Country Profile: Venezuela

Region: South America

Last Updated: 17 November 2022

Identified policies and legal sources related to abortion:

- Reproductive Health Act
- General Medical Health Act
- Constitution
- Criminal / Penal Code
- Civil Code
- Ministerial Order / Decree
- Case Law
- Health Regulation / Clinical Guidelines
- EML / Registered List
- Medical Ethics Code
- Document Relating to Funding
- Abortion Specific Law
- Law on Medical Practitioners
- Law on Health Care Services
- Other

Related Documents

From Constitution:
- Constitution, 1999

From Criminal / Penal Code:
- Penal Code amended, 2005

From Health Regulation / Clinical Guidelines:
- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013
- Prenatal and Emergency Obstetric Care Protocol, 2014

From EML / Registered List:
- National Essential Medicines List, 2015

Concluding Observations:

- CEDAW
- CEDAW-OP
- CRC
- CRC-OPSC
- CRC:OPAC
- CRC:OPIC
- CED
- CRC:OPIC
- CRPD
- CRPD-OP

Persons who can be sanctioned:

- A woman or girl can be sanctioned
- Providers can be sanctioned
- A person who assists can be sanctioned

Abortion at the woman's request

No

Legal Ground and Gestational Limit

Economic or social reasons

No

Related documents:

- Penal Code amended, 2005 (page 72)

WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Health grounds shall reflect WHO’s definitions of health, which entails a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Abortion Care Guideline § 2.2.2.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 16)
Rape

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Grounds-based approaches to restricting access to abortion should be revised in favour of making abortion available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person. The Abortion Care Guideline recommends against laws and other regulations that restrict abortion by grounds. The guideline recommends abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person.

Until they are replaced with abortion on request, any existing grounds should be formulated and applied in a manner consistent with international human rights law. This requires that abortion is available when carrying a pregnancy to term would cause the woman, girl or other pregnant person substantial pain or suffering, including but not limited to situations where the pregnancy is not viable. Grounds-based approaches that require fetal impairments to be fatal for abortion to be lawful frustrate providers and leave women no choice but to continue with pregnancy. Being required to continue with a pregnancy that causes significant distress violates numerous human rights. Abortion Care Guideline § 2.2.2.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 64)

Intellectual or cognitive disability of the woman

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Grounds-based approaches to restricting access to abortion should be revised in favour of making abortion available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person. The Abortion Care Guideline recommends against laws and other regulations that restrict abortion by grounds. The guideline recommends abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person.

Until they are replaced with abortion on request, any existing grounds should be formulated and applied in a manner consistent with international human rights law. This requires that abortion is available when carrying a pregnancy to term would cause the woman, girl or other pregnant person substantial pain or suffering, including but not limited to situations where the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest. Abortion Care Guideline § 2.2.2.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 64)

Mental health

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Health grounds shall reflect WHO’s definitions of health, which entails a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Abortion Care Guideline § 2.2.2.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 16)
### Additional Requirements to Access Safe Abortion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorization of health professional(s)</th>
<th>Not specified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Related documents:**
- Prenatal and Emergency Obstetric Care Protocol, 2014
- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013
- Penal Code amended, 2005

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Third-party authorization requirements are incompatible with international human rights law, which provides that States may not restrict women’s access to health services on the ground that they do not have the authorization of husbands, partners, parents or health authorities, because they are unmarried, or because they are women. The Abortion Care Guideline recommends that abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person without the authorization of any other individual, body or institution. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.2.

**Source document:** WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 81)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorization in specially licensed facilities only</th>
<th>Not specified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related documents:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Prenatal and Emergency Obstetric Care Protocol, 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Penal Code amended, 2005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHO Guidance</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Abortion Care Guideline recommends abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.2.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Source document:</strong> WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 81)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Judicial authorization for minors</th>
<th>Not specified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related documents:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Prenatal and Emergency Obstetric Care Protocol, 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Penal Code amended, 2005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHO Guidance</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Abortion Care Guideline recommends that abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person without the authorization of any other individual, body or institution. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.2.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Source document:</strong> WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 81)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Judicial authorization in cases of rape</th>
<th>not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHO Guidance</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Abortion Care Guideline recommends abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person. Abortion Care Guideline § 2.2.2.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Source document:</strong> WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 81)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Police report required in case of rape</th>
<th>not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHO Guidance</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Abortion Care Guideline recommends abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person. Abortion Care Guideline § 2.2.2.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Source document:</strong> WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 81)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parental consent required for minors</th>
<th>Not specified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related documents:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Prenatal and Emergency Obstetric Care Protocol, 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Penal Code amended, 2005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHO Guidance</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>While parental or partner involvement in abortion decision-making can support and assist women, girls or other pregnant persons, this must be based on the values and preferences of the person availing of abortion and not imposed by third-party authorization requirements. Third-party authorization requirements are incompatible with international human rights law, which provides that States may not restrict women’s access to health services on the ground that they do not have the authorization of husbands, partners, parents or health authorities, because they are unmarried, or because they are women. The Abortion Care Guideline recommends that abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person without the authorization of any other individual, body or institution. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.2.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Source document:</strong> WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 81)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Source document | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| WHO Safe Abortion Guidance | page 52 | |
| WHO Safe Abortion Guidance | page 81 | |
| WHO-Safe-Abortion-Guidance-2012.pdf#page=104 | | |
| WHO Safe Abortion Guidance | page 64 | |
| WHO Safe Abortion Guidance | page 81 | |
| WHO Safe Abortion Guidance | page 52 | |
Spousal consent

- Not specified
- When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.

Related documents:
- Prenatal and Emergency Obstetric Care Protocol, 2014
- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013
- Penal Code amended, 2005

WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

While parental or partner involvement in abortion decision-making can support and assist women, girls or other pregnant persons, this must be based on the values and preferences of the person availing of abortion and not imposed by third-party authorization requirements. Third-party authorization requirements are incompatible with international human rights law, which provides that States may not restrict women’s access to health services on the ground that they do not have the authorization of husbands, partners, parents or health authorities, because they are unmarried, or because they are women. The Abortion Care Guideline recommends that abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person without the authorization of any other individual, body or institution. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.2.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 81)

Ultrasound images or listen to foetal heartbeat required

- Not specified
- When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.

Related documents:
- Prenatal and Emergency Obstetric Care Protocol, 2014
- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013
- Penal Code amended, 2005

WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

The right to refuse information, including the right to refuse viewing ultrasound images, must be respected. The Abortion Care Guideline recommends against the use of ultrasound scanning as a prerequisite for providing abortion services for both medical and surgical abortion. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.5.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 85)

Compulsory counselling

- Not specified
- When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.

Related documents:
- Prenatal and Emergency Obstetric Care Protocol, 2014
- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013
- Penal Code amended, 2005

WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

While counselling should be made available and accessible, it should always be voluntary for women to choose whether or not they want to receive it. The right to refuse counselling when offered must be respected. Where provided, counselling must be available to individuals in a way that respects privacy and confidentiality. Counseling should be person-centred and may need to be tailored according to the needs of the individual; young people, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence or members of marginalized groups may have different information or counselling requirements.

The content of and approach to counselling will need to be adjusted depending on the reason for seeking abortion services. Therefore, it is important for the counsellor to be aware of and sensitive to the individual’s situation and needs. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.2.2.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 77)

Compulsory waiting period

- Not specified
- When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.

Related documents:
- Prenatal and Emergency Obstetric Care Protocol, 2014
- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013
- Penal Code amended, 2005

WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Mandatory waiting periods delay access to abortion, sometimes to the extent that women’s access to abortion or choice of abortion method is restricted. The Abortion Care Guideline recommends against mandatory waiting periods for abortion. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.1.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 79)
Mandatory HIV screening test

Not specified

When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.

Related documents:
- Prenatal and Emergency Obstetric Care Protocol, 2014
- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013

WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Regulatory, policy and programmatic barriers – as well as barriers in practice – that hinder access to and timely provision of quality abortion care should be removed. Abortion Care Guideline § Box 2.1.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 59)

Other mandatory STI screening tests

Not specified

When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.

Related documents:
- Prenatal and Emergency Obstetric Care Protocol, 2014
- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013

WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Regulatory, policy and programmatic barriers – as well as barriers in practice – that hinder access to and timely provision of quality abortion care should be removed. Abortion Care Guideline § Box 2.1.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 59)

Prohibition of sex-selective abortion

Not specified

When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.

Related documents:
- Prenatal and Emergency Obstetric Care Protocol, 2014
- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013
- Penal Code amended, 2005

WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

In situations where abortion is restricted for sex selection purposes, terminating a pregnancy for this reason is likely to involve an unsafe procedure carrying high risks. Any policies or guidelines on the use of technology in obstetric and fetal medicine should take into account the need to ensure women’s access to safe abortion and other services - efforts to manage or limit sex selection should also not hamper or limit access to safe abortion services. Preventing gender-biased sex selection: an interagency statement.

Source document: Preventing Gender-Biased Sex Selection (page 17)

Restrictions on information provided to the public

Not specified

When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.

Related documents:
- Prenatal and Emergency Obstetric Care Protocol, 2014
- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013
- Penal Code amended, 2005

WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Dissemination of misinformation, withholding of information and censorship should be prohibited.

Information should be accessible and understandable, including formats catering to low-literacy and differently abled populations. Different modalities exist for the provision of information on abortion, e.g. remote access via hotlines and telemedicine, and through approaches such as harm reduction and community-based outreach, as well as in-person interactions with health workers. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.2.1.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 74)
Clinical and Service-delivery Aspects of Abortion Care

National guidelines for induced abortion

Yes, guidelines issued by the government

Related documents:

- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013 (page 1)

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

National standards and guidelines for abortion care should be evidence based and periodically updated and should provide the necessary guidance to achieve equal access to comprehensive abortion care. Leadership should also promote evidence-based SRH services according to these standards and guidelines. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.3.3.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 50)

Methods allowed

Vacuum aspiration

Yes

- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013 (page 132)

Dilatation and evacuation

Not specified

- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013

Combination mifepristone-misoprostol

Not specified

- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013

Misoprostol only

Not specified

- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013

Other (where provided)

Dilation and curettage

- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013 (page 132)

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Vacuum aspiration is recommended for surgical abortions at or under 14 weeks to be provided by traditional and complementary medicine professionals, nurses, midwives, associate/advanced associate clinicians, generalist medical practitioners and specialist medical practitioners.

Dilation and evacuation (D&E) is recommended for surgical abortions at or over 14 weeks to be provided by generalist medical practitioners and specialist medical practitioners. Vacuum aspiration can be used during a D&E. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.4.1.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 101)

The recommended method for medical abortion is mifepristone followed by misoprostol (regimen differs by gestational age). Abortion Care Guideline § 3.4.2.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 106)

The Abortion Care Guideline recommends the use of misoprostol alone, with a regimen that differs by gestational age. Evidence demonstrates that the use of combination mifepristone plus misoprostol is more effective than misoprostol alone. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.4.2.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 106)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country recognized approval (mifepristone / mife-misoprostol)</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Related documents:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• National Essential Medicines List, 2015 (page 1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Mifepristone and misoprostol should be listed in relevant national EMLs (NEMLs) or their equivalent and should be included in the relevant clinical care/service delivery guidelines.

Inclusion in the NEML is one important component of ensuring that quality medicines are available.

For induced abortion, Mifepristone (200 mg) and misoprostol (200 μg), are recommended in the WHO EML. The EML specifically mentions the following co-packaged formulation: 1 tablet mifepristone (200 mg) + 4 tablets misoprostol (200 μg).

Restrictions on prescribing authority for some categories of health workers may need to be modified or other mechanisms put in place to make the medicines available for these health workers within the regulatory framework of the health system. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.4.4.

**Source document:** WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 55)

Mifepristone and misoprostol should be listed in relevant national EMLs (NEMLs) or their equivalent and should be included in the relevant clinical care/service delivery guidelines.

Inclusion in the NEML is one important component of ensuring that quality medicines are available.

For induced abortion, Mifepristone (200 mg) and misoprostol (200 μg), are recommended in the WHO EML. The EML specifically mentions the following co-packaged formulation: 1 tablet mifepristone (200 mg) + 4 tablets misoprostol (200 μg).

Restrictions on prescribing authority for some categories of health workers may need to be modified or other mechanisms put in place to make the medicines available for these health workers within the regulatory framework of the health system. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.4.4.

**Source document:** WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 55)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country recognized approval (misoprostol)</th>
<th>Yes, for gynaecological indications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Related documents:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• National Essential Medicines List, 2015 (page 13)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Mifepristone and misoprostol should be listed in relevant national EMLs (NEMLs) or their equivalent and should be included in the relevant clinical care/service delivery guidelines.

Inclusion in the NEML is one important component of ensuring that quality medicines are available.

For induced abortion, Mifepristone (200 mg) and misoprostol (200 μg), are recommended in the WHO EML. The EML specifically mentions the following co-packaged formulation: 1 tablet mifepristone (200 mg) + 4 tablets misoprostol (200 μg).

Restrictions on prescribing authority for some categories of health workers may need to be modified or other mechanisms put in place to make the medicines available for these health workers within the regulatory framework of the health system. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.4.4.

**Source document:** WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 55)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where can abortion services be provided</th>
<th>Related documents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Prenatal and Emergency Obstetric Care Protocol, 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Penal Code amended, 2005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Where it is lawful, abortion must be accessible in practice. This requires both ensuring that health-care facilities, commodities and services are accessible (including sufficient providers), and that law and policy on abortion is formulated, interpreted and applied in a way that is compatible with human rights. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.3.1.

**Source document:** WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 48)
### National guidelines for post-abortion care

Yes, guidelines issued by the government

**Related documents:**
- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013 (page 1)

#### WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

National standards and guidelines for abortion care should be evidence based and periodically updated and should provide the necessary guidance to achieve equal access to comprehensive abortion care. Leadership should also promote evidence-based SRH services according to these standards and guidelines. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.3.3.

**Source document:** WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 50)

### Where can post abortion care services be provided

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location Type</th>
<th>Provided</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary health-care centres</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary (district-level) health-care facilities</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized abortion care public facilities</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private health-care centres or clinics</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO health-care centres or clinics</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

The Abortion Care Guideline recommends the option of telemedicine as an alternative to in-person interactions with the health worker to deliver medical abortion services in whole or in part. Telemedicine services should include referrals (based on the woman’s location) for medicines (abortion and pain control medicines), any abortion care or post-abortion follow-up required (including for emergency care if needed), and for post-abortion contraceptive services. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.6.1.

**Source document:** WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 133)

### Contraception included in post-abortion care

Yes

**Related documents:**
- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013 (page 177)
- Prenatal and Emergency Obstetric Care Protocol, 2014 (page 42)

#### WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

All contraceptive options may be considered after an abortion. For individuals undergoing surgical abortion and wishing to use contraception, Abortion Care Guideline recommends the option of initiating the contraception at the time of surgical abortion. For individuals undergoing medical abortion, for those who choose to use hormonal contraception, the Abortion Care Guideline suggests that they be given the option of starting hormonal contraception immediately after the first pill of the medical abortion regimen. For those who choose to have an IUD inserted, Abortion Care Guideline suggests IUD placement at the time that success of the abortion procedure is determined. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.5.4.

**Source document:** WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 126)

### Insurance to offset end user costs

No data found

**Other (if applicable)**

#### WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Where user fees are charged for abortion, this should be based on careful consideration of ability to pay, and fee waivers should be available for those who are facing financial hardship and adolescent abortion seekers. As far as possible, abortion services and supplies should be mandated for coverage under insurance plans as inability to pay is not an acceptable reason to deny or delay abortion care. Furthermore, having transparent procedures in all health-care facilities can ensure that informal charges are not imposed by staff. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.4.2.

**Source document:** WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 53)
### Conscientious Objection

There is no single recommended approach to providing abortion services. The choice of specific health worker(s) from among the recommended options or management by the individual themself, and the location of service provision (from among recommended options) will depend on the values and preferences of the woman, girl or other pregnant person, available resources, and the national and local context. A plurality of service-delivery approaches can coexist within any given context. Given that service-delivery approaches can be diverse, it is important to ensure that for the individual seeking care, the range of service-delivery options taken together will provide access to scientifically accurate, understandable information at all stages; access to quality-assured medicines (including those for pain management); back-up referral support if desired or needed; linkages to an appropriate choice of contraceptive services for those who want post-abortion contraception. Best Practice Statement 49 on service delivery. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.6.1.

**Source document:** WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 132)
The Abortion Care Guideline recommends that access to and continuity of comprehensive abortion care be protected against barriers created by conscientious objection. It is critical that States ensure compliance with regulations and design/organize health systems to ensure access to and continuity of quality abortion care. If it proves impossible to regulate conscientious objection in a way that respects, protects and fulfils abortion seekers’ rights, conscientious objection in abortion provision may become indefensible. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.9.

A Code of Medical Ethics relevant to these questions exists but could not be accessed in an official version.

The Constitution of Venezuela stipulates that “All persons have the right to freedom of conscience, and to express the same except those practices affecting personality or constituting criminal offense. Objections of conscience may not be invoked in order to evade compliance with law or prevent others from complying with law or exercising their rights.” The Constitution does not specify whether this applies to abortion.

The Abortion Care Guideline recommends that access to and continuity of comprehensive abortion care be protected against barriers created by conscientious objection. It is critical that States ensure compliance with regulations and design/organize health systems to ensure access to and continuity of quality abortion care. If it proves impossible to regulate conscientious objection in a way that respects, protects and fulfils abortion seekers’ rights, conscientious objection in abortion provision may become indefensible. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.9.

A Code of Medical Ethics relevant to these questions exists but could not be accessed in an official version.

The Constitution of Venezuela stipulates that “All persons have the right to freedom of conscience, and to express the same except those practices affecting personality or constituting criminal offense. Objections of conscience may not be invoked in order to evade compliance with law or prevent others from complying with law or exercising their rights.” The Constitution does not specify whether this applies to abortion.

The Abortion Care Guideline recommends that access to and continuity of comprehensive abortion care be protected against barriers created by conscientious objection. It is critical that States ensure compliance with regulations and design/organize health systems to ensure access to and continuity of quality abortion care. If it proves impossible to regulate conscientious objection in a way that respects, protects and fulfils abortion seekers’ rights, conscientious objection in abortion provision may become indefensible. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.9.

A Code of Medical Ethics relevant to these questions exists but could not be accessed in an official version.

The Constitution of Venezuela stipulates that “All persons have the right to freedom of conscience, and to express the same except those practices affecting personality or constituting criminal offense. Objections of conscience may not be invoked in order to evade compliance with law or prevent others from complying with law or exercising their rights.” The Constitution does not specify whether this applies to abortion.
| Facility Type | Not specified | Related documents:
- Prenatal and Emergency Obstetric Care Protocol, 2014
- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013
- Penal Code amended, 2005 |

### WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

The Abortion Care Guideline recommends that access to and continuity of comprehensive abortion care be protected against barriers created by conscientious objection. It is critical that States ensure compliance with regulations and design/organize health systems to ensure access to and continuity of quality abortion care. If it proves impossible to regulate conscientious objection in a way that respects, protects and fulfills abortion seekers' rights, conscientious objection in abortion provision may become indefensible. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.9.

**Source document:** WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 98)

### Additional notes

A Code of Medical Ethics relevant to these questions exists but could not be accessed in an official version.

The Constitution of Venezuela stipulates that "All persons have the right to freedom of conscience, and to express the same except those practices affecting personality or constituting criminal offense. Objections of conscience may not be invoked in order to evade compliance with law or prevent others from complying with law or exercising their rights." The Constitution does not specify whether this applies to abortion.

**Related documents:**
- Constitution, 1999 (page 12)

---

| Facility Type | Not specified | Related documents:
- Prenatal and Emergency Obstetric Care Protocol, 2014
- Official Service Standards in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2013
- Penal Code amended, 2005 |

### WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Where it is lawful, abortion must be accessible in practice. This requires both ensuring that health-care facilities, commodities and services are accessible (including sufficient providers), and that law and policy on abortion is formulated, interpreted and applied in a way that is compatible with human rights. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.3.1.

**Source document:** WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 48)
Indicators

Country specific information related to sexual and reproductive health indications. As data for the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators related to sexual and reproductive health become available, these will be provided, through periodic updates.

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)  
No data

1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable  
No data

1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)  
No data

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio  
125 (2017)

3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel  
No data

3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods  
No data

3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group  
85.3 (2015)

3.8.2 Number of people covered by health insurance or a public health system per 1,000 population  
No data

3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution  
No data

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex  
No data

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and nondiscrimination on the basis of sex  
No data

5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age  
No data

5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence  
No data

5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18  
No data
5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age

5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care

5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 years access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education

5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure

5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by age, sex and persons with disabilities

10.3.1 Proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months

16.2.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex

16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation

16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms

16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)

16.6.2 Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services

16.7.1 Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions

16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

16.10.1 Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months

16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development
## Additional Reproductive Health Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of married women with unmet need for family planning</td>
<td>18.9 (1998)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of births attended by trained health professional</td>
<td>96.2 (2016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of women aged 20-24 who gave birth before age 18</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total fertility rate</td>
<td>2.272 (2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal marital age for women, with parental consent</td>
<td>16 (2009-2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal marital age for women, without parental consent</td>
<td>18 (2009-2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Inequalities Index (Value)</td>
<td>0.45 (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Inequalities Index (Rank)</td>
<td>105 (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory paid maternity leave</td>
<td>yes (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age</td>
<td>29.6 (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population, urban (%)</td>
<td>88.208 (2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of secondary school completion rate for girls</td>
<td>1.11 (2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender parity in secondary education</td>
<td>1.077 (2016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of women in non-agricultural employment</td>
<td>43.7 (2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of seats in parliament held by women</td>
<td>22.2 (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex ratio at birth (male to female births)</td>
<td>1.05 (2018)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>