

GUTTMACHER INSTITUTE

Presentation for Danish parliament Committee on Gender Equality

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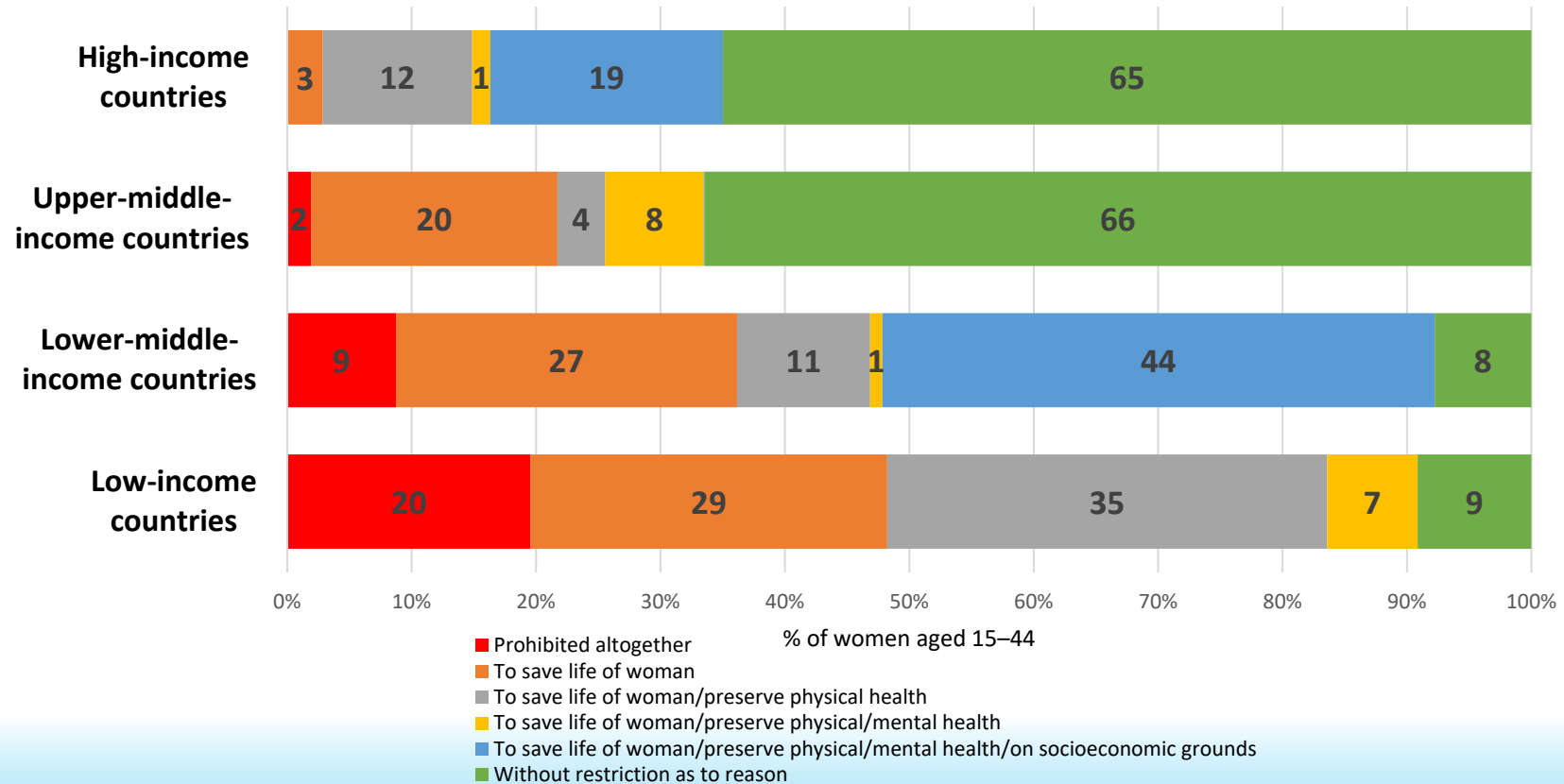
Jonathan Wittenberg – Executive Vice President

The overwhelming trend has been toward broadening the grounds for legal abortion (2008 – 2018)

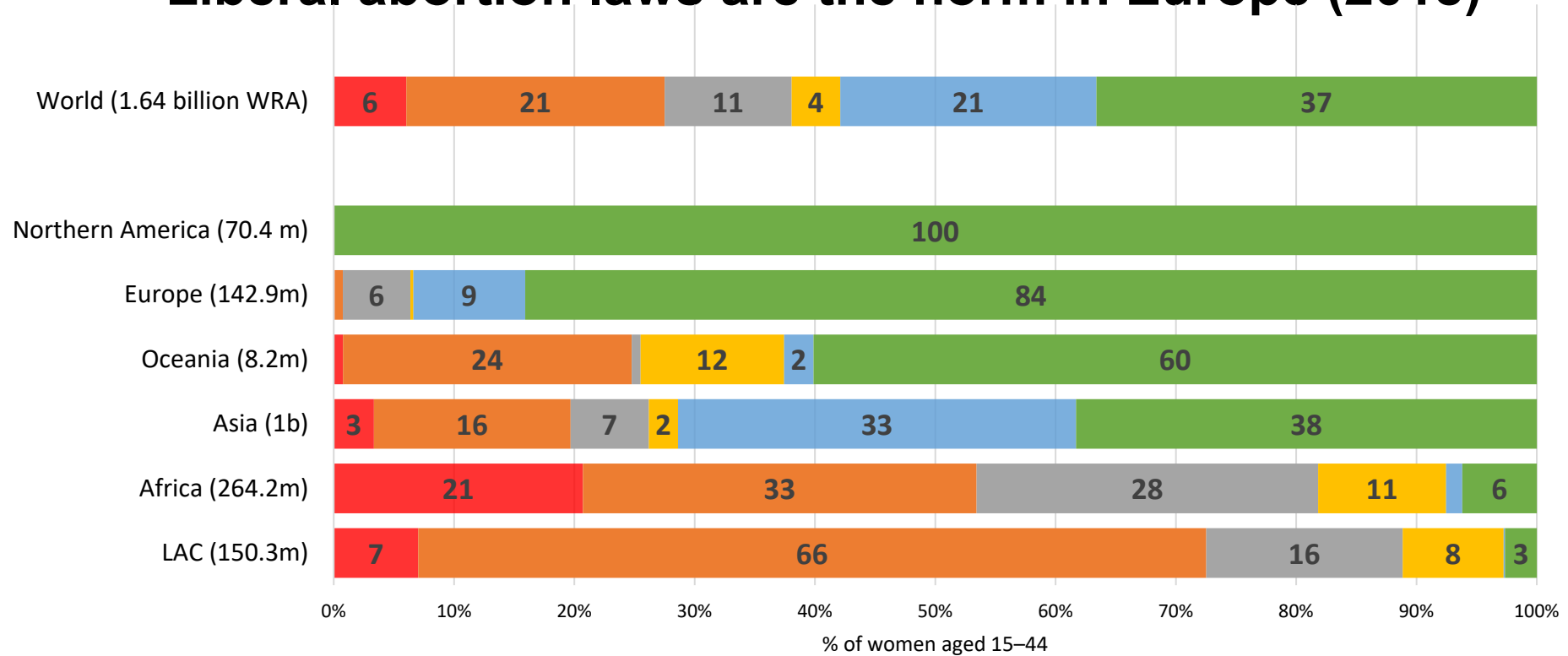
Ⓜ Rape ⓘ Incest ⓘ Fetal Abnormality

	Prohibited altogether	To save woman's life	To save woman's life and preserve physical health	To save woman's life and preserve physical/mental health	To save woman's life, preserve physical/mental health, and socioeconomic reasons	Without restriction as to reason, with gestational and other requirements
DEVELOPED REGIONS						
Australia					→	→
Luxembourg					→	→
Monaco	Ⓜ ⓘ ⓘ		→			
Spain				→	→	→
DEVELOPING REGIONS						
AFRICA						
Kenya		→	→			
Lesotho	Ⓜ ⓘ ⓘ		→			
Mauritius	Ⓜ ⓘ ⓘ			→		
Mozambique			Ⓜ ⓘ ⓘ	→		
Rwanda			ⓘ ⓘ	→		
Somalia	→					
ASIA & MICRONESIA						
Fiji					Ⓜ ⓘ ⓘ	
Indonesia		Ⓜ ⓘ				
LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN						
Argentina			Ⓜ	→		
Chile	Ⓜ ⓘ	→				
Uruguay				→	→	→

The majority of women in high income countries live where abortion is allowed on broad grounds (2018)



Liberal abortion laws are the norm in Europe (2018)

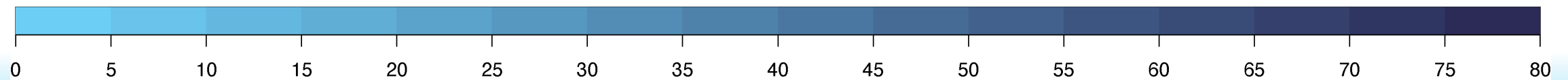
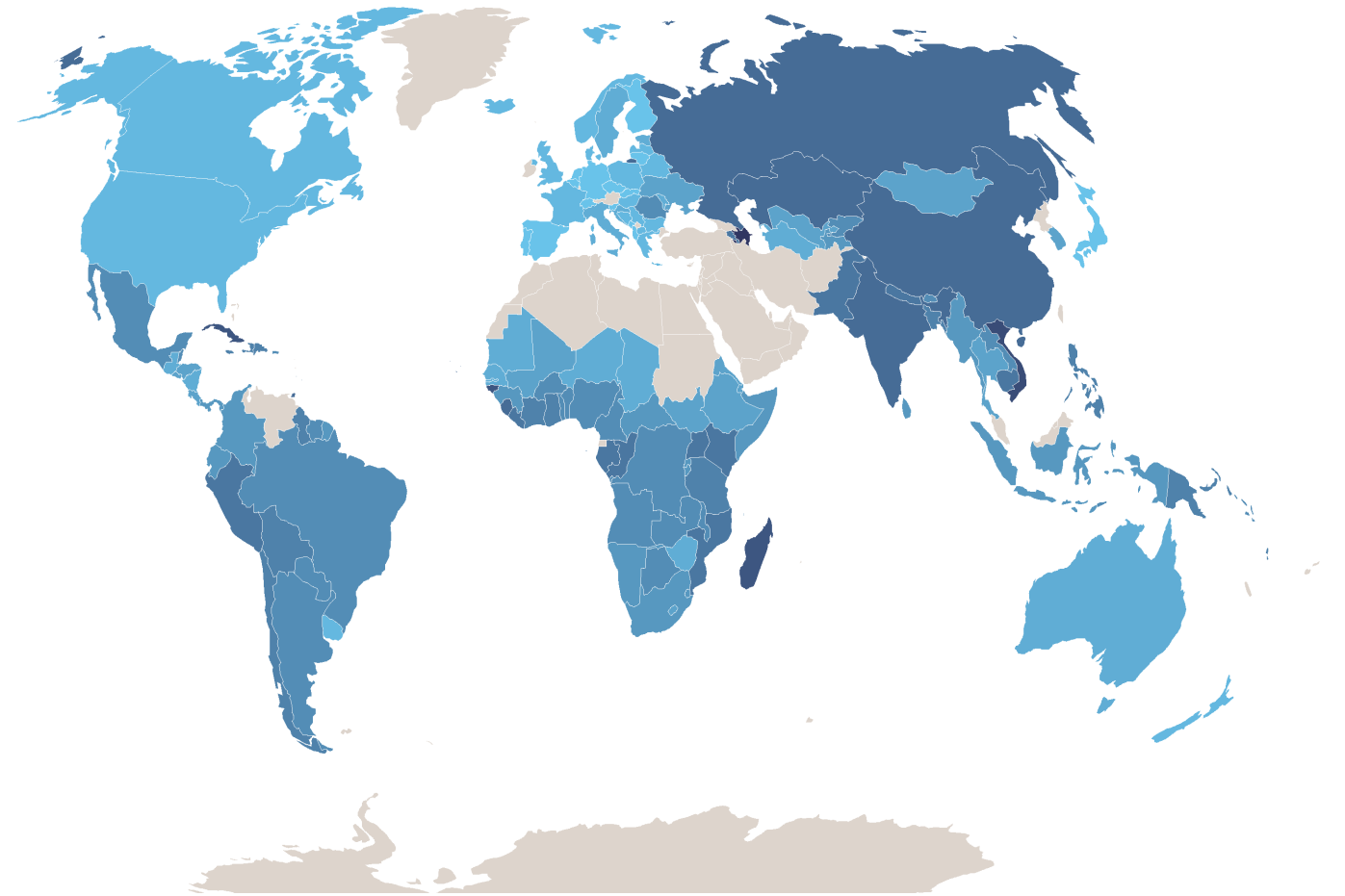


- Prohibited altogether
- To save life of woman
- To save life of woman/preserve physical health
- To save life of woman/preserve physical/mental health
- To save life of woman/preserve physical/mental health/on socioeconomic grounds
- Without restriction as to reason

Abortion rates

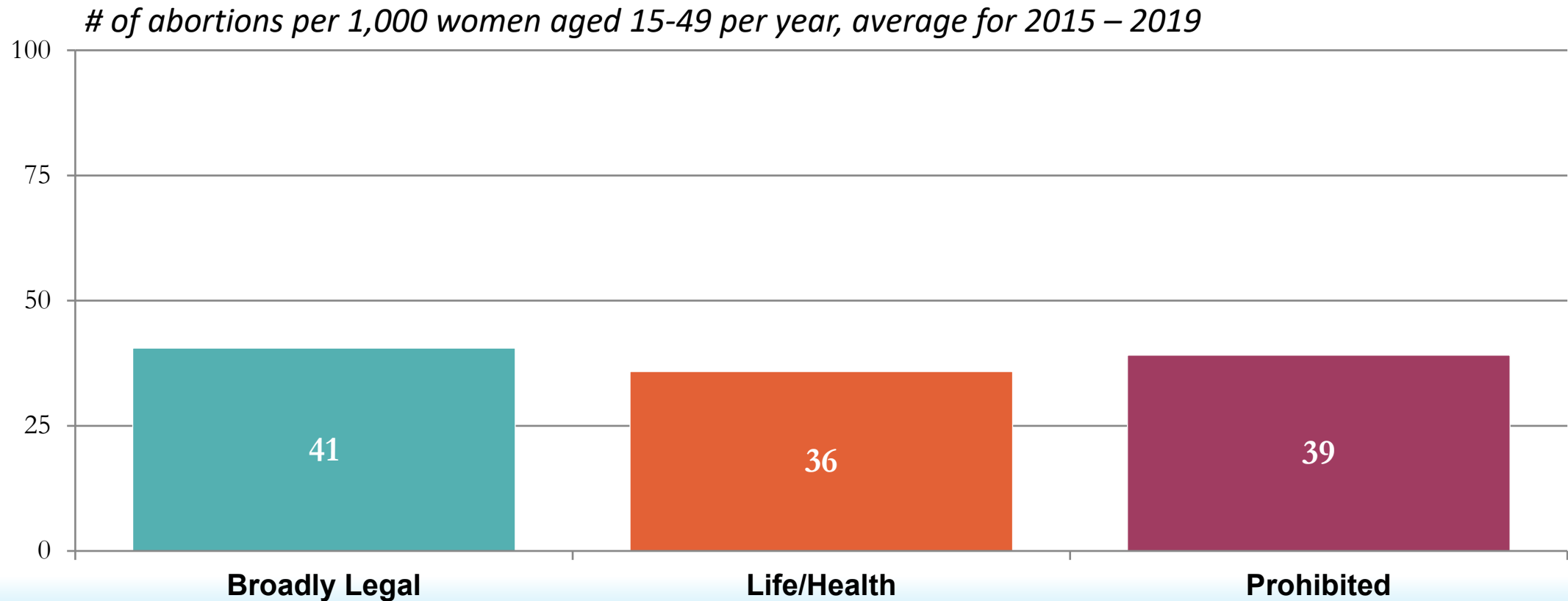
No. per 1,000 women aged 15–49 per year in 2015–2019

- All 195 countries contributed to the global and regional estimates.
- Of these, 166 have some data on abortions or unintended births.
- This map shows the 150 countries for which we released estimates.
- Nothing is shown in the Middle East or North Africa because this area had no reliable abortion data with which to validate the model.
- The borders shown here do not represent an official position of the UN, WHO or Guttmacher.



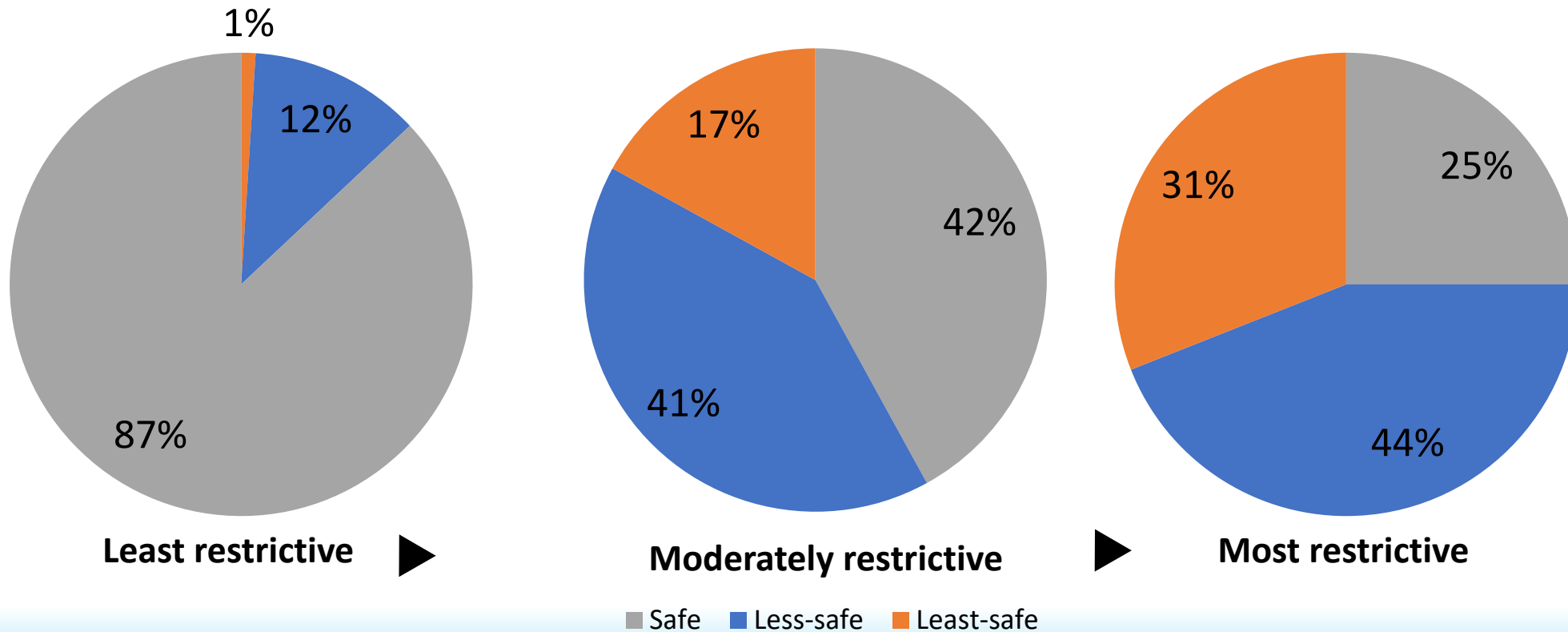
No. of abortions per 1,000 reproductive-age women per year

Abortion rates are similar in countries with liberal and restrictive abortion laws



'Broadly legal' includes countries where abortion is available upon request, with varying gestational limits; this includes countries without restriction as to reason and on broad socioeconomic grounds

Abortions are more likely to be unsafe where abortion laws are more restrictive



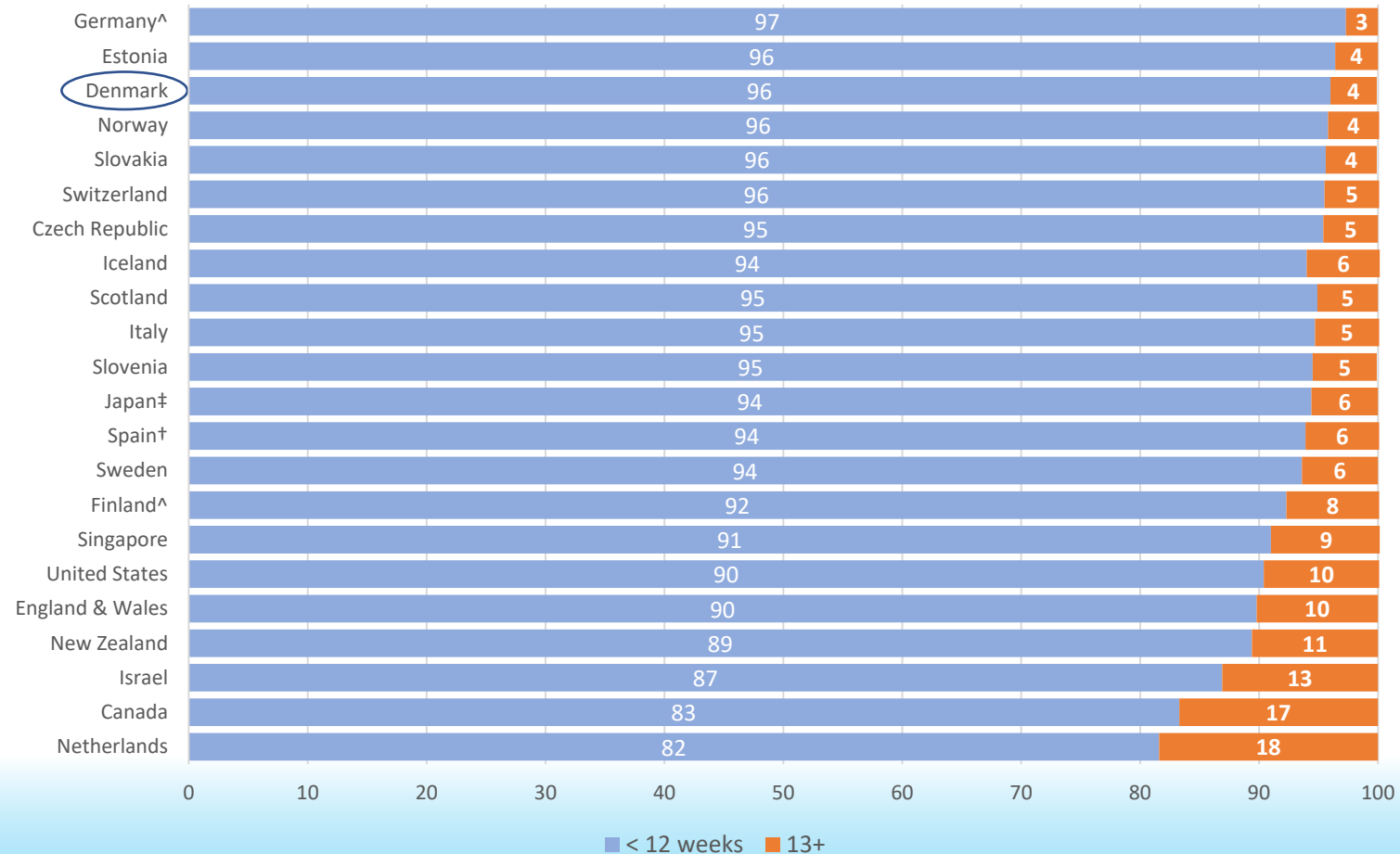
Most high-income countries with data allow abortion through at least the 12th week of pregnancy, as of 2017

Country	Gestational-age limit	Gestational-age exceptions
Portugal	Through 10th week	Exception up to 24 week limit for cases of fetal impairment
Czech Republic	Through 12th week	Exception up to 24 weeks for cases of fetal impairment or rape
Denmark	Through 12th week	No gestational limit specified for cases of fetal impairment, risk to life or health including bodily or mental suffering, or young age
Estonia	Through 12th week	Exception up to 22 weeks for cases of fetal impairment, or intellectual or cognitive disability
Finland	Through 12th week	No gestational limit specified for cases of fetal impairment; Exception up to 20 weeks for those less than 17 years of age, or risk to life or health
Iceland	Through 12th week	No gestational age limit specified for cases of fetal impairment, rape, intellectual or cognitive disability, or risk to mental or physical health
Israel	Through 12th week	No explicit reference to exceptions in the law
Japan	Through 12th week	Exception up to 21 weeks for risk to physical health, rape, or economic or social reasons
New Zealand	Through 12th week	No limit specified if affecting mental or physical health; exception up to 20 weeks for fetal impairment, incest, intellectual or cognitive disability
Norway	Through 12th week	Exception up to 22 weeks for cases of fetal impairment, or risk of life or health
Slovakia	Through 12th week	Exception up to six months for cases of foetal impairment, rape or incest
Slovenia	Through 12th week	No explicit reference in law to exceptions
Switzerland	Through 12th week	No gestational limit specified if risk to health or causing state of deep distress
Italy	Through 90 days/three months	No gestational age limit specified for cases of fetal impairment or risk to physical or psychological health
Belgium	Through 14th week	No gestational limit specified for cases of fetal impairment
France	Through 14th week	No gestational age limit specified for cases of fetal impairment
Germany	Through 14th week	No gestational age limit specified if risk to mental and physical health
Spain	Through 14th week	Exception up to 22 weeks limit for cases of fetal impairment (or no gestational limit depending on the circumstance)
Sweden	Through 18th week	No explicit reference in law to exceptions
Great Britain	Through 24th week	No gestational limit specified for cases of fetal impairment, risk to life or permanent injury to physical or mental health
Singapore	Through 24th week	Exception after 24 weeks if risk to physical or mental health
Netherlands	No gestational-age limit previability	n/a
Canada	Law does not indicate gestational-age limit	n/a

Source: Center for Reproductive Rights for gestational age-limit; Global Abortion Policies Database and country's legal documents for exceptions

Most abortions in high income countries occur by the 12th week of pregnancy

Percent distribution of abortions by duration of pregnancy , c2017



Note: There was variation in how countries reported gestational age as follows: [^]= ≤11; [†]= ≤14, [‡]= ≤11

Factors associated with delays in obtaining an abortion

US (2017):

- being Black
- having less than a high school degree
- relying on financial assistance to pay for the procedure
- living 25 or more miles from the facility
- late recognition of pregnancy

Netherlands (2008):

- young age
- inability to recognize pregnancy
- ambivalence towards the pregnancy
- having to travel to the Netherlands for abortion
- being an immigrant

England Wales (2008):

- not realizing they were pregnant
- uncertainty about what to do if they were pregnant
- changes in personal circumstances

The WHO recommends removing gestational limits for legal abortion

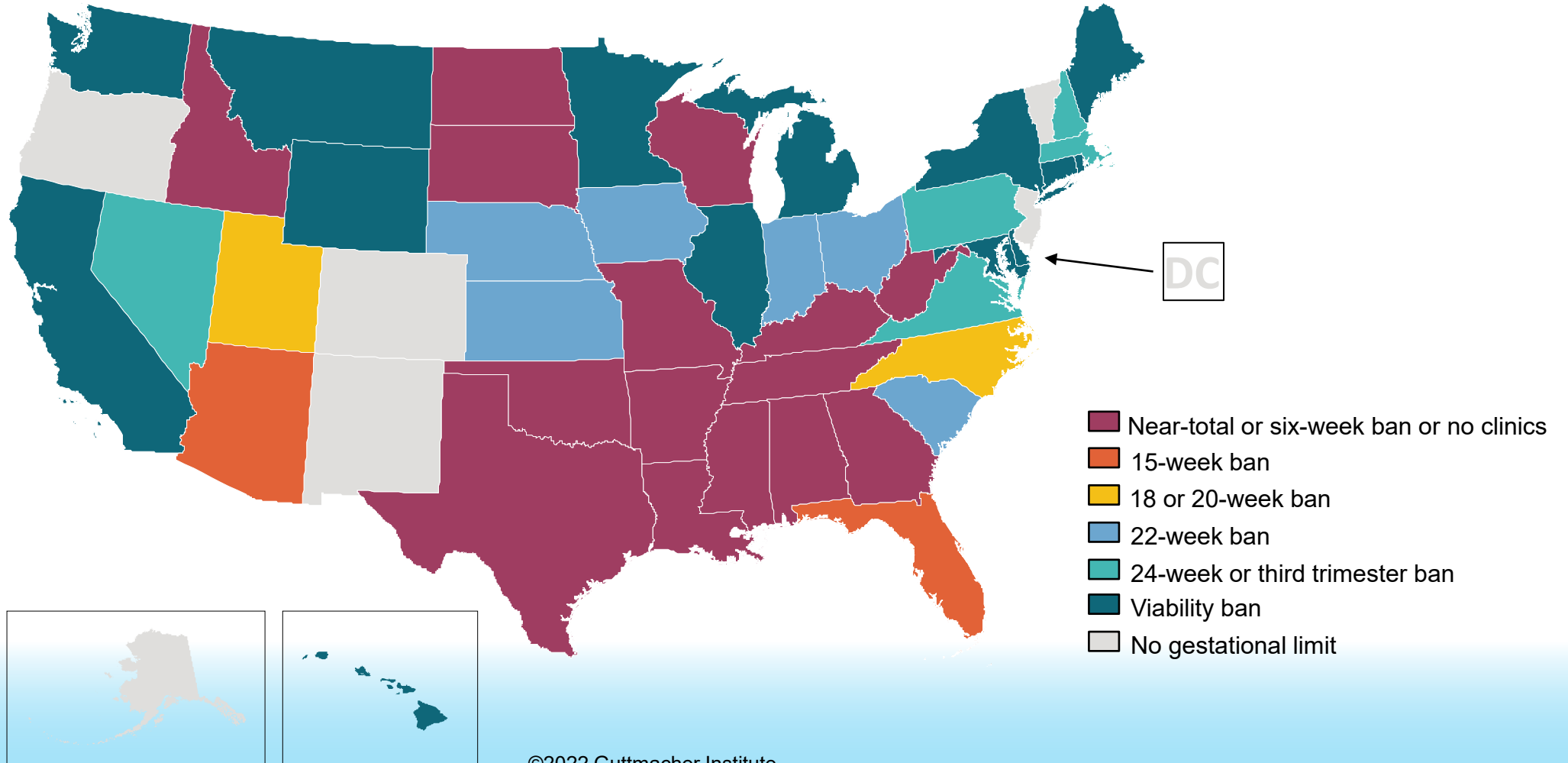
WHO recommendation:

The guidelines recommend removing medically unnecessary policy barriers to safe abortion, such as criminalization, mandatory waiting times, requirements for prior approvals, and *limits on when during pregnancy an abortion can take place*.

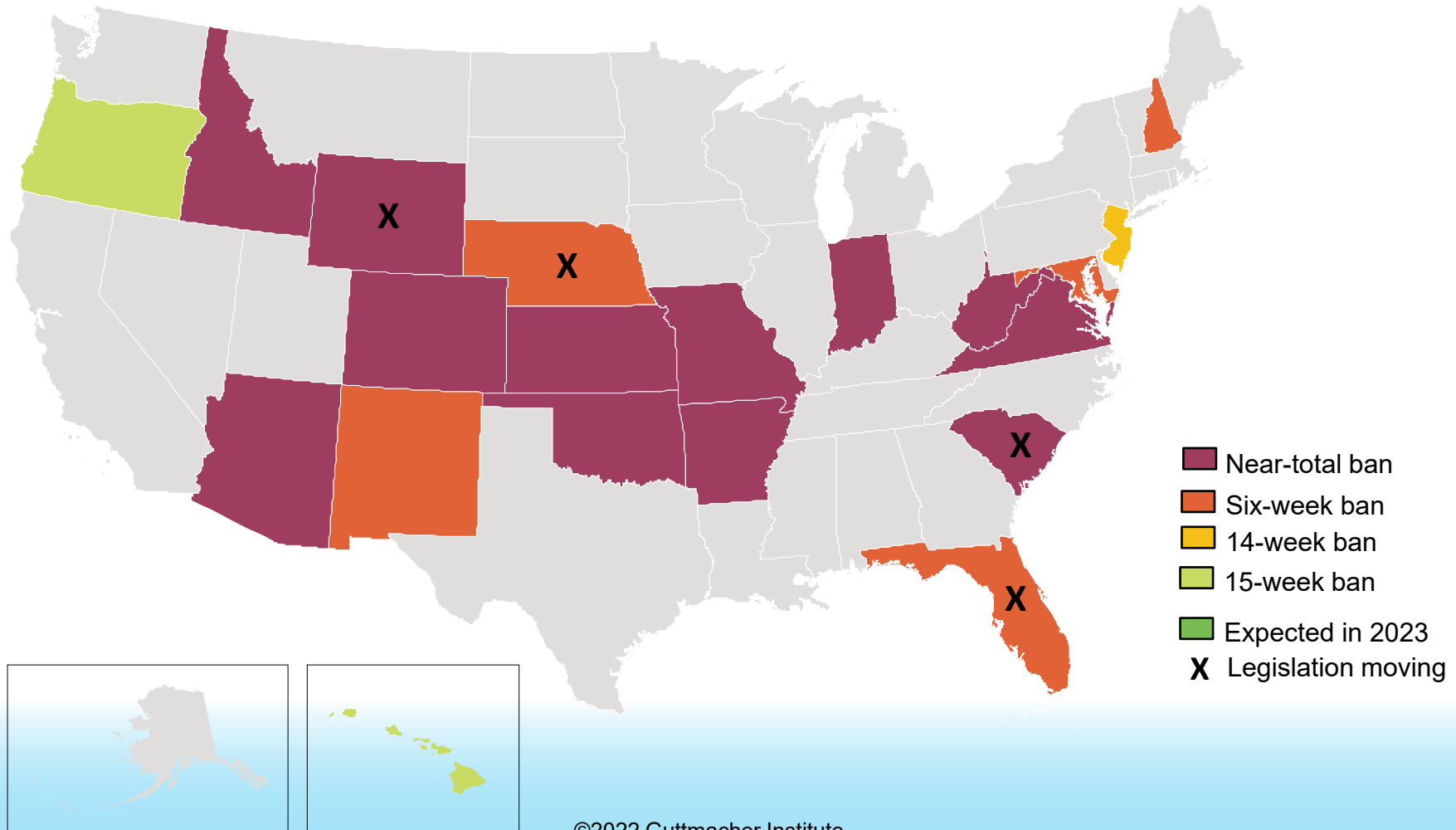
WHO rationale:

- Gestational age limits are associated with increased rates of maternal mortality and poor health outcomes
- Women with cognitive impairments, younger women, women living further from clinics, women with lower educational attainment, and women facing financial hardship were disproportionately impacted by gestational age limits

Abortion Bans and Gestational Limits



Abortion Bans: Pending in State Legislatures 2023



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