



Characteristics of women seeking abortion-related care in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Fertility and Family Planning in Ethiopia

- High total fertility rate of 5.4 children (DHS 2006)
 - Desired fertility rate is 4.0 children
 - 1/3 births are mistimed or unwanted (DHS 2006)
 - Large unmet need for family planning (34%) (DHS 2006)
 - Only 15% of married women use modern contraception (DHS 2006)
 - Abortion-related death accounts for over 30% of maternal deaths (FMOH 2006)
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Desire to limit childbearing and demand for family planning and abortion services in Ethiopia

Purpose

- Investigate the characteristics of women seeking abortion-related care to inform the development of national guidelines and policies on abortion in Ethiopia
- Make recommendations to help women meet their desired fertility in Addis Ababa and Ethiopia

Data & Methods

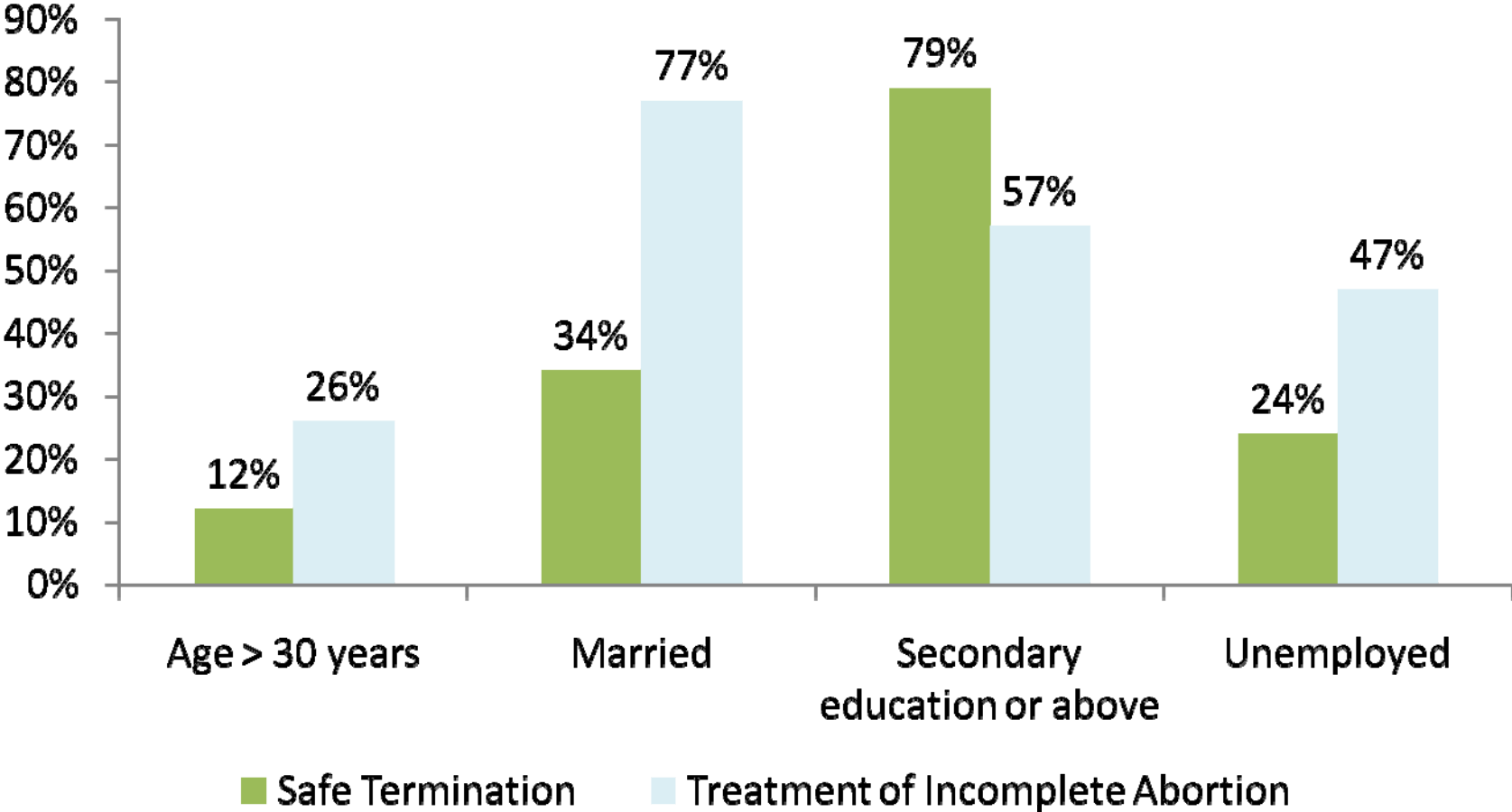
- Prospective data collection of clients presenting for safe termination or treatment of incomplete abortion in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
 - 4 public and 3 private health facilities
 - N = 1,200
 - October 2008 to February 2009
- Data was extracted from client records: socio-demographic characteristics, reproductive and contraceptive history, uterine size, post-abortion contraception
- In-depth interviews with 5 abortion care providers

Socio-demographic Characteristics

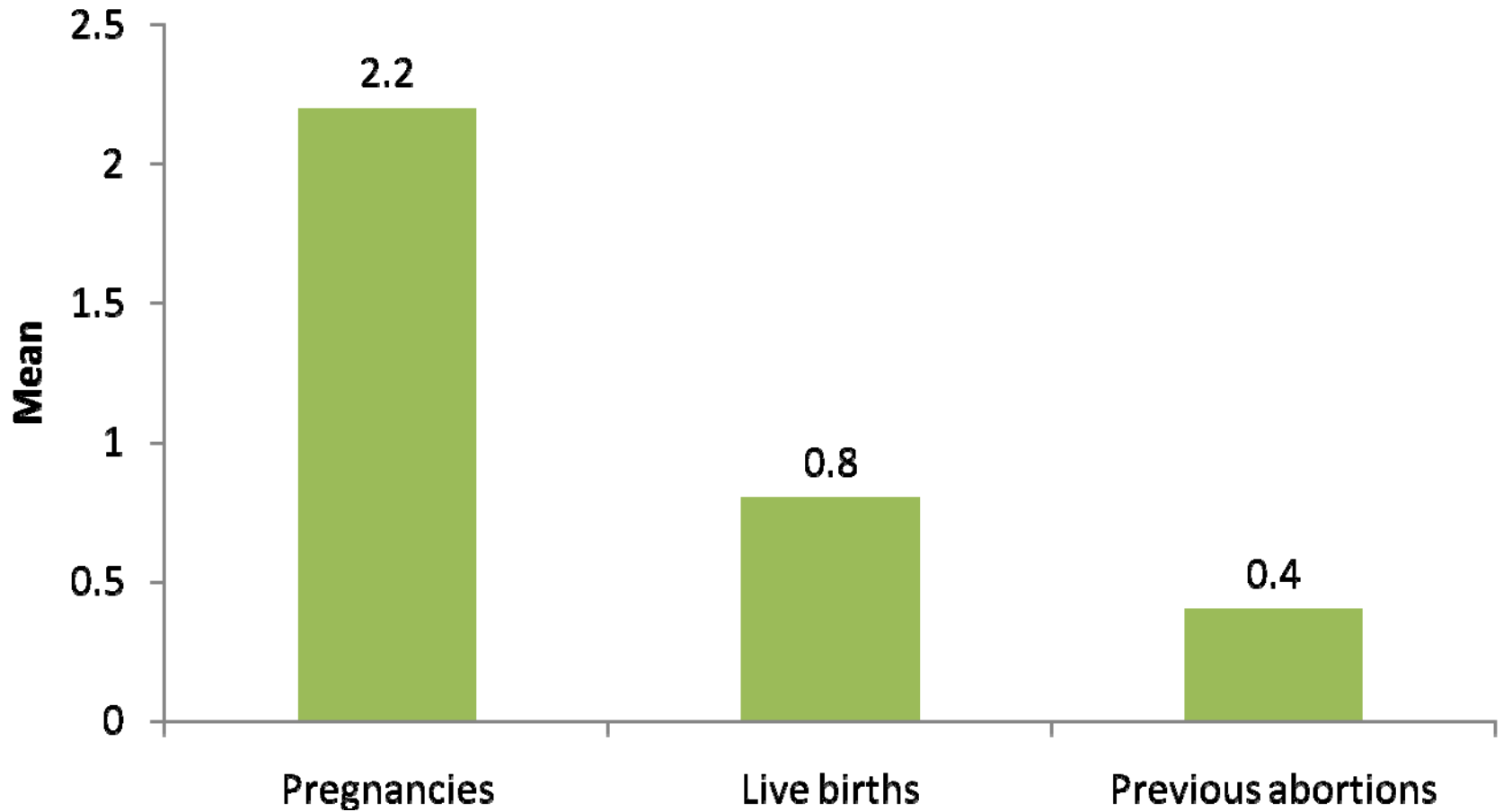
Overall, women were...

- Young (mean age 25 years)
- Employed (57%)
- Single (54%)
- Educated (75% to secondary or above)

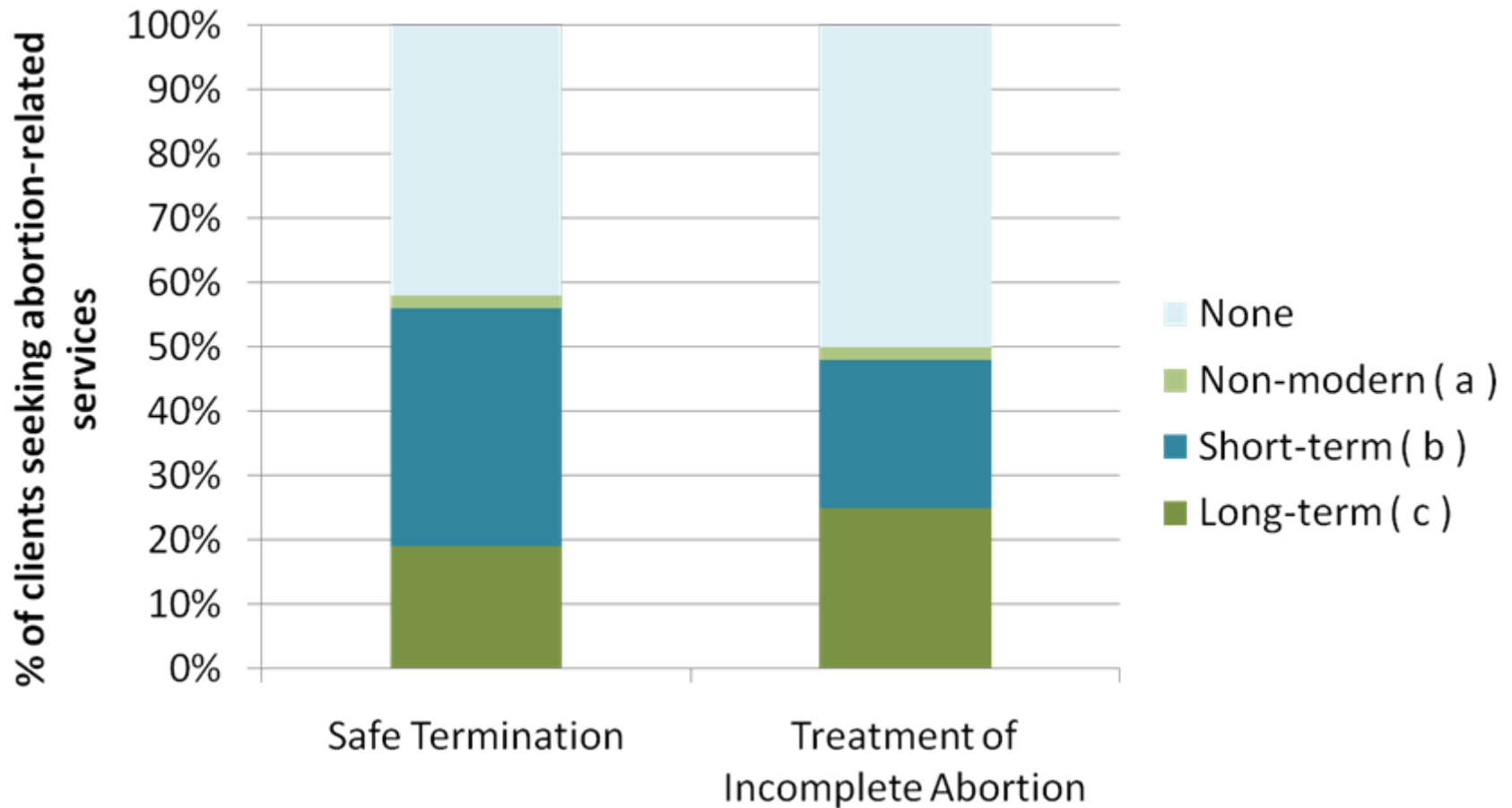
Women seeking treatment of incomplete abortion were older, married, and less educated



Reproductive History



Contraceptive History

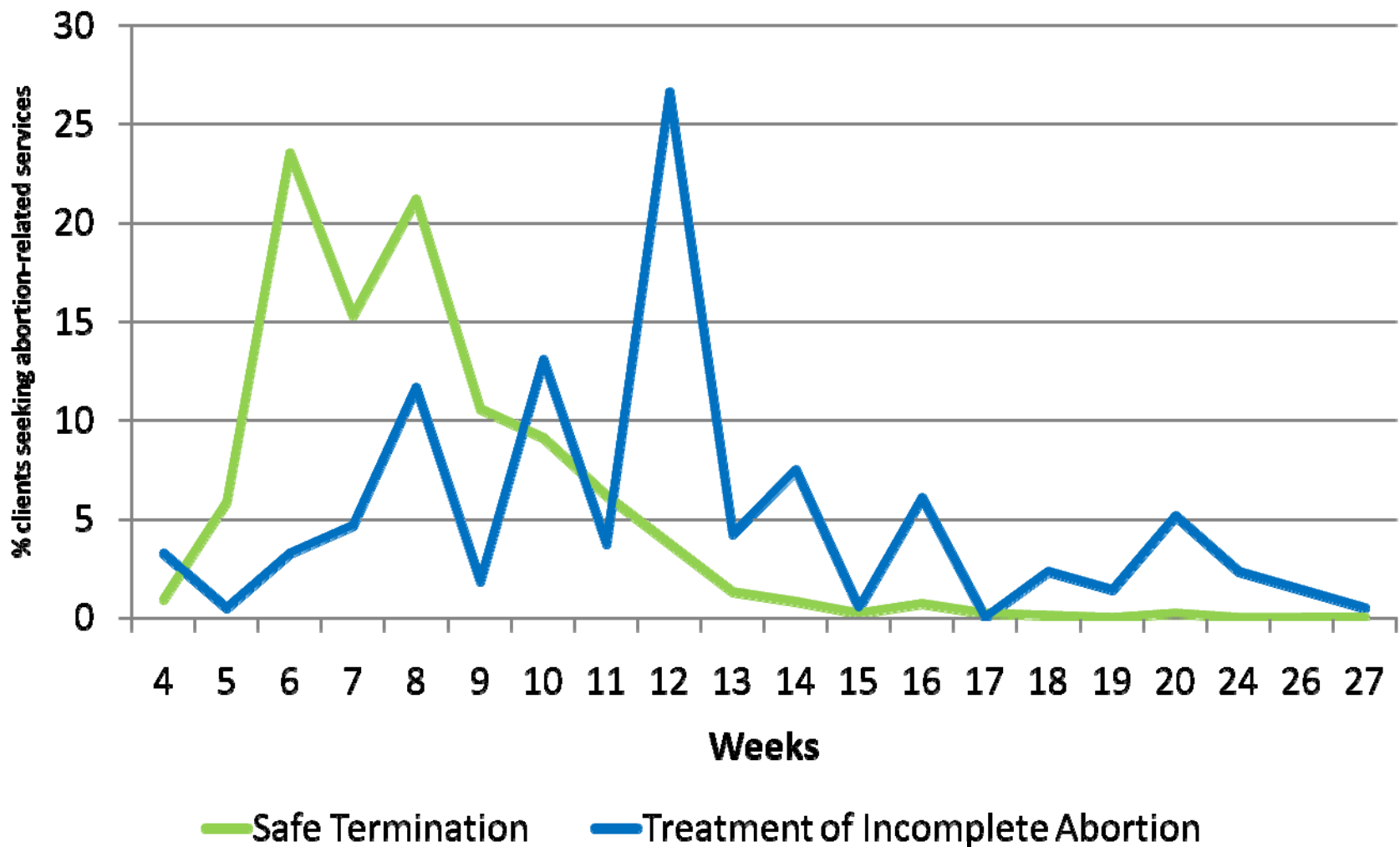


(a) Calendar or other traditional methods

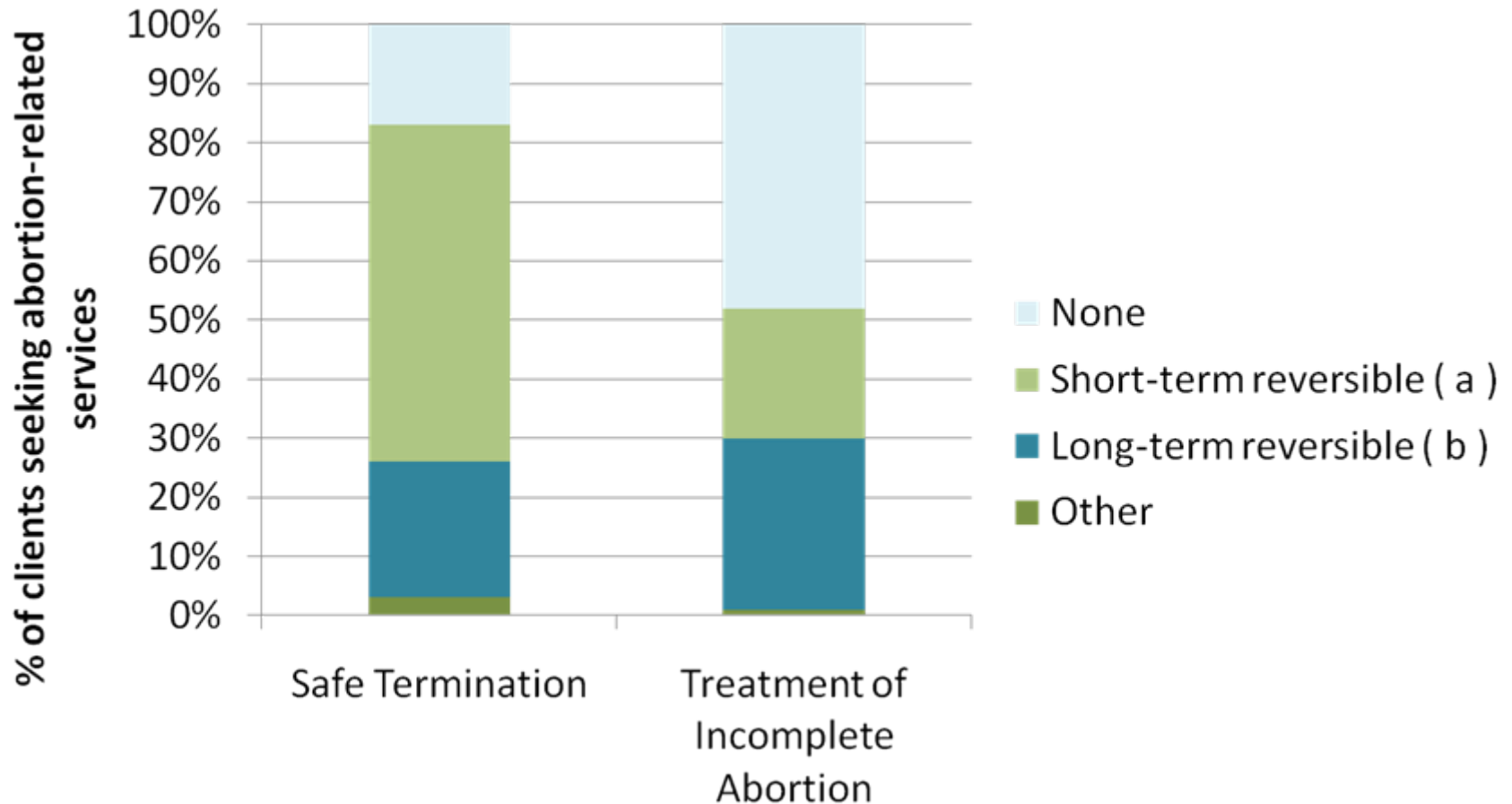
(b) Pills and condoms

(c) Injectable, implant, intrauterine device

Uterine size/Gestational Age Prior to Procedure



Post-abortion Contraception



- (a) Calendar or other traditional methods
- (b) Pills and condoms
- (c) Injectable, implant, intrauterine device

Continued Use of Contraceptive Method Post-abortion

| | | Post-abortion contraceptive method provided | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| | | Pills | Injectable | Condom | Implant | IUD | Other | None | Not decided | Total |
| Last contraceptive method | Pills | 165 (54.5) | 35 (11.6) | 46 (15.2) | 4 (1.3) | 13 (4.3) | 10 (3.3) | 26 (8.6) | 4 (1.3) | 303 (100) |
| | Injectable | 36 (17.0) | 53 (25.0) | 21 (9.9) | 36 (17.0) | 36 (17.0) | 5 (2.4) | 19 (9.0) | 6 (2.8) | 212 (100) |
| | Condom | 42 (38.9) | 11 (10.2) | 44 (40.7) | 5 (4.6) | 3 (2.8) | 0 (0) | 3 (2.78) | 0 (0) | 108 (100) |
| | Implant | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 3 (42.9) | 0 (0) | 2 (28.6) | 0 (0) | 2 (28.6) | 0 (0) | 7 (100) |
| | IUD | 0 (0) | 4 (15.4) | 2 (7.7) | 14 (53.9) | 3 (11.5) | 1 (3.9) | 0 (0) | 2 (7.7) | 26 (100) |
| | None | 143 (27.5) | 40 (7.7) | 95 (18.2) | 12 (2.3) | 11 (2.1) | 17 (3.3) | 162 (31.1) | 41 (7.9) | 521 (100) |
| | Total | 389 (32.4) | 147 (12.3) | 219 (18.3) | 74 (6.2) | 70 (5.8) | 33 (2.8) | 213 (17.8) | 55 (4.6) | 1,200 (100) |

Provider Perspectives

- Significant declines in magnitude of complications of unsafe abortion
- Family planning use is more common in older and married women, while among the young it can be low and inconsistent
- Repeat abortion is common
- Facilities provide family planning services, but may lack contraceptive options and regular supplies

Conclusions

- Safe termination clients were younger, educated, and more often employed than clients presenting for treatment of incomplete abortion, who were more likely to be older, married, less educated, and unemployed.
- Abortion plays a role in women's efforts to control their fertility:
 - Only 57% were using a contraceptive method prior to presenting for abortion-related services
 - The mean number of pregnancies was higher than the mean number of live births
 - Almost one third reported one or more previous abortions
- Short-term methods of contraception are common, both before procedures and afterwards

Recommendations

- Women need access to a variety of effective contraceptive methods, accurate information on family planning, and safe abortion services
- Policy-makers should focus on reaching single, lower-income, young women to increase knowledge about contraception
- Improved information about contraception can reduce unwanted pregnancies and the need of women to use abortion to control their fertility