Adolescent contraception and abortion-related care: a three country comparison and Malawi case study

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Conference or Workshop Item:
OBJECTIVES:
1. To understand why contraceptive and abortion-related care services are not used more fully by adolescents.
2. To understand the opportunities and barriers to scaling up the most effective implementation strategies for meeting adolescents’ needs for contraception and abortion-related services.
3. To maximise the uptake of the research findings by decision-makers, practitioners and service providers.

METHODS
1. Facility-based recruitment of [n=105] 10-19 year-olds seeking either safe abortion care or post-abortion care at a tertiary public sector hospital in Lilongwe.
2. Quantitative and qualitative data collected

OUR SAMPLE

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**Percentage of induced abortions that were "unsafe" or resulted in complications requiring medical care**

- Malawi: 98% unsafe
- Zambia: 72% unsafe
- Ethiopia: 2% unsafe

Unsafe methods included mixtures ofabor -ares, castor oil, quinoa leaves, ferula, pomegranate, Dano-Comb, alcohol, chlorhexidine, soap, tampons, diaphragm, surgical procedures.

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Preliminary findings from Malawi:

- Many girls made multiple attempts to terminate their pregnancies before seeking care at a health facility (n = 96)
- 1st attempt: 38% safe, 52% unsafe
- 2nd attempt: 10% safe, 88% unsafe
- 3rd attempt or more: 2% safe, 98% unsafe

The percentage of 10 to 19 year olds who used contraception in the past six months is far higher than those using it at the time they became pregnant.

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