

# METHODOLOGY AND STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

## Methodology

This report is based on research and interviews conducted by the Center for Reproductive Rights (the Center) and Vivo Positivo between March 2009 and July 2010. Through in-depth interviews, the Center and Vivo Positivo gathered the experiences of 27 HIV-positive Chilean women in the regions of Tarapacá, Maule, Biobío, Araucanía, and the Metropolitan Region of Santiago. The Center and Vivo Positivo also conducted site visits to public health facilities and spoke with public health officials and healthcare providers who treat patients living with HIV/AIDS. Additionally, the Center and Vivo Positivo reviewed national and international guidelines, policies, and manuals on issues pertaining to HIV/AIDS and reproductive health services, as well as quantitative and qualitative reports released by nongovernmental and international organizations working in Chile. To protect their confidentiality, women's real names are not used in this report. For the same reason, identifying information for other interviewees has also been withheld. The stigma surrounding HIV occasionally presented challenges in researching this report, as some women were unwilling to speak with us out of fear of being identified as HIV positive.

## Scope and Structure of the Report

This report is not an exhaustive examination of the abuses and violations that HIV-positive women encounter in Chile but rather an exploration of the obstacles to quality care that women encounter in healthcare facilities, including lack of pre- and post-test counseling, breaches of confidentiality, discriminatory or abusive treatment, discrimination around motherhood, and coercive and forced sterilization.

Section One provides an overview of the factors that contribute to Chilean women's risk of contracting HIV. Section Two discusses HIV-positive women's experiences in Chilean healthcare facilities, as well as some of the structural barriers that impede access to quality health services and the repercussions of discriminatory healthcare treatment. Section Three provides an overview of the legal and human rights implications of the rights violations identified in the report. Section Four offers some recommendations to key stakeholders based on the findings of the report and input from the women and medical providers with whom the Center and Vivo Positivo spoke.