



**DETERMINANTS OF MODERN CONTRACEPTIVE USE IN A METROPOLITAN
MATERNITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, COTONOU, BENIN**

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this study are to describe the situation of fertility and modern contraceptive method use in CUGO Maternity Hospital, Benin, and to examine the extent to which some selected socio-demographic and related factors are associated with modern contraceptive use intention.

The study used secondary data obtained from the baseline KAP survey conducted in 1991-92 by the Center for Human Reproductive Health and Demographic Research (CRRHD) of Cotonou. This data was collected before CUGO hospital-based family planning programme operations got under way. The sample size was 1,416 nonpregnant women in the reproductive ages 14 to 49. Univariate, bivariate, and multivariate techniques were employed for the data analyses.

Results showed that fertility rate was relatively low as indicated by the average number of children ever born per ever married woman, which was 3.7, while the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is about 6.9 for the general population. Correspondingly, contraceptive ever-use rate was relatively high (37 percent), the Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) of the country being about 1 percent. The proportion of women who knew at least one modern contraceptive method was also quite high (95 percent). The majority of sampled women expressed their intention to use modern contraception in the future. Pills, injection, and IUD were the most ever used and the most desired methods by respondents. Past use as well as expressed future intention to use sterilization was almost non-existent.

Of all the socio-demographic and related factors examined, only three, namely, modern contraceptive use experience, number of living children and husbands' approval of the use of modern contraceptives had significant influences on contraceptive use intention.

Because the CUGO Maternity Hospital-based family planning programme is designed to serve primarily women, the finding of husband's approval as an important determinant has important programme implications.