

Who is the factsheet for?

This factsheet has been developed by Youth Network for Community and Sustainable Development for young people and those who wish to know more about safe abortions.

It aims to ensure that people have accurate, detailed and concise information about abortion in Nigeria.

Why is information about abortion needed?

In Nigeria, one in four pregnancies are unintended and 56% of these ended in an induced abortion. Yet, unsafe abortion is a major contributor to Nigeria's maternal death rates.

What is abortion?

Abortion is defined as the termination of a pregnancy before **fetal viability**. An abortion can be spontaneous (miscarriage) or **induced** (deliberate). It can also be **medical** (use of pills) or **surgical**.

The terms safe and unsafe are also used when talking about abortion.

What is the law on abortion in Nigeria?

In Nigeria, the abortion law is governed by the Penal Code in the North, and by the Criminal Code in the South. By these, abortions can only legally be performed to save the life of the pregnant person.

Pregnancy decisions

The decision to keep a pregnancy will ultimately rest with the pregnant person, despite legal, societal or political

Is abortion safe?

Abortion is regarded as one of the safest medical procedures that can be done.

Abortions are safe when performed by a medical professional in a medical setting.

Due to legal restrictions, however, many people resort to unsafe abortions, including self-induced abortion through ingesting harmful substances. People may also get 'backyard abortions' usually from unregistered professionals.

How do people feel after having had an abortion?

People will experience a range of different emotions after an abortion. This will cut across happiness, relief, sadness or tiredness.

Myths about abortion

A common myth about abortion is that people who seek abortion services are promiscuous. However, different people, including married people will want an abortion and for different reasons.

Essentially, there are many myths about abortion. It is important that you seek out accurate information about any concerns you might have.

Preventing future unintended pregnancies

People should be encouraged to seek information about contraceptives. A variety of contraceptive options exist and you have a right to determine which works best for you.

Always seek medical advice for the best ways to use them