

ADOLESCENT FERTILITY AND USAGE OF FAMILY PLANNING METHODS AMONG WOMEN IN CONTEMPORARY YORUBA SOCIETY, NIGERIA.

By

John Lekan Oyefara, Ph.D.

ABSTRACT

This article investigates the relationships that exist between adolescent fertility and usage of family planning methods among women in contemporary Yoruba society, Nigeria. The understanding of the interrelationship between women's age at first birth and family planning variables is of direct relevance to health planners and policymakers attempting to control population variables and encourage safe motherhood. To achieve the central objective of the study, quantitative data were generated from 1,000 women in one of the six Yoruba speaking States in Nigeria: Osun State. A multi-stage random sampling technique was adopted to select the respondents, while the simple percentages and chi-square statistical method of analysis were adopted to analyse the generated data. Findings of the study show significant relationships between adolescent fertility and family planning variables at $P < 0.01$. Specially, adolescent mothers exhibit significantly lower level of knowledge and current use of family planning methods compared with older mothers. On the basis of the findings, it has been recommended that state governments, local and international non-state actors working on safe motherhood in the Yoruba society need to reach adolescent mothers in-and-outside health institutions with appropriate messages on contraceptive methods and services through Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) channels in order to improve maternal health and reduce high population growth rate in the Yoruba society.