



# Socio-Economic and Health Impact Assessment of Municipal Solid Wastes in The Niger Delta: A Case Study of Yenagoa Metropolis, Bayelsa State

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## Introduction

The problem posed by improper management of municipal solid wastes (MSW) is becoming alarming. Large MSWs streams that limits the aesthetic values of resources, as well as infringes on ambient air, water and soil quality is usually a reflection of either poor or inappropriate management strategies. As such the associated impact are hereby assessed.

## Aim

To assess the envisaged Socio-Economic and Health Impacts (SHIA) associated with MSWs

## Materials and Methods

The method of data acquisition was through randomized interviews and administration of questionnaires.

## Results & Discussion

Out of 400 questionnaires dispatched, only 95.75% (379) were returned. The sex distribution indicated 42.22% (160) female and 57.78% (219) male, with predominant age bracket of 22 - 45 years. Marital status showed that 41.10% (163) are married, 48.11% are single, while 10.83% (43) are either divorced or separated. Survey of educational status of indicated that 4.99% (17) had no formal education, 7.65% (29) had SSCE Certificates, 25.60% (97) had Diploma or NCE, 19.52% (74) were University Graduates, while 30.61% (116) and 12.14% (46) were postgraduate and Advanced Degrees holders respectively. As at the time of this study US\$1=N375, 58 % of the respondents are employed. In addition, 23.93% earn less than N20,000, 29.00% earn between N20,000 - N29,999, 21.00% earn between N30,000 – N49,999, 15.37% earn between N50,000 – N99,999, while 10.83% earn above N100,000. Based on interviews from waste scavenger the most economical viable wastes were scrap metals and plastic/rubber. Unfortunately, there was no reported case of waste segregation, while only 32.75% bag their wastes and have proper temporary waste containers, 9.82% throw their waste away, 4.53% bury their waste, 18.40% burn their waste, 34.51% use waste vendors. Predominant vectors associated with the waste are Cockroaches, rats and flies.

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## Conclusion

Based on our finding we therefore urge Government to enact laws that will deter precarious management of waste, encourage waste recycling and segregation as well as provide waste treatment facilities in order to mitigate the adverse impacts posed by MSW streams.