

- I** TO SAVE THE WOMAN'S LIFE OR PROHIBITED ALTOGETHER
- II** TO PRESERVE PHYSICAL HEALTH
- III** TO PRESERVE MENTAL HEALTH
- IV** SOCIOECONOMIC GROUNDS
- V** WITHOUT RESTRICTION AS TO REASON

THE WORLD'S ABORTION LAWS

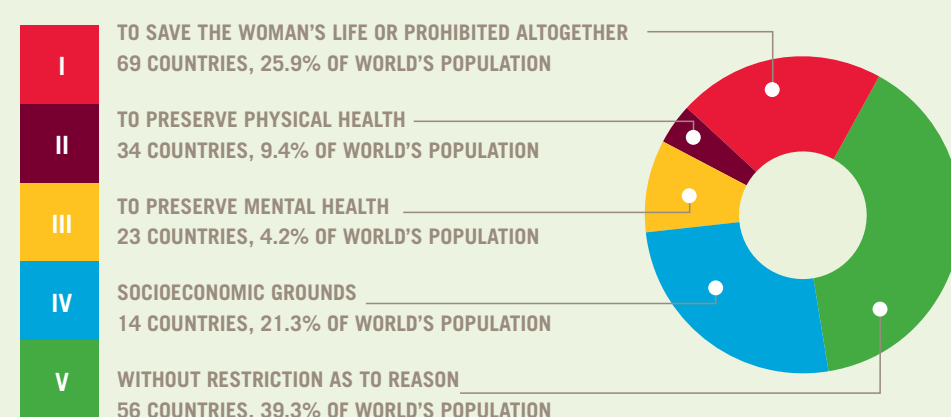
2007

Currently, over 60% of the world's people live in countries where induced abortion is permitted either for a wide range of reasons or without restriction as to reason. In contrast, about 26% of all people reside in countries where abortion is generally prohibited.

The table below illustrates the varying degrees to which countries worldwide permit access to abortion. Countries in Category I have the most restrictive laws. Those in each subsequent category recognize the grounds specified in the preceding category as well as additional grounds. Depending on such factors as public opinion, the views of government officials and providers, and individual circumstances, laws in each category may be interpreted more broadly or restrictively than indicated by their classifications below.

CATEGORIES OF ABORTION LAWS FROM MOST TO LEAST RESTRICTIVE

I. TO SAVE THE WOMAN'S LIFE OR PROHIBITED ALTOGETHER <i>Countries printed in bold make an explicit exception to save a woman's life. See also NOTE I.</i>	II. TO PRESERVE PHYSICAL HEALTH <i>(also to save the woman's life). See also NOTE II.</i>	III. TO PRESERVE MENTAL HEALTH <i>(also to save the woman's life and physical health)</i>	IV. SOCIOECONOMIC GROUNDS <i>(also to save the woman's life, physical health and mental health)</i>	V. WITHOUT RESTRICTION AS TO REASON <i>See also NOTE V.</i>
Afghanistan Andorra Angola Antigua & Barbuda Bangladesh Bhutan-R/I/+ Brazil-R Brunei Darussalam Central African Rep. Chile-x Congo (Brazzaville) Côte d'Ivoire Dem. Rep. of Congo Dominica Dominican Republic El Salvador-x Gabon Guatemala Guinea-Bissau Haiti Honduras Indonesia	Argentina-R ₁ Iraq Ireland Kenya Kiribati Laos Lebanon Lesotho Libya-PA Madagascar Malawi-SA Mali-R/I Malta Marshall Islands-U Mauritania Mauritius Mexico-FS/R/F Micronesia-U Monaco Myanmar Nicaragua-x Niger Nigeria Oman Palau-U Panama-PA/R/F Papua New Guinea Paraguay Philippines San Marino Sao Tome & Principe Senegal Soloman Islands Somalia Sri Lanka Sudan-R Suriname Syria-SA/PA Tanzania Tonga Tuvalu Uganda United Arab Emirates-SA/PA Venezuela West Bank & Gaza Strip Yemen	Pakistan Peru Poland-PA/R/I/F Qatar-F Rep. of Korea-SA/R/I/F Rwanda Saudi Arabia-SA/PA Togo-R/I/F Uruguay-R Vanuatu Zimbabwe-R/I/F	Algeria Bahamas Barbados-PA/R/I/F Belize-F Gambia Ghana-R/I/F Hong Kong-R/I/F Israel-R/I/F/+ Jamaica-PA Comoros Malaysia Djibouti Nauru New Zealand-I/F Northern Ireland Saint Kitts & Nevis Saint Lucia-R/I Samoa Seychelles-R/I/F Jordan Sierra Leone Spain-R/F Swaziland-R/I/F Thailand-R/F Trinidad & Tobago	Australia-FS Botswana-R/I/F Finland-R/F/+ Great Britain-F Iceland-R/I/F/+ India-PA/R/F Japan-SA Luxembourg-PA/R/F Saint Vincent & Grenadines-R/I/F Taiwan-SA/PA/I/F Zambia-F Albania Armenia Austria* Azerbaijan Bahrain Belarus Belgium* Bosnia- Herzegovina-PA Bulgaria Cambodia* Canada* Cape Verde China*-S Croatia-PA Cuba-PA Czech Rep.-PA Dem. People's Rep. of Korea* Denmark-PA Estonia France* Fmr. Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia-PA Georgia Germany* Greece-PA Guyana† Hungary Italy§-PA Kazakhstan Latvia Lithuania Moldova Mongolia Montenegro-PA Nepal-S Netherlands* Norway-PA Portugal-PA Puerto Rico* Romania* Russian Fed. Serbia-PA Singapore*** Slovak Rep.-PA Slovenia-PA South Africa Sweden** Switzerland Tajikistan Tunisia Turkey§-SA/PA Turkmenistan Ukraine United States~-FS/PA Uzbekistan Vietnam*



A NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY
 "Countries" listed on the table include independent states and, where populations exceed one million, semi-autonomous regions, territories and jurisdictions of special status. The table therefore includes Hong Kong, Northern Ireland, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, and the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Other entities, where visible on the map, appear in colors corresponding to laws in force, but they are not listed on the table.

NOTE I Laws that make no explicit exception to save a woman's life are generally interpreted to permit life-saving abortions on grounds of "necessity."

NOTE II Laws in this category do not explicitly permit abortion to protect a woman's mental health but in many cases may be interpreted to allow abortion on those grounds.

NOTE V **GESTATIONAL LIMITS KEY**
 Note: All Countries in Category V have gestational limits of 12 weeks unless otherwise indicated. Gestational limits are calculated from the first day of the last menstrual period, which is considered to occur two weeks prior to conception. Where laws specify that gestational age limits are calculated from the date of conception, those limits have been extended by two weeks.

§ Gestational limit of 90 days * Gestational limit of 14 weeks ^ Law does not limit pre-viability abortion
 † Gestational limit of 8 weeks ** Gestational limit of 18 weeks ° Law does not indicate gestational limit; regulatory mechanisms vary
 ‡ Gestational limit of 10 weeks *** Gestational limit of 24 weeks

INDICATIONS

R Abortion permitted in cases of rape
 R₁ Abortion permitted in the case of rape of a woman with a mental disability
 I Abortion permitted in cases of incest
 F Abortion permitted in cases of fetal impairment
 SA Spousal authorization required
 PA Parental authorization/notification required
 + Abortion permitted on additional enumerated grounds relating to such factors as the woman's age or capacity to care for a child
 S Sex selective abortion prohibited
 x Recent legislation eliminated all exceptions to prohibition on abortion; availability of defense of necessity highly unlikely
 U Law unclear
 FS Federal system; abortion law determined by states. In Australia and Mexico, state laws fall into different categories of restrictiveness. Classification reflects law affecting largest number of people.

CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

The Center for Reproductive Rights is a nonprofit legal advocacy organization dedicated to promoting and defending women's reproductive rights worldwide.

120 Wall Street
 New York, New York 10005, United States
www.reproductiverights.org

© July 2007, Center for Reproductive Rights