

PMA AGILE-YRDSS/NIGERIA

Key Results Brief

Urban adolescents and youth have become a target group for reproductive health services and research, given the population's growing size, limited data on their reproductive health behaviors, and reported low levels of contraceptive use. PMA Agile typically monitors contraception uptake via clinic-based surveys of providers and clients; however, where unmarried youth are stigmatized for sexual activity and contraceptive use, they may procure contraceptives via other means, making their use effectively "hidden" from clinic staff and clinic-based survey measures become less accurate.

PMA Agile, the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, and the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP) conducted the Youth Respondent-Driven Sampling Survey (YRDSS) among unmarried youth aged 15 to 24 years living in Lagos, Nigeria using respondent-driven sampling (RDS) methodology, a chain-based, peer-to-peer recruitment method. The study aimed to collect information about awareness, use, and procurement of contraception among unmarried adolescents and youth, both female and male, and enable reach into a population and topic that may be otherwise hidden. The study was conducted in February-March 2020 and enrolled 1281 female and male participants; 32 were dropped for excessive missing data for a final analytic sample size of 1249 participants.



Sexual Activity and Partnerships

- 67.6% of young men and 59.0% of young women reported that they had a current or recent partner
- The current/recent partners of young women tended to be older: 55.7% had a partner two or more years older and 30.0% had a partner four or more years older
- Slightly more than half of young men (53.4%) and 38.3% of young women reported that they had ever had sex
- Median age at first sex was 17 years for both male and female respondents

Access to Contraception

All respondents were asked about their preferred source of contraception information. **Mothers** were the most preferred source for both female (41.0%) and male (27.1%) respondents.

Among all respondents:

94.2% have heard of at least one method of contraception

76.7% feel they can access information and services about contraception if they need them

47.2% know of a place to obtain a method of contraception

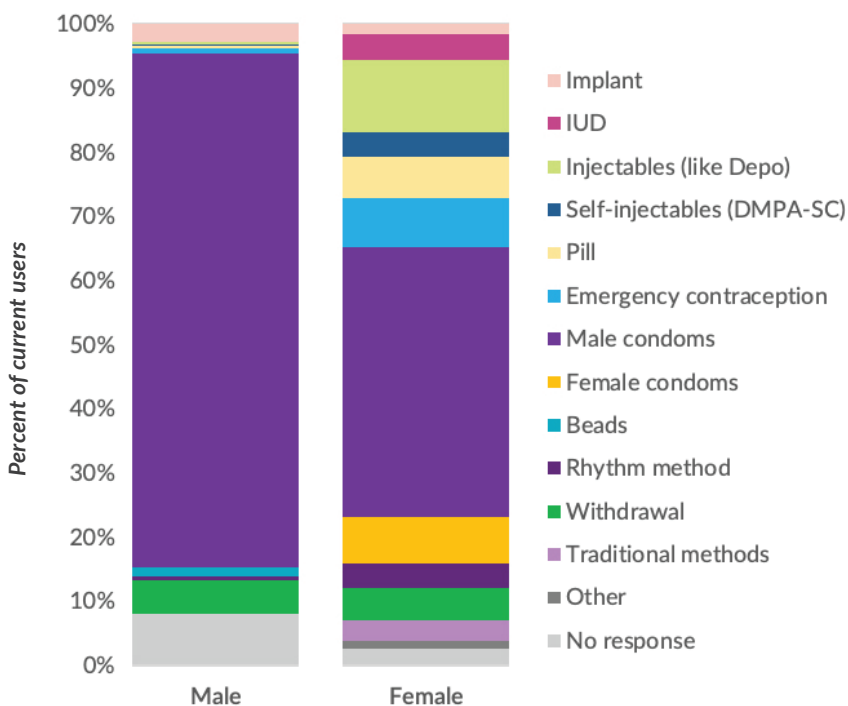
Contraceptive Use Among All Respondents

25.5%
Ever Use

19.1%
Current Use

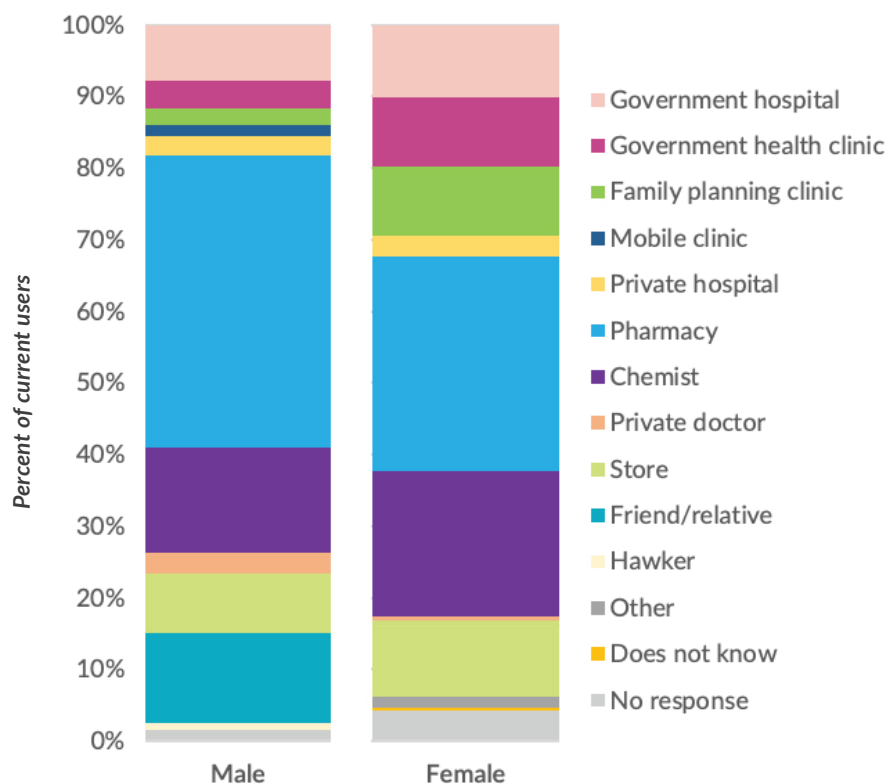
17.3%
Current use
(modern method)

Figure 1: Self-reported main method among current contraceptive users



While condoms were the most reported method among all users, inconsistent or incorrect condom usage may hinder its effectiveness for STI/HIV and pregnancy prevention. Lifetime prevalence of non-consensual condom removal during sex, a behavior sometimes referred to as “stealthing”, was reported by 36.3% of sexually active male respondents and was experienced by 25.0% of sexually active female respondents.

Figure 2: Source of current main method among users



Dependence on Others to Obtain Contraception

Person who obtains current method	Males (N=147)		Females (N=73)	
	W%*	N	W%	N
Self	66.4%	115	36.2%	24
Partner	12.8%	17	53.1%	44
Other**	19.5%	12	10.7%	5
Does not know/No response	1.4%	3	0.0%	0

*Weighted percentage

**Responses for "other" include mother, sister, cousin, friend, and healthcare worker

Among contraceptive users who do not obtain their own method, 32.4% of males and 41.3% of females reported that they are entirely dependent on the other person to obtain their method.

Demand for Contraception and Quality of Services

Among all respondents:

41.5% reported favorable community attitudes towards contraception

89.9% reported exposure to contraceptive messages on the radio, television, print, by text, or on social networks in the last few months

28.3% recommended any contraceptive method to friends and/or relatives in last 12 months

About PMA Agile-YRDSS/Nigeria

PMA Agile is a project within Performance Monitoring for Action (PMA, formerly PMA2020) suite implemented by the Gates Institute at Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health, in collaboration with local research institutes and universities in PMA Agile geographies. PMA Agile seeks to establish an adaptable, replicable M&E platform for application at critical levels of program implementation, including the collection and use of routine and survey data sources that can provide rapid feedback and is cost-effective.

The Youth Respondent-Driven Sampling Survey (YRDSS) was implemented in Lagos in collaboration with the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, and the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP) among unmarried youth aged 15-24 years. YRDSS used respondent-driven sampling (RDS) methodology, a chain-based recruitment method in which study participants recruit their peers through numbered coupon distribution and enrolled 1281 participants. Overall direction and support were provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. YRDSS was supported through funds provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Data collection was conducted between February and March 2020. All results are weighted for RDS design, with a post-estimation weight for comparability with the underlying population of youth ages 15-24 in the study area.

Suggested citation: PMA Agile & College of Medicine, University of Ibadan. YRDSS/Nigeria: Key Results. 2020. Baltimore, Maryland, USA: Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Key Takeaways & Recommendations

- Current use of contraception was low (19.1%) in this sample.
- Male condoms were the most commonly reported method among both male and female users.
- Data suggest significant potential barriers to consistent and effective contraceptive use, even for youth who are using contraception.
 - For those using a method, over half of female users reported partners obtaining that method, with a relatively high level of dependence (41.3% entirely dependent).
 - Over one-third of sexually active male respondents had ever removed a condom during sex and this experience was reported by one-quarter of sexually active female respondents.
- Adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health interventions should consider engaging mothers as valuable sources of information for youth, particularly young women. Mothers who may not be comfortable as the direct information source for their children should receive supportive information on where to refer their daughters and sons to trusted information sources within the health system.
- Pharmacies and chemists were the main source of contraceptives; however, pharmacists were not reported to be the preferred source of information on contraceptive methods for youth. This gap suggests an opportunity to better engage pharmacies in provision of contraceptive information, including method efficacy.
- Improved communication strategies may be needed to address the barriers to youth successfully implementing contraception, normalize the use of highly effective methods, and allow youth to translate their confidence in contraceptive discussions with partners into successful use.

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