Introduction

Abortion is permitted in many countries for various reasons. Differences in the grounds on which abortion is permitted, abortion services may be limited. Recent information indicates that there is an increasing trend toward greater restrictions on abortion, with many countries limiting abortion to a greater extent or implementing more stringent requirements. In 2009, 86 per cent of developed countries and 37 per cent of developing countries permitted abortion on request. In 1996, the equivalent figures were 57 per cent and 34 per cent, respectively, in 1996.

In countries that allow abortion on request, the laws and regulations are significantly more restrictive than in countries that allow abortion on other grounds. In 2009, 86 per cent of developed countries and 37 per cent of developing countries permitted abortion on request. In 1996, the equivalent figures were 57 per cent and 34 per cent, respectively, in 1996.

The laws and regulations are defined in very different ways. In some countries, the laws and regulations are very explicit, while in others, they are less clear. In most countries, the laws and regulations are not explicit, but rather allow for interpretation. In 2009, 86 per cent of developed countries and 37 per cent of developing countries permitted abortion on request. In 1996, the equivalent figures were 57 per cent and 34 per cent, respectively.

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