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SUMMARY: Experienced research and evaluation specialist in global reproductive health in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Highly skilled in program monitoring and evaluation, capacity building, and use of evidence for decision-making and policy and practice change. Researcher on numerous studies focused on abortion care and contraception. Extensive track record of peer-reviewed publications and communication of scientific evidence for diverse audiences. Successful non-profit leader and manager, with expertise in strategic planning, team-building, donor engagement, program design and program/project evaluation. Fluent in English and Spanish.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Independent Consultant, Global Reproductive Health **2017-present**
Chapel Hill, NC US

Focus on program evaluation, research, scientific communication to diverse audiences, strategic planning and conference planning. Clients have included Ipas, Plan International UK and Pathfinder International.

Ipas, Vice President and Director, Research and Evaluation (R&E) **1990 – 2017**
Chapel Hill, NC US

Provided strategic and technical R&E leadership for global non-profit organization focused on reducing unsafe abortion and advancing women's reproductive rights. Led growth from two-person department to global R&E program encompassing 16+ countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America with 75+ R&E staff based in-country and the US, that supported an annual organizational budget of USD 65M.

- Developed and directed organizational programmatic monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system
 - Conceptualized abortion care evaluation framework that served as M&E foundation for organization; published in peer-reviewed journal
 - Headed M&E development and implementation of strategic plans, including indicator definition and operationalization, ongoing results monitoring, and internal and external reporting
 - Supervised design, testing, roll-out and ongoing use of relational, internet-based database to capture programmatic data on health worker training, health services, community interventions, and policy/advocacy activities. Database includes information on over 2M case records, 50K trained health workers and 10K health facilities.
 - Supported capacity building for global staff in collection, analysis and use of data for program improvements, and incorporation of abortion statistics into public health information systems

- Led/co-led analysis and publication of outcome assessments of large-scale, multi-country interventions to improve safe abortion access, postabortion contraceptive uptake and health worker performance
- Served as investigator/co-investigator of abortion research in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Vietnam, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, Peru and the US
 - Published in peer-reviewed journals, Ipas publications and publications with partner groups
 - Presenter, panel organizer and moderator at meetings of the Population Association of America, American Public Health Association, National Abortion Federation, the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, Society for Family Planning, and the International Conferences on Family Planning
 - Reviewer for peer-reviewed journals including *Studies in Family Planning*, *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics*, *Social Science and Medicine*, and *International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*
- Led/co-led multiple conferences and grant awards to generate evidence and foster global, regional and country improvements in abortion policies and practices
 - Led organization of highly successful 2016 conference on research-to-action in Africa involving 22 partner organizations and attendees from 30 countries, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Co-organized predecessor conference in 2006.
 - Led organization of groundbreaking experts meeting on meeting women's needs for postabortion family planning, Bellagio, Italy
 - Oversaw implementation of 5-year research grant from DFID (UK). Supported formation of Consortium for Research on Unsafe Abortion in Africa, comprised of African and US organizations conducting research in the region.
 - Served as Principal Investigator of USAID-funded sub-contract to Ipas from The Population Council for operations research on postabortion care in Latin America
- Provided strategic planning and non-profit leadership and management
 - Planning team member for development of organizational 5-year strategic plan
 - In-depth experience with development and monitoring of Log Frames, Results Frameworks, implementation and work plans and other planning/monitoring/evaluation tools for organizations, programs and projects
 - Extensive experience in interactions with foundation, bi-lateral and multi-lateral donors, proposal writing and editing, donor reporting, writing project reports and fact sheets, and communicating evidence and results to varied audiences
 - Day-to-day hiring and management of 17 US-based research and evaluation staff; member of numerous technical and senior management teams; planning and problem-solving with other departments and country programs
- Fostered partnerships with partner organizations working on reproductive health
 - Participated as invited expert to meetings on abortion, including at the World Health Organization
 - Coordinated partnerships with the World Health Organization, Guttmacher Institute, The Population Council and country-based universities, non-governmental organizations, and professional associations

Pathfinder Fund (now Pathfinder International), Program Manager for Latin America **1988-90**
Watertown, MA US

Managed a USD 3.5 million portfolio of projects for family planning services, education, training and adolescent programs in Latin America. Supported development of regional strategic plan and country programs. Primarily USAID-funded, with additional private foundation support.

University of Michigan

Population Service Fellowship Program

Fellow with The Population Council Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean **1986-87**
Mexico City, Mexico

Provided research and evaluation support to local organizations implementing contraceptive programs and reproductive health interventions for adolescents.

EDUCATION

DrPH **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Gillings School of Global Public Health, Department of Maternal and Child Health**

Dissertation: Sustainability of Postabortion Care in Peru

MPH **Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health**

BA **Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas, *magna cum laude***

LANGUAGES

Fluent in English and Spanish

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS, MEMBERSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Adjunct Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Gillings School of Global Public Health, Department of Maternal and Child Health
- Adjunct Faculty Member, Indiana University, Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health, Department of Health Policy and Management
- Member, Institutional Review Board (IRB), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Schools of Public Health and Nursing (2009-11)
- Member, International Steering Committees of the International Conferences on Family Planning
- Member, Society for Family Planning
- Arnold D. Kaluzny Distinguished Alumna Award, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Gillings School of Global Public Health, Public Health Leadership Program
- Jacob Koomen Public Health Practice Award, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Gillings School of Global Public Health, Department of Health Policy and Administration

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Benson, J., Andersen, K., Dijkerman, S., & Healy, J. (2017). Improving health worker performance of abortion services: an assessment of post-training support to providers in India, Nepal and Nigeria. *Reproductive Health*. 14:(154), 1-15. doi: 10.1186/s12978-017-0416-0. PMID: 29162119.

Benson, J., Andersen, K., Healy, J., & Brahmi, D. (2017). What factors contribute to postabortion contraceptive uptake by young women? A program evaluation in 10 countries in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. *Global Health: Science and Practice*. 5(4), 644-57. doi: 10.9745/GHSP-D-17-00085. PMID: 29284699.

Dibaba, Y., Dijkerman, S., Fetters, T., Moore, A., Gebreselassie, H., Gebrehiwot, Y., & **Benson, J.** (2017). A decade of progress providing safe abortion services in Ethiopia: results of national assessments in 2008 and 2014. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. 17(76), 1-12. doi: 10.1186/s12884-017-1266-z. PMID: 28257646

Benson, J., Andersen, K., Brahmi, D., Healy, J. Mark, A., Ajode, A., & Griffin, R. (2016). What contraception do women use after abortion? An analysis of 319,385 cases from eight countries. *Global Public Health*. 1-16. doi: 10.1080/17441692.2016.1174280. PMID: 27193827

Sedgh, G., Fillipi, V., Owalabi, O.O., Singh, S.D., Askew, I., Bankole, A., **Benson, J.,** Rossier, C., Pembe, A.B., Adewole, I., Ganatra, B., & MacDonagh, S. (2016). Insights from an expert group meeting on the definition and measurement of unsafe abortion. *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics*. 134(1), 104-6. doi: 10.106/j.ijgo.2015.11.017. PMID: 27062249.

Benson, J., Gebreselassie, H., Manibo, M.A., Raisanen, K., Johnston, H.B., Mhango, C., & Levandowski, B.A. (2015). Costs of postabortion care in public sector health facilities in Malawi: a cross-sectional survey. *BMC Health Services Research*. 15(562), 1-7. doi: 10.1186/s12913-015-1216-2. PMID: 26677840

Abdella, A., Fetters, T., **Benson, J.,** Pearson, E., Gebrehiwot, Y., Andersen, K., et al. (2013). Meeting the need for safe abortion care in Ethiopia: results of a national assessment in 2008. *Global Public Health*. 8, 417-34. doi: 10.1080/17441692.2013.778310. PMID: 23590804.

Benson, J. To better serve women, link family planning to abortion care. *RH Reality Check*, 19 November 2013.

Benson, J., Okoh, M., KrennHrubec, K., Lazzarino, M.A.M., & Johnston, H.B. (2012). Public hospital costs of treatment of abortion complications in Nigeria. *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*. 118 Suppl 2, S134-40. doi: 10.1016/S0020-7292(12)60012-5. PMID: 22920617.

Benson, J., Andersen, K., & Samandari, G. (2011). Reductions in abortion-related mortality following policy reform: evidence from Romania, South Africa and Bangladesh. *Reproductive Health*. 8(39), 1-12. doi: 10.1186/1742-4755-8-39. PMID: 22192901

Otsea, K., **Benson, J.,** Alemayehu, T., Pearson, E., & Healy, J. (2011). Testing the Safe Abortion Care model in Ethiopia to monitor service availability, use, and quality. *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*. 115(3), 316-21. doi: 10.1016/j.ijgo.2011.09.003. PMID: 22019316.

Benson, J. & Vekens, M. (2007). The health dangers of unsafe abortion. *Idi21 Health Focus*. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.

Billings, D.L., Crane, B.B., **Benson, J.**, Solo, J., & Fetters, T. (2007). Scaling-up a public health innovation: a comparative study of post-abortion care in Bolivia and Mexico. *Social Science and Medicine*. 64(11), 2210-22. doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2007.02.026. PMID: 17408826.

Johnston, H.B., Gallo, M.F., & **Benson, J.** (2007). Reducing abortion costs to health systems. *Idi21 Health Focus*. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.

Johnston, H.B., Gallo, M.F., & **Benson, J.** (2007). Reducing the costs to health systems of unsafe abortion: a comparison of four strategies. *Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care*. 33(4), 250-7. doi: 10.1783/147118907782101751. PMID: 17925105.

Hord, C.E., **Benson, J.**, Potts, J.L., & Billings, D.L. (2006). Unsafe abortion in Africa: an overview and recommendations for action. In Warriner, Ina K. and Iqbal H. Shah, (eds.), *Preventing Unsafe Abortion and its Consequences: Priorities for Research and Action*. 115-49. New York: The Guttmacher Institute.

Healy, J., Otsea, K., & **Benson, J.** (2006). Counting abortions so that abortion counts: indicators for monitoring the availability and use of abortion care services. *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics*. 95(2), 209-20. doi: 10.1016/j.ijgo.2006.08.002. PMID: 17027759.

Grimes, D.A., **Benson, J.**, Singh, S., Romero, M., Ganatra, B., Okonofua, F.E., et al. (2006). Unsafe abortion: the preventable pandemic. *Lancet*. 368(9550), 1908-19. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(06)69481-6. PMID: 17126724.

Benson, J. (2005). Evaluating abortion-care programs: old challenges, new directions. *Studies in Family Planning*. 36(3), 189-202. doi: 10.1111/j.1728-4465.2005.00061.x. PMID: 16209177.

Billings, D.L. & **Benson, J.** (2005). Postabortion care in Latin America: policy and service recommendations from a decade of operations research. *Health Policy and Planning*. 20(3), 158-66. doi: 10.1093/heapol/czi020. PMID: 15840631.

Kinoti, S.N, Gaffikin, L., & **Benson, J.** (2004). How research can affect policy and programme advocacy: example from a three-country study on abortion complications in Sub-Saharan Africa. *East African Medical Journal*. 81(2), 63-70. doi: 10.4314/eamj.v81i2.9127. PMID: 15125088.

Benson, J., Clark, K.A., Gerhardt, A., Randall, L., & Dudley, S. (2003). Early abortion services in the United States: a provider survey. *Contraception*. 67(4), 287-94. doi: 10.1016/S0010-7824(02)00512-7. PMID: 12684150.

Benson, J., et al., authors, under Ipas contract to WHO. (1997). Technical and managerial guidelines for postabortion family planning. Geneva: World Health Organization.

Benson, J., Nicholson, L.A., Gaffikin, L., Kinoti, S.N. (1996). Complications of unsafe abortion in sub-Saharan Africa: a review. *Health Policy and Planning*. 11(2), 117-31. doi: 10.1093/heapol/11.2.117. PMID: 10158454.

Wolf, M. & **Benson, J.** (1994). Meeting women's needs for post-abortion family planning: report of a Bellagio Technical Working Group. *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics*. 45 Suppl, S3-23. doi: 10.1016/0020-7292(94)90502-9. PMID: 7926259.

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Greenslade, F.C., Leonard, A.H., **Benson, J.**, Winkler, J., & Henderson, V.L. (1993). Manual vacuum aspiration: a summary of clinical and programmatic experience worldwide. Carrboro, NC, US: Ipas.

Johnson, B.R., **Benson, J.**, Bradley, J., & Rábago Ordoñez, A. (1993). Costs and resource utilization for the treatment of incomplete abortion in Kenya and Mexico. *Social Science and Medicine*. 36(11), 1443-53. doi: 10/1016/0277-9536(93)90386-I. PMID: 8511632.

Paxman, J.M., Rizo, A., Brown, L., & **Benson, J.** (1993). The clandestine epidemic: the practice of unsafe abortion in Latin America. *Studies in Family Planning*. 24(4), 205-26. doi: 10.2307/2939189. PMID: 8212091.

Benson, J., Leonard, A.H., Winkler, J., Wolf, M., & McLaurin, K.E. (1992). Meeting women's needs for postabortion family planning: framing the questions. *Issues in Abortion Care* 2. Carrboro, NC, US: Ipas

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