

Chart: “WHO Claims of Unsafe Abortions and Deaths Due to Unsafe Abortions, By Region”

| | Est. “Unsafe” Abortions | Est. Abortion Deaths |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| World Total | 20,000,000 | 78,000 |
| More Developed Regions | 900,000 | 500 |
| Less Developed Regions | 19,000,000 | 77,500 |
| Africa | 5,000,000 | 34,000 |
| Eastern Africa | 1,900,000 | 16,000 |
| Middle Africa | 600,000 | 4,000 |
| Northern Africa | 600,000 | 1,200 |
| Southern Africa | 200,000 | 800 |
| Western Africa | 1,600,000 | 12,000 |
| Asia | 9,900,000 | 38,500 |
| Eastern Asia | — | — |
| Southcentral Asia | 6,500,000 | 29,000 |
| Southeastern Asia | 2,800,000 | 8,100 |
| Western Asia | 500,000 | 1,100 |
| Europe | 900,000 | 500 |
| Eastern Europe | 800,000 | 500 |
| Northern Europe | <30 | <20 |
| Southern Europe | <90 | <20 |
| Western Europe | — | — |
| Latin America and Caribbean | 4,000,000 | 5,000 |
| Caribbean | 200,000 | 600 |
| Central America | 900,000 | 700 |
| South America | 3,000,000 | 3,500 |
| Northern America | — | — |
| Oceania | 30,000 | 150 |

Figures may not add to totals due to WHO’s rounding.

What’s in the Database?

Some egregious examples of limited data in WHO’s “Unsafe Abortion” Database:

Africa

- *Lesotho*: one 1992 hospital study of maternal deaths, with a sample size of 21.
- *Libyan Arab Jamahiriya*: one 1984 hospital study of 246 pregnancies.
- *Morocco*: two 1984 community studies with sample sizes of 75 and 125.

Asia

- *Bhutan*: one hospital study over 1976-87, sample size of 44.
- *Bahrain*: one 1977-86 hospital study of 37 maternal deaths.
- *Lebanon*: two 1971-82 hospital studies, sample sizes of 45.

Europe

- *Albania*: three estimates of abortion mortality and four other studies from unidentified sources, with three listed sample sizes of four, eight, and 66.
- *Bulgaria*: a 1973-77 abortion deaths figure from a public source, and two unidentified studies of maternal deaths from the 1990s with sample sizes of seven and nine.

Latin America

- *Uruguay*: “public source” data with sample sizes of five, 14, and 23 individuals, as well as five other pieces of “public source” data with unidentified sample sizes, all from the 1970s and 1980s.