

Levels and Predictors of Condom Use in Extramarital Sex among Women in Four sub-Saharan African Countries

Onipede Wusu, PhD

Department of Sociology, Lagos State University, Lagos, Nigeria

onipedewusu@yahoo.com; onipede.wusu@lasu.edu.ng

+234-8025750341

Being a poster presentation at the 2013 Population Association of America Annual Meeting, April 11-13, New Orleans, USA.

Levels and Predictors of Condom Use in Extramarital Sex among Women in Four sub-Saharan African Countries

Onipede Wusu, PhD

Department of Sociology, Lagos State University, Lagos, Nigeria

Abstract

The study examines the levels and predictors of condom use among sexually active married women in their last extramarital sex. The most recent standard DHS data for Congo Brazzaville, Ghana, Malawi and Namibia are analysed. Results indicate that condom use in extramarital sex ranges between 6.4% (Ghana) and 26.6% (Namibia). Age, age at first marriage, employment, wealth quintile, ever been tested for HIV/AIDS, location of extramarital sex partner and knowing condom use can reduce HIV risk are significant predictors of condom use during extramarital sex in the study sample (odds ratios ranges between 0.090 and 8.093, $P < 0.05$). Older women and those in the lower wealth status category are less likely to report condom use during extramarital sex. Thus, elevating socioeconomic status of women is imperative in promoting condom use and sexual health educators should focus on older and poor women in their campaigns on the advantages of condom use during extramarital sex.

Introduction

Research findings indicate that extramarital sex is pervasive among men and women in sub-Saharan Africa (Adegbola & Babalola, 1999; Smith, 2007). This behaviour is a key channel through which women contract sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV (Wardlow, 2007; Johnson, Dorrington, Bradshaw, Wyk & Rehle, 2009). The low prevalence of contraception in the region aggravates the risk (United Nations, 2012). In particular, women who engage in extramarital sex in sub-Saharan Africa rarely report condom use; this exacerbates the risk of STIs (including HIV/AIDS) in this population (de Walque & Kline, 2011). What are the levels and the predictors of condom use among women who engage in extramarital affairs in sub-Saharan Africa?

Data and Method

Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data for Congo Brazzaville, Ghana, Malawi and Namibia (representing Central, Western, Eastern and Southern Africa, respectively) were analysed. As at the time of analysis, the data sets were the most recent in the selected countries. Table 1 shows the year of survey and sample size in the countries. The sample consists of currently married women whose last sexual intercourse was with men other than their spouses. The analysis used the variable “relationship with last sexual partner” to extract the sample. Descriptive tools and logistic regression technique were employed to analyse the data at univariate, bivariate and multivariate levels.

Table 1: Survey year and sample size

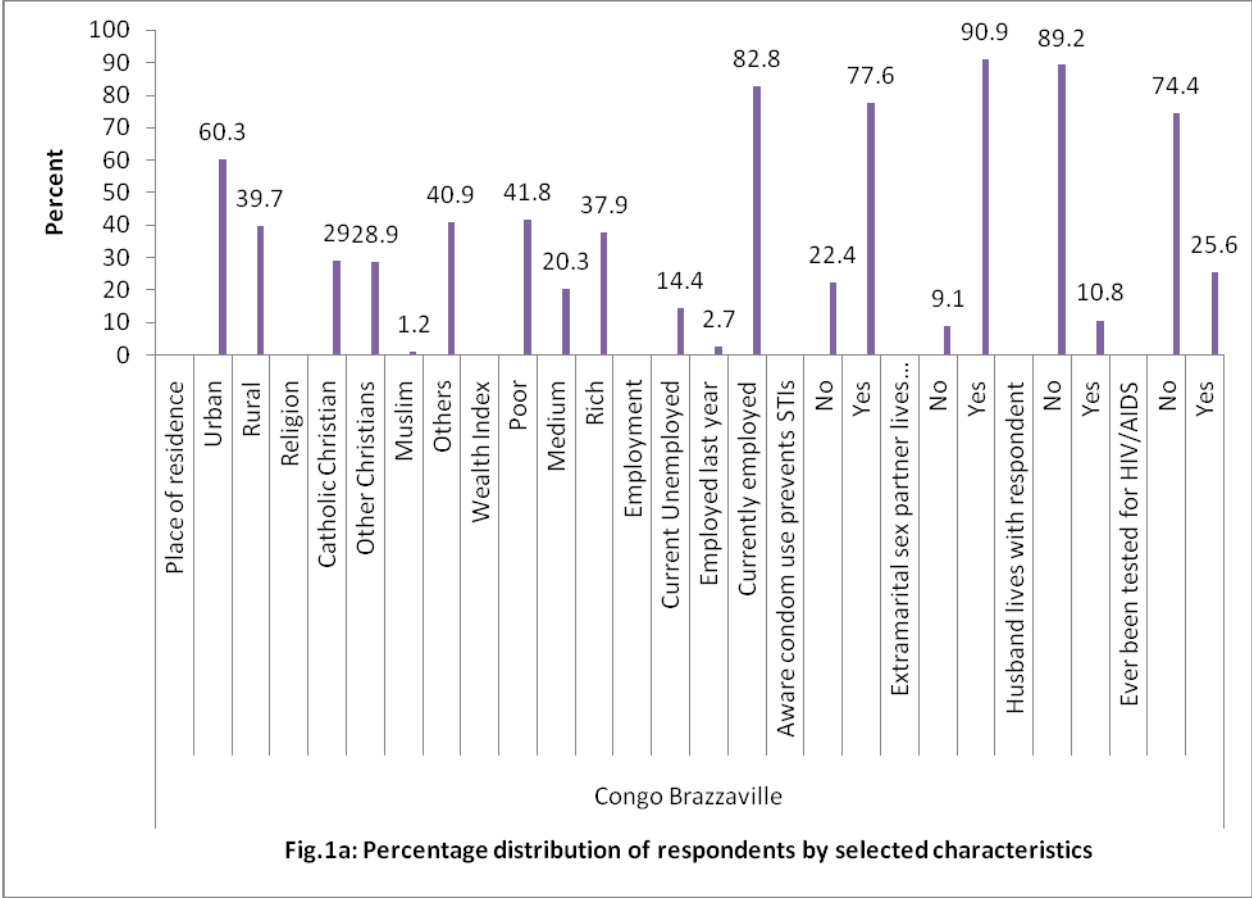
Country	Survey Year	Sample Size
Congo Brazzaville	2009	3582
Ghana	2008	352
Malawi	2010	677
Namibia	2007	1024

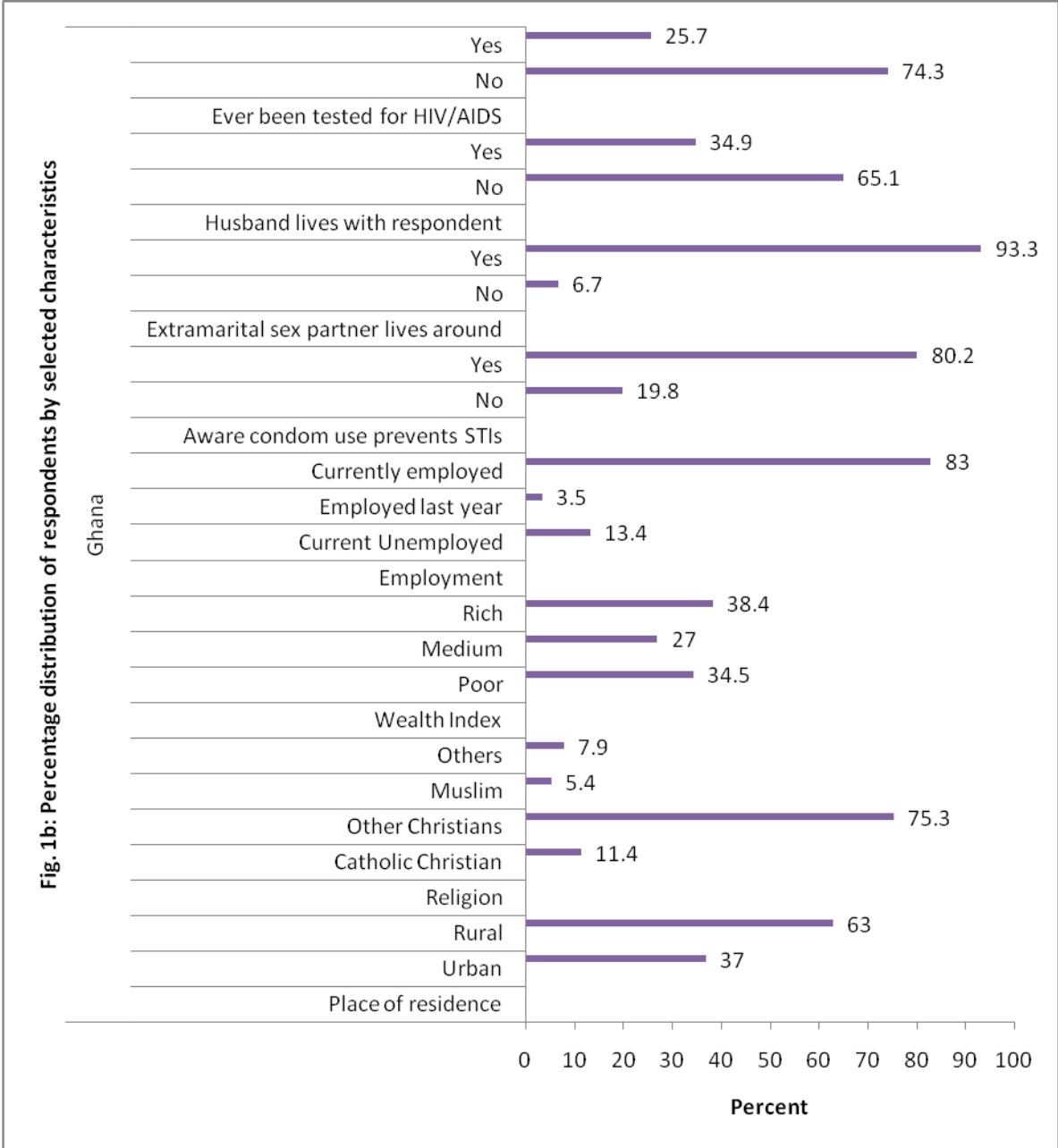
Results

Univariate analysis

Higher proportion of women who engaged in extramarital sex, in the four countries, were Christians (especially among non-Catholic Christians), of the rich wealth category, currently employed, aware condom use can prevent STIs and poorly educated. Surprisingly, most of the women had their extramarital sex partners around where they lived (see Figures 1a-1d and 2).

Condom use during extramarital sex is very low among affected women in the four countries. It ranges between 6.4% in Ghana and 26.2% in Namibia (see Figure 3).





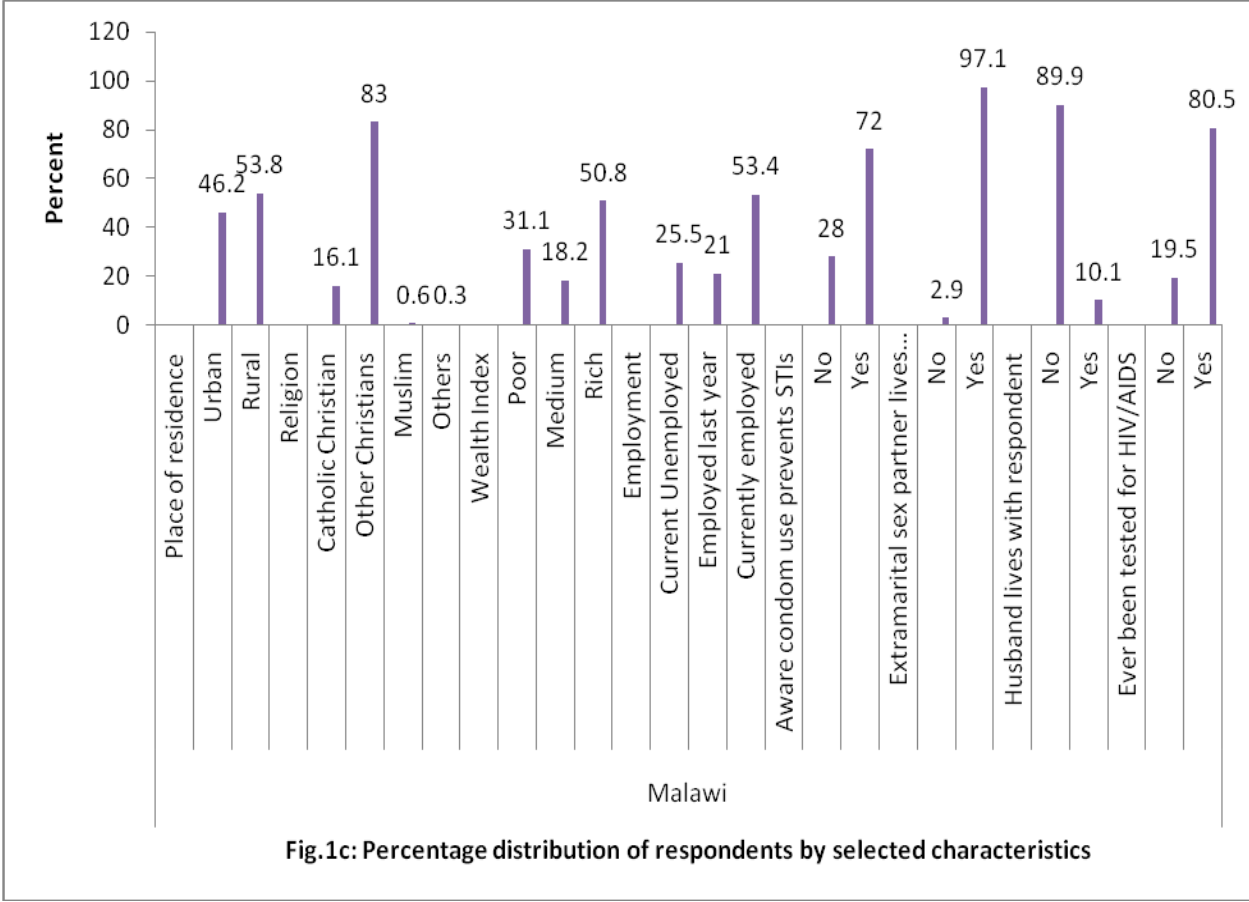
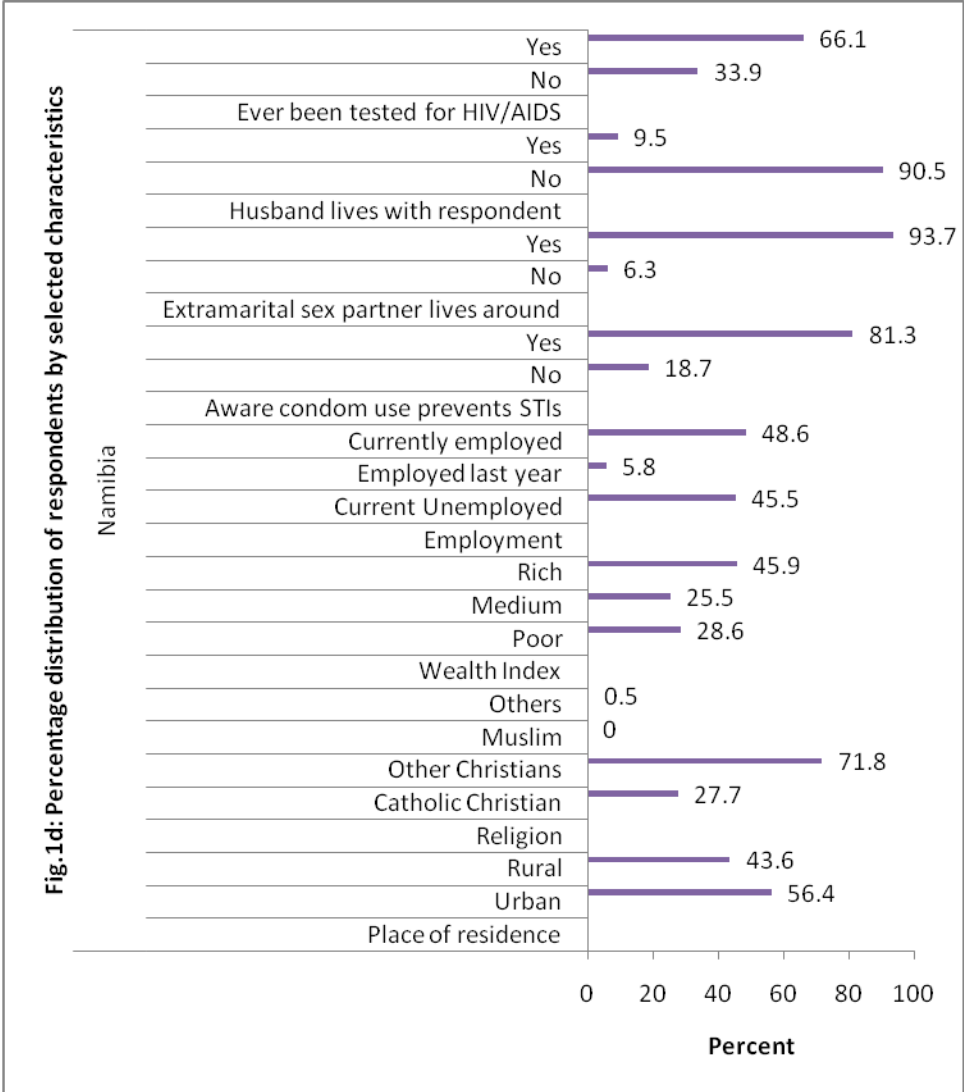
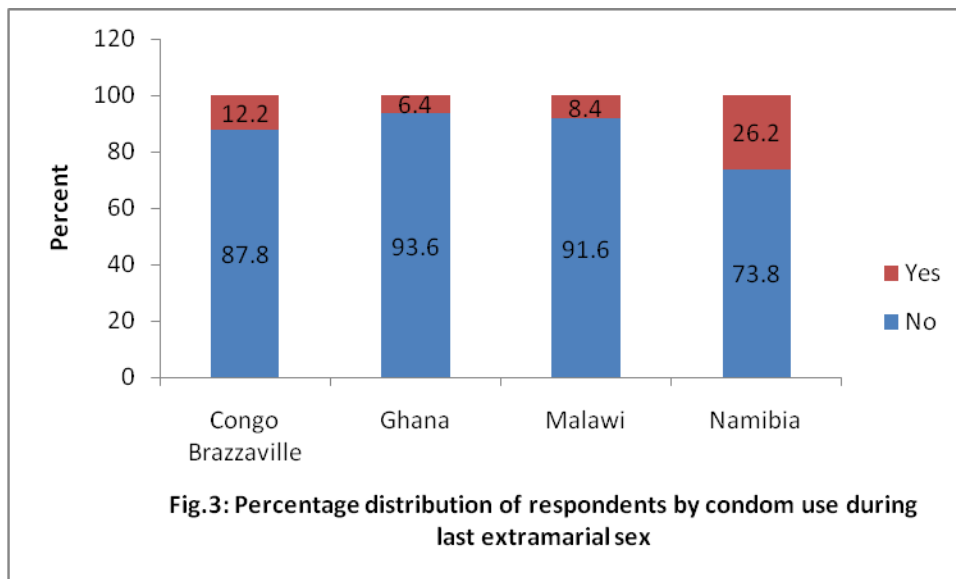
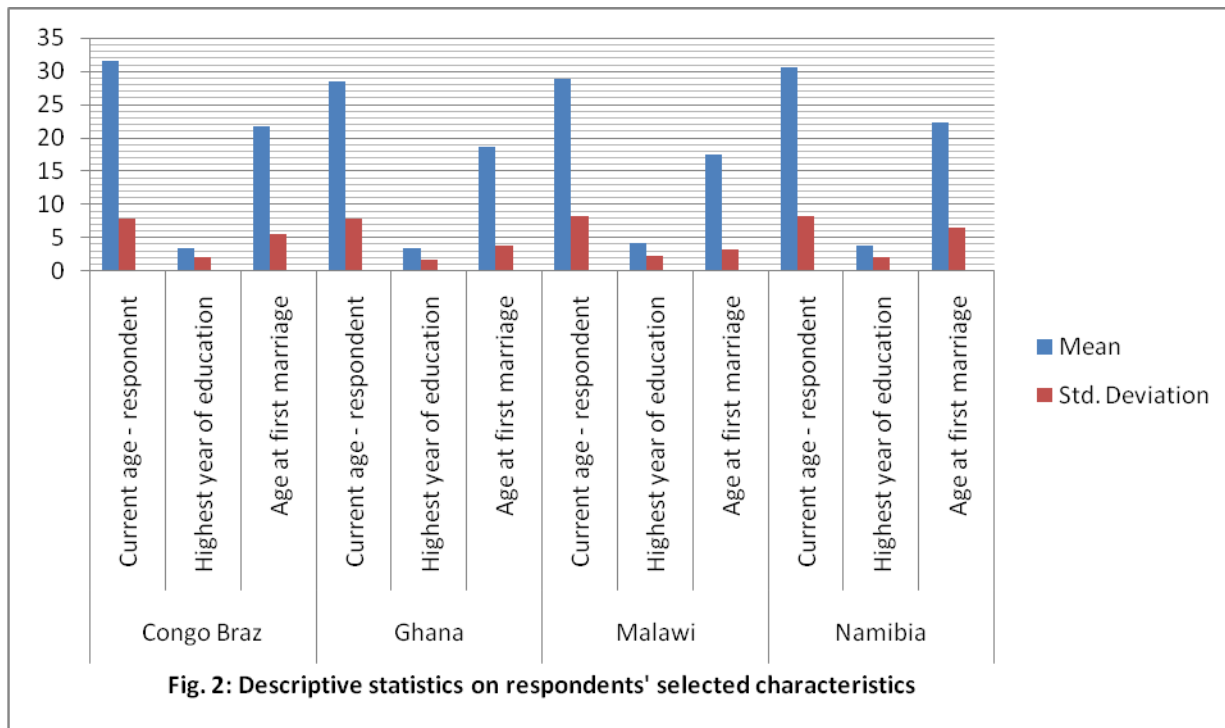


Fig.1c: Percentage distribution of respondents by selected characteristics

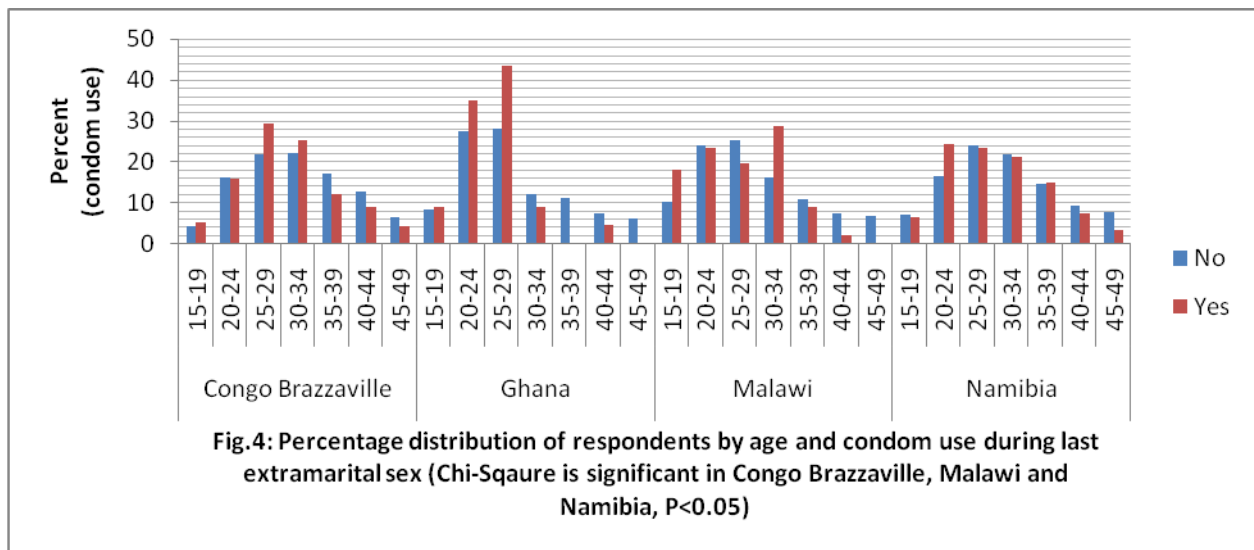


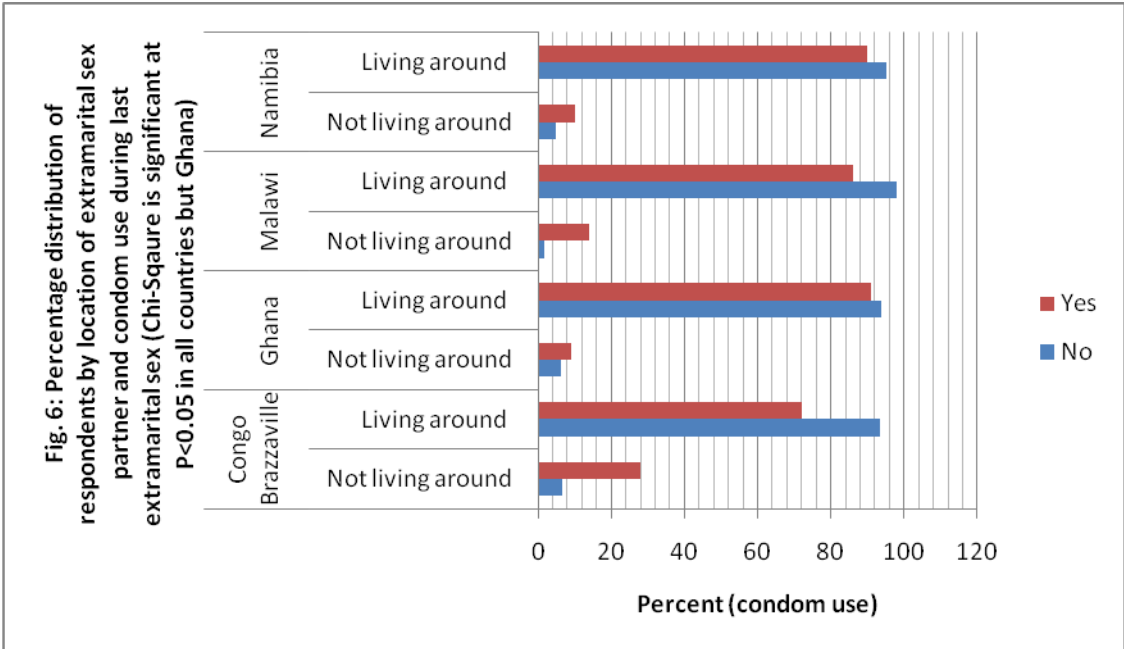
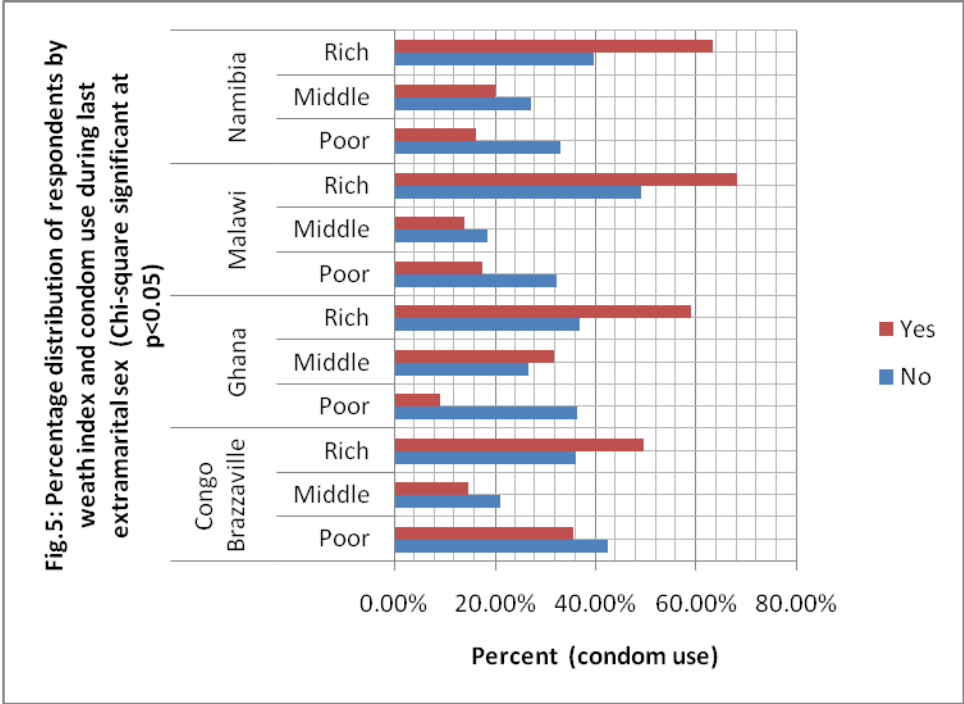


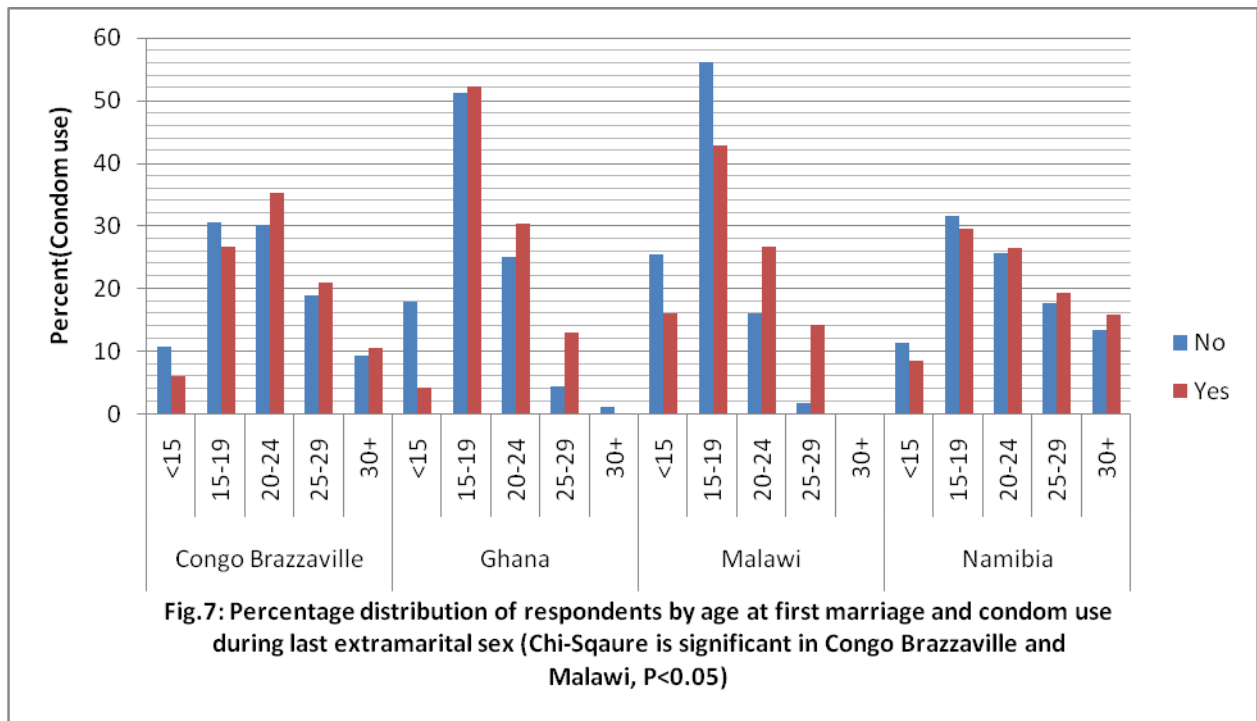
Bivariate analysis

Lower proportion of the sampled women between ages 30 and 49 years reported condom use during extramarital sex.

Higher proportion of those in the rich wealth category, who got married between ages 20 and 29 years, and had their extramarital sex partners not living around where they lived, reported condom use during last heterosexual extramarital sex. See Figures 4-7.







Multivariate analysis

In all the selected countries, women's age and condom use during extramarital sex are inversely associated (see Table 2).

On the other hand, wealth index is positively associated with condom use among the respondents in almost all countries.

Similarly, age at first marriage is positively associated with condom use in extramarital sex in all countries but Malawi.

Women who engaged in extramarital sex with men living around them are less likely to use condom during sex in two countries while such women are more likely to use condom in Malawi.

Table 2: Odds ratio of logistic regression on the effects of socio-economic and demographic factors on condom use in extramarital sex among married women in four sub-Saharan African countries, 2007 - 10

Predictors	Odds Ratios			
	Congo Brazzaville	Ghana	Malawi	Namibia
Age of respondent	0.957**	0.884*	0.933**	0.965*
Place of residence				
Urban (r)	1.00	1.000	1.000	1.000
Rural	1.054	2.012	1.120	0.912
Years of schooling	0.977	0.789	1.025	0.960
Religion				
Catholic Christians(r)	1.000	1.000	-	1.000
Other Christians	1.137	0.280	-	1.168
Muslim	0.195	0.786	-	0.358
Others	1.040	0.216	-	
Wealth index				
Poor (r)	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Medium	0.700	6.770*	1.452	1.511
Rich	1.481*	8.093*	1.464	2.813**
Employment				
Currently unemployed(r)	1.000	-	1.000	1.000
Employed last year	0.845	-	4.008**	1.999*
Currently employed	0.911	-	0.090**	0.893
Aware condom use prevents STIs				
No (r)	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Yes	1.753**	6.182	0.811	1.125
Extramarital Sex partner lives around				
No (r)	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Yes	0.144**	0.520	1.282**	0.378*
Husband lives with respondent				
No (r)	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Yes	0.756	1.338	2.699	1.248
Age at first marriage	1.044**	1.182*	0.312*	1.035*
Ever been tested for HIV/AIDS				
No(r)	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Yes	1.772**	2.182	1.161	2.548**

*Significant at $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$

Discussion and Conclusion

Overall, condom use among women who engage in extramarital sex in sub-Saharan Africa is low. This finding corroborates an earlier study in the region which indicates that women who engage in extramarital sex rarely report condom use (de Walque & Kline, 2011).

The significant predictors of condom use in extramarital affairs in sub-Saharan Africa include age, wealth status, age at first marriage and the location of sexual partners relative to where the women lived.

Older reproductive aged women and those who belong to lower wealth status are less likely to use condom during extramarital heterosexual intercourse. These categories of women are thus at higher risk of sexually transmitted infections. Service providers should therefore target these vulnerable groups.

References

- Adegbola, O., and Babalola, O. (1999). Premarital and extramarital sex in Lagos, Nigeria. *The Continuing African HIV/AIDS Epidemic*, 19-44.
- De Walque, D., and Kline, R. (2011). Variations in condom use by type of partner in 13 sub-Saharan African countries. *Studies in Family Planning*, 42(1): 1-10.
- Johnson, L. F., Dorrington, R. E., Bradshaw, D., Wyk, V. P., and Rehle, T. (2009). Sexual behaviour patterns in South Africa and their association with the spread of HIV: Insights from a mathematical model. *Demographic Research*, 21, Article 11: 289-340.
- Smith, D. J. (2007). Modern marriage, men's extramarital sex and HIV risk in Southeastern Nigeria. *American Journal of Public Health*, 97(6) 997-1005.
- United Nations .(2011). *World contraceptive use 2011*. New York: United Nations.
- Wardlow, H. (2007). Men extramarital sexuality in rural Papua New Guinea. *American Journal of Public Health*, 97(6)1006-1014.