

SJSM Science

Thank you for visiting the website of SJSM Science. SJSM Science seeks to promote scientific research among SJSM students and faculty by publishing their work online and sharing their research experiences with you.

Issue No 28.
Summer 2016

SJSM students are committed to improving the health of the Caribbean people and beyond through education, research and service and keeping in mind the diversity and the specificities of the population. The results of their activities were presented on The Caribbean Public Health Agency conference. Please take a look.



Factors and criteria that prompt delayed pregnancies: Age-range 35 and above

D. Santhosh, M. Flynn, L. Jean, S J Sykes, S. Wilson

Saint James School of Medicine, Arnos Vale, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

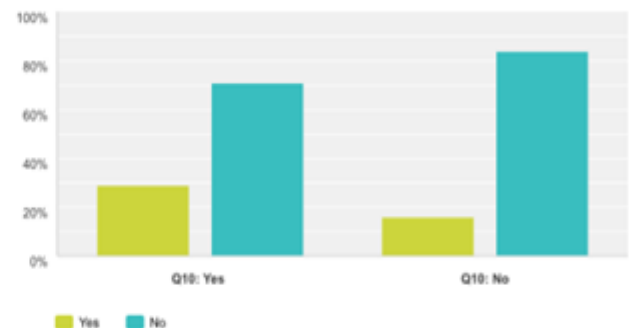


Objective: The purpose of conducting this research was to provide an in-depth analysis of women who have chosen to delay having children, for a multitude of reasons, and how this has shifted perspectives on child bearing. In the past, pregnancy generally occurred among younger women, but this has drastically deviated towards women waiting for longer periods of time to start a family and have children. We seeked to understand the main contributing factors, women encounter, while delaying pregnancy through conducting a cohort study.

Design and Methods: The study involved on online survey of 150 participants through the software called Survey-monkey with the help of a questionnaire that aided in the analysis tool. The research was conducted by first seeking out participants who could be grouped into two cohorts, either 35 and over, with no history of previous pregnancies or 35 and over with a prior history of pregnancy. There were an anticipated total of 150 participants but overall 158 participants were analyzed. This survey illustrates the information that will be the basis of our research moiety. We included all the vital information about the details of our research study and an informed consent. The responses were analyzed accordingly and a Chi Squared-test, p-value and degree of freedom was done to obtain accurate data.

Results: 44.59% of the participants were between the age of 35-40 years of age; 25.48% between 40-45 and 29.94% above 45 and above. 99.37% of the participants viewed emotional stability as significant. Education was another major demographic that was explored and their employment status was: working in the field of education: 15.65%; healthcare:30.43%; law: 2.61% and self-employed: 20.0%.

Graph: Are the alternative options available, the reasons of your late pregnancy?



Around 30% of the cohort (35-40 years) said that this was one of the reasons; while in the older cohort (40 years and above) around 18% agreed to the above. This is significant to show that the majority in both the cohorts 70% (35-40 years) and 82% (40 and above) do not agree and therefore quite conclusively shows that emotional, financial and career goals figure as major criteria.

Discussion and conclusions: Relationship between alternative options and age is not statistically significant (based on the p-value). Respondents who did not have children were more likely to fall under the category of having higher education, and more prestigious job opportunities. Financial and emotional stability was an important criteria for respondents in both cohorts (those who did and those who did not have children). Health risks and illness was statistically significant due to the sample size and age did not play a significant role in delayed pregnancy.



SAINT JAMES
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Her Future. Our Promise.