Trends and Inequalities of Demand for Family Planning Satisfied by Modern Methods (mDFPS) in Ghana

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Background

Fertility rates in Ghana experienced a rapid decline until 2017, stabilizing at 3.9 children per woman up to 2022.

Progress in modern contraceptive prevalence in Ghana and meeting the demand for family planning.

2022 Unmet need for family planning
- 23% of currently married women
- 25% of sexually active unmarried women

Objectives

- To assess national and subnational trends in mDFPS in Ghana (2013-2022)
- To identify inequality patterns focusing on wealth, education, and region
- To determine factors influencing mDFPS in Ghana
Methods

Data Source

- PMA (2013-2017)  All women of reproductive age (15-49)
- Ghana DHS (2022)

Data Analysis

- Trend in mDFPS (2013-2022)
  - Average Annual Rate Change (AARC)
- Absolute Inequalities (Equiplots)
  - Slope index of inequality (SII)
    - Wealth
    - Education
  - Weighted Absolute Difference to the Mean (WMADM)
    - Region
- Multivariable logistic regression
AARC of 3.8 percentage point increase in coverage of mDFPS from 2013 to 2022

Figure 2: Trends in the national coverage of mDFPS in Ghana
Coverage of mDFPS increased across region over years
Coverage consistently lower in the Northern region of Ghana

Figure 3: Maps Showing Regional Trends in mDFPS in Ghana
- Reduction in wealth and educational inequalities
- Women with no education still lagging

Figure 4: Equiplots showing Wealth and Educational Inequalities of mDFPS
- Women in the Northern region have a 34% decrease odds of mDFPS
- Women in the Upper West region have a 77% increase odds of mDFPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>AOR [95%CI]</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ashanti</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>0.66 [0.49;0.88]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper West</td>
<td>1.77 [1.19;2.63]</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women currently Working*</th>
<th>AOR [95%CI]</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1.26[1.05;1.50]</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital status***</th>
<th>AOR [95%CI]</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Never Married</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married/Cohabiting</td>
<td>0.68 [0.56;0.81]</td>
</tr>
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- Women currently working have a 26% higher odds of mDFPS compared to those not working
- Married/Cohabiting women have a 32% decrease odds of mDFPS compared to those who have never been married

AOR= Adjusted Odds Ratio, *p<0.05  ***p<0.001
Adjusted for Age, Education, Wealth, Number of living Children
Ghana has a major reduction in wealth and educational inequalities

Proposed global benchmark for mDFPS of at least 75% by 2030 has not been met yet

However, the Northern region of Ghana continues to lag behind

Increase in coverage of family planning ensures progress towards SDG target 3.7
- universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services