

Trends and Patterns of Men's Sexual Behaviour in Nigeria: Implications for Demographic Changes

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Abstract

Several attempts to curb population upsurge through fertility and population policy has yielded but little result in developing nations especially in sub-Saharan African region. While policy such as limited children per woman has been productive in developed nations such as China, United States and Japan, evidences of such is lacking in Africa. The peculiarity of sub-African sexuality and her patriarchal system are great impediments to interventions to check population upsurge. The study used the Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey dataset of 2003, 2008 and 2013. The three datasets were merged together using only the male recode files which represent 35,191 cases. The dependent variable is the ideal number of children which was computed into small family (children 1-4) and large family size (4 children and above). Analysis involved only univariate and multivariate levels. Findings from the study revealed increased in number of wives/sexual partners between 2003 and 2013 among the men interviewed. While the average age at first intercourse increased by 3% in 2008 it reduced by 3.3% in 2013. The proportion of men that preferred large family size increased from 43.3% to 47.9% between 2003 and 2013. There is positive association between number of sexual partner and preference for larger family size. The study established the linkages between men's sexual behaviour and family fertility decision and outlined the likely consequences on future population volume. It emphasised that sexual health promoters and population policy makers will need to focus on men's practice of multiple wives/sexual partnerships as major determinant of family size thus making men sexuality education as plausible factor for limiting African fertility.

Key Words: Men, sexual behaviour, family size, population,