

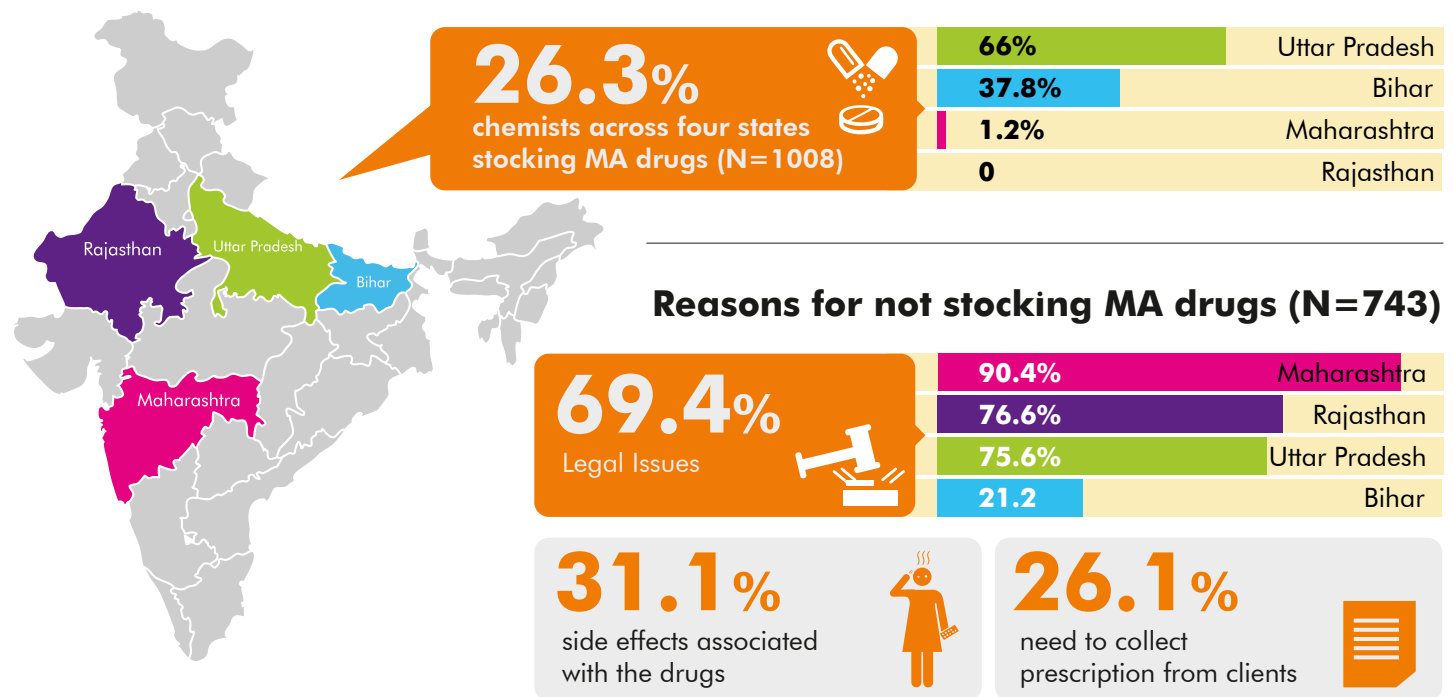
# Availability of Medical Abortion drugs in the markets of four Indian states, 2018

Bihar, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh

20 cities, 4 states, 1008 retail chemists

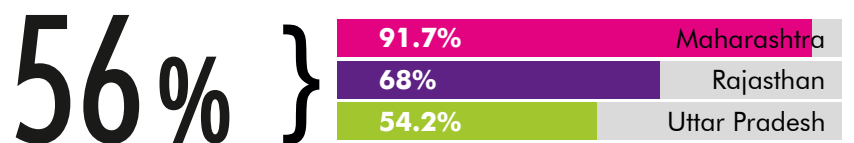
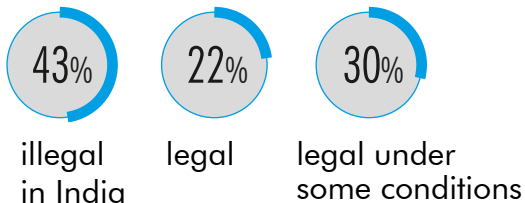


## Key Findings:

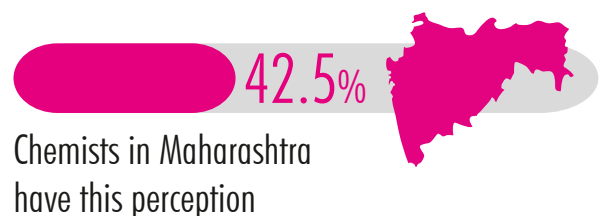
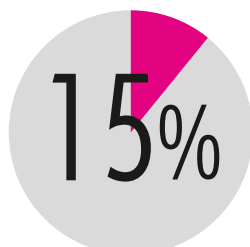


## Awareness on abortion (N=1008)

Chemists reported abortion is



Chemists (N=1008) hold an incorrect understanding that combipack MA drugs can be used for sex selective abortions



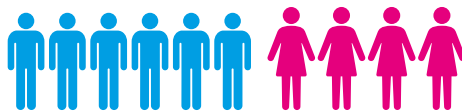
Specific MA related visits (N = 922) were high in

14.3%

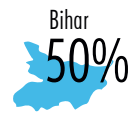
Rajasthan

17.4%

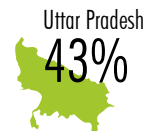
Maharashtra



On an average, out of the last 10 MA clients, six were men and four were women



Bihar  
50%



Uttar Pradesh  
43%

Out of the last 10 clients, 50% in Bihar and 43% in Uttar Pradesh came with a doctor's prescription to purchase MA drugs

## Key Recommendations:

- ✓ Drug Controller General of India should issue guidance to state and district drug controllers clarifying that combipack MA drugs cannot be used for sex selective abortions
- ✓ MA drugs should be held to the same standards as other schedule H drugs
- ✓ State drug regulatory authorities should be updated on the provisions of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, its rules and regulations
- ✓ Existing Government of India guidance on ensuring access to safe abortion and addressing gender biased sex selection should be widely disseminated
- ✓ Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Rules should be amended to allow all MBBS doctors to prescribe MA drugs
- ✓ The Drug Controller General of India's (DCGI) approval and MTP rules should be made consistent. Currently DCGI allows the use of combipack MA drugs up to nine weeks while MTP rules have specified its use only up to seven weeks
- ✓ Government of India in partnership with Drugs and Chemists Associations and manufacturing companies could update the chemists on vital information about abortion in general and MA drugs in particular
- ✓ The Government at all levels should increase investment in safe abortion communication through Information Education Communication and media outreach
- ✓ Women accessing drugs without prescriptions should be provided support and information through alternate channels such as helpline services and visual and multilingual product inserts

