

## RESEARCH BRIEF

# Health worker outreach and intention to use contraceptives in India

The influence of health workers on uptake of maternal healthcare services is well documented; however, their outreach for family planning (FP) services and influence on intention to use contraceptives is less explored in the Indian context. This study examined currently married women's reports of health worker outreach for FP and the association of outreach with women's reports of their intention to use FP.



## RECOMMENDATIONS



Increase the reach of community health workers, and ensure that communications with eligible women include discussion of voluntary FP.



Encourage health workers to reach young, low parity, uneducated and poor women with information and services.



Conduct further research on the effects of FP outreach by collecting information from users and non-users.



Photo Credit: Population Council

**Community health workers (CHWs) are a key part of reproductive and child healthcare programs in India, including FP. Yet, few studies examine the association of CHW and intention to use FP.**

## FINDINGS

- The proportion of women who had ever discussed FP with a health worker increased by 10% over the last decade, from 18% in 2005-06 to 28% in 2015-16.
- Among the 33% of non-FP users who had contact with health workers in the previous 3 months, only 13% discussed FP. Women with no schooling and in the poorest households were less likely to receive information on FP.
- Intention to use among non-users who had contact with health workers in the previous 3 months and had ever discussed FP with a health worker was 41%, as compared to 20% among those who had no contact with a health worker in the previous 3 months and had never discussed FP.
- The multivariate analysis showed the intention to use was 3 times higher among those who had contact with healthcare workers in the previous 3 months and discussed FP, as compared to those who did not.

## METHOD

This study analyzed reports from currently married 15-49 year old women from the NFHS 3 (2005-06) and 4 (2015-16). Bivariate, and multivariable analyses were conducted to explore married women's reports of health worker outreach, and the association of health worker outreach with women's intention to use modern contraception.

## RASTA

RASTA (Research and Analyses for Scientific Transformation and Advancement) is a multi-institutional research utilization initiative led by Population Council. For more information please contact [rasta@popcouncil.org](mailto:rasta@popcouncil.org).

## EVIDENCE

The Evidence Project uses implementation science—the strategic generation, translation, and use of evidence—to strengthen and scale up family planning and reproductive health programs to reduce unintended pregnancies worldwide. The Evidence Project is led by the Population Council

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