



[Uncertainty Shocks in Africa](#) pp 135–152 [Cite as](#)

Chapter

Contraceptive Utilization Among Married Couples in Nigeria: Socio-cultural Factors

- [Dominic E. Azuh](#),
- [Paul O. Adekola](#),
- [Adebanke Olawole-Isaac](#),
- [Gideon A. Adeyemi](#),
- [Giuseppe T. Cirella](#) &
- [Chelsea R. Spring](#)
- Chapter

- [First Online: 04 February 2023](#)

Part of the [Advances in African Economic, Social and Political Development](#) book series (AAESPD)

Abstract

Effective spacing of births enhances the health and well-being of reproductive-age women. The literature on socio-cultural factors affecting contraceptive utilization is not well documented in Nigeria. This chapter aims to fill this gap. The research is based on cross-sectional data gathered from the 2018 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey consisting of 8061 married couples. Data analyses were done via three levels of statistical analysis:

univariate, bivariate, and multivariate. For univariate analysis, descriptive statistics were adopted to explore the socio-demographic characteristics of married couples in Nigeria. Chi-square analyses assessed differences in the utilization of contraceptives among married couples by way of socio-demographic characteristics. Auto-fitted binary logistic regression model was adopted to identify the socio-cultural determinants of contraceptive utilization among married couples. Results show a clear regional difference in contraceptive implementation among married couples with the least acceptance from North-West (i.e., 7.2%) and highest in South-West (i.e., 36.8%). The bivariate analysis shows that 36.8% of women with higher education use contraceptives, while only 5.8% of women without an education use them. Results from the binary logistic regression show that contraceptive utilization among married couples in Nigeria was significantly correlated with key socio-cultural factors: education, wealth index, religion, age, and an ideal family size. This chapter explores the large unmet need for contraceptive acceptance in rural Nigeria and indicates the need for improving women's health and well-being as enshrined by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 3, 5, and 10—as we gradually approach 2030.

Keywords

- [**Contraceptive methods**](#)
- [**Adoption**](#)
- [**Socio-cultural determinants**](#)
- [**Married people**](#)
- [**Rural health**](#)
- [**Statistical analysis**](#)
- [**Women's health**](#)

This is a preview of subscription content, [log in via an institution](#).

References

1. Sinai I, Omoluabi E, Jimoh A, Jurczynska K (2019) Unmet need for family planning and barriers to contraceptive use in Kaduna, Nigeria: culture, myths and perceptions. *Cult Health Sex* 22:1253–1268. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2019.1672894>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

2. Eborka K, Akarawak EE, Owolabi TJ et al (2021) Chawhanda et al. examining males' perceptions and concerns about adopting modern family planning methods in Delta state, Nigeria. *Afr J Reprod Health* 25:75. <https://doi.org/10.29063/ajrh2021/v25i6.8>

[Google Scholar](#)

3. Ajayi AI, Adeniyi OV, Akpan W (2018) Use of traditional and modern contraceptives among childbearing women: findings from a mixed methods study in two southwestern Nigerian states. *BMC Public Health* 18:1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1186/S12889-018-5522-6/TABLES/3>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

4. Sanchez EK, Speizer IS, Tolley E et al (2020) Influences on seeking a contraceptive method among adolescent women in three cities in Nigeria. *Reprod Health* 17:1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1186/S12978-020-01019-1/FIGURES/2>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

5. Atuhairwe S, Gemzell-Danielsson K, Byamugisha J et al (2021) Abortion-related near-miss morbidity and mortality in 43 health facilities with differences in readiness to provide abortion care in Uganda. *BMJ Glob Heal* 6:e003274. <https://doi.org/10.1136/BMJGH-2020-003274>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

6. Qureshi Z, Mehrtash H, Kouanda S et al (2021) Understanding abortion-related complications in health facilities: results from WHO multicountry survey on abortion (MCS-A) across 11 sub-Saharan African countries. *BMJ Glob Heal* 6:e003702. <https://doi.org/10.1136/BMJGH-2020-003702>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

7. Benson J, Andersen K, Samandari G (2011) Reductions in abortion-related mortality following policy reform: evidence from Romania, South Africa and

Bangladesh. *Reprod Health* 8:1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1742-4755-8-39/FIGURES/4>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

8. Hord C, Wolf M (2004) Breaking the cycle of unsafe abortion in Africa. *Afr J Reprod Health* 8:29–36. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3583302>
-

[Article Google Scholar](#)

9. Turner N (2021) Influence of religion and religiosity on fertility and contraceptive use in continental sub-Saharan Africa: a comprehensive review. University of Gothenburg
-

[Book Google Scholar](#)

10. Gueye S, Corroon O (2015) Belief in family planning myths at the individual and community levels and modern contraceptive use in urban Africa. *Int Perspect Sex Reprod Health* 41:199. <https://doi.org/10.1363/INTSEXREPHEA.41.4.0191>
-

[Article Google Scholar](#)

11. Obasohan PE (2015) Religion, ethnicity and contraceptive use among reproductive age women in Nigeria. *Int J MCH AIDS* 3:63. <https://doi.org/10.21106/ijma.39>
-

[Article Google Scholar](#)

12. Statista (2022) Africa: average household size by country 2021. Statista. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1228286/average-household-size-in-africa-by-country/>. Accessed 25 Jul 2022
 13. NPC, ICF International (2019) Nigeria demographic and health survey 2018. National Population Commission and ICF International, Rockville, MD
-

[Google Scholar](#)

14.UN (2019) Family Planning and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Data Booklet ST/ESA/SER.A/429. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, New York

[Google Scholar](#)

15.Azuh D, Fayomi O, Ajayi L (2015) Socio-cultural factors of gender roles in Women's healthcare utilization in Southwest Nigeria. Open J Soc Sci 3:105–117. <https://doi.org/10.4236/JSS.2015.34013>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

16.Azuh D, Amodu L, Azuh AE et al (2017) Factors of gender inequality and development among selected low human development countries in sub-Saharan Africa. IOSR J Humanit Soc Sci 22:01–07. <https://doi.org/10.9790/0837-2202040107>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

17.Duze MC, Mohammed IZ (2007) Male knowledge, attitude, and family planning practices in northern Nigeria. Afr J Reprod Health 10:53–65. <https://doi.org/10.4314/ajrh.v10i3.7899>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

18.Dudgeon MR, Inhorn MC (2004) Men's influences on women's reproductive health: medical anthropological perspectives. Soc Sci Med 59:1379–1395. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.SOCSCIMED.2003.11.035>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

19.Hlongwa M, Mashamba-Thompson T, Makhunga S et al (2020) Evidence on factors influencing contraceptive use and sexual behavior among women in South Africa: a scoping review. Medicine (Baltimore) 99. <https://doi.org/10.1097/MD.00000000000019490>

20.Alo OD, Daini BO, Omisile OK et al (2020) Factors influencing the use of modern contraceptive in Nigeria: a multilevel logistic analysis using linked

data from performance monitoring and accountability 2020. BMC Womens Health 20:1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1186/S12905-020-01059-6/TABLES/3>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

21. Afriyie P, Tarkang EE (2019) Factors influencing use of modern contraception among married women in Ho west district, Ghana: descriptive cross-sectional study. PAMJ 33. <https://doi.org/10.11604/PAMJ.2019.33.15.17500>
22. Viswan SP, Ravindran TKS, Kandala NB et al (2017) Sexual autonomy and contraceptive use among women in Nigeria: findings from the demographic and health survey data. Int J Women's Health 9:581–590. <https://doi.org/10.2147/IJWH.S133760>
-

[Article Google Scholar](#)

23. Babalola S, Kusemiju B, Calhoun L et al (2015) Factors associated with contraceptive ideation among urban men in Nigeria. Int J Gynaecol Obstet 130(Suppl 3):E42–E46. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.IJGO.2015.05.006>
-

[Article Google Scholar](#)

24. Adanikin AI, McGrath N, Padmadas SS (2017) Impact of men's perception on family planning demand and uptake in Nigeria. Sex Reprod Healthc Off J Swedish Assoc Midwives 14:55–63. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.SRHC.2017.10.002>
-

[Article Google Scholar](#)

25. Ba DM, Ssentongo P, Agbese E, Kjerulff KH (2019) Prevalence and predictors of contraceptive use among women of reproductive age in 17 sub-Saharan African countries: a large population-based study. Sex Reprod Healthc Off J Swedish Assoc Midwives 21:26–32. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.SRHC.2019.06.002>
-

[Article Google Scholar](#)

26. Owoyemi JO, Ifatimehin OI, Egwuaba E, Obaka PI (2020) Accessibility and utilization of family planning services among married couples in Kogi state,

north Central Nigeria. Cent African J Public Heal
6:121. <https://doi.org/10.11648/J.CAJPH.20200603.12>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

27. Alabi O, Odimegwu CO, De-Wet N, Akinyemi JO (2019) Does female autonomy affect contraceptive use among women in northern Nigeria? Afr J Reprod Health 23:92–100

[Google Scholar](#)

28. Adedini SA, Babalola S, Ibeawuchi C et al (2018) Role of religious leaders in promoting contraceptive use in Nigeria: evidence from the Nigerian urban reproductive health initiative. Glob Heal Sci Pract 6:514. <https://doi.org/10.9745/GHSP-D-18-00135>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

29. Serour G (2008) Islamic perspectives in human reproduction. Reprod Biomed Online 17(Suppl 3):34–38. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1472-6483\(10\)60328-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1472-6483(10)60328-8)

[Article Google Scholar](#)

30. Shaik B, Azmat S, Mazhar A (2013) Family planning and contraception in Islamic countries: a critical review of the literature. J Pakistan Med Assoc 63:67–72

[Google Scholar](#)

31. Mallick J (2017) Structural change and productivity growth in India and the People's republic of China. Asian Development Bank Institute, Tokyo

[Book Google Scholar](#)

32. Oye-Adeniran BA, Adewole IF, Umoh AV et al (2006) Community-based study of contraceptive behaviour in Nigeria. *Afr J Reprod Health* 10:90–104. <https://doi.org/10.2307/30032462>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

33. Sanchez EK, McGuire C, Calhoun LM et al (2021) Influences on contraceptive method choice among adolescent women across urban centers in Nigeria: a qualitative study. *Contracept Reprod Med* 6:1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1186/S40834-020-00146-1>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

34. Osuafor G, Mturi A (2013) Do religious beliefs influence use of contraception among currently married women in Nigeria? *J Soc Dev Afr* 28:187–212. <https://doi.org/10.4314/jsda.v28i1>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

35. WHO (2018) Family planning: a global handbook for providers—evidence-based guidance developed through worldwide collaboration, 3rd edn. World Health Organization Department of Reproductive Health and Research, Baltimore, MD

[Google Scholar](#)

36. Lasong J, Zhang Y, Gebremedhin SA et al (2020) Determinants of modern contraceptive use among married women of reproductive age: a cross-sectional study in rural Zambia. *BMJ Open* 10:e030980. <https://doi.org/10.1136/BMJOPEN-2019-030980>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

37. Salami IC, Oladosu M (2016) Socio-demographic factors, contraceptive use and fertility preference among married women in South-South Region of Nigeria. 3rd International Conference on African Development Issues. CU-ICADI 2016, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria, pp 504–510

Google Scholar

38. UN (2015) United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In: United Nations Resolution. A/RES/70/1 25 Sept 2015. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E. Accessed 3 May 2019
39. Pokharel R, Bhattarai G, Shrestha N, Onta S (2018) Knowledge and utilization of family planning methods among people living with HIV in Kathmandu. Nepal BMC Health Serv Res 18:1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1186/S12913-018-3643-3/TABLES/6>
-

Article Google Scholar

40. Debebe S, Limenih MA, Biadgo B (2017) Modern contraceptive methods utilization and associated factors among reproductive aged women in rural Dembia District, Northwest Ethiopia: community based cross-sectional study. Int J Reprod Biomed 15:374. <https://doi.org/10.29252/ijrm.15.6.367>
-

Google Scholar

41. Tukue D, Gebremeskel TG, Gebremariam L et al (2020) Prevalence and determinants of modern contraceptive utilization among women in the reproductive age group in Edaga-hamus town, eastern zone, Tigray region, Ethiopia, June 2017. PLoS One 15:e0227795. <https://doi.org/10.1371/JOURNAL.PONE.0227795>
-

Article Google Scholar

42. Sundararajan R, Yoder LM, Kihunrwa A et al (2019) How gender and religion impact uptake of family planning: results from a qualitative study in Northwestern Tanzania. BMC Womens Health 19:1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1186/S12905-019-0802-6/FIGURES/1>
-

Article Google Scholar

43. Abdi B, Okal J, Serour G, Temmerman M (2020) "Children are a blessing from god" - a qualitative study exploring the socio-cultural factors influencing

contraceptive use in two Muslim communities in Kenya. *Reprod Health* 17:1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1186/S12978-020-0898-Z/TABLES/1>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

44. Nyako AM (2015) Concept note on north-east development commission: an institutional framework for a sustainable solution to the north-east National Security Challenge. Statehouse Government of Nigeria, Abuja

[Google Scholar](#)

45. Islam AZ (2018) Factors affecting modern contraceptive use among fecund young women in Bangladesh: does couples' joint participation in household decision making matter? *Reprod Health* 15:1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1186/S12978-018-0558-8/TABLES/2>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

46. Kane S, Kok M, Rial M et al (2016) Social norms and family planning decisions in South Sudan. *BMC Public Health* 16:1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1186/S12889-016-3839-6/TABLES/1>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

47. Olawole-Isaac A, Oni Gbolahan A, Oladosu M et al (2017) Inter-spousal communication as a determinant of contraceptive use in Nigeria: a mixed-method. *IJASOS- Int E-journal Adv Soc Sci* 3:645–654. <https://doi.org/10.18769/IJASOS.337324>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

48. Berta M, Feleke A, Abate T et al (2018) Utilization and associated factors of modern contraceptives during extended postpartum period among women who gave birth in the last 12 months in Gondar town, Northwest Ethiopia. *Ethioph J Health Sci* 28:207–216. <https://doi.org/10.4314/ejhs.v28i2.12>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

49. Ahmed M, Seid A (2020) Survival time to modern contraceptive uses from the resumption of sexual intercourse among postpartum women in Ethiopia. *Int J Women's Health* 12:641–647. <https://doi.org/10.2147/IJWH.S266748>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

50. Dereje N, Engida B, Holland RP (2020) Factors associated with intrauterine contraceptive device use among women of reproductive age group in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: a case control study. *PLoS One* 15:e0229071. <https://doi.org/10.1371/JOURNAL.PONE.0229071>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

51. Joshi AK, Tiwari DP, Poudyal A et al (2020) Utilization of family planning methods among postpartum mothers in Kailali District. *Nepal Int J Womens Health* 12:487. <https://doi.org/10.2147/IJWH.S249044>

[Article Google Scholar](#)

[Download references](#)

Author information

Authors and Affiliations

- 1. Demography and Social Statistics Programme, Department of Economics and Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria**
Dominic E. Azuh, Paul O. Adekola & Adebanke Olawole-Isaac
- 2. Centre for Economic Policy and Development Research, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria**
Dominic E. Azuh, Paul O. Adekola, Adebanke Olawole-Isaac & Gideon A. Adeyemi
- 3. Research Centre for Anthropology and Health, Department of Life Sciences, University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal**
Paul O. Adekola
- 4. Department of Civil Engineering, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria**
Gideon A. Adeyemi
- 5. Faculty of Economics, University of Gdansk, Sopot, Poland**

Giuseppe T. Cirella & Chelsea R. Spring

Corresponding author

Correspondence to [Dominic E. Azuh](#).

Editor information

Editors and Affiliations

1. Faculty of Economics, University of Gdansk, Sopot, Poland

Giuseppe T. Cirella

Rights and permissions

[Reprints and permissions](#)

Copyright information

© 2023 The Author(s), under exclusive license to Springer Nature Switzerland AG

About this chapter

Cite this chapter

Azuh, D.E., Adekola, P.O., Olawole-Isaac, A., Adeyemi, G.A., Cirella, G.T., Spring, C.R. (2023). Contraceptive Utilization Among Married Couples in Nigeria: Socio-cultural Factors. In: Cirella, G.T. (eds) Uncertainty Shocks in Africa. Advances in African Economic, Social and Political Development. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-21885-9_8

Download citation

- [.RIS](#)
- [.ENW](#)
- [.BIB](#)
- [DOIhttps://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-21885-9_8](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-21885-9_8)
- Published 04 February 2023
- Publisher Name Springer, Cham
- Print ISBN 978-3-031-21884-2
- Online ISBN 978-3-031-21885-9

- eBook Packages [Economics and Finance](#) [Economics and Finance \(R0\)](#)

Publish with us

[Policies and ethics](#)

[Access via your institution](#)

Buying options

Chapter

EUR 29.95

Price includes VAT (Nigeria)

- Available as PDF
- Read on any device
- Instant download
- Own it forever

Buy Chapter

eBook

EUR 117.69

Softcover Book

EUR 149.99

Hardcover Book

EUR 149.99

Tax calculation will be finalised at checkout

Purchases are for personal use only

[Learn about institutional subscriptions](#)

165.73.223.225

Not affiliated

© 2024 Springer Nature