For Those Who’ve Had Enough:

What do we know about women with an intent to limit?

Lynn Bakamjian, EngenderHealth Consultant
Patricia MacDonald, USAID

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The proportion of women who want no more children is a strong predictor of CPR and TFR (Westoff & Bankole, 2000).

Fertility intention (for both spacing and limiting) is an important predictor of reproductive behavior (Islam et al, 2003; Roy et al, 2003).

Increasing contraceptive use among limiters reduces high-parity births and maternal mortality (Stover & Ross, 2009).
Secondary DHS Analysis

- 15 African countries with DHS surveys after 2000
- Part of larger global secondary analysis of 37 countries
- Countries excluded if LA or PM method use was >25
- All women 15-49 included—analysis done using STATA & SPSS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Survey Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>2004</td>
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<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>2009</td>
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<td>Malawi</td>
<td>2004</td>
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<td>Namibia</td>
<td>2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>2005 &amp; 2007/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swaziland</td>
<td>2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Unmet need for limiting versus spacing

- Married women of reproductive age with unmet need

- Unmet need to space
- Unmet need to limit

Countries and years include:
- Benin 2006
- Cameroon 2004
- Ghana 2008
- Kenya 2003
- Lesotho 2004
- Madagascar 2008/09
- Malawi 2004
- Namibia 2006/07
- Rwanda 2005
- Senegal 2005
- Swaziland 2006/07
- Tanzania 2004/05
- Uganda 2006
- Zambia 2007
- Zimbabwe 2005/06
Unmet need for limiting among postpartum women

Unmet need to limit

- Benin
- Cameroon
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Namibia
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe
Demand for Limiting

Many assume Africa has low demand for limiting—data suggest otherwise

- 20.4% women in Anglophone Africa wanted no more children at last birth
- Despite generally high fertility desires, data suggest many women do indeed have need to limit

Demand for limiting has remained **strong** or **increased** in nearly all analysis countries over past 20 years

Photo by W. Betemariam / EngenderHealth
Increasing Trends in Demand for Limiting Desire to limit births

Desire to limit births

MWRA


Benin  Cameroon  Ghana  Kenya  Madagascar  Malawi  Namibia
Rwanda  Senegal  Tanzania  Uganda  Zambia  Zimbabwe
Younger African Women Want to Limit

- As age increases, demand to limit begins to exceed demand to space.
- Demand to limit “crossover” begins at:
  - 31.3 years in AA
  - 34.3 in FA
- Demand for limiting often associated with older women, however, demand to limit exists among younger women:
  - Namibia: 31.7% of MWRA 15-29 have a demand for limiting
  - Lesotho: 26.37%
  - Kenya: 14.43%
  - Malawi: 12.77%
- Pattern not limited Southern Africa
- Counters claim that only older high-parity MWRA have demand for limiting.
“Crossover Age” decreases as CPR increases.
Limiters using traditional and short-acting methods

Family planning use and non-use among women with a demand to limit births

- Senegal
- Cameroon
- Tanzania
- Benin
- Rwanda
- Zambia
- Ghana
- Malawi
- Uganda
- Madagascar
- Kenya
- Zimbabwe
- Lesotho
- Namibia
- Swaziland

Legend:
- Orange: Permanent
- Purple: Long-acting
- Blue: Short-acting
- Yellow: Traditional
- White: Unmet need for limiting
African Women Exceeding Desired Parity

Mean and ideal parity among permanent method users

Mean ideal parity vs. Mean parity for countries:
- Benin
- Cameroon
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Namibia
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe
Conclusions: Profile of Limiters in Africa

- Unmet need for limiting exists in Africa
- Demand for limiting exists in Africa
- Younger cohorts desire to limit future childbearing
- Large # exceed desired fertility
- Remember….spacers eventually become limiters

How will FP programs respond to their needs?