

# Abortion rate steady in poor nations, plunging in rich ones

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The rate of abortions in the developed world has dropped to an all-time low while remaining steady in poorer regions, where nearly 90 percent of the abortions worldwide occur, researchers say in a new study published Wednesday in the journal *Lancet*.

In the first analysis of global abortion trends since 2008, scientists found that 56 million abortions are performed globally every year among [women](#) aged 15 to 44, and that about one in four pregnancies ends in abortion. Nearly three-quarters of abortions are obtained by married women.

The researchers used government data and modeling techniques to calculate their estimates.

The rate in rich countries fell to an all-time low between 1990 and 2014, from about 46 abortions per 1,000 women in 1990 to 27 abortions per 1,000 women in 2014.

But in the developing world, the rate remained virtually unchanged, at about 37 abortions per 1,000 women.

"Family planning services do not seem to be keeping pace with the increasing desire for smaller families," said Gilda Sedgh of the Guttmacher Institute, a U.S. research group that supports abortion rights and the paper's lead author.



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