

Abortion as a leading way of family planning

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Aim: To show that legal abortion in Belgrade, the capital of Yugoslavia, is still the leading way of family planning. The number of legal abortions is almost two times higher than the number of deliveries.

Method: Retrospective analysis of abortions and deliveries in seven years period 1995-2001. (data basis of Clinical Hospital Center "Zvezara" and Bureau for Health protection in Serbia). Parameters observed: age, parity, education, marital status, number of previous abortions, prevalence of contraception. Statistic tests used: distribution of frequency, X² test, analysis of the variance.

Results: The number of legal abortions for a seven years period (1995-2001) was 20001, and the number of deliveries in the same period was 15132. Compares ratio 1:1,3. There is no statistically significant difference in the age between the observed women in our serie (P=0,0085). X=31 years. Considering the education there were 85,6% of women with sec. school (P=0,006). 80% women were married, 20% were unmarried (statistically significant difference P=0,000). It is established that in 32% women it was the first abortion. 61% women had 2-5 abortions before, and 7% had more than 5 abortions in their medical history. 12,5% women were primigravidas in actual pregnancy. The highest percentage of women (65%) had deliveries and abortions in previous medical history (P=0,000). The middle gestational age of legal abortion was VII/VIII weeks. The most common abortion was between married women, 30-34 years old, with wished number of children. It was established that only 6,4-7,5% women used contraception, and that fact is defeating.

Conclusion: Unfortunately, in Yugoslavia, legal abortion is still the method of choice for family planning. The elevated number of abortions, particularly if repeated for the same patient, forces us to turn towards the propagation of different methods of contraception.