

Module 4: Adolescent pregnancy - Adolescent health and development with a particular focus on sexual and reproductive health - Assignment

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## **Adolescent pregnancy is a public health priority in Nigeria**

It is particularly so in my region of practice that is northern part of Nigeria.

1. Data from Zaria maternity survey in northern Nigeria has shown that maternal mortality rate of girls less than 15 years was seven times higher than of age group 20-24.
2. Nigeria has one of the highest numbers of obstetric fistula patients. In almost all, adolescent pregnancy was a predisposing factor as revealed by several studies.
3. Majority of unsafe abortions done in Nigeria were procured by adolescents. The burden of managing the complications on the health care system is enormous.

## **What can be done by families and communities to prevent this happening to other girls?**

1. Support the introduction of school based sexuality education in the community so as to be able to reach other girls.
2. Understanding and support by family members to the concerns and needs of adolescent girls in their community.
3. The need for the community to put in place a system to offer second chance for adolescents who had made choices that had negative consequences on their lives.

## **What Ministry of Health can do?**

1. The need to train health care providers on adolescent reproductive health.
2. Integration of adolescent health services in to the existing health structures.

## **Assignment document**

1. [Camacho AV, Chandra-Mouli V. Adolescent pregnancy: a global perspective. Paper presented at: Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research; 2010 Sep 18; Geneva.](#)