

Knowledge and Use of Emergency Contraception in PMA2020 Surveys

EC POLICIES, ACCESS & AWARENESS OCTOBER 2017

PMA2020 surveys provide valuable new information on knowledge and use of emergency contraception. Knowledge varies by country, but use remains low in all areas surveyed.

Performance Monitoring and Accountability 2020 (PMA2020) conducts surveys on family planning indicators. Launched in 2013, surveys have been conducted in 10 countries to date. PMA2020 uses a multi-stage cluster design, stratifying by urban-rural, major regions and districts and surveys households, individual females aged 15-49, and health facilities.

Every new country conducts surveys semi-annually in the first two years for each project country and annually thereafter.

Data from eight African countries were analyzed to determine trends in emergency contraceptive (EC) knowledge and use. Different countries have different numbers of rounds of data available; the round is indicated when results are presented.

COUNTRIES AND REGIONS SURVEYED

Burkina Faso	<i>Whole country</i>
DRC	<i>Kinshasa</i>
Ethiopia	<i>Whole country</i>
Ghana	<i>Whole country</i>
Kenya	<i>Whole country</i>
Niger	<i>Niamey</i>
Nigeria	<i>Lagos and Kaduna states</i>
Uganda	<i>Whole country</i>

STANDARD QUESTIONS CAPTURING EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION IN PMA2020 SURVEYS

Question/Variable Definition	Outcome
<i>Have you ever heard of emergency contraception?</i>	Knowledge or awareness of EC
<i>Are you/your partner currently doing something or using any method to delay or avoid getting pregnant? Which method or methods are you using? (Select <u>all</u> methods mentioned)</i>	Current use of EC
<i>In the last 12 months, have you ever done something or used a method to delay or avoid getting pregnant? Which method did you use most recently? (Select the <u>most effective</u> method)</i>	Recent use of EC (Use in past 12 months & current use)
<i>Which method did you first use to delay or avoid getting pregnant?</i>	Use of EC as first contraceptive method

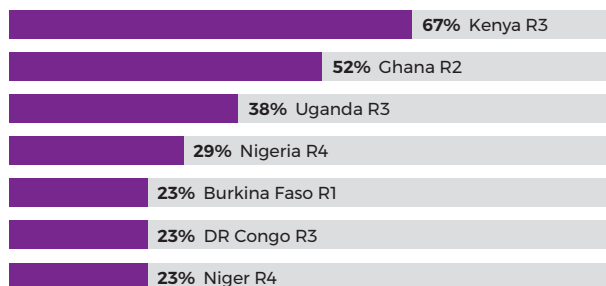
Knowledge of EC

Levels of knowledge about EC vary considerably across the different countries, being highest in Kenya and Ghana, and lowest in Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Niger (Figure 1). In general, women who are older than 25 have greater levels of awareness than those aged 15-24, as do women with higher levels of education (not shown).

Figure 1: Knowledge of EC

Percentage of all women aged 15-49 who have ever heard of ECP, by country

Percent of ECP Knowledge



Not captured in Ethiopia.

Figure 2: Use of EC as the First Method

Percentage of unmarried women aged 15-49 who have ever used a contraceptive method who used EC as first method, Round 1

Percent of ECP Knowledge



Use of EC

EC is an underutilized method and use of EC is rare in most countries, according to PMA data. Use of EC among all women, across all countries, is **under 1% for both current use and recent use**. Women who are sexually-active and unmarried have higher levels of EC use than women who are currently married/in union.

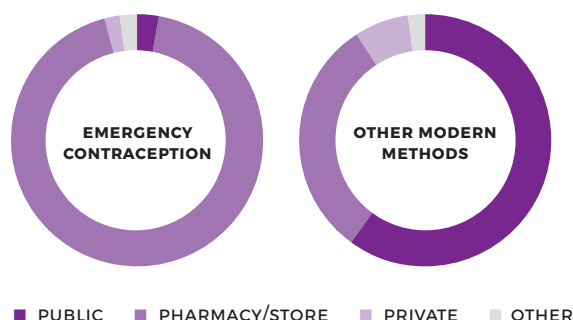
Unmarried women were more likely to report that they used EC as their first family planning method, compared to currently married women.

Access to EC

Women in Ghana, Kenya, and Uganda were surveyed on where they accessed EC and other modern methods of contraception. In all three countries, EC was much more

Figure 3: Sources of Family Planning Methods (Ghana)

Distribution of women aged 15-49 using a method of contraception in the past 12 months, by source of access



likely to be obtained in a pharmacy or store, whereas other modern methods were more likely to be obtained at a health facility. For instance, in Ghana, 94% of EC users reported purchasing it at a pharmacy or store, compared to only 31% of other modern methods. Fees or payment was also more common to obtain EC than other modern methods, and women were more likely to report that they made the decision to use the method alone.

Conclusion

Women in Kenya and Ghana were the most likely in all the countries to report that they were aware of EC. Knowledge is still low in the other countries surveyed. Unmarried women in Nigeria were the most likely to report that they used EC as a first method. The PMA2020 questionnaire does not give an accurate measurement of lifetime use of EC. Addition of such a question would allow for more comparison of use over time.

Notes

Data were used by permission of PMA2020. PMA2020.org

Analysis by Tulane University.



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