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UNMET NEED FOR MODERN CONTRACEPTION AMONG YOUNG WOMEN

SUPPLEMENT TO DHS COMPARATIVE REPORTS 34



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Unmet Need for Modern Contraception among Young Women

Supplement to DHS Comparative Reports No. 34

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1 Introduction

1.1 Rationale

The DHS Program in 2014 published DHS Comparative Reports No. 34 focusing on unmet need for family planning among young women age 15-24 (MacQuarrie 2014). This supplement complements the previous report with data and analysis focusing specifically on unmet need for *modern contraceptive methods* among young women age 15-24.

The 2014 report uses the consensus definition of unmet need for family planning (Bradley et al. 2012), which classifies a woman using any contraceptive method as having met her need for family planning. The consensus definition captures a broad range of contraceptive behavior that women and their partners take to avoid unintended pregnancies, including use of traditional as well as modern contraceptive methods.¹ However, many reproductive health and family planning policymakers and program managers may be exclusively interested in addressing the need for modern contraceptive methods, which are more efficacious than traditional methods (Trussell 2011) and thus more likely to prevent unintended pregnancies. Also, because modern methods are delivered primarily through family planning services, measuring unmet need for modern contraception specifically may better approximate the demand for services and the effectiveness of family planning programs. For example, the FP2020 Initiative now assesses progress toward a goal of 120 million additional contraceptive users exclusively with indicators measuring modern method use (Brown et al. 2014; FP2020 2014).

1.2 Data

This supplement uses the same Demographic and Health Surveys that are used in DHS Comparative Reports No. 34 and adds seven surveys whose data became publicly available after publication of the 2014 report—Democratic Republic of the Congo 2013-14, Guinea 2012, Liberia 2013, Mali 2012-13, Namibia 2013, the Philippines 2013, and the Dominican Republic 2013. The comparative report describes in depth the current situation and recent trends with respect to unmet need for family planning among young women; this supplement presents selected tables with a revised indicator of unmet need focused on modern contraceptive methods. Specifically, it replicates Table 1 (pp 9-11) and Table 5 (pp 33-34) from DHS Comparative Reports No. 34 (MacQuarrie 2014) and presents additional data on the unmet need for modern contraceptive methods, current modern contraceptive use, and the proportion of demand for family planning satisfied by modern contraceptive methods, both among married women age 15-24 and among unmarried women age 15-24 who were sexually active in the 30 days preceding the survey.

The revised indicator of unmet need for modern contraceptive methods reclassifies women who are using a traditional method from having a met need to having an unmet need. The definitions of the indicators used in this supplement are as follows:

- **Unmet need for family planning:** the proportion of fecund, sexually active women who want to limit or delay childbearing beyond two years, but who are not using *any method* of contraception; the sum of unmet need for spacing plus unmet need for limiting births

¹ The following are classified as modern methods, in keeping with previous DHS work in this area (e.g., Westoff 2012): pill, IUD, injections, female or male condom, foam/jelly, diaphragm, implants, lactational amenorrhea method (LAM), and female or male sterilization. Traditional methods mainly comprise withdrawal and periodic abstinence. For a discussion of non-contraceptive pregnancy avoidance behaviors, see Tsui, de Silva, and Marinshaw 1991.

- **Unmet need for modern contraceptive methods:** the proportion of fecund, sexually active women who want to limit or delay childbearing beyond two years, but who are not using a *modern contraceptive method*
- **Total demand for family planning:** the sum of unmet need for family planning plus total current contraceptive use; also equivalent to the sum of unmet need for modern contraception plus current use of modern methods
- **Percentage of demand satisfied:** *total current contraceptive use* divided by the sum of unmet need for family planning plus total contraceptive use (demand)
- **Percentage of demand satisfied by modern methods:** current use of *modern contraceptive methods* divided by the sum of unmet need for modern contraceptive methods plus total current use of modern contraceptive methods (demand)

2 Results

2.1 Unmet Need for Modern Contraception among Young Married Women

Table 1 presents data on unmet need among *currently married* women age 15-24 for 61 study countries. One would expect unmet need for modern contraception to exceed unmet need for family planning, but differences between the two indicators appear to be modest except in those countries where traditional methods comprise a substantial portion of family planning use among youth.² This is precisely the pattern that we see. Differences generally fall in the range of 3 to 7 percentage points, regionally. Compared with most other regions, unmet need for modern contraception is notably higher among young married women in West and Central Africa, and is notably lower in the Middle East and North Africa, as is also the case for unmet need for family planning (any method).

The largest difference between the two indicators of unmet need is in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (39 percent for modern contraception versus 16 percent for any family planning method). The surveys in this region, with some of the lowest levels of unmet need for family planning, show, on average, levels of unmet need for modern contraception that exceed those in West and Central Africa. For example, Albania ranks 1st and Turkey ranks 7th among the 61 study countries in terms of unmet need for modern contraception, whereas these countries rank 45th and 48th, respectively, in terms of unmet need for family planning, among young married women. In contrast to the general pattern in this region, levels of unmet need for modern contraception are similar to the levels of unmet need for family planning in the Kyrgyz Republic (23 percent versus 21 percent). Large differences appear in selected countries outside of the region, namely in Congo Brazzaville (46 percent versus 26 percent), the Philippines (40 percent versus 24 percent), Vietnam (24 percent versus 11 percent), Bolivia (50 percent versus 30 percent), and Peru (38 percent versus 19 percent). Levels of unmet need for modern contraception are highest in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (39 percent) and West and Central Africa (34 percent), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (32 percent), South and Southeast Asia (30 percent), and East and Southern Africa (29 percent), and are lowest in the Middle East and North Africa (18 percent), among currently married women age 15-24.

² DHS Comparative Reports No. 34 indicates that traditional method use is relatively low and declining in many countries; Details are available in section 9.5 (pp123-137) (MacQuarrie 2014).

Table 1. Unmet need for, current use of, and demand for family planning (any method) and for modern contraception among currently married women age 15-24, most recent DHS surveys,¹ 2000-2014

Country	Year	Any method			Modern contraception			
		Unmet need for family planning (any method)	Current use of family planning (any method)	% Demand satisfied by family planning (any method)	Rank order by unmet need for family planning	Unmet need for modern contraception	Current use of modern contraception	Rank order by unmet need for modern contra-ception
West and Central Africa								
Benin	2006	28.3	13.1	41.4	31.6	19	37.0	41.4
Burkina Faso	2010	23.3	13.3	36.6	36.3	32	24.1	36.6
Cameroon	2011	25.1	20.3	45.4	44.7	28	30.5	45.4
Chad	2004	20.9	10.5	31.4	33.4	39	29.9	31.4
Congo Brazzaville	2011-12	26.4	43.2	69.6	62.1	23	45.6	69.6
Congo, Democratic Republic	2013-14	29.7	17.5	47.2	37.1	17	39.7	7.5
Côte d'Ivoire	2007	31.6	17.6	49.2	35.8	na	44.1	5.1
Gabon	2012	30.9	15.3	46.2	33.1	13	36.0	10.2
Ghana	2008	45.7	20.9	64.3	49.1	10	42.9	21.4
Guinea	2012	25.5	4.1	66.6	31.4	1	51.0	15.6
Guinea ¹	2005	20.8	9.9	29.6	13.9	26	26.2	3.4
Liberia	2013	40.7	20.6	30.7	32.2	na	25.0	5.7
Liberia ¹	2007	41.8	6.6	61.3	33.6	4	41.1	20.1
Mali	2012-13	24.1	9.1	48.4	13.6	na	43.1	5.3
Mali ¹	2006	30.1	8.5	33.2	27.4	30	24.4	8.8
Mauritania	2000-02	35.0	6.3	41.3	22.0	na	31.8	6.8
Niger	2006	14.7	9.2	23.9	38.5	53	20.2	3.6
Nigeria	2008	19.8	7.7	27.5	28.0	41	22.0	5.5
São Tomé and Príncipe	2008-09	43.3	34.2	77.5	44.1	3	45.1	32.4
Senegal	2010-11	30.5	8.1	38.6	21.0	14	31.3	7.4
Sierra Leone	2008	26.7	4.2	30.9	13.6	22	27.2	3.7
Regional Average²	29.1	16.1	45.1	35.6	34.0	11.1	45.1	24.7

(Continued...)

Table 1. – Continued

Country	Year	Any method			Modern contraception				
		Unmet need for family planning (any method)	Current use of family planning (any method)	% Demand satisfied by family planning (any method)	Rank order by unmet need for family planning	Unmet need for modern contra-ception	Current use of modern contra-ception	Total demand	% Demand satisfied by modern contra-ception
East and Southern Africa									
Burundi	2010	28.0	20.4	48.4	42.1	21	32.2	16.3	48.4
Eritrea	2002	34.8	4.5	39.3	11.5	7	35.5	3.8	39.3
Ethiopia	2011	25.6	31.5	57.1	55.2	25	26.8	30.2	57.1
Kenya	2008-09	30.2	33.3	63.5	52.4	15	35.0	28.5	63.5
Lesotho	2009	28.3	39.9	68.2	58.5	19	29.3	38.9	68.2
Madagascar	2008-09	21.2	32.1	53.3	60.2	38	30.0	23.2	53.3
Malawi	2010	26.2	38.5	64.7	59.5	24	29.7	35.1	64.7
Mozambique	2011	23.1	9.5	32.6	29.1	34	23.3	9.3	32.6
Namibia	2013	23.3	50.0	73.3	68.2	32	24.8	48.4	73.3
Namibia ¹	2006-07	23.4	51.3	74.7	68.7	n/a	26.2	48.6	74.7
Rwanda	2010	16.0	43.6	59.6	73.2	49	18.4	41.2	59.6
Swaziland	2006-07	28.4	45.9	74.3	61.8	18	30.1	44.2	74.3
Tanzania	2010	22.7	26	48.7	53.4	37	27.7	20.9	48.7
Uganda	2011	34.3	20.4	54.7	37.3	8	36.4	18.4	54.7
Zambia	2007	24.3	38.5	62.8	61.3	29	31.7	31.2	62.8
Zimbabwe	2010-11	15.5	53.7	69.2	77.6	52	16.5	52.6	69.2
Regional Average²		25.5	32.5	58.0	56.1		28.5	29.5	58.0
Middle East and North Africa									
Egypt	2008	8.8	40.5	49.3	82.2	60	12.5	36.8	49.3
Jordan	2009	13.5	39.7	53.2	74.6	55	25.4	27.8	53.2
Morocco	2003-04	10.1	53.2	63.3	84.0	59	14.6	48.6	63.3
Regional Average²		10.8	44.5	55.3	80.5		17.5	37.7	55.3
Eastern Europe and Central Asia									
Albania	2008-09	17.5	53.3	70.8	75.3	45	61.3	9.4	70.8
Armenia	2010	18.1	37.1	55.2	67.2	43	38.9	16.2	55.2
Azerbaijan	2006	15.9	32.3	48.2	67.0	50	40.0	8.2	48.2
Kyrgyz Republic	2012	20.9	19.3	40.2	48.0	39	22.8	17.4	40.2
Moldova	2005	13.0	62.3	75.3	82.7	56	35.2	40.1	75.3
Turkey	2003	16.2	58.5	74.7	78.3	48	45.0	29.7	74.7
Ukraine	2007	12.0	61.4	73.4	83.7	57	28.7	44.8	73.4
Regional Average²		16.2	46.3	62.5	74.1		38.8	23.7	62.5

(Continued...)

Table 1. – *Continued*

Country	Year	Any method				Modern contraception				
		Unmet need for family planning (any method)	Current use of family planning (any method)	Total demand	% Demand satisfied by family planning (any method)	Rank order by unmet need for family planning	Unmet need for modern contra-ception	Current use of modern contra-ception	% Demand satisfied by modern contra-ception	
South and Southeast Asia										
<i>Asia</i>										
Bangladesh	2011	15.9	54.0	69.9	77.3	50	20.5	49.4	69.9	
Cambodia	2010	17.2	40.2	57.4	70.0	46	28.4	29.0	57.4	
India	2005-06	23.1	27.5	50.6	54.3	34	30.1	20.6	50.6	
Indonesia	2012	8.0	58.2	66.2	87.9	61	9.1	57.0	66.2	
Maldives	2009	32.5	22.5	55.0	40.9	11	38.8	16.2	55.0	
Nepal	2011	39.3	25.8	65.1	39.6	5	44.3	20.9	65.1	
Pakistan	2006-07	25.2	13.0	38.2	34.0	27	29.4	8.8	38.2	
Philippines ¹	2013	23.5	48.0	71.5	67.1	31	40.0	31.5	71.5	
Philippines ¹	2008	26.6	41.8	68.4	61.1	na	39.9	28.5	68.4	
Timor-Leste	2009-10	33.8	14.3	48.1	29.7	9	34.9	13.2	48.1	
Vietnam	2002	10.8	53.8	64.6	83.3	58	23.5	41.1	64.6	
Regional Average²		22.9	35.7	58.7	60.9		29.9	28.8	49.0	
Latin America and Caribbean										
Bolivia	2008	30.1	52.7	82.8	63.6	16	49.8	33.0	82.8	
Colombia	2010	16.8	68.6	85.4	80.3	47	22.4	63.0	85.4	
Dominican Republic	2013	22.8	58.8	81.6	72.1	36	26.4	55.2	81.6	
<i>Dominican Republic¹</i>	2007	21.5	55.6	77.1	72.1	ra	24.9	52.2	77.1	
Guyana	2009	31.5	36.0	67.5	53.3	12	33.3	34.3	67.5	
Haiti	2012	44.8	33.4	78.2	42.7	2	46.7	31.6	78.2	
Honduras	2011-12	14.7	64.5	79.2	81.4	53	22.1	57.2	79.2	
Nicaragua	2001	18.1	62.5	80.6	77.5	43	20.3	60.4	80.6	
Peru	2010	18.6	70.1	88.7	79.0	42	37.9	50.8	88.7	
Regional Average²		24.7	55.8	80.5	69.3		32.4	48.2	80.5	
								59.9	59.9	
									16,790	

Notes:

¹ New data from seven surveys (Democratic Republic of the Congo; Guinea; Liberia; Mali; Namibia; the Philippines; and the Dominican Republic) have been released since the publication of DHS Comparative Reports No. 34. This table is based on these most recently published data. For comparative purposes, data from the prior survey used in DHS Comparative Reports No. 34 are also presented in this table. These surveys are indicated by italics and do not contribute to averages or totals of surveys in the region or to relative survey rankings.

² Averages of surveys in the region are unweighted averages and exclude those countries for which recent DHS survey data are unavailable.

2.2 Unmet Need for Modern Contraception among Young Unmarried Women

Table 2 presents data on unmet need among *unmarried sexually active* women age 15-24, for 42 study countries. Compared with married young women, the level of unmet need for modern contraception is generally higher among unmarried sexually active young women. On average among surveys in the study, unmet need for modern contraception among young unmarried women is greatest in West and Central Africa (54 percent), followed by East and Southern Africa (44 percent), and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (41 percent). The level is lowest—but still substantial—in Latin America and the Caribbean (36 percent). Among young unmarried women, unmet need for modern contraception far exceeds unmet need for family planning in Albania (64 percent versus 16 percent) and Moldova (48 percent versus 23 percent). Differences are also sizable in five West and Central African countries (Benin, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, and Nigeria) and three Latin American and Caribbean countries (Bolivia, Honduras, and Peru), as well as in Madagascar and the Philippines.

2.3 Demand Satisfied by Use of Modern Contraception

The proportion of demand satisfied by use of modern contraception is generally low among sexually active young women, both married and unmarried. In approximately two-thirds of the study countries (39 of 61) less than 50 percent of demand among married young women is satisfied by modern contraception. Among unmarried sexually active young women, less than 50 percent of demand is satisfied by modern contraception in just over half of the study countries (23 of 42). The proportion of demand among married young women is particularly low in nine West and Central African countries (Benin, Chad, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Sierra Leone), Eritrea in East and Southern Africa, and two Eastern European and Central Asian countries (Albania and Azerbaijan). Among unmarried sexually active young women, the proportion of demand satisfied by modern contraception is particularly low in Congo Brazzaville and Burundi. The findings suggest that family planning services specifically focused on these populations in these countries may be particularly helpful in meeting programmatic objectives.

Table 2. Unmet need for, current use of, and demand for family planning (any method) and for modern contraception among unmarried sexually active women age 15-24, most recent DHS surveys,¹ 2000-2014

Country	Year	Any method			Modern contraception			% Demand satisfied by modern contra-ception	Rank order by unmet need for modern contra-ception
		Unmet need for family planning (any method)	Current use of family planning (any method)	Total demand	% Demand satisfied by family planning (any method)	Rank order by unmet need for family planning	Unmet need for modern family planning	Current use of modern contra-ception	Total demand
West and Central Africa									
Benin	2006	29.7	59.9	89.6	66.9	27	58.5	31.0	89.6
Burkina Faso	2010	34.8	59.2	94.0	63.0	21	36.4	57.6	94.0
Cameroon	2011	25.5	64.2	89.7	71.6	32	36.4	53.4	89.7
Chad	2004	56.8	9.8	66.6	14.7	5	56.8	9.8	66.6
Congo Brazzaville	2011-12	17.1	75.7	92.8	81.6	37	45.8	47.0	92.8
Congo, Democratic Republic	2013-14	45.3	45.4	90.7	50.1	15	68.8	21.9	90.7
Côte d'Ivoire	2007	37.5	49.9	87.4	57.1	na	63.3	24.1	87.4
Gabon	2012	50.6	39.7	90.3	44.0	8	60.0	30.4	90.3
Ghana	2008	48.7	48.1	89.2	68.0	29	38.2	51.1	89.2
Guinea	2012	48.2	42.7	90.9	49.7	9	66.8	30.0	96.8
Guinea ¹	2005	44.2	46.9	91.1	51.5	na	55.4	34.2	90.9
Liberia	2013	53.7	36.9	90.6	40.7	7	55.7	34.8	90.6
Liberia ¹	2007	58.1	26.6	84.7	31.4	na	62.7	22.0	84.7
Mali	2012-13	58.1	29.7	87.8	33.8	4	58.4	29.4	87.8
Mali ¹	2006	50.1	28.5	78.6	36.3	na	56.2	22.4	78.6
Nigeria	2008	33.2	62.9	96.1	65.5	24	51.7	44.5	96.1
São Tomé and Príncipe	2008-09	35.9	51.3	87.2	58.8	20	36.5	50.8	87.2
Senegal	2010-11	69.5	24.6	94.1	26.1	1	70.2	23.9	94.1
Sierra Leone	2008	47.4	38.2	85.6	44.6	11	59.1	26.5	85.6
Regional Average²		42.7	46.8	89.5	52.3		53.5	36.0	89.5
								40.2	8,053

(Continued...)

Table 2. – Continued

Country	Year	Any method			Modern contraception			Rank order by unmet need for modern contra-ception		
		Unmet need for family planning (any method)	Current use of family planning (any method)	Total demand	% Demand satisfied by family planning (any method)	Rank order by unmet need for family planning	Unmet need for modern contra-ception			
East and Southern Africa										
<i>Africa</i>										
Burundi	2010	62.2	16.7	78.9	21.2	2	63.4	15.5		
Ethiopia	2011	26.4	60.6	87.0	69.7	31	32.6	54.4		
Kenya	2008-09	47.1	44.3	91.4	48.5	13	51.0	40.3		
Lesotho	2009	38.6	50.1	88.7	56.5	19	39.9	48.8		
Madagascar	2008-09	41.6	40.2	81.8	49.1	18	58.9	22.8		
Malawi	2010	46.2	39.0	85.2	45.8	14	46.8	38.4		
Mozambique	2011	47.2	31.4	78.6	39.9	12	47.3	31.3		
Namibia ¹	2013	19.0	76.0	95.0	80.0	36	19.1	75.9		
Rwanda	2006-07	16.1	77.2	93.3	82.7	na	16.3	77.0		
Swaziland	2010	54.4	33.4	87.8	38.0	6	54.4	33.4		
Tanzania	2006-07	34.4	59.6	94.0	63.4	22	35.2	58.8		
Uganda	2010	33.1	49.0	82.1	59.7	25	40.6	41.5		
Zambia	2011	33.8	49.8	83.6	59.6	23	41.9	41.6		
Zimbabwe	2007-11	44.6	46.6	91.2	51.1	16	47.3	43.9		
Regional Average²		31.8	50.4	82.2	61.3	26	31.8	50.4		
Regional Average²		40.0	46.2	86.3	53.6	43.6	42.6	86.3		
Eastern Europe and Central Asia										
<i>Central Asia</i>										
Albania	2008-09	15.6	77.3	92.9	83.2	39	64.0	29.0		
Moldova	2005	23.3	72.3	95.6	75.6	33	47.7	48.0		
Ukraine	2007	7.3	90.4	97.7	92.5	42	11.1	86.6		
Regional Average²		15.4	80.0	95.4	83.9	40.9	54.5	95.4		
South and Southeast Asia										
<i>Philippines</i>										
Philippines	2013	43.3	44.8	88.1	50.9	17	64.6	23.5		
								88.1		
								26.7		
								4		
								109		

(Continued...)

Table 2. – Continued

Country	Year	Any method			Modern contraception				Rank order by unmet need for modern contra-ception
		Unmet need for family planning (any method)	Current use of family planning (any method)	Total demand	% Demand satisfied by family planning (any method)	Rank order by unmet need for family planning	Unmet need for modern contra-ception	Current use of modern contra-ception	
Latin America and Caribbean									
Bolivia	2008	20.6	77.2	97.8	78.9	35	51.8	46.0	97.8
Colombia	2010	14.4	82.2	96.6	85.1	40	21.2	75.3	96.6
Dominican Republic	2013	29.0	61.4	90.4	67.9	28	34.3	56.0	90.4
<i>Dominican Republic¹</i>	2007	29.3	54.8	84.1	65.2	<i>na</i>	34.4	49.7	84.1
Guyana	2009	27.9	66.7	94.6	70.5	30	31.4	63.2	94.6
Haiti	2012	58.8	35.1	93.9	37.4	3	61.2	32.7	93.9
Honduras	2011-12	17.1	73.9	91.0	81.2	37	31.5	59.5	91.0
Nicaragua	2001	22.2	63.0	85.2	73.9	34	29.4	55.9	85.2
Peru	2010	8.9	87.9	96.8	90.8	41	30.5	66.2	96.8
Regional Average²		24.9	68.4	93.3	73.3		36.4	56.9	93.3
								60.9	60.9

Notes:

¹ New data from seven surveys (Democratic Republic of the Congo; Guinea; Liberia; Mali; Namibia; the Philippines; and the Dominican Republic) have been released since the publication of DHS Comparative Reports No. 34. This table is based on these most recently published data. For comparative purposes, data from the prior survey used in DHS Comparative Reports No. 34, are also presented in this table. These surveys are indicated by italics and do not contribute to averages or totals of surveys in the region or to relative survey rankings.

² Averages of surveys in the region are unweighted averages and exclude those countries for which recent DHS survey data are unavailable.

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