

RESEARCH BRIEF

Share of current unmet need for modern contraceptive methods attributed to past users of these methods in India

Unmet need for modern contraception was 14% in 2005-06 and 13%, ten years later in 2015-16. In 2005-6, contraceptive discontinuation rates for modern contraceptive methods was 43% in 2005-6 and 45% in 2015-16. This study quantified the share of current unmet need for modern contraceptive methods attributed to past modern contraceptive use in India.



RECOMMENDATIONS



Ensure that women who discontinue but still would like to prevent pregnancy have information on a range of alternative methods.



Further research on users of traditional methods is needed to understand prevailing practices and reasons for use and for non-use of modern methods.



Assess and monitor quality of care women receive when getting methods in both the public and private sectors.



With little progress in increasing voluntary modern contraceptive use, it is important to understand the role of discontinuation of modern reversible contraceptives in contributing to unmet need.

FINDINGS

- In 2015-16, 24% of women with an unmet need for modern contraception were past users, compared to 27% in 2005-6.
- Older women, women with more births, women with higher educational levels and household wealth were more likely to be past users with an unmet need for modern contraception.
- By state, the largest percentage of women with an unmet need for modern contraception and who were past users came from Punjab, Sikkim and Uttarakhand. The largest numbers came from Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, and Odisha, due to higher numbers of women.
- Among past users who had unmet need for modern contraception, reporting of fertility and health related reasons for non-use declined between 2005-06 and 2015-16. However, reporting opposition to use as a reason for discontinuation increased from 13% to 22% between the two time periods.

METHOD

Using data from the NHFS-3 (2005-06) and NFHS-4 (2015016), multivariate logistic regression analysis was conducted to understand the factors associated with past modern reversible contraceptive use from all women who had current unmet need for modern contraception.

RASTA

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Shukla A et al. 2020. "Share of current unmet need for modern contraceptive methods attributed to past users of these methods in India", *Journal of Biosocial Science*. Full paper available at [doi:10.1017/S0021932020000279](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0021932020000279)

The Evidence Project is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the terms of cooperative agreement no. AID0AA-A-13-00087. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the Evidence Project and Population Council and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government
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