

# ABORTION in SPAIN (1985 – 2013)

Instituto  
de Política  
Familiar



[www.ipfe.org](http://www.ipfe.org)



# ABORTION in SPAIN 1985-2013

## Contents

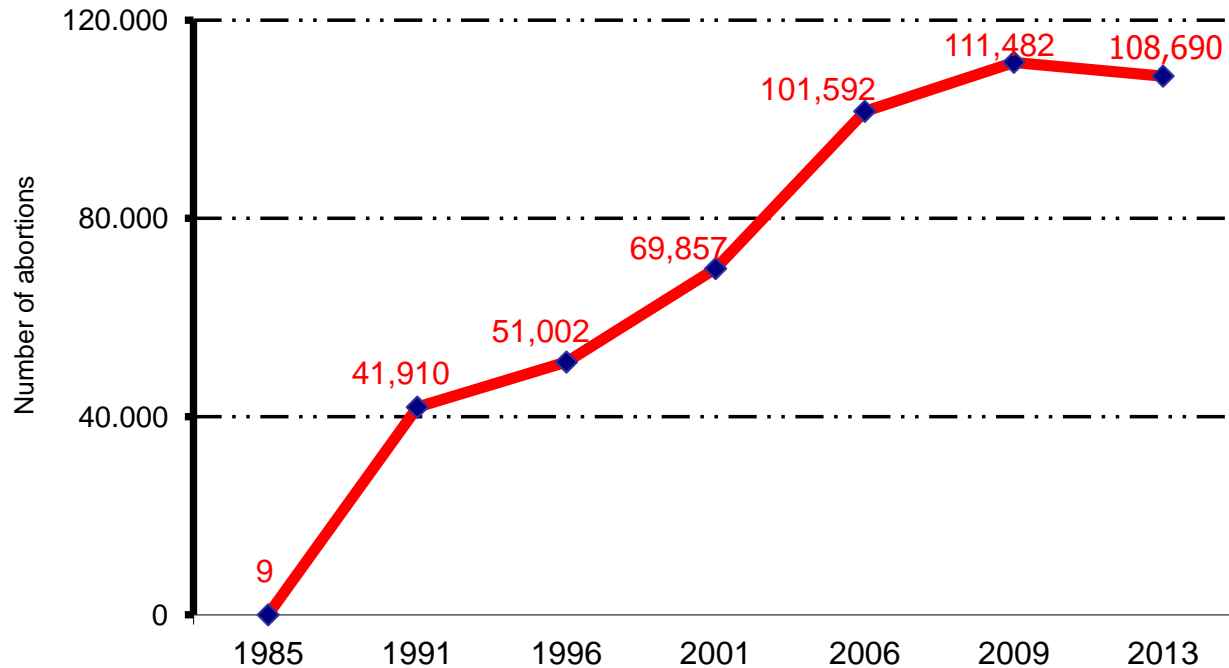
1. Abortion in Spain in figures
2. Abortion characteristics
3. Abortion in Europe
4. Abortion in the autonomous communities
5. Conclusions
6. IPF Proposals

# ABORTION in SPAIN 1985-2013

## Abortion in Spain in figures



## Spain has exceeded the number of 108.000 abortions in 2013...



Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from MSSSI data

In Spain there were 108,690 surgical abortions performed in 2013.

... becoming, together with heart disease, the main cause of mortality.

Annual deaths by abortion are higher than **cancer deaths** (102,762 in 2012), 30 times higher than those caused by **suicide** (3,539 suicides in 2012), almost 100 times more than **traffic accidents** (1.134 deaths in 2013) and almost 360 times more than **murders** (303 homicides in 2012) .

Every 4.8 minutes there is an abortion in Spain.



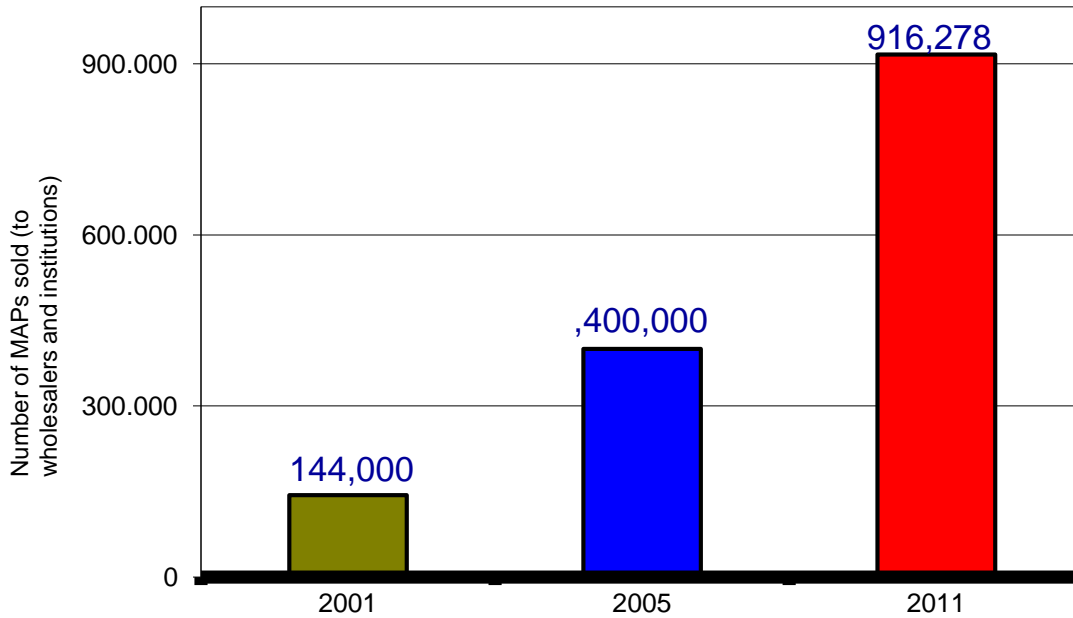
This is, over 12 abortions per hour...

...298 every day.

In 2013 there were **108,690 abortions**, which means that **every day 298 children** are not born in Spain due to abortion. This means that there are **12 abortions every hour.**

Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from MSSSI data

...this would be even greater if we were to consider chemical abortions caused by Morning After Pills (MAPs).



Source: Family Policy Institute (FPI) from data supplied by Bayer HealthCare S.A. and Chiesi Spain S.A., distributor companies for Postinor and Norlevo, respectively. There is no record of the number of EllaOne contraceptive pills (5-day after pill)

In Spain almost 1 million pills are sold every year.....

This means that 1 MAP is taken every 30 seconds, this is, 2,510 MAPs per day.

...which are “camouflaging” the number of “surgical” abortions”, as MAPs also have an abortive effect (\*)...

...and which have become a pharmaceutical business and they are even sold without medical prescription since 2009.

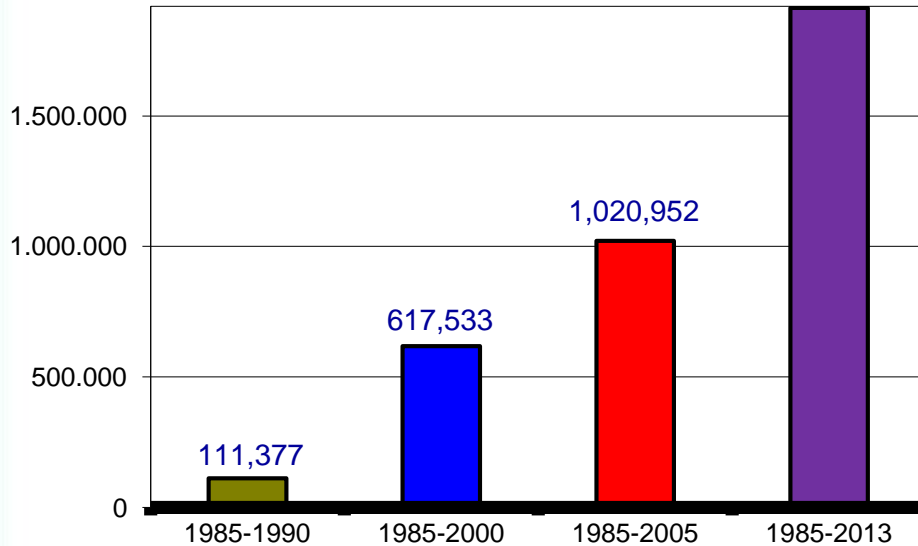
Over 900.000 MAPs sold entail a volume of annual sales above 16 million Euros.

(\*) Although they are sold as emergency contraceptives, their insert specify their abortive effect “By preventing a fertilized ovum to adhere to the uterine wall” (Inserts for NorLevo and Postinor MAPs).



Since 1985 there have been over 1,900,000 accumulated abortions (1,914,446 abortions)...

Accumulated number of abortions 1,914,446



Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from MSSSI data

**Catalonia is the Community with the higher number of accumulated abortions.**

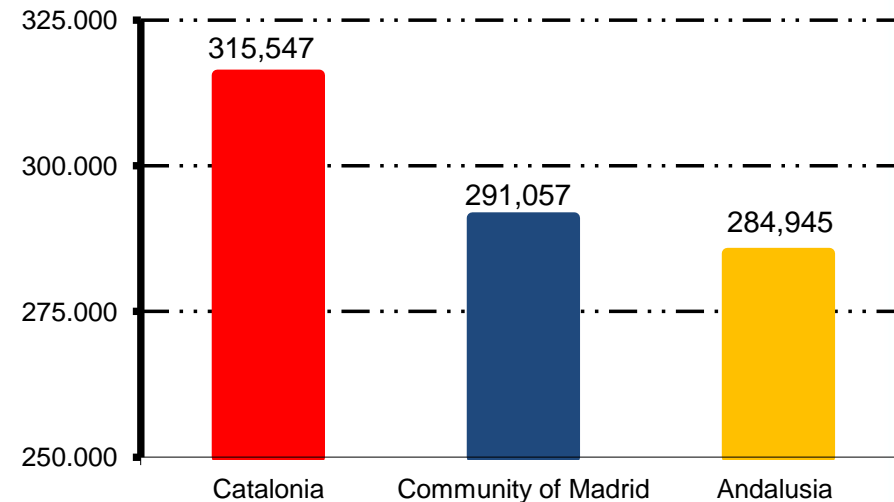
From the 1,716,197 abortions accumulated over the last 20 years (1993-2013), 315,547 of them correspond to Catalonia, representing 18.3% of total. It is followed by the Community of Madrid (290,000 abortions) and Andalusia (284,000 abortions).

...with a dramatic growth since 2006...

Since 2006 there have been over 100,000 abortions per year, leading to more than 890,000 abortions over the last 8 years. This is, almost the same number as in the previous 20 years (1985-2005).

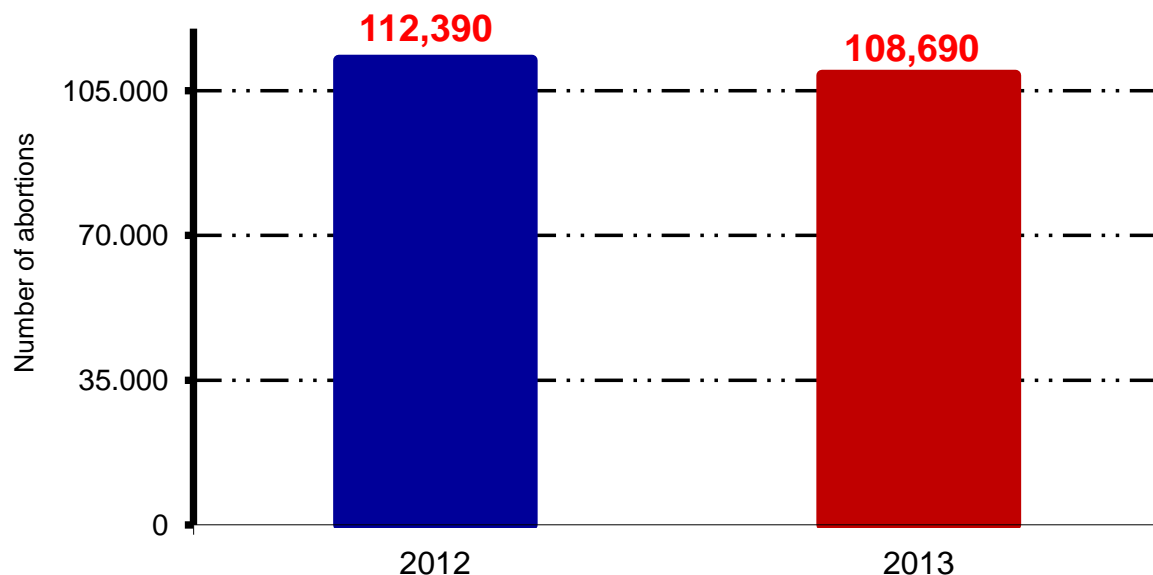
...and in 2014 there have already been more than 2 million abortions.

Accumulated number of abortions



Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from MSSSI data

**Although in 2013 there has been a reduction of 3,700 abortions compared with 2012...**



From 112.390 abortions in 2012 to 108.690 abortions in 2013.

**...entailing a decrease of 3.3%...**

Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from MSSSI data

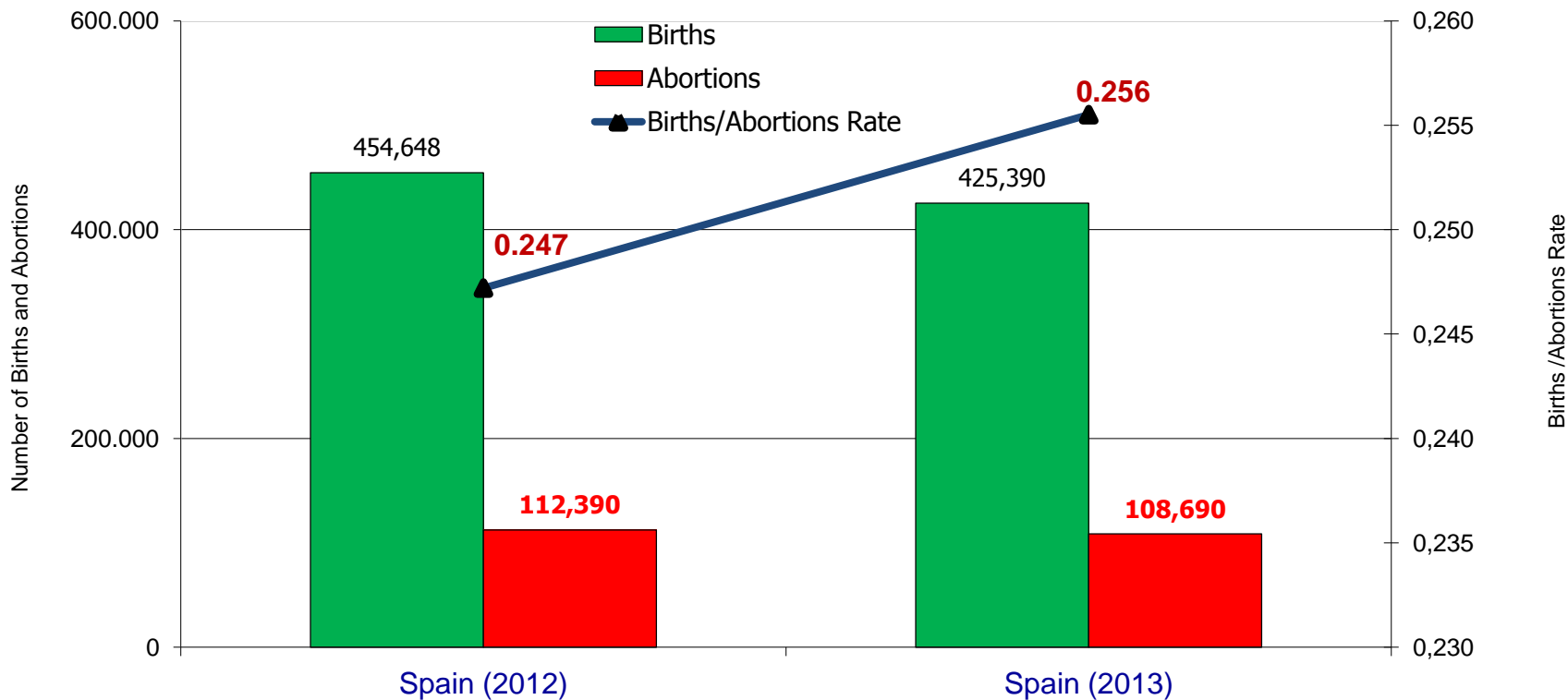
**...but it should be considered “fictitious” because it was mainly due to circumstantial factors, such as:**

- 1. Decrease in the number of pregnancies.**
- 2. Decrease in the number of immigrants.**





# 1. The reduced number of pregnancies has caused a decrease in births and abortions...

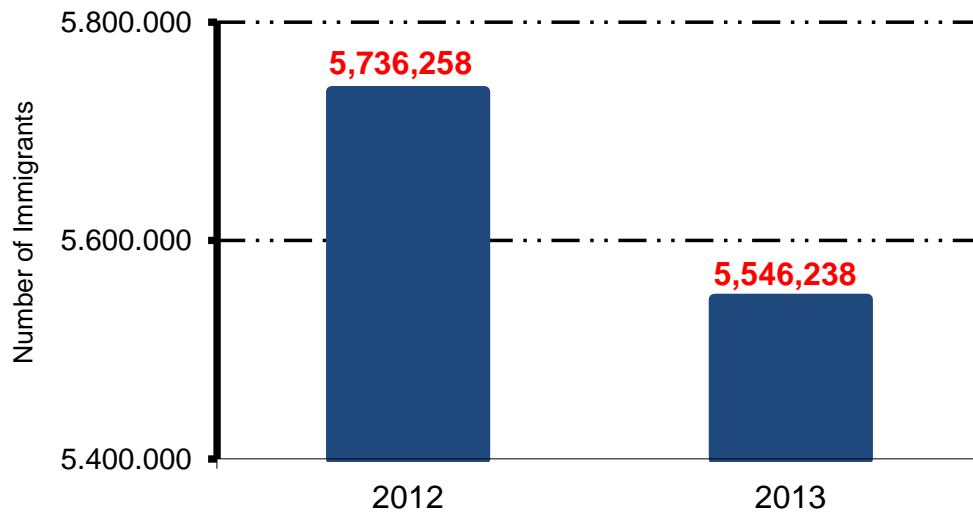


Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from MSSSI data

... however, an increase in the Births/Abortions Rate, in such a way that there are almost 3 abortions for every 10 births.



## 2. The reduced number of immigrants...

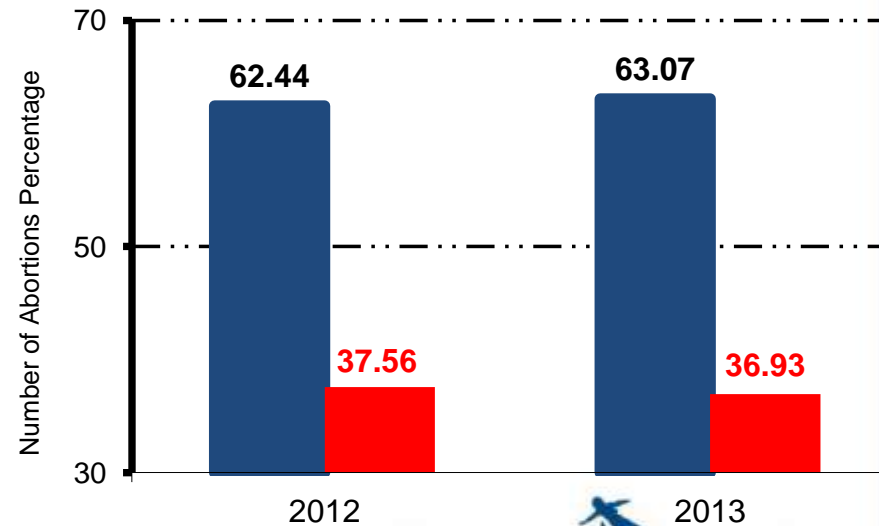


Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from INE data

...and consequently to the decrease in the number of abortions by immigrants.

If, in 2012, 37.5% were abortions made by immigrants, in 2013 this was reduced to 36.9%. However, the percentage of Spanish abortions has increased, from 62% to 63%

The number of immigrants has decreased in over 190,000 people in 2013 compared with 2012, going from 5.7 million in 2012 to 5.5 million in 2013. This has implied a 3.3% reduction.



Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from MSSSI data

## Abortion is causing evident effects...



The number of abortions produced in one year (108,690 in 2013) equals almost half of Spain's birth deficit. If these abortions had been not made, the Spanish birth rate would have been almost 1.7 instead of 1.27.



The 300 children who are not born due to abortion every day in Spain mean the annual disappearance of over 100 schools in Spain caused by lack of children.

The abortions performed in Spain in four days (1,192 abortions) exceed the mortality caused by traffic accidents of an entire year (1,134 deaths in 2013), or almost half of yearly suicides (3,539 in 2012).



Since the abortion was introduced in Spain (1985), over 1.9 million abortions have accumulated. This number of accumulated abortions is higher than the joint population of the Communities of Navarre, La Rioja and Cantabria .

Since Rajoy (\*) came to the Government there is record of more than 221,000 abortions (years 2012 and 2013 (\*\*)), without amending/repealing the law as he had undertaken in his electoral program.

...which create a daunting and worrying outlook as it promotes population ageing and the reversal of the demographic pyramid.

(\*) 21st December, 2011.

(\*\*) Information on number of abortions for 2014 not available.



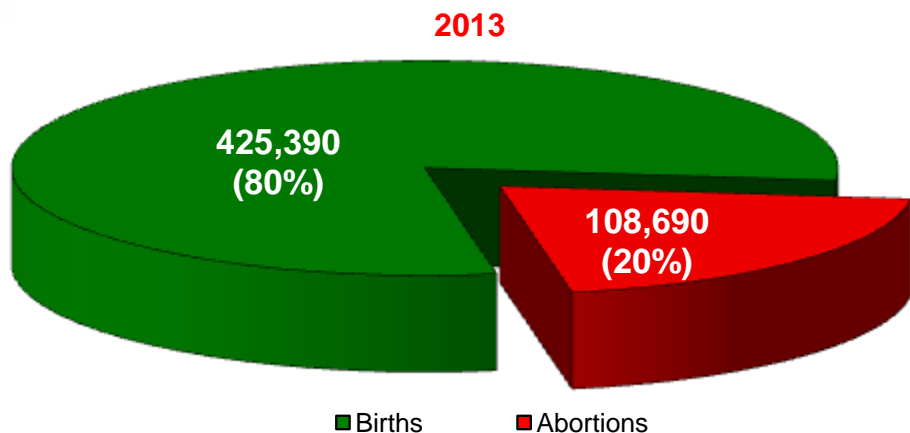
# ABORTION in SPAIN 1985-2013

## Abortion characteristics



# 1. More and more pregnancies end in abortion.

## 1 out of 5 pregnancies ended in abortion in 2013...



Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from MSSSI data

During year 2013 there were 534,080 pregnancies, from which 425,390 were births and 108,690 ended in abortion.

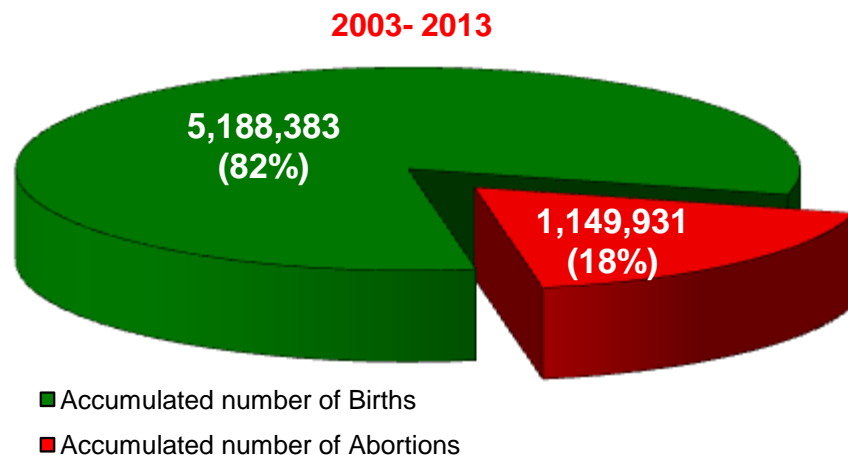
...representing over 20% (20.35%) of pregnancies...

This is, 1 out of 5 pregnancies ended in abortion.

## ...and which is higher to the average of the last 10 years...

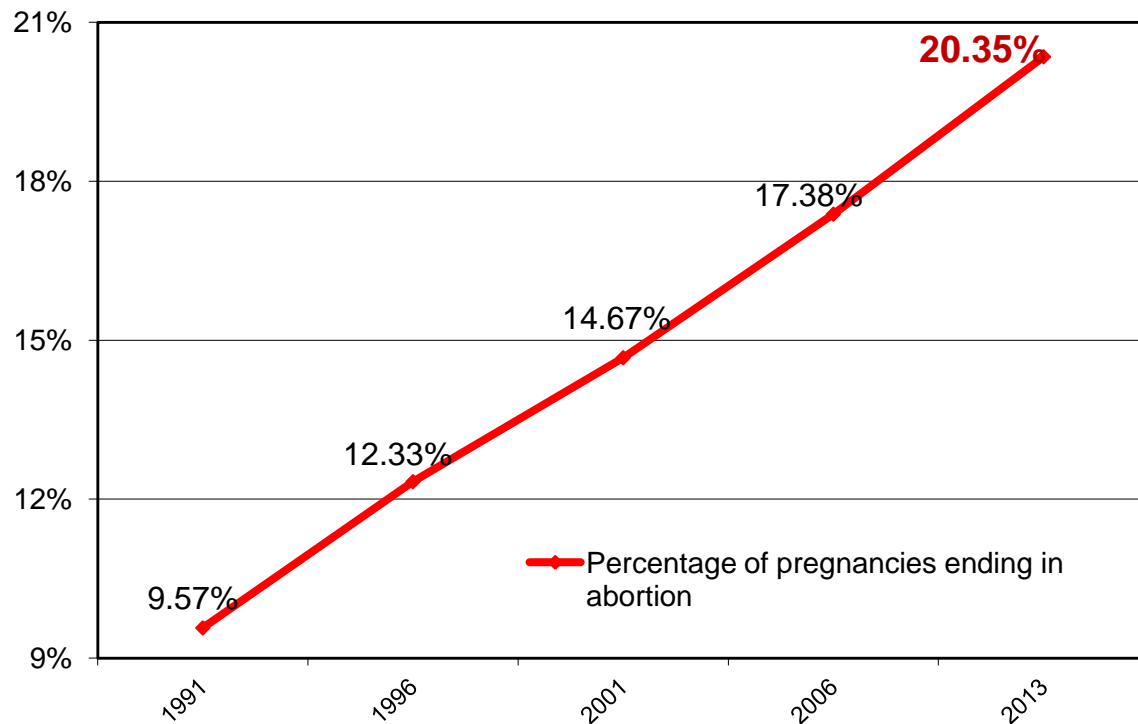
During the 2003-2013 period there were over 6.3 million pregnancies, from which 5.19 million became births and 1.15 million ended in abortion.

## ...with 18% (18.13%) of pregnancies ending in abortion.



Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from MSSSI data

## 2. The number of pregnancies ending in abortion is growing rapidly...



While in year 1991 9.57% of pregnancies end in abortion, said percentage was already 12.33% in 1996; 14.67% in 2001; 17.38% in 2006; and 20.35% in 2013.

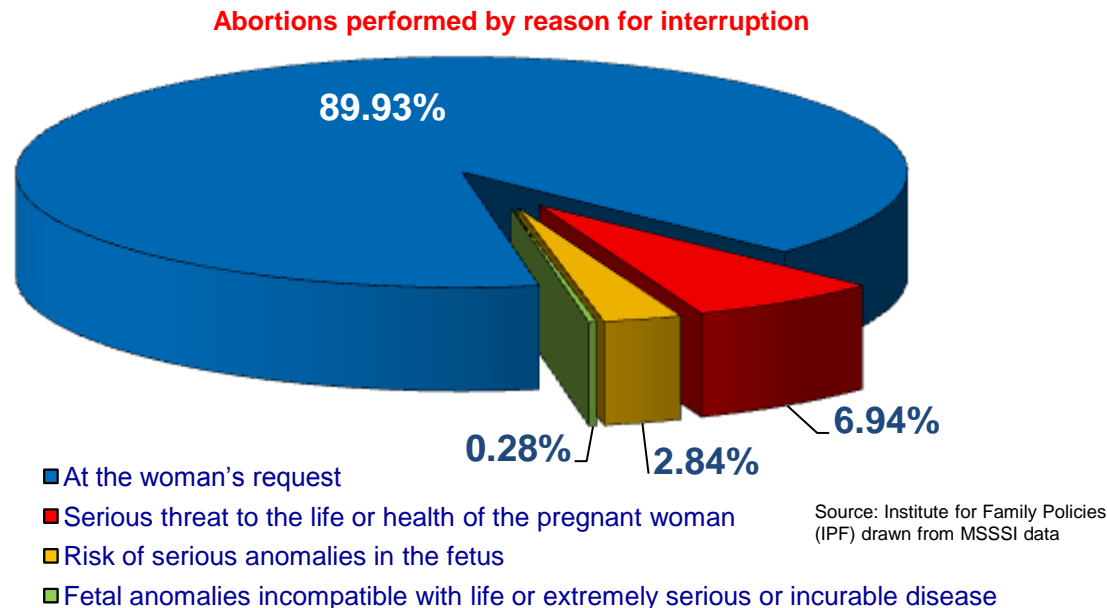
Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from MSSSI data

...with a tendency to continue growing over the next years.



### 3. “Free” abortion is a reality in Spain.

**9 every 10 abortions were performed “at the woman’s request” (\*) and without alleging any reasons.**



**In 2013 there were 97,750 abortions (89.9%) of women who requested it without alleging any causes.**

Besides, 7,540 abortions were performed due to “serious threat to the life or health of the pregnant woman” and 3,092 abortions caused by “risk of serious anomalies in the fetus”.

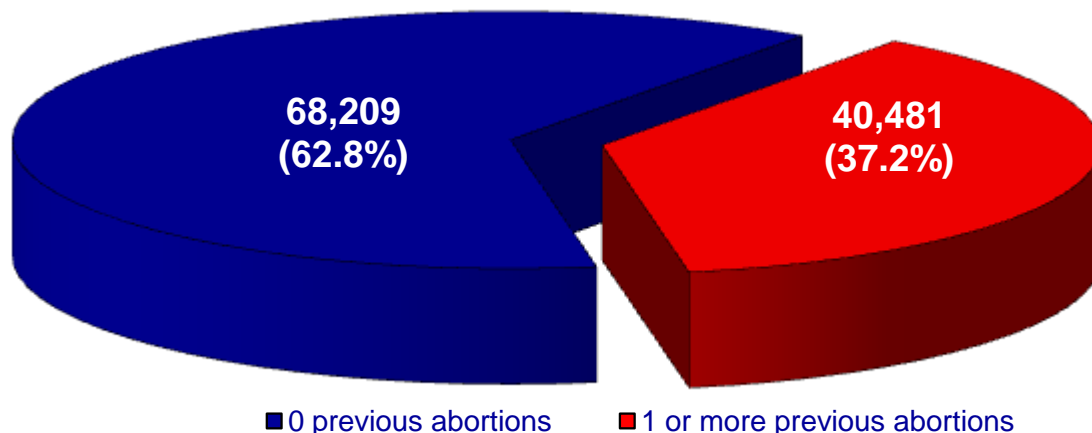
(\*) According with Organic Law 2/2010, on “sexual and reproductive health” (5th July, 2010).



#### 4. In Spain, abortion is used as a contraceptive method.

1 every 3 abortions (37.25% -40,480 abortions-) were preceded by other abortions...

Number of abortions by number of previous abortions



Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from MSSSI data

In 2013 there were 40,480 abortions performed on women who had aborted before (37.25%).

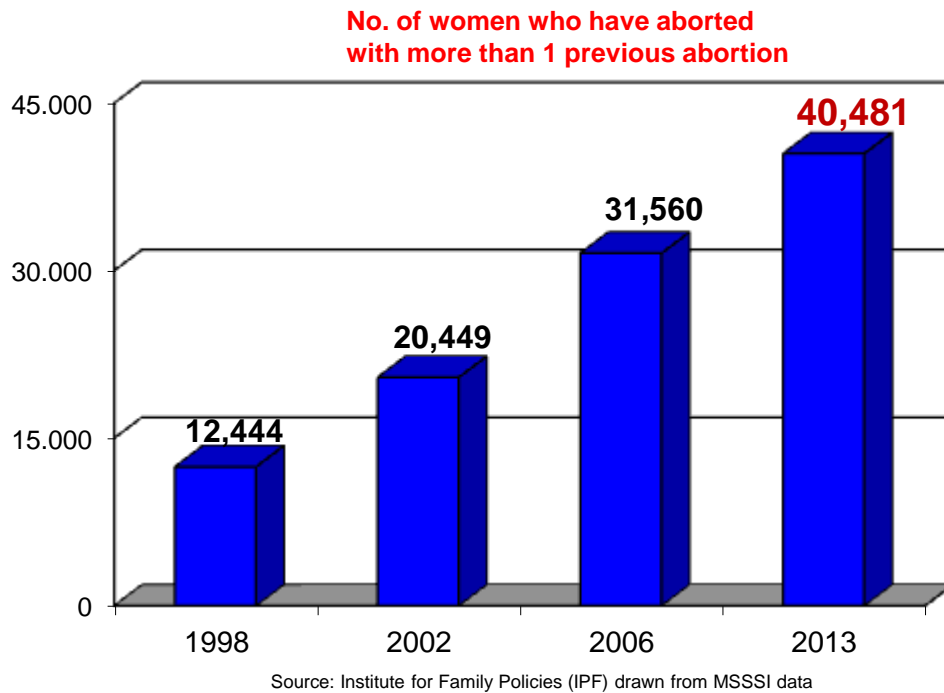
...from which over 1,800 were performed on teenagers.

In 2013, 1,821 teenagers (under 20 years old) (5% ) had aborted more than once.





...And this has incessantly grown year by year...



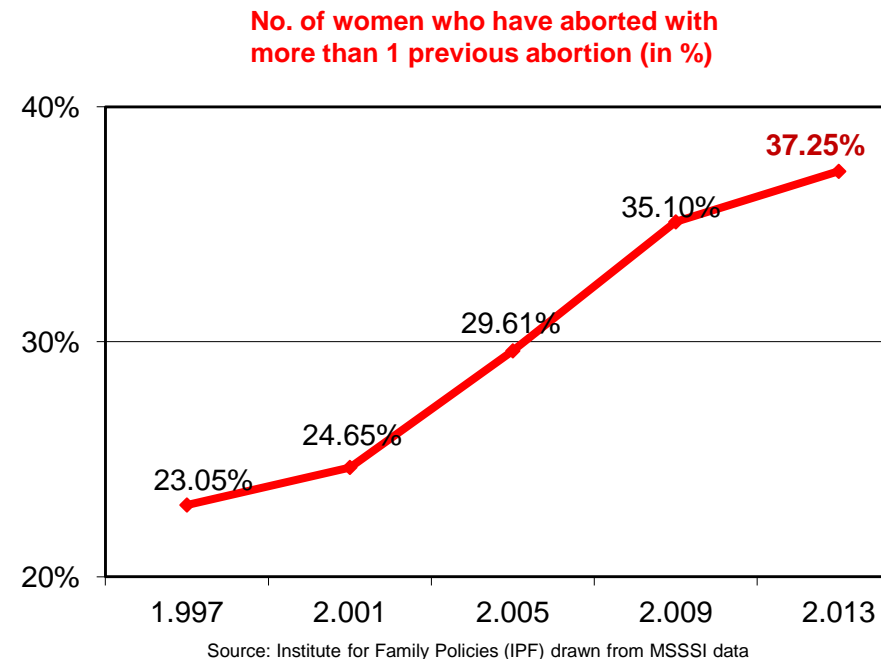
...both quantitatively...

The number of recurrent abortions has increased by 225% over the last 15 years, from 12,444 in 1998 to an overall 40,481 in el 2013.

...and qualitatively.

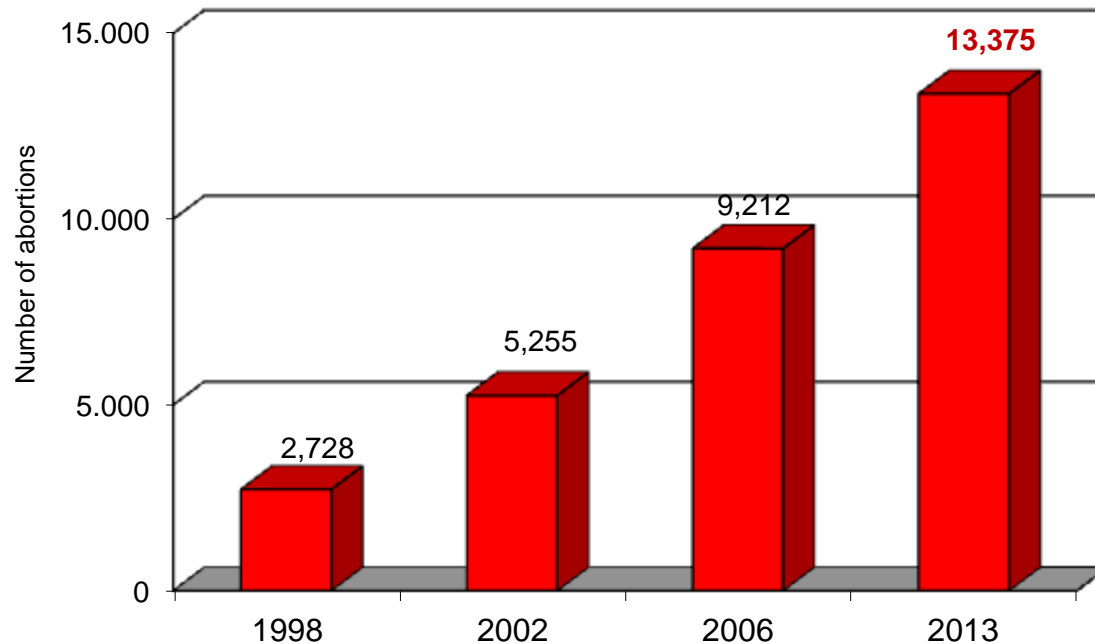
**37% of women who aborted had done it before already.**

While in 1997 abortions in women who had done it more than once represented 23%, in 2005 the number reached 29%, and in 2013 it rose up to 37.2%.



**Also, 1 out of 8 women (13.375 women) have aborted twice or more before...**

**No. of women who have aborted with more than two or more previous abortion (in %)**



Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from MSSSI data

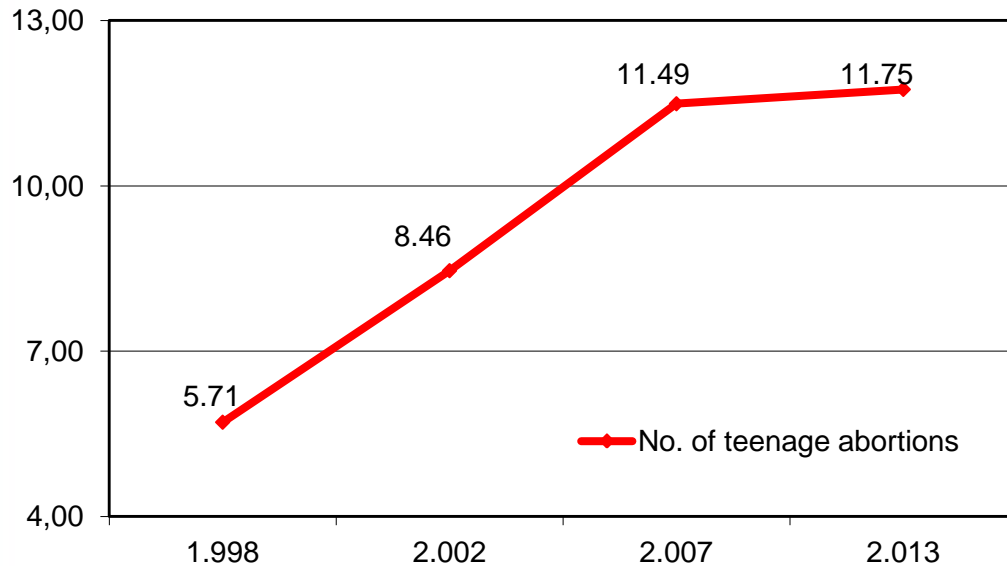
**...with a growth of 390% over the last 15 years.**

Those who had had 2 or more abortions in the past went from 2,728 in 1998 (5% of total) to 13,375 in 2013 (12.3% of total), which has entailed an increase of 390%.

**There are even women who practice abortion systematically: for 1,870 women (1.7%), it would be at least their fifth (5<sup>o</sup>) abortion.**



## 5. 1 out of 9 abortions (11.75% -12,771 abortions-) are performed on teenage women (younger than 20 years old)...



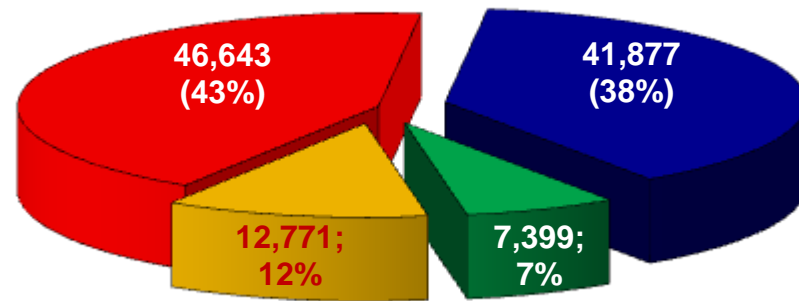
Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from MSSSI data

**Almost half of all abortions (46,643; 43% of total) was performed on women between 20 and 30 years old.**

From the 108,690 abortions carried out in 2013, almost half (43%) were performed on women between 20 and 30 years old.

In 2013 there were 12,771 abortions on girls under the age of 20, representing 12% of total.

**...and over 500 abortions are carried out on girls below the age of 15.**

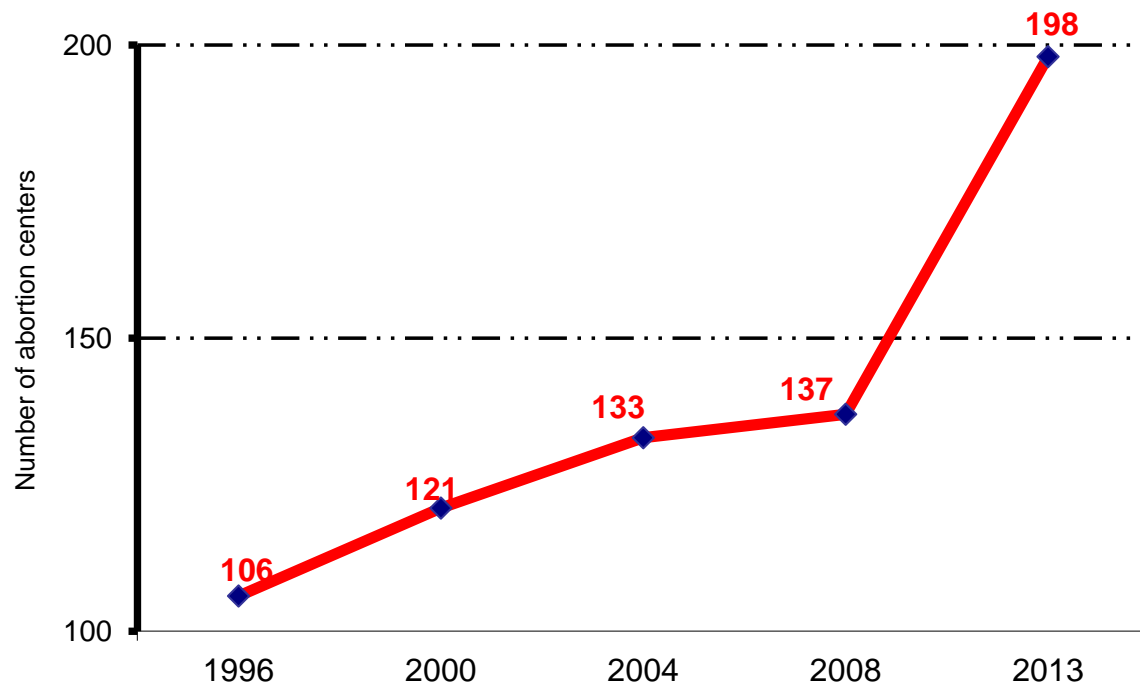


- Less than 20 years
- From 20 to 30 years
- From 30 to 40 years
- 40 years or over

Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from MSSSI data

## 6. Abortion has become a business worth over 50 million Euros per year.

There are increasingly more abortion centers, which have experienced a dramatic growth since 2008...



...with a 45% increase over the last 5 years.

Only over the last 5 years, the number of abortion centers has increased by 45%, from 137 in 2008 to 198 in 2013.

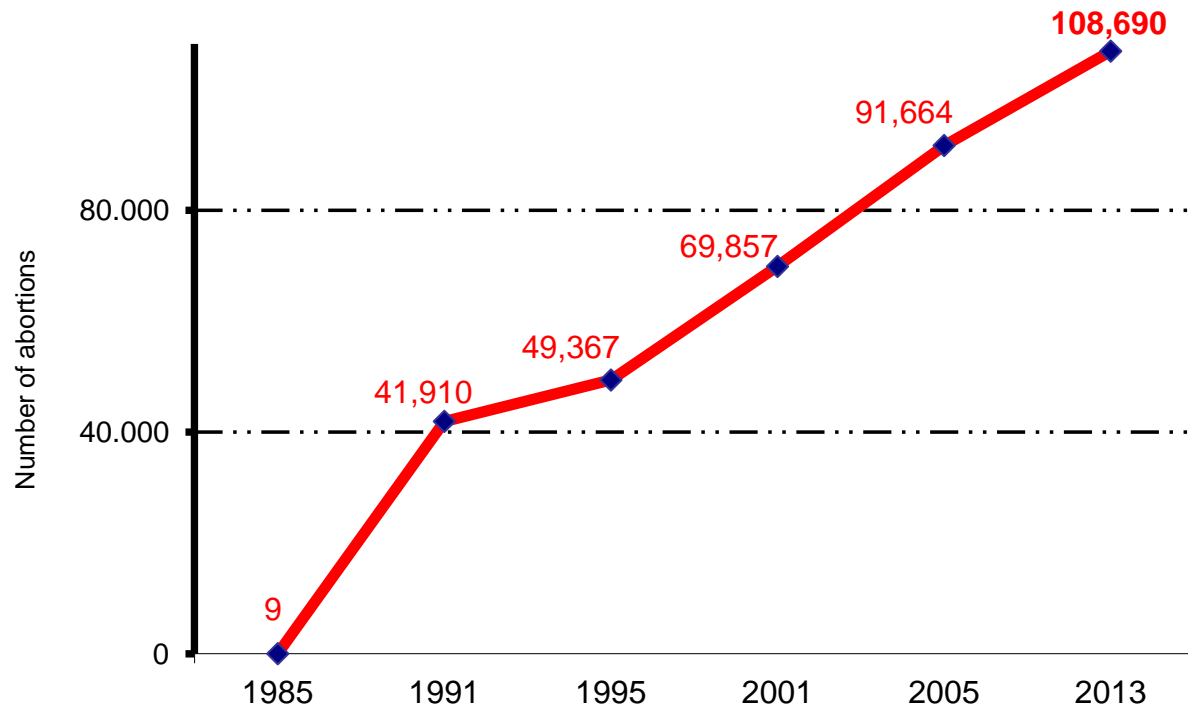
Globally, **Catalonia** (38%) and **Community of Valencia** (13%) are the communities with the largest number of centers. Over half of public centers are located in **Catalonia** (52 out of 103).

Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from MSSSI data

Besides, 91% of abortions were performed in private centers.



## 7. During the last 20 years (1993-2013) the number of abortions has increased by 140%...



Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from MSSSI data

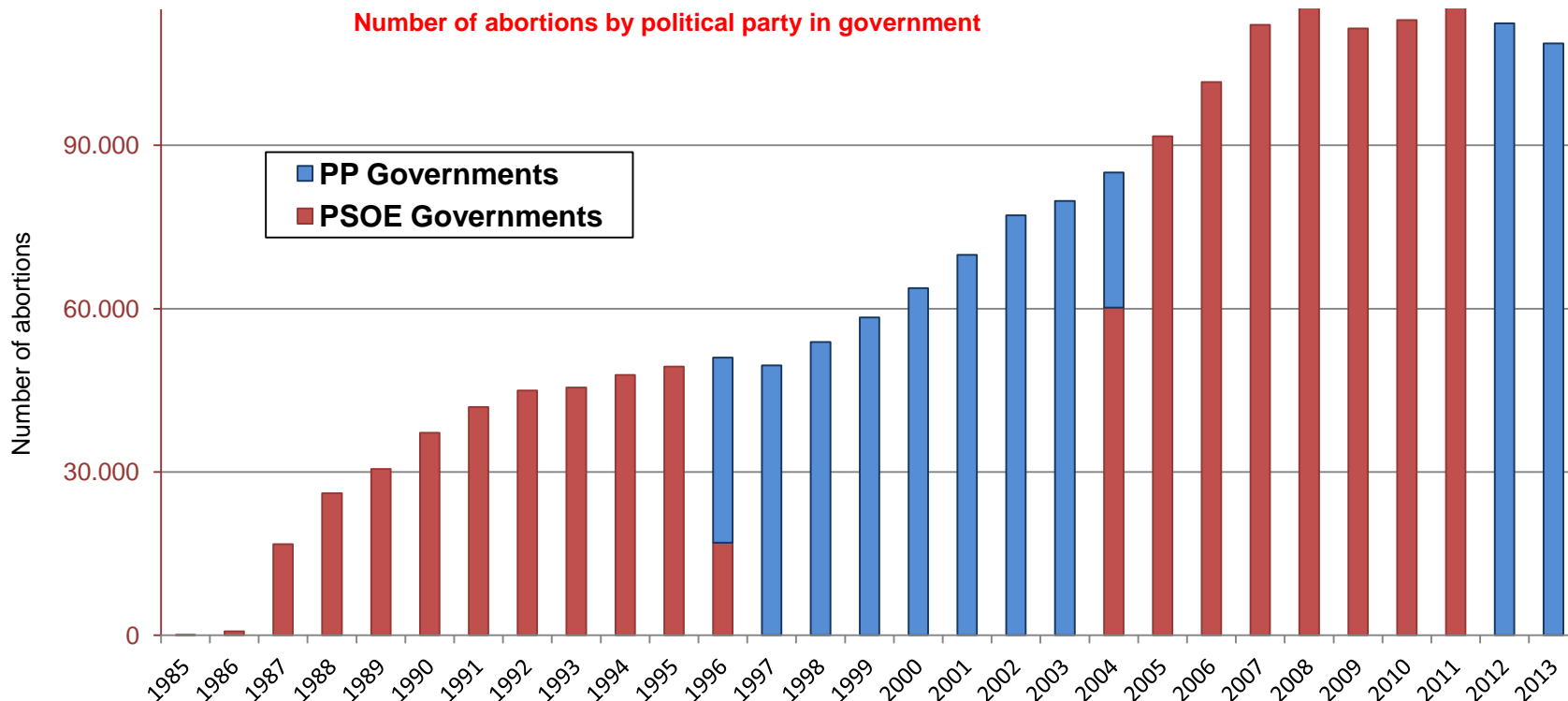
The number of abortions went from 45,503 abortions in 1993 to 108,690 in 2013, implying a growth of 139%.

...And over the last 10 years (2003-2013) they grew by 36%.

Abortions went from 79,788 in 2003 to 108,690 in 2013.



## 8. Abortions have been carried out almost the same, during both the PP and PSOE governments..



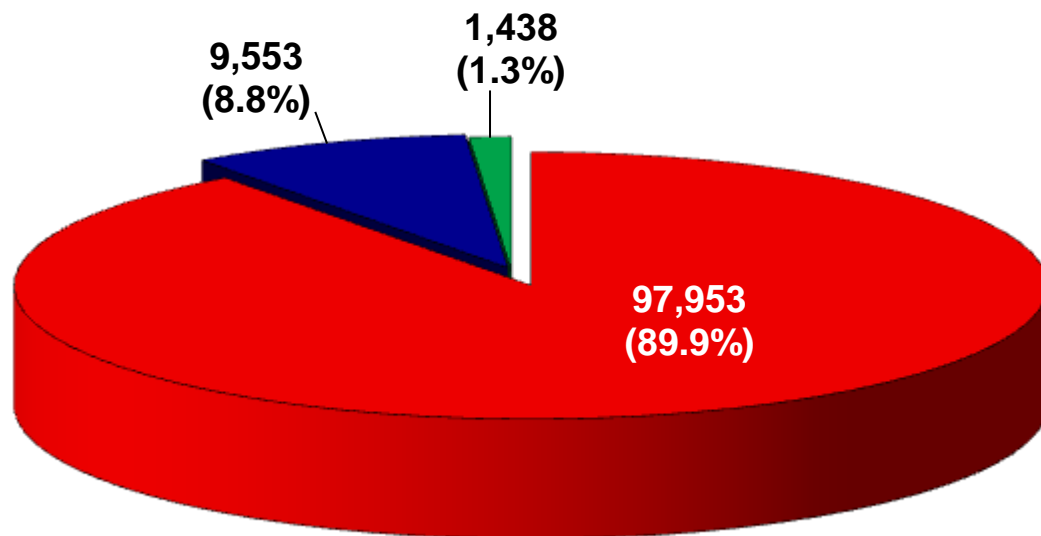
Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from MSSSI data

Abortions have been carried out almost the same, during both the PP and PSOE governments.

Under the PP government, said abortion laws were still not repealed/amended, and there have been 732,219 abortions.



## 9. The immense majority of abortions were performed during the 12 first weeks of pregnancy -9 from every 10 abortions-...



In 2013 there were 97,953 abortions during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

...representing **89.9%** of all abortions...

Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from MSSSI data

...which has slowly decreased over recent years.

Thus, while in year 2000 abortions carried out within the first 12 weeks represented 90.7% of total, in 2005 they became 87.83%, and 89.9% in 2013.



# ABORTION in SPAIN 1985-2013

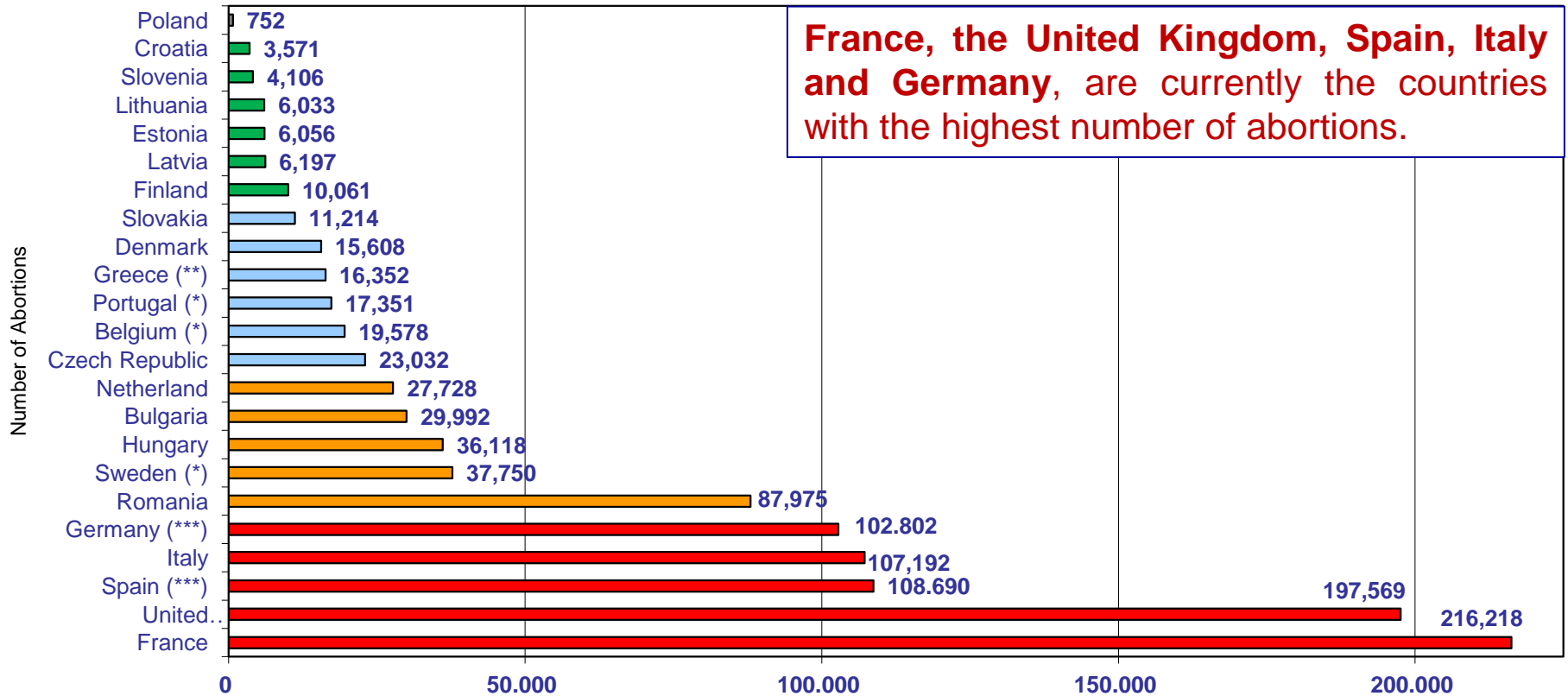
## Abortion in Europe





# Spain “consolidated” as the third country in the European Union (EU28) with the highest number of abortions...

Nº of Abortions EU28



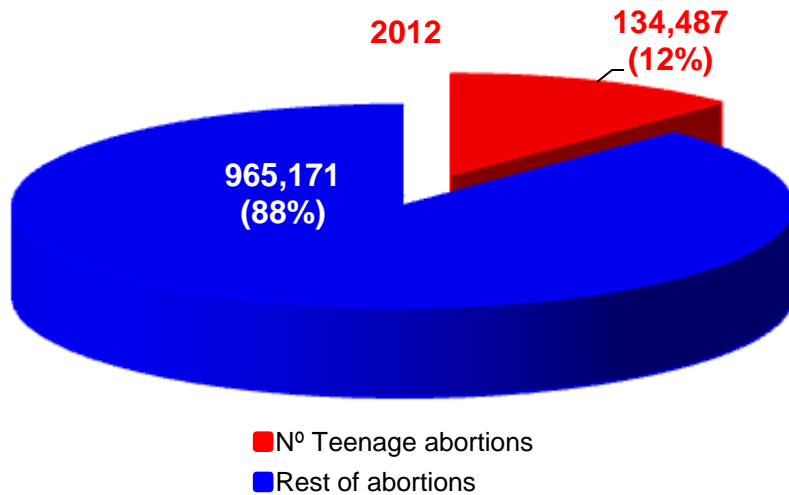
**France, the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy and Germany, are currently the countries with the highest number of abortions.**

Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from EUROSTAT data, WHO and national data  
 (\*) Portugal, Belgium and Sweden (2011). (\*\*) Greece (2008)  
 (\*\*\*) Germany and Spain (2013)

...also Spain, with an increase of 67,428 abortions, has become the EU28 country experiencing the strongest increase over the last 20 years.



## Every four minutes a teenage girl aborts in Europe...



Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from EUROSTAT data, WHO and national data

The number of abortions among teenagers under 20, exceeded 134,400 in 2012, meaning that 370 teenage girls aborted every day.

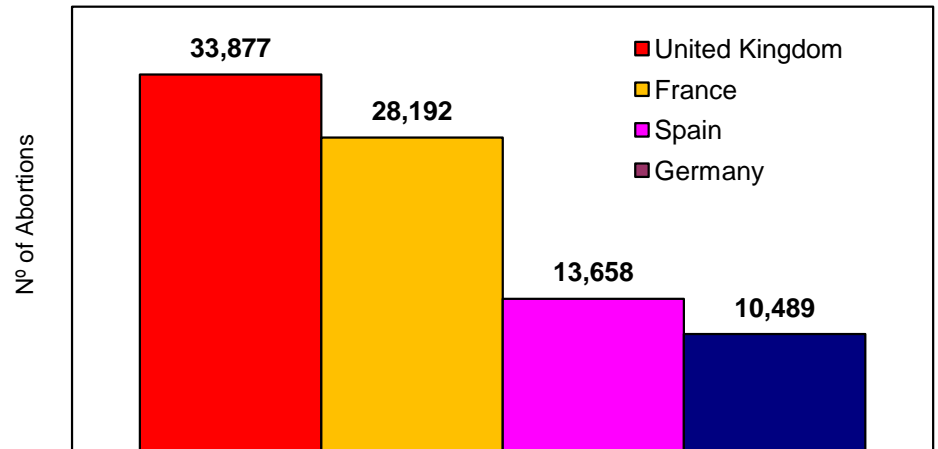
...which is 1 out of 8 abortions.

The over 134,000 teen abortions produced in 2012 represented 12% of all abortions, meaning 1 out of 8 abortions.

### UK is the country with the highest number of teenage abortions.

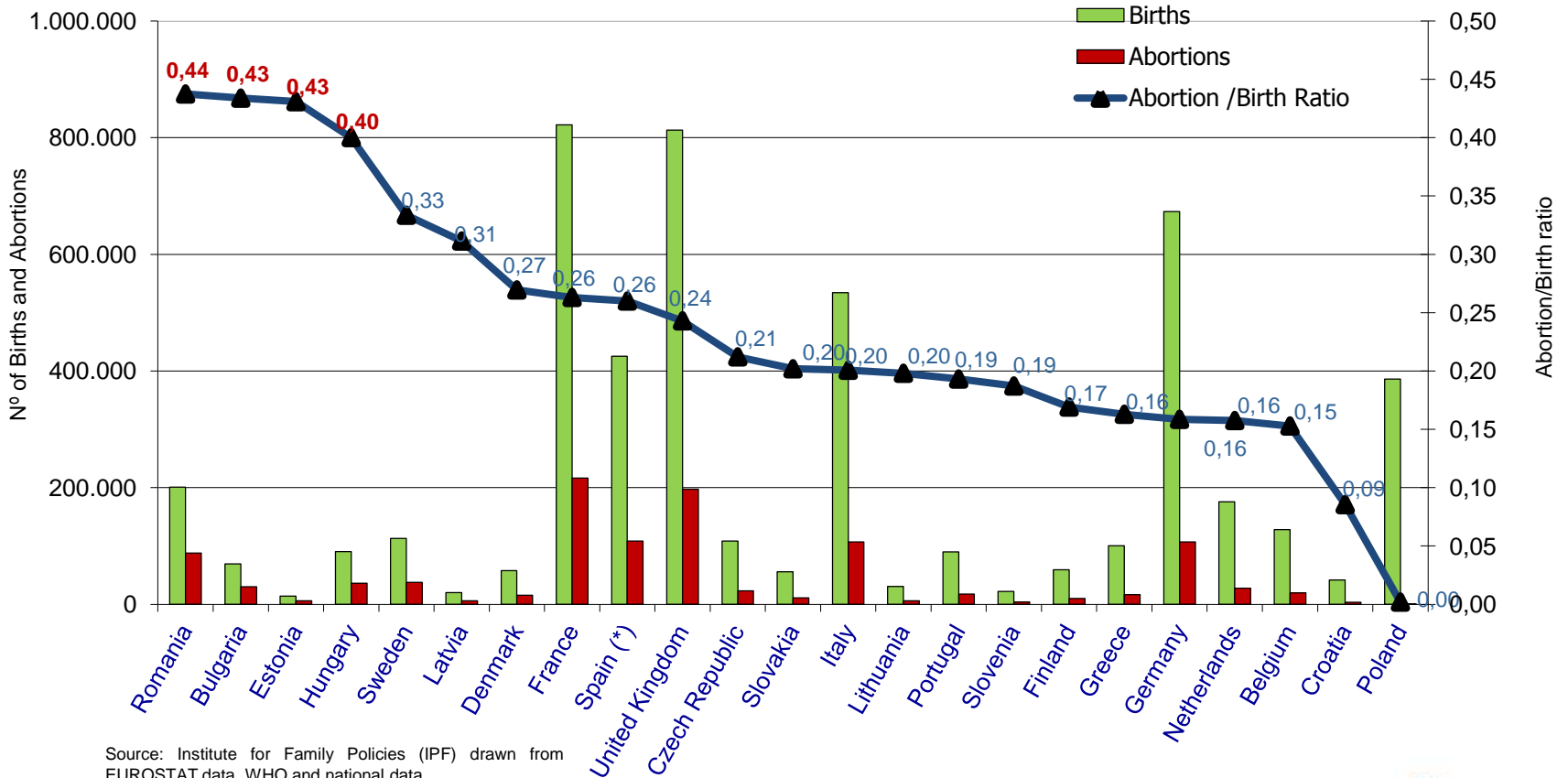
**United Kingdom** (33,877 abortions) is the EU-28 country with the highest number of teenage abortions. It is followed by **France** (28,192), **Spain** (13,658) and **Germany** (10,489).

N° Teenage abortions (2012)



Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from EUROSTAT data, WHO and national data

Romania, Bulgaria, Estonia and Hungary are the countries with the highest abortion/birth ratio: Over 4 abortions for every 10 births.



Source: Institute for Family Policies (IPF) drawn from EUROSTAT data, WHO and national data (\*) 2013

By contrast, Poland and Croatia have a negligible ratio.

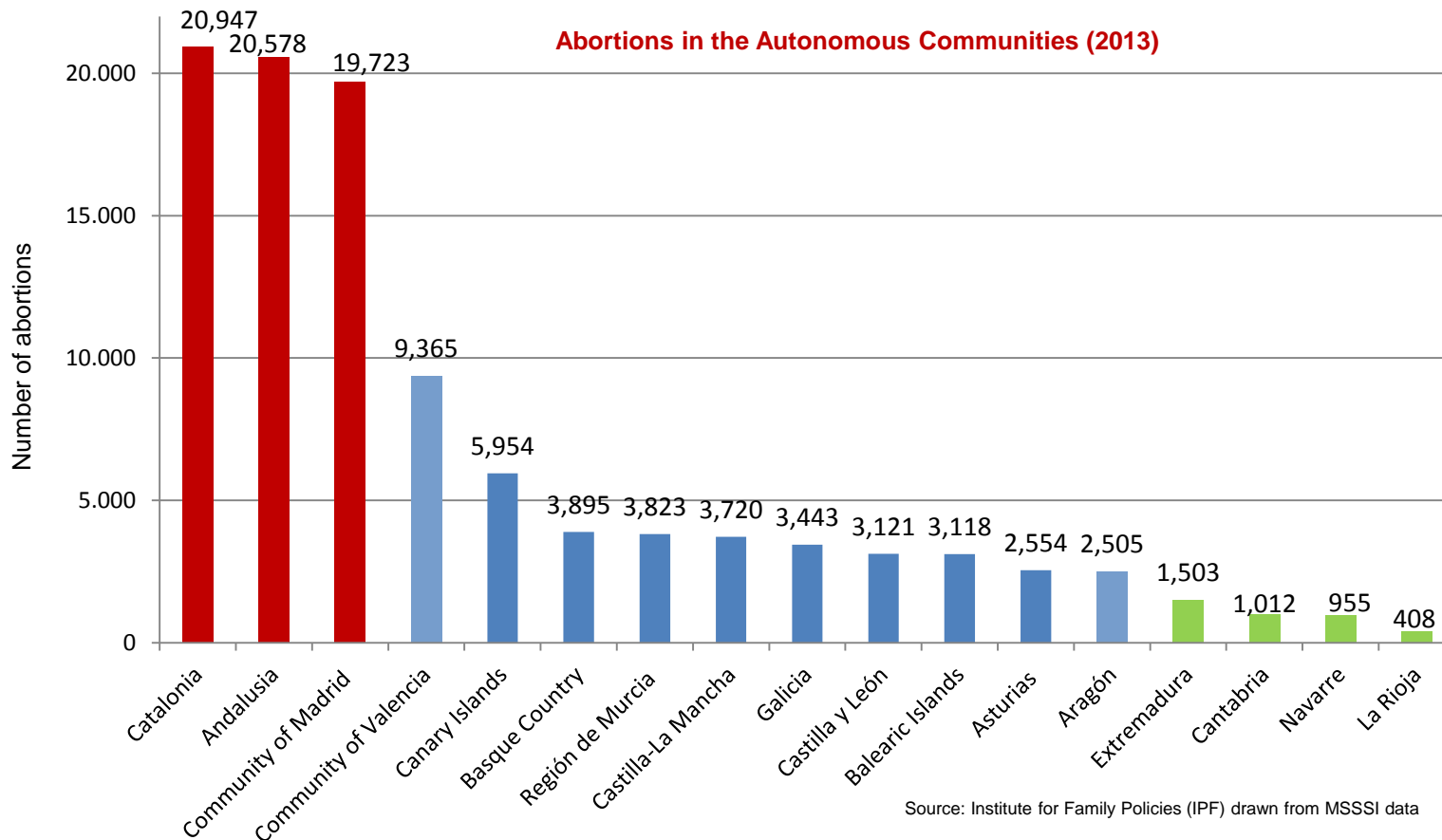


# ABORTION in SPAIN 1985-2013

## Abortion in the autonomous communities



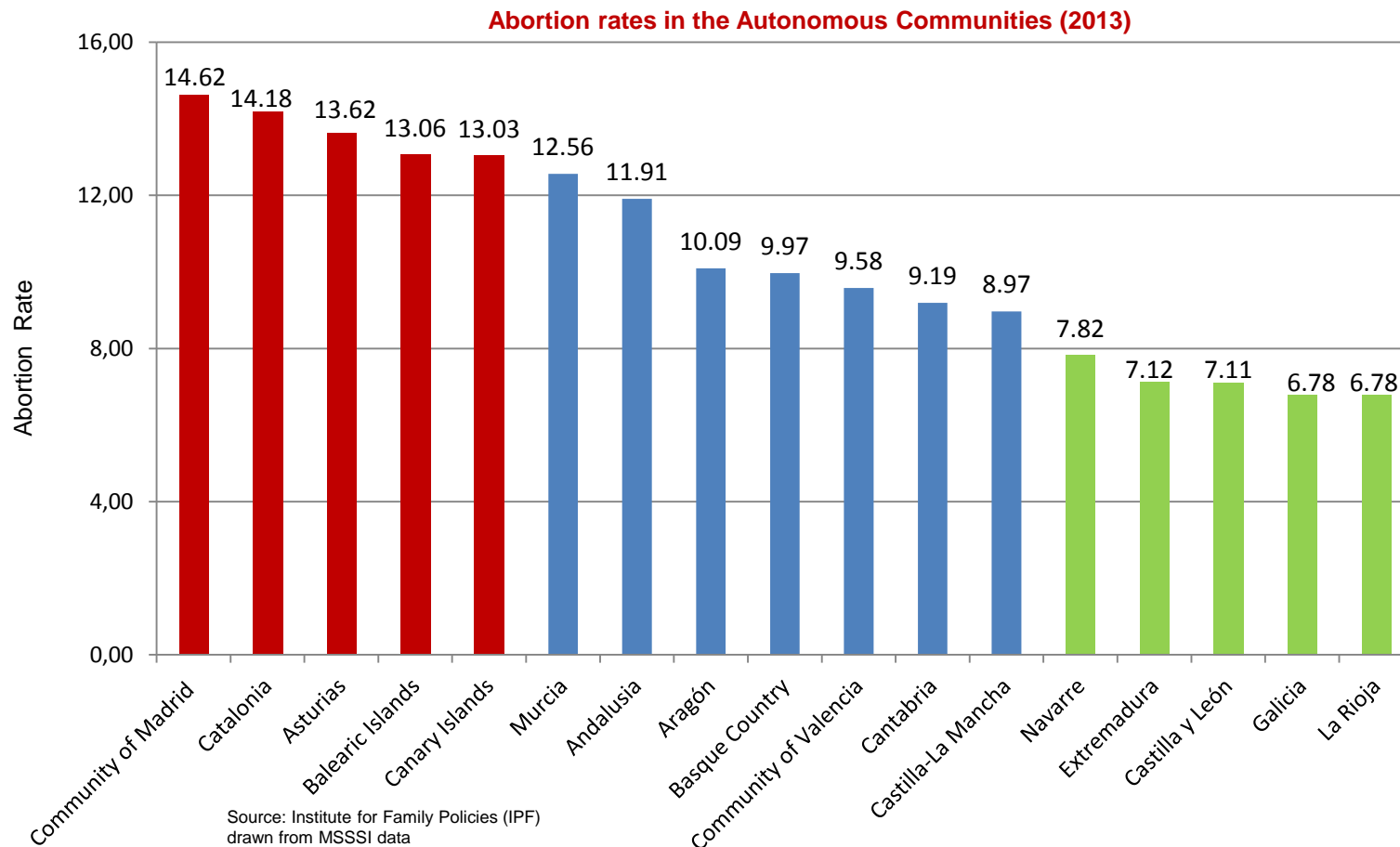
**Catalonia, Andalusia and the Community of Madrid are the communities with the highest number of abortions in 2013.**



**Conversely, La Rioja, Navarre and Cantabria are the communities with the lowest number of abortions.**

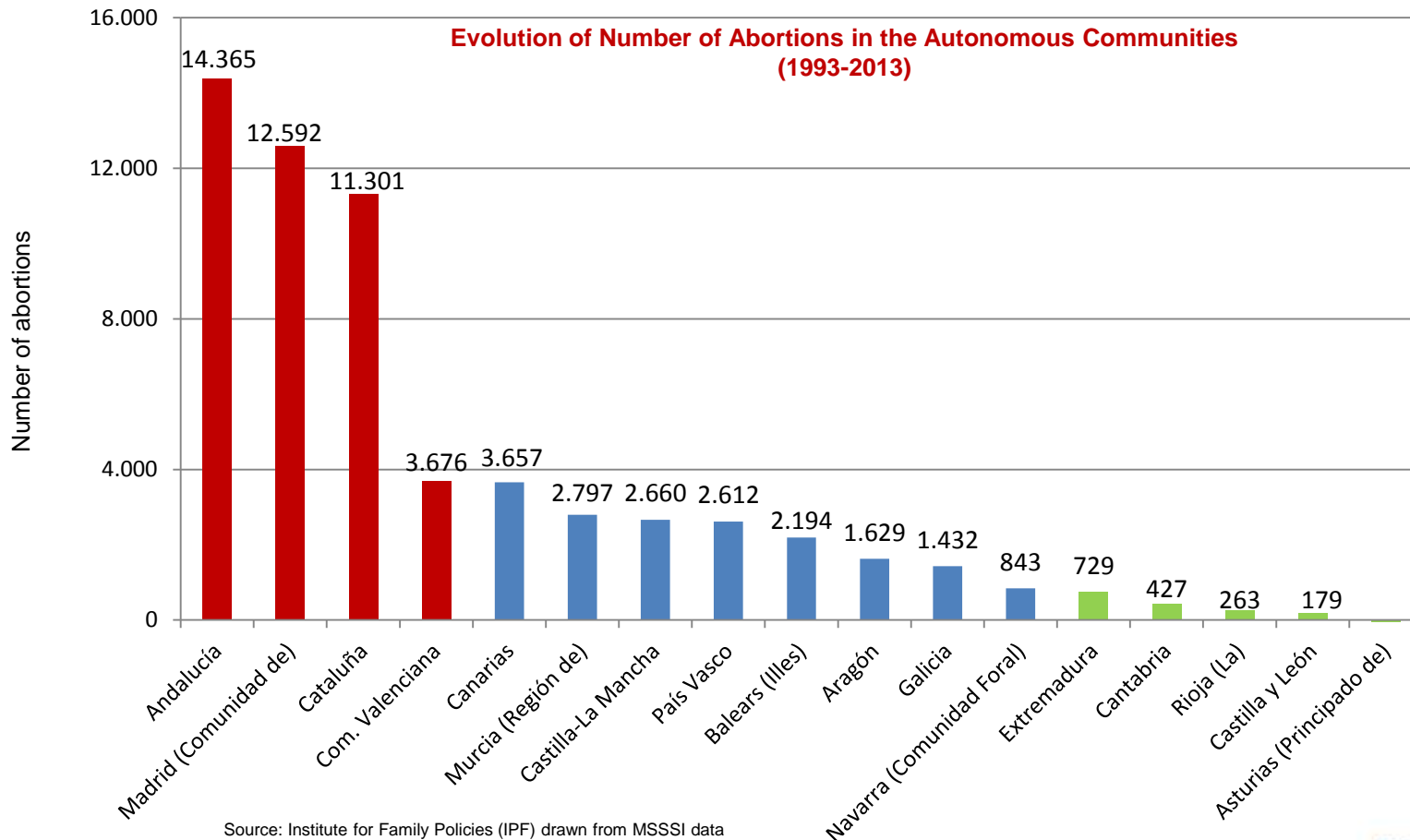


**However, the Community of Madrid reveals the highest abortion rate in 2013.**



**In the opposite side, Galicia and La Rioja are the communities with the lowest abortion rates.**

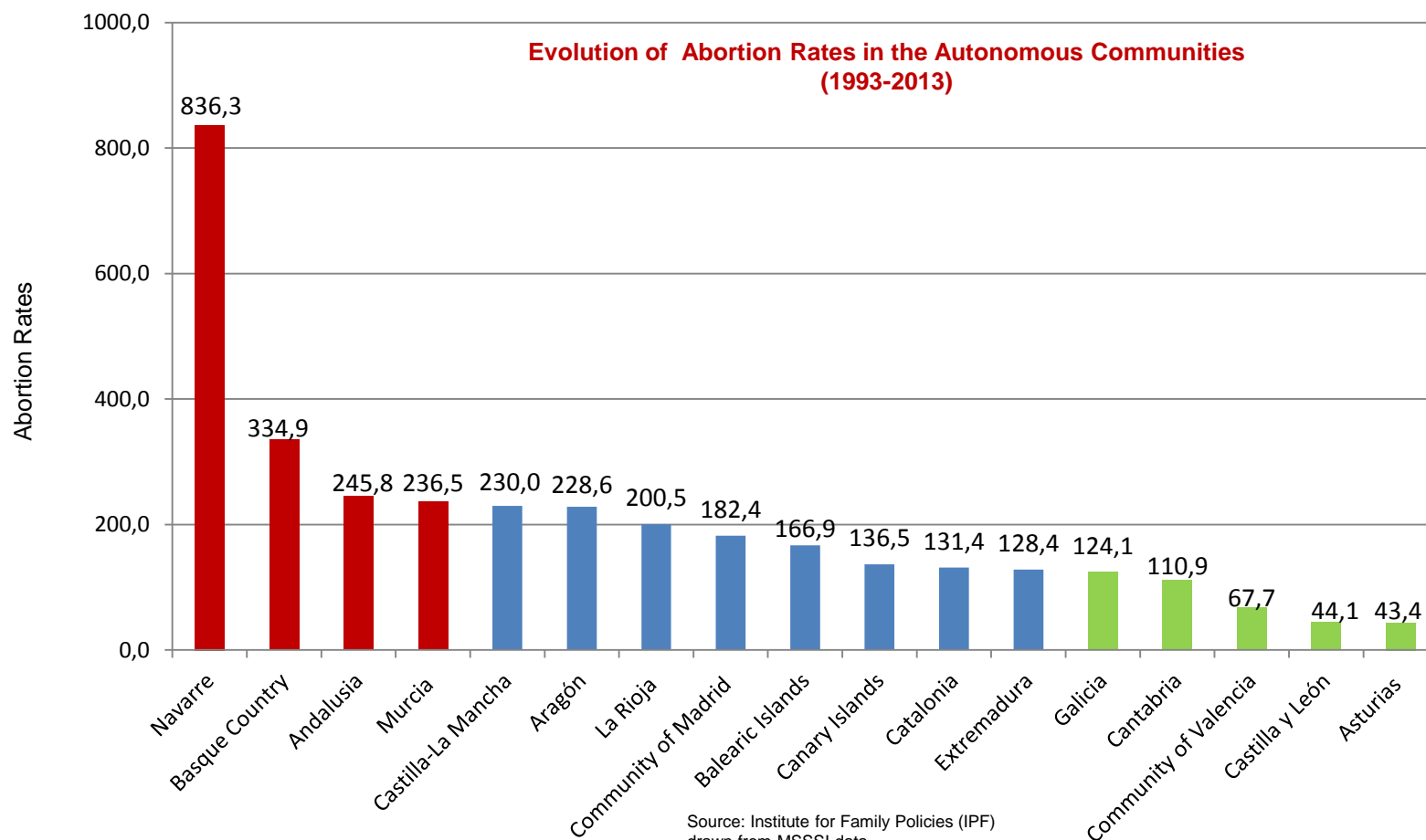
Although quantitatively Andalusia is the community revealing the highest growth (+14.365 abortions) over the last 20 years...



...with Asturias as the only Community where abortion rates were even reduced.



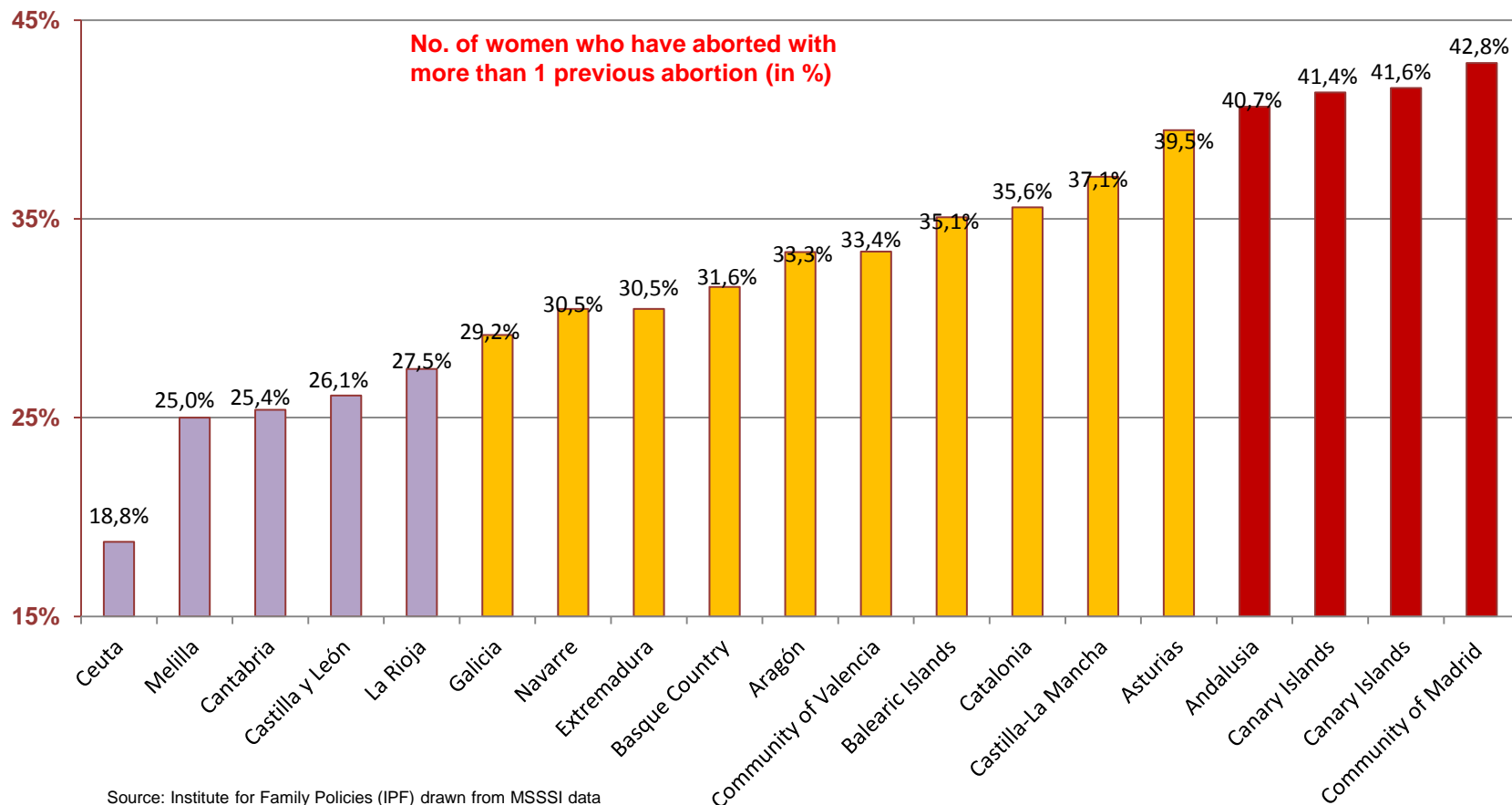
...Navarra, the Basque Country and Andalusia are the communities with a higher growth in their abortion rates.



Asturias and Castilla y León were the communities that experienced the smallest growth.



## In Madrid, Murcia, the Canary Islands and Andalusia, over 40% of abortions are performed on women who had prior abortions.



**In Murcia, in 284 cases (7.4%) it would be their 4th abortion or greater. The same applies in 1,306 cases (6.3%) in Andalusia.**



# ABORTION in SPAIN 1985-2013

## Conclusions



1. One abortion is performed every 4.8 minutes. This means over 12 abortions an hour and 298 abortions each day
2. **Demographic ageing:** Abortion is causing verifiable, measurable and analyzable effects, which create a daunting and worrying outlook and is promoting population ageing and reversing the demographic pyramid
3. **Abortion acts as a brake on fertility:** The number of abortions carried out in one year (108,690 in 2013) equals almost half of the birth deficit experienced by Spain. Without abortion, Spain's fertility rate would be almost 1.7
4. To realize the magnitude of abortion we may point out that :
  - The abortions performed over 4 days in Spain (1,192 abortions) exceed the number of deaths by traffic accidents of a whole year (1,134 deaths in 2013), or almost half of annual suicides (3,539 in 2012)
  - In Spain, the 300 children who are not born every day because of abortion entail the disappearance of over 100 medium-sized schools in Spain every year due to lack of children
5. **Fictitious Decrease** Although in 2013 there has been a reduction of 3,700 abortions compared with 2012, this must be regarded as "fictitious" since it is due to: A decrease in the number of pregnancies; A reduction in the number of immigrants.

6. **MAPs increase:** The number of abortions would be even higher if we were to consider chemical abortions caused by the **Morning After Pills (MAPs)**. In Spain, around **1 million pills are sold each year**, which are “**camouflaging**” the number of “surgical” abortions also have an abortive effect and which have become a pharmaceutical business and they are even sold without medical prescription since 2009.
7. **Main cause of death:** **Abortions have become the main cause of mortality**, way above other causes of death such as cancer, traffic accidents, suicides, homicides, HIV, etc
8. The number of abortions performed in 2013 **is higher** than the combined populations of cities like **Soria, Ceuta or Melilla**, or than half the populations of **Teruel, Segovia, Palencia, Ávila, Zamora, Cuenca or Huesca**.
9. **2 million abortions since 1985.** There have been over one million and nine hundred thousand abortions accumulated since 1985 (1,914,446 abortions). **This is higher than the populations of the Communities of Navarra, La Rioja and Cantabria combined**
10. **1 every 5 pregnancies end in abortion, and this rate has not ceased to grow every year.** In 2013 there were 534,080 pregnancies, from which 425,390 were births and 108,690 ended in abortion. This represents 20.35% of pregnancies
11. **“Free” abortion is a reality in Spain.** 9 out of 10 abortions were performed “at the woman’s request” and without alleging any sort of reasons



12. **Abortion is used just as another contraceptive method.** Over a third of all abortions (37.25% - 40,480 abortions-) were preceded by prior abortions.
13. 1 out of 9 abortions (11.75% -12,771 abortions-) are performed on teenagers (below the age of 20).
14. The immense majority of abortions (101,409) were carried out during the first 12 weeks - 9 out of 10 abortions-.
15. **Abortion has become a business worth more than 50 million Euros annually.** There are increasingly more abortion centers (almost 200), and these have been growing dramatically since 2008.
16. From Rajoy's arrival to the Government, over 221,000 abortions were counted (years 2012 and 2013), without having amended/repealed the law as promised in his electoral program.
17. Spain is within the "top three" places in terms of abortions in Europe, only followed by France and the United Kingdom.

**It is clear and evident that the policies implemented by the various administrations have failed, including abortion laws and the dispensation of MAPs, and so a radical change is needed.**

**New solutions are required**

# ABORTION in SPAIN 1985-2013

## IPF Proposals



## Goals

To promote the development of public policies aimed at ensuring children's rights during the prenatal period and women's right to maternity, removing any obstacles that prevent them, as well as the express inclusion of abortion as violence against women and children.

# Proposals

1. **Repealing the current abortion law, removing the alleged “psychological risk of the mother”.**
2. **Creating a White Book on Spain’s Birth Rate** to analyze the problems of abortion, its causes and consequences, proposing solutions and alternatives to such problems
3. **Creating an Inter-ministerial Committee** reporting to the Government Presidency to approach the problem of abortion and implement measures aimed at its removal/reduction, as well as to combat its negative effects.
4. **Creating and implementing a National Plan on Fertility**, every three years, with sufficient budget allocation
5. **Expressly including abortion as violence against women and children during the pre-natal period.**
6. **Regulating specific informed consents in the field of abortion** to include information given to the pregnant woman about the potential after-effects of an abortion on their physical and psychological health.





7. **Specific program to aid pregnant teenagers and immigrants** in facing the particular problems a pregnancy can raise to these two especially defenseless social groups.
8. **Allocate a specific Budget line to NGOs devoted to help pregnant women.**
9. **Creating Centers for Aid, Care and Advice for pregnant women** to help all mothers, single or married, to give birth to their children.
10. **Including abortions in Spain's death statistics.**
11. **Launching rigorous and efficient awareness campaigns on birth rates, pregnancy and maternity.**
12. **Performing specific and periodical surveys at the Center of Sociologic Research** analyzing women's problems with pregnancy, childbearing difficulties, etc.
13. **Gradual increase of direct child benefits to reach an amount equal to the average in the European Union**, extendable until the age of 25 in case of studies or unemployment.
14. **Promoting national adoption/foster family as an alternative to abortion.**

# ABORTION in SPAIN 1985-2013

© IPF, Institute for Family Policies, 2015

IPF is the owner of this document and reserves all rights for its total/partial translation/reproduction by any media. However, the material contained may be reproduced for non-profit purposes, and for public dissemination, provided that its source is quoted.

Published by **Institute for Family Policies (IPF)**

c/ Génova, 7 – 3º izda. 28004 Madrid (Spain)

Tel. + 34 911022888

email: [ipf@ipfe.org](mailto:ipf@ipfe.org)

website: [www.ipfe.org](http://www.ipfe.org)

© IPF 2015. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



# ABORTION in SPAIN (1985 – 2013)

Instituto  
de Política  
Familiar



[www.ipfe.org](http://www.ipfe.org)

