

Using Household Surveys to Measure Abortion Morbidity

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Special considerations for measuring abortion morbidity

- Lack of familiarity with abortion methods
- Women not trained to properly diagnose
- R's may not know specifics of others' abortions experiences
- Men may not know re: abortion morbidity
- Women may differ in what health comp. they associate with the abortion

Household Surveys

- Self-administered questionnaire (SAQ)
- Face to Face Surveys (FTF) + (CAPI)
- Audio computer-assisted self-interviewing (ACASI) + (secret envelope)

Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ)

PROS

- Less expensive
- Confidential
- Possible to obtain detailed information about abortion experience
- Eliminates interviewer bias

CONS

- Low item response rate
- Requires literacy
- Concerns about data validity with low-education populations

Face to Face (FTF) Surveys

PROS

- Possible to obtain detailed information about abortion experience
- High item response rate
- Int. can explore contradictory info.
- Int. can make helpful observations

CONS

- Expensive
- Less private
- Language match
- Subject to interviewer bias

Guttmacher experience: The Grid Method

Nigeria

- 2002-2003 in 8 states
- Not nationally representative
- Women 15-49
- N=2,972

Philippines

- 2003-2004
- Nationally and regionally representative
- Women 15-49
- N=4,094

The Grid

Now, let us talk in more detail about each of the thing (s) that you did/ BEFORE SEEING THE PERSON WHO STOPPED THAT PREGNANCY or until you stopped attempting to end that pregnancy. Let us start with the first thing that you did and which you already mentioned and continue in consecutive order up to the last thing you did.

<p>a. Describe the first thing you did or the step you took the last time you attempted to stop a pregnancy. (Who did you see or what did you do yourself?) [PROBE: WHO?]</p>	<p>b. Where did you see the person or obtain the thing(s) that you used? [PROBE: WHERE?]</p>	<p>c. What did the person do or use or what did you use? [PROBE: WHAT?]</p>	<p>d. How much did this step cost? (in Pesos)</p>	<p>e. Describe for me any immediate health problems you experienced CATEGORIZE RESPONSE FOR EACH PROBLEM AS <i>1 = mild</i> <i>2 = moderate</i> <i>3 = severe</i> <i>4 = none</i></p>
<p>Step One:</p>				<p>Bleeding: _____ Pain: _____ Injuries: _____ Fever: _____ Emotional Stress: _____ Other: _____</p>

Guttmacher experience: FTF

PROS

- High level of detail captured
- Coding process makes quantification of complications easy
- More accurate estimate of costs because each step is priced out

CONS

- The respondents are not trained in morbidity indicators
- Recall error
- Problems relating morbidity to method of abortion

ACASI

PROS

- Privacy renders higher reporting of stigmatized behavior
- High item response rate
- Reduce effect of interviewer bias

CONS

- Technologically-intensive/expensive
- Requires literacy
- Allows for greater inconsistency
- Rs may misunderstand instructions
- Low overall response rate due to possible mistrust of computer

How do you choose?

- FTF and ACASI render higher item response rate than SAQ
- Budget & culture usually dictate
- Complexity of the investigation determines how much guidance respondent needs to follow the structure/questions
- New methodologies are always needed

Pros of Quantitative Data

- Easier to analyze data
- Can render population-based estimates
- Larger sample size
- Easier comparability

Cons of Quantitative Data

- Respondent may not understand question(s)
- Might miss more complex social processes or relevant aspects of context

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