

Do Contraceptives Fail? Investigating Claims of Contraceptive Failure among Women of Reproductive Age in Nigeria

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Background

- Low contraceptive uptake is often attributed to method failure which discourages potential users
- Up till now, there is minimal documentation on the incidence of contraceptive failure among users of modern family planning methods in Nigeria



Background

This paper:

- Investigates claims of contraceptive failure among women of reproductive age in Nigeria (15-49 years)
- Explores possible factors that may be responsible for such failure



Data

- All analyses were based on 2007 national population-based household survey on HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Health (NARHS)
- The survey aimed at:
 - providing information on the situation of reproductive and sexual health in Nigeria;
 - Identifying factors that may be associated with reproductive and sexual health as well as other issues in Nigeria.



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Data

- Eligible respondents for the survey were women (15 to 49 years) and men (15 to 64 years). Selection was based on a multi-stage probability sampling technique.
- Analysis was based on the response to the question on whether a respondent experienced pregnancy while using a modern family planning method.



Methodology

- Multiple logistic regression technique was used in exploring possible determinants and factors that may be associated with the outcome variable.
- Variables included in the analysis were; Age at the time of pregnancy, Marital status, Level of education, Place of residence (rural/urban), Geo-political zones and Type of contraceptive used.



Findings

- Of the 5,301 women involved in the analysis, 22.1%(1172) have ever used contraceptives while 26.7%(314) of these had become pregnant during the period they were using it.
- About 66%(206) of women who reported contraceptive failure were using a modern family planning method as at the time of the pregnancy.

Findings

- Contraceptive failure was highest among women below 25 years (about 85%).
- Women with secondary and higher levels of education are about 2 times more likely to experience contraceptive failure than women of lower educational level (p value < 0.001).
- Also women living in urban areas are about 1.4 times more likely to experience contraceptive failure than women living in rural areas.

Findings

- Daily oral pills accounted for about 34% of contraceptive failures, while condoms and Injectables accounted for 30.9% and 22% respectively.
- Significant geographical variation was observed at the level of geopolitical zones with $p < 0.05$



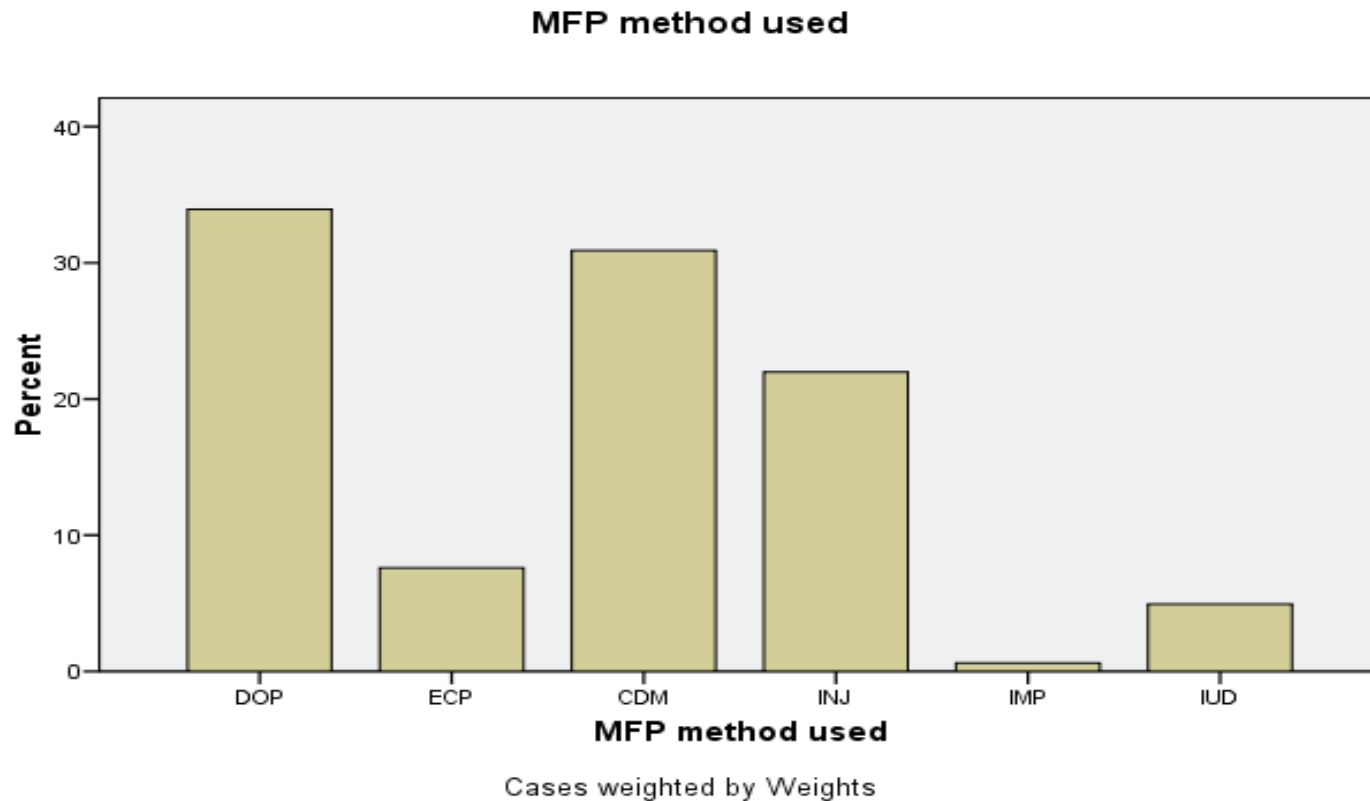
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Contraceptive failure by method used



Conclusion

- It was evident that a significant proportion of the women who were on contraceptives experienced pregnancy during the period they were using it.
- Pills accounted for the highest proportion of reported failure cases; non adherence to dosage instructions and prescription may be responsible for this.
- Women who rely on condoms alone as means of contraceptive are at a high risk of unplanned pregnancy.



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Next steps

- Design special intervention programmes to target young women living in urban areas.
- Design information leaflet to educate on correct and consistence use of pills
- Encourage use of longer term methods as result show that they have the lowest failure rate
- Further analysis at the level of geopolitical zones (spatial) would identify states with high incidence of contraceptive failure, which will guide programming.



We strongly believe that

- Findings from this paper will provide an opportunity to enhance appropriate policy formulation and reprogramming.

Thank you for listening



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