

#### ORIGINAL RESEARCH

# When Do Nigerian Women of Reproductive Age Initiate and What Factors Influence Their Contraceptive Use? A Contextual Analysis

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**Background:** Contraceptive use initiation and continuation is one of the major interventions for reducing maternal deaths worldwide. Nigeria aimed to achieve a 27% prevalence rate of modern contraceptive uptake by 2020, however, this seems to have remained unachieved. The objective of this study was to investigate when Nigerian women initiate contraceptive use and its associated factors, using nationally representative data.

Methods: Data on 11,382 Nigerian women (aged 15-49 years) from the 2017 Performance Monitoring and Accountability 2020 (PMA2020) survey were used to determine the prevalence of lifetime contraceptive use. The Kaplan-Meier test was used to determine median time (years) to contraceptive uptake. In addition, the factors associated with contraceptive use were determined using multivariable logistic regression model. Statistical significance was determined at 5%.

**Results:** The prevalence of modern contraceptive use was 14.2%. There were disparities in the timing (years) of contraceptive use initiation across several women's characteristics. Women from urban residence, highest household wealth index, nulliparous, unmarried, and highly educated women had the minimum median time (years) to contraceptive use initiation. The multivariable logistic model showed that rural women were 26% less likely to initiate contraceptive use, when compared with the urban dwellers (OR= 0.74; 95% CI: 0.65, 0.84). Furthermore, married women were 24% less likely to initiate contraceptive use, when compared with the unmarried (OR= 0.76; 95% CI: 0.63, 0.93). In addition, geographical region, wealth, television source, ever given birth, education, age, and religion were significantly associated with contraceptive use.

**Conclusion:** The prevalence of contraceptive use is low in Nigeria. There were differences in contraceptive use initiation among women of reproductive age in Nigeria. There is a need to adopt sustainable strategies to improve contraceptive uptake and to re-iterate the benefits of contraception, including providing enlightenment programs among key populations such as the rural dwellers and low income earners.

**Keywords:** inequality, family planning, PMA2020, FP2020, Nigeria, contraceptive use

#### Introduction

Despite a decline of 34% in maternal deaths reported in 1990, developing countries account for 99%; with sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and South Asia jointly accounting for 87% of the global deaths of these women due to pregnancy-related complications. <sup>1-3</sup> Even though about 222 million women of reproductive age desire to delay or stop childbearing, they are not using any contraceptive method, which is among other forms of reducing pregnancy-related complications responsible for the high maternal death rates in developing countries.4

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To achieve the three-quarters reduction goal in maternal mortality rate, Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) launched a crucial campaign that supports the rights of an additional 120 million women of reproductive age to freely decide for themselves whether, when, and how many children they want to have by using modern contraceptives,<sup>5</sup> which is also aimed at meeting both Goal 3 and 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which relate to good health and wellbeing and gender equality respectively.<sup>5,6</sup> Increased access to modern contraceptive and its effective utilization have shown to be cost-effective and a key intervention for reducing maternal and neonatal deaths. 7-13 Specifically, an estimated 29% reduction in maternal deaths globally has been associated with family planning and its use prevented about 272,000 maternal deaths in 2010.8

However, Nigeria remains one of the leading countries with high maternal deaths globally and indeed in SSA. 6,13-<sup>15</sup> Even though there had been a reported decline of 52% in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) within 13 years (1990-2013), many women still die due to pregnancy-related causes with estimates of MMR suggesting no substantial difference.<sup>8,13</sup> Despite successful program implementation, the utilization of any method of delaying or preventing unwanted pregnancy is still low, 16-19 with an estimated growth rate of 3.2% per year and a high fertility rate of 5.5 children per woman. 18,20 Also, fertility desire continues to be on the increase among both men and women. 19,21 This poor level of utilization has been linked to insufficient funding of the family planning programs, educational level and socioeconomic status of the couple. 12,13,18 Studies have shown that unexpected or unplanned pregnancies, unsafe abortion, neonatal death, and maternal mortality due to pregnancy-related complications are linked with low contraceptive utilization. 19,22 The use of modern contraceptives translates to the prevention of unexpected or unplanned pregnancies and unsafe abortions, thereby reducing the burden of maternal mortality.<sup>15</sup>

There are regional differences in the reported prevalence of contraceptive use in Nigeria; with the Northern region having the lowest contraceptive prevalence, despite the country having the second highest maternal mortality burden globally. 4,13,15,20,23,24 Variations in contraceptive use with respect to socioeconomic status, religion, locaand educational level also exist in the literature. 4,12,13,16,19,20,23,25,26 There is a need to understand the time to contraceptive use uptake and investigate the associated factors. Currently, there is little or dearth of

information on timing of contraceptive use initiation, and this information will be useful for effective family planning program and also to improve the level of contraceptive use in Nigeria which will in turn help the nation derive the required benefits from family planning programs and ultimately reduce the high level of maternal mortality. Therefore, this study was conducted to examine when Nigerian women initiate contraceptive use and its associated factors, using a large dataset.

## Methodology

#### **Data Source**

We conducted secondary data analysis using publicly available Performance Monitoring and Accountability 2020 (PMA2020) data in Nigeria with nationally representative samples. The data were collected in 2017. PMA2020 used female resident enumerators to conduct surveys among 10,070 households and 11,106 consenting women aged 15 to 49 years. The sampling procedure was based on a multi-stage sampling approach in seven regionally representative states. Clusters of Enumeration Areas (302) from a national master sampling frame were extracted for this survey. The PMA2020 project was implemented by local partner universities and research organizations with technical support and direction provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health in the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. The major focus of PMA2020 data is the utilization of contraceptive methods by women of reproductive age, childhood nutrition, and unintended pregnancies.<sup>27</sup> The details of how the women were identified from the households and how data was collected have been reported elsewhere. 5,28-31

#### Measurement of Variables

The outcome variables included: time (in years) to uptake of contraceptive method, age (in years) at contraceptive initiation, age (in years) at sexual debut and contraceptive use (yes versus no). The explanatory factors included: age (in years), geographical zone, place of residence, religion, heard about family planning on radio, heard about family planning on television, read about family planning in newspaper/magazine, number of children ever born, ever given birth, marital status, highest level of school attended, not using contraceptive to limit or space childbirth, wealth index, as shown in Table 1.

Table I Variables' Selection and Measurement

Variable	Categories	Description
Outcome variables		
Time (years) to uptake of contraceptive		This was calculated for respondents using the time difference between the year of first contraceptive use and age at first sexual intercourse. Non-users of contraceptives were censored and women who were yet to have sexual intercourse were removed.
Age at contraceptive initiation		This is the age of the woman when she initiated the use of contraceptive method to prevent getting pregnant.
Age at sexual debut		This is the age of the respondent at her first sexual intercourse.
Contraceptive use	Ever used anything to delay or avoid getting pregnant Currently use any contraceptive method Currently use modern contraceptive Currently use traditional contraceptive method	These categories were measured dichotomously (Yes/No) to determine the level of contraceptive utilization among women of reproductive age.
Explanatory variables		
Age (years)	15–19/20-24/25–29/30–34/35–39/40– 44/45–49	The current age of respondents were re-grouped in 5 year intervals.
Zone	North Central/North East/North West/ South East/South South/South West	This is the geopolitical zones of origin of respondents. Nigeria has six geopolitical zones
Place of residence	Urban/Rural	Respondents were grouped by place of residence.
Religion	Catholic/Other Christian/Islam/ Traditionalist/Other religion	The religious affiliations of respondents were categorized as prevalent in Nigeria.
Heard about family planning on radio	Yes/No	The prominent media of family planning information were measured dichotomously
Heard about family planning on television	Yes/No	
Read about family planning in newspaper/ magazine	Yes/No	
Number of children ever born	Nil/1-2/3-4/>4	Total number of children ever born was used to measure fertility rate of respondents.
Ever given birth	Nulliparous/Parous	The parity of respondents was measured dichotomously on whether a woman had ever given birth or not.
Marital status	Never married/married	This variable describes the type of relationship of each respondent.
Highest level of school attended	No formal education/Primary/ Secondary/Higher	Educational attainment was determined by the level completed
Not using contraceptive to limit or space childbirths		The variable: not using contraceptive to limit or space childbirths measured in binary form

(Continued)

Table I (Continued).

Variable	Categories	Description
Wealth index	Lowest (Poorest)/Lower (Poorer)/ Middle/Higher (Richer)/Highest (Richest)	PMA2020 include questions about household assets including type of floor, roof, walls; source of water including open well, stream, or piped system; other assets including radio, fan, automobile, electricity, television, refrigerator, cooking fuel, furniture. Using these indicators, economic status was measured by computing a "wealth index" using principal component analysis. The factor loadings and z-scores were calculated. For each household, the indicator values were multiplied by the loadings and summed to produce the household's wealth index value. The standardized z-score was used to disentangle the overall assigned scores to quintiles.

## Ethical Approval

Ethical approval was sought from the Nigeria National Health Research ethics committee by the data originators and granted before starting the survey. Also, informed consent was received from the participants before interviewing them. We obtained the approval from PMA2020 -Centre for Research, Evaluation Resources Development (CRERD), Bayero University Kano (BUK), and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH) to use the data. CRERD implemented PMA2020 in Nigeria.

## Data Analysis

PMA2020 used complex sampling design that involved clustering of households. Hence, we applied sampling weights to account for differentials in probabilities of selection. The collinearity testing method utilized the variance inflation factor of 10 to detect interdependence between variables. A cut-off of 10 and above was used to examine the multicollinearity, known to cause major concerns. The variables; ever given birth and total number of children ever born had interdependence. Therefore, the variable "ever given birth" was retained in the logistic regression model.<sup>32</sup> We computed the prevalence of lifetime contraceptive use to provide the context in which birth dynamics are occurring and across all variables to examine the statistical significance of cross-tabulation results. The median time (years) to contraceptive uptake was used to determine timing of contraceptive initiation using the Kaplan–Meier survival analysis.<sup>33</sup> We conducted multivariable logistic regression to determine the factors associated with contraceptive use. Analyses were conducted using Stata Version 14 (StataCorp 2014). Statistical significance was determined using 5%.

#### Results

Results from Table 2 show the distribution of contraceptive use by women's characteristics. About 49.8%, 45.3%, and 32.3% of women from South West, South South and South East reported contraceptive use respectively. Urban women or those from households with higher wealth index had higher proportion of contraceptive use. The median (minimum, maximum) time (years) to contraceptive uptake was also estimated. Details of the distribution of other variables are presented in Table 2. The Chi-squared bivariate analysis showed that all variables were significantly associated with contraceptive use.

# Time (In Years) Between Age at First Sexual Intercourse and Age at Contraceptive Use Initiation

The Kaplan Meier plots showed disparities between age at first sexual intercourse and age at contraceptive use initiation. South-South and South-West zones had the least median time (years) to contraceptive use initiation. Women from urban residence, highest household wealth index, those who had not given birth, unmarried, with higher educational attainment and those of young age (15-19 years) had the minimum median time (years) to contraceptive use initiation. Women who were using contraceptives to limit or space childbirths or with other religions besides Christianity, Islam, Tradition had the minimum median time (years) to family planning initiation. Furthermore, women who heard about family planning through television or read about family planning in newspaper/magazine had minimum median time (years) to family planning initiation. See the details in Figures 1–13.

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Table 2 Distribution of Women's Characteristics

**Variable** n (%) **Done Anything** P-value to Delay or **Avoid Getting Pregnant** Yes (%) No (%) <0.001\* Geopolitical zone 1853 (16.3) North Central 28.6 71.4 78.9 North East 822 (7.2) 21.1 North West 4593 (40.4) 21.0 79.0 1407 (12.4) 67.7 South East 32.3 South South 1167 (10.3) 45.3 54.7 South West 1540 (13.5) 49.8 50.2 <0.001\* Place of residence Urban 5334 (46.9) 38.2 61.8 Rural 6048 (53.1) 22.8 77.2 Wealth index <0.001\* 3362 (29.6) 16.5 83.5 Lowest Lower 2666 (23.4) 28.5 71.5 Middle 1955 (17.2) 33.8 66.2 Higher 1752 (15.4) 40.8 59.3 Highest 1641 (14.4) 44.2 55.8 <0.001\* Heard about family planning on radio Yes 6893 (60.7) 34.0 66.0 No 4471 (39.3) 23.9 76.1 <0.001\* Heard about family planning on television Yes 42.5 4346 (38.3) 57.5 7017 (61.7) 22.3 77.7 Read about family <0.001\* planning in newspaper/magazine Yes 2070 (18.2) 43.8 56.2 9277 (81.8) 27.0 73.0 No Number of children <0.001\* ever born Nil 3643 (32.0) 15.3 84.7 2591 (22.8) 31.1 1-2 68.9 3-4 2276 (20.0) 42.9 57.I >4 2859 (25.2) 37.6 62.4 <0.001\* Ever given birth 7730 (68.0) 37.0 63.0 Yes 3646 (32.0) 15.2 84.8 No <0.001\* Marital status 3194 (28.1) 18.5 81.5 Never married Married 8184 (71.9) 34.5 65.5

(Continued)

Table 2 (Continued).

Variable	n (%)	Done Anything to Delay or Avoid Getting Pregnant		P-value
		Yes (%)	No (%)	
Highest level of				<0.001*
school attended				
No formal	2590 (22.8)	15.1	84.9	
education				
Primary	2135 (18.8)	29.1	70.9	
Secondary	4957 (43.6)	32.3	67.7	
Higher	1697 (14.9)	47.3	52.7	
Age (years) of				<0.001*
respondent				
15–19	2417 (21.2)	7.0	93.0	
20.24	2000 (17.6)	24.3	75.7	
25–29	1995 (17.5)	36.4	63.6	
30–34	1833 (16.1)	40.8	59.2	
35–39	1409 (12.4)	44.4	55.6	
40–44	967 (8.5)	41.0	59.0	
45 <del>-4</del> 9	761 (6.7)	7.8	6.2	
Religion				<0.001*
Catholic	1566 (13.8)	35.I	64.9	
Other Christian	4108 (36.2)	41.4	58.6	
Islam	5449 (47.9)	19.9	80.1	
Traditionalist	110 (1.0)	22.7	77.3	
Other religion	122 (1.1)	39.3	60.7	
Not limiting or				<0.001*
spacing childbirths				
No	9127 (80.3)	32.I	67.9	
Yes	2242 (19.7)	21.7	78.3	

Notes: P obtained using Chi-squared test; \*significant at p<0.05.

The results showed that women from North-East, North-West and South-East were less likely to initiate contraceptive methods, when compared with women from North-Central after adjusting for other covariates. The rural women were 26% less likely to take up contraceptive method, when compared with the urban dwellers (OR= 0.74; 95% CI: 0.65, 0.84). Women with higher household wealth index were more likely to take up contraceptive method, when compared with women from poorest household after adjusting for other covariates. In addition, women who heard about family planning through television were 1.34 times more likely to use contraceptive method, when compared with women who did not hear about

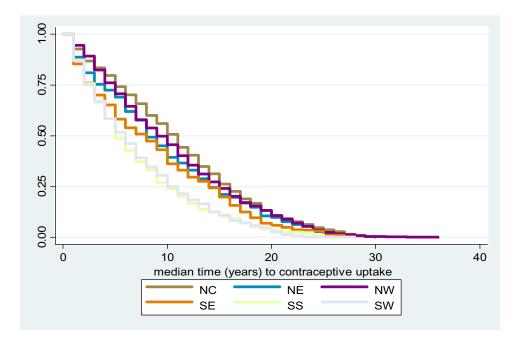
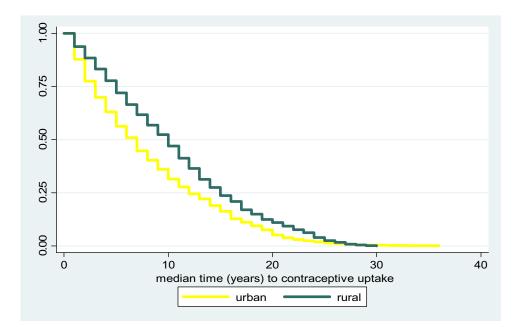


Figure I Median years to FP initiation by geopolitical zone.



 $\textbf{Figure 2} \ \ \text{Median years to FP initiation by place of residence}.$ 

contraception through television (OR= 1.34; 95% CI: 1.19, 1.51). Women who had ever given birth were 3.73 times more likely to use contraceptive method, when compared with women who had not given birth (OR= 3.73; 95% CI: 3.08, 4.51). Furthermore, married women were 24% less likely to take up contraceptive method, when compared with unmarried women after adjusting for other covariates

(OR= 0.76; 95% CI: 0.63, 0.93). Women with formal education or higher age level were more likely to take up contraceptive method, when compared with women with no formal education or aged 15–19 years, after adjusting for other covariates. Based on religious background, women of Islamic belief were 52% less likely to take up contraceptive method, when compared with Catholic women after

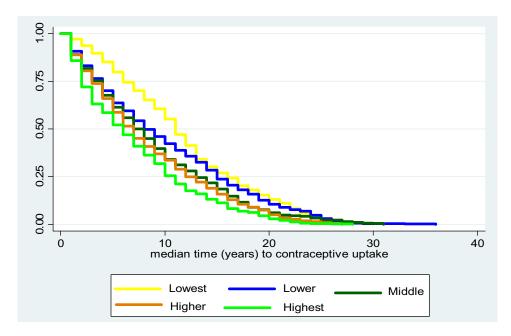


Figure 3 Median years to FP initiation by wealth index.

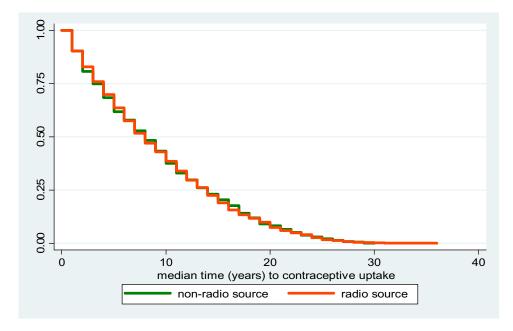


Figure 4 Median years to FP initiation and awareness through radio.

adjusting for other covariates. Women who did not limit or space childbirths were 55% less likely to take up any contraceptive, when compared with women who did limit or space childbirths (OR= 0.45; 95% CI: 0.40, 0.51). See details in Table 3.

### **Discussion**

In this study, we looked at the prevalence, timing (years), and the factors associated with contraceptive use among women of reproductive age in Nigeria using the PMA2020 survey data. Overall, there was low prevalence of contraceptive use. Similar to the findings of previous studies,<sup>34</sup> a higher proportion of urban residents had contraceptive use, than the rural residents. Also, contraceptive use was highest among respondents with the highest household wealth quintile, those that have heard about it on TV and radio program, or read about it in newspaper/magazine. Other studies have suggested a higher household wealth

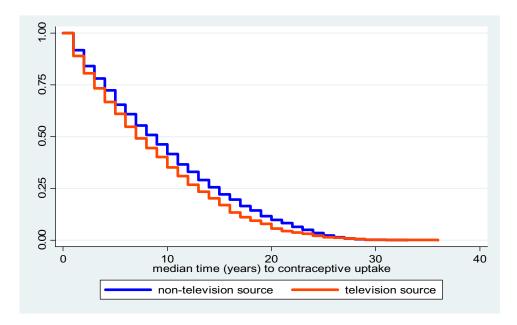


Figure 5 Median years to FP initiation and awareness through TV channel.

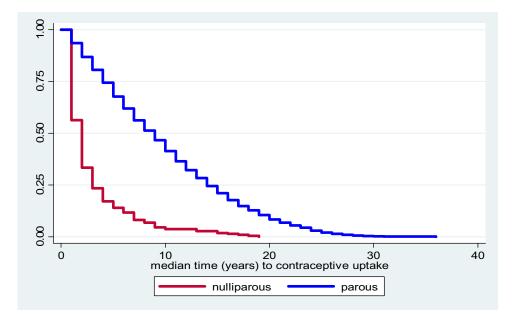


Figure 6 Median years to FP initiation by parity (ever given birth).

quintile as strong indicator for uptake of a modern contraceptive method. 8,24,34 The total fertility rate for Nigeria is 5.5 and interestingly, uptake is highest among those with 3–4 children. 18,20 This suggests that most women see the birth of a third or fourth child as an indication to stop child-bearing. Expectedly, the proportion of women using contraception increased with increasing educational level and age. Couples' socio-economic status and educational

level have been linked by previous studies to poor level of contraceptive utilization. <sup>12,13,18</sup>

Similar to other studies, regional differences in the reported prevalence of contraceptive utilization in Nigeria exit. 4,13,15,20,23,34 For instance, the north central region of Nigeria with the highest prevalence of contraceptive usage, in the North, still lags behind the south East region with the lowest prevalence rate in the south.

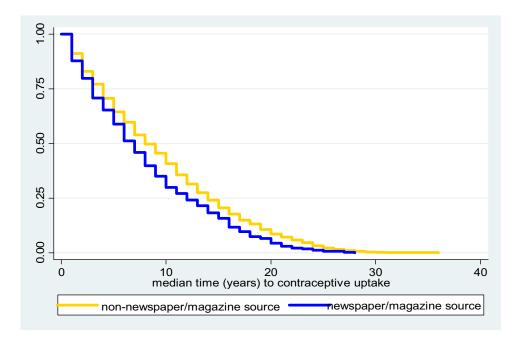


Figure 7 Median years to FP initiation and awareness through newspaper/magazine.

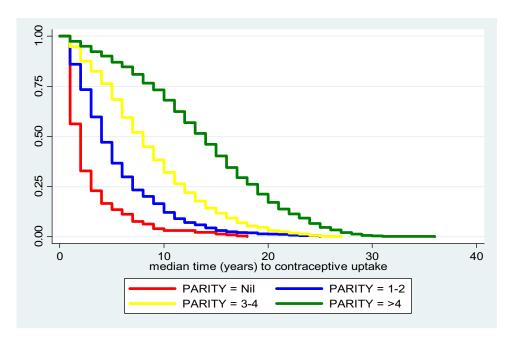


Figure 8 Median years to FP initiation by number of children ever born.

Interestingly, despite having the second highest maternal mortality burden globally, the Northern region of the country has the lowest prevalence of contraceptive utilization. 4,13,15,20,23,34 A look at the prevalence of contraceptive use based on religion may give a better understanding of these regional differences. The north, which is predominantly Islam, has the lowest prevalence rate

(one-fifth), against (one-third) which is recorded for the catholic faith (predominantly resident in the south east) and 41.4% recorded for other Christians (predominantly South westerners). This suggests that there may be some religious practices supporting or discouraging contraceptive use. This view is supported by studies using a nationally representative sample.<sup>10</sup>

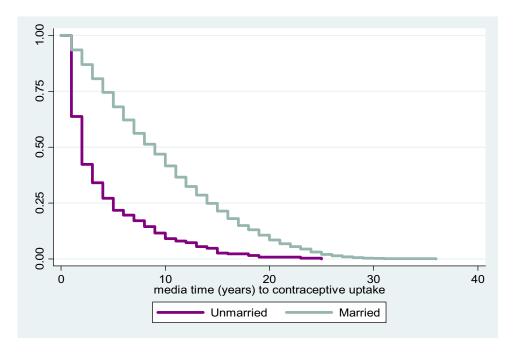


Figure 9 Median years to FP initiation by marital status.

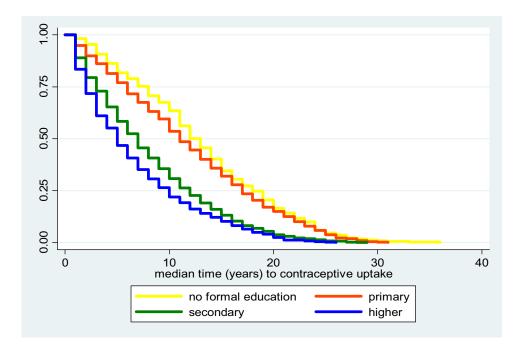


Figure 10 Median years to FP initiation by educational level.

There were clear regional, locality, wealth quintile, parity, marital status, age, and educational differences in the timing of uptake of contraception among Nigerian women. The southern regions had earlier median times than Northern regions. Previous studies have suggested that contraceptive use is more pronounced in

the southern region of the country. 4,13,15,20,23,34 Similarly, women in the higher wealth index and with higher educational level had earlier uptake time of contraceptives than those in the lower wealth quintile and educational level respectively. This suggests that educational exposure and high social class are good

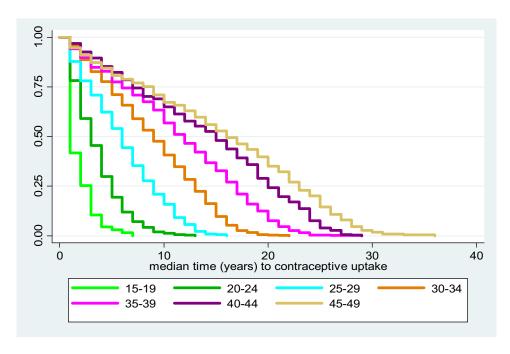
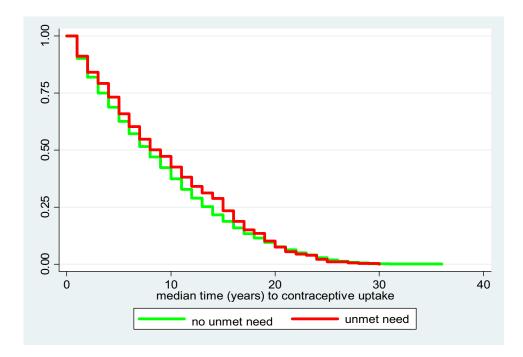


Figure II Median years to FP initiation by age (years).



 $\textbf{Figure 12} \ \ \text{Median years to FP initiation by unmet need}.$ 

incentives for the uptake of contraceptive use. Urban residents, women with access to newspaper and television had a lower median time to use of contraceptives than rural residents, women with no access to newspaper/magazine and television source respectively. This may not be unconnected to the

ease of access to these information sources (television, newspaper/magazine) by urban residents in comparison with rural residents. Nulliparous women and unmarried women had lower median time to contraceptive use than parous women and married women. 4,13,15,20,23

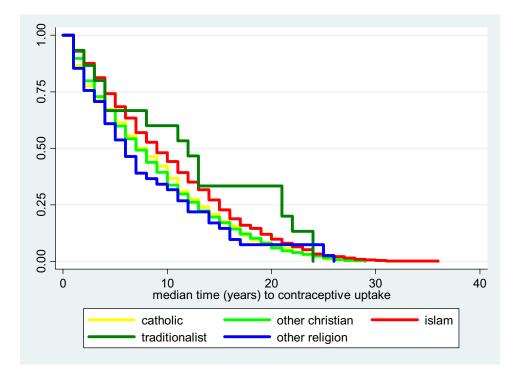


Figure 13 Median years to FP initiation by religion.

The prevalence of modern contraceptive use reported in this study, which is lower than the prevalence reported for the sub Saharan region, resonates with the national studies reported. 4,10,24 Similar to other studies, marriage, higher household income, dwelling in an urban area, and media awareness were significant predictors of contraceptive use. Also, higher education, having no unmet need for contraception and being a catholic were predictors of contraceptive use. 4,13,15,20,23 For instance, rural residents were 26% less likely to have used contraceptive than urban residents, while those in the highest wealth quintile were 66% more likely to use contraceptives than those in the lowest quintile. In a similar manner, those who had given birth had a significantly higher chance of using contraceptives than those who had never given birth. This agrees with earlier results which showed that the prevalence of contraceptive use was higher among woman who had given birth compared to those who had not. Women with unmet contraceptive need had 55% less chance of using contraceptives than women with no unmet contraceptive need.

## **Strengths and Limitations**

The major strength of our study is the use of a nationally representative sample to assess when Nigerian women initiate contraceptive use and the associated factors. The large sample size will provide plausible comparison. However, this study relied on the recall of participants to determine the time of first sexual activity and modern contraceptive uptake.

#### Conclusion

There was low prevalence of contraceptive use among women of reproductive age in Nigeria. There was prolonged time before contraceptive use uptake. There is a need to re-iterate the benefits of contraception and provide enlightenment programs especially in Northern Nigeria and the South east, among rural dwellers and low income earners. The need for constant reminders of the burden of unwanted pregnancies and the dangers of unsafe abortions cannot be over-emphasized. Women who are married were observed to reduce the use of contraceptives. Married women need to be reminded of the importance and benefits of having children by choice rather than by chance (Family

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**Table 3** Factors Associated with Contraceptive Utilization Among Women of Reproductive Age

Variable	Adjusted OR	95% CI	Р
Geopolitical zone			
North Central	1.00		
North East	0.80	0.64-0.99	0.044*
North West	0.82	0.71-0.94	0.006*
South East	0.53	0.44-0.65	<0.001*
South South	0.92	0.76-1.11	0.373
South West	0.98	0.82-1.18	0.862
Place of residence			
Urban	1.00		
Rural	0.74	0.65-0.84	<0.001*
Wealth index			
Lowest	1.00		
Lower	1.40	1.21-1.62	<0.001*
Middle	1.38	1.15-1.67	0.001*
Higher	1.59	1.29-1.95	<0.001*
Highest	1.66	1.33-2.07	<0.001*
Heard about family planning on radio			
Yes	1.08	0.96-1.20	0.200
No	1.00		
Heard about family planning on television			
Yes	1.34	1.19–1.51	<0.001*
No	1.00		
Read about family planning in newspaper/magazine			
Yes	1.06	0.93-1.20	0.392
No	1.00		
Ever given birth			
Yes	3.73	3.08-4.51	<0.001*
No	1.00		
Marital status			
Never married	1.00		
Married	0.76	0.63-0.93	0.007*
Highest level of school attended			
No formal education	1.00		
Primary	1.72	1.47-2.02	<0.001*
Secondary	1.99	1.68-2.36	<0.001*
Higher	2.09	1.70–2.57	<0.001*
Age (years) of respondent	1.00		
	3.34	2.72-4.11	<0.001*
20.24	3.3 1		
20.24 25-29	4.84	3.89–6.02	<0.001*

(Continued)

Table 3 (Continued).

Variable	Adjusted OR	95% CI	P
35-39	5.47	4.31–6.93	<0.001*
40-44	4.98	3.87–6.41	<0.001*
45-49	3.53	2.70-4.61	<0.001*
Religion			
Catholic	1.00		
Other Christian	1.02	0.87-1.18	0.829
Islam	0.48	0.41-0.57	<0.001*
Traditionalist	0.75	0.45-1.23	0.259
Other religion	1.43	0.93-2.20	0.099
Total unmet need			
No unmet need	1.00		
Unmet need	0.45	0.40-0.51	<0.001*

Note: \*Significant at p<0.05.

Abbreviations: OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval.

Planning), and the socio-economic impact it would have on their families, communities, and country.

#### List of Abbreviations

FP, Family Planning; SDGs, Sustainable Development Goals; MMR, Maternal Mortality Ratio; FP2020, Family Planning 2020; NDHS, National Demographic and Health Survey; PMA2020, Performance Monitoring and Accountability 2020; CRERD, Centre for Research, Evaluation Resources and Development; BUK, Bayero University Kano; JHSPH, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; CIs, Confidence Intervals; OR, Odds Ratio.

# **Data Sharing Statement**

The PMA2020 dataset used in this study is publicly available at <a href="https://www.pma2020.org/data">https://www.pma2020.org/data</a>.

#### **Ethics and Consent**

Ethics approval for this study was not required since the data are secondary and available in the public domain. More details regarding PMA2020 data and ethical standards are available at http://PMA2020 Datasets info@pma2020.org.

#### **Consent for Publication**

Not applicable.

# **Acknowledgments**

We appreciate Centre for Research, Evaluation Resources and Development (CRERD), Bayero University Kano

(BUK), and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH) for granting approval to use the data.

#### **Author Contributions**

All authors made a significant contribution to the work reported, whether that is in the conception, study design, execution, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation, or in all these areas; took part in drafting, revising or critically reviewing the article; gave final approval of the version to be published; have agreed on the journal to which the article has been submitted; and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

## **Funding**

This research received no grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial or not-for-profit sectors.

#### **Disclosure**

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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