

Report for the 2021 General Assembly

Panel Abortion Research 2017-2021

Abortion Research 2019-2021

Chair (s): Fatima Juarez (El Colegio de Mexico)

Susheela Singh (Guttmacher Institute)

Members: Harriet Birungi (Population Council)

Rishita Nandagiri (London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE))

Ndola Prata (University of California Berkeley)

Council Liaison: Clémentine Rossier (University of Geneva, Institute of demography and Socioeconomics)

Before 2018, the Panel had two other panel members: Agnes Guillaume and Sabina Rashid

The 2019-2021 panel continues the work of its predecessors, the IUSSP Panel on Abortion Research (2011-2018) and the IUSSP Panel on Abortion (2006-2010). To advance research on this topic, two activities were organized by the panel during 2017-2021 and a third, which was fully planned, has been postponed to 2022 due to the pandemic:

1) International Seminar on Incidence and Safety of Abortion: New Evidence and Improvements in Measurement, Watamu, Kenya, 3-5 December 2018

The goal of the seminar was to advance research on the measurement of abortion incidence and morbidity. Papers were presented on current research to adapt existing methods for measuring these outcomes, develop new methods and test and compare methods. In the area of abortion morbidity, research in progress was presented to understand how women access and use misoprostol clandestinely, the impact of widespread use of medication abortion on severity of complications, development of new frameworks for measuring morbidity and exploration of additional sources of data to understand abortion-related morbidity.

2) Virtual workshop on methodologies for measuring pregnancy intention and unintended pregnancy and birth, 13-14 May 2021

The key objectives of the workshop were to identify advantages and disadvantages of innovative and established methodologies for measuring pregnancy intention and unintended pregnancy and birth. Six innovative methodologies were covered and were compared with established approaches that have been widely applied. Presentations highlighted a number of key aspects of fertility preferences and pregnancy intentions each of which may affect outcomes and are therefore important to measure, including: desired timing and number of births; emotional response; ambivalence (mixed attitudes); strength of motivation; flexibility/contingency; temporal stability; and influence of partners. Data collection approaches were also discussed.

3) International Seminar on Unintended Pregnancy and key outcomes—abortion and unplanned births: Improvements in Measurement and New Evidence,
New Delhi, India, postponed to Spring 2022

Papers will deal with: new ways of conceptualizing pregnancy intention status that integrate different dimensions of the concept; improve measurement of pregnancy intention and unintended pregnancy; factors that underlie unintended pregnancy and abortion; and the relationship between socioeconomic disparities and socio-structural factors and the incidence of unintended pregnancies that may be influenced by inequalities in access to contraceptive services.

Current Status: Abstracts were submitted, papers were selected for presentation, authors were invited, and a tentative date has been set for the Seminar (Spring 2022).