



SheDecides.

Safe Abortion Saves Lives: Factsheet **2025**

The evidence is clear: safe abortion is essential healthcare and a human right. As anti-choice groups spread misinformation, the facts below show the critical need for safe and legal access to abortion. Because when SheDecides about her body, life and future, the world is better, stronger, safer.

Bodily Autonomy: The Right to Decide

The ability to decide whether and when to have children is fundamental to gender equality, health, and economic stability. Safe abortion is an essential component to achieving full reproductive control.

Yet only

55%

of women can make their own decisions on their sexual and reproductive health and rights (UNFPA)

Every
2 MINUTES

a woman or girl dies because of preventable causes related to pregnancy or childbirth. (UNFPA/WHO)

When people have the power to plan their families, it drives economic growth and stability.

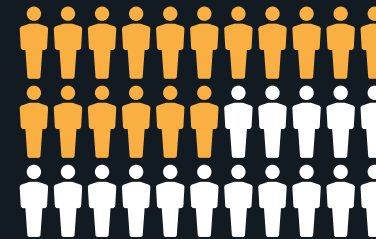
For every \$1 invested in reproductive health services, it yields \$8.4 in economic benefits. (UNFPA)

Nearly
HALF

of all pregnancies worldwide are unintended (UNFPA)

The Preventable Cost of Unsafe Abortion

When safe, legal options are denied, women are forced into dangerous situations. Unsafe abortion is a preventable global crisis that leads to maternal death and suffering.



Every year an estimated **33 million** people undergo unsafe abortions.

45%

of all abortions worldwide are unsafe. (WHO)

Unsafe abortions cause an estimated

37,000 deaths

each year in developing nations. (WHO)

Globally, 6 out of 10 unintended pregnancies end in induced abortion. (WHO)



Global Momentum: The Forward March of Rights

Despite pushbacks, the worldwide trend is of progress – toward liberalisation and recognising abortion access as a fundamental right.

Progress



Over the past 30 years

more than 60 countries and territories have liberalised their abortion laws. (CRR)

Around
815 million



more women of reproductive age are living in countries with expanded grounds for legal abortion. (CRR)

The Rollbacks

Only **four countries** have rolled back the legality of abortion in recent history:

El Salvador

USA

Nicaragua

Poland

Global Access

60%

of women of reproductive age (1.12 billion) live where abortion is broadly legal. (CRR)

Safe Abortion Is Essential Healthcare

Safe abortion is a simple medical procedure that saves lives and empowers futures.

A Medical Priority

The World Health Organisation (WHO) explicitly recognises safe abortion as an essential healthcare priority.

Negligible Risk !!

When performed safely and legally, the risk of severe complications or death is negligible. The procedure is safe whereas restrictions are deadly.

(Guttmacher/WHO)

Restrictions Fail

Restrictive laws do not stop abortions, they just encourage unsafe abortions. Abortion rates remain similar regardless of legality, forcing those who need care into danger. (Guttmacher)

“Evidence shows that restricting access to abortions does not reduce the number of abortions that take place. In fact, restrictions are more likely to drive women and girls toward unsafe procedures” (WHO)