



# RAJASTHAN, INDIA

April–June 2018

In India, abortion has been legal for a broad set of conditions since the passage of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act in 1971.<sup>2</sup> Recent estimates indicate that approximately 15.6 million abortions occurred throughout the country in 2015.<sup>3</sup> This is equivalent to a national rate of 47 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15 to 49 years.<sup>2</sup> The majority (73%) of these abortions were medication abortions that occurred outside of health facilities. These findings indicate that nearly half of all pregnancies in India were unintended and a third of all pregnancies were resolved by induced abortion.<sup>3</sup> These data, however, lack details from a woman's perspective and do not provide estimates for the state of Rajasthan.

In 2018, Performance Monitoring and Accountability 2020 (PMA2020) conducted a survey to produce updated and expanded estimates of abortion-related indicators. The survey results provide new insights into the characteristics of women who have an abortion and the pathways leading to abortion within or outside the health care system.



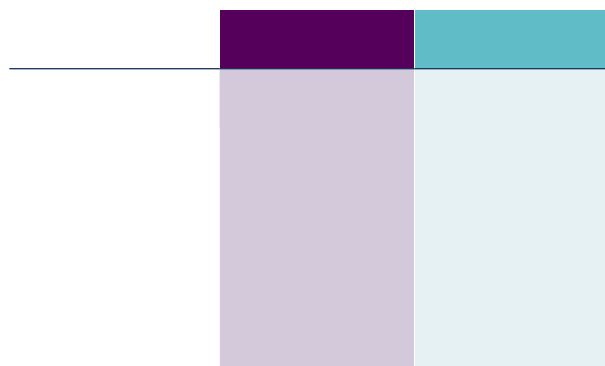
Prior research demonstrates that asking women directly about their experience with abortion results in substantial underestimation of this stigmatized behavior. To generate more valid data, interviewers asked respondents about their closest confidante's experience with abortion prior to asking the respondent about her own experience. The responses were used to produce direct (self-report) and indirect (confidante) estimates of abortion incidence. This latter



Nearly 90% of abortions were considered most unsafe, and 14% of women subsequently went to a health facility due to a perceived complication.



Most hospitals provided induced abortion services (95%), but only 87% had the necessary equipment, medicines, and other services (i.e. signal functions) to provide basic induced abortion care. Less than half of community health centers provided any postabortion or induced abortion care services, and only 16% of primary health centers provided any abortion care.



*\*Basic induced abortion care signal functions include <12 weeks gestation removal of retained products, <12 weeks gestation medical termination of pregnancy, antibiotics, oxytocic drugs, intravenous replacement fluids, and provision of any contraception; comprehensive induced abortion care signal functions include basic induced abortion care signal functions plus >12 weeks removal of retained products, >12 weeks medical termination of pregnancy, blood transfusion, laparotomy, 24/7 postabortion care service availability, and provision of long-acting reversible contraception.*

