ABORTION AND PREGNANCY PREVENTION COUNSELING FOR TEEN GIRLS; IMPLICATIONS FROM RESEARCH ON TEEN MOTHERS’ VIEWS: The Case of Asembo, Rural Western Kenya.

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Unsafe abortions and their complications are a major cause of maternal mortality especially among teen girls.

Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest death rates from induced abortion.

In Kenya, 30800 abortions are reported annually, majority of which are among adolescents.

Early sexual debut coupled with low contraceptive use lead to high rates of pregnancy mostly resulting into abortion.

In 2007: We conducted a qualitative study among teenagers in Asembo.
The general objective of the study was:

- to explore the determinants of contraceptive uptake among never married teenagers aged 13-19 years in Asembo

The study looked at the views on abortion among teen mothers in Asembo
Methods

- **Mobilization**
  - Mainly through local youth committees who proposed initial participants
  - Flyers distributed to youth in the community

- **Sampling**: Purposive, nomination & snowball techniques
  - Purposive sampling used to select villages
  - Nomination and snowball techniques used to select participants
    - Nomination - Generated list & most recurring names selected
    - Snowball - Proposed participants asked to in turn propose others
Methods (2)

- **Data collection:**
  - In-depth Interviews (IDIs)
  - In local language (Dholuo)

- **Data analysis:**
  - Interviews transcribed verbatim, translated and manually analyzed around themes of study
Results (N=9)

- 9 IDIs
- Data collected between July & August 2007
- Demographic Description of Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age in Yr. (median)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education (median Class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of Children (median)</td>
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</tbody>
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Results

- Abortion was reportedly common among teen girls in Asembo.
- More than half of the teen mothers reported having wanted or being advised by boyfriends, peers or parents to abort.
- Lack of accurate information on pregnancy prevention was reported to be one of the main contributors to unplanned pregnancy.
Results 2

- Reasons for abortion included
  - Fear of being seen pregnant by others
  - Cruelty of parents, especially fathers
  - Fear of being dumped by boyfriends or the boyfriends refusing to take responsibility
  - Stigma and challenges associated with carrying the pregnancy to term

- Teens have good knowledge of effects of abortion including death and inability to bear children
Conclusions and recommendations

- Abortion is common among teen girls in Asembo
- Teen girls know the effects of abortion but still abort
- Abortion due to stigma and challenges associated with carrying the pregnancy
- Teen girls get pregnant for lack of accurate information on pregnancy prevention
Conclusions and Recommendations

- Pregnant girls should access counseling services.
- Counseling teen girls should involve providing accurate information on pregnancy prevention.
- Such counseling should also focus on making them aware of and preparing them to handle the challenges that come with teen pregnancy to prevent resorting to abortion.
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