

New trends in induced abortion in Csongrád County

Lászlóné Ladányi, Sándorné Rabi, Gizella Csepiné Szűcs, Zoltán Kozinszky*

Csongrád County Family Planning Centre, * Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Faculty of General Medicine, University of Szeged, Hungary

Objectives: The aim of the study was to evaluate the impact of the Hungarian laws concerning induced abortion on the tendency of the number of actual abortions.

Materials and methods: The Hungarian regulations from 1993 specify that permission for artificial abortion for social reasons must be provided by a Family Planning Centre. A new law passed in 2000 states that would-be aborters must participate in two consultations with a specially trained midwife. In the first, the midwife attempts to convince the women requesting abortion to continue their pregnancy; in the second, information is provided as concerns the details of abortion and contraception. Emergency contraception is becoming more popular and outpatient contraception clinics for teenagers have proved to be effective sources of information concerning contraception for young women, and this has helped to decrease the number of induced abortions.

Results: In consequence of the Hungarian jurisdiction measures in Hungary, the number of abortions per 1000 women of reproductive age decreased from 1994 (29.2) to 2001 (22.2), the data for Csongrád County being slightly lower (28.7 and 21.6, respectively). Furthermore, the rate of abortion among teenagers (the number of abortions among teenagers per total number of induced abortions) decreased from 1994 (0.169) to 2001 (0.116), and is significantly lower in Csongrád County (0.113 and 0.106, respectively) as compared with the Hungarian average. The two-round system of providing aborters with information has decreased the number of induced abortions (in Csongrád County: by 5.3% in 1993, and by 4.6% in 2001).

Conclusion: Our results have highlighted the significance of the information processes in the orientation of teenagers and would-be aborters in the Family Planning Centres, which have promoted a decline in the high abortion rate both in Csongrád County and in Hungary.