

Determinants of Children Ever Born Among Currently Married Women in a Metropolitan City in Nigeria: Evidence from a Community-based Survey

Introduction

The number of children ever born (CEB) is a key component of population dynamics that determines a country's population size, structure, and composition. This study aimed to identify the determinants of CEB among currently married women in a metropolitan city in Nigeria.

Methods

This was a cross-sectional design and community-based study focused on married women (n=739) aged 15-49 years enrolled using a 3-stage random sampling technique from three out of 11 Local Government Areas (LGAs) across five enumeration areas in Ibadan. The outcome variable was CEB. The electronic-based interviewer-administered questionnaire used consisted of women's demographic and child-related characteristics, decision making about woman's healthcare in the home. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and a logistic regression model ($\alpha 0.05$).

Results

The mean age of the women and children ever born was 35.8 ± 7.4 years and 2.8 ± 1.3 respectively. Overall, 266 (36.0%) women were aged 25-34 years, 464 (62.8%) women had completed secondary education, 384 (52.0%) women had used a contraceptive, and 324 (43.8%) women had given birth to <3 children.

In all, 148 (38.5%) women have used ever used injectables only, 87 (22.7%) had used an intrauterine device only, 50 (13.0%) had used contraceptive pills only, 26 (6.8%) had used implants only, 20 (5.2%) had used both injectables and implants, while 17 (4.4%) had adopted standard days method. Also, 14 (3.6%) had used both injectables, intrauterine device, and contraceptive pills, 9 (2.3%) had used IUD and injectables, while 4 (1.0%) women had used IUD and pills.

Forty-six (95.8%) women aged <25 years had given birth to <3 children compared to 167 (62.8%) aged 25-34 years, 92 (29.9%) aged 35-44 years, and 19 (16.2%) aged ≥ 45 years ($p < 0.001$). Twenty-one (19.3%) women with primary education had given birth to ≤ 2 children compared to 204 (44.0%) with secondary and 99 (59.6%) with tertiary education ($p < 0.001$). Women aged <25 years had 147 times higher odds (AOR = 146.57, $p < 0.001$), those aged 25-34 years had five times higher odds (aOR=5.09, $p < 0.001$), and those aged 35-44 years had twice higher odds (aOR = 1.91, $p < 0.028$) of giving birth to <3 children. Women with secondary education had four times higher odds (aOR=3.52, $p < 0.001$) and those with tertiary education had six times higher odds (aOR=5.99, $p < 0.001$) of giving birth to <3 children.

Conclusion

CEB was lower among women with higher levels of education in Ibadan, Nigeria. CEB was higher among women who initiated childbearing at younger ages (<25 years). Investment in formal education to defer childbearing should be prioritized in public health interventions in Nigeria.

Results

Table 1: Sociodemographic characteristics of currently married women from selected communities in Ibadan, Nigeria

Characteristics	Frequency	%
Current Age (Years)		
24 and below	48	6.5
25-34 years	266	36.0
35-44 years	308	41.7
45 years and above	117	15.8
Number of marital unions		
1	687	
>1	52	
Family type		
Monogamy	398	53.9
Polygamy	341	46.1
Age at first birth		
24 years and below	313	42.4
>24 years	426	57.6
Number of children ever born		
Two and below	324	43.8
>2	415	56.2
Number of male children ever born		
<2	395	53.5
Two and above	344	46.5
Number of female children ever born		
Less than 2	459	62.1
Two and above	280	37.9
Level of education		
At most primary	109	14.7
Secondary	464	62.8
Tertiary	166	22.5
Employment type (N = 693)		
Unskilled manual	159	22.9
Skilled manual	270	39.0
Professional/Technical/Managerial	153	22.1
Clerical	111	16.0
Monthly income		
<30,000 (Poor)	409	55.3
30,000 and above (Rich)	330	44.7
Husband's age		
<35	186	25.2
35-44	436	59.0
≥45	117	15.8
Husband's occupation		
Not employed	26	3.5
Unskilled manual	89	12.0
Skilled manual	278	37.6
Sales and services	165	22.3
Professional/Technical/Managerial	137	18.5
Others	44	6.0
Decision-making on woman's healthcare in the home		
Husband decides alone	83	11.2
Woman jointly decides with husband	656	88.8
Ever used a contraceptive		
Yes	384	52.0
No	355	48.0

Table 2: Association between children ever born and sociodemographic characteristics of married women and their husbands

Characteristics	Children ever born		Chi-square	p-value
	<3	≥3		
Current Age (Years)				
24 and below	46 (95.8)	2 (4.2)	152.08	<0.001
25-34 years	167 (62.8)	99 (37.2)		
35-44 years	92 (29.9)	216 (70.1)		
45 years and above	19 (16.2)	98 (83.8)		
Number of marital unions				
1	310 (45.1)	377 (54.9)	6.50	0.011
>1	14 (26.9)	38 (73.1)		
Family type				
Monogamy	193 (48.5)	205 (51.5)	7.57	0.006
Polygamy	131 (38.4)	210 (61.6)		
Age at first birth				
24 years and below	135 (43.1)	178 (56.9)	0.11	0.738
>24 years	189 (44.4)	237 (55.6)		
Ideal family size				
Three and below	116 (75.3)	38 (24.7)	88.55	<0.001
4-5	146 (40.8)	212 (59.2)		
>5	62 (27.3)	165 (72.7)		
Woman's level of education				
At most primary	21 (19.3)	88 (80.7)	43.57	<0.001
Secondary	204 (44.0)	260 (56.0)		
Tertiary	99 (59.6)	67 (40.7)		
Employment type				
Unemployed	52 (32.7)	25 (54.3)	17.84	<0.001
Unskilled manual	52 (32.7)	107 (67.3)		
Skilled manual	134 (49.6)	136 (50.4)		
Professional/Technical/Managerial	58 (37.9)	95 (62.1)		
Clerical	59 (53.2)	52 (46.8)		
Husband's age (Years)				
<35	141 (75.8)	45 (24.2)	120.26	<0.001
35-44	164 (37.6)	272 (62.4)		
≥45	19 (16.2)	98 (83.8)		
Husband's occupation				
Not employed	10 (38.5)	16 (61.5)	14.36	0.013
Unskilled manual	29 (32.6)	60 (67.4)		
Skilled manual	123 (44.2)	155 (55.8)		
Sales and services	68 (41.2)	97 (58.8)		
Professional/Technical/Managerial	77 (56.2)	60 (43.8)		
Others	17 (38.6)	27 (61.4)		
Decision-making on woman's healthcare in the home				
High	69 (35.0)	128 (65.0)	8.99	0.011
Medium	213 (46.4)	246 (53.6)		
Low	42 (50.6)	41 (49.4)		
Ever used a contraceptive				
Yes	136 (35.4)	248 (64.6)	23.05	<0.001
No	188 (53.0)	167 (47.0)		

Table 3: Predictors of having two or fewer children among currently married women

Characteristics	Model One			Model Two		
	Adjusted Odds Ratio	95% CI	p-value	Adjusted Odds Ratio	95% CI	p-value
Current Age (Years)						
<25	177.49	34.80 – 905.19	<0.001	146.57	30.24 – 710.44	<0.001
25-34 years	5.71	2.86 – 11.43	<0.001	5.09	2.65 – 9.79	<0.001
35-44 years	2.13	1.16 – 3.89	0.014	1.91	1.07 – 3.41	0.028
45 years and above	1			1		
Number of marital unions						
1	0.80	0.38 – 1.70	0.563			
>1	1					
Family type						
Monogamy	1.04	0.71 – 1.54	0.834			
Polygamy	1					
Age at first birth						
24 years and below	2.58	1.66 – 4.01	<0.001	2.49	1.62 – 3.81	<0.001
>24 years	1			1		
Woman's level of education						
At most primary	1			1		
Secondary	3.52	1.79 – 6.93	<0.001	3.25	1.72 – 6.16	<0.001
Tertiary	5.99	2.80 – 12.81	<0.001	6.82	3.41 – 13.66	<0.001
Employment type						
Unemployed	1					
Unskilled manual	0.55	0.20 – 1.48	0.237			
Skilled manual	0.93	0.36 – 2.44	0.884			
Professional/Technical/Managerial	0.54	0.20 – 1.50	0.239			
Clerical	1.05	0.38 – 2.91	0.923			
Husband's age (Years)						
<35	3.41	1.89 – 6.16	<0.001	3.33	1.88 – 5.90	<0.001
35-44						
≥45	1			1		
Husband's occupation						
Not employed	0.35	0.07 – 1.64	0.180			
Unskilled manual	0.59	0.22 – 1.56	0.287			
Skilled manual	0.77	0.34 – 1.73	0.525			
Sales and services	0.72	0.31 – 1.68	0.447			
Professional/Technical/Managerial	1.34	0.55 – 3.25	0.514			
Others	1					
Decision-making on woman's healthcare in the home						
High	0.84	0.43 – 1.63	0.605			
Medium	0.72	0.39 – 1.31	0.283			
Low	1					
Ever used a contraceptive						
Yes	1.88	1.30 – 2.72	<0.001	1.90	1.33 – 2.71	<0.001
No	1			1		