The problem
Young people in Nigeria lack access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, including family planning, that are tailored to their needs. The problem of SRH services in Nigeria is inadequately addressed by health facilities. Extensive policies and guidelines are pending implementation and many youth are not aware of available SRH services in PHC facilities.

The solution
Integrating AYFHS into primary health care (PHC) facilities is proven to increase the likelihood that young people will access SRH services. PHC facilities are the first point of contact with health services for many Nigerians, including youth. They are within easy reach and are easy to access.

The solution can be implemented by implementing specific service delivery guidelines and protocols for adolescents and youth programs. Building strategic partnerships with relevant government and civil society organizations and other key actors can create demand for AYFHS through outreach programs and information, education, and communication materials development, and other efforts.

What has been done
The federal ministry of health has committed to integrating and promoting AYFHS in PHC facilities. But these policies and guidelines are not being fully implemented and many youth are not aware of available AYFHS in PHC facilities.

What must be done
More action is needed to establish and enforce evidence-based practices that ensure AYFHS are integrated into existing routine services in PHC facilities

Promote awareness and utilization among young people of available AYFHS in PHC settings

How to act
1. Implement specific service delivery guidelines and protocols for adolescents and youth programs at PHC facilities.
2. Build strategic partnerships with relevant government and civil society organizations and other key actors to create demand for AYFHS through outreach programs and information, education, and communication materials development, and other efforts.

Adolescents and youth-friendly health services attract young people, respond to their needs, and increase the likelihood that they will use the services they are intended for. They include family-planning services that young people trust and feel are intended for them.

Service providers often restrict access to contraceptives for youth, which will preclude them from opting for SRH services based on their personal observations of a client’s age, marital status, and existing family size.

Service providers are often biassed, judgmental, or hostile towards young people. Service providers often restrict access to contraceptives for youth, which will preclude them from opting for SRH services based on their personal observations of a client’s age, marital status, and existing family size.

Health care personnel can serve as a trusted source of SRH information.

More action is needed to:

- Establish and enforce evidence-based practices that ensure AYFHS are integrated into existing routine services in PHC facilities
- Promote awareness and utilization among young people of available AYFHS in PHC settings

Availability of family-planning services in Nigeria that are friendly to adolescents and youth is inadequate.

Access to SRH services for young people is well below the 50% of services accessed by young people at the PHC facilities were SRH services.

Adolescent- and youth-friendly health services (AYFHS) attract young people, respond to their needs, and increase the likelihood that they will use the services they are intended for. They include family-planning services that young people trust and feel are intended for them.

More than 20% of services accessed by young people at the PHC facilities were SRH services.

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The Nigerian government has developed policy goals, actions, and guidelines to support integration and promotion of AYFHS in PHC facilities.

2013

**NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE INTEGRATION OF ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH FRIENDLY HEALTH SERVICES INTO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FACILITIES IN NIGERIA**

Provide a framework that the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency operates nationwide in Nigeria, with the aim of improving their access to a package of quality services that are responsive to their health and development needs. The guidelines provide program planners, implementers, and health managers strategic considerations and broad guidance for actions needed to improve young people's demand for and utilization of available AYFHS.

The standards and criteria for AYFHS in Nigeria include:

1. An enabling environment exists in the community to support the provision and appropriate utilisation of adolescent and youth health services. …
   - Standard 1: Young people find the health facility easy to reach, and obtain services from it.
2. Young people are evidence-informed and effective and in line with the nationally defined package. …
   - Standard 2: Service providers are skilled and motivated to provide quality services.
3. Service providers are sensitive to the needs of young people and they are culturally competent and able to provide services to young people without reference to socio-demographic or political diverse.
   - Standard 3: Young people find the environment, setting, organisation and procedures of health facilities acceptable.
4. All young people who visit health service delivery facilities are evidence-informed and effective and in line with the nationally defined package. …
   - Standard 4: Young people are the users of the information, evidence and guidance of healthcare providers.
5. Young people are evidence-informed and effective and in line with the nationally defined package. …
   - Standard 5: Service providers are skilled and motivated to provide quality services.
6. Service providers are sensitive to the needs of young people and they are culturally competent and able to provide services to young people without reference to socio-demographic or political diverse.
   - Standard 6: Young people find the environment, setting, organisation and procedures of health facilities acceptable.
7. Young people are actively involved in the design, implementation and management of health services.
   - Standard 7: Young people are actively involved in the design, implementation and management of health services.
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10. Francis Eremutha and Veronica Chizoba Gabriel, “Barriers to the provision of adolescent and youth-friendly health services (AYFHS) in Lagos State, Nigeria. …

**REFERENCES**

10. Francis Eremutha and Veronica Chizoba Gabriel, “Barriers to the provision of adolescent and youth-friendly health services (AYFHS) in Lagos State, Nigeria. …

2015

**NATIONAL GUIDELINES ON PROMOTING ACCESS OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH-FRIENDLY SERVICES IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FACILITIES IN NIGERIA**

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2018

**NATIONAL STANDARDS & MINIMUM SERVICE PACKAGE FOR ADOLESCENT & YOUTH-FRIENDLY SERVICES IN NIGERIA**

Spousal abuse in health facilities should be provided by health service delivery points to young people in Nigeria, with the aim of improving their access to a package of quality services that are responsive to their health and development needs. The guidelines provide program planners, implementers, and health managers strategic considerations and broad guidance for actions needed to improve young people's demand for and utilization of available AYFHS.

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