

Title: Do Fertility Intention and Experience of Unwanted Pregnancy Influence Contraceptive Behaviour?

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Sessions

113 – Fertility intentions, reproductive health and fertility (organizer – Abma)

106 – Family planning, reproductive health and fertility in Africa (organizer – Johnson-Hanks)

Short abstract

This paper investigates the joint effect of fertility intention and experience of unwanted pregnancy on contraceptive use among women aged 15-49 years in urban Kenya. Studies have shown that fertility intention of women is a good predictor of their contraceptive behavior while use of ineffective method of contraception often lead to unwanted pregnancy among women who want to delay or stop childbearing. However, the impact of experience(s) of unwanted pregnancy on contraceptive use and how this is moderated by fertility intention of women remain largely unexplored. Data for the paper will be obtained from an ongoing study in two slum and two non-slum settlements in urban Kenya. Bivariate methods will be used to establish associations while multivariate methods will be used to isolate the individual and joint influence of fertility intention and experience of unwanted pregnancy on contraceptive use. The implications of the findings will be discussed.

Extended abstract

Background: Studies have shown that fertility intention of women is a good predictor of their contraceptive behavior (Doodoo, 2001; Cochrane and Guilkey, 1995). On the other hand, the use of ineffective method of contraception often leads to unwanted pregnancy among women who do not want or want to stop having children (Ibisomi, 2007; Schwab Zabin, 1999). However, the impact of experience(s) of unwanted pregnancy on contraceptive use and how this is moderated by the fertility intention of women remain largely unexplored. This paper seeks to (1) describe the current fertility intention, experience of unwanted pregnancy, current contraceptive behavior and other selected characteristics of women in slum and non-slum settlements of urban Kenya,

(2) examine the associations between current fertility intention, experience of unwanted pregnancy and current contraceptive behavior among the women, (3) examine whether current fertility intention and experience of unwanted pregnancy are individually significant predictors of contraceptive use among women in slum and non-slum settlements of urban Kenya and (4) examine whether current fertility intention and experience of unwanted pregnancy jointly predict current contraceptive use among these women.

Methods: The study will use *data from an on-going study in two slum settlements - Korogocho and Viwandani - and two non-slum settlements - Harambee and Jericho - all in Nairobi, Kenya.* In Korogocho and Viwandani APHRC operates the Nairobi Urban Health and Demographic Surveillance System (NUHDSS), which collects routine health and demographic data. It also collects routine demographic and educational data from about 4,000 households in Harambee and Jericho.

A two-stage sampling strategy is used to select about 2,000 women aged 15 – 49 years residing in the study areas. Using structured questionnaire, information collected include: respondents' social, economic, demographic, pregnancy and birth histories (including miscarriages and or induced abortions, stillbirths, and neonatal deaths) as well as respondents' past and current contraceptive behavior and current fertility intentions. We also sought information on whether the responding woman had ever had a pregnancy that she did not want to have, the number of times this had happened, why the pregnancy was unwanted as well as the socio-economic and other vital information of the woman at the time of occurrence of each episode.

Data Analysis: The data will be analyzed using STATA. Analysis to be done will include descriptive statistics of the characteristics of the sampled respondents as well as their fertility intentions, experience of unwanted pregnancy and current contraceptive behaviour. At the second stage of analysis, we shall fit bivariate models to examine the associations between respondents' fertility intention, experience of unwanted pregnancy and the outcome variable – current contraceptive use. Multivariate logistic regression modeling will then be carried out to

examine the strength of relationship of fertility intention and experience of unwanted pregnancy (in the presence of other covariates) to contraceptive use. Lastly, the interaction of fertility intention and unwanted pregnancy will be included in the model to examine their joint effect on current contraceptive behavior of the sampled respondents. Other covariates in the models will include: respondents' age, level of education, marital status, socio-economic status, study sites, ethnicity and number of living children. The dependent variable will be coded into two categories – Modern method and other (not using and other non-modern methods).

Ethical consideration: Interviewers obtain written informed consent to participate in the study from each respondent. Information on the informed consent forms include the purpose of the study, what participation entails (including its voluntariness) and the risks and benefits of participating in the study. The confidentiality of the information collected was also assured.

Results: The data entry will be completed in December 2009 and data analysis will commence in January 2010. The results will present issues highlighted in the objectives using the methods indicated in the data analysis section.

Programme and policy implication: The study results will provide further evidence on the linkages between fertility intention, unwanted pregnancy and contraceptive behaviour. They will also provide evidence of the reproductive health needs of women in Kenya (and elsewhere) and the ways through which pregnancy prevention and family planning services can provide wider benefits for women and their households.

References

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