

Code Book- Comparative Abortion Index (CAI)

Code	Scale	Description	Years*	N
Life	0/1	Binary variable that codes whether or not threat to a mother's life is accepted as grounds for a legal abortion. 1 means that it is accepted as grounds for abortion. 0 means that it is illegal, and not accepted as grounds for legal abortion.	1992-2013	192
Physical	0/1	Binary variable that codes whether or not threat to a mother's physical health is accepted as grounds for a legal abortion. 1 means that it is accepted as grounds for abortion. 0 means that it is illegal, and not accepted as grounds for legal abortion.	1992-2013	192
Mental	0/1	Binary variable that codes whether or not threat to a mother's mental health is accepted as grounds for a legal abortion. 1 means that it is accepted as grounds for abortion. 0 means that it is illegal, and not accepted as grounds for legal abortion.	1992-2013	192
Rape	0/1	Binary variable that codes whether or not pregnancy as a result of rape or incest is accepted as grounds for a legal abortion. 1 means that they are accepted as grounds for abortion. 0 means that it is illegal, and they are not accepted as grounds for legal abortion.	1992-2013	192
Foetal	0/1	Binary variable that codes whether or not foetal impairment is accepted as grounds for a legal abortion. 1 means that it is accepted as grounds for abortion. 0 means that it is illegal, and not accepted as grounds for legal abortion.	1992-2013	192
Social	0/1	Binary variable that codes whether or not social or economic reasons are accepted as grounds for a legal abortion. 1 means that they are accepted as grounds for abortion. 0 means that it is illegal, and they are not accepted as grounds for legal abortion.	1992-2013	192
Request	0/1	Binary variable that codes whether abortion is available on request. In other words, if there is complete legal access to abortion. 1 implies that there is complete access to abortion. 0 implies that there are limitations, and abortion services are not legally available upon request.	1992-2013	192
CAI1	0-7	The scale quantifies grounds on which a country might grant legal access to abortion: saving a woman's life, preserving a woman's physical health, preserving a woman's mental health, in case of rape or incest, in case of fetal impairment, for social or economic reasons, and on request. 0 represents a country with a	1992-2013	192

		complete ban on abortions. 7 represents a country that allows abortions on request		
CAI2	0-1	<p>Using the 7 grounds for legal abortion, the weight of each grounds (W_i) will be determined based on the percentage (P_i) of countries that allow it. In the weighted index, countries are given a score on a scale of 0-1, where 0 represents countries in which there are no conditions for legal abortion, and 1 represents a country that accepts all criteria for abortion, including on request.</p> $W_i = \frac{1 - P_i}{\sum_{j=1}^{criteria} (1 - P_j)}$ <p>The need for a weighted scale is as follows: It would be imprecise, for instance, to suggest that the criterion of saving a woman's life is equivalent to (and thus carries the same weight as) allowing abortion on demand. The more permissive the criterion, the less likely that it is universally accepted. Thus, the scale accounts for the different degrees of acceptance that each criterion represents.</p>	1992-2013	192

* The UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs has published a global review of abortion policy periodically since 1992. For this study, all reviews published between 1992 and 2013 were collected. The years for which there are no reviews were filled in with the scores given from the backdated report (e.g., 1993 and 1994 were given scores from 1992).

Resources:

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2014). *World Abortion Policies 2013*. New York: United Nations.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2011). *World Abortion Policies 2011*. New York: United Nations.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2007). *World Abortion Policies 2007*. New York: United Nations.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2002). *Abortion Policies: Oman to Zimbabwe*. New York: United Nations.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2001). *Abortion Policies: Afghanistan to France*. New York: United Nations.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2001). *Abortion Policies: Gabon to Norway*. New York: United Nations.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (1999). *World Abortion Policies 1999: An International Overview*. New York: United Nations

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (1996). *World Abortion Policies 1996: A Global Review*. New York: United Nations.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (1992). *Abortion Policies: A Global Review*. New York: United Nations.