Pop distribution tab

Graph 1

What proportion of women have ever used contraception?

Are a larger proportion of women ever users (current + former) or never users? Are a larger proportion of ever users former or current? If a large proportion of women are former users, it suggests contraceptive use for spacing births with a sizable share of women not yet at their ideal family size. It could also suggest a program issue if women are discontinuing because of dissatisfaction. We will explore these issues in the former tab. If two or more surveys are available, have you seen more growth in current use or former use?

Age

What is the age distribution of women of reproductive age?

Are most never user young women? We expect young women who have never had sex to have never used contraception. For women over 40, those who are never users or former users are less likely to start using a method as infecundability rises with age.

Never tab

Population distribution

Married women who do not want a child in the next two years and unmarried, sexually active women may have a need for contraception to avoid pregnancy. Women who are not married and not sexually active and those who are married and want a child soon may not need contraception now but may benefit from family planning information. Infecund or menopausal women who have never used are unlikely to become users in the future.

Distribution

Programmatically, it is beneficial to know which population is largest among those who intended to use in the future, especially if that group has a current unmet need.

Intention

For each group, we can look at who needs programming (those who intend to use in the future) versus who needs information about the benefits of family planning (those who are unsure or do not intend to use in the future). If a large proportion of not married women (who are predominately young women) do not intend to use in the future, expanded outreach to youth maybe needed.

Former

Population distribution

Married women who do not want a child in the next two years and unmarried, sexually active women may have a need for contraception to avoid pregnancy. Women who are not married and not sexually active and those who are married and want a child soon may not need contraception now but may want to become family planning users again in the future. Infecund or menopausal women who have formerly used are unlikely to become users in the future.

Why

In a program focused on spacing, we expect many women to stop using a contraceptive method because they want to become pregnant. Women with decreased risk of pregnancy (infrequent sex, marital dissolution, and menopause) are also likely to stop using a method. If a large share of women discontinues because they pregnant while using a method, this suggests high rates of method failure. If a large proportion of former users stop using due to side effects (and do not start a new method), it suggests a limited access to wide arrange of methods and information.

When

If most former users stopped using recently, it may suggest they stopped using to become pregnant. A concentration of former users who stopped using 5+ years ago suggests many former users may assume they have a decreased risk of unplanned pregnancy or want to become pregnant. One concern with a large proportion of former users who have not used in the last 5 years is that they had a negative experience with family planning programs.

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Current

“What is the distribution of current users?”

Are married and unmarried women current users? If two or more surveys are available, has the distribution changed over time?

MII

Which contraceptive methods are most widely used? Are they short-term or long-term methods? If two or more surveys are available, has the distribution changed over time?

Long

In countries with dramatic growth in contraceptive use, we expect more women to be new users of methods. Also, if there is a lot of method switching, we might expect women have used their current method for a shorter period.

Source

Are most users receiving their methods from a public or private source? If two or more surveys are available, has the distribution changed over time?

MII

Are users receiving key information when starting a method? Does this vary by method?