



Ethiopia

Ethiopia's Reproductive Health Strategy (2006–2015) identifies six priority areas: social and cultural determinants of women's reproductive health; fertility and family planning; maternal and newborn health; HIV/AIDS; reproductive health of young people; and reproductive organ cancers.

Expanding Service Delivery

Key policy advances include:

- expanding the Health Extension Program (HEP) – a package of family health, disease prevention and control, personal hygiene, environmental health, health education, and family planning services provided by health extension workers (HEW);
- working toward a contraceptive prevalence rate of 60% by 2010; increasing couples' approval of family planning by 75% by 2015; and increasing awareness of the links between sexually transmitted infections (STI)/post abortion complications and infertility by 80%;
- improving pre- and in-service training on family planning to health-care providers;
- enlisting religious leaders to promote family planning.

Results

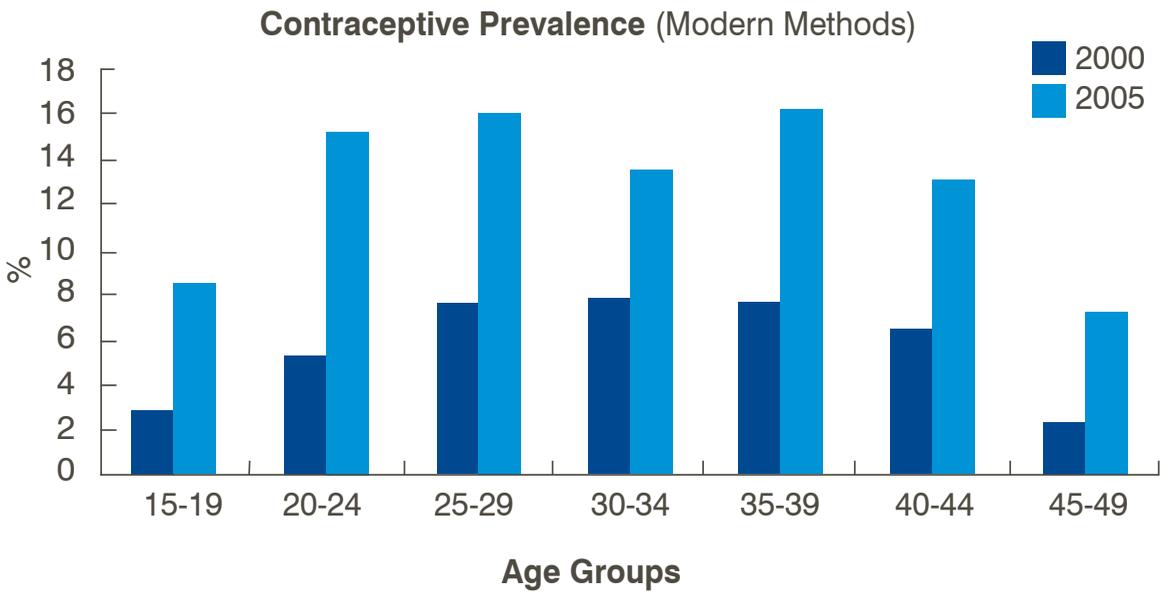
These innovations have led to improved outcomes, including:

- increased community acceptance and demand for services provided by HEW;
- the deployment of more than 30 000 HEW throughout Ethiopia;
- increased contraceptive use among women of reproductive age from 6% in 2000 to 14% in 2005.

Challenges

Despite these efforts, 6.7 million women in Ethiopia who want to avoid pregnancy do not use family planning. In order to achieve the goals of the National Reproductive Health Strategy, further efforts are needed to:

- prioritize reproductive health among key decision makers;
- understand the unique needs of the different populations, and design and implement health services to address them;
- establish multi-sectoral initiatives to open dialogue between the health-sector development programme and nongovernmental organizations;
- strengthen the contraceptive security and logistics system.



Source: Ethiopia DHS (2000; 2005)

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References available at: www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/monitoring/rhr_hrp_11_19



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