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Induced abortion: a world review, 1986, 6th ed.

Author: Tietze C; Henshaw SK

Source: New York, New York, The Alan Guttmacher Institute, 1986. viii, 143 p.

Abstract: The purpose of this fact book is to bring together information about induced abortion in a form useful to policymakers, health care providers and planners, journalists and researchers. Data from all countries known to release statistics on legal abortion are included. This work includes time-trend data extending, in some cases, to the 1950s and earlier. The underlying assumption is that comparative analysis provides insight into the reasons for past patterns, probable future trends and the range of variation among countries. By comparing countries, one can observe the effects of different policies on public health and on various aspects of abortion incidence and services. The book includes chapters on definitions, data sources and statistical methods, abortion laws and policies, incidence of abortion, demographic and social characteristics, period of gestation, abortion procedures, sterilization, complications and sequelae, mortality, contraception, repeat abortions, abortion service delivery, and effects of abortion policy. In summary, the large majority of the world's people--in developing as well as developed countries--live in areas where abortion is legal at least for health reasons, and the recent trend has been toward further liberalization of laws. Where abortion services are not legal, they are frequently available from physicians to women who can afford to pay for them. Abortions provided by medically trained personnel have proved to be much safer than childbirth. However, mortality and morbidity related to nonmedical abortions are still major public health problems in areas where medical abortions

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