

**KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTIVES AMONG
OUT-OF-SCHOOL FEMALE YOUTHS IN IDO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA,
OYO STATE, NIGERIA**

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ABSTRACT

Unintended pregnancy among youths resulting from unprotected sexual activities poses a major challenge to their reproductive health. Use of Emergency Contraceptive Pills (ECPs) which are of different brands has been identified to prevent unintended pregnancy. Studies have been carried out on the utilization and effectiveness of ECPs among older women but information on young women's knowledge and its use will be useful in identifying gaps in knowledge and planning appropriate interventions. This study was a cross-sectional survey whereby data on respondents' demography, knowledge as well as practice of ECPs were collected and these were analyzed using descriptive statistics and Chi square at $p=0.05$. Mean age of respondents was 20.7 ± 1.1 years and 37.9% were married. Knowledge of respondents on emergency contraceptives was assessed on a 18-point scale with scores of <10 and ≥ 10 points considered to be poor and good knowledge respectively. Two hundred and sixty eight (71.0%) and 109 (28.9%) respondents had good and poor knowledge respectively. One hundred and thirty six (36.1%) respondents had ever used ECPs while 90 (24.0%) were current users. Knowledge on emergency contraceptives was above average among out-of-school female youths. However, correct use and intention to continue its use was poor. Age, accessibility and affordability were the factors that significantly affected the use of ECPs.

Community-based health education and peer education strategies should be instituted to improve knowledge and uptake of emergency contraceptives.

KEYWORDS: Emergency Contraceptives, Unintended Pregnancy, Out-of-School Female Youths



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