

Increasing Use of Long-Acting Reversible Contraception in El Salvador: Focus on IUD Revitalization

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Learning Objectives

- Understand the main changes in attitudes and practices towards long-acting reversible contraceptive (LARC) methods that occurred in El Salvador among private and public sectors providers of sexual and reproductive health services.



Description: Health Background

- Maternal Mortality Ratio, (2009) **64.5** / 100,000 live births*
- Infant Mortality(< de 1 year) 2009: **21.5**/1000 LB.*
- Life expectancy at birth in years (2008)<:**72**
- Total population(2007) **5,744,113****
- Territorial Extension, (Square KM) **21,000**
- Annual births: **124,000***

*MOH El Salvador: Basic Health indicators

** NFHS 2008



Description: Health Background

- In El Salvador, **42%** of pregnancies are unintended
- **43.8%** of pregnancies among women <20 years old are unintended.
- The 2008 NFHS reports **IUD use at less than 0.8%.**
- The **IUD was one of the lesser known contraceptive methods** in El Salvador previous to the Women's Health Project (WHP).

Description: Health Background

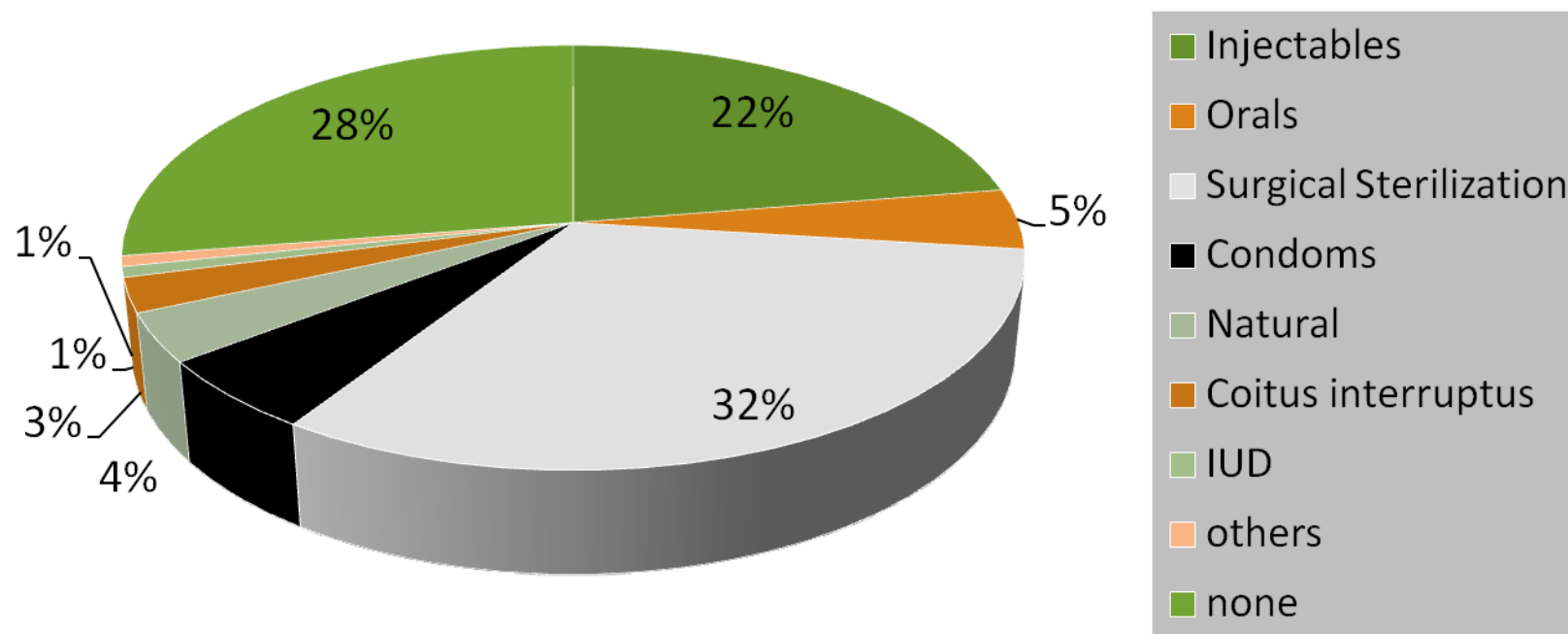
Trends in the use of FP methods and TFR in the last 15 years among married women age 15-44

Method	1993-1998	1998-2003	2003-2008
Oral contraceptives	8%	6%	5.5%
Injectables	9%	18%	22.4%
Tubal sterilization	32%	33%	32.1%
IUD		1%	0.8%
CPR	53%	59%	72.5%
TFR	3.9	3.6	2.5



Description: Contraceptive Use in El Salvador

Contraceptives use prevalence in El Salvador among women 15-44 years with couple or married



Description: Health Background

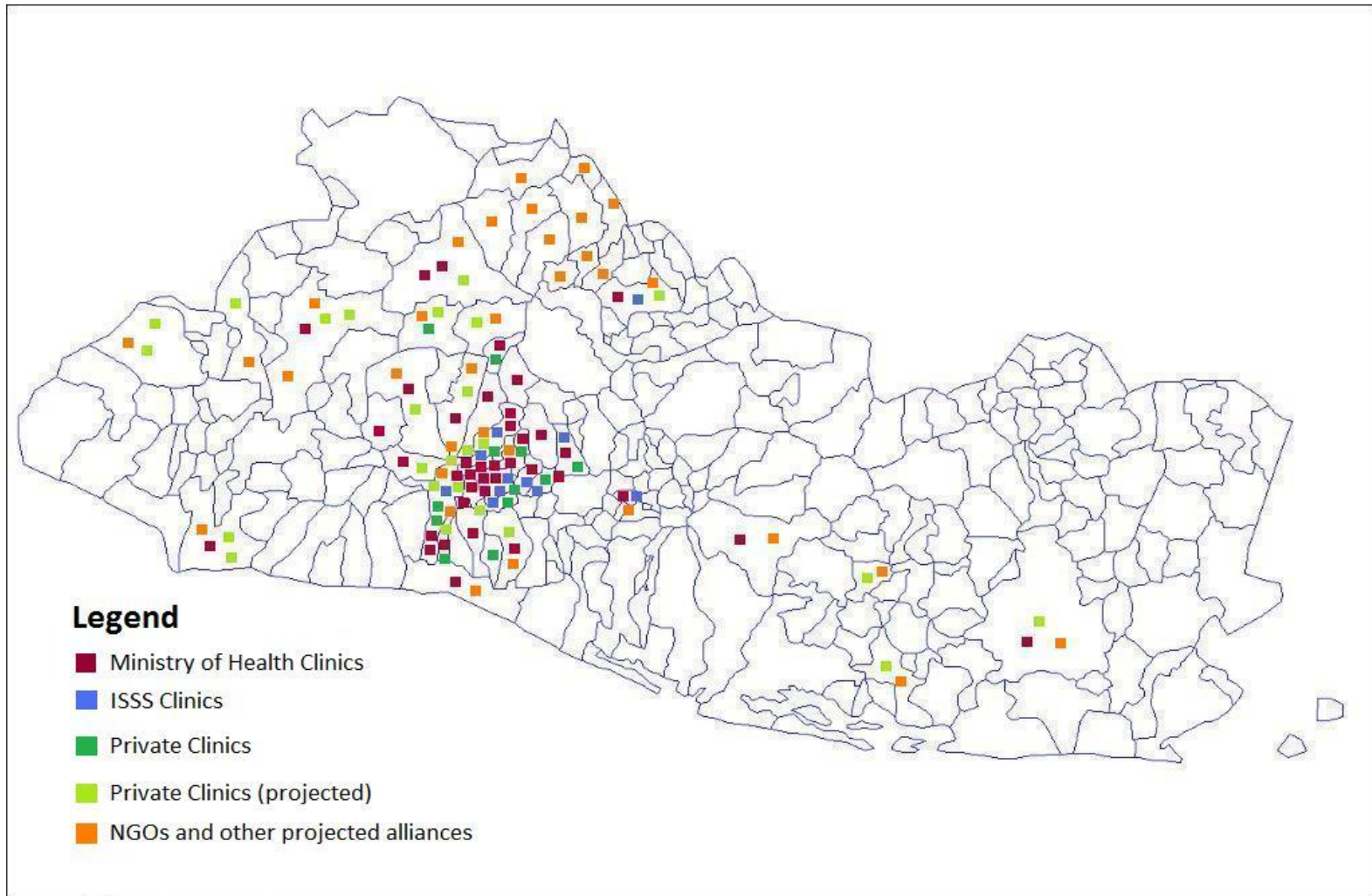
- Determining Reasons for Low IUD Use in El Salvador
 - Rumors and Myths about the method among clients
 - Insufficient attention to the method during counseling sessions
 - Insufficient provider experience with the IUD

Women's Health Project Objectives

- Reduce unwanted and unplanned pregnancies, morbidity and maternal and infant mortality
- Increase women's access to FP information and services, and LARC methods
- Establish a network of public and private providers that incorporate long-acting methods into its services (MOH, Social Security Institute [ISSS], NGOs, private providers)



Geographic Project Scope in 2009



Methods: Key Program Strategies

- Provider competency-based training
- On-the-job technical support and coaching
- Enforcement of balanced family planning counseling
- Use of social marketing techniques to create informed demand for the IUD
- Interpersonal communication, (face to face)
 - NGOs and MOH community health workers training
 - Interpersonal Education and Communication (IEC)
 - Peer Education (satisfied users)
 - Meeting between neighbors, etc.

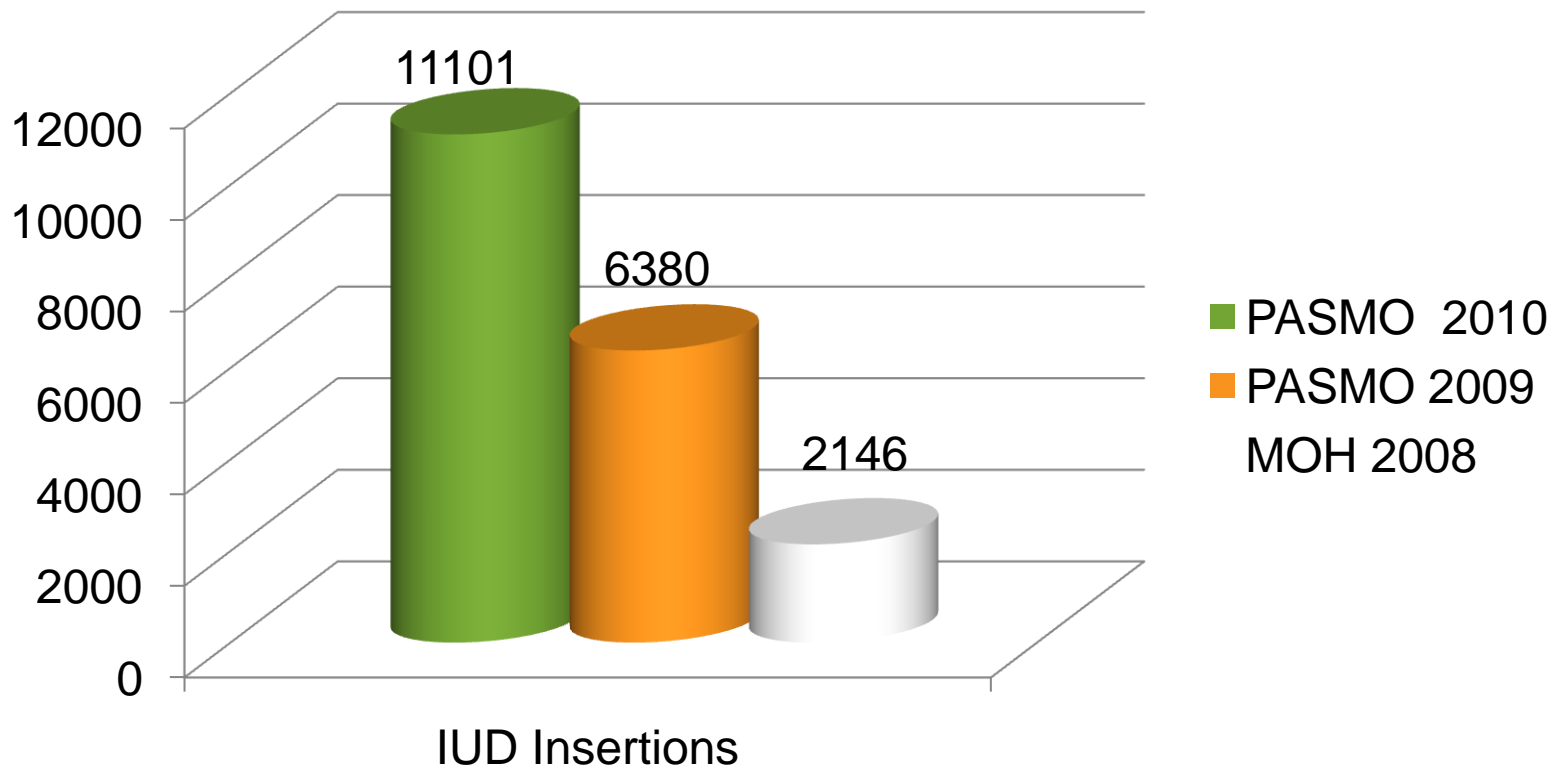


Description: Key Program Activities

- Expanding the offer of family planning services
 - Interval IUD
 - Post-partum IUD obstetric event
 - Public and private sector
 - Convenient hours, low cost
- Implementation of quality standards for IUD services
 - PASMO/PSI, Master Trainer monitored quality IUD insertion services during routine visits to the facilities
- Collect data from providers



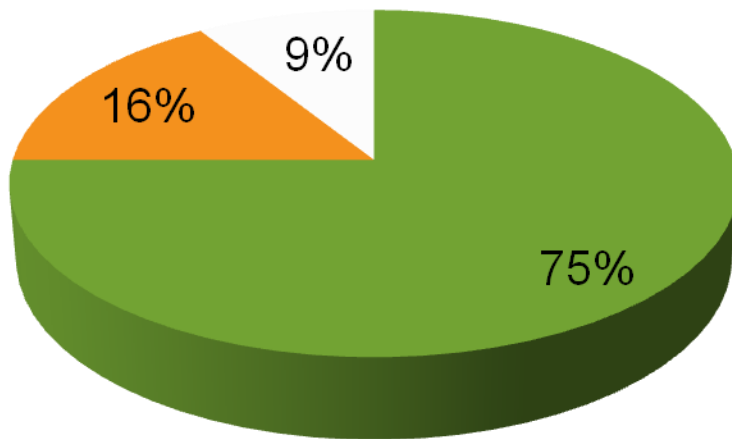
Achievements: Increased IUD Insertions from 2008 to 2010



Results: Insertions by Distribution Channel: 2009 and 2010

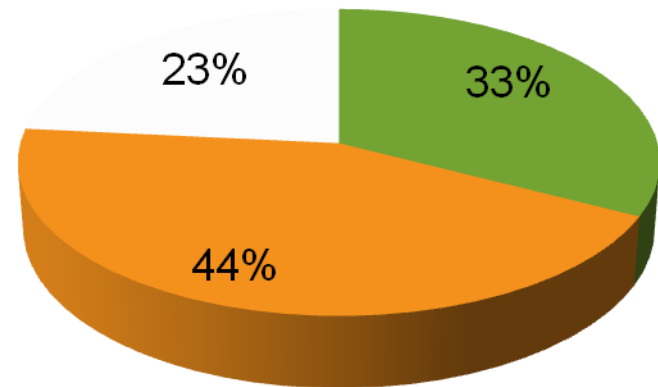
2009

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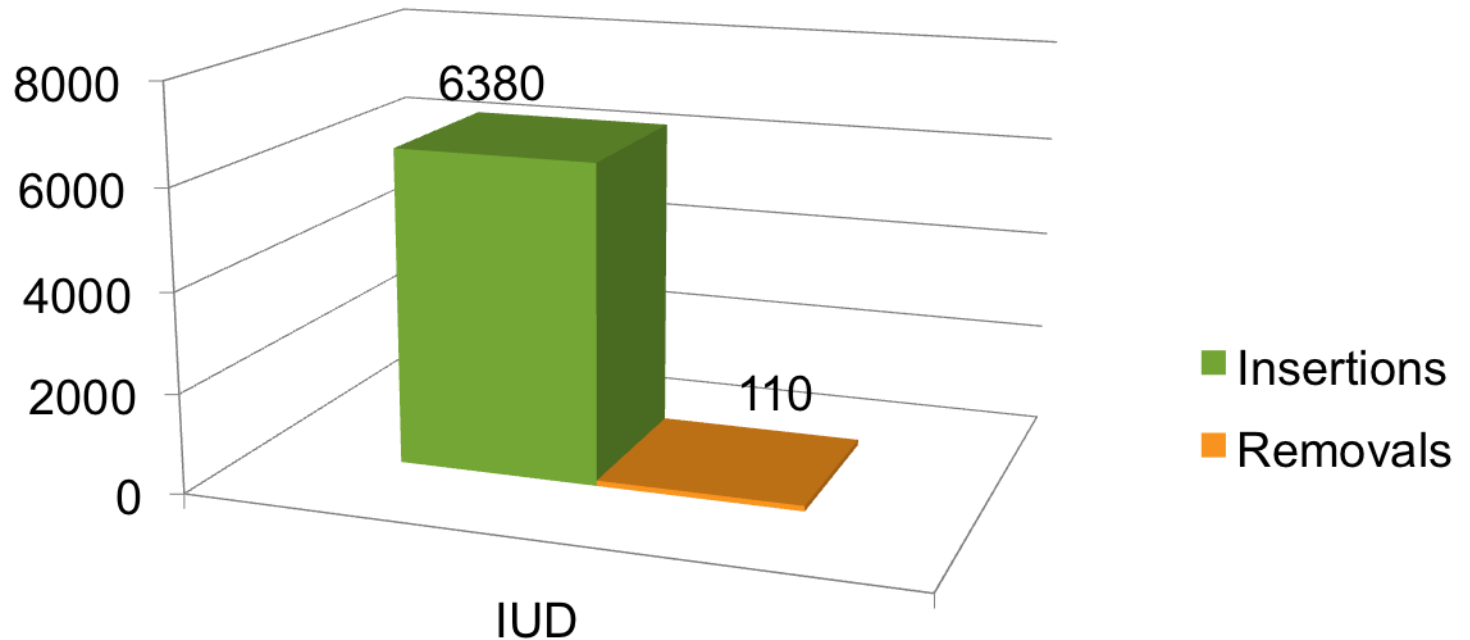
2010*

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***through September 2010**

IUD insertions compared to removals: January-November 2009



Discussion:

- PSI-PASMO is increasing the perception among women and providers that the IUD is a safe, effective family planning method and is improving the quality of IUD insertion services within the private and public sector.



What are we doing today?

- **Ensuring program sustainability**
- **Expanding the private providers' network, NGOs, GO's, municipality clinics**
- **Increasing the number of women seeking long-acting methods through Interpersonal Education and Communication.**
- **Quality Assurance**
- **High quality MIS**



Recommendations

- Focus program efforts on generating informed demand for IUD services and matching it with high quality supply of IUD services.
- Continue to provide on the job-training and supervision to enhance providers' competency and confidence in IUD insertion services.



¡Gracias!

