

New Global Evidence on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

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Unintended pregnancy and abortion by income, region, and the legal status of abortion: estimates from a comprehensive model for 1990–2019

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Summary

Background Unintended pregnancy and abortion estimates document trends in sexual and reproductive health and autonomy. These estimates inform and motivate investment in global health programmes and policies. Variability in the availability and reliability of data poses challenges for measuring and monitoring trends in unintended pregnancy and abortion. We developed a new statistical model that jointly estimated unintended pregnancy and abortion that aimed to better inform efforts towards global equity in sexual and reproductive health and rights.



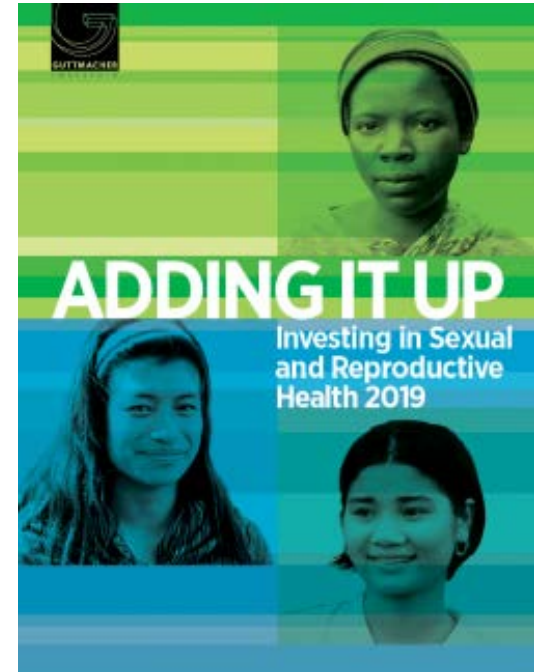
Lancet Glob Health 2020

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Unintended pregnancy and abortion worldwide

Needs, cost and impact of sexual and reproductive health care in low- and middle-income countries

Key findings on unintended pregnancy and abortion worldwide

Unintended pregnancy and abortion are experiences shared by millions of people around the world

Unintended pregnancy and abortion occur where abortion is broadly legal and where abortion is restricted

In developing countries, abortion tends to be unsafe and health systems lack capacity to provide essential abortion services

Source: Bearak JM, et al., Unintended pregnancy and abortion by income, region, and the legal status of abortion: estimates from a comprehensive model for 1990-2019, *Lancet Global Health*, 2020.

Worldwide, 121 million unintended pregnancies and 73 million abortions occurred each year, 2015-2019

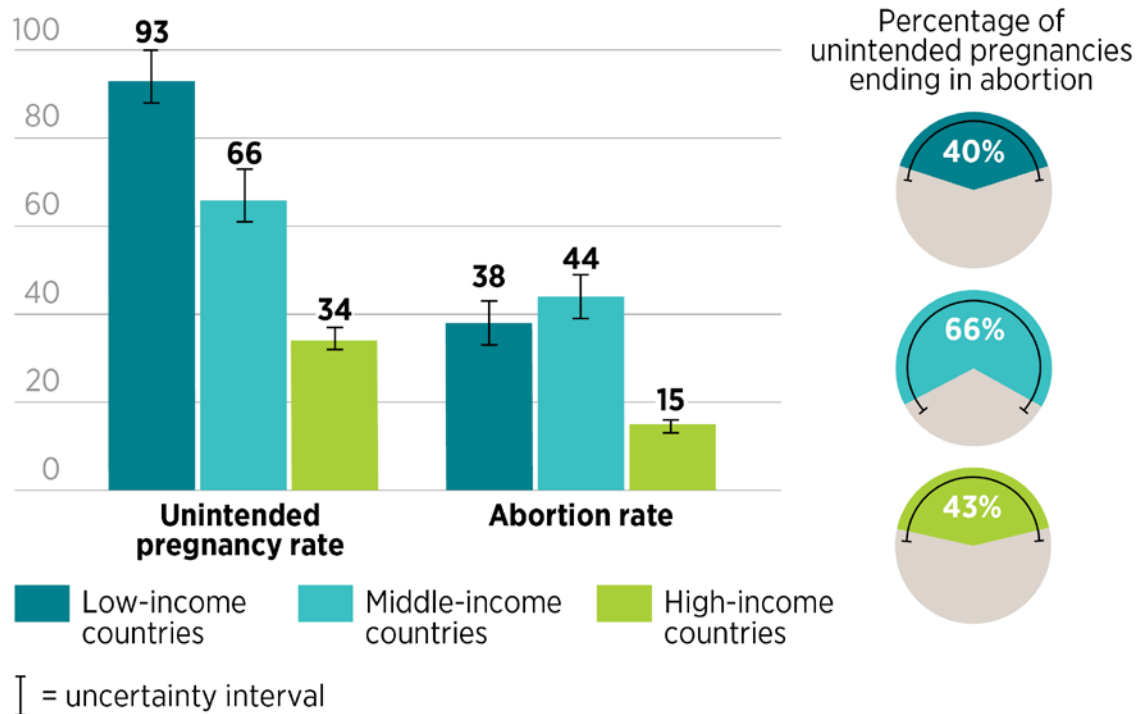
48% of pregnancies were unintended

61% of unintended pregnancies ended in abortion

Source: Bearak JM, et al., Unintended pregnancy and abortion by income, region, and the legal status of abortion: estimates from a comprehensive model for 1990-2019, *Lancet Global Health*, 2020.

Unintended pregnancy and abortion occur across all country income groups

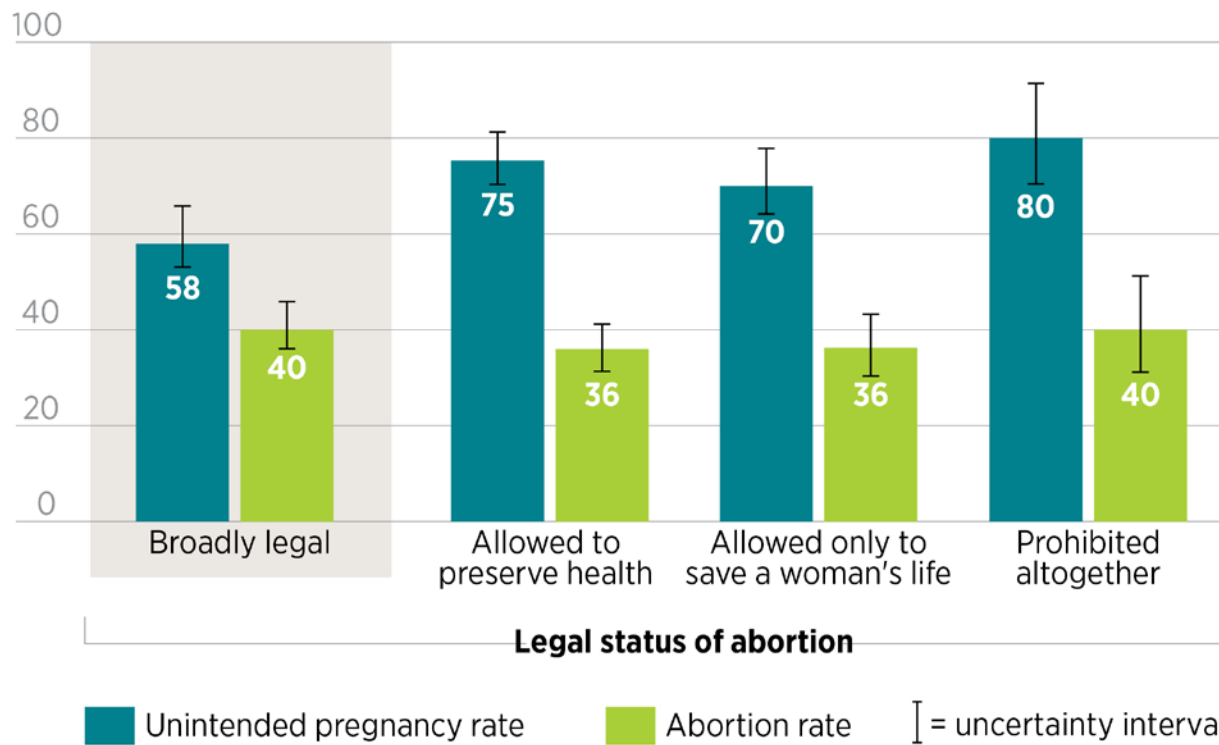
2015–2019 rate



Source: Bearak JM, et al., Unintended pregnancy and abortion by income, region, and the legal status of abortion: estimates from a comprehensive model for 1990–2019, *Lancet Global Health*, 2020.

Unintended pregnancy and abortion occur worldwide, both where abortion is broadly legal and where it is restricted

2015–2019 rate



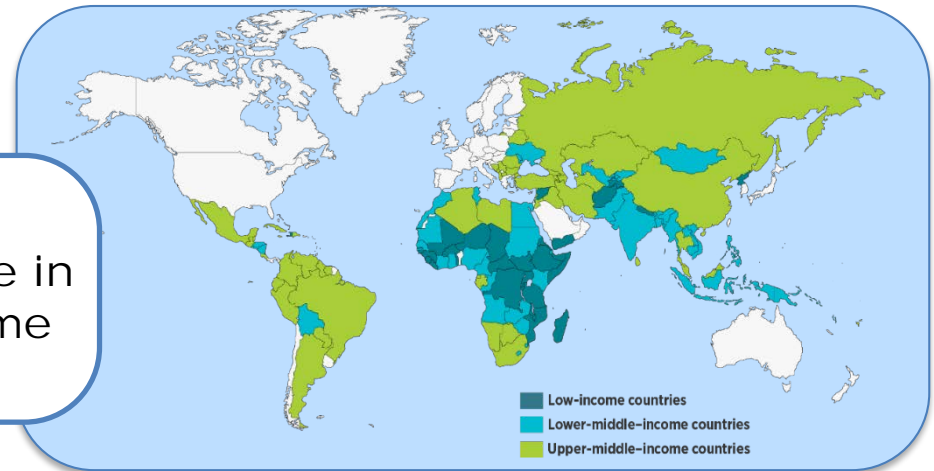
Source: Bearak JM, et al., Unintended pregnancy and abortion by income, region, and the legal status of abortion: estimates from a comprehensive model for 1990–2019, *Lancet Global Health*, 2020.

Adding It Up: new evidence on essential sexual and reproductive health services

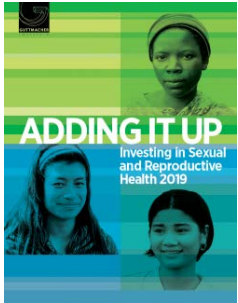
Adding It Up 2019 includes 90+ services, covering:

- Modern contraception
- Pregnancy-related care
- Newborn care
- STI treatment

Evidence for 1.6 billion women of reproductive age in 132 low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)



Source: Sully EA et al., *Adding It Up: Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health 2019*, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2020.



Modern contraceptive use has increased over time, but many women still have an unmet need for modern methods

Expanded services are needed to fulfill unmet needs in LMICs

923 million women
of reproductive age
want to avoid
a pregnancy



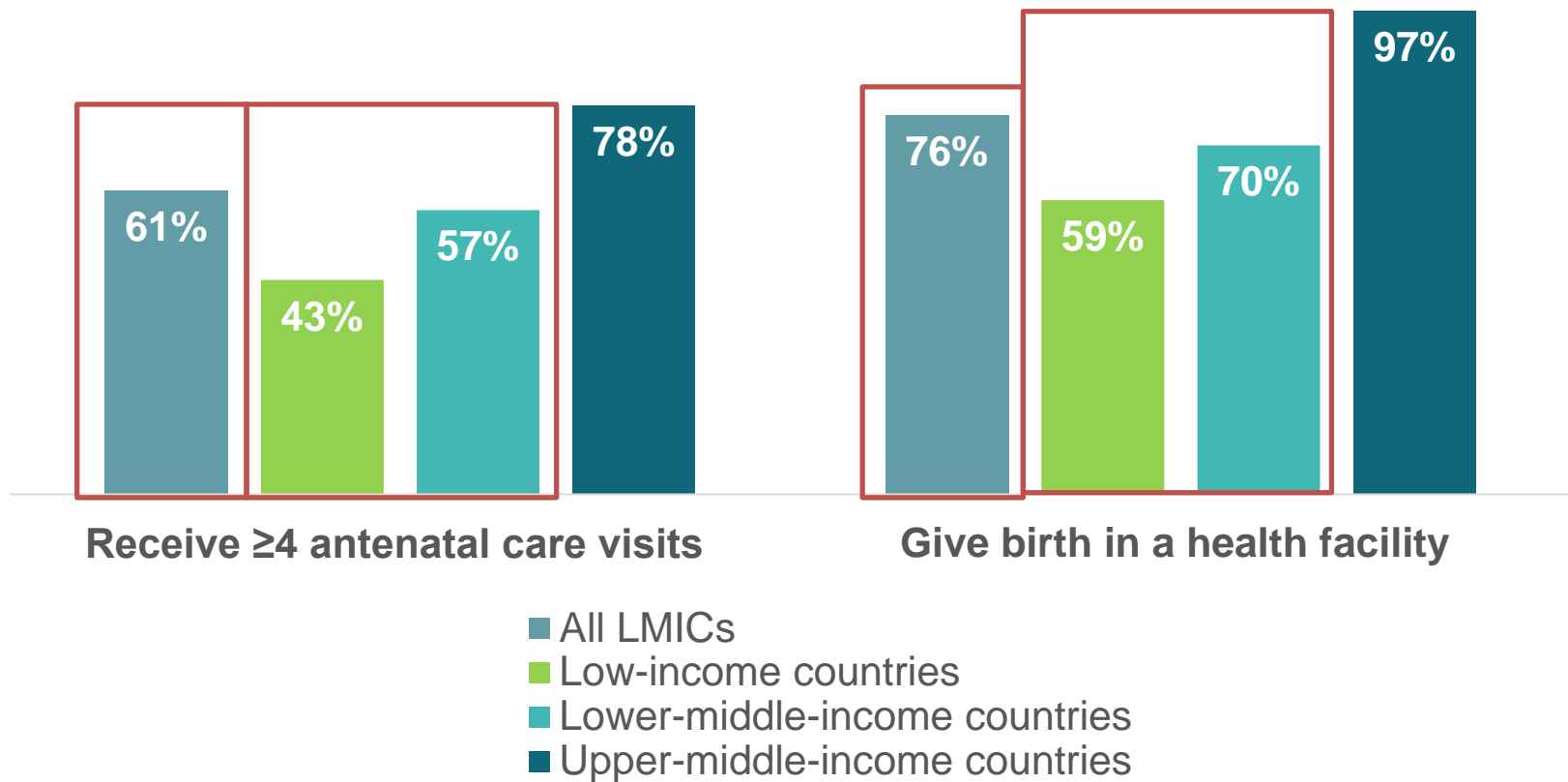
218 million of them
have an unmet need
for modern
contraception

guttmacher.org

Source: Sully EA et al., *Adding It Up: Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health 2019*, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2020.

Large gaps persist across countries in essential maternal health services

% among women giving birth



Investing in sexual and reproductive health care would dramatically reduce unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions and maternal deaths

	Annual number			% change if all needs are met
	At current levels of care	If all needs are met	Averted if all needs are met	
Unintended pregnancies	111M	35M	76M	-68%
Unsafe abortions	35M	10M	26M	-72%
Maternal deaths	299K	113K	186K	-62%

Source: Sully EA et al., *Adding It Up: Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health 2019*, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2020.



Every \$1 spent on contraceptive services beyond the current level would save \$3 in the cost of maternal, newborn and abortion care **because contraception reduces unintended pregnancies**

guttmacher.org

Source: Sully EA et al., *Adding It Up: Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health 2019*, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2020.

Potential annual impacts from COVID-19-related disruptions in sexual and reproductive health services

Disruption in essential SRH care	Impact
10% decline in use of short- and long-acting, reversible contraception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 49 million additional women with unmet need for modern contraceptives • 15 million additional unintended pregnancies
10% decline in pregnancy-related and newborn care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.7 million additional women experiencing major obstetric complications without care • 28,000 additional maternal deaths • 2.6 million additional newborns experiencing major complications without care • 168,000 additional newborn deaths
10% shift in abortions from safe to unsafe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.3 million additional unsafe abortions • 1,000 additional maternal deaths

Source: Riley T, et al., Estimates of the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sexual and reproductive health in low- and middle-income countries, *Internatl Perspectives in Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 2020.

For More Information

Adding It Up 2019:

Adding It Up: Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health 2019

Abortion and unintended pregnancy:

Unintended pregnancy and abortion by income, region, and the legal status of abortion: estimates from a comprehensive model for 1990–2019

Global Gag Rule:

Investigating the Early Impact of the Trump Administration's Global Gag Rule on Sexual and Reproductive Health Service Delivery in Uganda

The Guttmacher-Lancet Commission:

Accelerate progress—sexual and reproductive health and rights for all: report of the Guttmacher–Lancet Commission

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