



ENHANCING INDICATORS FOR IMPROVING POLICIES AND EVIDENCE GATHERING SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACCESS TO ABORTION (Project INDIGO)

Data Analysis from Delta State Research

Delta State is one of the states in the Southern Region of Nigeria and is governed by the Criminal Code of the Laws of The Federal Republic of Nigeria. The provisions of the criminal code only allow for an abortion if the life of the pregnant person is in danger.

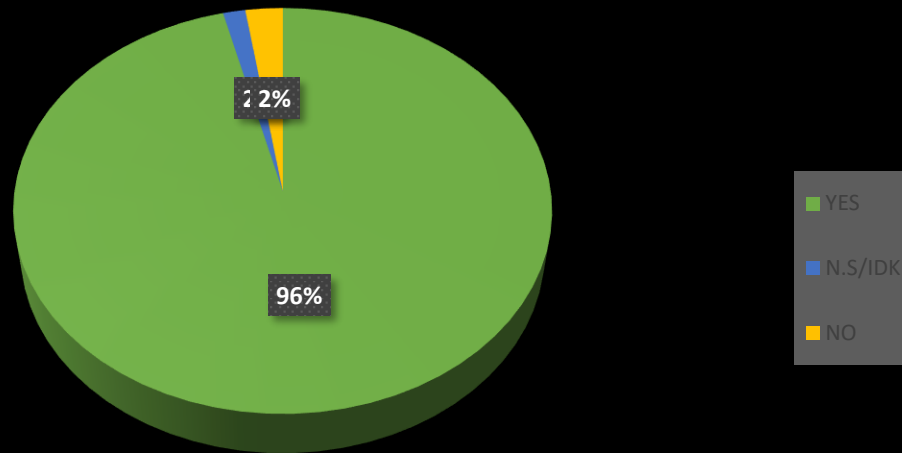
Delta State is known to have a significant level of adolescent pregnancies and birth rate. According to the 2017 Nigeria MICS report, Delta state has a birth rate of 57% among adolescent girls (age 15-19). Interactions with respondents on the field revealed that most of such pregnancies are known to be terminated in the state but by unqualified persons who are not professionally trained or who do not have the standard facilities for safe termination of pregnancies.

This research study was aimed at understanding the scope of medical abortion in Delta State and to understand the level of availability of abortion services and abortion pills in the state to inform provision of better medical abortion services and expanding the cadre of medical abortion service providers in the state.

Osimiri South in Asaba, Delta state, was the sample area for this study and we had respondents that included civil servants, market women, young boys and girls, health care providers and some senior citizens. A total of 204 people obliged to participate in this study.

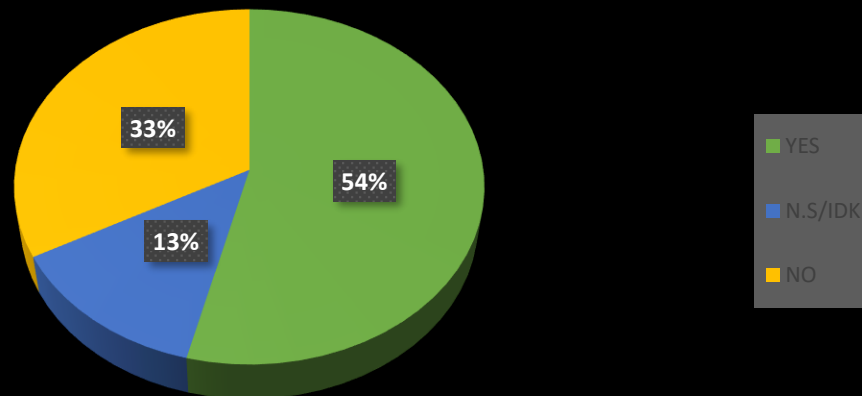
The survey questions and an analysis of the responses gathered are shown below;

1. Many women/girls die or have severe complications as a result of unsafe abortion



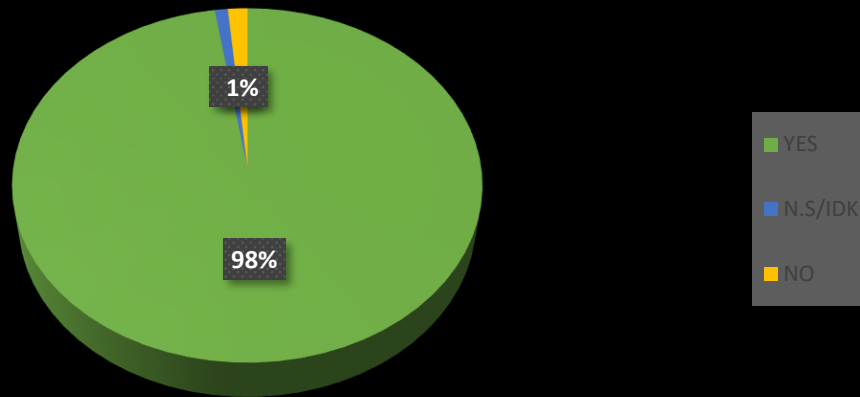
1. A great number of the respondents agreed with this statement based on their observations in the state.

2. Do you think the unsafe procedures many people use for abortion has anything to do with it being criminalized in Nigeria?



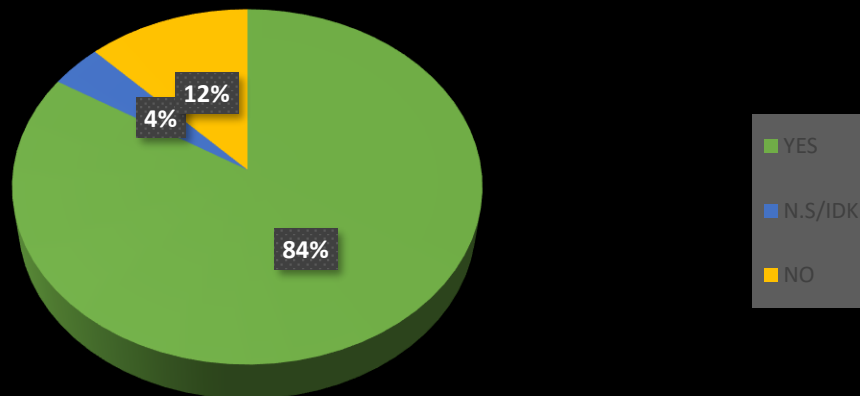
2. Majority of the respondents answered that abortion is criminalised in the state because of its unsafe procedures and consequences. A few others think abortion is criminalised because of the moral values attached to it.

3. Comprehensive Sex Education in secondary schools can enlighten our young girls on unsafe abortion and its consequences and thereby reduce it



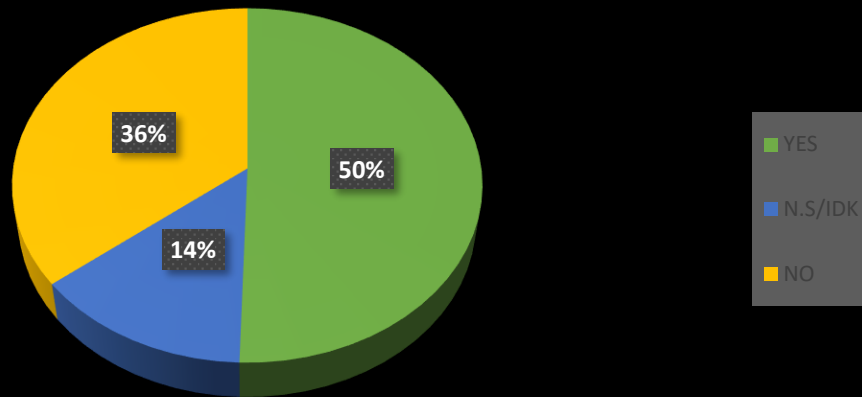
3. 98% of the respondents here agree that CSE would be a proper guide to young girls in the state concerning abortion and other SRHR topics.

4. Do you think it is okay for an adolescent girl to ask her parents/guardians/teachers questions on the concept of abortion?



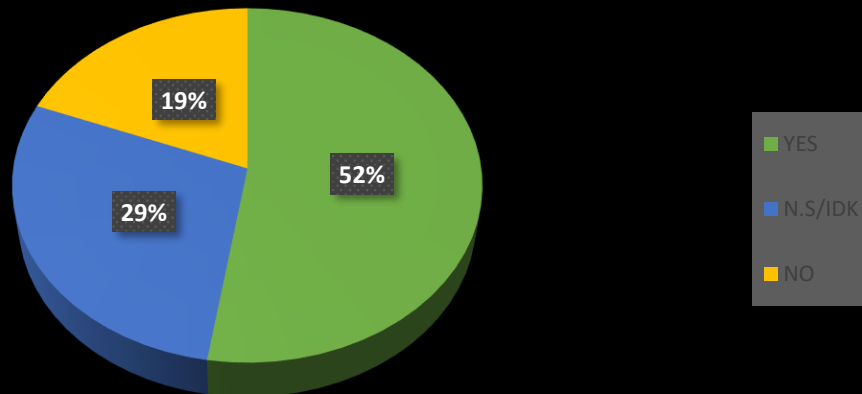
4. Majority of the respondents think it is important for parents/guardians/teachers to welcome such questions from adolescent girls as this will provide the girls with proper and adequate information about their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

5. Do you think there are cases that would require a pregnancy to be terminated?



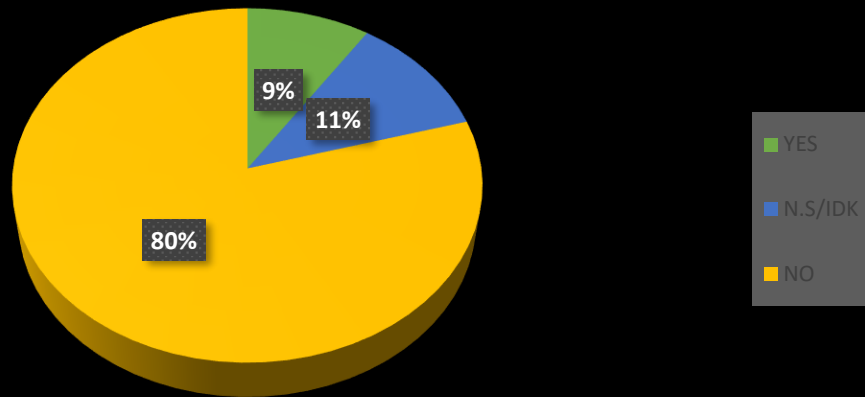
5. Half of the respondents answered YES with a case of the life of the pregnant person being at risk. Others answered NO or were not sure there are any cases that would require a pregnancy to be terminated besides the one mentioned.

6. Do you know that safe abortion can be done with medically approved pills?



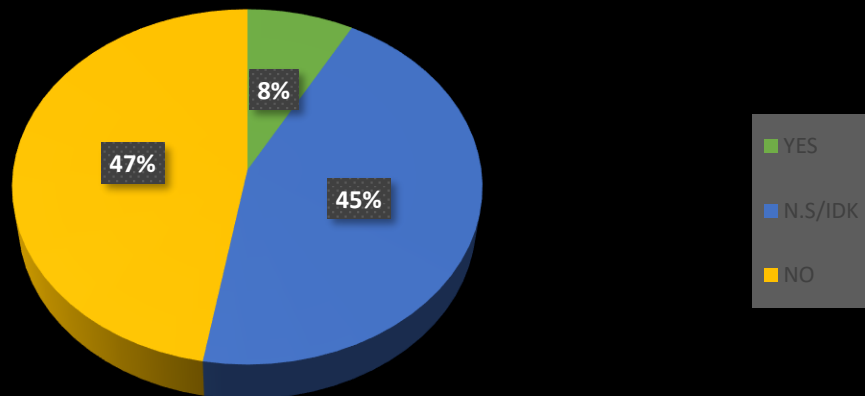
6. 48% of the respondents do not know or are not sure of medically approved abortion pills in Delta state.

7. Do you know any facility around you where you can easily access Medical Abortion (medically approved abortion pills)?



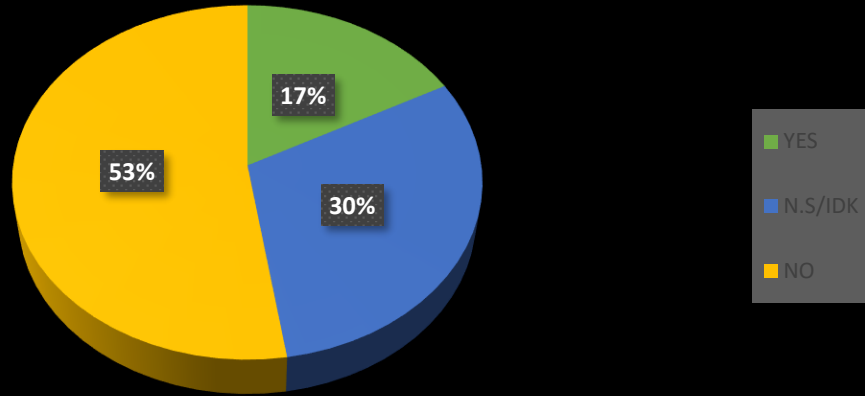
7. Only 9% of the respondents know a facility to procure medical abortion. The rest of them do not have an idea of where medical abortion can be procured in the state.

8. Do you think the facility in Q7 above is a safe place to procure safe abortion?



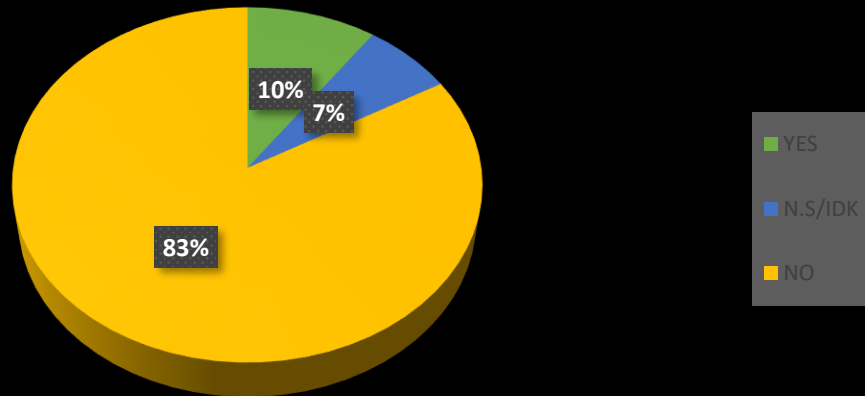
8. Only 8% of the respondents here think there are facilities that can offer safe abortion services in Delta state.

9. Do you think there are enough facilities around you where people can access medical abortion services?



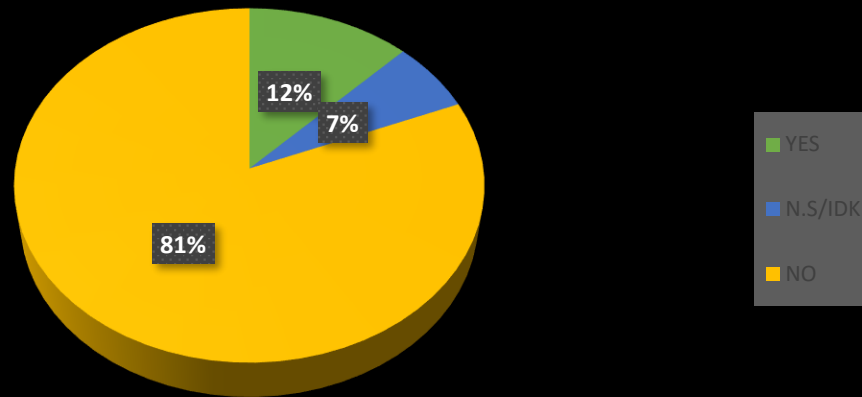
9. Majority of the respondents here do not think there are enough facilities around them to procure medical abortion.

10. Do you know of any medically approved medicines for abortion?



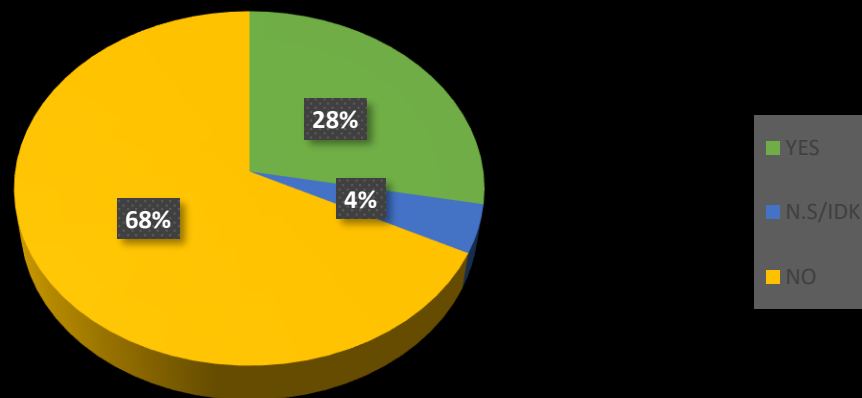
10. About 90% of the respondents are not familiar with any medically approved medicines for abortion.

11. Have you ever heard of Misoprostol and/or Mifepristone?



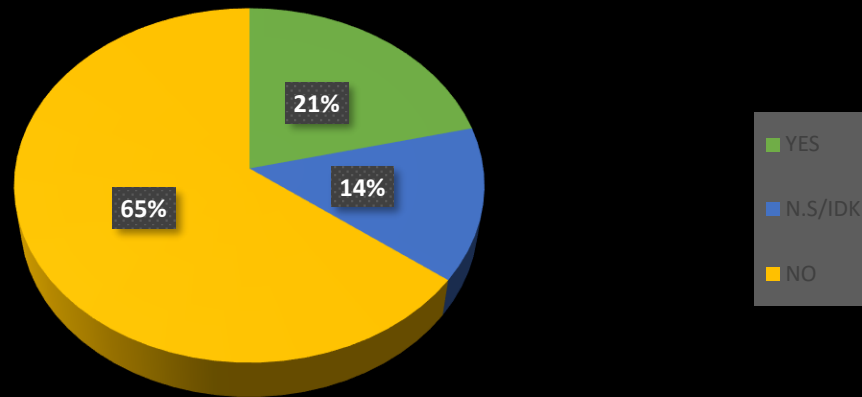
11. Only 12% of the respondents have heard of Misoprostol and/or Mifepristone.

12. Do you know anyone who has been harmed from an abortion because they did not use the right medicines or get a facility to procure safe abortion?



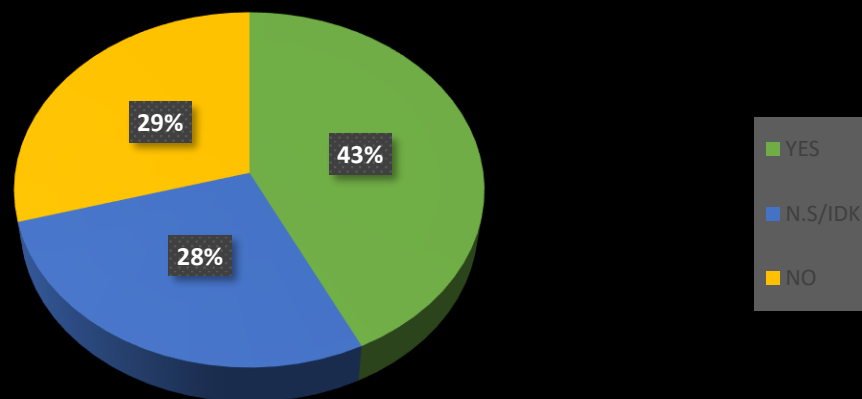
12. 28% of the respondents know person(s) who have been harmed from unsafe abortion.

13. Women and girls should be allowed to procure medical abortion as long it is safe and has no complications



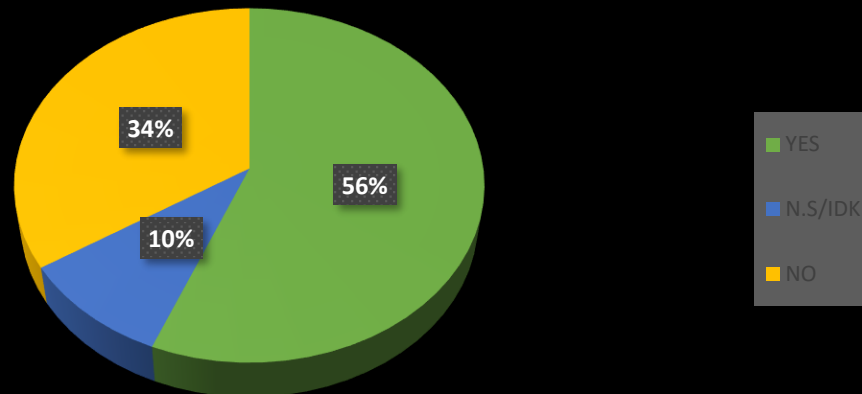
13. Majority of the respondents here think the legal restriction on abortion in Delta state is very relevant.

14. Do you think there are qualified abortion service providers in Nigeria who can provide safe abortion services for women/girls?



14. 43% of the respondents think there are qualified abortion service providers in Nigeria. The rest of the respondents think there are not and that service providers need proper training on abortion service provision.

15. Do you think death from unsafe abortions will reduce if abortion is decriminalized and safe abortion services are made available?



15. 56% of the respondents think that more access to safe abortion services will reduce unsafe abortions and its consequences in Delta state.

KEY POINTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Many people in Delta state agree that unsafe abortion is responsible for maternal deaths and other complications of women and girls in the state.
- CSE is encouraged and should be implemented in schools in Delta state to impart knowledge and the appropriate information on sexual and reproductive health and rights to young people.
- Parents/Guardians/Teachers of adolescent and young people should engage more with adolescents and young girls to discuss issues that affect their sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Mapping of facilities and Health Care Providers that provide abortion services should be carried out in Delta state for further sensitisation and engagements to influence the abortion policy in the state and possibly expand the cadre of abortion service providers in the state.
- These results could be translated into advocacy materials to campaign for access to medical abortion in Delta state.