

INTEGRATING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINED EFFORTS TO EMPOWER NIGERIAN GIRLS (PROJECT INSPIRE)

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 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 MICS, Nigeria 2016-17, 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 quacks 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, how the media can be able to report on abortion and expanding the cadre of medical abortion service providers in the state.

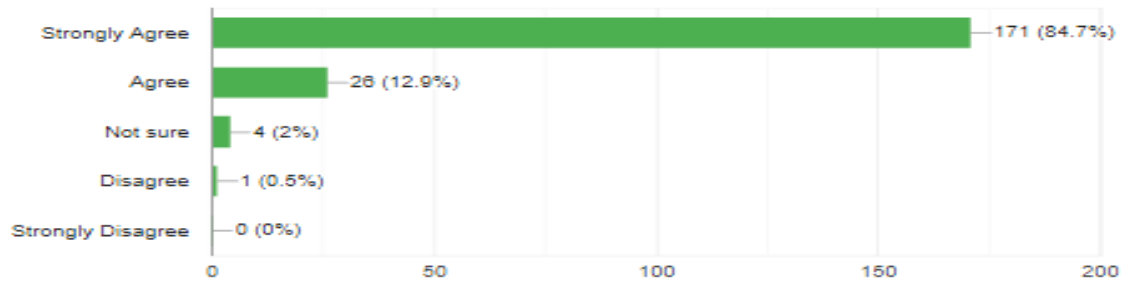
The activity was carried out in Oshimilli South, Delta state. Respondents that partook in the activity, included civil servants, market women, young boys and girls, health care providers and some senior citizens.

Find below the result gathered and the analysis.

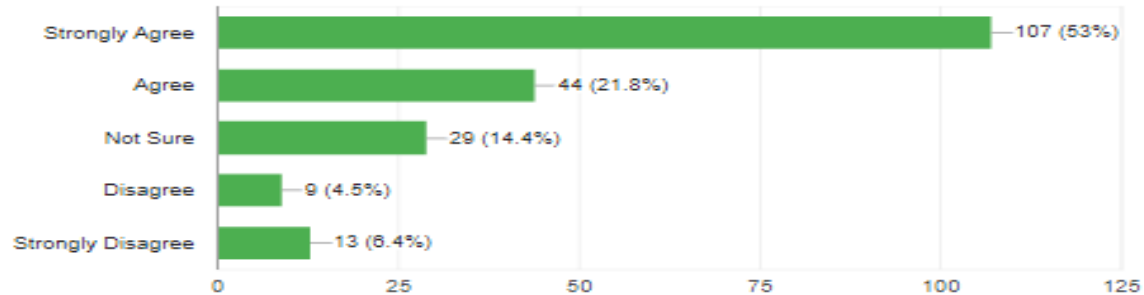


1. From the image below, majority of the respondents (84.7%) agreed that abortion is the termination of pregnancy before foetal viability.

Abortion is the termination of pregnancy before foetal viability
202 responses



Abortion is murder and should be criminalized
202 responses



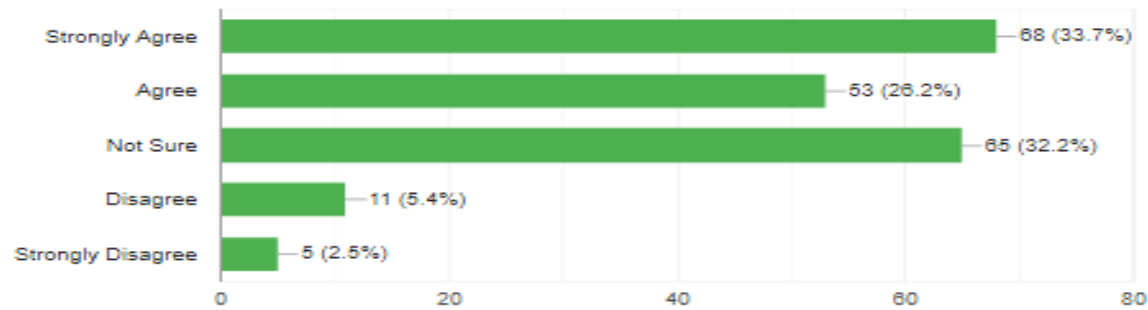
2. A huge number of respondents felt that abortion is murder and should be a criminal offence.



3. From the chart below, many respondents were not sure about the statistics but a lot of respondents felt 10% of deaths in Nigeria are caused by unsafe abortion.

About 10% of the deaths in Nigeria are a result of unsafe abortion

202 responses

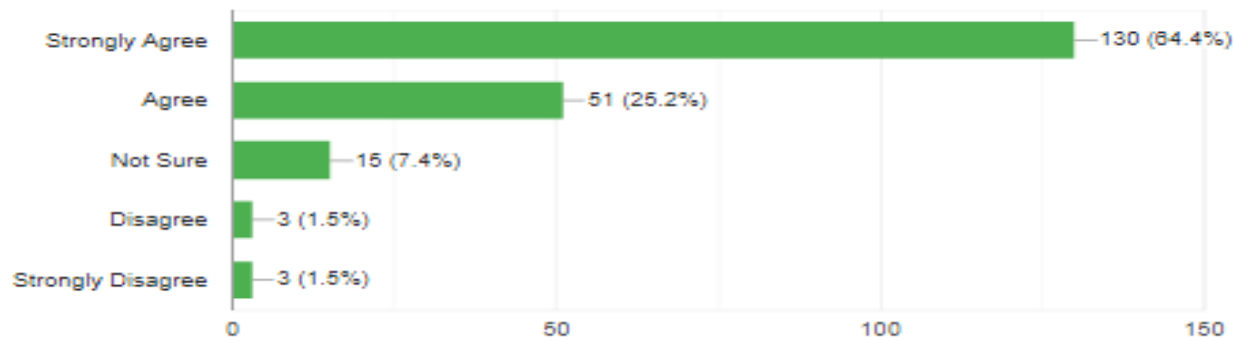




4. Based on the chart below, most respondents felt many women die from complications as a result of unsafe abortion.

Many women/girls die and have severe complications as a result of unsafe abortion

202 responses

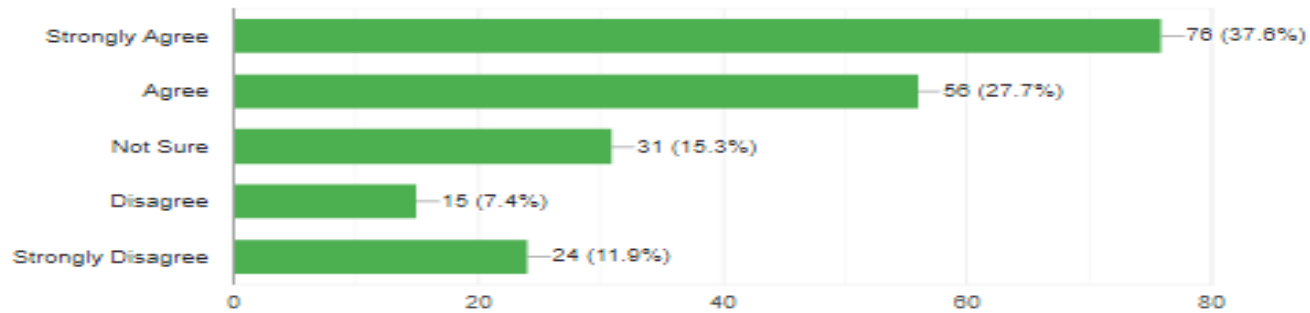




5. 65.3% of respondents in the chart below, agreed that there are cases that will require a pregnancy to be terminated, while 19.3% didn't agree to this. A few were not sure.

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

202 responses

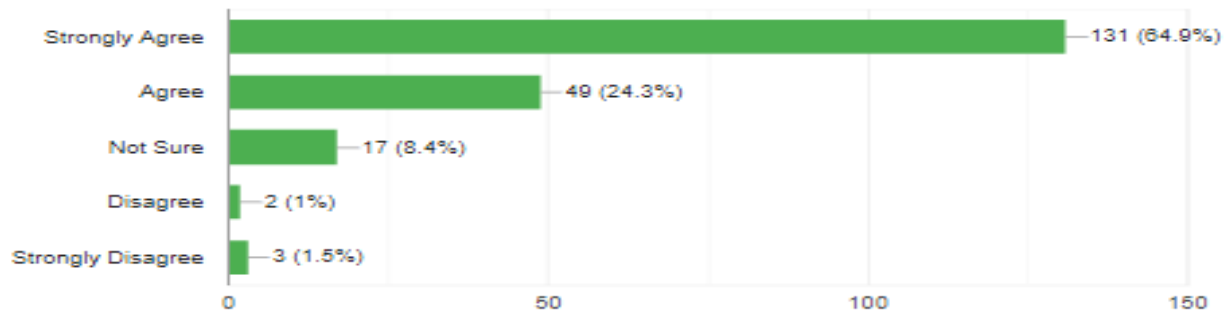




6. More than half the respondents agreed that women gathering and social clubs should discuss unsafe abortion.

Do you think women gatherings and social clubs should discuss unsafe abortion and its consequences from time to time?

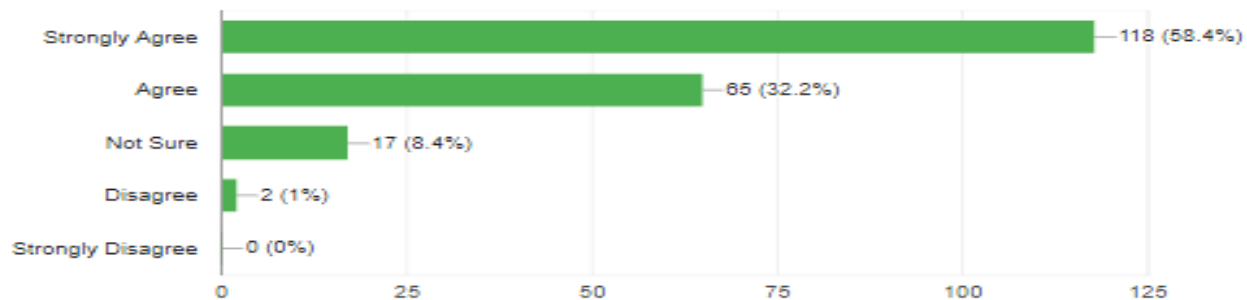
202 responses



7. 183 respondents agreed that young girls face the most consequences of unsafe abortion.

Do you agree that adolescents and young girls face the most consequences of unsafe abortion?

202 responses

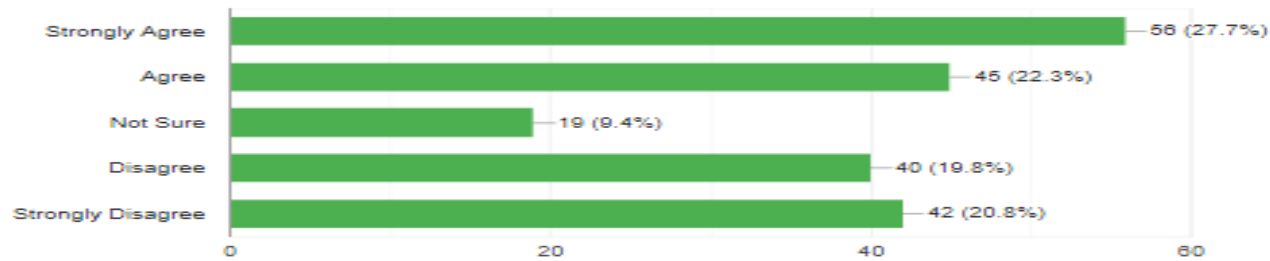




8. More than half the respondents agreed to this and a huge number of respondents didn't agree. Few were indifferent.

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

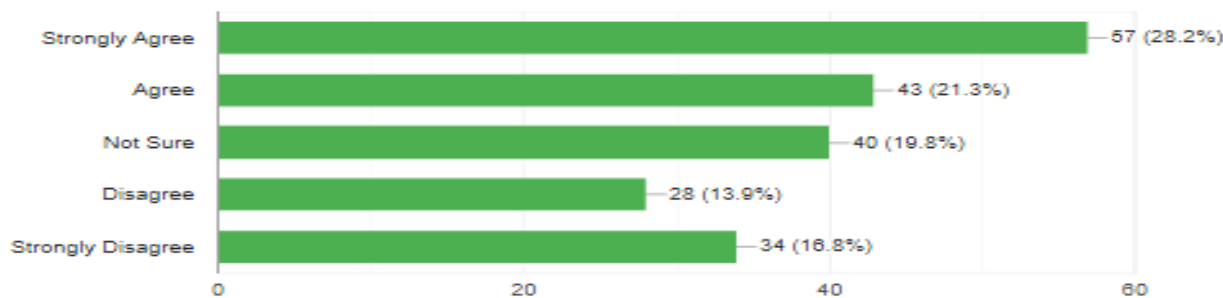
202 responses



9. About 60% of the respondents agreed to this while some, didn't have an opinion on why abortion is criminalised.

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

202 responses

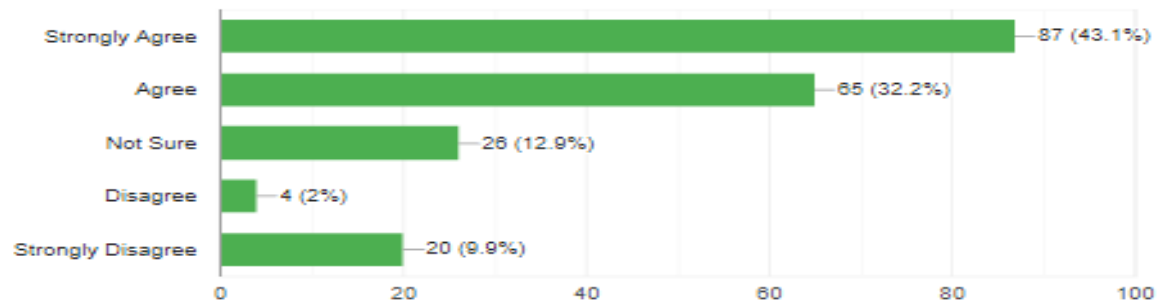




10. According to the chart below, 152 of the respondents agreed that Nigeria has doctors who can provide safe abortion services.

Do you think there are qualified doctors/physicians in Nigeria who can provide safe abortion services for women/girls?

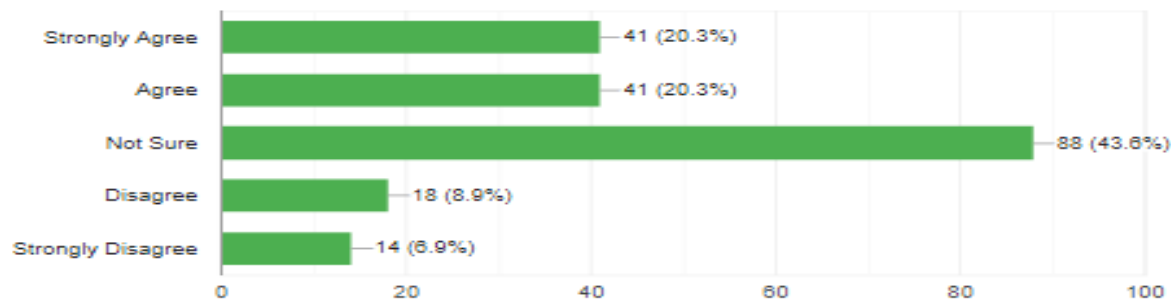
202 responses



11. 43.6% of respondents were not sure about the health facilities with access to safe abortion in the community.

Do you think there are enough health facilities with access to safe abortion services in your community and state at large?

202 responses

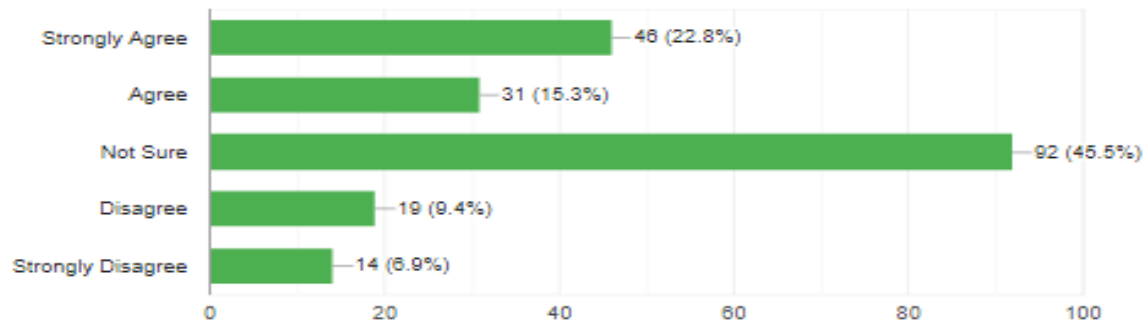




12. A huge number of respondents were not sure. But 38.1% agreed to know someone who has been harmed from abortion.

Do you know anyone who has been harmed as a result of an abortion?

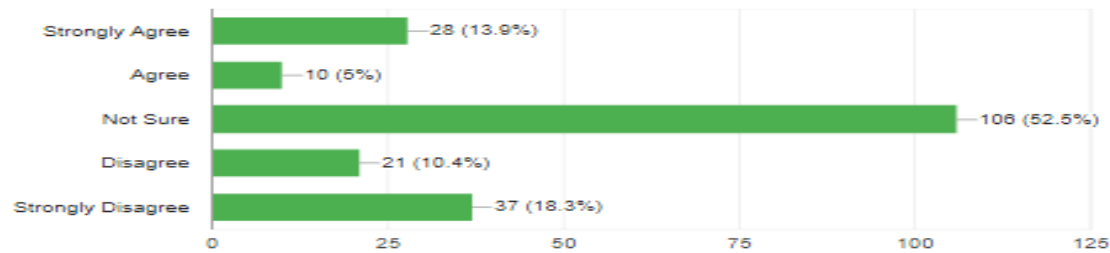
202 responses



13. As regards to the above result the answers still remains the same.

Do you think the person in Q12 procured safe abortion?

202 responses

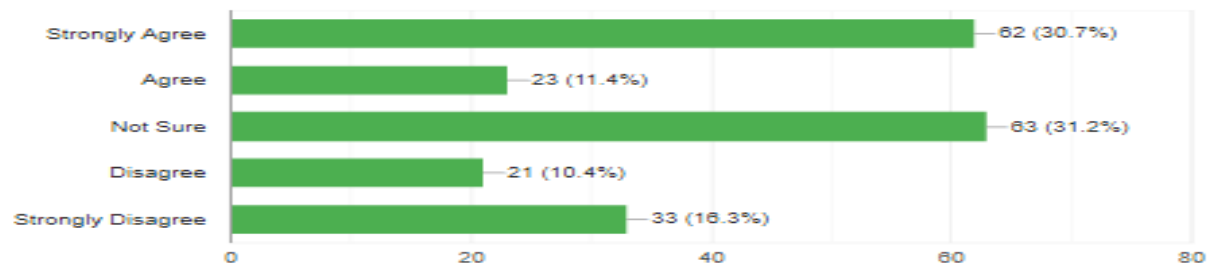




14. More than half of the response agreed that deaths from abortions will reduce if it is decriminalized.

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

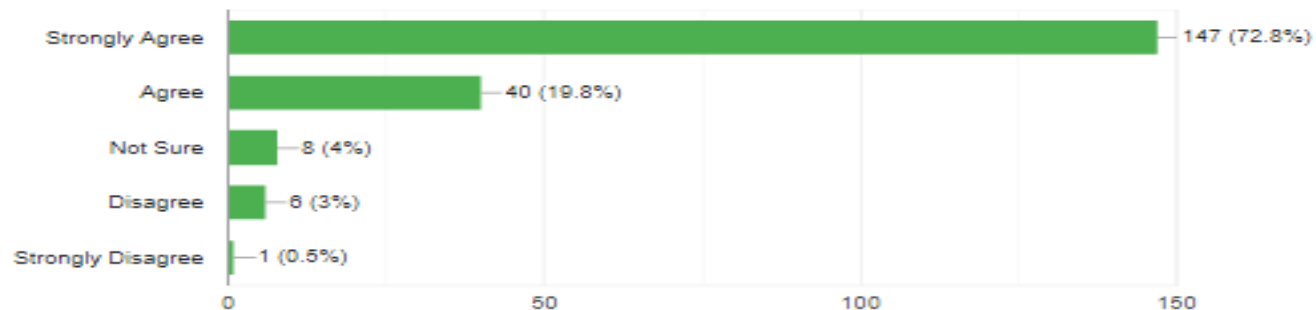
202 responses



15. From the image below majority agreed that it is okay for adolescent girls to ask abortion and other topics regarding CSE.

Do you think it is okay for an adolescent girl to ask her class teacher questions on the concept of abortion?

202 responses

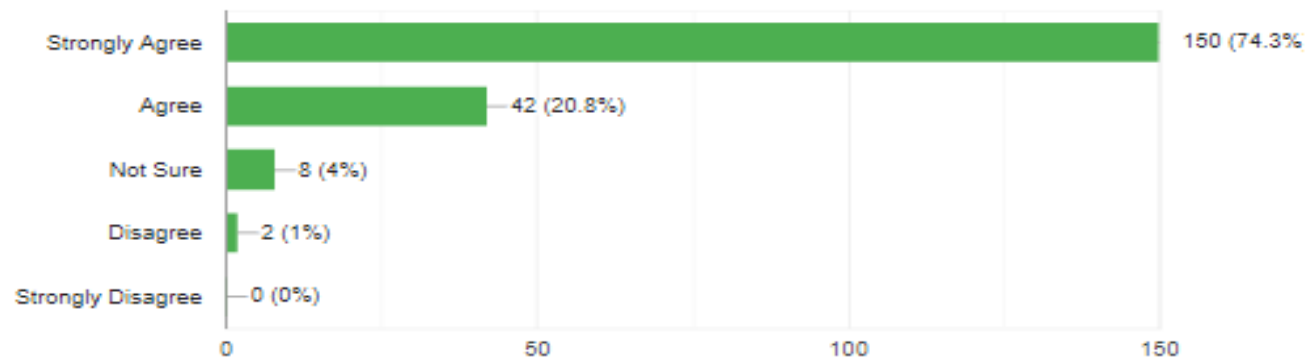




16. Majority agreed that CSE in secondary schools can teach girls about abortion and its consequences.

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

202 responses

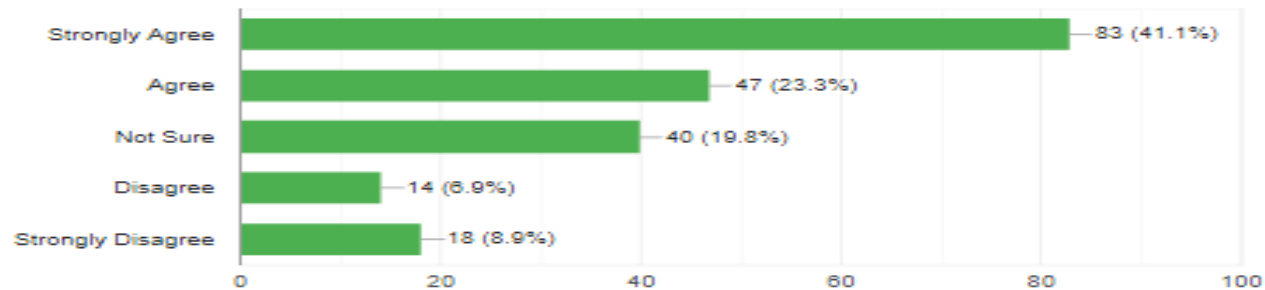




17. From the image below Government, health and media agencies will be indeed needed to advocate about the results of unsafe abortion. As agreed by 130 respondents

It is important for government, media and health agencies to advocate for safe abortion for women and girls

202 responses

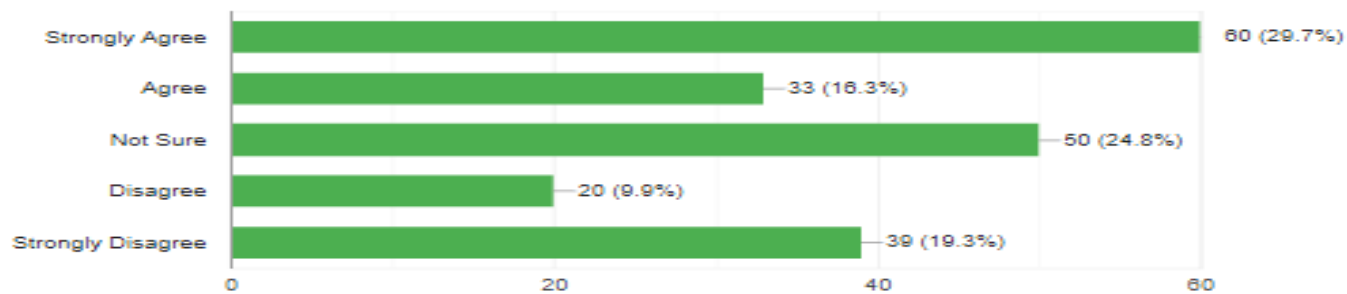




18. As much as 46% of respondents feel the need to review the laws and policies on safe abortion for women and girls, the rest were either not sure or disagreed.

Government polices/laws should be reviewed to allow access to safe abortion for women and girls

202 responses

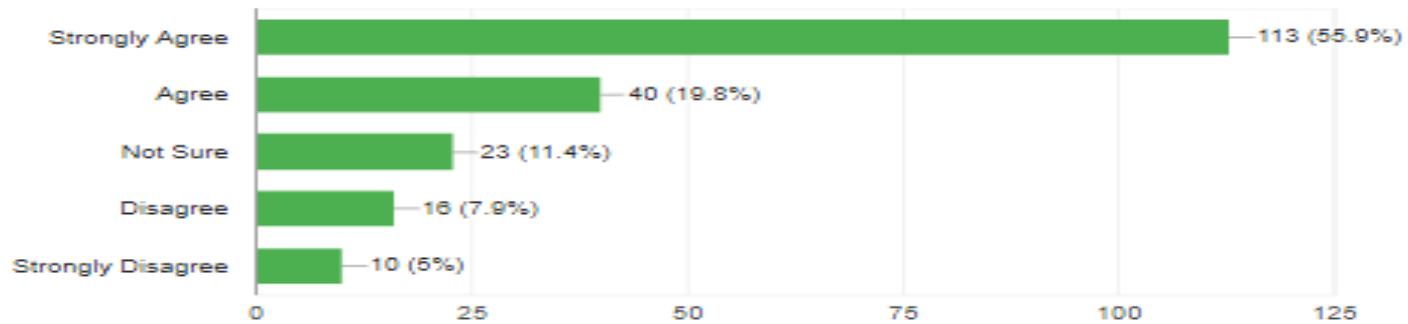




19. Majority of the respondents agreed to be able to talk and have conversations with their close groups on abortion.

Can you have a discussion on abortion with members of your family and closed groups?

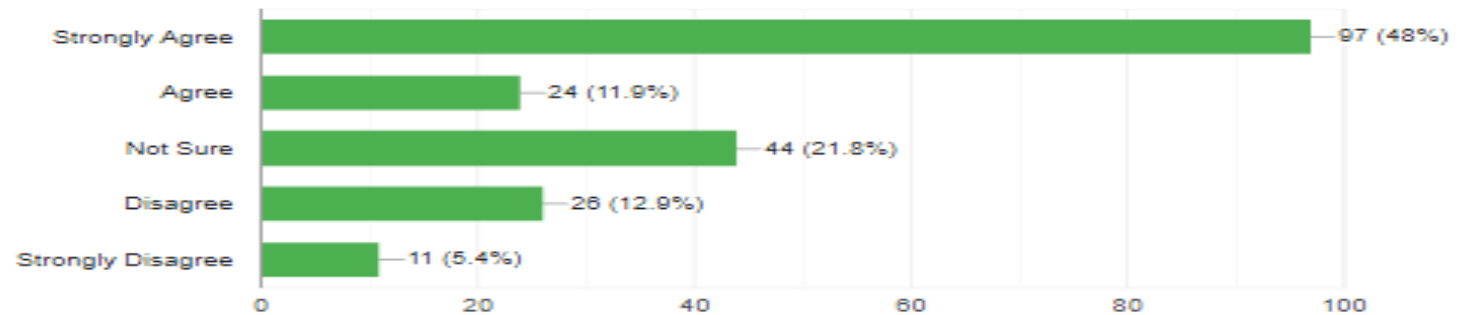
202 responses



20. A great number are willing to advocate for access to safe abortion.

Are you willing to advocate for access to safe abortion

202 responses





Recommendations and Observations:

- As seen above, CSE in all levels from schools to government parastatals will be needed which will help in the process of reviewing laws and policies to support safe abortion.
- Engagement with mass media can help sensitise the masses on abortion as a health option and as a rights-based subject.
- Most people die as a result of unsafe abortion, according to the responses.
- Women gatherings and social groups in Delta State should be sensitised and engaged to create awareness on unsafe abortion and its consequences.
- During the process, respondents were reluctant to participate because of the word 'abortion'. More advocacy materials and discussions should be held to change people's perception on abortion and lessen the stigma attached to it.
- Parents/Teachers/Guardians should be sensitised to discuss SRHR matters with their adolescent children/wards.
- The health facilities in Oshimilli South, Asaba should be strengthened on creating awareness on unsafe abortion and its consequences and to provide access for safe abortion in their facilities.
- Develop quality advocacy tool used to educate the policy makers.
- Replication of such study in other local governments to capture larger sample size for comprehensive roll out of health programmes.