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[Zika Virus Has Significantly Increased Demand For Abortion Pills](#)

June 24, 2016 – By [Lauren R.D. Fox](#)

[29 Comments](#)



Image Source: Shutterstock

Demand for the abortion pill has increased in several Latin American countries where citizens are currently suffering from the Zika virus, says the [New England Journal of Medicine](#). In their latest study conducted with Women on Web, a non-profit organization that provides the abortion pills mifepristone and misoprostol in countries where doctors don't administer abortions, researchers focused on how the Zika virus affects the choices pregnant women have to make specifically in Latin America.



What the authors found was demand for abortion pills has increased from 36 to 76 percent in countries like Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras since the Pan American Health Organization put out an alert in 2015 that Zika causes birth defects. Orders for the abortion pill in Brazil, Ecuador and Venezuela have doubled since that time. And while these percentages may seem realistic because of the Zika virus' prevalence in tropical areas, Gilda Sedgh, the principal research scientist at Guttmacher Institute, revealed that the percentages may be skewed because Women On Web's research in the study only accounts for the women they've serviced in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The study authors also noted their "approach may underestimate the effect of the advisories on demand for abortion since many women may have used an unsafe method, accessed misoprostol from local pharmacies or the black market or visited local underground providers. But accurate data on these choices are difficult to obtain. Thus, our data provide a window on how concern about Zika virus infection may have affected the lives of pregnant women in Latin America."

Despite the differing claims the researchers have, one fact remains clear: women in Latin America don't have access to even satisfactory reproductive health care. [Jezebel](#) reports from a recent study in [The Lancet](#) that an estimated 6.5 million abortions are performed every year in Latin America, with the majority of them being illegal. Women on Web released emails that have been sent to them by women in Latin America to depict the lack of health care access and issues women face in their countries:



"I contracted Zika 4 days ago. I love children. But I don't believe it is a wise decision to keep a baby who will suffer. I need an abortion. I don't know who to turn to. Please help me ASAP!" - Anonymous, Venezuela.

Another, from Colombia, wrote:

"Here Zika is a major problem and the health authorities do not help with it ... I have no resources at this time and want to ask for your help because fear overwhelms me. What if the baby is born sick?"

The World Health Organization has predicted more than 4 million people in the Americas will contract the Zika Virus by 2017, making this abortion pill trend seem likely to continue.

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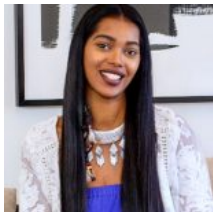
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29 Comments **MadameNoire**

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baby einstein · 6 days ago
Good. The world doesn't really need any more kids anyway.
1 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

GUEST123 → **baby einstein** · 5 days ago
Yes, I believe in another post you said your mission was to stop black women from having more bazztards. Racist.
1 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

baby einstein → **GUEST123** · 5 days ago
I never said that but i know you're a one trick pony so do you trick but it doesnt serve us any goid to keep pumping kids with no plans stop breedin heaux
^ | v · Reply · Share >

GUEST123 → **baby einstein** · 5 days ago
Oh, but you did. You made the comment to me. Racist.
^ | v · Reply · Share >

baby einstein → **GUEST123** · 3 days ago
You must have imagined it along with edges. Scram
^ | v · Reply · Share >

yoda · 6 days ago
It's shameful that women have to resort to underground methods like this instead of being able to go to a doctor and get an abortion. If I lived in one of these areas, I wouldn't want to have a child either if I contracted Zika.
3 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

Trisha_B · 6 days ago
Maybe they should make birth control pills free during this time.
6 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

HYFR · 6 days ago
If people would take the right precautions they would be less likely to face the decision of whether or not they want to kill their child. It's spread sexually as well, AND it's not even a guarantee that the baby will contract the virus in the first place. Just a bunch of murderous women using this to their advantage.
3 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

Chey → **HYFR** · 6 days ago
Very true. On the CDC website regarding Zika Virus and pregnancy, it's just a bunch of "we don't know". Like, it's up in the air whether the virus will ultimately be transmitted to these babies or not. And if it is, they don't know if the baby will even develop defects.
^ | v · Reply · Share >

yelpforhelp → **Chey** · 6 days ago
Are you willing to take that chance?
^ | v · Reply · Share >

Chey → **yelpforhelp** · 6 days ago
I certainly wouldn't kill my child, so yes. I suppose I would be.
1 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

yelpforhelp → **Chey** · 6 days ago
God bless the child.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

Chey → yelpforhelp · 6 days ago

Amen.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



AmandaaGee → Chey · 5 days ago

I agree Chey. Everyone deserves the right to live.

God Bless you girl. Hope u doing well.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

Chey → AmandaaGee · 4 days ago

Thank you and God bless you AmandaaGee. I appreciate that and hope you're doing well also!

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Ah Well → Chey · 5 days ago

Good for you. I'd be swallowing that abortion pill.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

StraightShooter → HYFR · 6 days ago

Latin American countries don't allow birth control at all.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



HYFR → StraightShooter · 6 days ago

What's that got to do with condoms and abstinence?

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Mr. 215 → HYFR · 6 days ago

Exactly! But that makes too much damn sense now doesn't it! All the more reason to be more cautious about sexual activity, but instead women would rather throw caution to the wind and still have unprotected sex and have an excuse to murder an innocent child rather than be abstinant or the man they are screwing use a condom, but again, makes too much damn sense doesn't it?

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



guest → Mr. 215 · 5 days ago

Yawn. No thanks. I'd rather bone freely.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

StraightShooter → HYFR · 6 days ago

Perhaps, you should do some research about the high level of sexual violence that occurs in these countries. Again contraception is hard to come by and this includes condoms. Some people are married and therefore, abstaining is not a good option. It also doesn't address the problem of rape.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



guest → HYFR · 5 days ago

We like to bone. Duhhhh.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



guest → HYFR · 5 days ago

So abortions make you mad huh? I'm gonna have 20 of them.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

IanMC · 6 days ago

In Brazil abortion is illegal in name only, any gyno can and will perform an abortion for the right amount of cash specially after a doctor who reported on a patient in Sao Paulo for having an abortion lost his license, doctors by law have to report if they know but in reality if they do they lose their medical license. I can't speak for other countries but Brazil also offers free condom and over the counter birth control pill are very easy accessible and cheap, way better than here in the US. Again, I can't speak for other countries only for Brazil.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

yelpforhelp → IanMC · 6 days ago

That is good to know. Thank you for sharing that. There was a report of someone contracting it in Jamaica as well. This all is so sad.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

Mackenzie Madison Persaud · 6 days ago

Why not use birth control with condoms to prevent pregnancy altogether?

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

JustAThought → Mackenzie Madison Persaud · 5 days ago

Most Latin country's are catholic and they don't believe on BC of any kind.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

Mackenzie Madison Persaud → JustAThought · 5 days ago

But they believe In abortion?

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Guest → Mackenzie Madison Persaud · 5 days ago

Of course not, thats why both abortion and birth control are extremely difficult to come by. But you'll always find some back alley surgeon with a hanger and a bottle of rum to do the job.

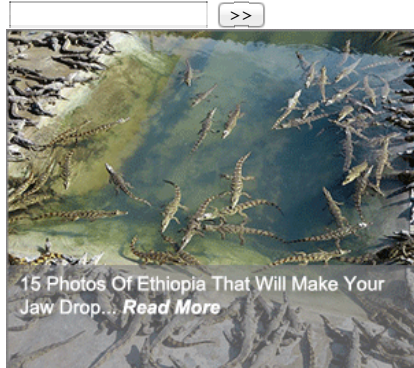
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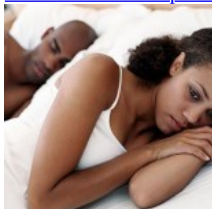
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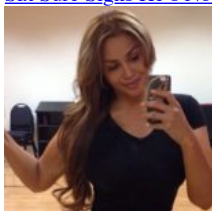
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