

Abortion and reproduction in context: Population

The population of the world was 2.5 billion in 1950; 6 billion in 2000 and 8 billion in 2022

Average fertility rate in the world now is 2.3 births per woman (1.7 in the USA)

We add about 70 million persons to the planet each year. The US adds about 1.5 million (the majority from immigration in the last few years)

Population will continue to grow for many decades even if all women only have 2 children because of population momentum

One way to counteract momentum is to have below replacement fertility (i.e. the one-child family)

Source: United Nations Population Division website (population estimates)

In the world:

About 73 million induced abortions worldwide each year (about 135 million live births)

6 out of 10 unintended pregnancies end in abortion
this equals 3 out of 10 of all pregnancies

About 45% are unsafe (97% of those in developing countries)

220 deaths per 100,000 unsafe abortions
In developing countries, 7 million women per year are treated
in hospital facilities for complications of these unsafe abortions

There is a trend toward liberalization of laws on abortion around the world
(e.g. Mexico,

Sources: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/abortion>
and United Nations Population Division

Prohibited
Altogether



To Save the Woman's
Life



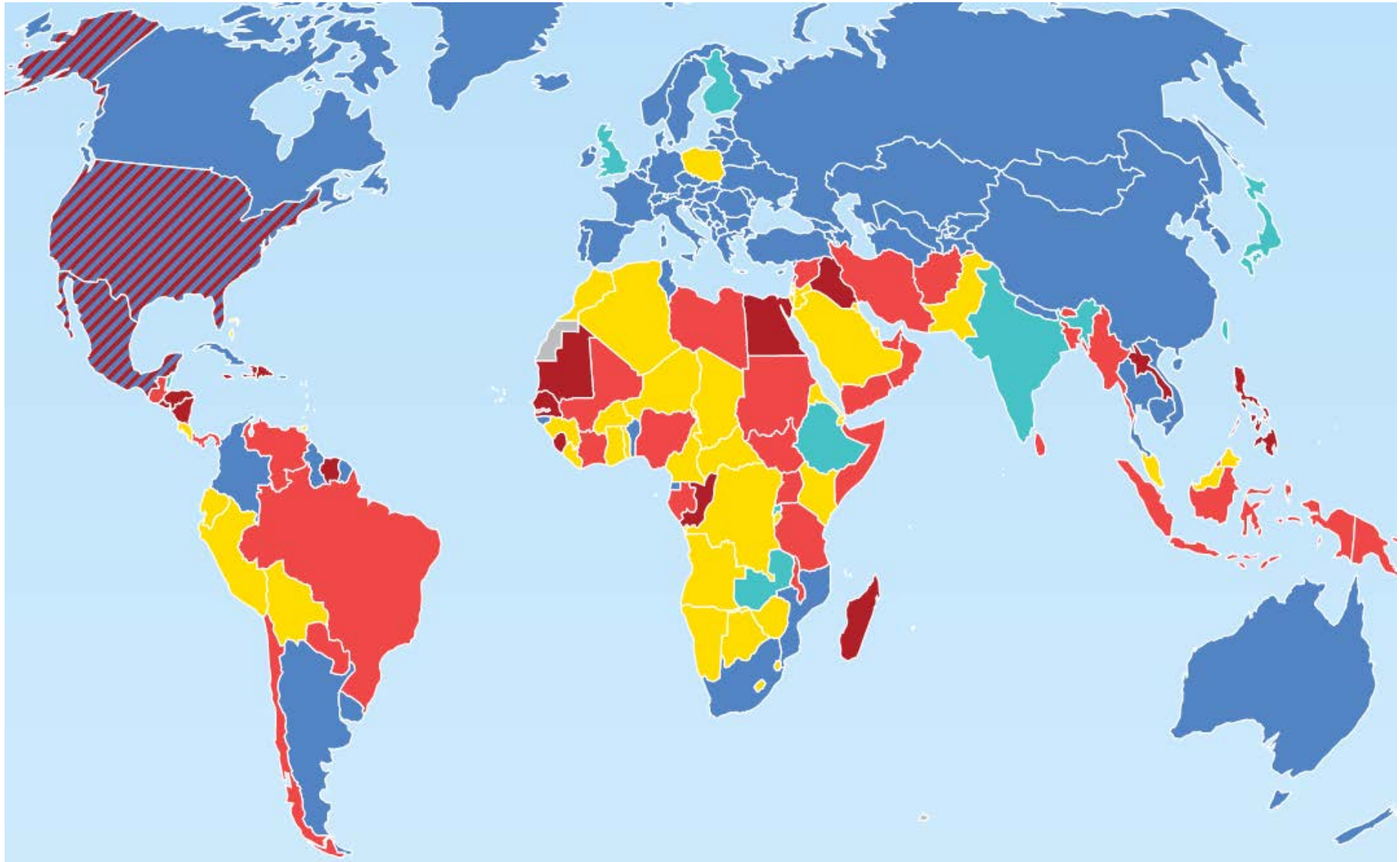
To Preserve Health



Broad Social or
Economic Grounds



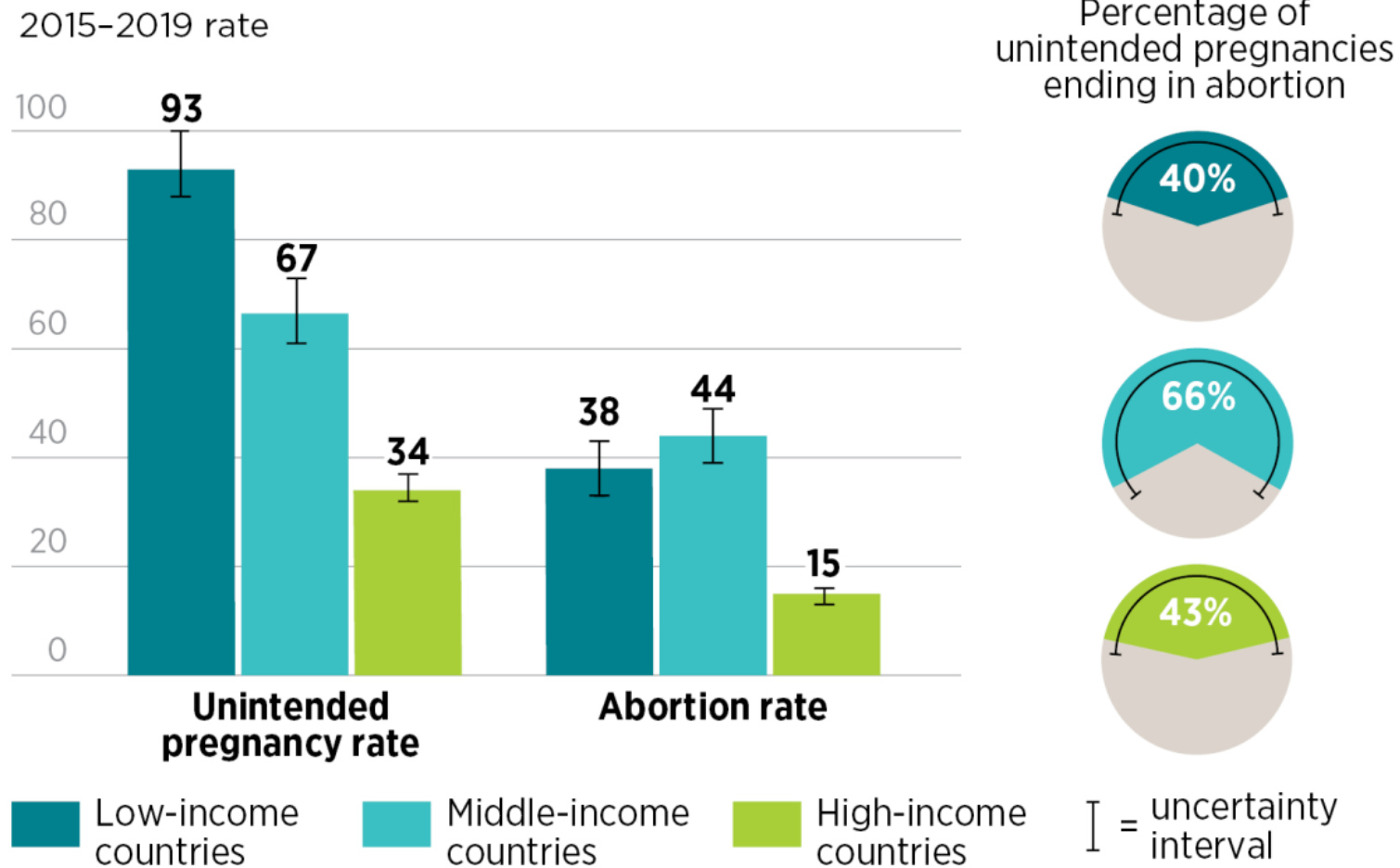
On Request
(Gestational Limits
Vary)



Source: <https://reproductiverights.org/maps/worlds-abortion-laws/>

In the world:

Unintended pregnancy and abortion occur across all country income groups



guttmacher.org

Note: Rates are per 1000 women of reproductive age

In the U.S.A.

- 44 states prohibit some abortions after a certain point in pregnancy. 13 states ban abortion.
- 1 state bans abortion at six weeks LMP.
- 2 states ban abortion at 15 weeks LMP.
- 1 state bans abortion at 20 weeks LMP.
- 9 states ban abortion at 22 weeks LMP (20 weeks postfertilization in state law) on the unscientific grounds that a fetus can feel pain at that point. (Note that abortion is unavailable in two of these states because there are no abortion providers.)
- 4 states ban abortion at 24 weeks LMP.
- 13 states impose a ban at viability.
- 1 state imposes a ban in the third trimester (beginning at 25 weeks LMP)

In the U.S.A.

[59% of women obtaining abortions are mothers](#)

930,000 abortions in 2020. 492,000 were medication abortions

[38% of women 13–44 live in a state supportive of abortion rights](#)

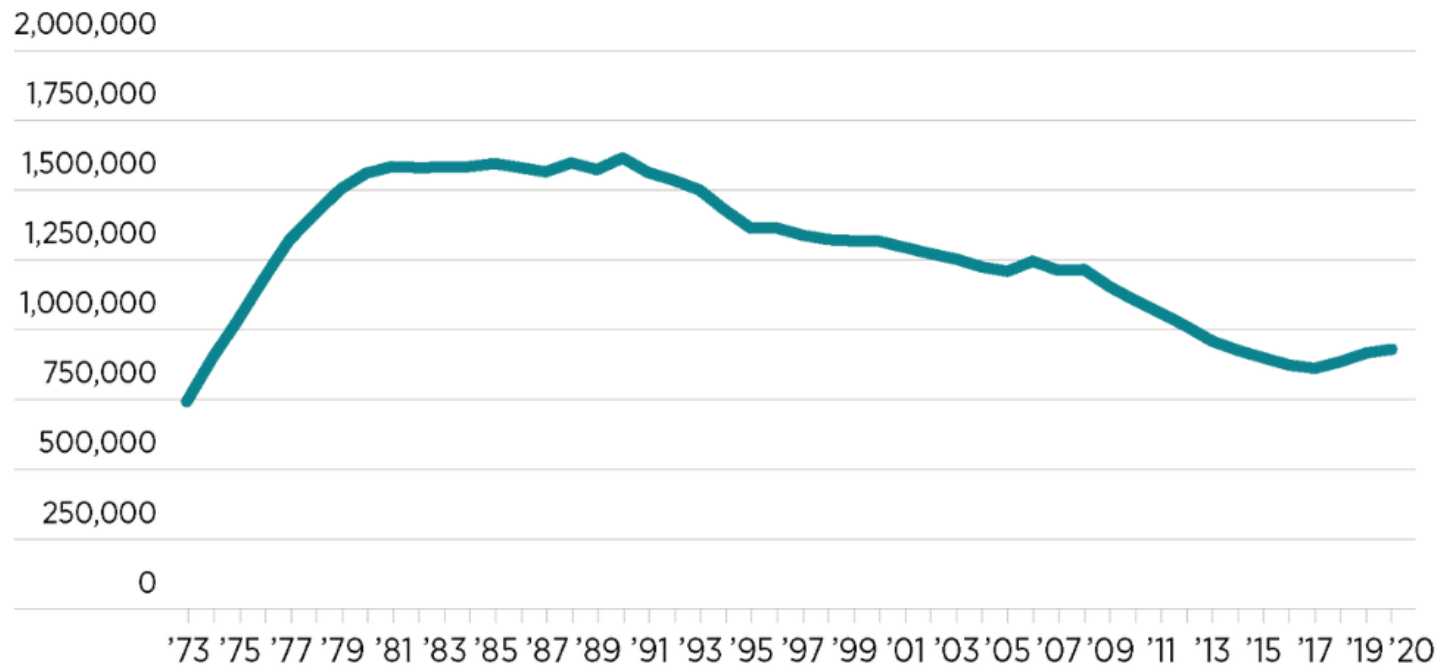
Sources: Guttmacher website and “Abortion incidence and service availability in the United States”, 2020 Rachel K. Jones | Marielle Kirstein | Jesse Philbin. In Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health 2022 54(4):128-140.

In the U.S.A.

GUTTMACHER INSTITUTE

Long-term decline in US abortions reverses

Number of abortions reported nationally, 1973–2020



Six brief stories

1. Masters thesis at University of Chicago
2. Women walked out of Meeting for Worship
3. CDC abortion statistics
4. Clearness committee for abortion
5. FGC Gathering listening session
6. FCUN (now QEW) pamphlet on abortion