

OVERVIEW

Making Family Planning Count is a three-year initiative (2015-2017) of the United Nations Population Division to improve the quantity, quality, transparency and accessibility of family planning indicators, and of the population data that underlie models of the determinants and impact of improved accessibility of family planning. Combining newly generated data on family planning with other relevant population data produced by the United Nations Population Division, and making them more widely and easily accessible, will support efforts by policymakers and planners to translate political commitments into practical plans, programmes and projects. This work will also support advocacy and accountability efforts, helping to strengthen the political commitment to global health, including initiatives such as Family Planning 2020.

BACKGROUND

Better data can help improve people's lives by informing the decisions that affect them. Population data form the backbone of a country's social, health and demographic statistics and are vital for planning and policy making at both national and sub-national levels. It is partly through the collection and analysis of such data that countries identify their priorities, allocate their resources, and monitor and evaluate their progress. Population data are essential for monitoring progress towards the attainment of internationally-agreed goals and targets at national, regional and global levels – not only on family planning but also on poverty, employment, education, child mortality, reproductive health, safe water and sanitation.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- To improve the global community's ability to track progress in meeting the demand for family planning by producing estimates and projections of contraceptive prevalence and unmet need for family planning for all women by age group
- To improve the accessibility and transparency of the demographic data required for estimating family planning indicators and for analysing the impact of improved accessibility of family planning

The project is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and is implemented by the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations (www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/).
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EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Model-based estimates and projections of contraceptive prevalence and unmet need for family planning for all women by age group

Country-specific and aggregated estimates and projections of contraceptive prevalence and unmet need are produced by the Population Division using a Bayesian hierarchical modelling approach. Current estimates and projections (see figure below) are limited, however, to married or in-union women. Expansion of the model to all women and its disaggregation by age group will help government ministries, agencies, donors, and non-governmental organizations working on improving the delivery of family planning services to monitor the existing situation, anticipate changes in the near-future and evaluate the effectiveness of their interventions. The outputs will include:

- Comprehensive collection of empirical evidence (input data for modelling) on family planning indicators for all women and by age group
- Methodology for producing estimates and projections of contraceptive prevalence and unmet need for family planning for all women by age group

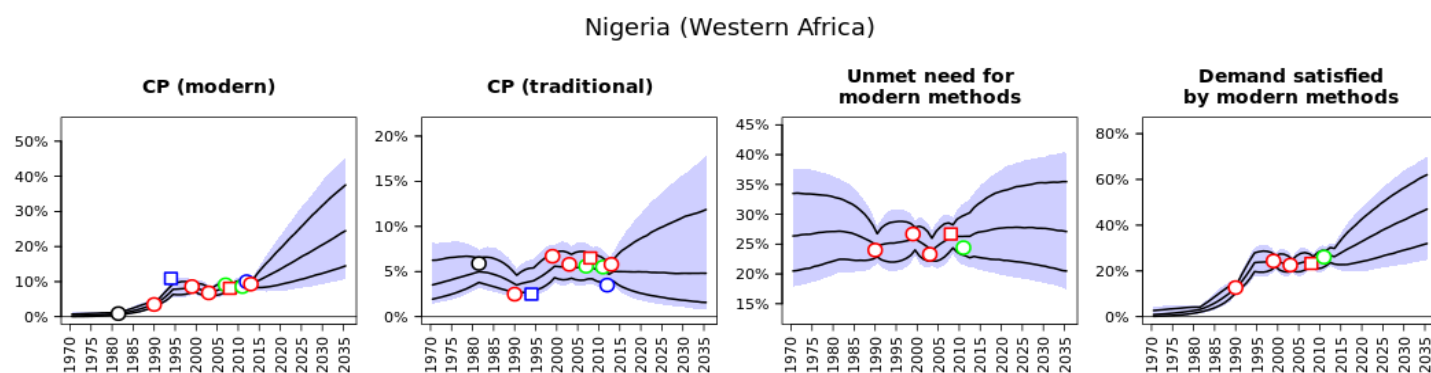


Figure: Model-based estimates and projections of family planning indicators and underlying survey data for married or in-union women, Nigeria (*Source: Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators* 2014) http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/family-planning/cp_model.shtml

Improved accessibility and transparency of demographic data used by the family planning community

Essential to all of this work is the need to strengthen the underlying evidence base upon which the model-based estimates of both family planning and population indicators are built. In many countries, accurate and up-to-date data on their demographic situation are simply not available. The majority of the 69 countries of focus in the FP2020 initiative still lack nationally-representative vital registration systems. A complete demographic profile of their populations and how they are changing over time must be constructed using incomplete (and sometimes inconsistent) evidence from various demographic sources, including decennial censuses and national sample surveys. The outputs will include:

- Estimates and projections of female population by marital status and age to enable estimates and projections of family planning indicators
- Comprehensive database of demographic indicators and web-disseminated country profiles for the 69 countries of focus in the FP2020 initiative