

The PAA annual meeting

Call for Papers

Theme: Impact of Unmet need on the inter-generational interval of young mothers in Cameroon

Auteurs : CHEMGNE Valérie¹ GNECHE Mireille² ONDOUA OWOUTOU³

¹ IFORD /CARE IFA
Yaoundé, Cameroun. E-mail : svchemgne@yahoo.fr

² IFORD /CARE IFA
Yaoundé, Cameroun : E-mail gnechem@yahoo.fr:

³Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques (IFORD), Yaoundé, Cameroun

Email : ondouaowoutou@hotmail.com,

Abstract: An unmet need for family planning is an important problem of sexual health among young people. their influences on the reproductive interval inter can cause complications for both the health of the mother than the child. Indeed intervals inter reproductive little too short led to malnutrition, impaired growth, underweight and even death to the child. In Cameroon, 14.5% of women of childbearing age had an unmet need for family planning, with a median inter-birth interval of 32 months. We are then entitled to know how the needs unmet family planning will influence the meantime they inter reproductive mothers in Cameroon? The objective will be to identify these determinants to advocate for women on the sidelines programs reproductive health for better decision making.

Keywords: Unmet need, inter reproductive intervals

Introduction

The interest in family planning and in services, who are taking care, has rapidly increased in many countries in recent years. These services respond, according to regions, to preoccupations highly variable, ranging from improving the health of individuals to the right to decide for themselves the number of their children. If the demographic explosion in the 1960s feared was averted, access to contraception and its use remain very unequal in different regions of the world, including countries in Africa South of the Sahara (C Arcangue, 2009). However, there are still millions of couples who wish to avoid pregnancy, or at least delay the deadline, but do not use contraceptives.

Indeed, when the inter-genesique interval is less than two years, almost seven children dies before their first birthday. Fewer children die before their first birthday when the interval is between 2 and 4 years. The risk of death of the child is even smaller when the interval is longer than 4 years or more (Akoto, 1993). On the other hand, researches has shown that children born too soon after another birth have a higher risk of malnutrition, disease and even death, especially when the interval is less than 24 months (Locoh, 1984). Similarly, it has been shown that the probability to suffering from stunted and from underweight was higher when the inter-genesique interval was less than 36 months. The Inter-genesique intervals too shorts are associated with low weight and small size at birth, precursors of a poor nutritional status thereafter (WHO, 2005).

Cameroon has levels of unmet need quite important, with one of the lowest inter-genesique intervals in sub-Saharan Africa. Indeed, the results of EDS in 1998 and 2004 indicate that 7.7% of women of childbearing age were using a modern contraceptive method in 1998, while over 80% reported knowing at least one (EDS, 1998). In 2004, 14.5% of women of childbearing age have got an unmet need for family planning. With an inter-genesique interval median of 32 months, this interval is one of the lowest in sub-Saharan Africa. Compared to the age of the mother, the births which were best planned occurred among women who had their children between 20 and 34 years (DHS, 2004). More than 78% of births occurred in a timely and less than 9% were unwanted. Conversely, it is among women, who had their children before age 20 and to those who have got their one, at older ages (40-49 years) than births appear to be less well planned. Among women who gave birth before age 20, a little more than one in four women (26%) would have liked that it occurred later (DHS, 2004).

This context being, it is important that one wonders about the sexual health issues of young women, including the influence that unmet need for family planning have on the inter-genesique intervals of young women, in a context where the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and youths are mainly due, to their important contribution to the demographic dynamics of the continent, and their particular vulnerability in respect of the sexual and reproductive risks. So this paper aims to show the influence which unmet needs in family planning have had on the inter-genesique interval of young mothers, since the end of 90s, and to identify the mechanisms of action. Specifically it comes to (i) Describe the evolution of levels of the influence of unmet needs of young mothers in family planning on their inter-genesique interval in Cameroon between 1998 and 2004, (ii) identify mechanisms by which, the unmet need for family planning act on the inter-genesique interval.

This communication focuses on three points, namely: a review of the literature, the methodology and the main results. The paper concludes with a discussion of the results and implications arising for programs Reproductive Health and Sexual Health in Cameroon.

1. Literature

Generally, researchers distinguish three broad approaches to the explanation of the influence of unmet needs on inter-gestational intervals of young mothers. They explain this phenomenon by a number of factors identified. These are institutional approaches, socio-cultural and medical approach.

Institutional approach

This approach is mainly focused on government policies, laws, providing health care, and health services. According to this approach the main reasons for the underutilization of health services would be linked to an insufficient supply of health services, both in terms of quantity and quality; the geographic accessibility which is difficult and different care costs. One of the obstacles to the non-use of planning services is the difficulty of access to prestations. It indicates, in particular at the women, the benefits of birth spacing is that it allows the child to grow well because it will be fed breast milk, it allows the body of the mother to rest between pregnancies and also it allows the mother to have more time to take care of the child. In this context the application of family planning, accessibility refers to the degree of difficulty in obtaining planning services. Various measures relating to the distance to points of supply and services, the time required to reach these points, in a specific geographic area, which are proposed in the literature as indicators (Tsui and Ochoa, 1992).

Socio-cultural approach

The socio-cultural approach connects the individual and the systems of thought (ideology, values, patterns) and ways to act (behavior) in society. And several studies have shown education has an impact on the behavior of individuals. If education positively influences the use of family planning, it is the same for the discussion in the couple. One might expect that the discussion between spouses is an important factor in the use of contraception and can substantially reduce the unmet needs of women. Because of the low status of women, in a patriarchal context where, any man monopolizes authority, it does not always happen the necessity to discuss, his future intentions to use contraception. The lack of discussion may be a factor limiting the use of planning services. The discussion is often favored by education and softens the anxiety of women who experience side effects of contraceptives.

Medical approach

This author believes that, poor knowledge of the functioning of the female body and her cycle; contribute to the proliferation of rumors. If this experiment turns into explanation "irrational", it is because women do not have a good knowledge of their body functions, nor how to use correctly these methods (Charbit, 2000) According to its analysis; the persistence of rumors about the side effects of contraceptive methods has led to fears that further encourage their use. Thus, in certain cases, it conducted to a refusal obvious. Contraceptive methods are perceived as physically dangerous, but health reasons given to justify the arrest of contraceptives are not primarily based. A study conducted by Schuler in 1996 in Bolivia with thirty married women and eight men has revealed that the fears of these women are often

based on rumors. Almost all women in the sample have heard scare stories about contraception

2. Methodology

2.1. Assumptions

The general assumption that supports this study is that unmet needs for family planning among young women influence their inter-genesique intervals in Cameroon through the types of unmet needs. To this hypothesis general, specifics hypotheses are described as follows:

H1: Women with unmet needs in birth spacing have an inter-genesique interval shorter than those that do not.

H2: Women with unmet needs in birth control have an inter-genesique interval shorter than those that do not

2.2. Source of data

In order to try to evaluate the impact, this article uses data coming from two Demographic and Health Surveys realized in Cameroon in 1998 and 2004. The analyzes were conducted on a representative sample of young women of childbearing age (15-34 years), varying according to the period of observation, respectively, 4082 in 1998 and 7985 in 2004.

2.3. Method of analysis

The analysis methods used in the case of this study are those of the descriptive and explanatory analysis. In a first step, we use descriptive analysis in the aim to explore varied levels and changes observed between the inter-genesique interval, but also assessed using statistical chi-square the links between certain characteristics of the woman, of the household, and environment where she live. Second, the explanatory analysis will be done using a binary logistic regression in the objective of identifying the determinants of the influence of unmet needs for family planning on the inter-genesique interval. It comes to identifying what differentiates women with an inter-genesique interval shorter due to the observance of the unmet needs for family planning to those who don't have. The interpretation of the results will focus on the risks faced by these women, to have an inter-genesique interval shorter due to unmet needs for family planning they encountered. The significance level adopted was 5%.

3. Résultats

The results show that: (i) the inter-genesique interval of young women are positively associated with unmet need for birth spacing in Cameroon. Higher the level of unmet needs in birth spacing is, the greater the inter-genesique interval is short. (ii) The inter-genesique interval of young women is also positively associated with unmet need for birth control in Cameroon. Higher the level of unmet needs in birth control is, the greater the inter-genesique interval is short.

In view of these results, a plea will be made towards the bodies in charge of issues of sexual health, maternal and child health, and reproductive health, for a decision-taking.