

## **Abortion at extreme ages**

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Family planning services, introduced about 10 years ago in Romania, have managed to substantially improve health care and women’s social status.

Purpose: since extreme ages present problems for contraception (diminished addressability, more frequent contraindications) the present paper analyses, within our service for the past 10 years, the evolution of the extreme age patients’ addressability to the abortion services and at the impact of family planning services on these categories.

Materials and methods: we made a retrospective study, which analyzed the evolution within our service of abortions on demand between 1992 – 2001.

Results: we notice an important decrease in the number of annual abortions (down by 61.2 % between 1992 and 2001), which proves the efficiency of contraception in the region of Moldova. The analysis of the evolution of abortions on demand in women under 20, between 20-40 and over 40 shows: for women under 20 – a low but constant percentual increase between 1992-1998 (from 5.03% to 8.08%) followed by a decrease between 1999 – 2001. For women over 40 a rather constant profile (5,58% in 1992, 5.59% in 2001). The decrease of abortions was made especially for the 20-40 group. The social analysis of the population shows an evolution of the urban-rural ratio towards 1.

Conclusions: an accentuated orientation of young people towards a healthy lifestyle, a priority in the activity of our Center had improved the educational level among adolescents (and among female population). The particularities of contraception during menopause can be found here as well and limiting the contraceptive methods at these ages can explain the constant level obtained in the evolution of the addressability for abortion to our Center. The rural-urban ration shows the efficiency increase in the functioning of the family planning network in the rural area.