

ANALYSIS OF THE ABORTIONS IN BULGARIA FOR 2014

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Abstract. Every year, in Bulgaria nearly half of the pregnancies end up with an abortion. It is well known that every abortion hides a risk for every woman that had this kind of medical intervention. Also lowers the ability of having another pregnancy, having a healthy carrying and giving a natural childbirth. On other side, abortions are associated with being a significant factor which regulates the demographic features of the bulgarian population. There is a tendency that most of the Bulgarian women use the abortion like alternative method for contraception. This is due to the fact that since 1956 there isn't a law that prohibit the performing of abortion by choice of the pregnant woman. For the period from 1967 to 1998, many statistics show that the number of the abortions is significantly higher than the number of the actual childbirths. However, through out the next few years there is a stable tendency of dropping the number of abortions. Overall, in 2014 there is a solid tendency for the decreasing numbers of the abortions in Bulgaria between the period of 2000-2013.

Keywords: abortion, legally induced abortion, abortion rate, abortion ratio.

Materials and methods: Were used documentary and statistical method, also analysis of the existing literary sources; *graphic images are also presented.*

In Bulgaria, the Ministry of Health sets the legally induced abortion in a law since 1st of February 1990 (1). According to that law, the interruption of pregnancy might be by choice of the pregnant woman or by medical reasons. In the present research, there are included cases of interrupted pregnancies by choice and cases by medical reasons. Also there are some cases of spontaneous abortion (or miscarriage) and abortions classified as 'others'. According to the records of the National Center of Public Health and Analyses for the period of 1967 to 1998 the actual number of abortions is higher, than the number of natural childbirths (2,6). Through out the next years, the data shows a significant reduction in the number of abortions under the rate of natural childbirths (3) (Fig. 1).

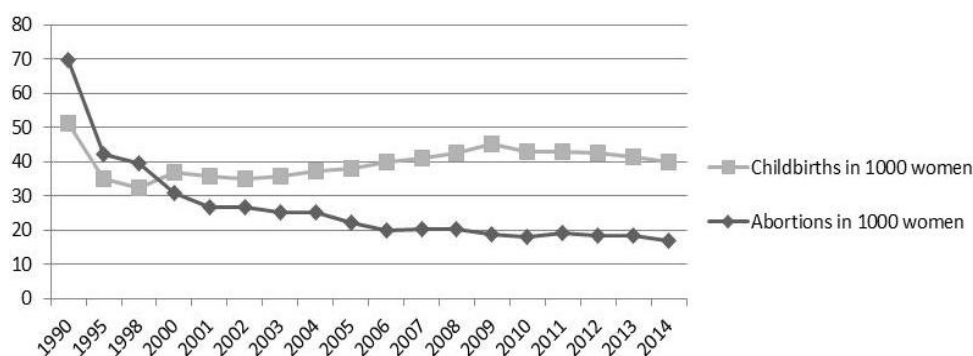


Fig. 1. Number of childbirths and abortions in 1000 Bulgarian women in reproductive age (15-49 years old) for the period from 1990 until 2014

According to the data collected from the National Center of Public Health and Analysis, the National Statistical Institute (4) and Eurostat (6) for the period 2000-2014 there are 596 518 abortions registered. The highest number of performed abortions is known to be in the year of 2000. After that,

the statistics show a dropping tendency. In 2014, in Bulgaria there are 28 145 abortions registered, which is the lowest number analyzed for that period of time (Fig. 2).

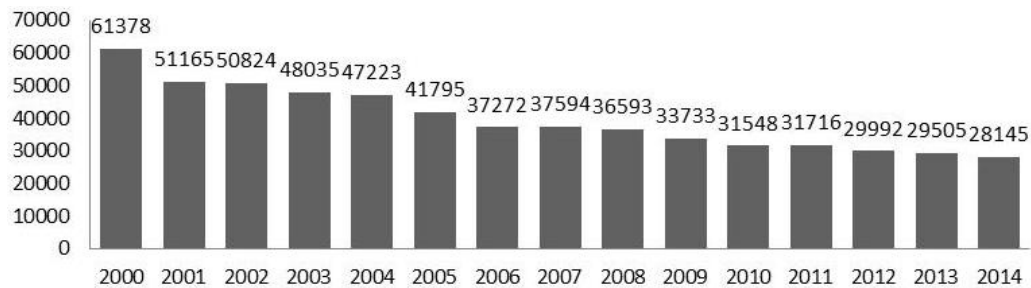


Fig. 2. Number of abortions in Bulgaria for the period 2000-2014

The decrease in the numbers of performed abortions in 2014 compared to the numbers in 2000, when those numbers were at its highest, concludes to 33 233 cases. Furthermore, this information compared to the numbers in 2013 is 1360 which confirms the tendency in lowering the numbers of performed abortions in Bulgaria. A slight deviation in this tendency is observed twice through the whole analyzed period of time. The first one is in 2008 when, there are 322 more cases reported compared to those in 2007. The second one is in 2011 when, there are 168 more cases, than those in 2010.

In 2014, the abortion rate, which reflects the number of performed abortions in 1000 women at the age from 15 to 49 years is 16,7 abortions (Fig. 3), and the abortion ratio, which shows the number of abortions into 1000 live births is 419,6 abortions (Fig.4). During the analyzed period the abortion rate has its lowest rate in 2014, and the abortion ratio in 2010 is 417,7 abortions into 1000 live births which is its lowest rate.

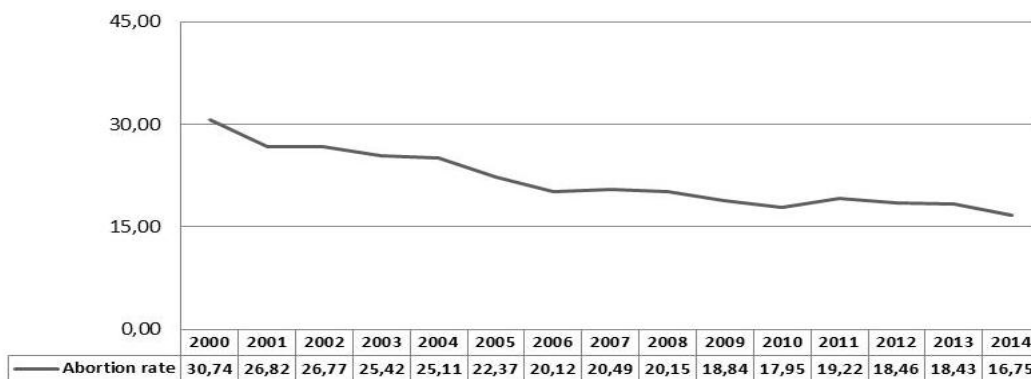


Fig. 3. Number of abortions into 1000 women in reproductive age for the period 2000-2014

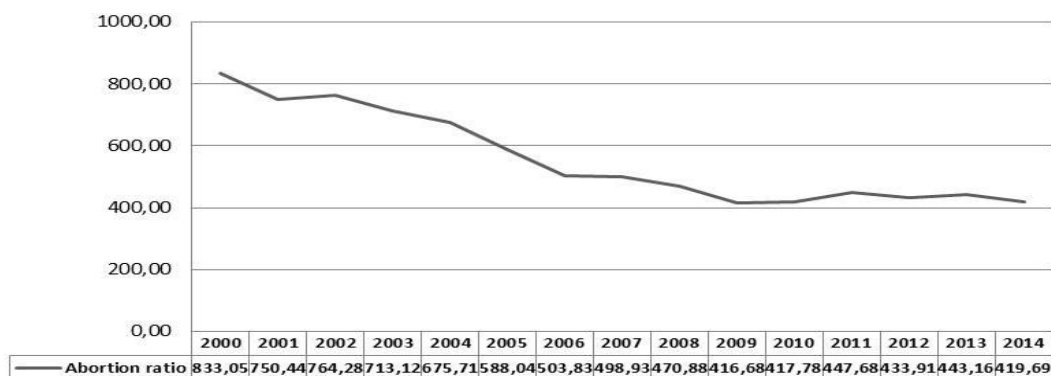


Fig. 4. Number of abortions into 1000 live births in Bulgaria for the period 2000-2014

In the structure of registered abortions by types in 2014, the highest relative rate comes for the abortions made by choice of the pregnant woman (58,69%, n=16517), followed by the cases of miscarriage (31,59%, n=8890). The lowest relative rates have the abortions, which are made by medical reasons (9,72%, n=2735) and the abortions classified as 'others' (0,01%, n=3) (Fig.5).

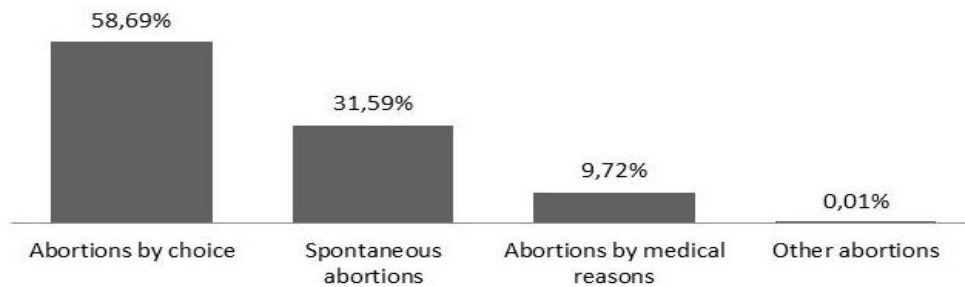


Fig. 5. Relative distribution between the types of abortions in 2014

The distribution of the abortions according to the age of the pregnant woman in 2014 shows, that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the performed abortions was on women in three age groups. The abortions, which carry the highest relative rate are made in the age group between 25 and 29 years old (26,23%, n=7382), followed by those between 30 and 34 years old (22,13%, n=6228) and finally, the age group from 20 to 24 years old (19,72%, n=5551) (Fig.6).

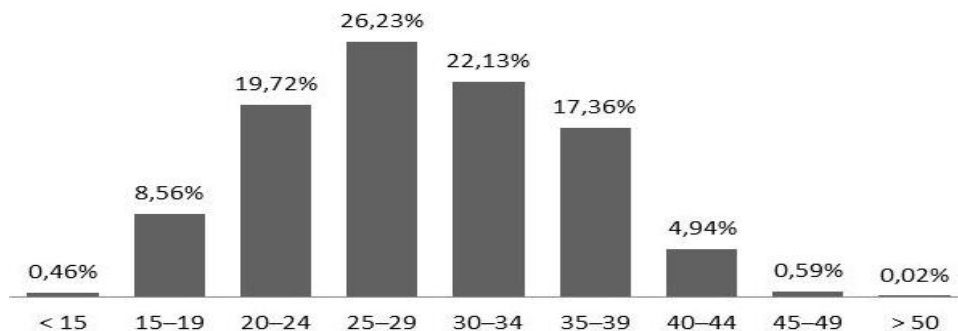


Fig. 6. Distribution of the abortions in 2014 according to the age of the pregnant woman

In 2014, the highest numbers of abortions made by choice of the pregnant woman, are observed in the age group of 25-29 years old (27,59%, n= 4557), followed by the age group of 20-24 years old (22,80%, n=3766) and finally, comes the age group of 30-34 years old (21,90%, n=3617) (Fig.7).

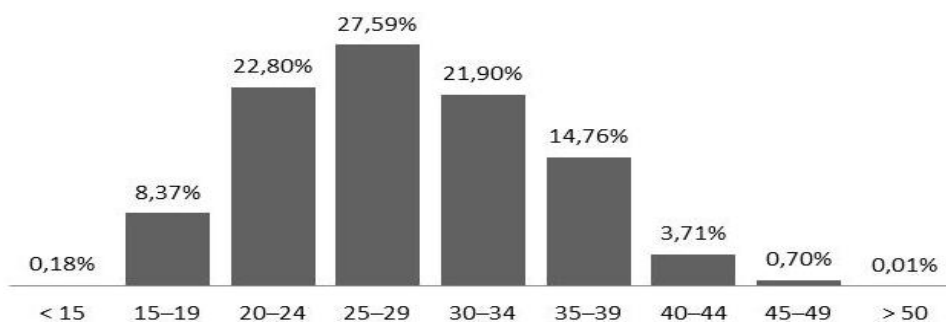


Fig.7. Distribution of abortions by choice in 2014 according to the age of the pregnant woman

In the group of spontaneous abortion, the highest rate has the cases, where the pregnant woman is in the age group of 25-29 years old (26, 02%, n=2313), followed by the age group of 30-34 years old (23, 78%, n=2114) and the age group of 20-24 years old (16, 34%, n=1453) (Fig.8).

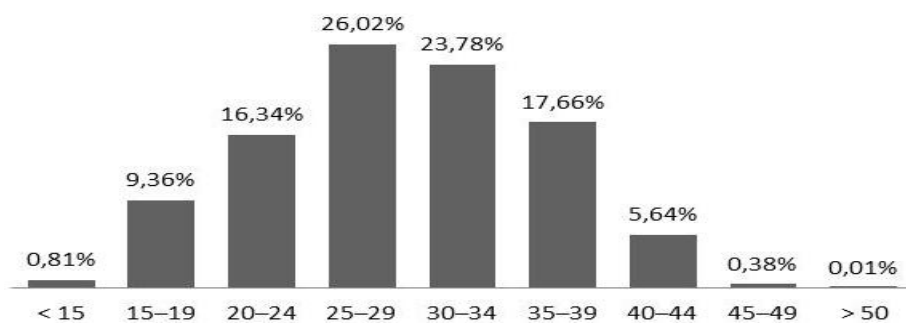


Fig. 8. Distribution of the spontaneous abortions in 2014 according to the age of the pregnant woman

The analysis of the data for the number of abortions made by medical reasons, shows highest rate in the age group of 35-39 years old (32,07%, n=877), followed by the age group of 25-29 years old (18,65%, n=510) and finally comes the age group between 30-34 years old (18,17%, n=497) (Fig.9).

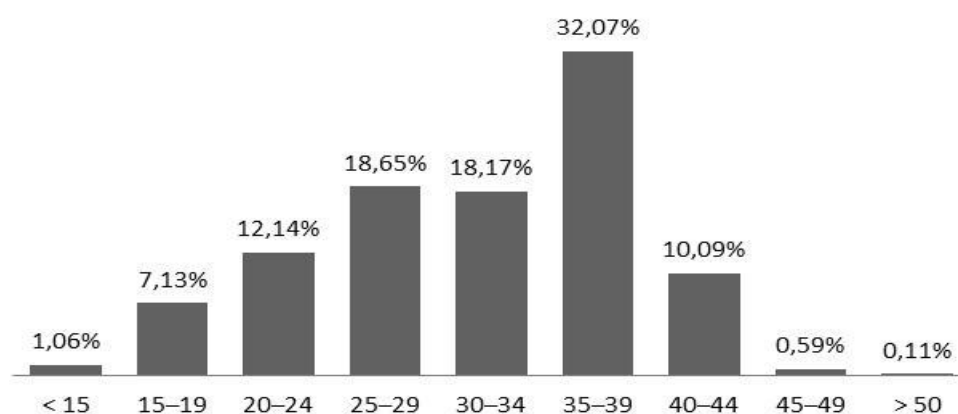


Fig.9. Distribution of the abortions by medical reasons in 2014 according to the age of the pregnant woman

Abortion emerged as one of the main factors for the negative parameters of the demographic situation in Bulgaria. The data in our research show that legal abortion continues to be used like an alternative method to contraception. In the last decades have seen a significant reduction in the number of registered abortions performed by choice of the pregnant woman. This is due to the activities carried out under the Strategy for Demographic development of Bulgaria.

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