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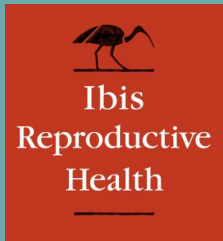
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Knowledge, attitudes and experience with abortion among HIV-infected individuals in Nyanza, Kenya

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Background

- **Abortion legally restricted in most countries in sub-Saharan Africa**
- **Approximately 6 million unsafe abortions annually in Africa**
- **29,000 deaths related to unsafe abortion annually in the region**
- **Approximately 14% of maternal mortality in the region related to unsafe abortion**

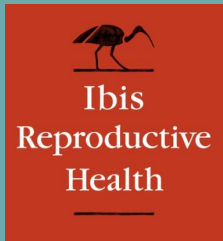


Background – Abortion among HIV-infected women in Kenya

- Qualitative study from Nyanza, Kenya, of HIV-infected women's fertility intentions found unsafe abortion considered by some
- Little research has focused on HIV-infected individuals' perspectives of abortion in Kenya

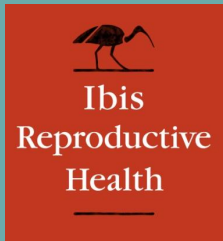
“I would contemplate abortion, but I also fear that I would lose my life in the process of abortion; however, I would seriously consider terminating the pregnancy.”

Harrington et al., 2012



Methods

- Data were collected as part of a cluster randomized trial (CRT) in 18 public HIV clinics.
- Conducted a cross-sectional survey in these clinics subsequent to the CRT in 2011 (n=479 women, 481 men)
- Questions focused on knowledge about abortion law in Kenya, and attitudes about and experience with abortion
- Estimated proportions for key variables and multiple logistic regression models while accounting for clustering in the study design



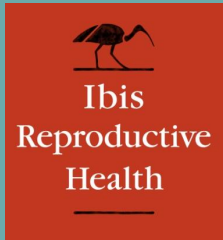
Methods – Survey measures

- **Unintended pregnancy**

- Women sometimes find themselves pregnant when they do not want to be or when their situation makes it difficult for them to continue with their pregnancy because of their life circumstances or opposition from others. Have you ever been pregnant when you did not want to be?

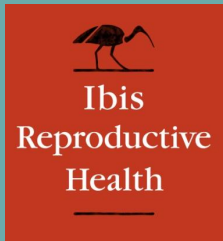
- **Abortion**

- Women sometimes take steps to end their pregnancy because they find themselves pregnant when they do not want to be, or when it is difficult for them to continue with their pregnancy because of opposition from others. Have you ever been in a situation when you or someone else have had to do something to end your pregnancy?



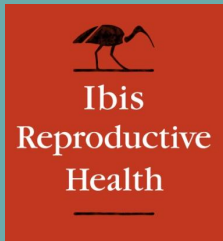
Results - Demographics

Measure	Female (%) n=479	Male (%) n=481
Age		
18-25	24	10
26-34	52	38
35+	24	52
Highest educational level		
None or primary	81	72
Secondary or greater	19	28
Marital status		
Married	65	85
Living with partner	6	2
Partnered, not living together	11	4
Not in relationship	18	9

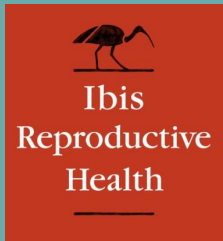
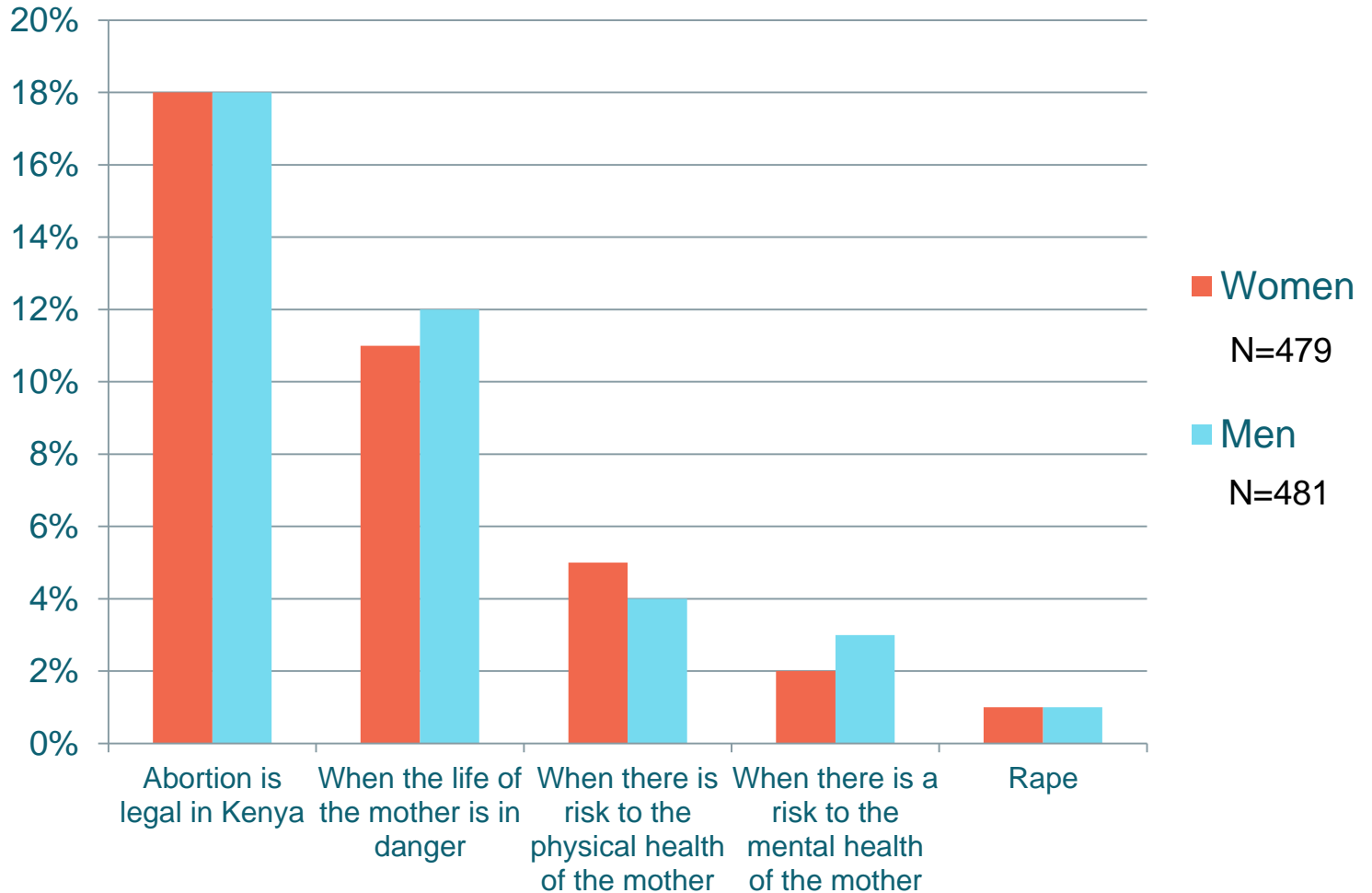


Results - Demographics

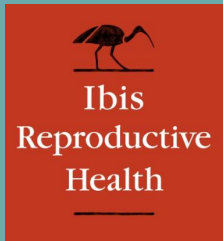
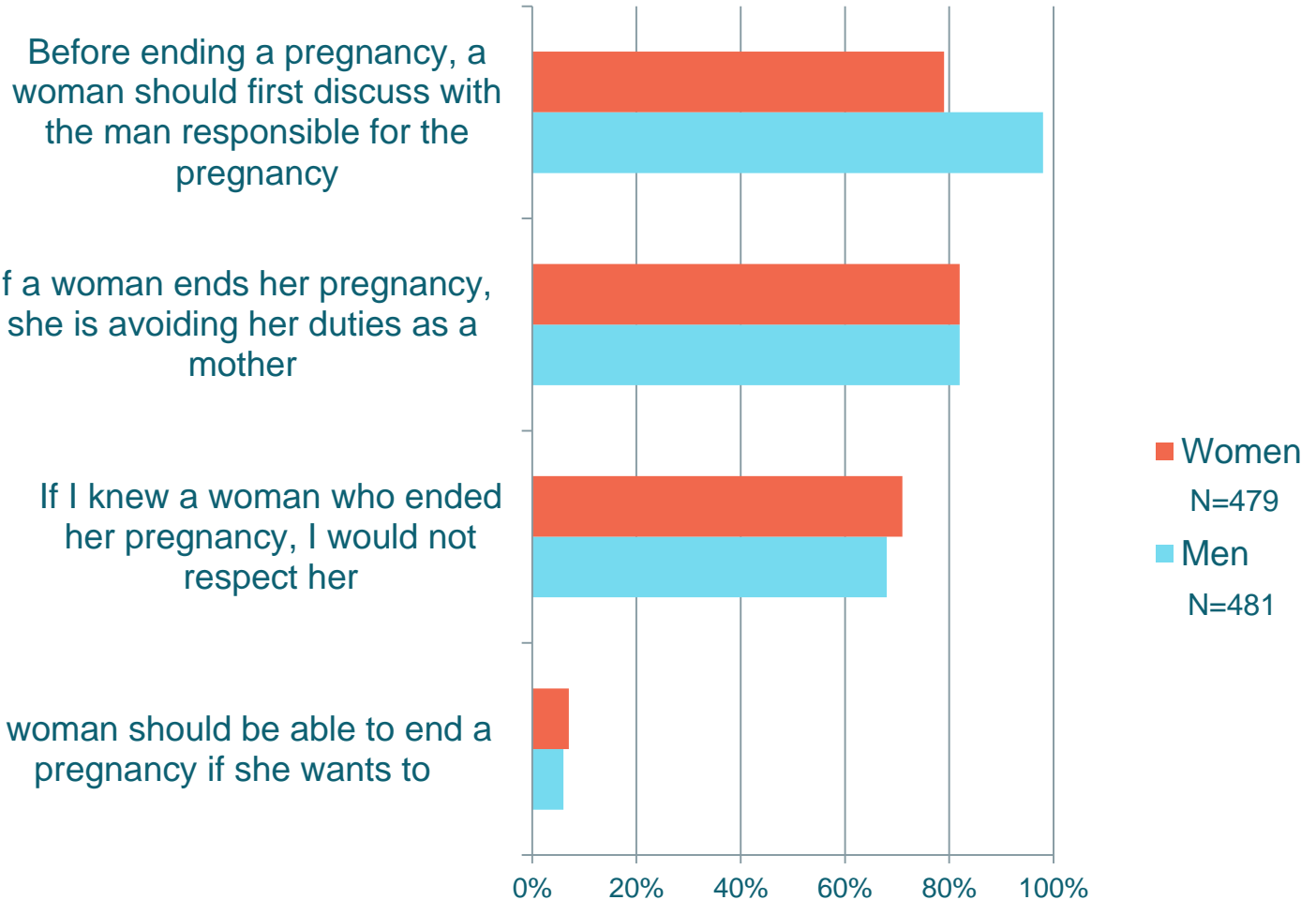
Measure	Female (%) n=479	Male (%) n=481
<i>Residence</i>		
Rural	82	78
Peri-urban or urban	18	22
<i>Disclosed to partner</i>	67	82
<i>Reported health status</i>		
Good	70	75
Fair	27	21
Poor	3	3
<i>Number of living children</i>		
0	8	10
1-3	58	44
≥4	35	47



Results – Knowledge of abortion law in Kenya

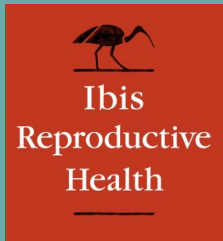
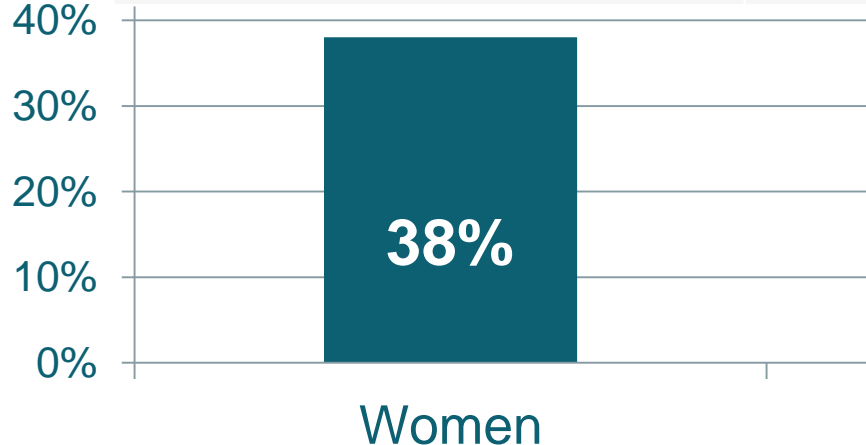


Results – Abortion-related attitudes



Results – Unintended pregnancy

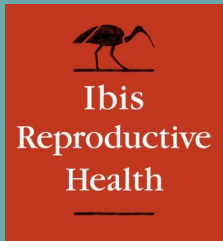
	Covariates for women	OR	95% CI
80%	1-3 children	8.13	1.57-42.03
70%	4+ children	13.63	1.93-96.05
60%	“Fair” health status	1.94	1.13-3.32
50%	Illiteracy	0.20	0.07-0.60



Results – History of abortion

- 8% of women and 4% of men reported attempting abortion at some point in the past
- For women, significant covariates associated with abortion history (6%):

Covariates for women	OR	95% CI
Age 18-25	2.98	1.44-6.17
Secondary school education or greater	2.86	1.12-7.27



Conclusions

- **Accurate knowledge of Kenyan abortion law is low**
- **Stigmatizing views of abortion are very prevalent in this community**
- **Unintended pregnancy is common, and 8% of women reported abortion history**
- **In addition to prevention of unintended pregnancy, comprehensive services for HIV-infected individuals should include counseling on the risks of unsafe abortion and referrals to safe, legal abortion services when appropriate**

