The laws of the countries in this category do not permit abortion under any circumstances, including when the woman’s life or health is at risk.

**Category I: Prohibited Altogether**
- 26 countries

**Category II: To Save the Woman’s Life**
- 39 countries

**Category III: To Preserve Health**
- 56 countries

**Category IV: Socioeconomic Grounds**
- 14 countries

**Category V: On Request (Gestational Limits Vary)**
- 67 countries

The world’s 195 countries are divided into five categories based on the grounds for which abortion is permitted. Each subsequent category recognizes the grounds specified in the preceding category. Additional enumerated grounds are indicated following the country name.

**The World’s Abortion Laws**

How many women of reproductive age live in countries under each category?

- **Category I: Prohibited Altogether**
  - 350 million
  - 26% of women of reproductive age

- **Category II: To Save the Woman’s Life**
  - 277 million
  - 14% of women of reproductive age

- **Category III: To Preserve Health**
  - 190 million
  - 7% of women of reproductive age

- **Category IV: Socioeconomic Grounds**
  - 190 million
  - 7% of women of reproductive age

- **Category V: On Request (Gestational Limits Vary)**
  - 360 million
  - 16% of women of reproductive age

**Countries in each subsequent category recognize the grounds specified in the preceding category. Additional enumerated grounds are indicated following the country name.**

- **PROHIBITED ALTOGETHER**
  - Kiribati

- **TO SAVE THE WOMAN’S LIFE**
  - United States

- **TO PRESERVE HEALTH**
  - Somalia

- **BROAD SOCIAL OR ECONOMIC GROUNDS**
  - Mauritania

- **ON REQUEST (GESTATIONAL LIMITS VARY)**
  - Tonga

**Indicators**

- **A** Abortion permitted in cases of rape
- **B** Abortion permitted in cases of incest
- **C** Abortion permitted in cases of fetal impairment
- **D** Spousal authorization required
- **E** Abortion permitted on additional enumerated grounds relating to such factors as the woman’s age or capacity to care for a child
- **F** Sex-selective abortion prohibited
- **G** Abortion permitted only to protect the physical health of the woman
- **H** Law in force
- **I** Federal system in which abortion law is determined at state level
- **J** Legislation reflects legal status of abortion for largest group of people

**Countries permitting abortion on health grounds should interpret “health” to include reasonably foreseeable environment and her social or economic circumstances.**

**Additionally, the 47 countries in Category V have perinatal limits of 12 weeks unless otherwise indicated.**

**The Center for Reproductive Rights is a nonprofit legal advocacy organization that defends women’s reproductive rights worldwide.**

**Current as of April 26, 2019**

Map updated in real time at src/labortionlaws.org