

Demographic and Socioeconomic determinants of contraceptive use in Uganda: Evidence from the 2011 Health, Behavior and Communication Survey Data

Juliana Kyomugisha, *Makerere University*; **Gideon Rutaremwa**, *Makerere University*

Introduction

This paper investigates the emerging patterns and determinants of contraceptive use in Uganda using secondary data from the AFFORD Health Behavior and Communication survey 2010. A question was asked to women regarding the contraceptive methods they were using then in order to delay or avoid getting pregnant in the near future. The study used data from 1257 respondents, and established that only 39% of eligible women were using contraceptives at the time of the survey. Rural residents use contraceptives more than urban residents. Education level attainment, age group, children ever born and marital status had significant effects on contraceptive use. In terms of regions, contraceptive use was highest in Central region and lowest in West Nile. On the whole, it was established that contraceptive use is still low, but evidently on an increase. This calls for accelerated contraceptive use campaign as well as female education, especially in the rural areas.

Methodology

The data used in this study are from a Health Marketing Initiative, End- Project Survey that carried out in the AFFORD project area. The survey covered the same sub-counties and parishes (serving as enumeration area) as those that were covered in the Baseline Survey. Twenty (20) households were selected from each of the 76 parishes (enumeration areas). The aim was to determine the impact of the project interventions. The 30 districts are distributed across the five (5) regions of Uganda namely: Central, Western, West Nile, Northern, and Eastern. The reason was to ensure scientific representation of the project area. The study targeted the areas covered by these districts regardless of their status after the redistricting process. Eligible persons were men aged 18-54 and women aged 18-49 years. Two people were selected from each household using a simple random sampling among the eligible persons. However, not many households had more than two people who were eligible for inclusion. Although it had been envisaged that 1500 households will be visited and from each of the household, two people would be interviewed, in the field, some households had only one eligible individual hence another had to be sampled to ensure that at least enough individual interviews were conducted hence 118 additional households were done. The target was to interview 1500 women and 1500 men. The completed questionnaires that were captured showed a response rate for men of 95% and that for women of 98.5%.

Given the good response rate, this paper seeks to investigate the emerging patterns and determinants of contraceptive use in the AFFORD program areas. A binary

logistic regression was estimated to establish the relationship between contraceptive use and a number of selected explanatory variables including: marital status, residence, educational level attainment and number of children ever born. This paper first addresses the descriptive analysis before the inferential statistics are examined.

Findings

The individual characteristics presented here include: age, level of education, marital status, region, and work status and results are displayed in Table 1.

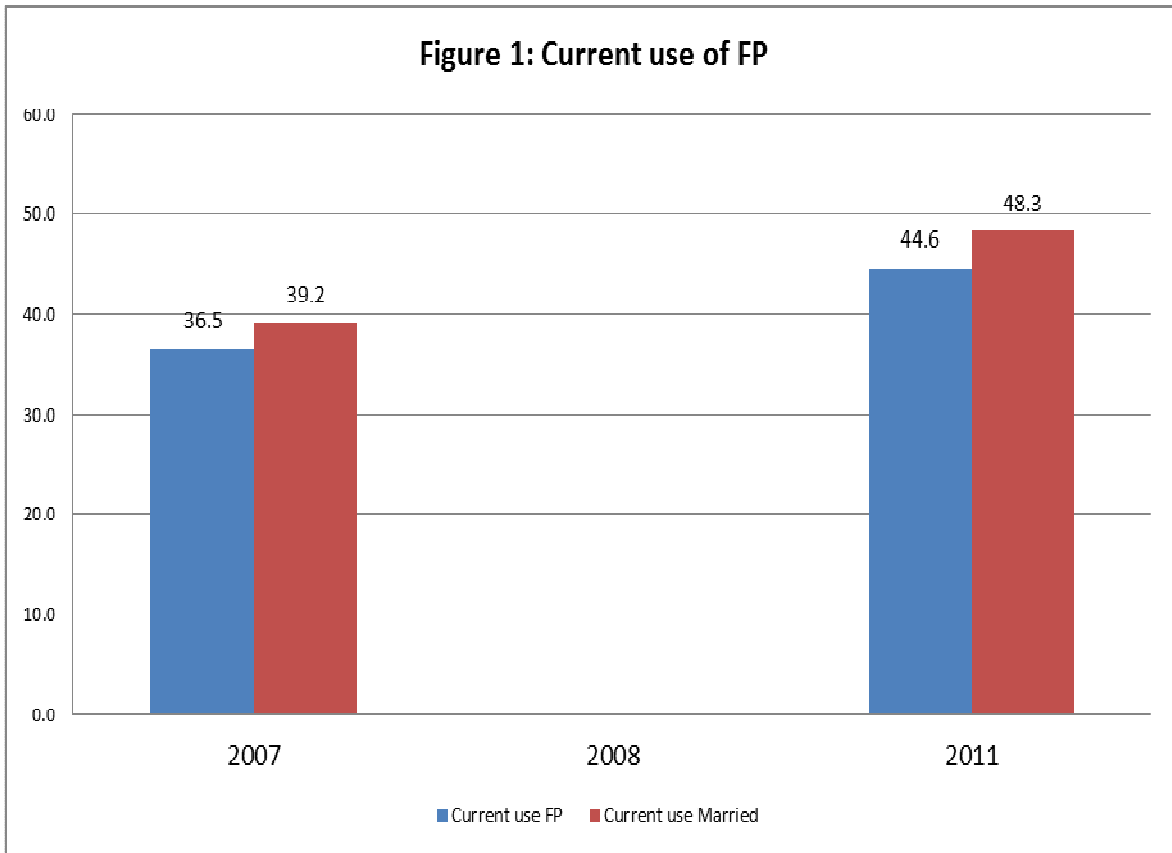
Table 1: Characteristics of Respondents by sex

	Female	Male	Total
18-24	26.1	37.8	32.1
25-29	20.1	19.7	19.9
30-34	15.6	14.8	15.2
35-39	13.3	13.6	13.5
40-44	10.4	7.2	8.8
45-49	8.3	6.8	7.5
50-54	6.3	0.0	3.1
Educational level			
Never	6.0	12.4	9.2
Primary	44.3	53.2	48.9
Secondary	40.9	28.6	34.6
Post-Secondary	8.9	5.8	7.3
Marital status			
Never married	24.0	11.8	17.7
Widow	0.4	3.0	1.7
Divorced	1.1	2.0	1.6
Separated	1.8	6.4	4.2
Married	72.6	76.8	74.8
Region			
Central	33.0	35.4	34.3
Eastern	23.4	23.1	23.3
Northern	17.3	16.4	16.9
Western	20.7	19.4	20.1
West Nile	5.5	5.6	5.6
Work Status			
Not working	12.6	45.1	29.3
Working	87.4	54.9	70.7
Total	100	100	100

Current Contraception Use

Three questions were used to determine the current contraception use by the

respondent. Respondents were asked if they had ever tried in any way to delay or avoid getting pregnant or the partner from getting pregnant. Those who answered yes were screened for those using sterilization, and asked if they were or their partners doing anything to avoid pregnancy and all those who said were asked of which method they were currently using. Figure 1 presents percentage use of contraceptives



The results in Figure 1 show an increase in FP usage over the period 2007 through 2011. There was an increase in the current use of contraception within the project areas from 36.5% in 2007 to 44.6% in 2011 within the general population. Contraceptive use was also found to be higher among the married 39.2% compared to 36.5% in 2007 and 48.3% compared to 44.6% in 2011. This difference was high and significant 8.1 and 9.2 percentage points among the general population and the married respectively.

One in three of the respondents was using a modern contraception method and 8.6% using a traditional method of contraception. No much difference was observed between the married and the unmarried by levels of contraceptive use.

On the use of modern or traditional, there has been an increase in use of both modern and traditional methods of contraceptive between 2007 and 2011 as shown in the graph. For both years, the proportion using traditional methods were lower

than those using modern methods. Use of FP was slightly higher among the married than the general population for both modern and traditional methods.

Method preferred by Non-Users

Demographers, population policy makers, family planning promoters are usually have challenge in trying to meet the needs of individuals who may not be using family planning methods but would be willing to use in future. A question was included on finding out which method current non family users would be willing to use. The most preferred contraceptive method between 2007 and 2011 was the injectable between current users and future users. However, more future users will use the pill compared to the male condom, though more people were using the condom among current users.

Method preferred by Users and Non-Users

	Current Users			Future user		
	Year of survey			Year of survey		
Method	2007	2008	2011	2007	2008	2011
<i>Injectables</i>	34.2	39.4	32.1	43	40	42.9
<i>Pill</i>	11.3	9.2	11	13.9	11.6	14.9
<i>Male condoms</i>	26.8	25	27.5	7.2	8	13.9
Implants	1.2	4.1	4	3.5	7.2	9.8
Don't know or not sure	n.a	n.a		18	17.8	4.3
Female sterilization	1.5	0	1.3	6.4	8.4	3.7
Moonbeads			0.3			3.1
IUD			0.6			2.3
Withdrawal	6	4.8	6.7	0.7	0.4	2.0
<i>Rhythm or periodic abstinence</i>	12	9.2	8.5	1.9	2.5	1.8
Male sterilization	0.5	0.1	0.2	1.1	0.6	0.5
Breast feeding	4.9	6	7.5	0.6	1	0.4
Female Condom			0.2			0.4
Other	1.6	2.2	0.2	3.7	2.5	0.0
Uganda	100	100	100	100	100	100
Number of respondents	986	716	1142	1003	842	777

Desire to Limit Child Bearing

Female respondents were asked how long they would like to wait before they give birth to a child. Most respondents preferred to wait between 2-3 years especially those with a child and the currently pregnant. Among the not pregnant women, 47.3 percent preferred to wait for 4 or more years. However, not shown is that most of those not pregnant were young and unmarried hence waiting for 4 years is not a big problem.