

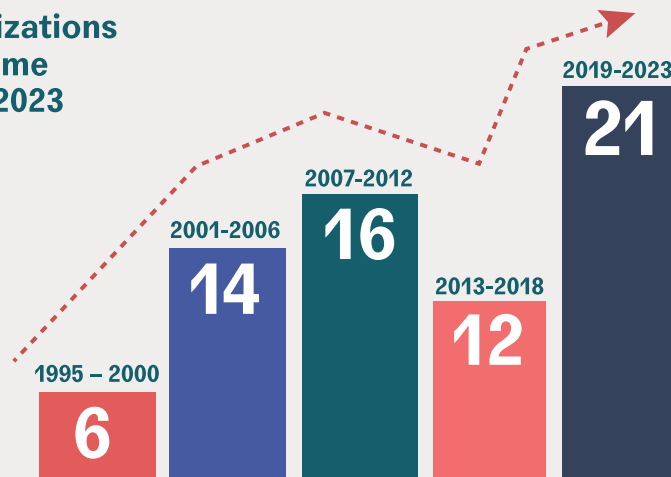
Abortion Rights are Advancing Across the Globe

There is an overwhelming global trend towards the liberalization of abortion laws

More than 60 countries have liberalized their abortion laws, while only four countries have removed legal grounds for abortion in the past 30 years. As a result of this wave of liberalization, around 815 million more women of reproductive age are living in countries with expanded grounds for legal abortion.



Liberalizations Over Time 1995 – 2023



**Note that 7 countries liberalized more than once in the past 30 years (Argentina, Benin, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Rwanda, and Thailand)*

The trend towards liberalization of abortion laws has accelerated in the past five years

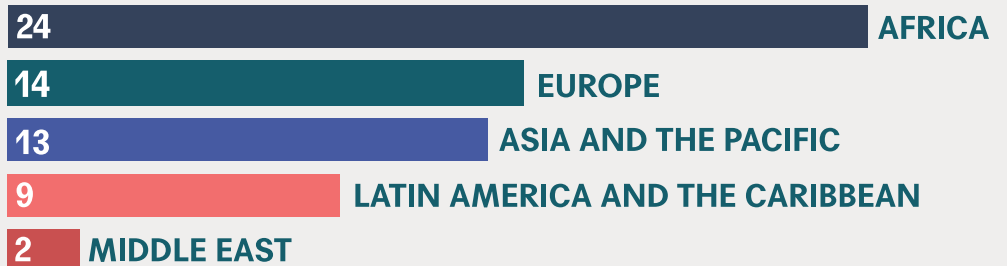
In the past five years alone, 518 million more women of reproductive age are living under increasingly liberal abortion laws.

This acceleration reflects a growing global consensus that access to safe and legal abortion is a human right and a public health imperative. Liberalizing abortion laws and expanding the grounds for which abortion is legal is an essential step towards ensuring access to services.

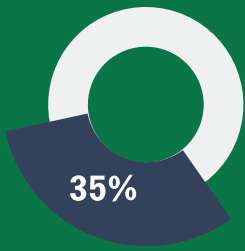
Countries across all continents are liberalizing their abortion laws

Today, 60% of women of reproductive age live where abortion is broadly legal, and 40% live under restrictive abortion laws.

Reforms by Region



Recently, the Green Wave sparked groundbreaking law reforms throughout Latin America, including recent landmark court decisions recognizing abortion rights in Colombia and Mexico. In Asia, countries continue to adopt more liberal abortion laws, expanding grounds on which abortion is permitted, including in Nepal, South Korea, and Thailand. Several European countries have expanded laws permitting abortion on request, and restrictive abortion laws have been overturned in Ireland, Northern Ireland, and San Marino. Notably, people living in the Africa region have witnessed the most countries liberalizing their abortion laws in the past 30 years, including 12 countries in the region overturning complete abortion bans.

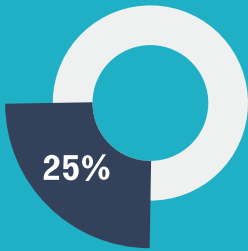


Category I: On Request

77 countries

35% of women of reproductive age live in countries that allow abortion on request, with varying gestational limits. The most common gestational limit is 12 weeks, but abortion is often allowed on additional grounds once that limit has expired. These additional grounds may include, for example, where the pregnant person's health or life is at risk or where pregnancy results from rape or incest.

- In the past 30 years, 29 countries have liberalized their abortion laws to enter this category.

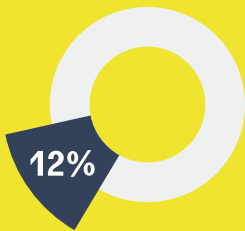


Category II: Socioeconomic Grounds

12 countries

25% of women of reproductive age live in countries that allow abortion on socioeconomic grounds, such as age, economic status, and marital status, and often take into account a pregnant person's actual or reasonably foreseeable environment. These laws are generally interpreted liberally to permit abortion under broad circumstances.

- All 12 countries in this category also allow women to obtain abortion on additional grounds, such as where pregnancy results from rape or incest, or in cases of fetal diagnosis.

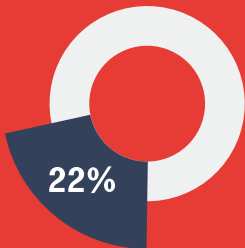


Category III: To Preserve Health

47 countries

12% of women of reproductive age live in countries that allow abortion on health grounds. These countries often allow abortion under broad health or therapeutic grounds, although some specifically include mental health or limit abortion to only threats to physical health.

- 20 countries in this category explicitly permit abortion to preserve the pregnant person's mental health.
- The majority of countries in this category also permit abortion on additional grounds, such as where the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest, or in cases of fetal diagnosis.

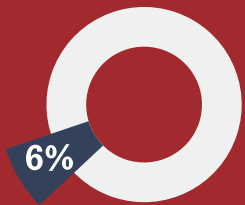


Category IV: To Save the Pregnant Person's Life

44 countries

22% of women of reproductive age live in countries that allow abortion to save the life of the pregnant person. These countries explicitly allow abortion when the pregnant person's life is at risk.

- 12 countries in this category also allow pregnant people to obtain abortion on additional grounds, such as where the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest, or in cases of fetal diagnosis.



Category V: Prohibited Altogether

21 countries

6% of women of reproductive age live in countries that prohibit abortion altogether. These countries do not allow abortion under any circumstances, including when the pregnant person's life or health is at risk.

- In the past 30 years, 20 countries have removed absolute bans on abortion, transitioning from this category to other more liberal categories.

Varies at State Level

2 countries

Currently, the legal status of abortion varies widely at the subnational level in only two countries, the United States and Mexico. The subnational laws in these countries span from Category I (on request) to Category IV (to save the pregnant person's life).

- In overturning *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court removed nationwide protections for abortion rights. Since then, some states have criminalized abortion while others have strengthened protections.
- In 2021, the Mexican Supreme Court unanimously recognized a constitutional right to legal, safe, and free abortion services early in pregnancy. Since then, states across Mexico have been liberalizing their laws to reflect that right.

Safe abortion is a human right and a public health imperative

International human rights bodies and global health authorities recognize that restrictive abortion laws undermine individuals' dignity, equality, health, and well-being and compel people to resort to unsafe abortions, jeopardizing their lives and health. Over 22,000 women die each year from unsafe abortions worldwide and millions more experience long-term health complications.¹ Forcing an individual to carry a pregnancy has life-long implications for their ability to pursue educational and economic opportunities and participate in public life. These effects disproportionately impact people who have been historically marginalized and deepen social and economic inequalities.

1. Guttmacher Institute, Induced Abortion Worldwide (2018), <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-worldwide-2018>

States must act to expand abortion access

Reforming restrictive abortion laws is an essential first step towards ensuring everyone can access safe and legal abortion services. To guarantee access, states must also:

- **Adopt effective laws and policies** guaranteeing access to abortion services for all, and ensuring that safe and legal abortion services are available, accessible, acceptable, and of high quality, especially for historically marginalized and underserved populations.
- **Create an enabling environment for self-managed abortions** by recognizing that people have a legal right to self-manage their abortion and to access medication abortion if they wish to do so.
- **Comply with the World Health Organization's abortion guidelines**, including by removing procedural barriers to abortion care, decriminalizing abortion, and ensuring a wide range of health workers can administer abortion care.