

Predictors of Abortion in Marital Union among Ghanaian Women of Reproductive Age

Aanuoluwapo Afolabi¹ &, Tosin Olajide², Ayo Adebawale³, Akanni Akinyemi⁴

¹ Technical and Strategic Research Directorate, MSI Nigeria Reproductive Choices, Abuja, Nigeria.

² Department of Demography and Social Statistics, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

³ Department of Epidemiology and Medical Statistics, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

⁴ Centre for Research Evaluation Resources and Development, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

ABSTRACT

Introduction

Abortion in marriage is a social issue of an important concern, especially in African traditional societies like Ghana. The health and social consequences of this practice are enormous and abortion in marriage's research is often neglected. We aimed to describe the predictors of abortion in marital union among Ghanaian women of reproductive age.

Methods

This cross-sectional study utilized 2014 Ghana demographic and health survey's data. A stratified two-stage cluster sampling technique was used to select women aged 15-49 years. However, this study focused on married women (n=1,828). Pregnancy termination in marriage was used in this study as a proxy for abortion in marriage. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and logistic regression model ($\alpha=0.05$).

Results

The mean age of the women and their husbands was 33 ± 7.68 years and 39 ± 8.91 years respectively. Overall, 483 (30.4%) of women had experienced abortion in marriage. Women aged above ≥ 35 years had nearly two times higher odds of abortion (AOR = 1.658, 95%CI = 1.155-2.379, $p = 0.006$) than those aged 15-24 years. The odds of abortion was twice higher among the women in richest wealth quintile (AOR = 2.294, 95%CI = 1.329-3.959, $p = 0.003$) compared with those in the poorest wealth quintile. The odds of abortion was higher among women whose first sex was not in union (AOR = 1.467, 95%CI = 1.145-1.880, $p = 0.002$) compared to those whose period of first sex was in union.

Discussion

Abortion in marriage is still very prevalent in Ghana. Although, variation existed among the subgroup of the population. Therefore, abortion reduction strategies that target early child bearing and improved contraceptive education will address the high abortion prevalence among older women and women in the richest wealth quintile in Ghana.

Keywords: Abortion, Abortion in marriage, Pregnancy termination, Unintended pregnancy, Ghana.

Corresponding author:

Aanuoluwapo Adeyinka Afolabi

Technical and Strategic Research Directorate, MSI Nigeria
Reproductive Choices, Abuja, Nigeria.

Email: afoannade@gmail.com

Tel: 08146764516