

Timid progress in Prevention of Unsafe Abortion in Latin America and Africa

**FIAPAC Congress
Lisbon, Portugal,
October 14-16, 2016**

FIGO Initiative on Prevention of unsafe abortion

- **Started in 2008 with 43 countries that presented a plan of action. Currently 47 countries participate**
- **Latin America had 16 and Sub-Saharan Africa had 12 societies, since the beginning of the Initiative**

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- In recognition of the variety of cultures, religious and political conditions of each country, FIGO proposed to act following the different levels of prevention, applying epidemiological principles to Unsafe Abortion.**

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- **Primary Prevention:** Prevent unintended pregnancies (the etiological factor)

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- **Secondary Prevention:** Unintended pregnancy present, the abortion should be safe (prevent the disease)

How to reduce unsafe abortion and its consequences

- **Tertiary Prevention:** If unsafe abortion occurred, prevent complications and death (proper care of abortion complications)

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- **Tertiary Prevention:** If unsafe abortion occurred, prevent complications and death (proper care of abortion complications)
- **Quaternary Prevention:** Prevent repetition of abortion through Post-abortion counseling and contraceptive services

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- **All countries prepared plans of actions (FIGO member society + MoH), applying some or all those strategies.**
- **They were made accountable of implementation by reporting progress every year at Regional Workshops.**

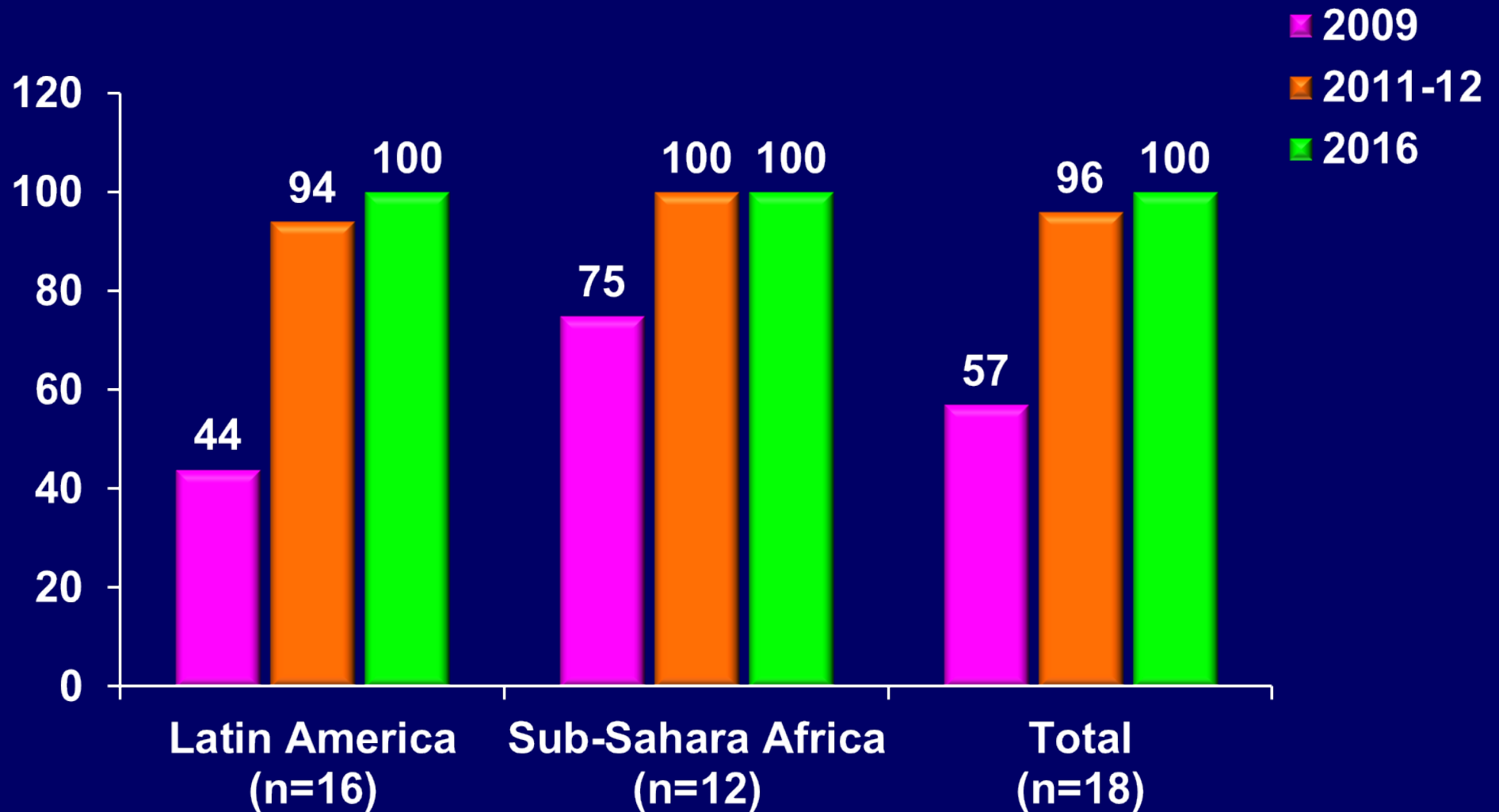
FIGO Initiative on Prevention of unsafe abortion

- Plans were update every year, influenced by the example of others and discussions during workshop.**
- The objectives of the plans of action and the progress reports allows to evaluate the evolution in the implementation of the various strategies**

FIGO Initiative on Prevention of unsafe abortion

- **The proportion of the 28 countries from Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa which were implementing the strategies are indicators of the progress achieved in those countries**

Improve care of incomplete abortion (MVA or Misoprostol instead of Curettage)



Why “timid” if all countries had introduced MVA and misoprostol for Legal Termination of Pregnancy (LTP) or incomplete abortion care?

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Why “timid” if all countries had introduced MVA and misoprostol for LTP or incomplete abortion care?

- **Although introduced in all countries, in some it is still limited to teaching hospitals**
- **In none of the countries is universally adopted, although in some it is very close to it**

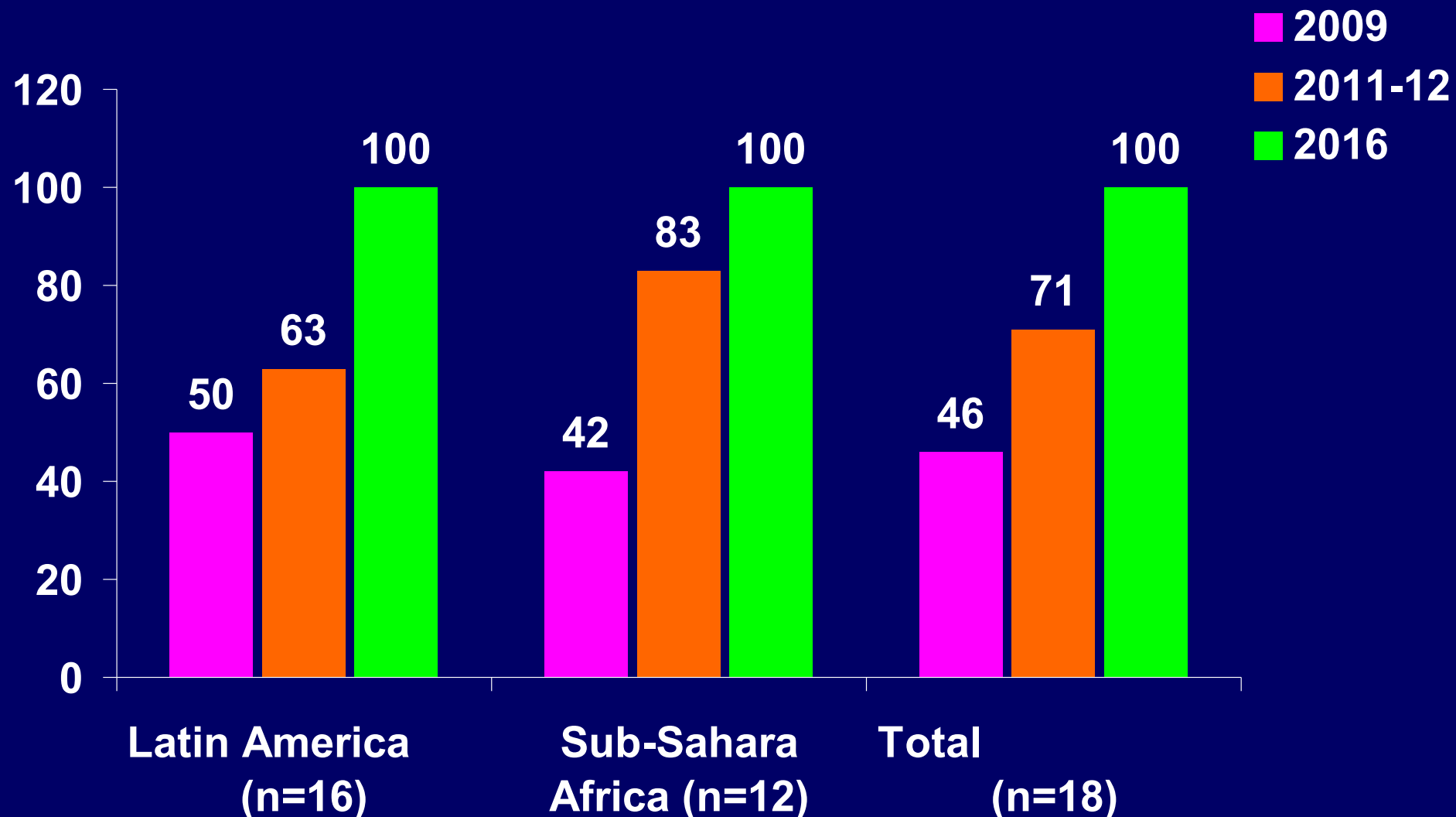
Why “timid” if all countries had introduced MVA and misoprostol for incomplete abortion care

- **Initial resistance: seen as a way of facilitating pregnancy termination.**

Why “timid” if all countries had introduced MVA and misoprostol for incomplete abortion care

- **Initial resistance: seen as a way of facilitating pregnancy termination.**
- **Currently introduced even in the most conservative countries and is part of residence training in all countries**

Introduction or expansion of Post Abortion Contraception



**Why “timid” if all countries had
introduced Post Abortion
Contraception in their Programs?**

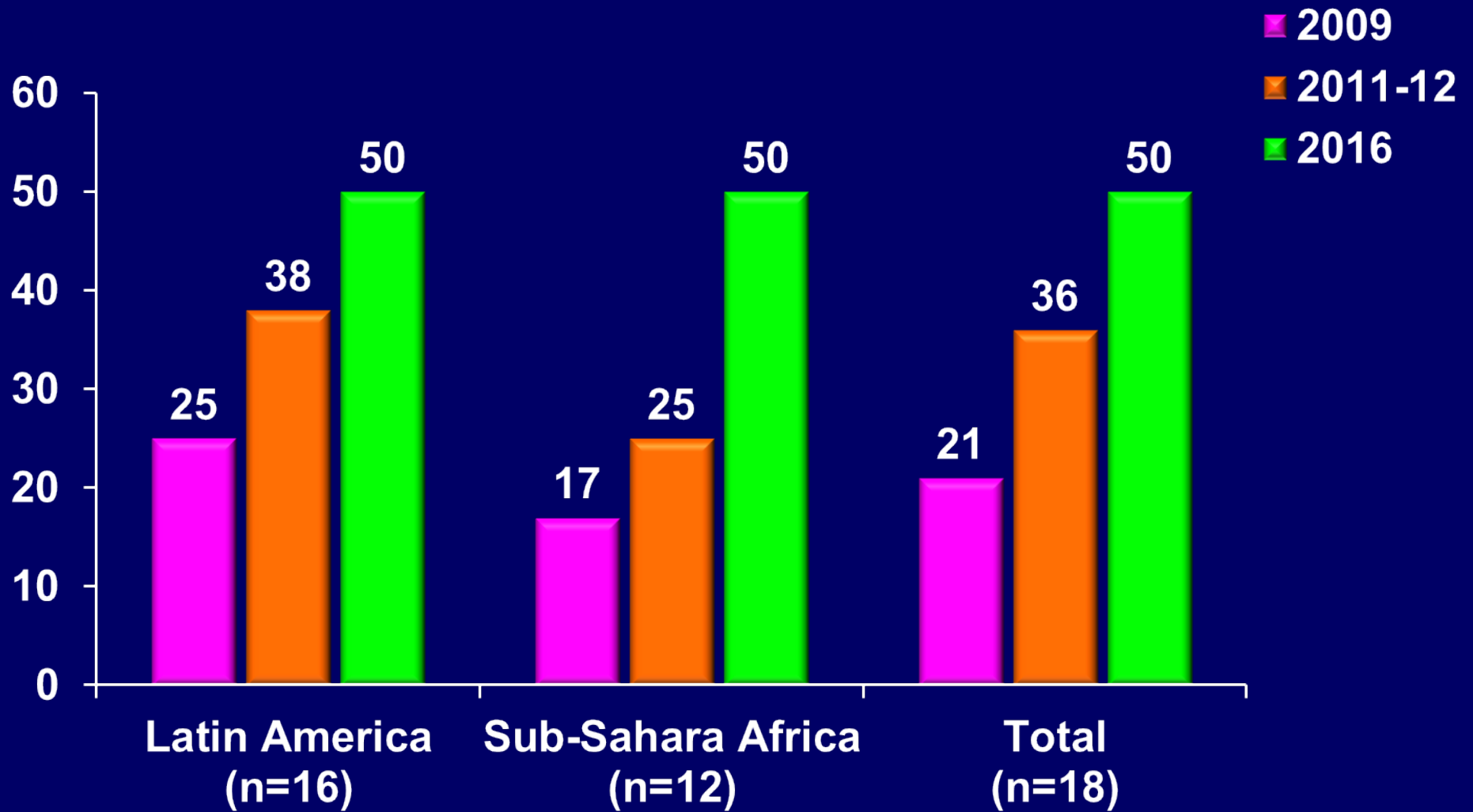
Why “timid” if all countries had introduced post abortion contraception

- **Although all countries have introduced post abortion contraception, it is not yet everywhere,**

Why “timid” if all countries had introduced post abortion contraception

- **Although all countries have introduced post abortion contraception, it is not yet everywhere,**
- **The use of LARC is still very low.**
- **One important barrier is lack of methods.**

Increase access to safe abortion



Increased access to safe abortion in the full extent of the law

- **Only 50% of these countries offering safe abortion services can be qualified as “timid” progress, although the proportion of countries offering these services more than doubled**

Increased access to safe abortion in the full extent of the law

- **Five of the eight countries in Latin America, which have not yet increased access to safe abortion within the law are those where abortion is not permitted in any circumstances**

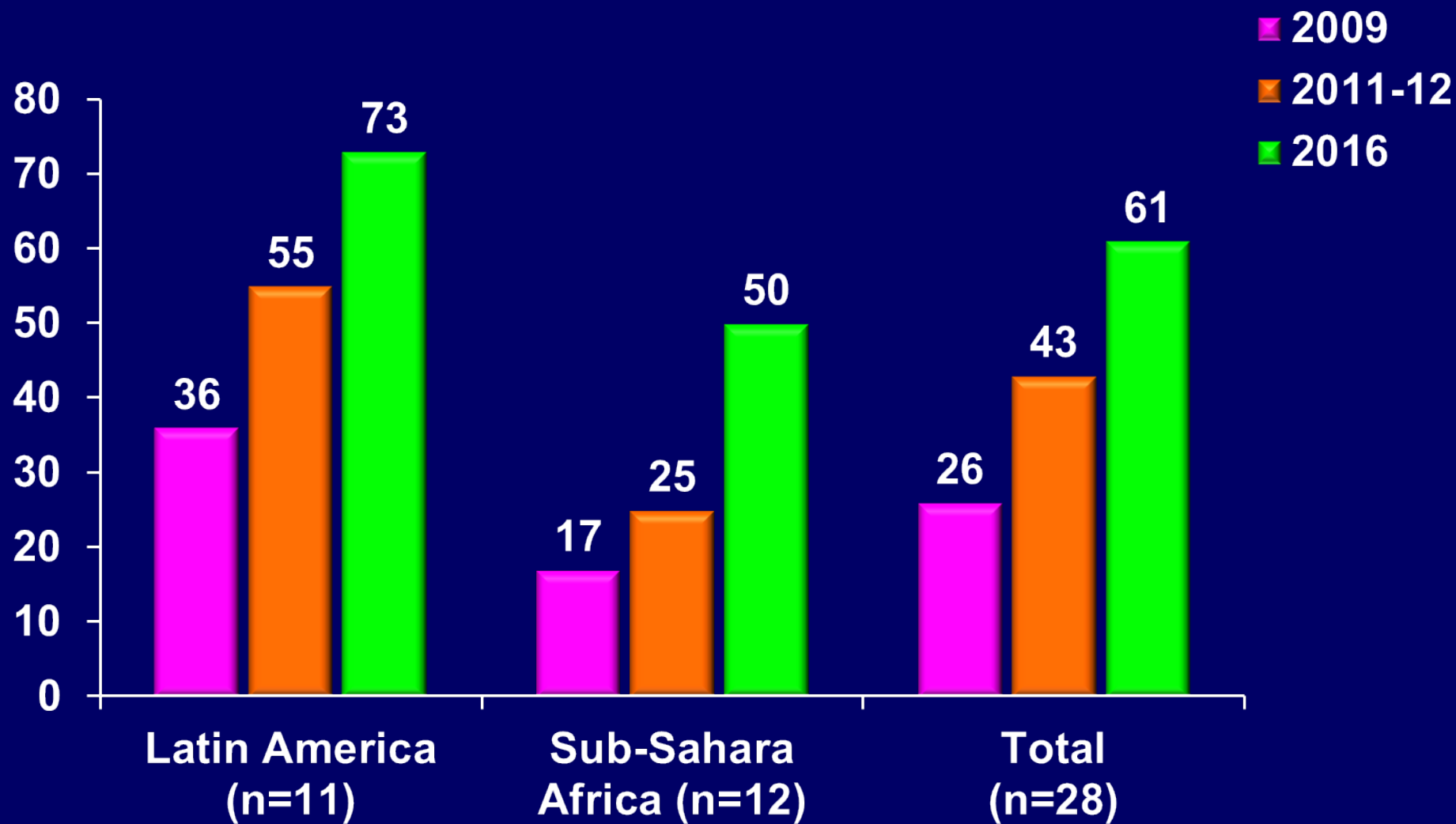
Increased access to safe abortion in the full extent of the law

- **Five of the eight countries in Latin America, which have not yet increased access to safe abortion within the law are those where abortion is not permitted in any circumstances**
- **The societies of four of these five countries are actively involve in advocating to liberalize the law**

Increased access to safe abortion in the full extent of the law

- Excluding the five countries of Latin America where the law does not permit abortion in any circumstance, the proportion of countries that introduce provision of safe abortion within the law is greater

Increase access to safe abortion (excluding countries where abortion law does not allow abortion in any circumstance)



Increased access to safe abortion in the full extent of the law

- **Only 61% of these countries offering safe abortion services can still be qualified as “timid” progress,**

Increased access to safe abortion in the full extent of the law

- Only 61% of these countries offering safe abortion services can still be qualified as “timid” progress,
- In several of these countries it was hard to give **abortion** its own name at the beginning

Progress achieved by the FIGO Initiative on Prevention of Unsafe Abortion

- **Progress was achieved in stages:**

- 1. Unsafe abortion exists, causes great damage to woman and actions should be taken to prevent it.**

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Progress achieved by the FIGO Initiative on Prevention of Unsafe Abortion

- **Progress was slow and achieved in stages:**
 - 1. Unsafe abortion exists, causes great damage to woman and actions should be taken to prevent it**
 - 2. Restrictive abortion laws and lack of access to safe abortion do not reduce the number of abortions**
 - 3. Provision of safe abortion services within the limits of the law is a women's right and providers obligation**

Increased access to safe abortion in the full extent of the law

- **Progress had been “timid”, but it is a great contrast with previous decades of stagnation, when laws that allowed abortion in several circumstances had never been applied**