

RESEARCH ARTICLE

**A STATISTICAL SURVEY ON DETERMINANTS OF MARITAL
INSTABILITY IN NORTH EASTERN REGION OF NIGERIA**

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ABSTRACT

Marital instability has hampered the growth and progress of many homes and children in Nigeria and is caused by a variety of problems, including poverty, impotency, parental influence, lack of trust, and so on. Its effects on children are numerous, including peer group influence, illiteracy, and lack of love. The research's goal is to conduct a survey and fit a model that will describe the pattern of marriage instability in Nigeria in order to identify the factors that trigger marriage instability in Nigeria. In order to get pertinent data about the overall attitudes of women and men in certain local government areas of states in the North Eastern region of Nigeria toward the causes of divorce among couples, questionnaires and in-person interviews were conducted with them. The number of unions, wealth (Rich, Middle, and Poor), religion (Islam, Christianity, and Traditional), partners' education level (No education, Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary), work at home (Away or At home), beating the wife when she declines sex (Yes or No), partner's fatigue/mood (Yes or No), fertility preference (Fertile, Sterilized, and Not Fertile), spouse's income, etc. are just a few of the categorical variables that were taken into account. The results revealed that every factor found in this study is important for marriage instability in North eastern region of Nigeria. According to the baseline survey respondents' breakdown, over 50% of respondents testified that infertility, beatings, sex satisfaction, partners arriving home late, and quitting or not working are the main causes of marital instability in the region.

Keywords: Marriage instability, Factors, North Easter region of Nigeria, Chi-square

INTRODUCTION

God established marriage as a social contract between two people to become husband and wife, making it the oldest institution in human society. For children who are legitimate, marriage—as established by God—gives validity to sexual relationships and reproduction (Asa, 2016)^[1]. Being joined as husband and wife to someone of the other sex with the intention of procreating and sustaining a family is known as marriage (Gove, 2006)^[2]. But in today's world, marital instability—which is linked to widowhood, divorce, and separation has become a cause for concern. Divorce and separation are social occurrences that are brought about by the husband, the wife, or both; however, widowhood is a universal human experience that is uncontrollable due to its connection to death (Amina, 2008)^[3]. Separation, however, can be divided into two types: mental separation, which is when a couple chooses to live together in the

same home but does not have biological or psychological ties, and physical separation, which occurs when a husband and wife live apart without ending their marriage. It is crucial to understand that widowhood refers to the dissolution of a marriage by death, whereas divorce refers to the dissolution of a marriage in court (Amina, 2008). On the other hand, the process through which marriages disintegrate due to desertion, divorce, or separation is referred to as marital instability (Omoniyi et al., 2014)^[4].

The idea of women in this study refers to the women who experience unstable marriages as a result of their husbands' separation and divorce. Regrettably, a lot of kids nowadays have to deal with the difficulties caused by several divorces or family separations. Divorced parents are more likely to remarry or enter into other close relationships, which increases the likelihood of failure (Amato, 2000^[5]; Adebayo, 2020^[6]; Anima, 2008^[3]). Here, children under the age of eighteen who are also victims of their parents' unstable marriages are defined.

Due to our diverse cultural backgrounds, marital difficulties and their aftermath are complex in today's culture; these demands can either work together or independently to undermine a marriage (Waite and Lehrer, 2019 ^[7]). A person's character is very hard to understand due to the complexity of human behavior patterns. Conflict arises when family members interact with one another; this is a sign of a dysfunctional system. Should the ailment continue, it could bring suffering not only to the affected folks but also to the other family members. In Nigeria, a number of reasons contribute to marital instability. Animasaun (2011)^[8] noted a number of variables, including cultural and ethnic conventions that affect how duties are performed within a particular family structure, Infidelity, infertility, breach of trust, early marriage, sexual deprivation, conflict in marital roles, financial disparities, poor exposure of spouses, communication gap, influence of incorrect models, and religious differences.

The word "marital" is derived from "marriage". Marriage, as defined by the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, is a legal union of husband and wife. Another definition of marriage is the union of a man and a woman with the goal of achieving their respective needs, values, and desires. Marriage is a significant phenomena in many societies since it gives a person prestige. It serves as the benchmark for determining who is responsible. Every civilization has laws governing the institution of marriage that guarantee the complete protection of every child. It is the beginning of the family's formation.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

2.1 Study Area:

This research work was carried out in Department of Mathematics and Statistics Laboratory of Federal Polytechnic Mubi, Adamawa state. Mubi is located in the Northern part of Adamawa state, Nigeria. It lies between latitude 10o 11 30' and longitude 13o 13 00'E and has an elevation of 1906 feet above sea level, situated at the foot of Mandara hill that separates Nigeria from Cameroun Republic (Adegoke and Bulus, 2015)^[9]. Five local Government Areas were selected each from every state in the North eastern part of Nigeria, and women and men in each community were interviewed.

The political zone referred to as North-Eastern Nigeria comprises of the present states of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe. Among the prominent factors that make an area a unit of historical study are its geography and human activities. This area shares various geographical, economic, social and political features it occupies slightly less than one-third of Nigeria's total area and had a projected population for 2019 of 33,558,674 or 13.5% of the country's population (Adebayo, 2020)^[6]. The inhabitants are mainly Fulani with only Borno State has Kanuri people as majority with more than 100 minority ethnic groups. It contains high mountains and dissected plains. The climate is essentially continental in type, with rainfall totals varying from more than 60 inches in the south to less than 15 inches in the north.

The vegetation varies from dense Guinea savannah in the south, through a broad belt of Sudan savannah to a zone of thin Sahel savannah with thorny acacias and low annual grasses in the far north (Appleton

and Belden, 2016^[10]). The soils are very varied. In certain areas they are well suited to irrigation, elsewhere short periods of cultivation must be interspersed with longish periods of fallow. The climate, however, is not different from that of the northern Nigeria. It has a definite rhythm of wet and dry seasons, to which the whole life of the zone is adjusted. The rainy season usually starts in April and last through September.

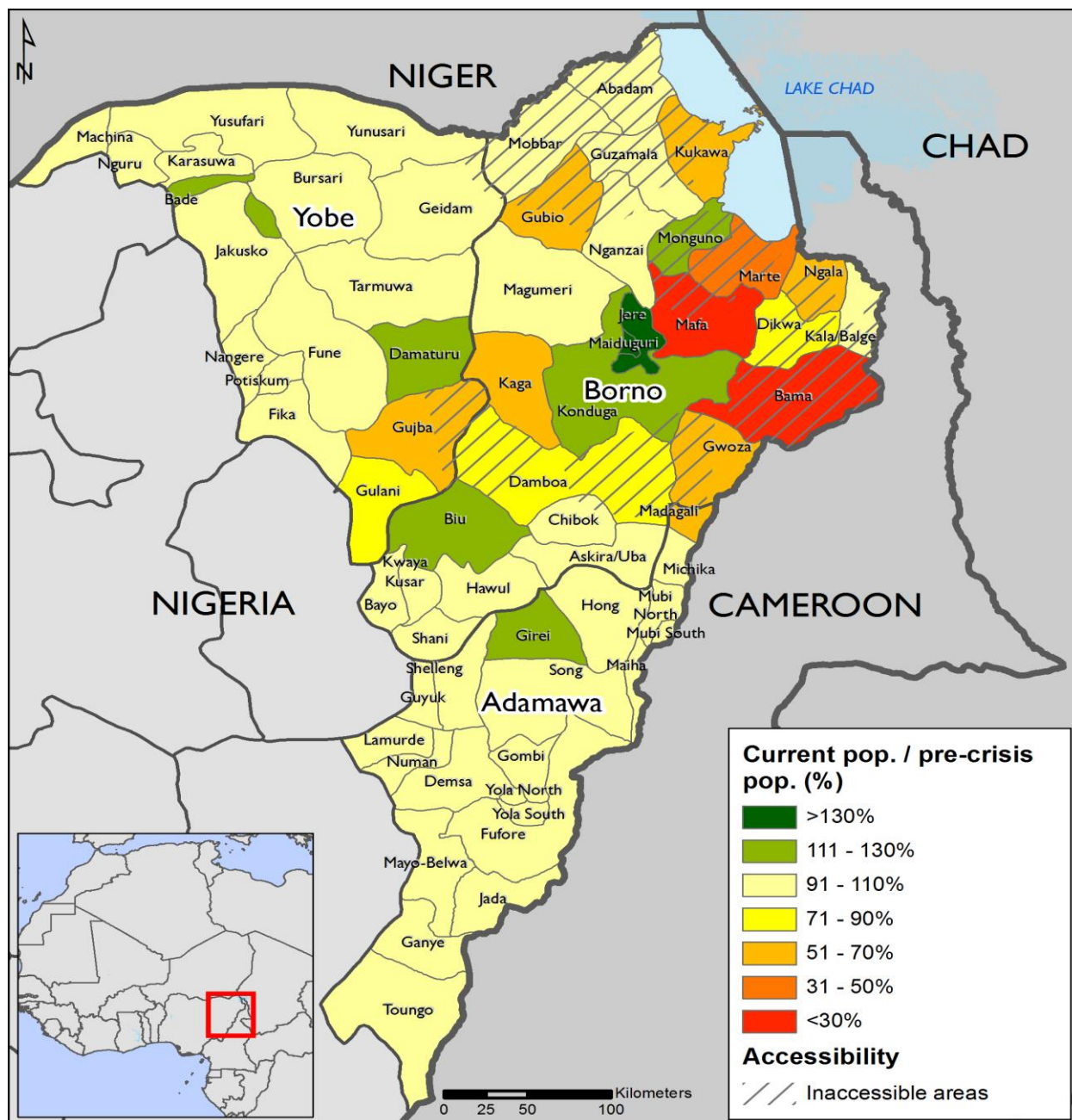


Fig. 1: Map of North Eastern of Nigeria showing the areas

Source: www.mapofnigeria.com (online)

2.2 Sampling technique:

Stratified sampling technique were carried out to select 1000 unions across the six states of the region (Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe states) to make a total of 6000 participants. The selected state were further stratified into local government areas (LGA's) and the convenient sampling were further deployed to randomly select respondents in selected communities in a given LGA where 200 individual per LGA. Total of five LGA's were considered per region.

2.3 Survey Staff:

Survey staff was trained on the survey process, the content of the data collection tool and their roles in the survey before data collection. They were also closely supervised during implementation. A total of 30 enumerators were trained on data collection and recording. They were supervised by the researchers during data collection. The training is expected to utilize a variety of different learning tools. Plenary lectures were held on the technical aspects of data collection, and other tools including hands-on demonstration on the process of data collection, instructions on how to fill out the questionnaire.

DATA ENTRY AND ANALYSIS

Data quality checks such as pre-defined values (code sets) for categorical data, range restrictions for numeric data, and logic checks were implemented to avoid data duplication and other data entry errors. The Team researchers checked the collected data for completeness and consistency with corrections made daily. Data were cross-checked for errors, cleaned, entered, and analyzed using SPSS.

3.1 Variables:

- (a) **Outcome/ Dependent Variable** will include the number of union i.e number of times an interviewee got marry (one or more than one times)
- (b) **Independent Variables** are the demographic characteristics such as Age, Sex, Educational Status, Occupation, Employment Status and religion etc and causes of marriage instability.

Given the focus of the activity, the stakeholders were chosen based on a variety of criteria, as shown in table 1 below, which resulted in a targeted distribution of participants. According to the breakdown of respondents to the baseline survey, the main causes of marriage instability in North eastern zone, accounting for more than 50% of cases, are infertility, beatings, sex satisfaction, partners returning home late, and quitting or not working.

Table 1: Frequency (Percentage in Parenthesis) Distribution of Marriage Instability and the Predictors

Causes of Marriage Instability	Response	NUMBER OF UNION		Total 6000 (100%)	P value
		Married Once 4,389(73.2%)	More than One Marriage 1611 (26.8%)		
Infertility	No	3771(85.9%)	271(16.8%)	4042(67.4%)	0.020*
	Yes	618 (14.1%)	1340(83.2%)	1958 (32.6%)	
Beating if issue arises	No	3850(87.7%)	414(55.7%)	4264(71.1%)	0.001**
	Yes	539(12.3%)	1197(44.3%)	1736(28.9%)	
Beating if she refuses sex	No	4021(91.7%)	289(17.9%)	3780(63.0%)	0.005**
	Yes	368(8.3%)	1322(82.1%)	720 (37.0%)	
Denying sex	No	4045(92.2%)	491(30.5%)	4536(75.6%)	0.010*
	Yes	344(7.8%)	1120(69.5%)	1464(24.4%)	
Sex Satisfaction	No	3998(91.1%)	241(15.0%)	4239(70.7%)	0.041*
	Yes	391(8.9%)	1370(85%)	1761(29.3%)	
Extra marital relationship	No	3754(85.5%)	288(17.9%)	4042(67.4%)	0.038*
	Yes	636(14.5%)	1323(82.1%)	1959(32.6%)	

Spouse has a contiguous disease	No Yes	4376(99.7%) 13(0.3%)	626(38.9%) 985(61.1%)	5002(83.4%) 998(16.6%)	0.001**
Earn than partner	No Yes	2142(48.8%) 2247(51.2%)	651(40.4%) 960(59.6%)	2793(46.7%) 3207(53.3%)	0.050
Spouse comes home late	No Yes	3142(71.6%) 1247(28.4%)	248(15.4%) 1363(84.6%)	3390(56.5%) 2610(43.5%)	0.003**
Change of religion	No Yes	3667(83.5%) 722(16.5%)	402(25.0%) 1209(75.0%)	4069(67.8%) 1931(32.2%)	0.104
Having more than one wives	No Yes	3989(90.1%) 400(9.9%)	141(8.8%) 1470(91.2%)	4130(68.8%) 1870(31.2%)	0.007*
Due to nature of spouse's work	No Yes	3567(81.3%) 822(18.7%)	689(42.8%) 922(57.2%)	4256(70.9%) 1744(29.1%)	0.000**
Quit/Sack from work/No work	No Yes	2127(48.5%) 2262(51.5%)	142(8.8%) 1469(91.2%)	2269(37.8%) 3731(62.2%)	0.191

* Implies the determinants/ causes of marriage instability that are significant

** Implies the determinants/ causes of marriage instability that are highly significant

The p-value asterisk for a factor show the significant contribution of the broken home at 5% level of significant ($p < 0.05$).

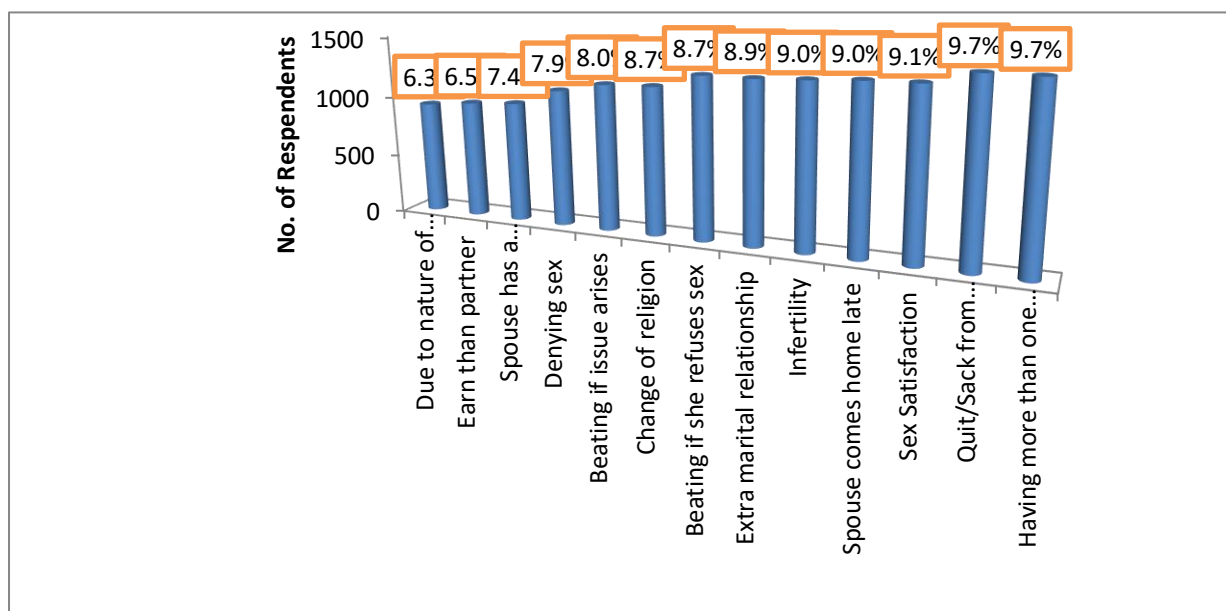


Figure 1: Frequency of Causes of Marriage Instability in North East

The baseline survey on marriage instability that was conducted in the local government areas under North eastern region of Nigeria. The 6000 selected participants across the regions, who are married, divorced and widow men and women with their responses on the causes of their divorce at every stage are factored into the baseline survey. Figure 1 shows the number of respondents' causes of marriage instability in North Easter region of Nigeria. The strength of causes of marriage instability as responded by the participants is presented in ascender order of the bars of the chart. The percentage breakdown of the baseline surveyed is shown in figure 1 below. Given the emphasis of the activity, the selection of stakeholders resulted in a targeted distribution of participants by causes of the broken home of the baseline survey respondents shows that the majority of the participants had a broken home due to their partner having more than wives and partners with no work, accounting for 9.7% out of total possible causes, followed by lack of sex satisfaction by a partner, spouse coming home late and infertility from some women with about 9% of the possible causes of marriage instability, and so on as shown in the chart

above. The least possible causes are nature of the spouse’s work or a patner earns wages more than other.

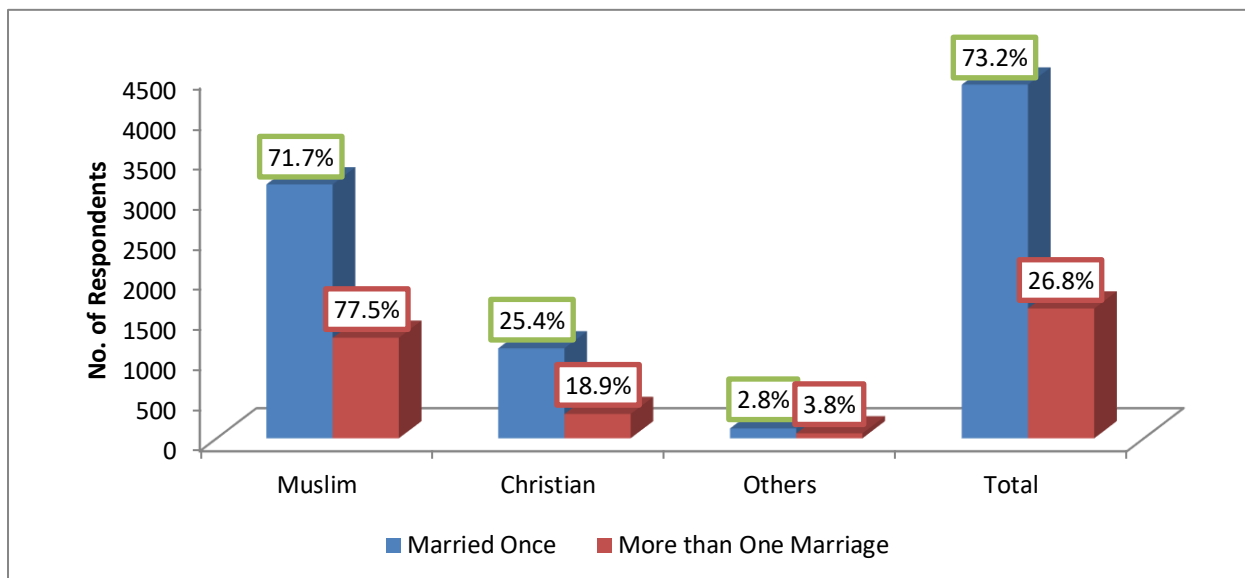


Figure 2: Religion Distribution of Respondents with One and More than One Marriage Experience

The baseline survey considered a comprehensive religion integration study to identify innovative ways of meeting both quantitative and qualitative religion targets in the farming activity. The findings in the figure 2 below indicates they are muslim couples (77.5%) who marry more than once than their other religion with percentage values of 18.9% and 3.8% respectively

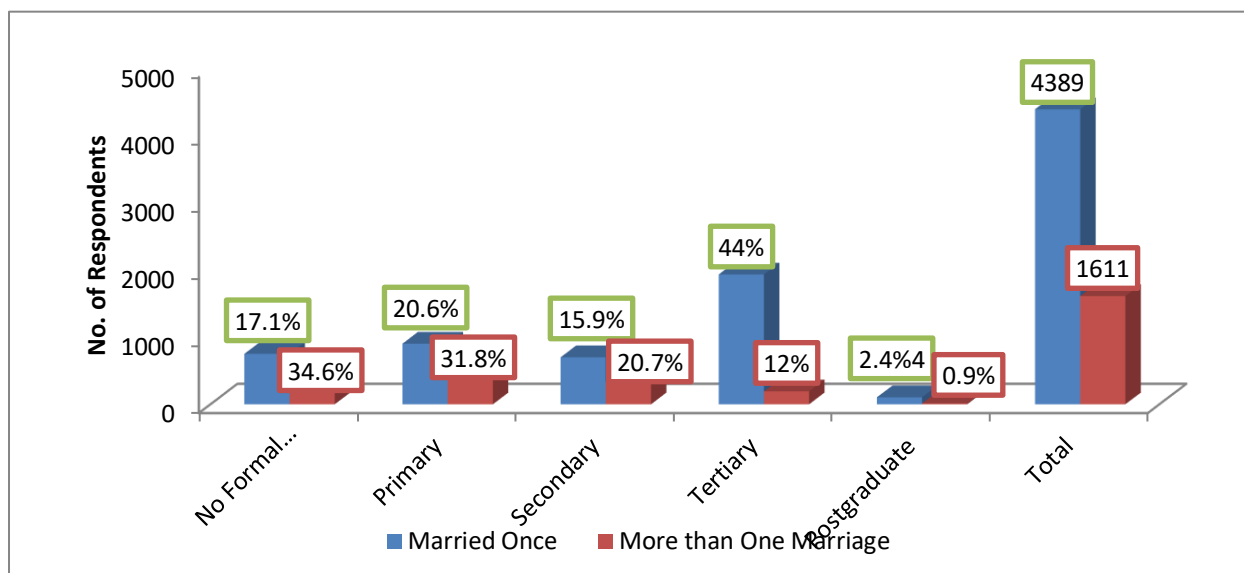


Figure 2: Education Distribution of Respondents with One and More than One Marriage Experience

The educational status of the respondents in figure 3 revealed that 34.6% of the respondents who have atleast a broken home have no formal education, 31.8% have primary school certificate, 20.7% % have secondary school certificate, 12% have tertiary education and 0.9% are postgraduate certificate

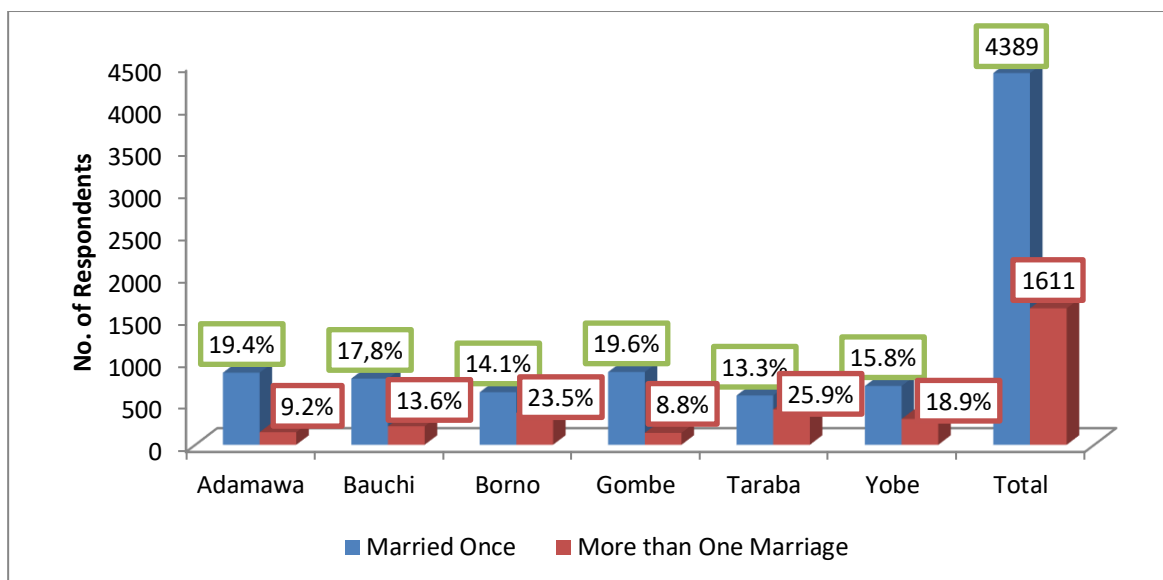


Figure 3: Distribution of Respondents with One and More than One Marriage Experience By States in the Region

The analysis of the baseline survey was presented based on the respondents' state of origin. The percentage breakdown of the baseline surveyed is shown in figure 2 above. Given the emphasis of the activity, the selection of stakeholders resulted in a targeted distribution of participants by state of origin, the breakdown of the baseline survey respondents shows that the majority of the participants who has a divorce experience are from Taraba state, accounting for 25.9% of the total respondents, followed by Borno state, accounting for 23.5%, and so on, as shown in the chart above. The states, Adamawa and Gombe have the lowest value of broken home in terms of state of origin.

CONCLUSION

The baseline study on marriage instability was carried out in the local government districts of Nigeria's northeast. The baseline survey takes into account the responses of 6000 men and women who were chosen from across the regions and who are married, divorced, or widowed, as well as their explanations for each stage of their divorce. Given the emphasis of the activity, the selection of stakeholders resulted in a targeted distribution of participants by causes of the broken home of the baseline survey respondents shows that the majority of the participants had a broken home due to their partner having more than wives and partners with no work, accounting for 9.7% out of total possible causes, followed by lack of sex satisfaction by a partner, spouse coming home late and infertility from some women with about 9% of the possible causes of marriage instability, and so on as shown in the chart above. The least possible causes are nature of the spouse's work or a partner earns wages more than other. The findings also revealed that muslim couples (77.5%) marry more than once than other religions

Furthermore, The educational status of the respondents revealed that 34.6% of the respondents who have at least a broken home have no formal education, 31.8% have primary school certificate, 20.7% have secondary school certificate, 12% have tertiary education and 0.9% are postgraduate certificate. Finally, The baseline survey respondents shows that the majority of the participants who has a divorce experience are from Taraba state, accounting for 25.9% of the total respondents, followed by Borno state, accounting for 23.5%, and so on, as shown in the chart above. The states, Adamawa and Gombe have the lowest value of broken home in terms of state of origin.

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