

ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

Who is being Served Least by Family Planning Providers? A Study of Modern Contraceptive Use in Ghana, Tanzania and Zimbabwe

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Abstract

This study was conducted to identify the poorest and other vulnerable sub-groups being served least by family planning providers. The study was set in three countries in sub-Saharan Africa, namely, Ghana, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. This region generally has a low but increasing uptake of modern contraceptive methods. As the use of family planning providers increases, there is a need to understand who is not being served and why. Logistic regression analyses of demographic and health survey data were conducted to identify the characteristics and geographical areas of women who are not using modern contraceptive methods. The results show some similarities among the countries in those using modern methods the least. However, a number of groups were country specific. Identifying the poorest women with the lowest use of modern methods is best done by assessing their household amenities or their partner's status rather than theirs. (*Afr J Reprod Health* 2004; 8[2]: 124-136)

Keywords: Contraceptive use, sub-Saharan Africa, poverty

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