

Preventing Unsafe Abortion in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

This paper reviews pertinent literature and identifies research needs relating to unsafe abortion in Nigeria. The paper is organised into three sections. In the first part of the article, a conceptual framework for developing a research agenda to prevent unsafe abortion among Nigerian women is articulated. This section argues for a systematic research agenda that would allow a fuller understanding of the determinants of all segments of the induced abortion cycle. In the second section of the article, we offer a detailed description of the available research data as well as gaps in knowledge on unsafe abortion in Nigeria. In the final part of the paper, recommendations are made on priority areas of research that are capable of stemming the high rate of morbidity and mortality from unsafe abortion among Nigerian women. In particular, the paper recommends high quality, multidisciplinary formative and intervention research to foster an understanding of the determinants of abortion among Nigerian women. Such research should be geared toward providing accurate information to policy makers in a logical manner so as to enable them to generate appropriate policies for preventing unsafe abortion. (*Afr J Reprod Health* 1997;1(1):25–36)

RÉSUMÉ

Programme de recherche pour la prévention de l'avortement clandestin au Nigéria

Cet article fait une revue de littérature pour identifier les besoins de recherche sur l'avortement clandestin au Nigéria. L'article est organisé en trois parties. Dans la première partie, on définit un cadre conceptuel pour le développement d'un programme de recherche pour la prévention de l'avortement clandestin chez les Nigériennes. Cette section plaide pour un programme systématique de recherche qui permettrait une plus complexe compréhension des déterminants du processus de l'avortement provoqué chez les Nigériennes. Dans la seconde partie on présente une analyse détaillée des données disponibles ainsi que des lacunes en matière de connaissances sur l'avortement clandestin. Dans la dernière partie on offre, des recommandations sur les priorités de recherche susceptibles d'enrayer les taux élevés de mortalité et de morbidité liées à l'avortement clandestin chez les Nigériennes. En particulier, l'article recommande une recherche pluridisciplinaire d'haut niveau à caractère éducatif et pratique pour la promotion de la compréhension des déterminants de l'avortement chez les Nigériennes. De telles recherches devraient aboutir à une information précise des décideurs politiques afin de leur permettre d'adopter des mesures adaptées à la prévention de l'avortement clandestin. (*Afr J Reprod Health* 1997;1(1):25–36)

KEY WORDS: *Nigerian women, unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion, contraceptives, adolescents, practitioners*

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to design sustainable programmes and initiatives for lobbying key community leaders and policy makers on the need to liberalise the abortion law.

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