



# Implementing telemedical abortion service in Germany during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond

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# Disclosures

- No conflicts of interest

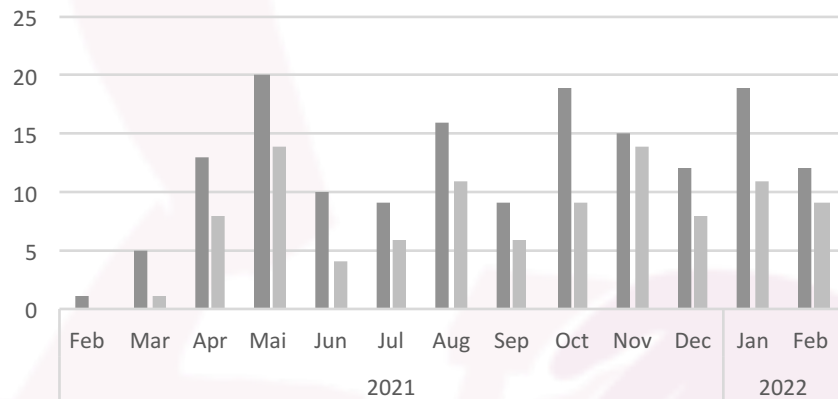
# abortion-at-home project

- developed in Berlin, started in December 2020
- provided by *Familienplanungszentrum Balance e.V.*  
→ telemedical accompanied abortion service within the legal framework in Germany
- Website *www.schwangerschaftsabbruch-zuhause.de*
- supported by *Doctor for Choice Germany e. V.* , *profamilia Berlin*
- Interviews for news papers, podcasts, workshops etc.

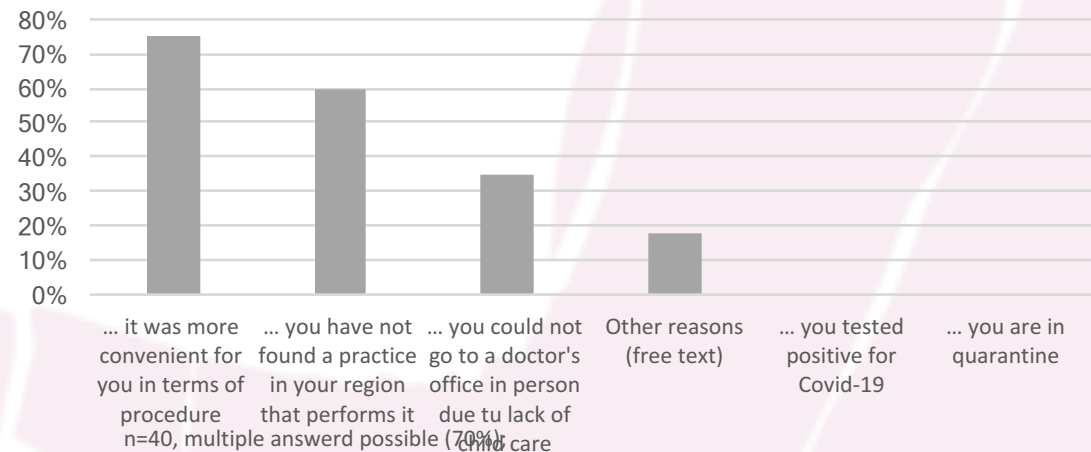
# Experiences of the first two years

- standardized questionnaires, qualitative and quantitative questions, case reports
- age: 21-30 years: 39.3%; 30-41 years: 53,6%
- became aware of the project: 56,6% pregnancy counseling service
- satisfaction: 100% would recommend the telemedical service (n= 39)
- efficacy: 98% (1x ongoing pregnancy, 1x incomplete abortion) (n=100)

Requests (n=167) and abortions (n=100)



Have you decided to have a medical abortion at home because...



# Further reasons for choosing telemedicine

limited mobility, long distances

„long waiting time“

„I was treated unkindly in my region“

„Feel safe and anonymous at home“

„Self-determination“

„takes place in a personal environment where people feel comfortable“

# The role of telemedicine in abortion

- 94 600 reported abortions in 2021 in Germany  
→ 52% vaccum aspiration, 32% medical abortion, 11% curettage <sup>(1)</sup>

## Project:

- interested clients until 03/22: 179
- accompanied abortions until 03/22: 100 (55,87%); 2021: 78 (0,26% of medical abortions 2021)
- Example Bavaria 2021: 28 (35,89%)

Bavaria 2021: total: 11.344 (12%); 66% vaccum aspiration, 22% medical abortion, 7% curettage <sup>(1)</sup> → 0,25% of all abortions, 1,02% of medical abortions

(1) [www.destatis.de](http://www.destatis.de)

# International Development

## UK 2021

- Early medical abortion at home is the most common procedure, with 52% of all women having abortions in 2021 taking both tablets at home. The percentage of medical abortion overall, accounted for 87% of abortions.

<https://www.msichoice.org.uk/news/2021-abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales/>

March  
2022

On 30 March 2022, Parliament voted in favour of an amendment to the Health and Care Bill, making the temporary approval allowing home use of both pills for early medical abortions permanent in England and Wales. These provisions will supersede the arrangements made permanent in Wales in February 2022.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2021/abortion-statistics-england-and-wales-2021>

Germany: Self organized project by family planning centre, ultrasound is needed

# Beyond the Covid-19 pandemic

- lack of medical abortion providers
- medical abortion care is not guaranteed or difficult to achieve
- Further research into the provision of abortion is needed
- need for telemedicine seems to exist in Germany and should be offered nationwide



# Thank you