

Adolescents and Abortion

About half of unintended adolescent pregnancies in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Africa end in induced abortion, and 65% do in Asia. In developed countries, the proportion of unintended pregnancies ending in abortion varies widely, ranging from 4% in Albania to 69% in Sweden. For countries with complete abortion statistics, the majority fall within the 35–55% range^[i]

About Fondo MARIA, a civil society initiative that supports adolescents and older women to overcome barriers contained in the law in Mexico City.

The Abortion Fund for Social Justice MARIA (Fondo de Aborto para la Justicia Social MARIA)^[ii] is a program, within an organisation (Balance Promoción para el Desarrollo y Juventud), that advocates for the right of all Mexican women - not just from Mexico City where abortion is legal-, to decide freely about their own body. Fondo MARIA facilitates easy access to safe abortion to women from all Mexican States in Mexico City. The program provides information, economic support and accompaniment to empower. Since May 2009, the MARIA Fund provided access to safe abortion to 1112 adolescents from all over the country which represents 17.44% of all women. They were supported by the fondo MARIA. Among them,, 2 were 9 years old, 60 were between 10-14 years old and only 5 were married.^[iii] Fondo MARIA supports adolescents to overcome barriers to access safe abortion services, including parent's consent, which is included in the Mexico City abortion law from 2007. something that the Mexico City MoH not always guarantee despite of the fact that pregnancy termination is a right guaranteed by the City. Further, Fondo MARIA helps adolescents from other States to access safe abortion since in the rest of Mexico abortion has not been legalized.

^[i] Chae S, Desai S, Crowell M, Sedgh G, Singh S (2017) Characteristics of women obtaining induced abortions in selected low- and middle- income countries. PLoS ONE 12(3): e0172976. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0172976>

^[ii] Personal Communication, Oriana Lopez Uribe, May 5th, 2017, member of Fondo MARIA

^[iii] Information submitted to IAP by Fondo MARIA