

Burden of abortion and post-abortion care costs: risks faced by low income households in Burkina Faso

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RATIONALE: Few studies have reported the cost to household of abortion and post-abortion care in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso where legal restrictions and stigma constitute serious hurdles in investigating costs

OBJECTIVE: To assess the costs and cost burden to households of abortion and post-abortion care.

METHOD: From 18 April to 25 April 2011, we conducted 38 interviews following the perspective of the household with women who had either a spontaneous or an induced abortion in Ouagadougou using a semi-structured pilot-tested quantitative questionnaire. We estimated average costs of spontaneous, induced abortion as well as any type of abortion treatment to household.

RESULTS: Preliminary results show that mean age of women was 29.07 (19 – 42). Average cost of abortion/post-abortion care to household in Ouagadougou was US\$ 108 (US\$1=XOF450). Mean expense to household for treating a spontaneous abortion was US\$ 105 against the double ie US\$ 213 for induced abortion services and post-abortion care in case of complications.

CONCLUSION: Abortion and post-abortion constitute a huge drain of households' fragile economies by consuming a large amount. Actions are needed to address this issue and especially reduce resort to illegal abortion services.