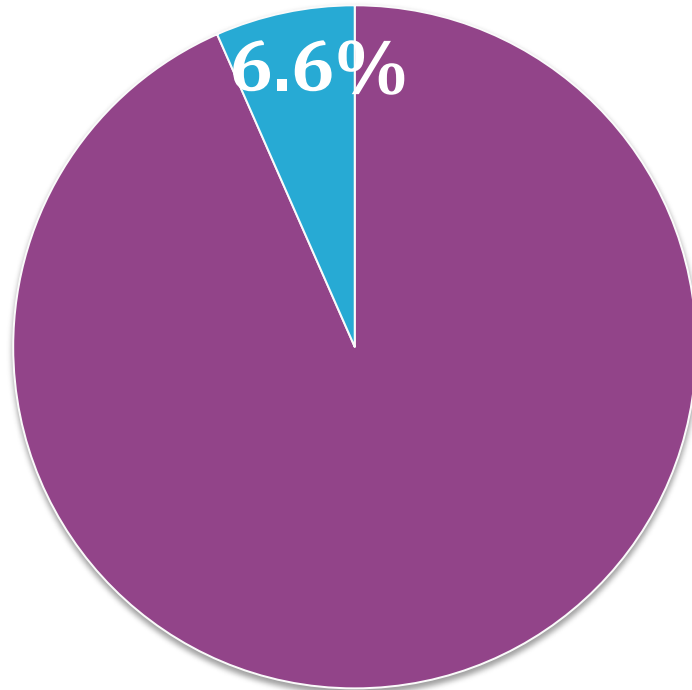
Unsafe Abortion

- WHO definition
 - A procedure for terminating an unintended pregnancy carried out either by persons lacking the necessary skills or in an environment that does not conform to minimal medical standards, or both.
- Approximately 20 million unsafe abortions annually, resulting in 44,000 deaths
- 15% of maternal deaths in 2013

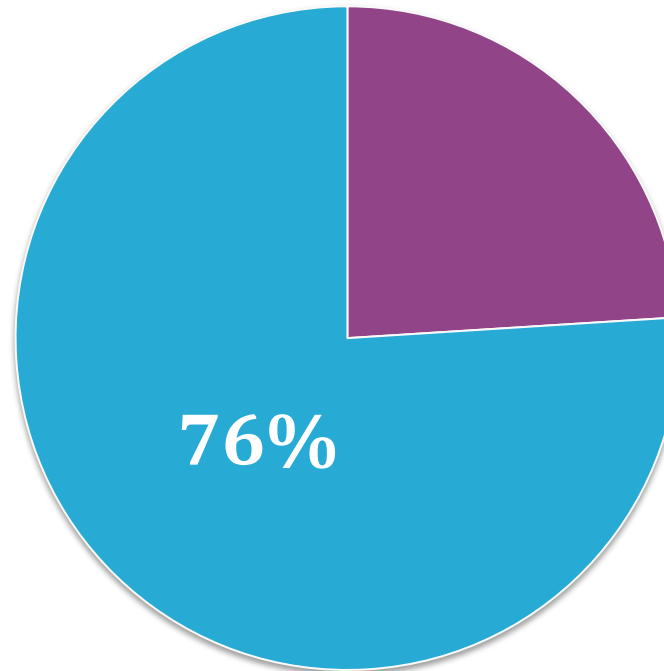
Mortality by Gestational Age

Russian Federation, 1999

All abortions



Abortion deaths

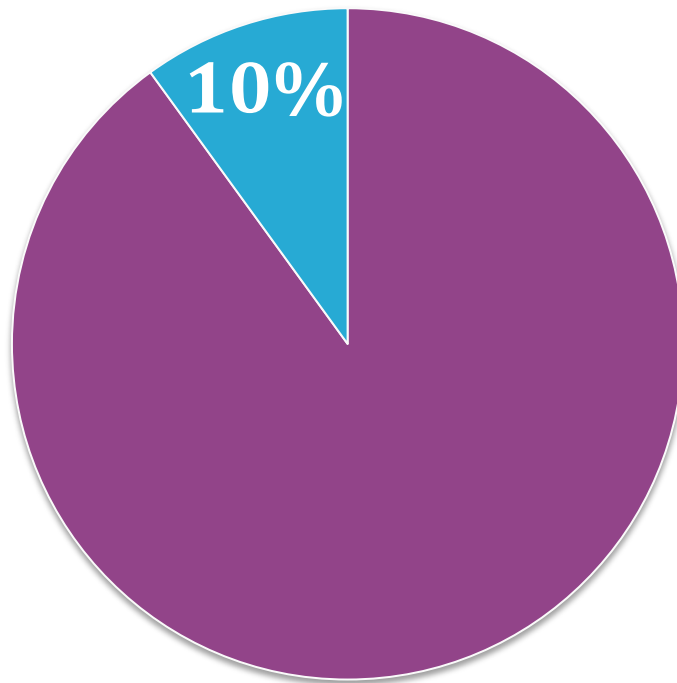


- 1st trimester
- 2nd trimester

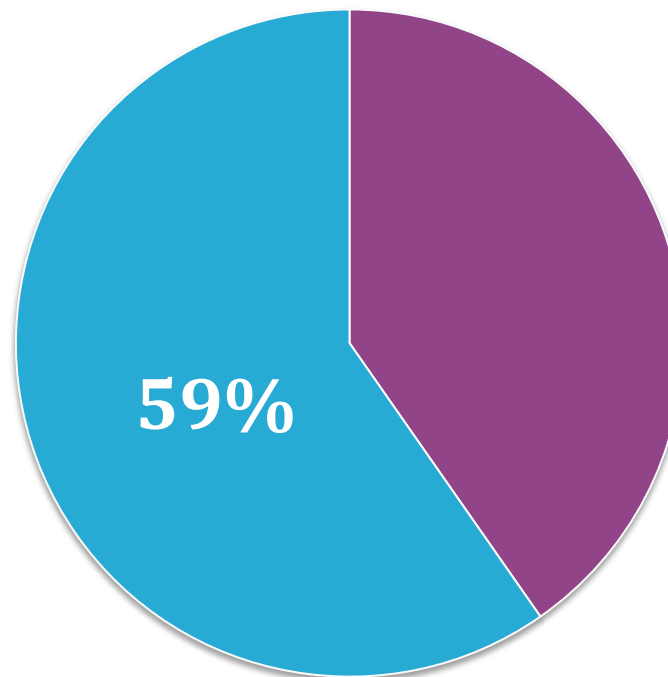
Mortality by Gestational Age

Benin City, Nigeria, 1973-84

All abortions



Abortion deaths



- 1st trimester
- 2nd trimester

How do women obtain abortion care in restricted settings?

- Stigma may make it difficult to obtain accurate information
- Perception of surgical abortion as being unsafe—and therefore medical abortion as safer
- Providers may have limited training and rely on outdated methods, such as sharp curettage

Misoprostol

- Prostaglandin analogue
- Causes uterine contractions and opening of the cervix
- Causes vaginal bleeding (incomplete abortion)
- When used vaginally in repeated doses, approximately 85% effective in causing complete abortion

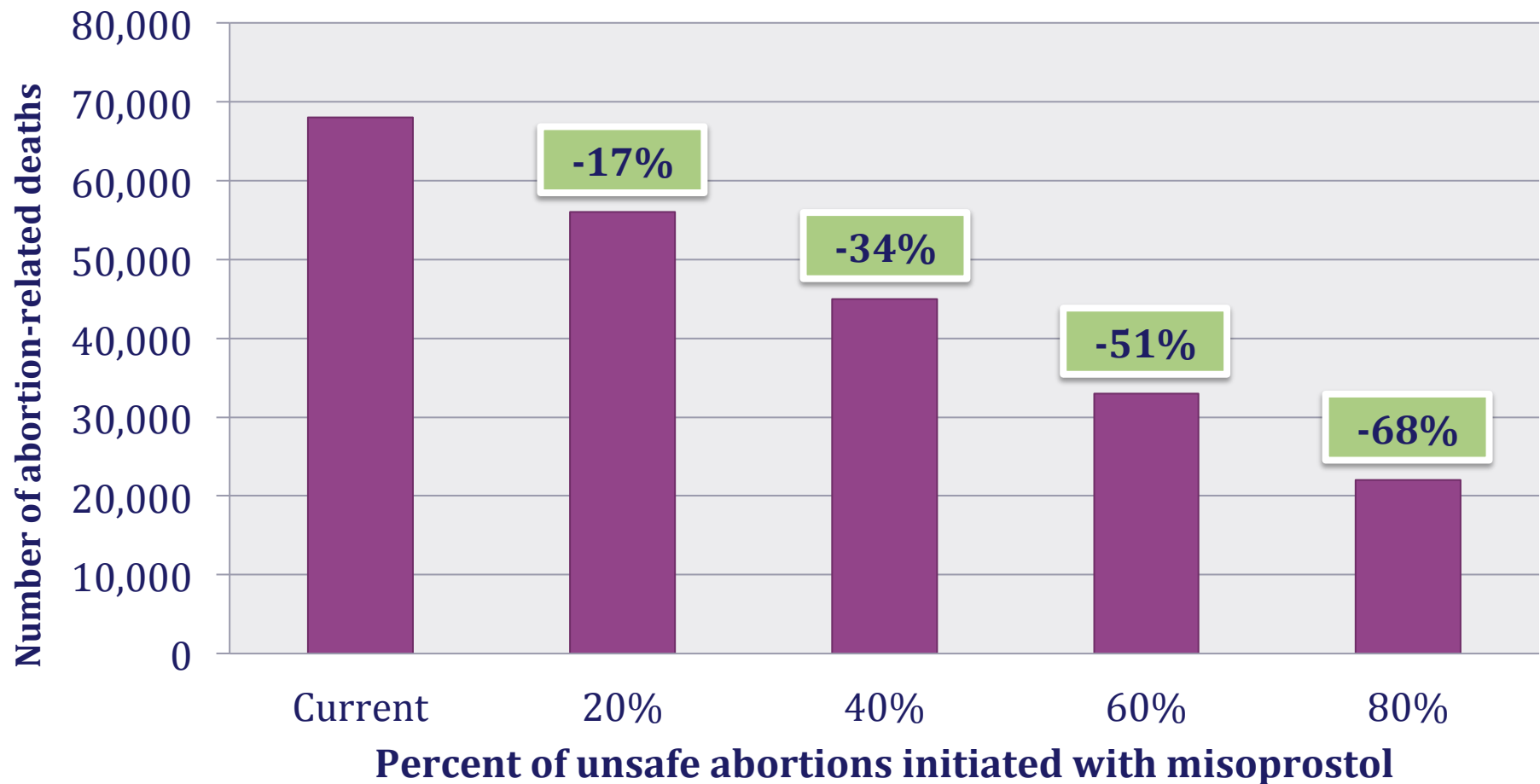


Misoprostol as Safer Method to Self-induce Abortion

- In Brazil complications noted to be less common with reporting use of misoprostol compared to other invasive methods
- In several countries in Latin America, abortion-related mortality has declined as use of misoprostol has become more prevalent



Estimated Reduction in Global Abortion-related Mortality with Misoprostol



How are women accessing misoprostol?

- Pharmacies
- Informal sector
- From clinicians
 - Efforts among women to disseminate information about evidence-based use



Efforts to Address Unsafe Abortion

- Post-abortion care services
- Training on the use of manual vacuum aspiration
- Revision of restrictive laws
- Provision of services within the limits of the law
- Harm-reduction models

