

Thesis Title Factors Influencing Contraceptive Use in  
Nigeria

Name Taiwo Avbayeru

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Thesis Supervisory Committee:

Uraiwan Kanungsukkasem, Ph.D.

Chai Podhisita, Ph.D.

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#### ABSTRACT

This study aims at contributing to a better understanding of the factors influencing contraceptive use in Nigeria.

The study used secondary data obtained from the Nigerian Demographic and Health surveys (NDHS) which was conducted by the Federal Office of Statistics (FOS) in 1990. The sample size is 7,080 ever married women in reproductive age.

Results show that majority of the sample women live in the rural area, are in the 25-39 years age group. Majority have between one and four living children and are more likely to say that their desired family is up to God. They are mostly married, with less than two years of education and mostly engaged in agriculture or sales (petty trading). Knowledge of family planning methods and their sources are very low

in the rural area. Urban women are generally closer to a source of modern family planning methods.

Fertility rate is high (CEB is 4) and contraceptive prevalence rate is low. The urban CPR (16 percent) is twice the national rate and more than five times the rural rate. Pills is the most popular method.

Almost all the factors examined had significant influence on contraceptive practice. These factors are demographic, socioeconomic and program-related.

A number of recommendations were made based on the findings of the study. These include mounting an aggressive information education and communication campaign to change the desire for a large family size—a major factor for high fertility and low contraception and making efforts to further reduce infant and child mortality since the number of children a woman has is strongly related to contraceptive use. Others are improving women's education by establishing more schools or vocational centres especially in the rural areas as education was found to have profound influence on contraceptive use both of which are very low especially in the rural areas. Finally, improving knowledge of family planning especially among rural women was advocated as higher knowledge of family planning greatly influences contraceptive use in both urban and rural areas.