

ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASPECTS of MATERNAL DEATHS CAUSED BY ABORTION IN ROMANIA

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Abstract. Pregnancy affects the health and life of millions of women worldwide – yearly millions of women suffer from pregnancy-related complications and nearly half a million of them die. WHO experts warn that most of these deaths could be avoided. In middle and low income countries the causes of maternal mortality are linked to the direct complications of pregnancy, including complications resulting from abortion. This paper aims to highlight certain anthropological aspects of maternal deaths caused by abortion through the prism of the antroppo-socio-demographic characteristics of women who died in Romania during 2006-2014 in Romania. The authors make also an analysis of the evolution of maternal mortality, especially by abortion through a mixed longitudinal study including analysis of data from the period 1966-1989 period with increased frequency of maternal deaths due to illegal abortions. The source of the data can be found both in the documents present in the files of maternal death and in the published statistical data. Maternal mortality in Romania in the past 50 years exhibited specific developments. Up to 1966, the maternal death rate was similar in other countries in the region. Today, analysing the cause of most of these deaths are abortions performed in unsafe conditions, sometimes even illegal ones – unregulated officially. One conclusion is that the decrease of mortality caused by unsafe abortions is the easiest way to prevent maternal death. Ensuring a wide access to contraception - has real economic benefits in relation to the costs of health care for women so, that they recover their health or even save the lives of women after unsafe abortion attempts. Also, counselling women after an abortion on can obtain same benefits. In order to adopt the best policies that might lead to an improved access of women to health services decision makers should encourage research in this area. It is necessary to conduct studies so as to identify the existing barriers to the use of preventive services in the health field of human reproduction.

Key words: Maternal mortality, anthropological aspects, unsafe abortions, contraception, preventive services, maternal education.

Introduction

Pregnancy is not a disease. However, it affects the health and life of millions of women throughout the worldwide. Every year millions of women suffer from pregnancy-related complications and half a million of these women die [1].