

ABORTION DATA BANK

what the numbers tell us

ABORTION-MORTALITY

(DEATHS DUE TO UNSAFE ABORTION)



6,000 women die per year from unsafe abortion in Nigeria.



47,000 women die annually from unsafe abortion.

BMJ 2002

Safe Abortion Womens Right 2024

NUMBER OF PREGNANCIES YEARLY



9.2 million pregnancies in 2012, of which 1.25 million ended in induced abortion.



Globally, between 2015-2019, there were ~ 121 million unintended pregnancies per year.

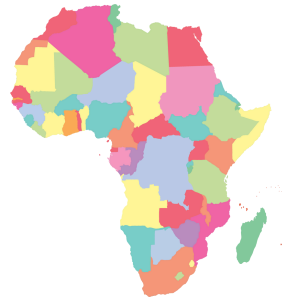
Guttmacher Institute, 2015

Guttmacher Institute, 2022

RATE OF SAFE ABORTION **(I.E. PROPORTION OF ABORTIONS THAT ARE “SAFE”)**



**37-40% of
abortions are
estimated safe**



**25-30% of abortions
are estimated safe**

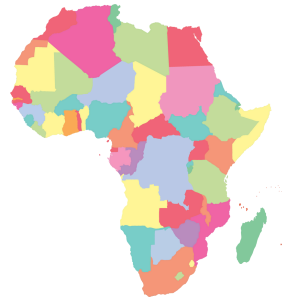


**55% of abortions are
estimated safe**

RATE OF UNSAFE ABORTION (PROPORTION UNSAFE)



**60-77% of
abortions are
unsafe in
Nigeria.**



**More than $\frac{3}{4}$ of all
abortions are
unsafe.**



**45% of abortions are
unsafe.**

QUICK FACTS (NIGERIA)



**1.2 – 2.7 MILLION ABORTIONS PER YEAR
(DIFFERENT STUDIES, 2012–2019).**

**6,000+ WOMEN DIE ANNUALLY FROM UNSAFE
ABORTION COMPLICATIONS (ESTIMATED).**

**212,000 WOMEN WERE TREATED IN FACILITIES
FOR POST-ABORTION COMPLICATIONS (2012
STUDY).**

**ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG WOMEN ARE
DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED.**

QUICK FACTS (GLOBAL)



56 MILLION WOMEN HAVE AN ABORTION FOR MANY DIFFERENT REASONS YEARLY.

4.7% – 13.2% OF MATERNAL DEATHS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO UNSAFE ABORTION.

30 IN EVERY 100 000 WOMEN WHO HAVE AN UNSAFE ABORTION DIE FROM COMPLICATIONS.

220 DEATHS PER 100,000 UNSAFE ABORTIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND 520 DEATHS PER 100,000 UNSAFE ABORTIONS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

QUICK FACTS (GLOBAL)



22,500 TO 44,000¹¹ WOMEN DIE DUE TO UNSAFE ABORTION YEARLY.

99% OF CAUSES OF MATERNAL DEATHS OCCUR IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

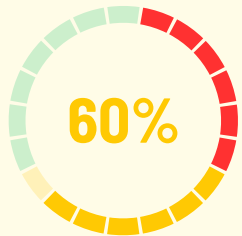
Guttmacher Institute, 2018

The Lancet. 2017

World Health Organisation, 2024

World Health Organisation, 2025

HEALTH OUTCOMES



UNSAFE VS SAFE: AROUND 60–77% OF ABORTIONS IN NIGERIA ARE UNSAFE.



COMPLICATIONS: HAEMORRHAGE, INFECTION (SEPSIS), INCOMPLETE ABORTION, UTERINE PERFORATION, INFERTILITY



TREATMENT: ONLY A FRACTION OF WOMEN WITH COMPLICATIONS GET CARE. MANY REMAIN UNTREATED DUE TO STIGMA, COST, OR DISTANCE.

SERVICES & CARE ACCESS



Post-Abortion Care (PAC)
is available in many hospitals and health centres, though quality varies.



Health worker barriers: Bias and stigma often prevent women, especially adolescents, from receiving non-judgmental care.

Contraception:
Modern contraceptive prevalence in Nigeria remains below 20%, with high unmet need among young people.



Hotlines & digital resources:
DIVA Hotline – confidential support for SRHR needs.

SafeBank resource library
with SMA guide, educational resources.



SOCIAL & ADVOCACY LENS



Stigma: Women who seek abortion often face shame, discrimination, or even legal risk.

Inequality: Poor, rural, and young women face higher risks of unsafe abortion than wealthier, urban women.



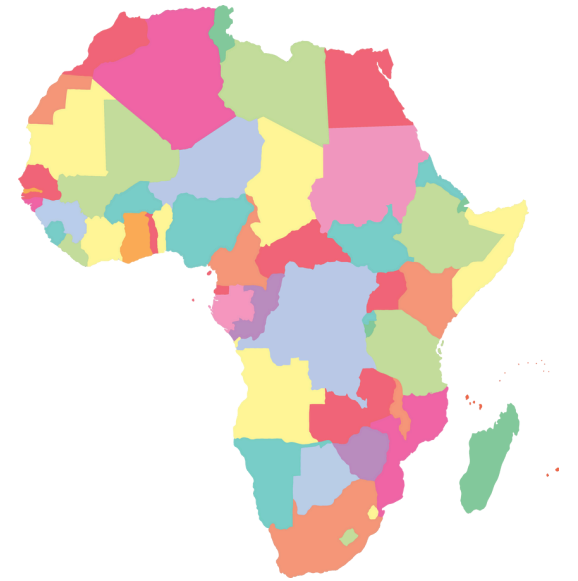
Knowledge gaps: Many young people lack access to comprehensive sexuality education, leading to unintended pregnancies.

Survivors' stories highlight the urgent need for accurate information, safe services, and supportive communities.

GLOBAL & REGIONAL BENCHMARKS

West Africa: Abortion rate - 31 per 1,000 women of reproductive age.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Unsafe abortions account for ~77% of all abortions.



Worldwide, 45% of abortions are unsafe, but Nigeria's proportion is significantly higher.