



# World Contraceptive Patterns 2013

**INTRODUCTION** As part of Millennium Development Goal 5 to improve maternal health, Governments committed themselves to achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health (Target 5.B). This chart presents the latest data available on two of the indicators under this target: contraceptive prevalence (indicator 5.3) and unmet need for family planning (indicator 5.6). The specific contraceptive methods used by women of reproductive age who are married or in a union and new estimates of the mix of methods used in major areas and sub-regions of the world are also presented.

In 2011, worldwide an estimated 63 per cent of women of reproductive age who were married or in a union were using a contraceptive method, though contraceptive prevalence levels varied widely across major areas and sub-regions. Contraceptive prevalence was lowest in Africa (31 per cent), and less than 25 per cent in Middle Africa and Western Africa, and 70 per cent or higher in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Northern America. Modern methods predominate: in 2011, nine in ten contraceptive users worldwide relied on a modern method of contraception.

However, universal access to reproductive health is still far from being attained. At least one in five women of reproductive age who are married or in a union have an unmet need for family planning (i.e., women who are fecund, want to stop or delay childbearing and are not using a method of contraception). In the least developed countries, sub-Saharan Africa and Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, an estimated 143 million married or in-union women worldwide have an unmet need for family planning. If traditional method users are included, this number rises to 215 million married or in-union women with an unmet need for modern methods.

**DATA SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY** Data on contraceptive prevalence and unmet need for family planning for countries or territories were obtained from surveys covering nationally representative samples of women of reproductive age. Detailed data on levels and trends of contraceptive prevalence and unmet need for family planning, including information on data sources, are presented in the data sets *World Contraceptive Use 2012, 2013 Update for the MDG Database: Contraceptive Prevalence*, and *2013 Update for the MDG Database: Unmet Need for Family Planning* (all available from [www.unpopulation.org](http://www.unpopulation.org)).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *World Contraceptive Use 2012* (United Nations publication, POP/DB/CP/2012/2013 Update for the MDG Database: Contraceptive Prevalence)

World, regional and development group averages of total, modern and traditional method use and unmet need for family planning for 2011 are drawn from new Bayesian hierarchical model estimates.<sup>2</sup> Aggregate group estimates are population-weighted averages of the model-based country estimates, using as the weight the number of married or in-union women aged 15-49 for 2011 in each country. The estimated weights were derived from data on the proportion of women who were married or in a union in each country<sup>3</sup> and estimates of the number of women by age group obtained from *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision*.<sup>4</sup>

**DATA AVAILABILITY** Information on contraceptive prevalence is available for most countries of the world. As with all chart works, recent estimates of contraceptive prevalence referring to 2000 or later years are available for 157 countries or territories. For an additional 31 countries or territories, the most recent estimates refer to earlier dates, from the 1990s for 20 countries and the 1980s for 11 countries. Among the countries lacking recent data altogether, only Croatia, Cyprus and Fiji have more than 100,000 women aged 15 to 49 who are married or in a union.

The availability of estimates of unmet need for family planning is limited. In the data set *World Contraceptive Use 2012*, 111 countries or territories had estimates of unmet need for family planning referring to 1986 or later years. Countries lacking the data necessary to estimate the unmet need for family planning are located mainly in developed regions and include several countries in Europe as well as Australia, Canada, Japan and New Zealand. There are also several countries in

Western Asia, the Caribbean, South America and Oceania lacking the required information.

**CONTRACEPTIVE PREVALENCE** According to the most recent data available, contraceptive prevalence among women of reproductive age who are married or in a union varies between 4 per cent in South Sudan and 88 per cent in Norway. Globally, contraceptive prevalence is estimated at 63 per cent in 2011. Among the 49 least developed countries, 36 per cent of married or in-union women are using a contraceptive method while the level is nearly twice as high in other developing regions (66 per cent).

Among developing regions, contraceptive prevalence is 50 per cent or more except in sub-Saharan Africa (25 per cent) and Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia (37 per cent). Over half of the 48 countries in sub-Saharan Africa with data available have a level of contraceptive prevalence below 30 per cent and they are located mainly in Western Africa and in the Horn of Africa. In contrast, just seven of the 47 countries of Asia with data available have levels of contraceptive prevalence below 30 per cent, namely, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. No country in Latin America and the Caribbean has a level of contraceptive prevalence below 30 per cent. However, nine of the 37 countries in that major area having the required data have contraceptive prevalence levels below 50 per cent, namely, Anguilla, Dominica, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Among major areas, Northern America has the highest level of contraceptive prevalence in the world (75 per cent) followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (73 per cent) and Europe (70 per cent). Only two countries with data in Europe have levels of contraceptive prevalence below 50 per cent (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro).

**MAIN METHODS OF CONTRACEPTION USED** Nine out of every 10 contraceptive users in the world rely on modern methods of contraception. For the world as a whole, female sterilization is the most common method of contraception, used by 19 per cent of women aged 15 to 49 who are married or in a union. Female sterilization is most prevalent in Latin America and the Caribbean (26 per cent). The prevalence level of female sterilization is highest—47 per cent—in the Dominican Republic. In Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Puerto Rico, female range between 30 per cent and 40 per cent. The prevalence of female steril-

ization is over 25 per cent in Brazil and a few countries in other regions, including China (29 per cent) and India (36 per cent).

The IUD, used by 14 per cent of women of reproductive age who are married or in a union, is the second most widely used contraceptive method in the world. The IUD is most commonly used in Asia (18 per cent) and its prevalence is highest—over 40 per cent—in China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Uzbekistan. In addition, levels of IUD use range between 30 per cent and 40 per cent in Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Viet Nam. The prevalence of IUD use is also over 30 per cent in Egypt.

The pill is the third most widely used contraceptive method in the world, with 9 per cent of women aged 15 to 49 who are married or in a union relying on it. Use of the contraceptive pill has the widest geographic distribution of any method. The pill's prevalence is relatively high, 30 per cent or more, in four countries in Africa, one country in Asia, nine in Europe, one in Latin America and the Caribbean and one in Oceania. Countries with the highest prevalence of pill use—over 40 per cent—include Algeria, Czech Republic, France, Morocco, the Netherlands, Portugal, Réunion and Zimbabwe. Regarding the share of the pill in overall contraceptive use, there are more countries where at least 30 per cent of contraceptive users rely on the pill than there are countries where a similar share is accounted for by either female sterilization or the IUD. That is, in many countries, the pill is more popular among contraceptive users than female sterilization or the IUD even if the global prevalence of the pill is lower than that of female sterilization or the IUD.

Short-acting and reversible methods are more commonly used than their methods in developed regions whereas long-acting and highly effective clinical methods are used more frequently in the developing regions. Thus, in developed regions as a whole, the most commonly used methods are the pill (used by 18 per cent of women of reproductive age who are married or in a union) and the male condom (with 18 per cent prevalence). Those two methods accounted for more than half of all contraceptive use in developed regions, while less than one out of every four users relied on female sterilization or the IUD. By contrast, in developing regions the methods with the highest prevalence were female sterilization (21 per cent) and the IUD (15 per cent), accounting together for 57 per cent of overall contraceptive use.

The male condom ranked fourth among modern contraceptive methods in terms of global prevalence, with 8 per cent of couples where the woman is aged 15 to 49 relying on this method. The prevalence of condom use is highest in Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of China (50 per cent) and 30 per cent or higher in Argentina, Botswana, Greece, Japan, the Russian Federation and Uruguay. However, several countries with relatively high levels of male condom use are also countries with non-standard reference populations (e.g., all sexually-active women).

Other modern contraceptive methods are also popular in certain regions. In Eastern Africa and Southern Africa, for instance, injectables are the most popular methods, accounting for over 40 per cent of contraceptive use.

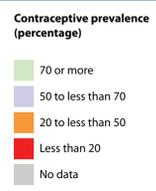
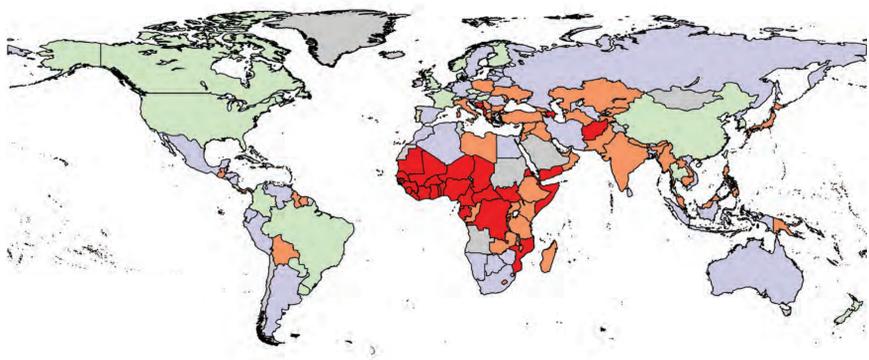
Traditional methods, though having lower effectiveness in preventing pregnancy than modern methods, are still commonly used in Middle Africa, Western Africa and Western Asia, where 57 per cent, 29 per cent and 33 per cent, respectively, of women of reproductive age who are married or in a union are currently using a method of contraception rely on a traditional method. Countries with the highest prevalence of withdrawal—30 per cent or more—are Albania, Azerbaijan, Malta and Serbia.

**UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING** The level of unmet need for family planning varies from 4 per cent in Mauritius to 48 per cent in Samoa. In Africa, 26 of the 39 countries with recent data have high unmet need levels, ranging from 21 per cent to 38 per cent of all women of reproductive age who are married or in a union. In Asia, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, by contrast, the majority of countries with recent data have unmet need levels below 20 per cent.

In general, unmet need for family planning is lowest in countries where contraceptive prevalence is already high (above 60 per cent). That is, the unmet need for family planning must be interpreted in light of other indicators of contraceptive prevalence. Worldwide, 143 million married or in-union women of reproductive age are estimated to have an unmet need for family planning in 2011.<sup>5</sup> The number of women with an unmet need for family planning increases to 215 million if women using traditional contraceptive methods are included. Four out of every five women with an unmet need for modern methods live in developing regions.

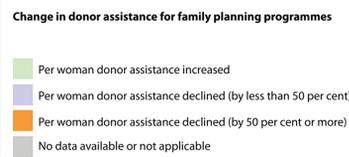
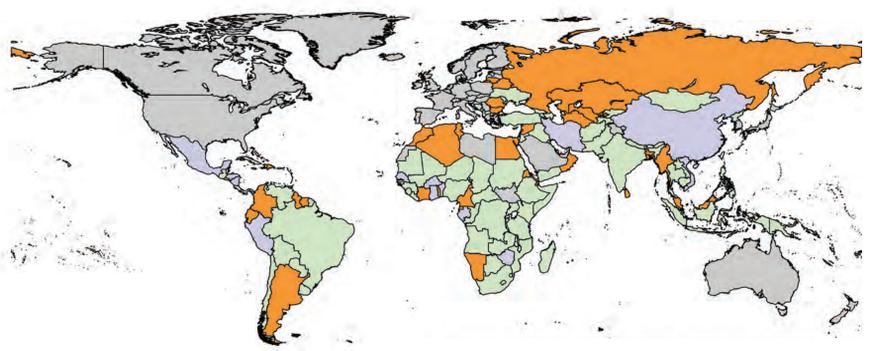
Country or territory	Year(s)	CONTRACEPTIVE PREVALENCE <sup>a</sup> (percentage using contraception among women who are married or in a union <sup>b</sup> )												Need for family planning (percentage of women with unmet need <sup>c</sup> )				
		PREVALENCE OF MODERN METHODS						PREVALENCE OF TRADITIONAL METHODS										
		Any modern method	Female	Male	Pill	Injectable	Implant	IUD	Male condom	Vaginal barrier methods	Other modern methods <sup>d</sup>	Any traditional method <sup>e</sup>	Rhythm <sup>f</sup>		Withdrawal <sup>g</sup>	Other traditional methods <sup>h</sup>		
<b>WORLD</b>	2011	63.2	57.0	18.9	2.4	8.9	4.1	0.5	13.9	8.0	0.2	0.2	6.1	2.9	2.7	0.5	12.3	
<b>Developed regions</b>	2011	70.1	61.0	8.4	5.3	17.7	0.3	0.3	8.9	18.4	0.9	0.9	9.0	3.2	5.3	0.5	9.9	
<b>Developing regions</b>	2011	62.1	56.4	20.6	1.9	7.5	4.7	0.5	14.7	6.3	0.1	0.1	5.6	2.8	2.3	0.5	12.7	
<b>Least developed countries</b>	2011	35.9	29.5	3.0	0.7	10.4	10.5	1.2	1.0	2.7	0.0	0.0	6.4	3.4	1.4	1.6	23.6	
<b>Other developing regions</b>	2011	66.4	60.8	23.5	2.1	7.0	3.7	0.4	17.0	6.9	0.1	0.1	5.5	2.7	2.4	0.3	10.9	
<b>AFRICA</b>	2011	31.3	27.3	1.7	0.3	3.1	11.3	0.1	1.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	5.3	2.1	1.1	0.1	23.2	
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	2011	25.1	19.7	1.7	0.0	4.5	9.3	1.1	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.1	5.4	2.9	1.0	1.5	25.3	
<b>Eastern Africa</b>	2011	33.7	29.0	2.3	0.0	5.9	15.8	2.2	1.1	1.7	0.0	0.0	4.7	2.0	1.2	1.5	26.2	
Burundi	2011	21.9	17.7	0.6	0.0	2.4	10.4	0.6	2.7	1.0	0.0	0.0	4.1	1.9	2.3	0.0	32.4	
Comoros	2000	25.7	19.3	0.7	0.0	8.3	8.5	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.0	6.4	2.9	1.2	2.3	...	
Djibouti	2006	17.8	17.1	0.4	0.0	13.6	2.5	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.7	...	...	...	...	
Eritrea	2002	8.0	5.1	0.2	0.0	1.4	2.6	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.7	0.1	2.1	28.5	
Ethiopia	2010/11	51.6	44.0	0.8	0.1	8.3	20.8	3.4	2.1	6.2	0.3	0.0	13.9	0.9	0.3	0.1	26.3	
Kenya	2008/09	45.5	38.9	4.8	0.0	7.2	21.6	1.9	1.6	1.8	0.0	0.0	6.6	4.7	0.7	1.2	25.6	
Madagascar	2008/09	39.9	28.2	1.1	0.1	6.0	17.9	1.5	0.4	1.1	0.0	0.0	11.7	9.7	0.8	1.2	39.1	
Malawi	2010	46.1	42.2	9.7	0.1	2.5	25.8	1.3	0.3	2.4	0.0	0.0	1.9	3.8	1.8	1.2	26.1	
Mauritius	2002	75.8	39.3	8.9	0.1	16.0	3.7	0.1	1.4	8.9	0.2	0.0	36.5	10.1	26.4	0.0	3.5	
Mozambique	2011	11.6	11.3	0.2	4.5	0.1	0.0	1.1	5.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	...	
Réunion	1997	66.6	63.5	3.2	0.0	42.6	0.0	0.0	19.0	3.2	0.2	1.3	3.1	1.5	1.6	0.0	...	
Senegal	2010/11	51.6	44.0	0.8	0.1	8.3	20.8	3.4	2.1	6.2	0.3	0.0	13.9	0.9	0.3	0.1	26.3	
Somalia	2006	14.6	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.4	0.4	0.3	12.8	...	
South Sudan	2006	3.5	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.1	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.1	2.5	...	
Uganda	2011	30.0	25.8	2.9	0.1	2.9	14.1	2.7	0.5	2.7	0.0	0.0	4.2	1.4	2.1	0.7	34.3	
United Republic of Tanzania	2009/10	34.4	26.1	3.5	0.0	6.7	10.6	2.3	0.6	2.3	0.0	0.0	8.3	3.1	2.9	2.2	25.3	
Zambia	2007	40.8	26.5	1.9	0.0	11.0	8.5	0.4	0.1	4.7	0.0	0.1	14.3	1.2	5.6	2.5	26.6	
Zimbabwe	2010/11	58.5	57.1	1.1	0.0	41.3	8.3	2.7	0.2	3.1	0.0	0.0	3.3	1.5	1.0	0.4	14.6	
<b>MIDDLE AFRICA</b>	2011	28.8	22.3	0.6	0.0	1.9	1.5	0.3	0.2	4.0	0.0	0.2	12.9	8.1	1.5	2.5	26.0	
Angola	2008/09	17.7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cameroon	2011	23.4	14.1	0.5	0.0	1.9	3.0	0.7	0.2	7.6	0.0	0.0	1.1	9.2	6.7	1.8	0.7	23.5
Central African Republic	2006	19.0	8.6	0.3	0.1	4.4	0.2	0.0	0.1	3.5	0.0	0.0	10.5	6.8	0.4	3.3	...	
Chad	2010	4.8	1.6	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	3.2	0.3	0.0	3.0	28.3	
Congo	2011/12	44.7	20.0	0.1	0.0	2.9	2.8	0.1	0.0	12.3	0.0	0.0	1.7	24.7	17.1	5.7	2.0	...
Dem. Republic of the Congo	2010	17.7	5.5	0.8	0.0	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.1	2.5	0.0	0.1	12.4	8.4	1.1	2.9	24.2	
Guinea-Bissau	2000	10.1	6.1	0.5	0.1	1.5	2.3	0.1	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.2	4.0	2.0	0.6	1.4	...	
Gabon	2012	31.1	19.4	0.6	0.0	5.7	0.4	0.0	0.0	12.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	11.7	9.1	2.3	0.3	...
Sao Tome and Principe	2008/09	38.4	33.1	1.2	0.0	15.1	11.5	0.0	0.4	5.0	0.1	0.0	5.3	2.8	1.2	1.3	37.6	
<b>NORTHERN AFRICA</b>	2011	53.6	48.6	1.3	0.0	22.1	4.0	0.2	19.8	1.1	0.1	0.0	5.0	1.8	1.2	2.0	15.2	
Algeria	2006	61.4	52.0	1.1	0.0	45.9	0.0	0.0	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0	3.9	9.4	4.1	3.3	2.0	...
Egypt	2008	60.3	57.6	1.0	0.0	11.9	7.4	0.5	36.1	0.7	0.0	0.0	2.7	0.4	0.2	2.0	11.6	
Libya	1995	45.2	25.7	0.0	0.0	9.6	0.0	0.0	11.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	19.6	0.0	0.0	...	
Morocco	2010/11	67.4	56.7	0.0	0.0	48.4	1.3	0.4	0.0	4.2	1.6	0.0	1.2	10.3	4.4	6.1	2.4	11.9
Sudan	2010	9.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.9	
Tunisia	2011/12	63.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
<b>Southern Africa</b>	2011	62.6	61.7	13.6	0.7	11.7	28.3	0.1	1.2	6.2	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.1	0.7	13.0	
Botswana	2007/08	52.8	51.2	2.1	0.1	6.1	6.8	0.0	0.8	41.7	0.6	0.0	2.6	1.8	0.6	0.2	...	
Lesotho	2009/10	47.0	45.6	2.4	0.0	12.5	19.3	0.1	1.9	9.4	0.0	0.1	1.4	0.1	0.7	0.6	23.3	
Namibia	2006/07	55.1	53.5	10.3	0.4	8.6	21.8	0.2	1.6	10.4	0.1	0.0	1.6	0.4	0.3	0.9	20.7	
South Africa	2003/04	59.9	58.1	14.2	0.1	10.5	28.4	0.0	1.0	4.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.8	
Swaziland	2010	65.2	63.0	5.2	0.3	10.7	21.3	1.8	1.1	22.6	0.0	0.2	2.1	0.2				

Percentage of women using a modern method of contraception among those aged 15-49 who are married or in a union: most recent data available



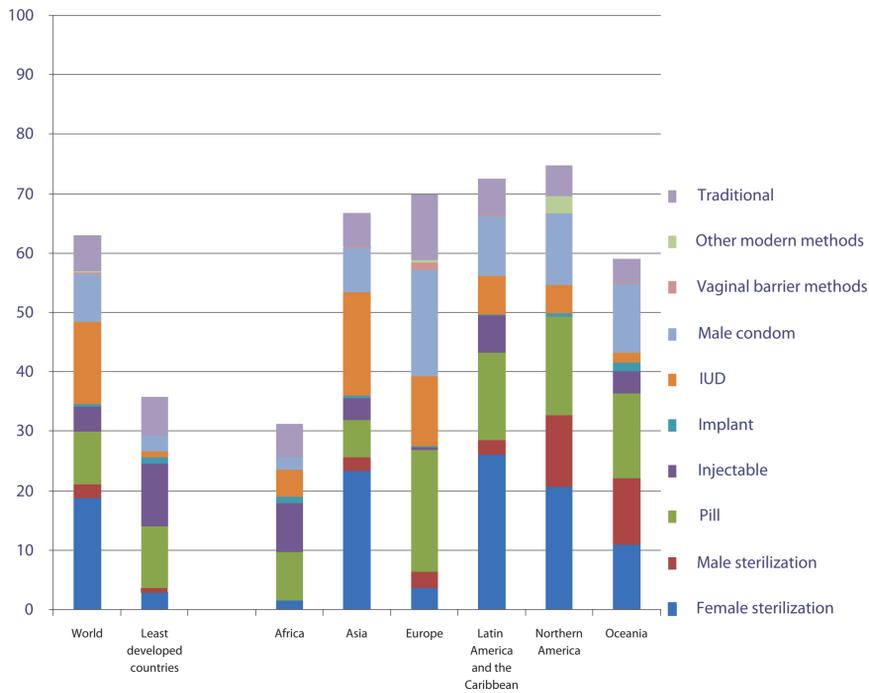
The boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Change in availability of funding for family planning programmes per woman aged 15-49, married or in a union: 2000 to 2010\*



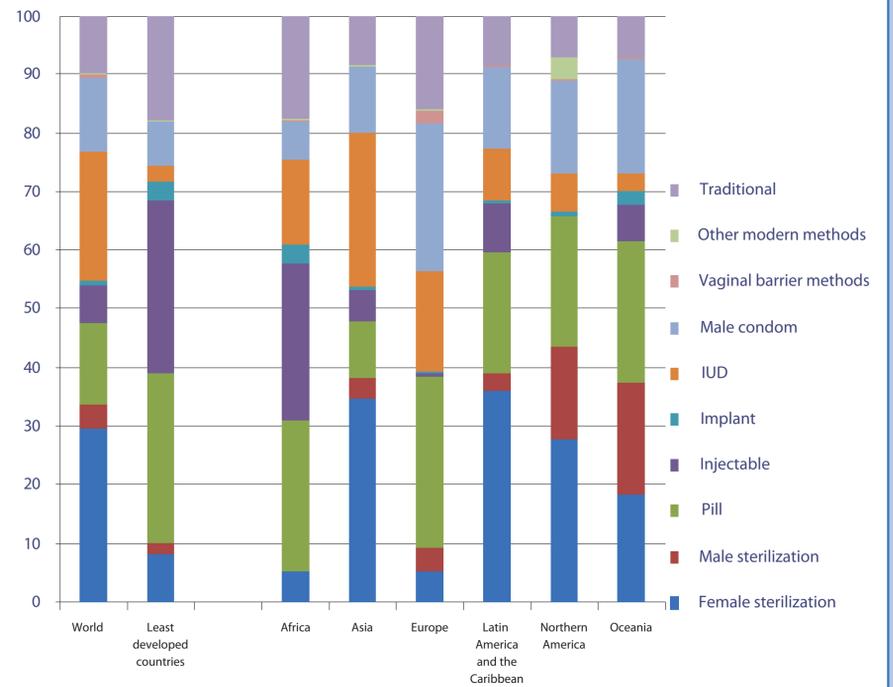
\* Note: Donor assistance in 2010 is adjusted for inflation using 2000 prices. Source: Donor assistance data from UNFPA/NIDI Resource Flows Database (2012). The boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Percentage of women using specific contraceptive methods among those aged 15-49 who are married or in a union, by major area: 2011



Note: Traditional methods include rhythm, withdrawal and other traditional methods.

Percentage share of specific methods in overall use among women aged 15-49 who are married or in a union, by major area: 2011



Note: Traditional methods include rhythm, withdrawal and other traditional methods.

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