

KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE OF MEDICATION ABORTION BY IN-SCHOOL YOUTH IN URBAN NIGERIA

**Duru Chinyere, Oluwatoyin Owolabi, Friday
Okonofua**

**Women's Health and Action Research Centre
(WHARC), Benin City, Nigeria**

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INTRODUCTION

- Abortion is a major public health problem in Nigeria
- Despite the prevailing legally restrictive abortion law, up to 760,000 unsafe abortion procedures take place in the country annually
- Abortion accounts for 13% of maternal deaths in Nigeria, the majority of which occur in young women aged less than 30 years.
- The increased availability of medication abortion with misoprostol and mifepristone has increased the possibility that young women could have access to self-induced and more safe abortion procedures, thereby reducing the rate of abortion-related complications in the country.

STUDY OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study were as follows:

- To determine what female students at the University of Benin in Nigeria know or do not know about medication abortion methods;
- For those who report having experienced unwanted pregnancies, to determine their use or non-use of evidence-based medication abortion methods;
- To make recommendations on use of medication abortion procedures by youth in the country.

METHODOLOGY



Study population: female students in residence at UNIBEN

395 students chosen by systematic random sampling from halls of residence

Questionnaires: self-administered after informed consent

RESPONDENTS' SOCIO- DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES

Variables	Frequency	Percent
Respondents Age:		
10-19	70	17.7
20-29	257	65.1
>30 years	34	8.6
Marital Status:		
Single	390	73.4
Married	56	14.2
Others	3	0.8
Religion:		
Pentecostal	191	48.4
Catholic	110	27.8
Jehovah Witness	40	10.1
Muslim	25	6.3
Anglican	14	3.5

SEXUALITY ACTIVE AND EXPERIENCE OF PREVIOUS PREGNANCY

Variables	Frequency	Percent
Those sexually active	213	53.7
Have you ever been Pregnant before.		
Yes	147	37.2
Outcome of the Pregnancy:		
Delivered the baby	67	17.0
Induced abortion	65	16.6
Had a miscarriage	15	3.8

COMPARATIVE KAP OF FAMILY PLANNING AND MEDICATION ABORTION AMONG SEXUALLY ACTIVE YOUTH

	FP	MA
Knowledge of method:	22%	31.4%
Use of Method:	41.5%	77.5%

KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF MA BY SEXUALLY ACTIVE YOUTH

Method	N (%) knowing method	N (%) using Method
Prostinor 2	64(30.0)	14 (6.6)
Misoprostol	44(20.7)	21 (9.9)
Menstrogen	43(20.2)	30(14.1)
Gynecosid	42(19.7)	36(16.9)

Others mentioned: Buscopan, Andrew Liver Salt, Quinine, Chloroquine, “Confidence” tablets

EXPERIENCES OF 131 YOUTH REPORTING USE OF MA

Failure of termination	72 (55.0%)
Admission in Hospital	27 (20.6%)
Severe vaginal bleeding	12 (9.2%)
Abdominal Pain	48 (36.6%)
Diarrheal	2 (1.5%)
Infection	30 (22.9%)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT MA

Friends	66 (50.4%)
Health Workers	27 (20.6%)
Pharmacists	26 (19.8%)
Mass media	7 (5.3%)
Not stated	5 (3.8%)

OBSERVATIONS

- Among sexually active youth, about one third say they knew an MA method, while up to 75% reported previous use of an MA method
- Use of MA was more popularly than reported use of contraceptives among the youth
- Among the MA methods listed only misoprostol has medical effectiveness as an MA, while the others are ineffective
- Mifepristone was not mentioned as an MA method by the youth
- High rates of failure, hospitalization and side effects were reported by the youth when using MA

CONCLUSIONS

- We conclude that there is a high desire among this cohort of youth to use medication abortion methods
- However, their knowledge and use of evidence-based medication abortion method is poor
- There is a need to provide information on appropriate contraceptives and medication abortion methods to stem the high rate of morbidity and mortality associated with unsafe abortion in the country

THANK YOU