

## **Epidemiological Studies of Typhoid Fever in Pregnant Women in a Community in Central Nigeria**

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**Background:** Typhoid fever remains a major global health problem. *Salmonella* Typhi may be a cause of significant morbidity and mortality in both the mother and foetus in developing countries, where sanitation facilities, personal and food hygiene are inadequate. Thus, the present work was a retrospective and cross-sectional study of *Salmonella* infection among pregnant women in Shabu community of central Nigeria.

**Methods:** Serological (Widal test) and bacteriological analyses were conducted among randomly sampled pregnant women in Shabu community of central Nigeria, and the results obtained were compared. Previous data on *Salmonella* infection among pregnant women were also collected and analysed.

**Results:** The results obtained showed that 44 (88%) of the subjects were seropositive for typhoid fever, whereas 33 (66%) were positive based on bacteriological technique. Subjects between age groups; <19 and 30-40 years old had the highest prevalence of 100%. There was no statistically significant difference ( $P>0.05$ ) between the prevalence of typhoid fever among the various age groups of the pregnant women examined. Retrospective survey also showed a high prevalence of 63%, with subjects belonging to the age group: 20-30 years old with the highest rate of infection (92%).

**Conclusions:** Pregnancy makes the host more vulnerable to typhoid fever by affecting the physiology of pivotal organs, as such early and prompts diagnosis so as to avoid the further materno-foetal complications is of great importance.