

Abstract

Abortion Approach

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In the country that abortion is illegal, abortion data gathering is truly difficult. With various methods, many investigators, as well as agencies, attempt to study, analyze and conduct research in obtaining reliable abortion data. This includes seeking methods to estimate the magnitude of the abortion problem generating a direct impact on women's health. Initially, abortion data associated with women's morbidity and mortality were principally derived from hospital admission's records of women who underwent abortion with complications. We can obtain such data from other sources except for illegal abortion that is not reported. However, many researchers have conducted research pertaining to abortion purposely to know the magnitude of the problem or to formulate as a guideline for further research or public health resolutions. After reviewing relevant literature, the researcher can classify into the following 5 groups: 1) to study abortion data from hospitals; 2) to study abortion data from communication survey; 3) to study from the document in assessing abortion's situation; 4) to calculate abortion rate; and, 5) to estimate abortion.

It is noted that there are various ways to access to illegal abortion data, each of which avails different advantages depending on its purpose of use and situations of the country. Data obtained from hospitals classify each type of abortion. However, due to the development of illegal abortion practices that lessen complications, such data have drawbacks of loss of ability to be distinguished from spontaneous abortion. There are many methods in deriving abortion data from the survey. It is difficult to obtain reliable data due mainly to unwillingness of interviewees to express. Mostly, surveys are conducted with small sample size or qualitatively in private sectors where cooperation is rare, particularly in countries that abortion is illegal. Or, in the case of large surveys such as Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) only indirect questions, usually about unwanted pregnancy could be asked. Despite using special techniques,

such as Randomized Response Technique (RRT), it is probable to pick a wrong bead. Survey of public health personnel's opinion probably generates bias from interviewees.

At large, document study also can be made for decades and provide adequate reliable data. Calculation can be made in the specified population requiring data derived from survey. Thus, statistical data have to be reliable and the estimate depends on the research methods used. The reliability of data in each category relies on methodology of each method. Also it depends on the coverage of health care services, policies in providing care and geographical differences of population characteristics.