

World Abortion Policies 2011

		Grou	ınds on wh	ich abortio	n is permi	tted		Aborti	on rate	Contracepti	ve prevalence			need for planning	Total fertility	Maternal mortality
	To save a	To preserve a woman's	To preserve a woman's	In case	Because of foetal	For economic			Rate (per 1,000		All methods/ modern	Governnment			(births per	ratio (per 100,000
Country or area	woman's life	physical health	mental health	of rape or incest	impair- ment	or social reasons	On request	Year	women aged 15-44)	Year	methods (percentage)	support for family planning	Year	Percentage	woman) 2005-2010	live births) 2008
World More developed regions	_	_	_	_ _	_	_ _	_			2009 2009	63/56 72/61	_	2009 2009	 	2.6 1.6	260 17
Less developed regions Least developed countries	<u> </u>			_ _						2009	61/55 31/25		2009 2009	11.4 24.2	2.7 4.4	290 590
Africa	_	_	_	_	_	_	_			2009	29/22	_	2009	22.7	4.6	590
Eastern Africa Burundi	X	X	X	-	-	-	-			2009	28/23 9/8	Direct	2009	27.6 29.0 ¹	5.3 4.7	970
Comoros Djibouti Eritrea	X X X	- X	- X	-	-	-	-			2000 2006 2002	26/19 18/17 8/5	Direct Direct Direct	1996 2002	34.6 27.0	4.0 3.9 4.7	340 300 280
Ethiopia Kenya ²	X	X	X	X -	X -	-	-	2008	22.1	2005 2008/09	15/14 46/39	Direct Direct	2005 2008/09	33.8 25.6	5.4 5.0	470 530
Madagascar ³ Malawi ³	X X	-	-	-	-	-	-			2008/09 2006	40/28 41/38	Direct Direct	2008/09 2004	18.9 27.6	4.8 5.6	440 510
Mauritius ³ Mozambique	X	- X	X	-	-	-	-			2002	76/39 17/12	Direct Direct	2002	3.5 18.4	1.8 5.1	36 550
Rwanda Seychelles Somalia ³	X X X	X X	X	X	- X	-	-			2007/08	36/26 15/1	Direct Direct Indirect	2005	37.9	5.4 6.4	540 1 200
Uganda ² United Republic of Tanzania ²	X	X	X	-	-	-	-			2006	24/18 34/26 ⁴	Direct Direct	2006 2004/05	40.6 21.8	6.4 5.6	430 790
Zambia Zimbabwe	X X	X X	X -	- X	X X	X -	-			2007 2005/06	41/27 60/58	Direct Direct	2007 2005/06	26.5 12.8	5.9 3.5	470 790
Middle Africa Angola ³	_ X	-	-	-	-	-	<u> </u>			2009 2001	19/7 6/5	— Direct	2009	22.6	5.7 5.8	610
Cameroon Central African Republic ³	X	-	- X	- X	-	-	-			2006	29/12 19/9	Direct Indirect	2004 1994/95	20.2 16.2	4.7	600 850
Chad Congo ³ Dem. Republic of the Congo ³	X X X	- -	-	-	- -	-	-			2004 2005 2007	3/2 44/13 21/6	Direct Direct Direct	2004 2005 2007	20.7 16.2 24.4	6.2 4.4 6.1	1 200 580 670
Equatorial Guinea Gabon ³	X	X -	X	-	-	-	-			2000	10/6 33/12	Direct No support	2000	28.0	5.4 3.4	280 260
Sao Tome and Principe ³ Northern Africa	X	-	-	-	-	-	- -			2008/09	38/33 50/45	Direct	2008/09	37.2 13.5	3.4 3.9 2.9	
Algeria Egypt	X	X -	X -	- -	- -	-	-			2006 2008	61/52 60/58	Direct	2008	9.2	2.9 2.4 2.9	120 82
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya Morocco	X	- X	- X	-	-	-	-			1995 2003/04	45/26 63/52	No support Direct	2003/04	10.0	2.7 2.4	64 110
Sudan Tunisia	X	- X	- X	X X	- X	- X	- X	2008	 7.0	2006 2006	8/6 60/52	Direct Direct	1992/93 2001	26.0 ⁵ 12.1	4.2 1.9	750 60
Southern Africa Botswana	X	X	X	X	X	-	-			2009 2000	58/58 44/42	— Direct	2009 1988	15.5 26.9	2.6 2.9	 190
Lesotho Namibia	X	- X	- X	- X	- X	-	-			2009 2006/07	47/46 55/54	Direct Direct	2004/05 2006/07	31.0 20.6	3.4 3.4	530 180
South Africa Swaziland	X	X	X	- -	X	- -	- -	2006	7.0	2003/04 2006/07	60/60 51/47	Direct Direct	2003/04 2006/07	13.8 24.0	2.6 3.6	410 420
Western Africa Benin	X	X	X	X	X	-	-			2009	14/9 17/6	Direct	2009	24.2	5.3 5.5	410
Burkina Faso Cape Verde Côte d'Ivoire	X X X	X X -	X X	X X -	X	- X -	- X			2006 2005 2006	17/13 61/57 13/8	Direct Direct	2003 2005 1998/99	28.8 16.7 27.7	5.9 2.8 4.6	560 94 470
Gambia ² Ghana	X	X	X	- - X	- - X	-	-			2008 2001 2008	18/13 24/17	Direct Direct Direct	2008	35.3	5.1 4.3	400 350
Guinea Guinea-Bissau ³	X	X -	X -	X -	X -	-	-			2005 2006	9/4	Indirect Indirect	2005	21.2	5.5 5.7	680 1 000
Liberia Mali ³	X	X -	X -	X	X -	-	-			2007 2006	11/10 8/6	Direct Direct	2007 2006	35.6 31.2	5.1 5.5	990 830
Mauritania ³ Niger ³	X	- - -	- - V	-	-	-	-			2007	9/8 11/5	Direct Direct	2000/01	31.6 15.8	4.5 7.1	550 820
Nigeria ⁶ Senegal Sierra Leone ²	X X X	- X	- X	-	-	-	-			2008 2005 2008	15/8 12/10 8/6	Direct Direct Direct	2008 2005 2008	20.2 31.6 27.6	5.3 5.0 5.2	840 410 970
Togo Asia	X	X	-	X	X _	-	-			2006	17/11 66/60	Direct	1998 2009	32.3 9.3	4.3	350 180
Eastern Asia										2009	83/81	Divost	2009	2.3	1.7	
China Dem. People's Rep. of Korea Japan ⁷	X X X	X X X	X	X X X	X	X X X	X	2007 2008	23.7 10.3 ⁸	2006 2002 2005	85/84 69/58 54/44 ⁹	Direct Direct Indirect	2001 	2.3 ¹ 	1.8 1.9 1.3	38 250 6
Mongolia Republic of Korea	X	X	X	X	X X	X -	X -	2008	14.5	2005 2009	66/61 80/70 ⁹	Direct Direct	2003	4.6 ¹	2.0	65 18
South-central Asia Afghanistan	X	_		_	<u> </u>	_	_			 2006	 19/16 ⁹	— Direct			2.8 6.6	1 400
Bangladesh Bhutan	X	-	- X	- X	-	-	-	2000	3.6	2007 2000	56/48 31/31	Direct Direct	2007	16.8 	2.4 2.7	340 200
India Iran (Islamic Republic of) ³	X	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	2008	2.4	2005/06	56/49 73/59 ⁹	Direct Direct	2005/06	12.8	2.8 1.8	230 30
Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan Maldives	X X X	X X X	X X	X	X X -	X	X X	2008	32.3 15.6	2006 2005/06 2009	51/49 48/46 35/27 ⁴	Indirect Direct Direct	1999 1997	8.7 11.6	2.3 2.6 2.1	45 81 37
Nepal Pakistan ¹⁰	X	X	X	X	X	X -	X -	2005 2002	5.3 26.6	2009 2006 2007/08	48/44 27/19	Direct Direct	2006 2006/07	24.6 24.9	2.9	380 260
Sri Lanka Tajikistan	X	- X	- X	- X	- X	- X	- X	2008	11.2	2006/07 2007	68/53 ^{4,11} 37/32	Direct Direct	2006/07	7.3 ¹¹	2.3 3.5	39 64
Turkmenistan Uzbekistan	X	X X	X	X X	X X	X	X X	2008 2008	9.8 5.8	2000 2006	62/45 65/59	Indirect Direct	2000 1996	10.1 13.7	2.5 2.3	77 30
South-eastern Asia Brunei Darussalam	_ X	-	-	-	-	-	-			2009	62/55	No support	2009	11.0	2.3	21
Cambodia Indonesia	X	- -	X -	X -	X -	X -	X -			2005 2007	40/27 61/57	Direct Direct	2005 2007	25.1 9.1	3.0 2.2	290 240
Lao People's Dem. Republic Malaysia Myanmar	X X X	X X -	- X -	- -	- -	-	- -			2000 1994 2007	32/29 55/30 ¹² 41/38	Direct Direct Direct	2005 2001	27.0 19.1 ¹	3.5 2.6 2.3	580 31 240
Philippines ³ Singapore	X	- X	- X	- X	- X	- - X	- X	2008	 12.6	2007 2008 1997	51/34 62/55 ⁹	Direct Direct	2008	22.3	3.1 1.3	94
Thailand Timor-Leste	X X	X 	X 	X 	X 	-				2006 2009/10	81/80 22/21 ⁴	Direct Direct	2006 2003	3.1 ¹ 3.8	1.8 6.5	48 370
Viet Nam Western Asia	X —	X —	X —	X —	X —	X —	X —	2007	18.4	2007 2009	79/68 55/36	Direct —	2002 2009	4.8 13.5	2.1 3.0	56
Armenia Azerbaijan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2007	14.6 11.2	2005 2006	53/19 51/13	Indirect Direct	2005 2006	13.3 22.7	1.7	29 38
Bahrain Cyprus	X	X	X	X X	X	- Y	- -	2002	11.0	1995 	62/31 ¹³ 	Direct Direct	2005	 16 21	2.3 1.5	19 10
Georgia Iraq Israel	X X X	- X	- X	- X	- X	- -	- -	2008	22.6 13.3	2005 2006 1987/88	47/27 ⁹ 50/33 68/52 ^{9,14}	Direct Direct Indirect	2005	16.3 ¹ 	1.6 4.1 2.8	48 75 7
Jordan Kuwait	X	X	X	-	X	-	- - -			2009 1999	59/41 52/39 ^{9,13}	Direct Direct	2009	 11.2 	3.1 2.2	59 9
Lebanon Oman	X	-	-	-	- X	-	-			2004 2000	58/34 32/25	Direct Direct			1.9 3.1	26 20
Qatar Saudi Arabia	X	- X	- X	-	-	-	-	2005	1.3	1998 2007	43/32 ¹³ 24/ ^{9,13}	No support			2.4 3.2	8 24
Syrian Arab Republic ³ Turkey United Arab Emirates	X X X	- X -	- X	- X	- X -	- X	- X	2008	14.8	2006 2008 1995	58/43 73/46 28/24 ¹³	Direct Direct No support	2008	6.2	3.3 2.1 1.9	46 23 10
Yemen	X	-	-	-	-	-	-			2006 2009	28/24 ¹³ 28/19 73/59	Direct	 1997	38.6	1.9 5.3 1.5	210 210
Eastern Europe	_	_	_	_	_	_	_			2009	75/54	_			1.3	
Belarus Bulgaria Czech Republic	X X	X X	X X	X X	X X	X X	X X X	2008 2008 2008	19.2 23.6	2005/06 1997/98	73/56 63/40 ⁹ 72/63 ⁹	Direct Indirect	 1997/98 1997	 29.7 ^{1,15} 10.8 ^{1,15,16}	1.3 1.4	15 13 8
Czech Republic Hungary Poland	X X X	X X X	X X X	X X X	X X X	X X -	X X -	2008 2008 2008	11.7 21.2 0.1	1997 1992/93 1991	72/63 ⁹ 81/71 ⁹ 73/28 ⁹	Indirect Indirect No support	1997 1992/93 	7.0 ^{1,15,16}	1.4 1.4 1.3	8 13 6
Republic of Moldova Romania	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2008 2008 2008	18.9 26.7	2005 2004	68/43 70/38 ⁹	Direct Direct	2005 2004	6.7 11.9 ¹	1.5 1.3	32 27
Russian Federation Slovakia	X	X	X	X	X X	X X	X X	2008 2008	43.1 10.9	2007 1997	80/65 ⁹ 80/66 ⁹	Indirect No support			1.4 1.3	39 6
Ukraine	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Χ	Χ	2008	14.2	2007	67/48	Indirect	2007	10.3	1.3	26

	Grounds on wh			ich abortic	n is permi	tted		Abortio	n rate	Contracepti	ve prevalence		Unmet need for family planning		Total	Maternal
		To preserve a	To preserve a		Because	For			Rate		All methods/				fertility (births	mortality ratio (per
Country or area	To save a woman's	woman's physical	woman's mental	In case of rape	of foetal impair-	economic or social	On	V	(per 1,000 women	V	modern methods	Governnment support for	V	Danas atau a	per woman)	100,000 live births)
Country or area Northern Europe	life —	health —	health —	or incest	ment —	reasons	request 	Year 	aged 15-44)	Year 2009	(percentage) 80/77	family planning	Year 	Percentage 	2005-2010 1.8	2008
Denmark	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	2006	14.0	1988	78/72 ⁹	Indirect			1.8	5
Estonia Finland	X	X	X	X	X	X	X -	2009 2008	34.5 10.6	1994 1989	70/56 ^{9,17} 77/75 ⁹	Indirect Direct			1.6 1.8	12 8
Iceland	Х	Х	X	Х	Х	Х	-	2009	14.5			Direct			2.1	5
Ireland Latvia	X	X	- X	X	- X	X	X	2009 2008	4.4 21.3	2004/05 1995	65/61 ⁹ 68/56 ⁹	Direct No support	 1995	 16.8 ^{1,15,16}	2.0 1.4	3 20
Lithuania	X	X	X	X	X	X	X X	2008 2008	12.6 16.9	1994/95 2005	51/33 ⁹ 88/82 ⁹	Indirect Direct	1994/95	18.0 ^{1,15,16}	1.3 1.9	13 7
Norway Sweden	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2008	21.0	1996	75/65 ^{9,18}	Direct			1.9	5
United Kingdom ¹⁹	Х	Х	Х	-	X	Х	-	2009	16.8	2008/09	84/84 ^{9,20}	Direct		11.8	1.8	12
Southern Europe Albania	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2008	11.4	2009	64/46 69/10	— Direct	2009 2008/09	12.8	1.4 1.9	 31
Andorra ³	X	- V	-	- V	-	- V	-					No support	••			0
Bosnia and Herzegovina Croatia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2001 2008	1.1 10.2	2005/06	36/11	Indirect Direct			1.2 1.4	9 14
Greece Holy See ²¹	X -	X -	X -	X -	X -	X -	X -	2005	7.0	2001	76/46 ⁹	No support Limits			1.4	2
Italy	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	2009	10.2	1995/96	63/41 ⁹	Indirect	1995/96	11.8 ^{1,15,16}	1.4	5
Malta ²² Montenegro	- X	- X	- X	- X	- X	- X	- X	 2007	 12.4	1993 2005/06	86/46 ⁹ 39/17	No support Direct			1.3 1.6	8 15
Portugal	X	Х	Х	Χ	X	Χ	Χ	2009	9.0	2005/06	87/83 ⁹	Direct			1.4	7
San Marino ³ Serbia	X	X	- X	X	- X	X	X	2008	11.5	2005	41/19	No support Direct			1.6	 8
Slovenia Spain	X	X	X	X X	X	X -	X	2008 2008	12.0 12.1	1994/95 2006	79/63 ⁹ 66/62	Direct Indirect	1994/95 1995	9.0 ^{1,15,16} 11.8	1.4 1.4	18 6
TFYR Macedonia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2008	13.0	2005/06	14/10	Direct			1.4	9
Western Europe										2009	72/69 51/47 ⁹	No support			1.6	 5
Austria Belgium	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2000 2007	1.2 8.7	1995/96 2004	75/73 ^{9,23}	No support Direct	 1991/92	3.4 ^{1,15,16,24}	1.4 1.8	5
France Germany	X X	X	X X	X X	X	X	X X	2007 2009	17.6 7.2	2004/05 1992	77/75 70/66 ⁹	Indirect No support	2004/05	1.7 ¹⁵	1.9 1.3	8 7
Liechtenstein	Х	Х	Х	-	-	-	-					No support				
Luxembourg Monaco ³	X X	X -	X -	X -	X -	X -	-					Indirect No support			1.7 	17
Netherlands	Х	X	Х	Х	X	X	Х	2008	10.1	2008	69/67 ⁹	Indirect			1.7	9
Switzerland Latin America and the Caribbean	X 	X	X	X 	X	X	X	2008	6.7	1994/95 2009	82/78 ⁹ 73/67	No support	2009	9.9	1.5 2.3	10 85
Caribbean	_	_	_		_	_	_			2009	62/57	_	2009	20.3	2.4	
Antigua and Barbuda ³	Х	-	-	-	-	-	-			1988	53/51 ⁹	Indirect				
Bahamas Barbados	X	X	X	- X	- X	- X	-			1988 1988	62/60 ⁹ 55/53 ⁹	Direct Direct			2.0 1.5	49 64
Cuba	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	2008	29.1	2006	73/72	Direct			1.5	53
Dominica Dominican Republic	- X	-	-	-	-	-	-	2005	12.9	1987 2007	50/48 ⁹ 73/70	Direct Direct	2007	 11.4	2.7	100
Grenada Haiti ³	X	X	X -	-	-	-	-			1990 2005/06	54/52 ⁹ 32/24	Direct Direct	2005/06	 37.5	2.3 3.5	300
Jamaica ²	Х	X	X	-	-	-	-		••	2002/03	69/66	Direct	2002/03	11.7 ¹	2.4	89
Saint Kitts and Nevis ² Saint Lucia	X	X	X	X	-	-	-			1984 1988	41/37 ⁹ 47/46 ⁹	Direct Direct			 2.0	
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	-			1988	58/56 ⁹	Direct			2.1	
Trinidad and Tobago ² Central America	X 	X	X 		_	_	_			2006	43/38 68/63	Direct —	1987 2009	16.1 13.2	1.6 2.5	55
Belize	Х	Х	Х	-	Х	Х	-			2006	34/31	Indirect	1999	20.8 ¹	2.9	94
Costa Rica El Salvador ²²	X -	X -	X -	-	-	-	-	2008	8.0	1999 2008	80/72 ⁹ 73/66 ⁹	Direct Direct	1992/93 2002/03	5.0 ¹ 8.9 ¹	2.0 2.3	44 110
Guatemala	X	-	-	-	-	-	-			2002	43/34	Direct	2002	27.6	4.2	110
Honduras ²⁵ Mexico ²⁶	X	- X	- X	- X	- X	- X	- X	2008	<0.05	2005/06	65/56 71/67	Direct Direct	2005/06 2006	16.9 12.0 ¹	3.3 2.2	110 85
Nicaragua ²² Panama	- X	- X	-	- X	-	-	-	 2000	 <0.05	2006/07 1984/85	72/69 58/54 ⁹	Direct Direct	2006/07	7.5 ¹	2.8 2.6	100 71
South America	_	_	_		_	_	_			2009	76/70	—	2009	7.5	2.2	
Argentina	X	-	-	-	-	-	-			2001	65/64 ⁹	Direct			2.3	70
Bolivia (Plurinational State of) Brazil	X	- X	- X	X	-	-	-			2008 2006	61/34 80/77	Direct Direct	2008 2006	20.2 6.0	3.5 1.9	180 58
Chile ²²	- V	- V	- V	- V	- V	-	-	2005	0.5	2006	64/ ^{9,16,27}	Direct	2004/05	 5.8	1.9 2.5	26 85
Colombia Ecuador	X	X	X -	X -	X -	-	-			2004/05 2004	78/68 73/59	Direct Direct	2004/05	7.4 ¹	2.6	140
Guyana Paraguay	X	X -	X -	X -	X -	X -	X -	2007	12.5	2009 2008	43/40 ⁴ 79/70 ⁹	Direct Direct	 2008	 4.7 ¹	2.3 3.1	270 95
Peru	Х	Х	Х	-	-	-	-			2009	73/50	Direct	2009	7.2	2.6	98
Suriname Uruguay	X	- X	- X	- X	-	-	-			2006 2004	46/45 77/75 ^{9,16,18}	Indirect Direct			2.4 2.1	100 27
Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	Х	-	-	-	-	-	-			1998	70/62	Direct	1998	18.9 ¹	2.5	68
Northern America Canada		— Х		X			X	 2006	 13.3	2009	78/73 74/72 ⁹	— Indirect	2009	6.6	2.0 1.6	23 12
United States of America	X	X	X X	X	X	X X	X	2006	13.3	2002	74/72 ³ 79/73 ⁹	Direct	 2006/08	 6.6 ¹	1.6 2.1	12 24
Oceania	_	_	_	_	_	_	_			2009	60/57	_			2.4	100
Australia/New Zealand				_	_	_				2009	72/71				1.9	
Australia New Zealand	X	X	X	X	X	- -	X -	2009 2008	16.2 20.0	2001/02 1995	71/71 ⁹ 75/72 ⁹	Indirect Direct			1.8 2.0	8 14
Melanesia	_	_	_	_	_	_	_					_			3.9	
Fiji ² Papua New Guinea	X	X	X	X -	X -	-	-			2006	 36/	Direct Direct			2.8 4.1	26 250
Solomon Islands	Х	-	-	-	-	-	-			2006/07	35/27	Indirect	2006/07	11.1	3.9	100
Vanuatu Micronesia	X 	X	X 		_					2007	38/37	Direct			4.0 2.5	
Kiribati	X	-	-	-	-	-	-			2000	36/31 ⁹	Direct				
Marshall Islands Micronesia (Federated States of)	X	-	-	-	-	-	-			2007	45/42 	Direct Direct	2007	8.1	 3.6	
Nauru ²	Х	Х	Х	-	-	-	-			2007	36/23 ⁴	Direct				
Palau Polynesia	X 	_	-		-	-				2003	33/30 ⁹ 	Indirect —			3.0	
Cook Islands	Х	Х	Х	Х	-	-	-			1999	43/38 ⁹	Direct				
Niue Samoa ²	X	X	X	-	-	-	-			 2009	 29/27	Indirect Direct	 2009	 45.6	 4.0	
Tonga	Х	-	-	-	-	-	-					Direct			4.0	
Tuvalu	X	-	-	-	-	-				2007	31/22	Direct	2007	24.2		
Notes:																

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this wall chart do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or

boundaries. The designations "more developed regions", "less developed regions", "developed countries" and "developing countries" are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgement about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process. The term "country" as used in this wall chart also refers, as appropriate, to territories or areas.

The more developed regions comprise all regions of Europe plus Northern America, Australia New Zealand and Japan. Countries in the more developed regions are denominated "developed

The less developed regions comprise all regions of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean plus Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. Countries in the less developed regions are denominated "developing countries" As of 31 December 2010, the least developed countries include 49 countries so denominated by e General Asser Total fertility and abortion rates are not shown for countries or areas with a population of less

than 100,000 inhabitants in 2009.

A cross (X) indicates that abortion is permitted. A hyphen (-) indicates that abortion is not permitted on that specific ground. Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available. An em dash (—) indicates that the item is not

Data pertain to a non-standard definition of

unmet need for family planning ² Laws on abortion either expressly allow abortion to be performed only to save the life of a woman or are governed by general principles of criminal legislation which allow abortion to be performed for that reason on the ground of necessity. In addition, the British case of R. v. Bourne or local application of that

applicable.

of necessity was interpreted to encompass abortion performed on grounds of preserving physical and mental health. ³ Laws on abortion do not expressly allow abortion to be performed to save the life of a woman, but general principles of criminal

decision apply. Under that decision, the ground

legislation allow abortion to be performed for that reason on the ground of necessity. Preliminary data.

Nigeria has two laws on abortion: one for

⁵ Data pertain to Northern Sudan. the northern states and one for the southern states. Both laws specifically allow abortion to be performed to save the life of a woman. In

addition, in the southern states, the decision of R. v. Bourne is applied, which allows abortion to be performed on grounds of preserving physical and mental health.

The law contains no specific reference to abortion performed on grounds of mental health or in cases of foetal impairment. However, since the law allows abortion for economic or social reasons, mental health and foetal impairment are considered to be also covered by that ground.

⁸ Data refer only to Japanese nationals residing in

⁹ Data pertain to a non-standard age group or marital status group. ¹⁰ The law allows abortion to be performed in order to save the life of a woman or to provide necessary treatment. The law does not indicate

which abortions constitute necessary treatment.

¹¹ Excluding the Northern Province. ¹² Data pertain to Peninsular Malaysia. ¹³ Data pertain to nationals of the country.

¹⁴ Data pertain to the Jewish population. ¹⁵ Data pertain to unmet need for the purpose of

limiting childbearing. ¹⁶ Data pertain to men and women.

17 Data pertain to methods used during the last

allows abortion for therapeutic purposes. ²⁶ Laws on abortion are adopted at the state level. The grounds reported reflect only those in the Federal Penal Code. Some states allow abortion on the following grounds: to preserve the physical health of a woman, to preserve the mental health of a woman, in case of foetal impairment, or for economic or social reasons.

²⁷ Data pertain only to the four most commonly

¹⁸ Data pertain to methods used at last sexual

¹⁹ Refers to the abortion law of England, Wales

²² Laws on abortion have been amended to

remove all grounds on which abortion might

be performed legally. However, it is not clear

allowed to justify an abortion performed to

²³ Data pertain to methods used during the last

²⁴ Data pertain to the Flemish population.

²⁵ The penal code makes no exceptions to the

general prohibition on the performance of

abortion; the Code of Medical Ethics, however,

whether a defense of necessity might be

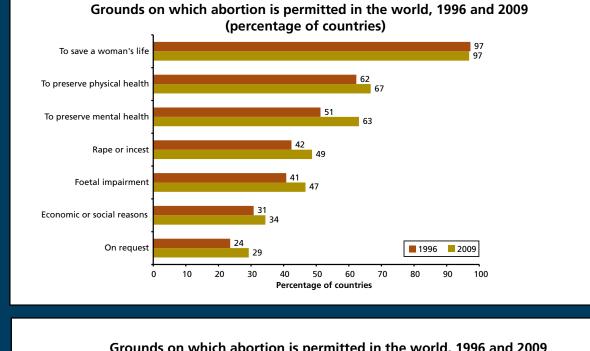
and Scotland.

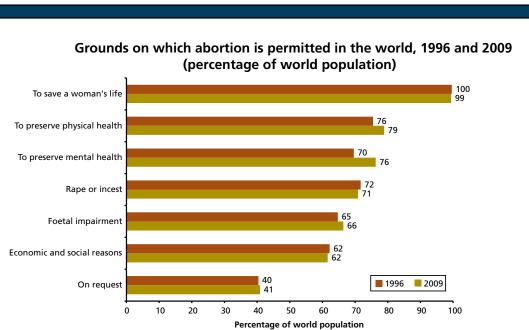
used methods.

²⁰ Excludes Northern Ireland.

²¹ Refers to the Vatican City State.

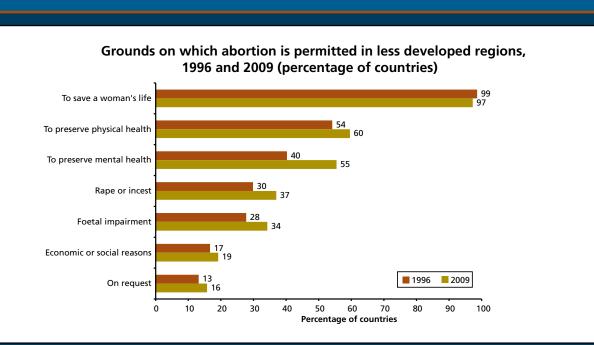
save the life of a woman.

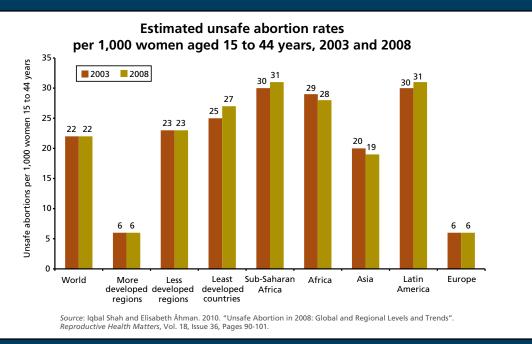




Grounds on which abortion is permitted in more developed regions, 1996 and 2009 (percentage of countries) To preserve physical health To preserve mental health Rape or incest Economic or social reasons







Definitions and Sources

Grounds on which abortion is permitted: Seven grounds on which abortion is permitted are distinguished, namely: (1) to save the life of a woman; (2) to preserve a woman's physical health; (3) to preserve a woman's mental health; (4) in case of rape or incest; (5) because of foetal impairment; (6) for economic or social reasons; and (7) on request. Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, World Population Policies 2009 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.14).

Abortion rate: The number of induced abortions per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 years. Sources: The number of induced abortions according to national sources and to United Nations. Department of Economic and Social Affairs,

Statistics Division, United Nations Demographic

Yearbook (various issues). The number of women aged 15 to 44 years was derived from United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision, Volume II: Sex and Age Distribution of the World Population (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.3).

Unsafe abortion: According to the World Health Organization, unsafe abortion is a procedure for terminating an unwanted pregnancy carried out by persons who may lack the necessary skills or conducted in an environment lacking minimal medical standards or both. An unsafe abortion may be performed by the pregnant woman herself, by a person lacking medical training or by a health worker in unhygienic conditions. Such abor-

tions may be induced by the insertion of a solid

object (usually a root, a twig or a catheter) into the uterus, by an improperly performed dilatation and curettage procedure, by the ingestion of harmful substances or by the exertion of external force. Source: Iqbal Shah and Elisabeth Åhman, "Unsafe Abortion in 2008: Global and Regional Levels and Trends". Reproductive Health Matters, November 2010 (Vol. 18, Issue 36, Pages 90-101).

Contraceptive prevalence: The percentage of women aged 15 to 49 years who are married or in a union and are using a modern contraceptive method (i.e., sterilization, the pill, IUD, injectable, implant, condom or a vaginal barrier method) or using any method (a modern contraceptive method or a traditional method, such as rhythm and withdrawal). A union involves a man and a woman regularly cohabiting in a marriage-like relationship. Regional estimates are population-weighted averages derived from the data for the countries shown. Sources: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, World Contraceptive Use 2010 (United Nations publication, POP/DB/CP/ Rev.2010). The estimated weights were derived from data on the proportion of women who were married or in a union in each country as presented in World Marriage Data 2008 (United Nations publication, POP/DB/Mar/Rev.2008) and from estimates of the number of women by age group obtained from World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision, CD-ROM Edition (United Nations publication,

Government support for family planning: The type of support that the Government provides to family planning services within the country.

Extended Dataset, Sales No. E.09.XII.6).

Governments may provide direct support, indirect support, no support or may limit family planning services in their countries. Direct support implies that the Government services are directly engaged in providing family planning information, guidance, and materials through Government-run facilities or outlets. Indirect support implies that the Government does not provide family planning services through government outlets, but supports the private sector, including the non-governmental organizations, in this effort. No support implies that the Government allows the private sector to provide family planning services, but provides no support. The Government limits family planning services when it does not permit either the public sector or the private sector to provide family planning services. Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, World Population Policies 2009 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.14). Unmet need for family planning: Women with an

unmet need for family planning are women aged 15 to 49 years, married or in a union, who are fecund and sexually active but are not using any method of contraception and report not wanting any more children or wanting to delay the next pregnancy. Estimates for the world and its regions are weighted averages derived by weighting the indicators for each country, extrapolated as needed to 2009, by the estimated number of women who, in 2009, were aged 15 to 49 years and were married or in a union. Sources: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division,

World Contraceptive Use 2010 (United Nations

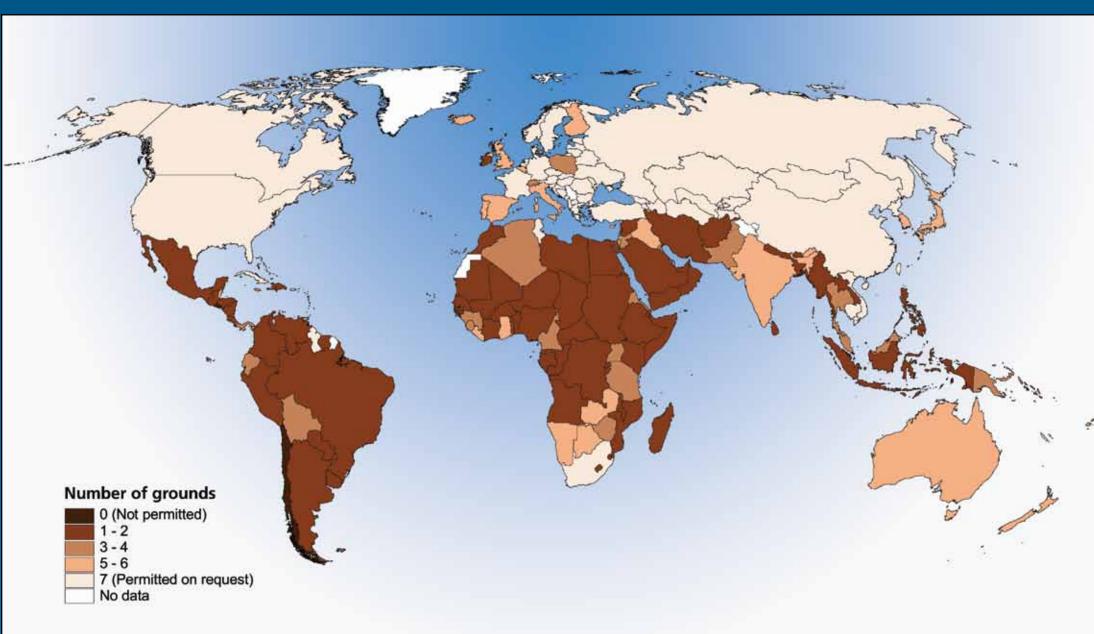
Publication POP/DB/CP/Rev.2010 (database)). The estimated weights were derived from data on the proportion of women who were married or in a union in each country as presented in World Marriage Data 2008 (United Nations publication, POP/DB/Mar/Rev.2008) and from estimates of the number of women by age group obtained from World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision, CD-ROM edition (United Nations publication, Extended Dataset, Sales No. E.09.XII.6).

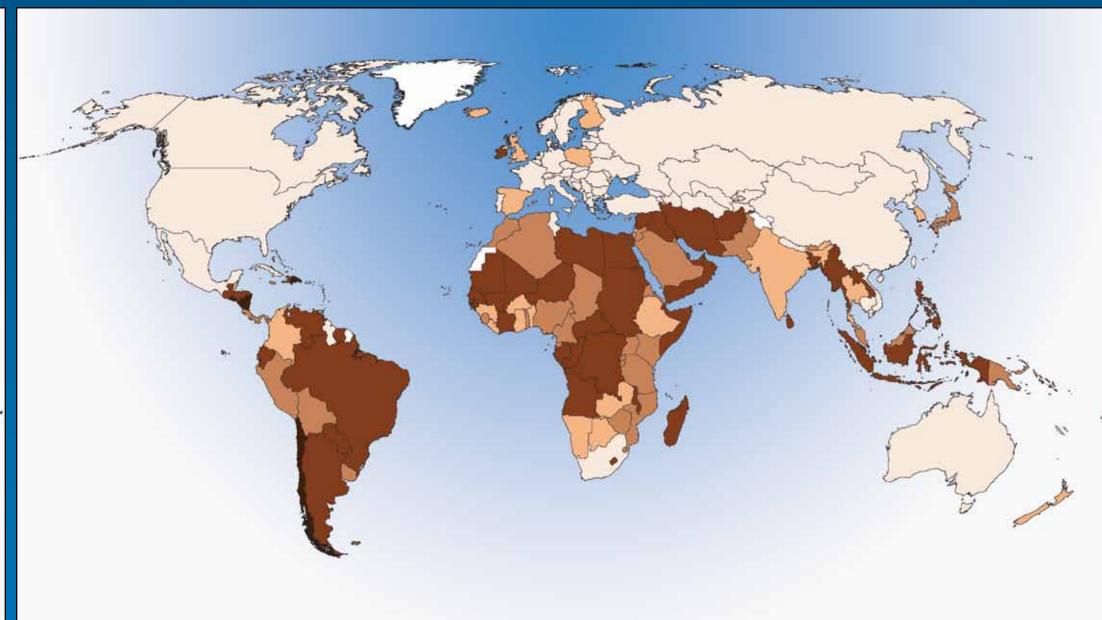
Total fertility: The number of births a woman would have if she were subject during her lifetime to current age-specific fertility rates. Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision. Volume I: Comprehensive Tables (United Nations Publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.2).

Maternal mortality ratio: The number of maternal deaths over a year per 100,000 live births in that year. According to the World Health Organization, a maternal death is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes. In circumstances in which cause of death attribution is inadequate, a maternal death is defined as the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the cause of death. Source: World Health Organization, Trends in Maternal mortality, 1990 to 2008: Estimates developed by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and the World Bank.

Number of grounds on which abortion is permitted

1996 2009





Introduction. Induced abortion is permitted by most countries on certain grounds. In 2009, 97 per cent of all countries permitted abortion to save a woman's life. While the trend has been towards expanding the grounds on which abortion is permitted, abortion laws and regulations are significantly more restrictive in developing countries than in developed countries. Thus, 80 per cent of developed countries allow abortion for economic or social reasons and 69 per cent allow it on request. In contrast, 19 per cent of developing countries allow abortion for economic or social reasons and 16 per cent do so on request. Between 1996 and 2009, 46 countries extended the number of grounds on which abortion is permitted whereas 11 countries restricted that number. In addition to the restrictions established by laws or regulations, many countries have procedural requirements that must be met before an abortion may be performed legally. Such requirements generally include one or more of the following: gestational limits within which abortion may be induced, a mandatory waiting period, parental or spousal consent, third-party authorization, the categories of health care workers permitted to perform abortions, the types of medical facilities where abortions may be performed and mandatory counselling. Furthermore, even when abortion is legally permitted, access to abortion services may be limited. Recent information on abortion policy is not available for all countries. For some countries, the information available is either incomplete or unclear. Those having access to more recent or complete information are requested to send it to the Director, Population Division,

Nations, New York, NY 10017.

Grounds on which abortion is permitted. Seven grounds on which abortion is permitted are distinguished, namely: (1) to save a woman's life; (2) to preserve a woman's physical health; (3) to preserve a woman's mental health; (4) in case of rape or incest; (5) because of foetal impairment; (6) for economic or social reasons; and (7) on request. Each of these grounds is described below.

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United

(1) To save a woman's life. The performance of abortion is most commonly permitted to save the life of

a pregnant woman. Although some laws or regulations provide detailed lists of the complications that are considered life-threatening, most of them do not specify them explicitly, leaving it to the judgement of the medical personnel performing or approving the abortion. In 2009, 97 per cent of developing countries and 96 per cent of developed countries either explicitly permitted an abortion to be performed when a pregnancy threatened a woman's life or allowed it under the general criminal law principle of necessity. In 1996, the equivalent figures had been 99 per cent of developing countries and 94 per cent of developed countries. The exceptions are Chile, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, the Holy See, Malta and Nicaragua, all of which have provisions that do not allow abortion under any circumstances.

(2) To preserve a woman's physical health. In the majority of countries, abortion is permitted when it is necessary to preserve the physical health of a pregnant woman. The term "physical health" has been defined in different ways. In some countries, the definition is narrow in the sense that explicit lists of conditions threatening physical health are established. In other cases, "physical health" is broadly defined, allowing room for interpretation. In 2009, 88 per cent of developed countries permitted abortion to preserve the physical health of a pregnant woman, compared to 60 per cent of developing countries. The equivalent figures in 1996 were 87 per cent and 54 per cent, respectively.

(3) To preserve a woman's mental health. Many countries allow abortion in cases involving a threat to the mental health of a pregnant woman. As in the case of "physical health", the definition of what constitutes a threat to "mental health" varies. In some countries, the laws or regulations do not specify whether the term "health" encompasses both physical and mental health, but merely state that an abortion is permitted when it averts the risk of injury to a woman's health. In such cases, it has been considered that the laws and regulations encompass both threats to physical and mental health as grounds for abortion. Under that interpretation, in 2009, 86 per cent of developed countries and 55 per cent of

World Abortion Policies 2011

developing countries permitted abortion to protect the mental health of a pregnant woman. In 1996, the equivalent figures were 85 per cent of developed countries and 40 per cent of developing countries.

(4) Rape or incest. Many countries, even those with restrictive laws regarding abortion, allow abortion in cases of rape or incest, but such grounds for abortion are less common among developing countries than among developed countries. The laws or regulations of some countries specifically mention rape or incest as a ground for abortion. In other countries, the laws refer to cases in which the pregnancy is the result of "a criminal offence", without specifying the nature of the offence. Yet in other countries, the laws permit abortion only if the woman who is a victim of rape is also mentally impaired. In 2009, 84 per cent of developed countries and 37 per cent of developing countries permitted abortion in cases of rape or incest, up from 81 per cent and 30 per cent, respectively, in 1996.

(5) Foetal impairment. Abortion is often permitted when the foetus suffers from some kind of serious impairment, even in countries having restrictive laws on abortion. Several countries specify the type and level of impairment necessary to justify an abortion. In 2009, 84 per cent of developed countries permitted abortion because of foetal impairment and 34 per cent of developing countries did so, an increase from 81 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively, in 1996.

(6) Economic or social reasons. The laws and regulations permitting abortion on economic or social grounds vary widely. Some laws specifically mention economic or social conditions while others only imply them. Most laws that permit abortion on economic or social grounds are interpreted quite liberally and, in practice, differ little from laws that allow abortion on request. In 2009, 80 per cent of developed countries and 19 per cent of developing countries had laws permitting abortion on economic or social grounds as compared to 74 per cent and 17 per cent, respectively, in 1996.

(7) On request. In countries that allow abortion on request, a woman seeking an abortion is generally

not required to justify her reasons to have an abortion. However, in some countries, a woman may be required to state that she is in a situation of crisis or distress. For purposes of this chart, if an abortion can be authorized on request, it is assumed that it can be performed on any other grounds even if the law does not explicitly mention such grounds. In 2009, 69 per cent of developed countries and 16 per cent of developing countries permitted abortion on request. In 1996, the equivalent figures were 57 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively.

Statistics on induced abortion. Accurate information on induced abortion is difficult to obtain in many countries. In countries where abortion is legal under broad conditions, official statistics on abortion are collected and reach reasonable levels of coverage and accuracy. In other countries, official data are lacking or are incomplete. A common problem is that some privately performed abortion procedures go unreported and are therefore not reflected in the statistics available. In addition, some countries may include spontaneous abortions in the number of reported abortions. In countries where abortion is restricted, official statistics are generally unavailable or highly incomplete. Information on the number of abortions is available for 72 countries.

Abortion rate. The abortion rate is calculated as the number of induced abortions per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 years. Among the 72 countries with data allowing calculation of abortion rate, 20 had abortion rates lower than 10 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44, 37 had abortion rates ranging from 10 to 20 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44; while 15 had abortion rates above 20 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44.

Unsafe abortion. Unsafe abortions continue to be widespread and nearly all are performed in developing countries. According to the World Health Organization, the number of unsafe abortions in 2008 reached 21.6 million, up from 19.7 million in 2003. Such an increase was caused, almost entirely, by the increase in the number of women of reproductive age. Between 2003 and 2008, the unsafe

abortion rate remained unchanged at 14 unsafe abortions per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44. Modest reductions in the unsafe abortion rate are estimated to have taken place in some regions. Furthermore, the increases estimated for Middle Africa, Western Asia and Central America are attributed primarily to better coverage and more reliable information in 2008 than in 2003. In 2008, the highest rates of unsafe abortion were estimated for Eastern and Middle Africa. Globally, it is estimated that 47,000 women lose their lives each year from the complications of unsafe abortion, almost all of which could have been prevented through better access to sexuality education, access to contraceptive information and supplies, and safe abortion services where allowed by law.

Contraceptive prevalence. The use of contraception has been increasing steadily. In 2009, 63 per cent of women aged 15 to 49 who were married or in a union used some contraceptive method and 56 per cent used a modern method of contraception. Among women aged 15 to 49 who were married or in a union in 2009, contraceptive prevalence averaged 72 per cent in developed countries and 61 per cent in developing countries. Contraceptive prevalence was much lower in the least developed countries, where in 2009, 31 per cent of women aged 15 to 49 who were married or in a union used some contraceptive method and 25 percent used a modern method of contraception.

Government support for family planning. Governments may provide direct support, indirect support, no support or may limit family planning services in their countries. In 2009, 75 per cent of Governments provided direct support to family planning services through Government-run facilities or outlets, and another 16 per cent provided indirect support through non-governmental sources. The remaining 9 per cent of Governments (18 countries) either did not support or limited access to family planning services. The percentage of Governments providing direct support for family planning services increased in developing countries, from 82 per cent in 1996 to 87 per cent in 2009, whereas it decreased in developed countries, from 58 per cent in 1996 to 39 per cent in 2009.

Unmet need for family planning. Women having an unmet need for family planning are women aged 15 to 49 years, married or in a union, who are fecund and sexually active but are not using any method of contraception although they report not wanting any more children or wanting to delay the next pregnancy. Globally, it is estimated that in 2009, 11 per cent of all women aged 15 to 49 who were married or in a union had an unmet need for family planning. Unmet need among the least developed countries was markedly higher at 24 per cent.

Total fertility. Total fertility is the number of births a woman would have if she were subject during her lifetime to current age-specific fertility rates. In 2005-2010, total fertility at the world level stood at 2.6 births per woman. Total fertility was estimated to average 2.7 births per woman in developing countries and 1.6 births per woman in developed countries. Total fertility was greater than 4 births per woman in 45 of the 151 developing countries, which accounted for 16 per cent of the world population in 2010.

Maternal mortality. The persistence of high maternal mortality, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia, is a major concern. Reducing maternal mortality ratio by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, is one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The reduction of maternal mortality requires improved coverage of antenatal health care, skilled birth attendants at delivery, access to emergency obstetric care when complications arise and universal access to family planning to prevent unintended pregnancies. Among the estimated 358,000 maternal deaths that occurred in 2008, 99 per cent (355,000) occurred in developing countries. Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia accounted for 87 per cent (313,000) of all maternal deaths. Between 2000 and 2008, the maternal mortality ratio in developing countries is estimated to have declined from 370 to 290 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. A significant part of that decline can be attributed to the declining number of children that women in developing countries have. Maternal mortality is very low in developed countries, averaging 17 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2008.



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ST/ESA/SER.A/302
Sales No. E.11.XIII.4

Enquiries should be directed to:
Director, Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations, New York, NY 10017
Fax number: 1-212-963-2147

Website: www.unpopulation.org

Printed in the United States of America

11-25873—March 2011—4,000

USD 10 ISBN 978-92-1-151480-3 9 78 9 2 1 1 5 1 4 8 0 3

