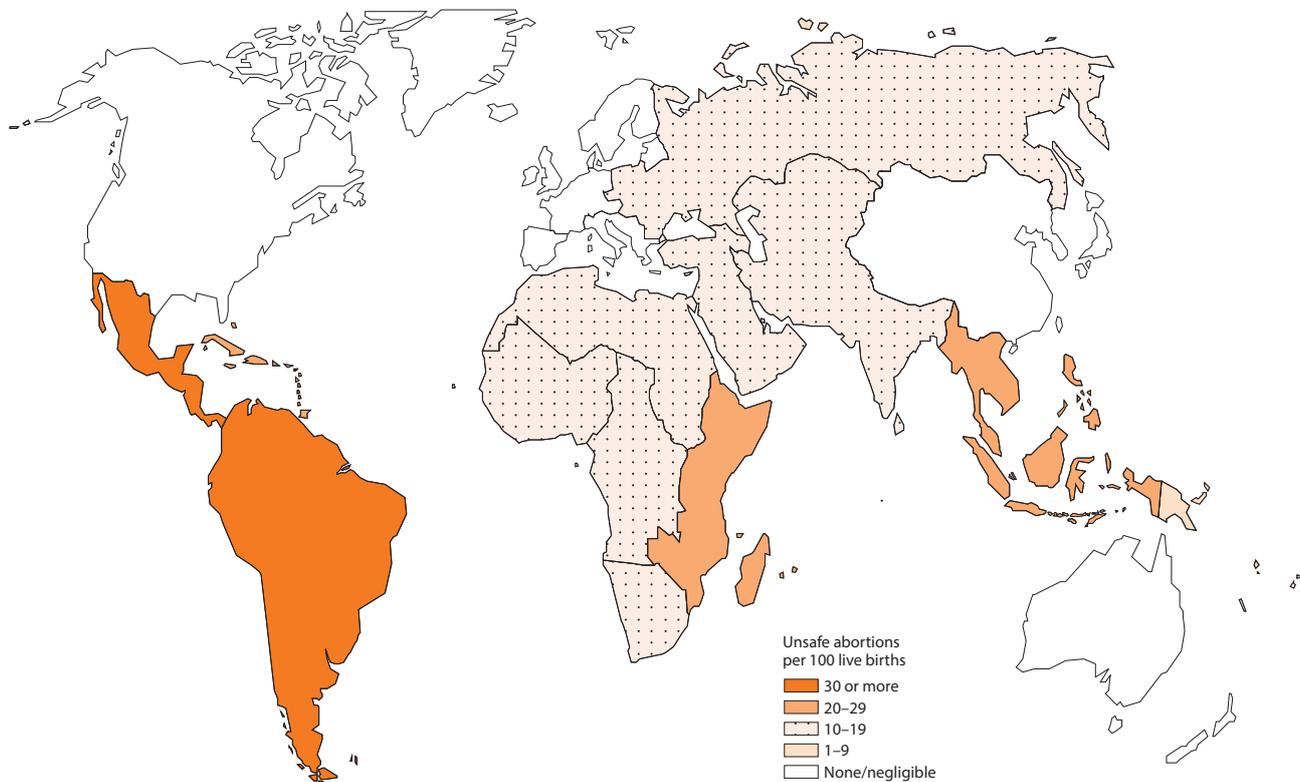


Unsafe Abortion-Related Deaths per 1,000 live births, 2008



Unsafe abortion: 8% of maternal deaths in India

- Unsafe abortion is one of the three main causes of maternal mortality worldwide.
- An estimated 21.6 million women worldwide have unsafe abortions each year.
- 47,000 women worldwide die each year from unsafe abortion; an estimated 5 million women suffer disabilities due to abortion-related complications.
- Nearly all unsafe abortions occur in developing countries.
- In Asia, approximately 17,000 women die each year from unsafe abortion.
- In India, unsafe abortion contributes to 8 percent of overall maternal mortality. This translates to one woman dying as a result of abortion related causes every two hours.

Abortion law reforms in developing countries have been followed by declines in abortion-related deaths and injuries:

- **South Africa:** Annual number of abortion-related deaths decreased by 91 percent after law reform in 1997.
- **Nepal:** Abortion-related complications as a proportion of all maternal illnesses decreased by 48 percent in a study of facilities in eight districts
- **Ethiopia:** Abortion complications per 100,000 live births (at one large hospital) decreased by about 70 percent

But in India, even though abortion has been broadly legal for more than 40 years, about forty percent of abortions are considered safe.