

Exposure to mass media family planning messages among men in Nigeria: Analysis of the Demographic and Health Survey data

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Background: Family planning (FP) is essential for improving health and achieving reproductive goals. Although men are important participants in FP decision-making within households in Nigeria, a country with one of the highest rates of maternal mortality, we know very little about their exposure to mass media FP messages. **Methods:** Drawing theoretical insights from the structural Influence model of health communication and using the 2018 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (n=13,294), and applying logistic regression analysis, we explored the factors associated with men's exposure to mass media FP messages in Nigeria. **Results:** A range of socioeconomic, locational, and demographic factors were associated with men's exposure to mass media FP messages. For example, wealthier, more educated, and employed men were more likely to be exposed to mass media FP messages than their poorer, less educated, and unemployed counterparts. In addition, compared to those in rural areas and other regions, men in urban areas as well as South East Region, were more likely to be exposed to mass media FP messages. Finally, younger men and those who belong to the traditional religion were less likely to be exposed to mass media FP messages, compared to their older and Christian counterparts. **Conclusions:** Based on these findings, we discuss implications and recommendations for policymakers as well as directions for future research.

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13 **Abstract**

14

15 **Background:** Family planning (FP) is essential for improving health and achieving reproductive
16 goals. Although men are important participants in FP decision-making within households in
17 Nigeria, a country with one of the highest rates of maternal mortality, we know very little about
18 their exposure to mass media FP messages.

19 **Methods:** Drawing theoretical insights from the structural Influence model of health
20 communication and using the 2018 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (n=13,294), and
21 applying logistic regression analysis, we explored the factors associated with men's exposure to
22 mass media FP messages in Nigeria.

23 **Results:** A range of socioeconomic, locational, and demographic factors were associated with
24 men's exposure to mass media FP messages. For example, wealthier, more educated, and
25 employed men were more likely to be exposed to mass media FP messages than their poorer, less
26 educated, and unemployed counterparts. In addition, compared to those in rural areas and other
27 regions, men in urban areas as well as South East Region, were more likely to be exposed to mass
28 media FP messages. Finally, younger men and those who belong to the traditional religion were
29 less likely to be exposed to mass media FP messages, compared to their older and Christian
30 counterparts.

31 **Conclusions:** Based on these findings, we discuss implications and recommendations for
32 policymakers as well as directions for future research.

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37 Introduction

38 Family planning (FP) is essential for improving health and achieving reproductive goals
39 (Kantorová et al., 2020). Several studies have found that FP can help reduce unwanted
40 pregnancies, pregnancy-related complications (e.g., hemorrhage, sepsis, obstructed labour, and
41 reproductive cancers), and maternal deaths (Bongaarts, 2011; Khan et al., 2006; World Health
42 Organization, 2022). Despite the critical role of FP, nearly 214 million women in developing
43 countries do not have access to FP, with the greatest unmet need seen in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)
44 (Tessema et al., 2016). In SSA, approximately 17% of women have unmet needs for FP, which is
45 considerably higher than the global average of 10% (United Nations Department of Economic and
46 Social Affairs, 2019).

47 In the last two decades, many developing countries including those in SSA have made
48 substantive progress in reducing unwanted pregnancies and pregnancy-related complications,
49 resulting in decreased maternal deaths. This progress, however, has been uneven within the sub-
50 region. For instance, Nigeria's maternal mortality rate is among the highest worldwide. Recent
51 evidence suggests that Nigeria has the fourth worst maternal mortality ratio in the world with 917
52 for every 100,000 live births (Onoja et al., 2022). More concerning is the fact that 44% of these
53 deaths were reported among marginalized and structurally exposed groups in the country
54 (Badamasi, 2021). In this context, the persistent low uptake of FP may be a critical determinant of
55 adverse health outcomes including high maternal mortality rates, making it important to identify
56 ways that may be useful to promote and enhance the uptake of FP in Nigeria (Federal Government
57 of Nigeria, 2020).

58 Mass media communication has been identified as a valuable tool in the promotion of
59 healthy sexual and reproductive behaviours including the uptake of FP (Cahill et al., 2018;
60 Dougherty et al., 2018; World Health Organization, 2022). For example, the Federal Ministry of
61 Health, through the Nigeria Family Planning Blueprint 2020-2024, has outlined the use of mass
62 media such as television, radio, newspaper, magazine and text messaging to reach a wide range of
63 audience on the need for the uptake of FP (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2020). To augment the
64 efforts of the federal government, other non-profit agencies such as the Nigerian Urban
65 Reproductive Health Initiative are also intensifying FP messaging through mass communication.
66 In the context of SSA, including Nigeria, the key role of mass media communication in health
67 messaging is hinged on a number of structural factors. Specifically, mass media communication
68 has an ability to decode complex FP messages generated at the policy level into simple messages
69 often translated into the local dialect for easy digestion by the local population (Kansanga et al.,
70 2018). This is particularly important in Nigeria where the health care system which also serves as
71 a source of health information may not be fully accessible, especially for rural residents and other
72 structurally disadvantaged people (Abubakar et al., 2022).

73 Supporting this argument, studies have identified the importance of women's mass media
74 exposure on their uptake of FP in SSA. For example, in Ghana, it was found that women who
75 reported being exposed to FP messages (adverts, brands) on television and radio were more likely
76 to practice [FP methods including barrier methods, and hormonal methods](#) than those who were not
77 (Appiah et al., 2020). In the Nigerian context, Chima & Alawode (2019) highlighted that increased
78 exposure to mass media messaging, including radio and television was positively associated with
79 the use of FP. Among female adolescents in rural Nigeria, it was also found that exposure to FP
80 messaging on television and radio was associated with higher likelihood of modern contraceptive
81 use (Chima & Alawode, 2019).

82 Although these studies are useful, they are exclusively focused on women, largely
83 overlooking men's roles in reproduction decision-making in the context of FP mass media
84 messaging. For instance, studies have shown that the effectiveness of women's uptake of FP partly
85 depends on the household decision-making dynamics, which makes men's knowledge of FP and
86 exposure to FP mass media messaging critical (Aboagye et al., 2021; Antabe et al., 2022; Sano et
87 al., 2018). Indeed, limited evidence in SSA including Nigeria suggests that when men were
88 exposed to FP mass media messaging with their partners, the uptake of FP increased among the
89 couple but uptake remained the same when only women were exposed to FP mass media
90 messaging (Ijadunola et al., 2010). Similarly, the meta-analysis by Mutumba, (2022) found that
91 exposure to FP mass media messaging increased FP knowledge, attitudes, and adoption among
92 men in SSA. These findings demonstrate that the involvement of men is crucial for the success of
93 any FP mass media intervention. This is more compelling in a patriarchal context like Nigeria
94 where gender, sociocultural norms and household decision-making power dynamics may often
95 favour men.

96 Using a nationally representative survey and applying the structural influence model of
97 health communication, we aim to address this void in the literature by identifying potential
98 mechanisms by which intermediary and structural factors are associated with men's exposure to
99 mass media FP messages in Nigeria. Findings from this study may be helpful for informing
100 stakeholders to take necessary steps to implement programs to increase the uptake of FP as part of
101 important national-level policy initiatives such as the Nigeria Family Planning Blueprint 2020-
102 2024 and Nigeria FP2030 Commitment.

103 **Structural influence model of health communication: The context of Nigeria**

104 This paper draws theoretical insights from the structural Influence model of health communication,
105 which posits that inequalities in access to health communication such as mass media FP messages
106 are generated through the interplay of structural and mediating/moderating factors (Viswanath et
107 al., 2009). The theory contends that structural factors such as socioeconomic and geographical
108 characteristics exert overarching influence on people's access to health information through mass
109 media in a given context.

110 For example, educational attainment is a critical determinant of exposure to mass media
111 health communication in at least two ways. For one, people with high educational attainment may
112 be more conscious about their health and are known to voluntarily seek health information to make
113 informed health-related decisions for themselves and respective households (Do et al., 2020). For
114 another, in Nigeria where there is a high level of illiteracy, educated people **may be better**
115 **positioned** to digest health information presented through mass media, as such messages may only
116 be delivered in the official English language, which makes it inaccessible to people without formal
117 education (Azees et al., 2022).

118 The theory also identifies household wealth and employment to create an opportunity for
119 individuals and households to access large spectrum of mass media communication outlets as it
120 removes any associated financial burdens with accessing these mass media platforms. This may
121 particularly be the case in Nigeria where the income-to-cost ratio in purchasing basic mass media
122 devices such as television, radio, and subscription to newspapers and magazines may offset
123 household budgets as the priority may be on meeting basic household needs such as shelter and
124 food (Amzat, 2011).

125 In addition to these socioeconomic factors, locational characteristics including region of
126 residence and rural-urban residency may influence access to mass media communication in
127 Nigeria (Ajaero et al., 2016). Specifically, the concentration of mass media infrastructure in
128 Southern Nigeria may work to increase exposure of residents in this region relative to those in the
129 north (Chima & Alawode, 2019). Similarly, due to urban bias in the location of social infrastructure
130 availability including mass media, urban residents may tend to have advantage in accessing and
131 being exposed to health communication through a wider range of mass media outlets (Abubakar
132 et al., 2022).

133 Beyond structural factors, the theory points to the role of mediating/moderating factors.
134 These factors often include demographic characteristics such as age, marital status, and religious
135 affiliation. For example, research shows that people's increased need for health care due to aging
136 may work to heighten their health-seeking behaviours including accessing health communication
137 through mass media (Aboagye et al., 2021). Moreover, it has been shown that there are unique
138 health benefits linked to marriage where married couples do not only report better health outcomes
139 but also often adapt preventative health behaviours that may include accessing mass media health
140 communication (Mutumba, 2022). Finally, religious affiliation is a critical cultural factor in
141 Nigeria that may influence health behaviours including seeking information on specific health
142 conditions. For example, given traditional religion and Islam's perceived emphasis on high
143 fecundity, it is possible that members of these groups may be discouraged from actively seeking
144 information on the use of FP via various sources including mass media (Barro & Bado, 2021).
145 These mediating/moderating factors may interplay with broader structural factors to shape men's
146 exposure to mass media FP messages in Nigeria.

147

148 **Materials & Methods**

149

150 *Data*

151 We used the data from the 2018 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), which is a
152 nationally representative survey of Nigerian men aged 15-59 and women aged 15-49. The NDHS
153 was implemented by the National Population Commission in collaboration with the National
154 Malaria Elimination Programme of the Federal Ministry of Health, with technical assistance from
155 ICF through the DHS Program. The NDHS provides high quality and reliable information on basic
156 demographic indices and health-related topics including exposure to mass media FP messages.
157 The NDHS used a multi-stage sampling framework where systematic sampling with probability
158 [proportional](#) to size was applied to identify enumeration areas from which households were
159 chosen. While the NDHS also interviews women, this study exclusively focuses on men. The
160 NDHS initially identified 13,422 men aged 15-59 and successfully interviewed 13,311 men, with
161 a response rate of 99%. We employed listwise deletion technique to address missing cases, as they
162 accounted for less than 1% of the sample. To this end, our analytical sample includes 13,294 men
163 who answered questions on exposure to mass media FP messages.

164

165 *Dependent variable*

166 The NDHS asked respondents whether they have been exposed to FP messages on 1) radio, 2)
167 television, 3) text messages, and 4) print media in the last few months. Based on these questions,
168 we constructed a binary dependent variable called 'exposure to mass media FP messages' where
169 respondents were coded 'yes' if they were exposed to FP messages on at least one of four media
170 outlets (0=no; 1=yes). We decided to rely on this approach for two different reasons. For one, these

171 four variables were highly correlated with robust internal consistency ($\alpha=0.72$). Importantly, these
172 four items were loaded into a single construct. For another, this approach is consistent with the
173 policy implementation at the national level in Nigeria. Specifically, mass media messages on
174 public health issues are structured such that people can obtain the same information through a
175 range of mass media outlets such as television, radio, print media, and text messages (Federal
176 Government of Nigeria, 2020).

177

178 *Independent variables*

179 Informed by the structural influence model of health communication, we included two sets of
180 independent variables. This model posits that there are two different sets of factors that may be
181 influential to exposure to mass media messages, namely mediating/moderating and structural
182 factors. For this study, we considered three mediating/moderating factors, such as age (0=55-59;
183 1=50-54; 2=45-49; 3=40-44; 4=35-39; 5=30-34; 6=25-29; 7=20-24; 8=15-19), marital status
184 (0=never married; 1=currently married; 2=formerly married), and religion (0=Christian;
185 1=Muslim; 2=traditionalist). For structural factors, we include region of residence (0=South East;
186 1=South South; 2=South West; 3=North Central; 4=North East; 5=North West), place of residence
187 (0=urban; 1=rural), education (0=higher education; 1=secondary education; 2=primary education;
188 3=no education), household wealth (0=highest; 1=higher; 2=middle; 3=lower; 4=lowest), and
189 employment status (0=employed; 1=unemployed).

190

191 *Statistical analysis*

192 We employed three different analyses. First, we used univariate analysis to describe the
193 characteristics of our analytical sample. Second, bivariate regression analysis was used to
194 understand the gross impacts of the independent variables on the dependent variable. Finally, we
195 conducted multivariate regression analysis to estimate the net impacts while simultaneously
196 accounting for a range of mediating/moderating and structural factors. For regression analysis, we
197 used logistic regression analysis due to the dichotomous nature of the dependent variable. Results
198 were reported with odds ratio. **Odds ratios (OR)** larger than 1 indicate that men were more likely
199 to have been exposed to mass media FP messages while those smaller than 1 point to lower odds
200 of having been exposed. All analyses were carried out using STATA 17 (State Corp, College
201 Station, TX, USA). The 'svy' function was applied in statistical analysis to adjust for the cluster
202 sampling design as well as sampling weights.

203

204 **Results**

205 Table 1 shows descriptive characteristics of the study sample. We found that 55% of men had **not**
206 been exposed to FP messages through at least one of the four mass media outlets (i.e., radio,
207 television, text messages, and print media) in the last few months. In terms of demographic
208 characteristics, it was found that men aged 15-19 (18%) was the largest age group followed by 35-
209 39 (14%) and 30-34 (13%). More than half of men were also currently married (53%) and lived in
210 northern Nigeria (57%) and rural areas (54%). The largest religious group was Islam (62%)
211 followed by Christian (37%) and traditionalist (1%). For socioeconomic characteristics, we found
212 that about one quarter (23%) of men did not have any formal education although the majority
213 (87%) were employed.

214

[Table 1 about here]

215 Table 2 shows findings from the bivariate analysis. Overall, we found that both
216 mediating/moderating and structural factors were significantly associated with exposure to mass

217 media FP messages. For example, it was found that men aged 15-19 (OR=0.28, $p<0.001$), 20-24
218 (OR=0.52, $p<0.001$), and 25-29 (OR=0.74, $p<0.05$) were less likely to have been exposed to mass
219 media FP messages than those aged 55-59. We also found that currently married men were more
220 likely to have been exposed to mass media FP messages than those who were never married
221 (OR=1.91, $p<0.001$). For religion, compared to Christian men, Muslim (OR=0.62, $p<0.001$) and
222 traditionalist (OR=0.39, $p<0.001$) men were less likely to have been exposed to mass media FP
223 messages. Men in South South (OR=0.45, $p<0.001$), North Central (OR=0.22, $p<0.001$), North
224 East (OR=0.31, $p<0.001$), and the North West (OR=0.39, $p<0.001$) regions were all less likely to
225 have been exposed to mass media FP messages, compared to those in South East. Similarly, rural
226 men were less likely to have been exposed to mass media FP messages than their urban
227 counterparts (OR=0.38, $p<0.001$). Furthermore, men with secondary (OR=0.42, $p<0.001$), primary
228 (OR=0.39, $p<0.001$), and no education (OR=0.17, $p<0.001$) were less likely to have been exposed
229 to mass media FP messages than their counterparts with higher education. Similarly, men whose
230 household income belongs the higher (OR=0.67, $p<0.001$), middle (OR=0.40, $p<0.001$), lower
231 (OR=0.28, $p<0.001$), and lowest (OR=0.13, $p<0.001$) categories were less likely to have been
232 exposed to mass media FP messages than those who belonged to the highest category. Unemployed
233 men (OR=0.46, $p<0.001$) were also less likely to have been exposed to mass media FP messages
234 compared with the employed men.

235 [Table 2 about here]

236 Multivariate findings are also shown in Table 2. We found that men aged 15-19 (OR=0.29,
237 $p<0.001$), 20-24 (OR=0.47, $p<0.001$), 25-29 (OR=0.64, $p<0.001$), and 30-34 (OR=0.72, $p<0.01$)
238 were less likely to have been exposed to mass media FP messages than those aged 55-59.
239 Interestingly, the significant impact of marital status on men's exposure to mass media FP
240 messages was completely attenuated in multivariate analysis. Similarly, we found that the
241 difference between Christian and Muslim men completely attenuated in multivariate analysis;
242 however, traditionalist men (OR=0.50, $p<0.01$) were still less likely to have been exposed to mass
243 media than their Christian counterparts. The impact of structural factors on men's exposure to
244 mass media FP messages remained largely robust in multivariate analysis. Men in South South
245 (OR=0.43, $p<0.001$), South West (OR=0.81, $p<0.05$), North Central (OR=0.28, $p<0.001$), North
246 East (OR=0.69, $p<0.001$), and North West (OR=0.81, $p<0.05$) were all less likely to have been
247 exposed to mass media FP messages compared to those in South East. Similarly, rural men
248 (OR=0.80, $p<0.001$) were less likely to have been exposed to mass media FP messages than their
249 urban counterparts. Furthermore, men with secondary (OR=0.61, $p<0.001$), primary (OR=0.54,
250 $p<0.001$), and no education (OR=0.34, $p<0.001$) were less likely to have been exposed to mass
251 media FP messages than their counterparts with higher education. Similarly, men whose household
252 income belongs to the higher (OR=0.84, $p<0.01$), middle (OR=0.57, $p<0.001$), lower (OR=0.47,
253 $p<0.001$), or lowest (OR=0.25, $p<0.001$) categories were less likely to have been exposed to mass
254 media FP messages than their highest counterparts. Unemployed men (OR=0.59, $p<0.001$) were
255 also less likely to have been exposed to mass media FP messages than employed men.

256 257 **Discussion**

258 Research shows the importance of men's involvement in FP decision making within households.
259 Yet, we know very little about men's exposure to mass media FP messages in Nigeria although
260 these messages are considered useful for increasing the uptake of FP among couples. To address
261 this void in the literature, we adopted the structural influence model of health communication and
262 used the Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey to explore the factors associated with men's

263 exposure to FP messages through mass media. Results from the descriptive analysis show that as
264 much as 55% of men had not been exposed to mass media FP messages through any of the four
265 media platforms. In comparison to other countries in SSA, however, the proportion of unexposed
266 men might be slightly lower in Nigeria. Abita and Girma (2022) for example found more than 65%
267 of men in Ethiopia had not been exposed to mass media FP messages. Compared to women in
268 Nigeria, men appear to have higher exposure with some evidence suggesting as much as 67% of
269 women had not been exposed to mass media FP messages (Ajaero et al., 2016). The relatively
270 higher awareness among men in Nigeria may likely be due to the intensified policies on FP in the
271 last decade, such as the *Nigeria Family Planning Blueprint* that have worked to expose men to FP
272 messages using mass media channels.

273 In the multivariate analysis, we found that men exposed to mass media FP messages were
274 more likely to use FP than their unexposed counterparts. This observation is consistent with results
275 of previous studies in the African context (Abita & Girma, 2022; Do et al., 2020; Mutumba, 2022).
276 Given the pervasiveness of patriarchal norms in sub-Saharan Africa including Nigeria where men
277 as household heads play a crucial role in household decision making such as reproductive health
278 decisions, engaging men in FP programs as well as women might be more beneficial than targeting
279 only women. These messages could be tailored to encourage men to engage in discussions with
280 their partners about family planning and to promote the use of contraception as a shared
281 responsibility. Engaging men in FP policy programs through mass media in Nigeria could help
282 reduce the country's higher maternal and neonatal burden.

283 In line with the structural influence model of health communication, we found a range of
284 structural factors were associated with men's exposure to mass media FP messages. For example,
285 we found that men with less than higher education were less likely to be exposed to mass media
286 FP messages than their counterparts with higher education. This finding is consistent with previous
287 research (Babalola et al., 2015; Dougherty et al., 2018; Mutumba, 2022), suggesting that education
288 is a significant predictor of men's exposure to mass media FP messages. Men with higher levels
289 of education may be more informed about the benefits of FP, potentially leading them to seek
290 relevant mass media information on how to access and utilize FP. In addition, research points to
291 the importance of English language proficiency on understanding mass media health
292 communication in some SSA countries including Nigeria (Okigbo et al., 2015). In this regard, it is
293 possible that educated men may personally feel targeted by mass media health campaigns
294 presented in the official English language relative to their counterparts with lower levels of
295 education who face challenges reading and digesting these messages.

296 We also found that poorer and unemployed men were less likely to be exposed to FP
297 messages on mass media, compared to their richer and employed counterparts. These results are
298 corroborated by earlier studies (Aboagye et al., 2021; Ahmed et al., 2019; Konkor et al., 2019),
299 which argue that financial and material resources play a critical role in seeking health care
300 information through mass media including FP information. In Nigeria, access to mass media may
301 attract some financial burdens that may be overwhelming for socioeconomically disadvantaged
302 groups such as low income households and the unemployed (Ahmed et al., 2019). Given the
303 evidence by the World Bank that 4 in 10 people in Nigeria live below the poverty line, these groups
304 may be preoccupied with meeting basic household needs such as shelter and food (World Bank,
305 2022), making it difficult to prioritize meeting the direct and indirect costs associated with
306 accessing health information including mass media FP messages. Due to these contextual
307 dynamics, economically disadvantage groups may be facing unique barriers in accessing mass
308 media FP messages.

309 In addition to socioeconomic characteristics, other structural factors such as region or state
310 of residence and rural-urban residency were associated with men's exposure to mass media FP
311 messages. Specifically, we found that rural men were less likely to be exposed to FP messages
312 than those in urban areas. This observation can be explained by the urban advantage in the location
313 of mass media infrastructure. For example, the Nigerian Urban Health Reproductive Initiative—
314 one of the major FP mass media initiatives in Nigeria—is concentrated in urban areas such as the
315 Ibadan and Kaduna (Babalola et al., 2015), possibly leaving behind rural residents who continue
316 to have limited available options for mass media FP messages. These locational dynamics may be
317 extended to the observed differences linked to region of residence. For example, given the rurality
318 of North Central Region of Nigeria, residents within this region are less likely to be exposed to
319 mass media FP messages compared to their counterparts in more urbanized South East Region
320 (Abubakar et al., 2022).

321 Moreover, as suggested by the structural influence model of health communication, some
322 mediating and moderating factors were associated with men's exposure to mass media FP
323 messages. For example, age was a significant predictor of men's exposure to FP messages through
324 mass media, indicating that younger age cohorts of men were less likely to be exposed than the
325 oldest cohort. Elaborating this finding, earlier studies (Aboagye et al., 2021; Kpembenbaareh et al.,
326 2022) have pointed to older age as a need factor for accessing and utilizing health care services
327 including mass media health communication. In this regard, older cohorts of men may particularly
328 be prone to FP message exposure as they actively seek information through mass media on
329 improving their health and that of dependants. In addition, we also found that traditionalist men
330 were less likely to be exposed to mass media FP messages in comparison to their Christian
331 counterparts. This result is consistent with previous research that alludes to the importance of large
332 family size to members of traditional religion in Nigeria (Babalola et al., 2015; Barro & Bado,
333 2021). Specifically, the desire for more children as a sacred command and religious obligation
334 may work to reduce their conscious and deliberate effort to seek FP messages through mass media
335 (Akintunde et al., 2013).

336 There may be some limitations associated with this study worth highlighting. First, the
337 NDHS is cross-sectional in nature, which limits our findings to statistical associations. The
338 findings should therefore be interpreted with caution as they do not imply causal relationships. In
339 addition, it is important to note that we relied on self-reported measures to construct men's
340 exposure to mass media FP messages, which may be subjected to recall bias. Also, [we did not
341 include the Internet as one of the media channels in our study due to the lack of relevant data. We
342 recommend the NDHS and other studies on mass media exposure to include the internet as one of
343 key sources of mass media messaging.](#) Furthermore, due to the sensitive nature of reproductive
344 and sexual behaviours in SSA, some respondents may under-report their exposure to FP messages
345 through mass media. To address these limitations, there is a need for qualitative research to further
346 explore in-depth nuances and lived experiences of men's exposure to mass media FP messages in
347 Nigeria. Despite these limitations, this study provides useful insights for understanding men's
348 exposure to mass media FP messages in the patriarchal context of Nigeria and elsewhere in SSA.

349

350 **Conclusion**

351 Based on our findings, there are several policy implications and recommendations. For example,
352 we observed that men with lower levels of education and household wealth as well as unemployed

353 men were less likely to be exposed to mass media FP messages. As a policy response, addressing
354 socioeconomic inequalities may be a critical approach to increasing couples' uptake of FP as a
355 result of men's involvement in reproductive decision making through their exposure to mass media
356 FP messages. However, in the short term, community-level interventions such as peer-to-peer
357 education may be a useful and effective approach to reaching socioeconomically disadvantaged
358 men and their partners with FP messages. We also found that some geographical characteristics
359 such as rurality impacted men's exposure to mass media FP messages. To address these disparities,
360 we recommend incentivising mass media outlets to extend their services and coverages to rural
361 areas as well as North Central Region of Nigeria. As an immediate intervention, it may be also
362 important to strengthen and resource existing health care infrastructure in rural areas to provide
363 FP messages as part of their mandate. Moreover, some demographic characteristics such as age
364 and religious affiliation were found to be significant predictors of men's exposure to mass media
365 FP messages. It is critical for stakeholders to craft FP messages to be more appealing and culturally
366 sensitive to younger cohorts of men as well as those who belong to traditional religion. For young
367 men in particular, there is an urgent need to deliver FP messages through more modern mass media
368 outlets including social media and other online-based platforms.

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Table 1 (on next page)

Sample characteristics

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Table 1 Sample characteristics

	Percentage
Exposure to mass media FP messages	
No	55
Yes	45
Age	
55-59	5
50-54	6
45-49	9
40-44	12
35-39	14
30-34	13
25-29	12
20-24	11
15-19	18
Marital status	
Never married	46
Currently married	53
Formerly married	1
Religion	
Christian	37
Islam	62
Traditionalist	1
Region of residence	
South East	12
South South	12
South West	19
North Central	14
North East	16
North West	27
Place of residence	
Urban	46
Rural	54
Education	
Higher education	17
Secondary education	46
Primary education	14
No education	23
Household income	
Highest	23
Higher	21
Middle	20
Lower	18
Lowest	18
Employment status	
Employed	87
Unemployed	13
Total	13,294

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Table 2 (on next page)

Bivariate and multivariate analysis of mass media exposure to FP messages

Table 2 Bivariate and multivariate analysis of mass media exposure to FP messages

	Bivariate analysis				Multivariate analysis			
	OR	p-value	95% CI		OR	p-value	95% CI	
Age								
55-59	1.00				1.00			
50-54	1.19	0.210	0.91	1.54	1.09	0.550	0.82	1.45
45-49	1.02	0.869	0.80	1.30	0.86	0.268	0.65	1.12
40-44	1.07	0.567	0.85	1.35	0.85	0.200	0.65	1.09
35-39	1.00	0.989	0.79	1.26	0.79	0.066	0.61	1.02
30-34	0.92	0.455	0.73	1.15	0.72	0.012	0.56	0.93
25-29	0.74	0.011	0.58	0.93	0.64	0.001	0.49	0.84
20-24	0.52	0.000	0.41	0.65	0.47	0.000	0.35	0.63
15-19	0.28	0.000	0.22	0.35	0.29	0.000	0.21	0.39
Marital status								
Never married	1.00				1.00			
Currently married	1.91	0.000	1.75	2.09	0.97	0.694	0.92	1.20
Formerly married	1.38	0.061	0.98	1.94	0.87	0.504	0.72	1.42
Religion								
Christian	1.00				1.00			
Muslim	0.62	0.000	0.57	0.68	0.99	0.996	0.88	1.14
Traditionalist	0.39	0.000	0.24	0.63	0.50	0.008	0.30	0.84
Region of residence								
South East	1.00				1.00			
South South	0.45	0.000	0.38	0.52	0.43	0.000	0.36	0.52
South West	0.98	0.826	0.84	1.15	0.81	0.000	0.68	0.96
North Central	0.22	0.000	0.19	0.26	0.28	0.040	0.23	0.33
North East	0.31	0.000	0.27	0.37	0.69	0.000	0.56	0.84
North West	0.39	0.000	0.34	0.45	0.81	0.015	0.66	0.99
Place of residence								
Urban	1.00				1.00			
Rural	0.38	0.000	0.35	0.42	0.80	0.000	0.72	0.89
Education								
Higher	1.00				1.00			
Secondary	0.42	0.000	0.37	0.47	0.61	0.000	0.53	0.70
Primary	0.39	0.000	0.33	0.46	0.54	0.000	0.45	0.65
No education	0.17	0.000	0.14	0.19	0.34	0.000	0.29	0.41
Household wealth								
Highest	1.00				1.00			
Higher	0.67	0.000	0.58	0.77	0.84	0.020	0.73	0.97
Middle	0.40	0.000	0.35	0.45	0.57	0.000	0.49	0.67
Lower	0.28	0.000	0.25	0.32	0.47	0.000	0.39	0.55
Lowest	0.13	0.000	0.12	0.16	0.25	0.000	0.20	0.31
Employment								
Employed	1.00				1.00			
Unemployed	0.46	0.000	0.40	0.52	0.59	0.000	0.50	0.70

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