



Social impact of unsafe abortions on teenage girls in Zimbabwe

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Objective

To investigate the social ramifications of unsafe abortions on teenage girls in Zimbabwe's mining areas of Arcturus and Mazowe.

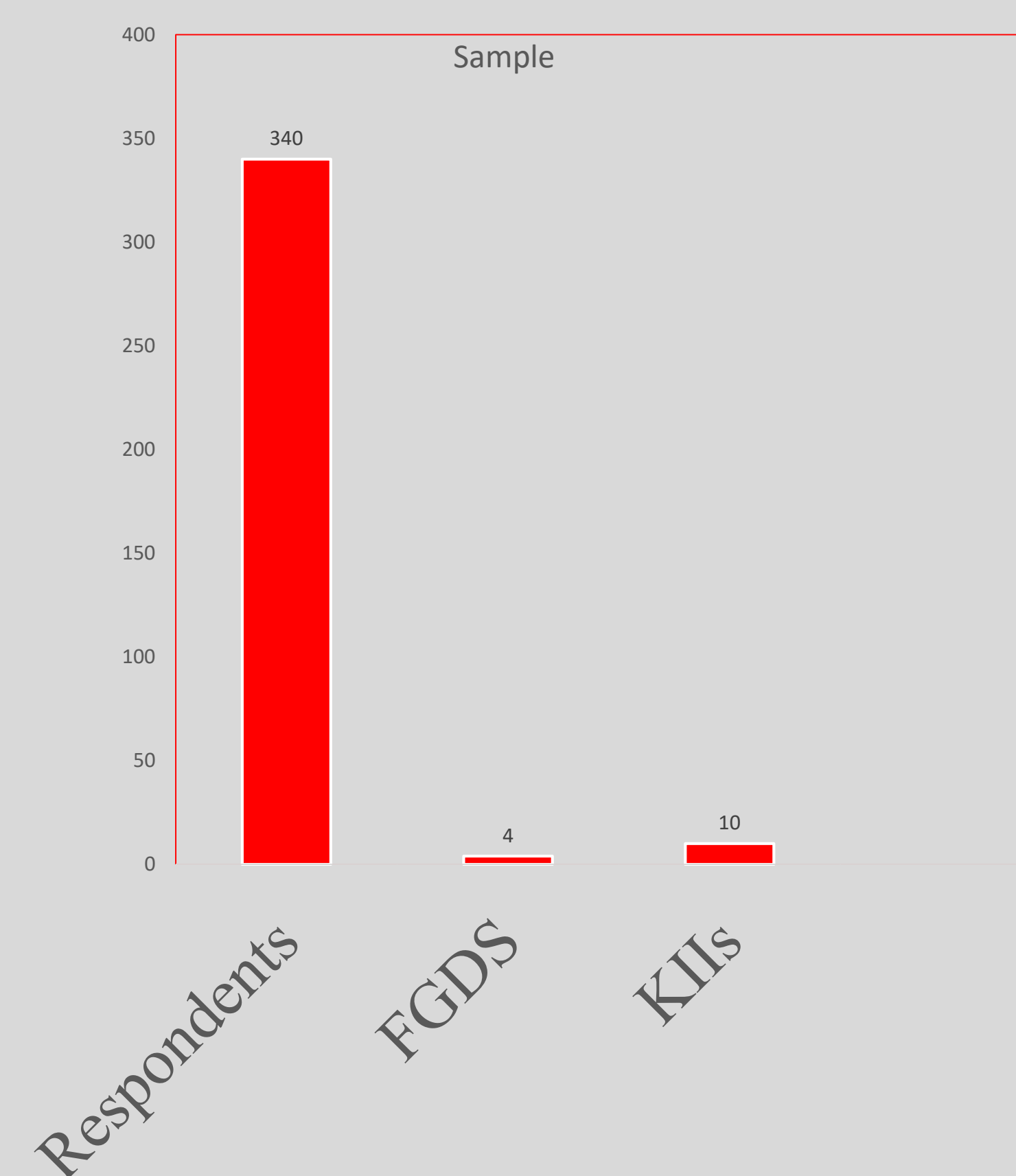
Design

Mixed-method research describing the social impact of unsafe abortions on teenage girls addressing the what, when, where and how aspects. Additionally, systematically describing the social ramifications of unsafe abortions on teenage girls in mining areas of Arcturus and Mazowe.

Methodology

- mixed methods ; literature review, survey, key informant interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FDGs).

- literature review ; reviewing primary and secondary sources included published reports, official
- representative sample of 340 respondents, 4 FDGs with 40 respondents and 10 KIIs were conducted.



Results

- The research made the following key findings:
- Teenage girls in the mining areas are prone to early pregnancy because of peer pressure, transactional sex with adults, lack of contraceptives and limited sex education.
- The law governing termination of pregnancy in Zimbabwe makes too restrictive for teenage girls to access safe abortion options.
- Poverty forces teenage girls to take unsafe abortion options.

Conclusion

- Teenage girls need capacity building on sexual and reproductive health rights and to be trained as peer educators
- Safe abortion advocates in Zimbabwe should lobby for legislative reforms on Termination of Pregnancy Act (ToP)
- Set up safe shelters for girls to rehabilitate (including access to psychotherapy) after abortions

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