

Table V.2. Legal grounds on which abortion is permitted, 1996–2011

Year	By level of development																	
	Number of countries									Percentage								
	To save a woman's life	To preserve a woman's physical health	To preserve a woman's mental health	In case of rape or incest	Because of foetal impairment	For economic or social reasons	On request	Not permitted	Total number of countries	To save a woman's life	To preserve a woman's physical health	To preserve a woman's mental health	In case of rape or incest	Because of foetal impairment	For economic or social reasons	On request	Not permitted	
<i>World</i>																		
1996	187	120	99	82	79	60	47	5	192	97	63	52	43	41	31	24	3	
2005	189	127	123	91	84	65	54	4	193	98	66	64	47	44	34	28	2	
2011	189	132	126	99	98	69	58	6	195	97	68	65	51	50	35	30	3	
<i>More developed regions</i>																		
1996	45	42	41	39	39	36	28	3	48	94	88	85	81	81	75	58	6	
2005	46	42	41	40	40	37	32	2	48	96	88	85	83	83	77	67	4	
2011	47	43	42	42	42	40	35	2	49	96	88	86	86	86	82	71	4	
<i>Less developed regions</i>																		
1996	142	78	58	43	40	24	19	2	144	99	54	40	30	28	17	13	1	
2005	143	85	82	51	44	28	22	2	145	99	59	57	35	30	19	15	1	
2011	142	89	84	57	56	29	23	4	146	97	61	58	39	38	20	16	3	
<i>Least developed countries</i>																		
1996	49	18	11	4	4	3	1	0	49	100	37	22	8	8	6	2	0	
2005	49	24	21	9	9	4	3	0	49	100	49	43	18	18	8	6	0	
2011	48	24	22	12	13	3	2	0	48	100	50	46	25	27	6	4	0	

Table V.2. (Continued)

Year	By major area																	
	Number of countries									Percentage								
	To save a woman's life	To preserve a woman's physical health	To preserve a woman's mental health	In case of rape or incest	Because of foetal impairment	For economic or social reasons	On request	Not permitted	Total number of countries	To save a woman's life	To preserve a woman's physical health	To preserve a woman's mental health	In case of rape or incest	Because of foetal impairment	For economic or social reasons	On request	Not permitted	
<i>Africa</i>																		
1996	53	25	16	12	10	4	2	0	53	100	47	30	23	19	8	4	0	
2005	53	31	29	15	15	4	3	0	53	100	58	55	28	28	8	6	0	
2011	53	33	30	18	20	4	3	0	53	100	62	57	34	38	8	6	0	
<i>Asia</i>																		
1996	46	30	26	22	24	17	15	0	46	100	65	57	48	52	37	33	0	
2005	46	31	28	23	24	19	17	0	46	100	67	61	50	52	41	37	0	
2011	47	32	30	25	26	19	17	0	47	100	68	64	53	55	40	36	0	
<i>Europe</i>																		
1996	40	37	36	34	35	32	26	3	43	93	86	84	79	81	74	60	7	
2005	41	37	37	35	36	33	29	2	43	95	86	86	81	84	77	67	5	
2011	42	38	38	37	38	36	32	2	44	95	86	86	84	86	82	73	5	
<i>Latin America and the Caribbean</i>																		
1996	31	17	11	10	6	4	2	2	33	94	52	33	30	18	12	6	6	
2005	31	17	18	13	5	5	2	2	33	94	52	55	39	15	15	6	6	
2011	29	19	18	13	9	6	3	4	33	88	58	55	39	27	18	9	12	
<i>Northern America</i>																		
1996	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	0	
2005	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	0	
2011	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	0	
<i>Oceania</i>																		
1996	15	9	8	2	2	1	0	0	15	100	60	53	13	13	7	0	0	
2005	16	9	9	3	2	2	1	0	16	100	56	56	19	13	13	6	0	
2011	16	8	8	4	3	2	1	0	16	100	50	50	25	19	13	6	0	