From choice, a world of possibilities

Understanding how autonomy and confidentiality-related factors affect minors’ experiences of legal abortion in Mexico

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Objectives

- Understand how providers’ perceptions and knowledge about minors’ autonomy and right to confidentiality affect their access to and experiences of legal abortion services
- Understand minors’ experiences in utilizing legal abortion services, with a focus on autonomy and confidentiality-related factors
Goals

- Raise awareness of the rights of young women to access legal abortion services
- Improve the access of young women to abortion services in the public sector and at MEXFAM
- Inform advocacy activities
- Generate information about barriers that might be useful for other organizations
Methodology

Five components, qualitative and quantitative

- **Social and personal aspects**
  - Focus groups
  - In-depth interviews

- **Institutional aspects**
  - Mystery clients (MEXFAM and public sector)
  - Provider interviews (MEXFAM and public sector)
  - Exit interviews - clients (public sector)
## Sample size - quantitative interviews

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mexfam</th>
<th>Centro de Salud Beatriz Velasco</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Directors</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providers/recepcionists</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minors</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results: Information and knowledge
What do you think are the requirements to access a legal abortion service? (n=28)

- Informed consent
- Ultrasound
- Blood type
- Pregnancy Test
- Birth certificate
- Verification of address
- ID
- Accompanied by parent
- Accompanied by an adult family member
- Accompanied by an adult

Mexfam
Beatriz Velasco
How long does the health sector have to provide a woman with a legal abortion service?

- 24 hours: 35%
- 72 hours: 5%
- 1 week: 14%
- 20 days: 12%
- > 20 days: 2%
- Don't know: 25%
- 48 hours: 7%
- 5%
Results: Adolescent services and autonomy
Reasons why young people should receive differentiated services (n=28)

- They like to be treated differently
- They are less educated
- It's necessary to make them aware of the future
- The information should be delivered in a way that meets their needs
- They need more information
- They are less responsible
Decision making capacity, by age

- Use contraception: 47% (12-14 years), 81% (15-17 years)
- Marry: 30% (12-14 years), 58% (15-17 years)
- Have a child: 28% (12-14 years), 51% (15-17 years)
- Donate an organ: 23% (12-14 years), 57% (15-17 years)
- Have plastic surgery: 23% (12-14 years), 47% (15-17 years)
- Terminate a pregnancy: 23% (12-14 years), 51% (15-17 years)
What are the rights of adolescents 12-18 years old?

- Decide to terminate a pregnancy on their own: 67%
- Decide what type of abortion to receive: 77%
- To be accompanied during services: 93%
- Choose a method: 95%
- Receive EC: 95%
- Receive free contraceptives: 100%
- Receive sexuality information: 100%
Adolescent clients: treatment received

![Bar chart showing treatment received by point of contact, counseling, and procedure. The chart indicates the percentage of clients who found each aspect very bad, neither good nor bad, and very good/good.](chart.png)
Results: Minors experience seeking abortion services
Factors that contributed to the decision to go to Beatriz Velasco for abortion services

- Medical supervision
- They will treat me well
- Treat minors
- Accessible price (free)
- Recommendation
- Close
- Specialized center
- Other
Person that helped me seek services

- Mother and Father: 50%
- Friend: 15%
- Partner: 10%
- Mother of my partner: 5%
- Other family member: 10%
Other options considered before accessing abortion services at Beatriz Velasco

23% of adolescents considered other options before terminating their pregnancy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue pregnancy</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To it yourself methods (teas, etc.)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private provider</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pills (with no prescription)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results: Privacy and confidentiality

- 80% felt comfortable (private, confidential) in the spaces where they received information and the procedure
- Of the 20% who did not feel comfortable, the biggest problem was privacy
- Special line for abortion
  - 36% to receive information
  - 46% for the procedure
Initial conclusions

- CSE needs to include information on services
- Adolescents do seek out alternatives to accessing services at a clinic
- Providers are often unaware of requirements and regulations
- Need to strengthen ability to provide private, confidential services
Thank you to INSAD staff Jose Luis Palma and Lorena Fomberg and IPPF staff Carrie Tatum and Jennifer Bain

- Questions?
- Reactions?
- Ideas on how to use the results?
- Look for the article in Studies in Family Planning