

Preferred terminology amongst women seeking abortion in Britain

Cameron S , Lohr P, Ingham R

SACP & BPAS

Abortion vs Termination of pregnancy

- Abortion: International Classification Diseases
- WHO Guidelines, Abortion Act UK, RCOG
- Medical journal 'termination of pregnancy'
- Scotland 2015 'termination statistics'

- Women's views: terminology distressing
?what their preferred term would be?

Methods

- Self administered anonymous survey
- Scotland, England & Wales
- Scottish Abortion Care Providers, BPAS
- Terms 'abortion' or 'termination of pregnancy' distressing ?
- Preferred term ?

- Ethical approval not required
- Survey dates April- Sept 2015

Results

- 3013 questionnaires distributed (54 clinics)
- 2259 completed (75%)
- England (1342), Scotland (775), Wales (142)

- Mean age 27 yrs (range 13 to 51)
- 84% white
- 51% had children
- 36% had prior abortion

Do you find ABORTION or TERMINATION of PREGNANCY distressing?

	ABORTION 2258 (%)	Termination of Pregnancy N = 2255 (%)
Yes	783 (35)*	399 (18)*
No	999 (44)	1418 (63)
Unsure	476 (21)	438 (19)

*P<0.001

No association with demographics, reproductive history or country

Which would you prefer used ? (%)

	N = 2240 (%)
Abortion	263 (12)
Termination of Pregnancy	1009 (45)
Either abortion or Termination of Pregnancy	347 (16)
Voluntary interruption of pregnancy	203 (9)
Any of above	389 (17)
Other	29 (1)

No association with demographics, reproductive history or country

Conclusion

- **Majority** do not find either 'abortion' or 'termination of pregnancy' distressing
- Majority who *express a preference* prefer 'termination of pregnancy'
- Qualitative research needed
- Only study of women's views
- Antagonistic discourse in media
- Abortion stigma: is the term stigmatised?
- Consider identifying women's preference & modify language accordingly