

Abortions and Maternal Mortality in Russia

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According to high urgency of the problem of abortions and maternal mortality the purpose of this investigation was to study the causes of maternal mortality in Russia. We analyzed 6000 application forms of patients consulted in family planning service at 27 territories of Russia to estimate the main causes of abortions and 207 case histories of the dead from abortions in the period of 1996-1999.

In the period of 1996-1998 there was a considerable decline in the number of abortions (on more than 30%) but it is still 5 to 6 times higher (in 1998 - 182.6 abortions per 100 deliveries) than in well-developed countries (25 abortions per 100 deliveries). Frequency of artificial abortions in 1999 was 57.3 in 1000 women of fertile age. 86.7% of deaths in 1999 was due to criminal abortion despite the fact that their level decreased from the previous years on 4.7%. The structure of complications from abortions was: septic complications - 40%, bleedings - 40%, thromboembolism - 5%, trauma - 3.4%, worsening of somatic diseases - 4.7%. 30% of abortions were connected with low social status, poor ecology and economic crisis in Russia. These factors influence on the sexual behavior of population. While having the information about effective contraception only some women use them because of it's expensiveness. Taking into consideration peculiarities of maternal mortality structure the principal measure of situation improvement nowadays is medical reserves intensification in Russia in the form of elaboration of prenatal consultation and adoption of last conception of family planning.