Qualitative Research on Pregnancy, Care for Affected Children, Pregnancy Prevention and Termination of Pregnancy in the Context of Zika Virus

Current Project Brief

Objectives and Background

To date, research on Zika virus (ZIKV) has focused little attention on women’s attitudes and practices related to pregnancy and infection with Zika. The proposed qualitative research aims to fill this gap in understanding the needs, attitudes and practices related to family planning/contraception, abortion, and health care before, during and after pregnancy in the context of the Zika virus epidemic. The study will recruit a purposive sample of 30 pregnant women, recruited from a number of health clinics in Alagoas, Brazil, to enable researchers to explore attitudes and practices in different temporal and situational contexts, including different gestational periods, ZIKV status, age, ethnicity and socioeconomic status. In addition, 10 non-pregnant women and 10 male partners of other women, will be recruited from communities in the surrounding area. Approximately 10 key informant interviews will also be conducted with a purposive sample of healthcare professionals.

Researchers will conduct a prospective series of three semi-structured interviews with pregnant women at different gestational stages and soon after delivery. Male partners, non-pregnant women and health professionals will be interviewed once during the course of research.

The research study has achieved approvals from the WHO Research Project Review Panel and Research Ethics Review Committee. Study initiation in Brazil in December 2016. Currently, planning is underway in replicating this study in Honduras and a second site in Brazil.

Geographic location

Alagoas, Brazil

Main deliverables

Peer-reviewed publication of study findings

Sources of funding

Anonymous donor

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