

**P2.10. Characteristics of Birth Registration among Youths - Abimbola Onigbanjo, University of Ibadan, Nigeria**  
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**Background/Significance:** For adequate planning at the national and regional levels, a nation requires detailed information about the characteristics of the society and about the specific goals of government programs to improve living conditions especially for the youths. In their quest for social and economic development, developing countries often struggle with information that is incomplete or is not available at the time it is needed. Nigeria's vital registration on births is about 28.2% complete, one of the lowest in Africa.

**Objective:** To assess the quality of data obtained from youths aged 10-24 years on the registration system of births.

**Methodology:** An interviewer administered questionnaire was used to obtain information for the survey which included a Household questionnaire and an Individual questionnaire. The household questionnaire contained questions on sex and age of household members while the individual questionnaire for the survey contained socio-demographic information, fertility information and birth registration. The study was cross-sectional in design with a two-stage cluster sampling process in Mokola, an urban community in Ibadan. A month was used for data collection in 2006 which included the pretest to test the instruments of the survey and the necessary adjustments made. The first stage of sampling included a simple random selection of 10 clusters out of a total of 30 clusters (a cluster was defined as a group of households in a named street). In the second stage, all individuals in each household within the clusters were listed. Respondents were youths aged 10 – 24 years from the household in the selected clusters. Descriptive and inferential statistics were generated using the SPSS statistical package.

**Findings:** A total of 351 youths participated of which there were 37.3% males and 62.4% females with a mean age of 20 years. Eighty percent of the respondents were Christians, 20% Muslims, 61.0% and 34.3% attended secondary and tertiary schools respectively. A total of 373 births had occurred from youths aged 10-24 years with 7.2% and 18.2% births occurring in ages 10-14 years and 15-19 years respectively. Approximately forty-nine percent and 47.1% of youths have had a live birth within the last 5 years in ages 15-19 years and 20-24 years respectively. Twenty-six percent and 43% of youths had an infant death in ages 15-19 years and 20-24 years respectively. The study shows that birth registration completeness varied according to the indicator used to judge completeness. About half (50.2%) of youths claimed they registered the index births but only 32.7% were able to produce birth certificates. These estimates are higher than the 28% reported by the MICS (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey) survey. The major reasons for incomplete births registration include the following: religious reasons (59%), ignorance about need for registration (26%), ignorance about where to register (6%), and prohibitive costs (6%). Multivariate analysis showed that Christians were about three times more likely to register their births than Muslims (95% CI 1.0 – 7.0, OR = 2.7). Youths who knew where to register their births were about eighteen times more likely to register their births than those who did not know where to register their births (95% CI 6.6 to 47.6, OR =17.8).

**Knowledge Contribution:** This survey contributes to knowledge on the demographics, age distribution, age errors, fertility and birth registration in Nigeria. It also reveals signs of early marriage, high fertility and maternal deaths, and low education on the girl child. Births registration was largely incomplete, although estimates from this study are higher than those previously reported. Public education on the importance of registration, education and places where this could be done is suggested.