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MEDICAL AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE PREVALENCE OF ABORTIONS IN THE SAKHALIN REGION

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The article analyzes the structure and dynamics of abortions in the Sakhalin region for the period 2013-2022 based on statistical data from the Sakhalin region and the State Federal Statistical Observation No. 13 'Information on pregnancy with an abortive outcome'. Despite a significant decrease in the absolute number of abortions in the Sakhalin Region, which is partly due to a decrease in the number of women of fertile age, a high level of abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-49 years remains, almost twice as high as the same indicator in the Russian Federation. There is an increase in the proportion of spontaneous abortions, as well as abortive outcomes associated with other abnormal products of conception, which may indicate problems of women's reproductive health and a decrease in reproductive potential. These changes are also related to the adoption of new statistical forms of registration of abortions in Russia in 2015-2016. In the structure of the terms of termination of pregnancy, the main part during the study period is abortions up to 12 weeks, but there is a tendency to increase the proportion of abortions at a later date of 12-21 weeks - by 44.8%. In turn, not a single case of abortion for social reasons was noted during the study period, but the share of criminal abortion increased, so in 2021 there were seven cases of illegal termination of pregnancy up to 12 weeks and five cases in 2022. There has also been an increase in medical (legal) abortions in non-governmental medical organizations, which indicates the need to develop measures aimed at interaction between state and non-state medical institutions providing abortion services. In addition, there is no data on abortions among first-time pregnancies in non-governmental medical organizations, which leads to an underestimation of this indicator in the overall structure of abortions. According to the data of the State Federal Statistical Observation No. 13, there has been a steady increase in the share of abortions among first-time pregnancies in the structure of all abortions, including in the share of medical (legal) abortions by 31.9% over the period from 2016-2022. This indicates the need to develop preventive measures aimed at increasing the availability of contraception and medical literacy in the field of reproductive health and the formation of responsible reproductive behavior among the population of the Sakhalin region.

Keywords: abortion, fertility, reproductive choice, Sakhalin region

Introduction. More than 30 years ago, the World Health Organization rec-

ognized abortion as a serious problem in the field of women's reproductive health. Despite a significant decrease in abortions in Russia over the past decades, abortion remains one of the main methods of birth control. At the same time, the list of social indications for termination of pregnancy has been significantly reduced, since 2012, the only reason is

pregnancy resulting from rape, a special time time has been introduced between the woman's treatment and the abortion procedure itself – "week of silence". In addition, since 2016, mandatory demonstration of the fetus and its heartbeat during ultrasound examination has been introduced for women planning to resort to abortion [4]. Thus, abortion preven-

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tion in modern Russia is mainly aimed at preserving unplanned pregnancy, rather than measures for the prevention and planning of pregnancy, which include increasing contraceptive literacy of the population and the formation of responsible reproductive behavior [2, 3].

Results and discussion. The analysis revealed a significant decrease in the absolute number of abortions over the past 10 years, more than twofold [1]. (Figure. 1).

However, the fact of a decrease in the number of women of fertile age over the same period should also be taken into account, thereby the indicator calculated for 1000 women of fertile age will be more reliable (Figure. 2).

Despite the fact that this indicator has significantly decreased over 10 years, it remains consistently higher than the average for the Russian Federation. In addition, the rate of decline has slowed down since 2018 and a stable value has been observed over the past 2 years, as well as in Russia as a whole. In the structure of the terms of termination of pregnancy, the main part during the study period is abortions up to 12 weeks, but there is a tendency to increase the proportion of abortions at later periods of 12-21 weeks by 44.8%. (Table 1).

The reduction in the total number of abortions was mainly due to a decrease in medical (legal) abortions, the share of which in the structure of abortions decreased by 24.9%, but they still make up the bulk of the structure of abortions, the share of medical (legal) abortion in 2022 was 58.3%. However, there is an increase in the share of spontaneous abortions, which can testify about problems in the field of women's reproductive health and a decrease in reproductive potential. In 2022, the share of spontaneous abortions amounted to 20.9% among abortions of pregnancy up to 12 weeks, compared to 2013, this figure was 10.2% in the structure of all abortions up to 12 weeks. There is also a significant decrease in the proportion of abortions for medical reasons up to 12 weeks, in 2022 this figure was 0.4% in the structure of abortions up to 12 weeks, however, this decrease is due to changes in filling out the statistical form since 2016. Also in 2016, abortions associated with other abnormal products of conception were allocated to a separate group. Unfortunately, this indicator has a negative trend both in the structure of abortions before 12 weeks and from 12-21 weeks. In turn, not a single case of abortion for social reasons was noted during the study period, but the share of criminal abortion

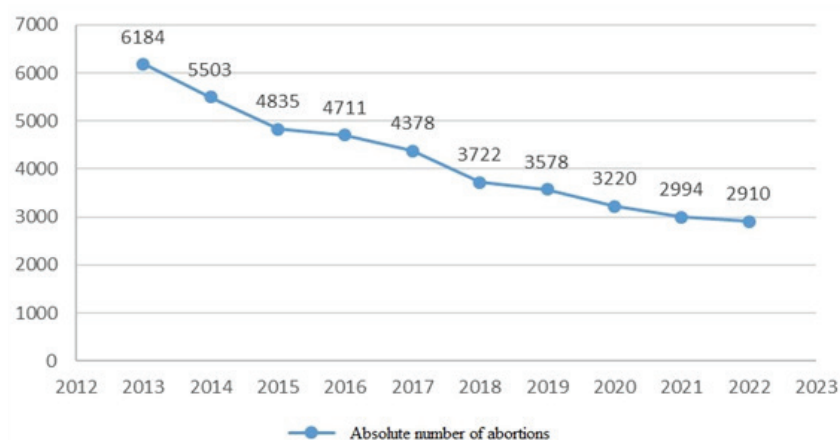


Fig. 1. The absolute number of abortions

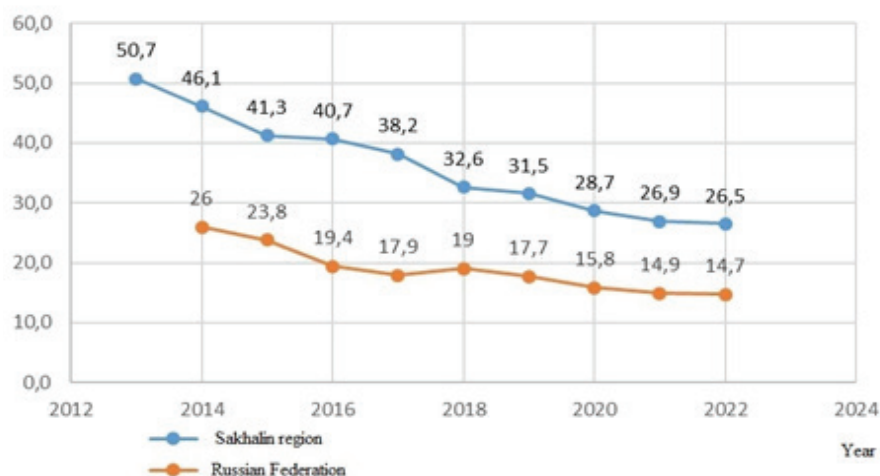


Fig. 2. Dynamics of the number of abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-49 years. 2013-2022

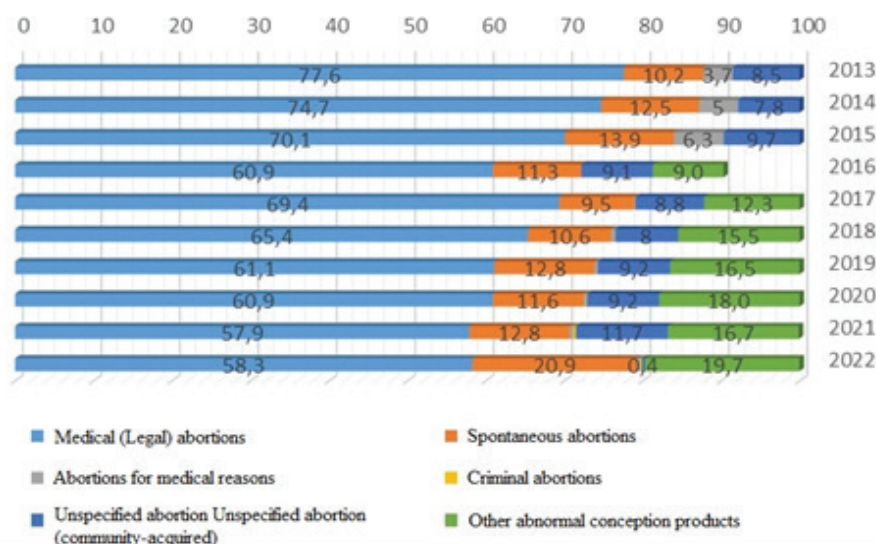


Fig. 3. The structure of terminations of pregnancy up to 12 weeks for the period 2013-2022, %

increased, so in 2021 there were 7 cases of illegal termination of pregnancy up to 12 weeks and 5 cases in 2022. (Figure 3, Figure 4). This once again confirms the inadmissibility of banning abortions at the legislative level, as well as restrictions related to the availability of medical (legal) abortions.

The share of abortions in non-governmental medical organizations out of the total number of abortions in the Sakhalin Region increased by 116.5% over 10 years [1]. The years 2021 and 2022 became record-breaking in the number of abortions in non-governmental medical organizations and accounted for 22.1% and 18.4%, respectively, of the total number of abortions (Figure.5). The sharp decrease in abortions in 2018 may be due to the Decree of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation, which defined new requirements for non-governmental medical organizations providing abortion services.

Also in 2021, according to the data "Information on pregnancy with an abortive outcome (absolute data by subjects and groups of organizations)", there was a paradoxical increase in abortions in non-governmental medical organizations among girls aged 15-17 years - 238 cases, which is 36% of the total number of abortions performed in non-governmental institutions. It should be noted that in 2022 there was not a single case of abortion among girls aged 15-17 years, and in 2020 this figure was 3 cases (Figure. 6). Based on this, it can be assumed that the information about abortions in non-governmental medical organizations for 2021 is incorrect. For 10 years, there has been a decrease in the number of abortions among girls aged 15-17 in the Sakhalin Region, 37 cases were registered in 2022 (Figure. 6). In general, the structure of age groups among women who terminated pregnancy is dominated by women aged 18-44 years, until 2016, statistical forms included more age ranges in increments of 5 years, which made it possible to study in more detail the features of abortions by age group. So for the period from 2013-2015, it can be concluded that the majority of girls who terminated pregnancy were between the ages of 25-29 years [1].

Another negative trend is a steady increase in the share of abortions among first-time pregnancies in the structure of all abortions, including in the share of medical (legal) abortions by 31.9% over the period from 2016-2022. It is incorrect to compare the data up to 2016 due to the change in the accounting of statistical data on abortions in pre-pregnant women

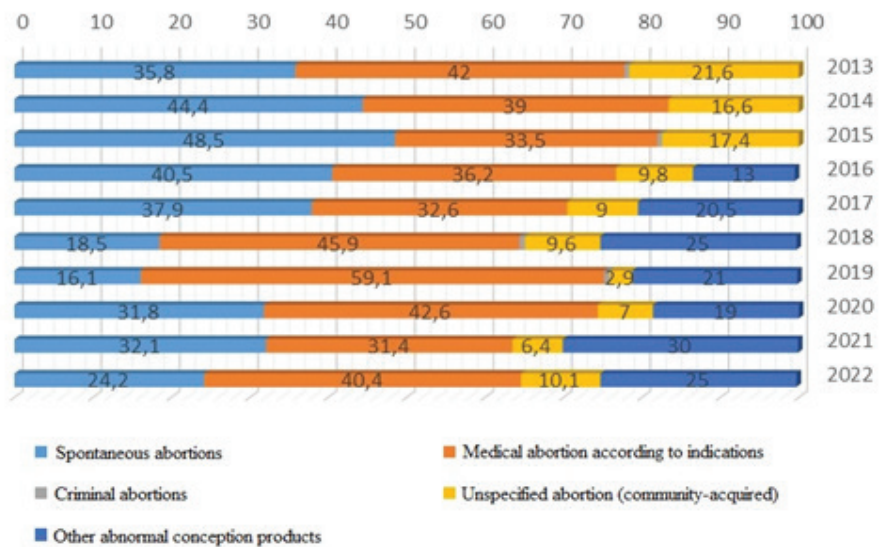


Fig. 4. The structure of terminations of pregnancy up to 12-21 weeks (2013-2022), %

The structure of the terms of termination of pregnancy, %

The timing of termination of pregnancy	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Up to 12 weeks	97.1	96.2	96.3	96.3	96.5	96.3	95.8	95.5	93.9	95.8
12-21 weeks	2.9	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.7	4.2	4.5	6.1	4.2

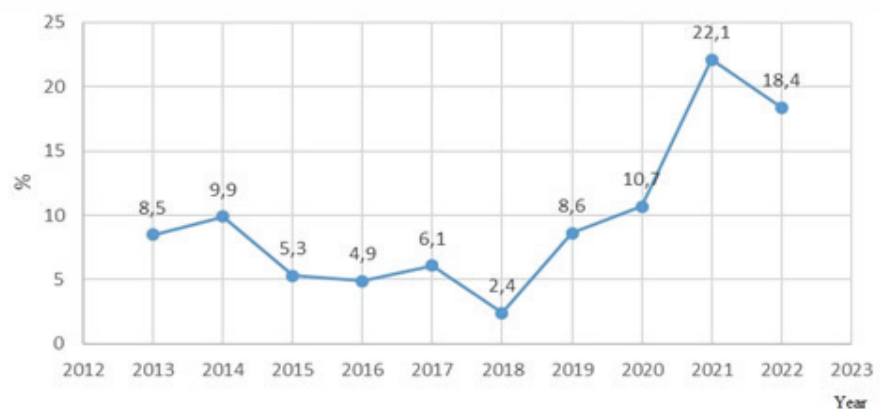


Fig. 5. The share of abortions in non-governmental medical organizations of the total number of abortions in the Sakhalin region 2013-2022, %

in the structure of abortions. In addition, there is no data on abortions among first-time pregnancies in non-governmental medical organizations, which leads to an underestimation of this indicator in the overall structure of abortions (Figure. 7, Figure. 8).

Conclusion. Thus, despite the decrease in the absolute number of abortions over the past 10 years, a fairly high level of abortions per 1,000 women of fertile age remains, almost 2 times higher than the average in the Russian Federation. In addition, over the past 2 years, the indicator has stabilized, with a slight

downward trend. In the structure of abortions, a large part is occupied by medical (legal) abortions, despite a decrease in their share in state-owned medical organizations, their number is increasing in non-governmental institutions. Unfortunately, there is no interaction between medical organizations of different forms of ownership, which leads to a lack of understanding about the real dynamics of medical (legal) abortions among representatives of government organizations that deal with preventive measures. Also, the casuistic statistical data of non-state-owned medical organizations for 2021

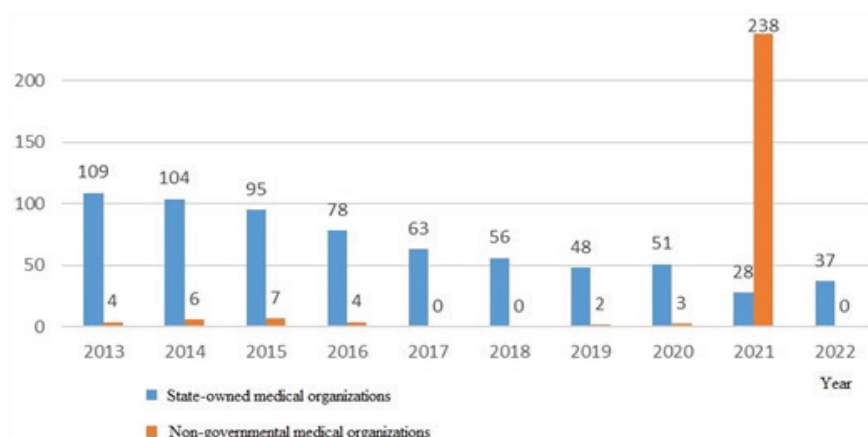


Fig. 6. The number of abortions at the age of 15-17 years in medical organizations of the Sakhalin region, depending on the form of ownership

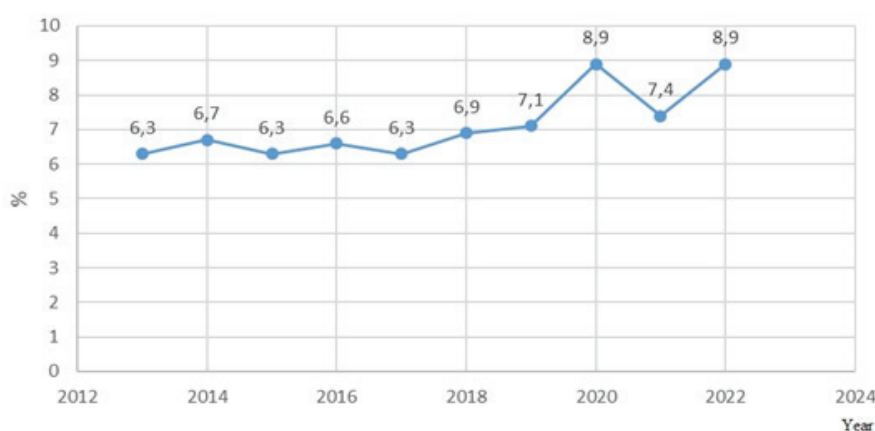


Fig. 7. The proportion of abortions in first-time pregnancies from the total number of abortions (state institutions), %



Fig. 8. The proportion of abortions of pregnancy in first-time pregnancies from the total number of medical (legal) abortions (state institutions), %

confirm the need for control by higher health authorities. Unfortunately, the proportion of spontaneous abortions has increased, as well as abortions associated with other abnormal products of conception, which may indicate a decrease in women's reproductive potential and deterioration of their health. The increase in the share of abortions among pre-pregnant women in the structure of medical (legal) abortions indicates a change in psychological values, low contraceptive culture and irresponsible reproductive behavior among young people. However, it is unacceptable to ban abortion or restrict its availability, due to the reported cases of criminal abortion, the proportion of which has been increasing in recent years. All of the above indicates the need to develop preventive measures aimed at increasing the availability of contraception and medical literacy in the field of reproductive health and the formation of responsible reproductive behavior among the population of the Sakhalin region.

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