Second-trimester abortions disproportionately affect the most vulnerable and underserved populations. Provision of safe second-trimester services is critical to decreasing deaths from unsafe abortion.¹

**The Facts**

- Evidence from the United States, Singapore, India and Nepal points to high rates of young women in need of second-trimester services compared with older women.¹,²,³,⁴
- Women who recognize their pregnancy late are more likely to need second-trimester abortion.²,⁶
- Some women need extra time to make a decision about their pregnancy due to social pressures, fears, religious beliefs, and/or changes in relationship status.²
- Women facing financial barriers to accessing health care may need to delay abortion to gather resources.⁶
- Logistical and transport barriers cause women to delay accessing care until the second trimester of pregnancy.²
- Diagnosis of fetal anomalies typically occurs in the second trimester of pregnancy.⁷
- Significant medical conditions may develop or worsen later in pregnancy and continuing the pregnancy would risk the woman’s life or health.⁸
- Victims of violence have a higher risk of delayed presentation for abortion.⁹
- If a woman experiences a contraceptive failure, some methods may mask the early signs of pregnancy.²
- Rarely, there are cultural beliefs that having an abortion in the second trimester is safer than the first trimester, thus causing women to delay care.¹⁰

**WHO HAS SECOND-TRIMESTER ABORTIONS?**

Second-trimester abortions disproportionately affect the most vulnerable and underserved populations. Provision of safe second-trimester services is critical to decreasing deaths from unsafe abortion.¹

**Studies of abortion complications globally demonstrate that a considerable percentage of women seek unsafe abortion in the second trimester and present with complications when seeking postabortion care (PAC).**

**INFOGRAPHIC SOURCE:** African Population and Health Research Center, Ministry of Health Kenya, Ipas Kenya, & Guttmacher Institute, 2013; Fetters, Vonthanak, Picardo, & Rathavy, 2008; Gebreselassie et al., 2010.
Young women, in particular, are likely to need second-trimester abortion services.

9% of all abortions in the U.S. are in the second trimester.

21.7% are for girls less than 15 years old.

12.4% are for girls between 15 and 19.

References

For more technical and programmatic information around second trimester abortion please see www.ipas.org/2ndtritoolkit and www.ipas.org/clinicalupdates.

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