

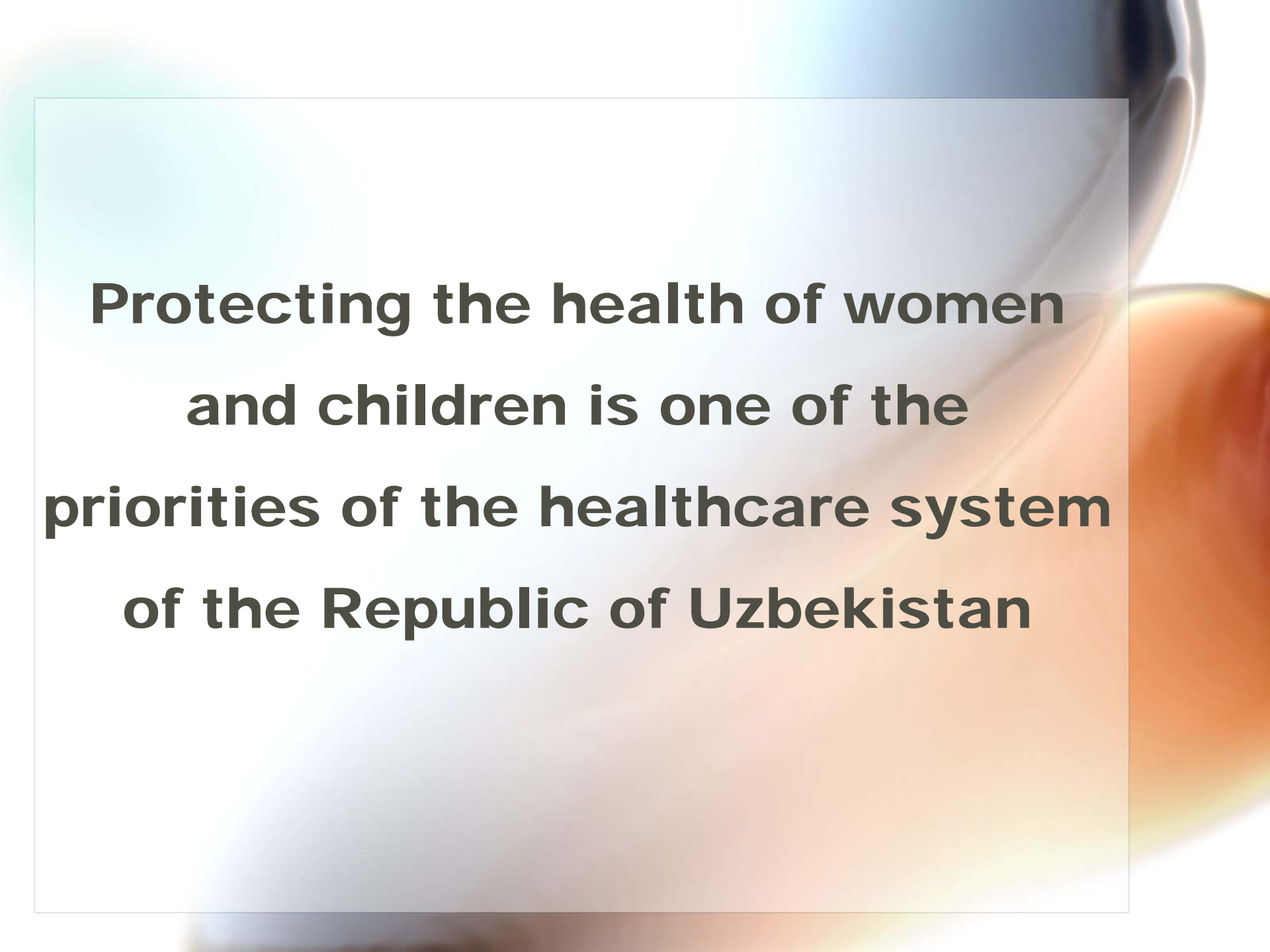


Safe Abortion in Uzbekistan: Outlook for the Future

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Protecting the health of women
and children is one of the
priorities of the healthcare system
of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Government Programs Aimed at the Protection of Reproductive Health

- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers #242, dated July 5th, 2002, “Measures to Be Taken for the Realization of Priorities in the Areas of Family Health Education, Protecting Women’s Health, and Ensuring the Healthy Birth and Upbringing of the Next Generation”
- Presidential Resolution #1096, dated April 13th, 2009, “Additional Measures for the Protection of Mothers and Children and Ensuring the Health of the Next Generation”
- Presidential Resolution #1144, dated July 1st, 2009, “The 2009-2013 Program for Furthering and Increasing the Efficiency of Current Work with the Goal of Strengthening the Reproductive Health of the Population, Ensuring the Health of Infants, and the Formation of Physically and Morally Well Developed New Generation”

Abortion in Uzbekistan

- **Termination of pregnancy in the first trimester (up to 12 weeks) is legal**
- **Termination of pregnancy in the second trimester is done when certain medical or social indications exist**

Foundational Directives of the Ministry of Public Health of Uzbekistan

1. Decree #721, dated 10.20.1996

“Formulation of Instructions and Regulations for the Procedure of Artificial Termination of Pregnancy.”

2. Decree #722, dated 10.29.1996

“Formulation of Instructions and Regulations for Artificial Termination of Early Pregnancy via Vacuum Aspiration.”

Abortion Methods in Uzbekistan

1st Trimester

- **Dilatation and curettage (D&C) – the most widespread method of abortion in the first trimester;**
- **MVA, EVA (manual, electric vacuum aspiration) – modern surgical methods of abortion, which have been implemented in medical practice since 2003.**

Medical Abortion

- **No official guidelines for performing MA;**
- **Mifepristone: officially registered trademarks Pencrofton (Russia, 2005); Mifolian (China, 2007).**
- **Misoprostol – registered as Cytotec (Pfizer, USA, 2005).**

Medical Abortion

- **MA comprises a small percentage of abortions; it is done mostly in Tashkent. MA services is poorly organized in both public and private facilities.**
- **Medications for MA are distributed on an individual basis among medical practitioners.**

Medical Abortion

- **A clinical study on the acceptability of MA in Uzbekistan (at gestational age up to 63 days LMP) has been underway since December 2008;**
- **There is a plan for the development of guidelines and a decree by the Ministry of Public Health based on the results of this clinical study.**

Abortion Methods in Uzbekistan

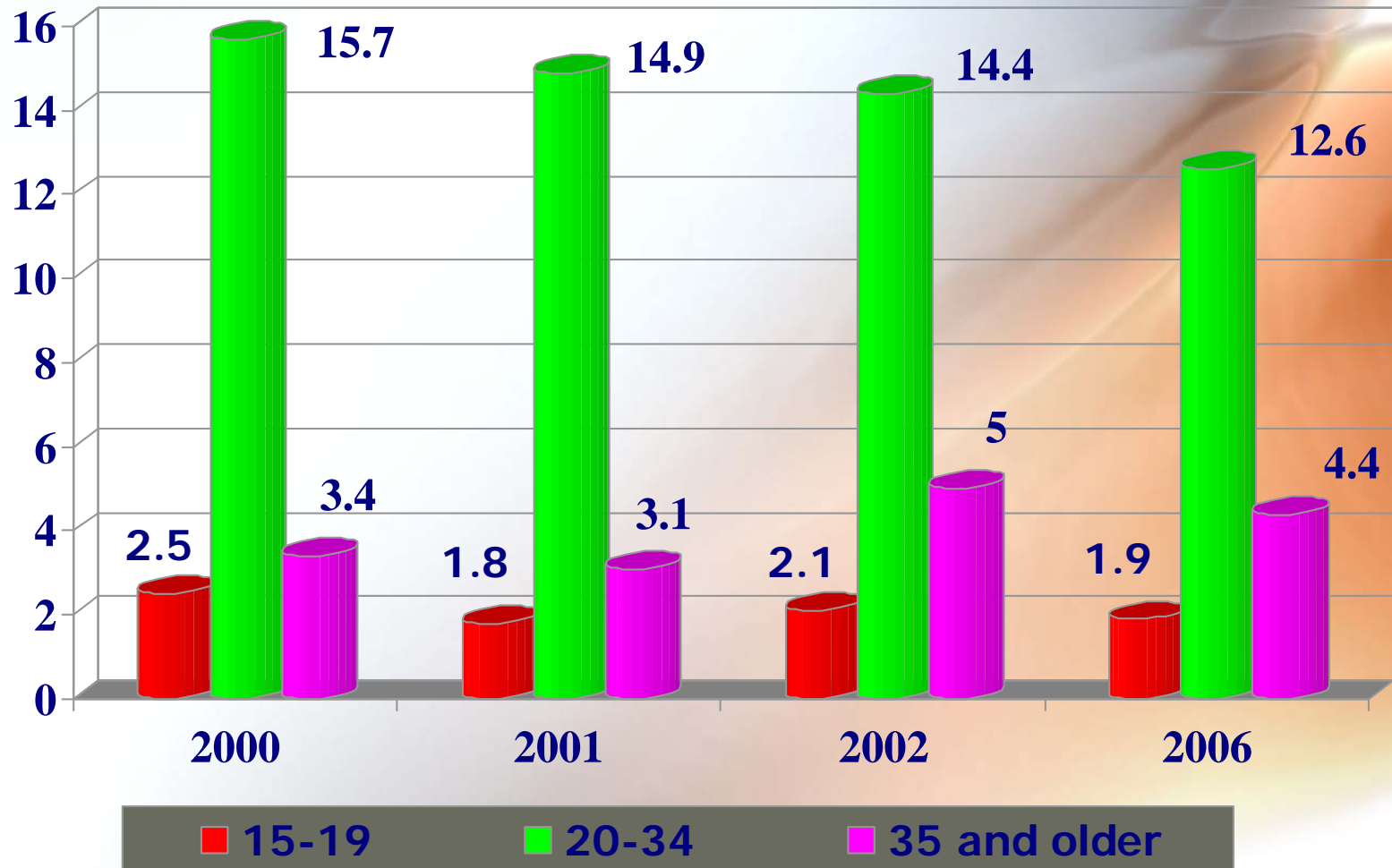
2nd Trimester

- **Intra-amniotic introduction of hypertonic saline or prostaglandins;**
- **Medical abortion using misoprostol**

Medical Abortion

MA in the 2nd trimester using misoprostol has been used since 2007, after the completion of joint clinical studies conducted by Uzbekistan's Ministry of Public Health and the University of California (USA). Research results were discussed at a conference and served as the basis for a protocol for MA in the 2nd trimester

Abortion by Age Groups (per 1,000 Women of Childbearing Age)



Issues:

- ❖ **Imperfect systems of data gathering and reporting.**
- ❖ **Lack of guidelines by the Ministry of Public Health on modern methods of abortion.**
- ❖ **Low quality of post-abortion counseling.**
- ❖ **Men are not part of the efforts to reduce the number of abortions.**