

Technical Brief: Married versus All Women mCPR

Why does FP2020 use all women mCPR?

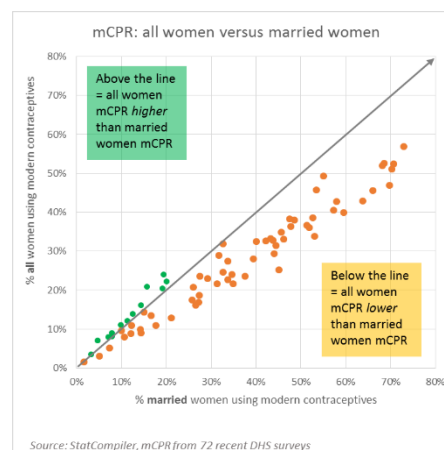
FP2020 seeks to enable an additional 120 million women to use modern contraception by 2020. One key indicator used to monitor this progress is the modern contraceptive prevalence rate (mCPR). This indicator is generally calculated based on two different populations: married women of reproductive age, or, all women of reproductive age. FP2020 uses the latter, all women, to reflect the fact that this global initiative seeks to increase access and use of contraception by both married and unmarried women.

How is this different from past reporting?

While mCPR estimates for all women are available in many countries from surveys such as DHS, in the past most reporting of mCPR has been for married women only. The Millennium Development Goals target 5.3 on Contraceptive Prevalence Rate is based on married and in-union women, most country strategies set CPR goals using married women CPR, and, current UN Population Division data on contraceptive use reports married CPR¹. Therefore, by reporting all women mCPR, FP2020 is changing how the wider reproductive health and development community measures progress related to contraceptive use.

How do all v married women mCPR estimates differ?

For most countries, the mCPR for all women is *lower* than the mCPR for married women. This is shown in the graph to the right (orange dots). Since all women mCPR measures contraceptive use among both married and unmarried women, in countries with low contraceptive use outside marriage the mCPR for all women will be lower. The all women mCPR will also differ based on the average age of marriage, and levels of sexual activity among unmarried women.



How is all-women mCPR calculated?

Currently, our modelled estimates of mCPR are for married women only (see FPET technical brief). There are several approaches to converting these estimates into all-women mCPR, depending on the country. If survey data is available for both married women and all women, the ratio between the two is used to convert from married to all women mCPR. However, in some countries, no all-women mCPR estimates exist. In these cases one of the following is done:

1. The ratio of married to all women mCPR from a similar country that has all women survey data is used
2. A regional ratio of married to all women mCPR, constructed from available survey data is used
3. No use of contraception by unmarried women is assumed

¹ However new model-based estimates are being developed for all-women CPR.