

Unsafe Abortion: A Silent Epidemic in Rosario, Argentina

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GFMER Scholarship



Unsafe Abortion

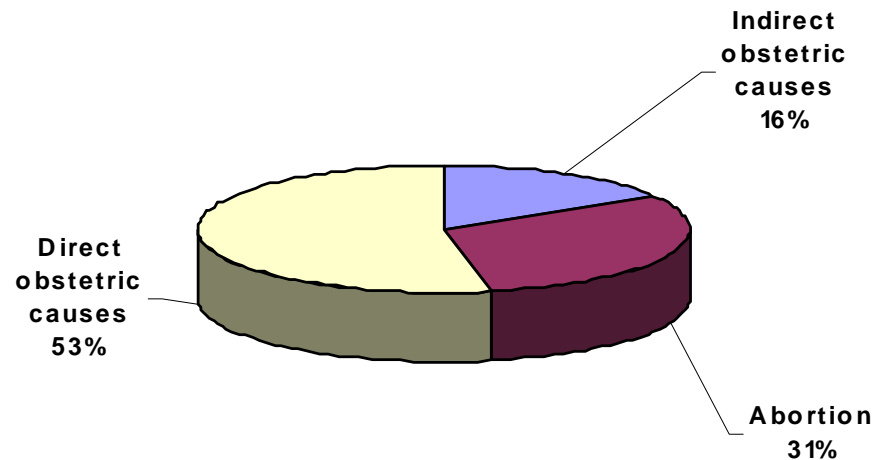
« Procedure for terminating an unintended pregnancy either by persons lacking the necessary skills, or without the minimal medical standards, or both »

Unsafe Abortion

- **Worldwide accounts for 13% of maternal mortality**
- **In Latin America is the most common cause of maternal mortality**
- **35 - 40 unsafe abortions per 100 live births**
- **30 - 50 unsafe abortions deaths per 100000 live births**

Unsafe Abortion in Argentina

- **Maternal Mortality ratio:
35/100000 live births**
- **Distribution of maternal deaths**



Previous research in Latin America

- **To understand the determinants and consequences of unsafe abortion**
- **To understand the relationship between unsafe abortion and use of modern contraceptive methods**

Previous research in Argentina

- To understand the views of obstetricians and gynecologists in Buenos Aires and Metropolitan area, in this restrictive legal context (2002)

« the majority believed that abortion is a serious public health issue and that should not be penalized »

The Needs of Research

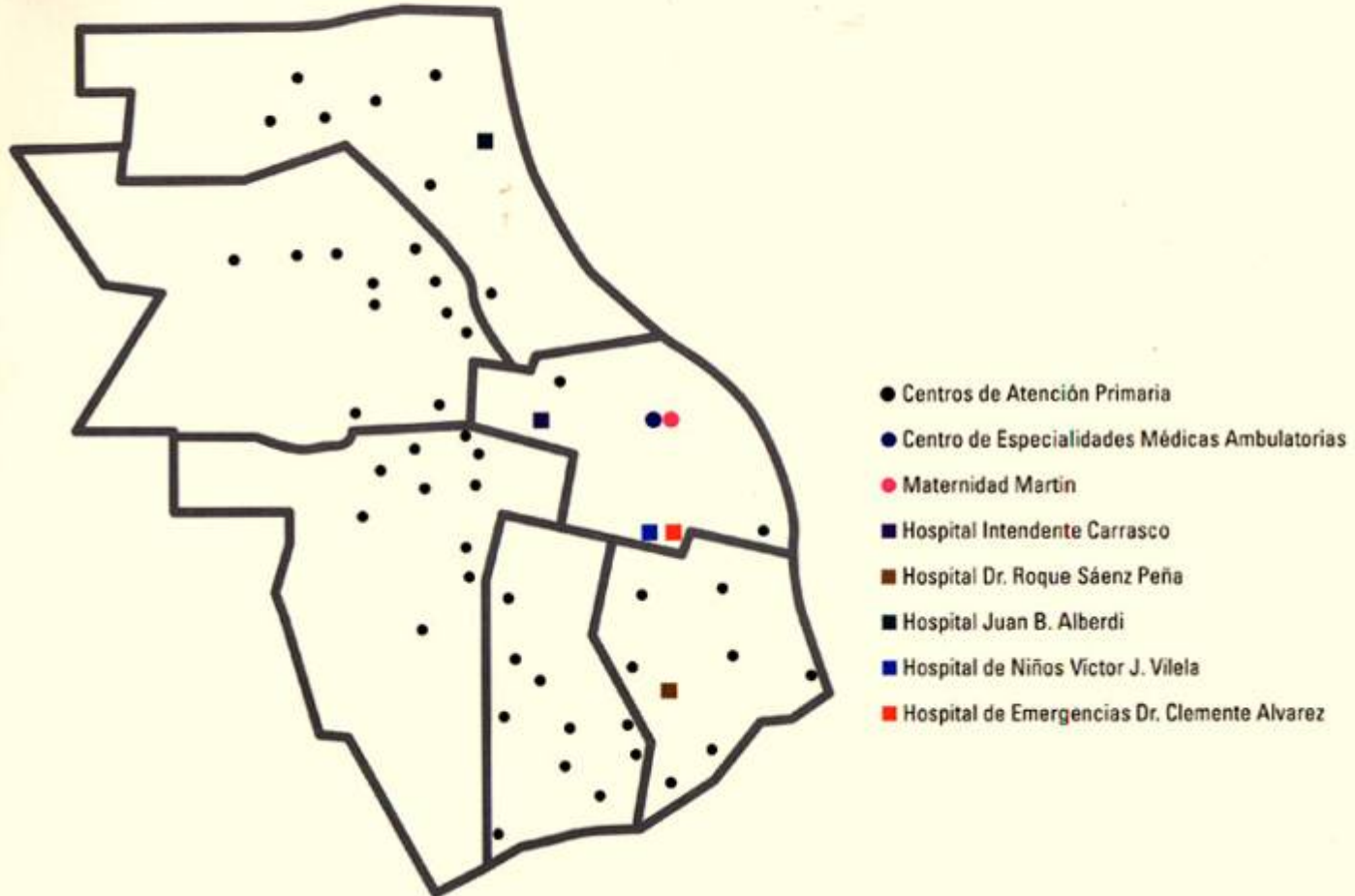
- **Reproductive and Sexual Health research must be planned in its social, cultural and behavioral context**
- **It is necessary to gain a better insight into the relationship between abortion and contraceptive behavior**

The Local Context

- **Rosario has 1 million inhabitants**
- **35% of them do not satisfy their basic necessities**
- **This population attends the public health care services**

The Local Context

► La red de efectores de Salud en la ciudad



The Local Context

- **Family Planning Programme (1997)**
- **5 Centers for Counseling in Reproductive and Sexual Health (2003)**
- **22000 women with oral contraceptives methods monthly**
- **2500 IUDs per year**
- **300000 condoms distributed per year**

The Local Context

- **Unsafe abortions in hospitals**
- **Maternidad Martin: 250 abortions /4000 live birth per year**
- **Hospital R.S.Pena: 330 abortions /2000 live births per year**

Framework

The contraceptive behavior of people is determined by:

- **Social and cultural environments**
- **Accessibility to education and information**
- **Religious beliefs**
- **Gender roles**
- **Availability of family planning services**

General objective

- To describe the phenomenon of unsafe abortion in the population of women who demand for attendance in municipal hospitals as a direct consequence of this practice

Specific Objectives

- To identify social, cultural, ideological and gender barriers to family planning services
- To describe attitudes of health care staff that might influence accessibility
- To determine the adherence to modern contraceptive methods in women seeking for abortion

Methodology

- *Structured Questionnaire*: to describe the socio-demographic characteristics of women
- *In depth-interviews*: to determine motivations, belief and values for sexual behavior
- *The Simulated Client Technique*: to investigate client-provider interactions

Ethical Issues

- To protect the individual's physical and mental integrity
- Respect for privacy and the right to pursue the highest attainable level of health care
- **Informed Consent:** Their willingness to participate in the study has no implications for the health care they are seeking

Thank you!

