

# Preference for Injectable Contraceptives in Ghana: An Analysis of Mediating Factors



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# Outline

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# Background

- Injectable contraceptives were introduced in Ghana during the mid-1990's
- Currently account for more than 30% of contraceptive use by women in Ghana<sup>1</sup>
- 39% percent of prospective users of modern family planning methods are also likely to opt for Injectables<sup>1</sup>
- Two injectable contraceptives are currently available in Ghana
  - Depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA)
  - Oestradiol valerate (OV)

# Objective of the study

- To identify factors contributing to the high patronage of injectable contraceptives in Ghana

# Materials and Methods

- A cross-sectional study conducted at the Family Planning Unit (FPU) of the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) in Kumasi Ghana
- Women on injectable contraceptives accessing services at the FPU were eligible for participation
- Respondents selected by simple random sampling over a 4 month period
- Data was entered into a Microsoft Access database
- Quantitative data was analysed using SPSS version 16.

# Materials and Methods

- Qualitative data was analysed thematically using Microsoft word.
- Ethical approval for the study was obtained from the KATH/Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology Committee on Human Research and Publication Ethics.
- Informed consent was obtained from all participants

# Results

- A total of 247 women on injectable contraceptives completed the questionnaire and were included in the analysis.
- The majority of respondents (70%) were on injection DMPA
- Sixty percent of respondents were on injectables as their first ever method of contraception
- Approximately 72.2% (156) of respondents had shared their experience with relations and friends

# Basic Demographic Information

PARAMETER	FREQUENCY	%
<b>Age Group</b>		
≤20 years	6	2.4
21-30	94	38.1
31-40	118	47.8
≥40	29	11.7
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	212	85.8
Single	33	13.4
Divorced	2	0.8



# Basic Demographic Information

PARAMETER	FREQUENCY	%
<b>Residence</b>		
Urban	131	53.3
Peri-urban/Rural	115	46.7
<b>Religion</b>		
Christian	230	93.1
Muslim	16	6.5
Atheist	1	0.4

# Basic Demographic Information

PARAMETER	FREQUENCY	%
Educational Status		
No formal education	19	7.7
Primary	50	20.2
JSS/Middles School	126	51.0
Secondary	42	17.0
Tertiary	10	4.1

# Basic Demographic Information

PARAMETER	FREQUENCY	%
Occupation		
Trading	142	57.5
Dressmaking	16	6.5
Farming	10	4.0
Unemployed	15	6.1
Hairdressing	24	9.7
Others	23	9.3
Teaching	5	2.0
Catering	12	4.9

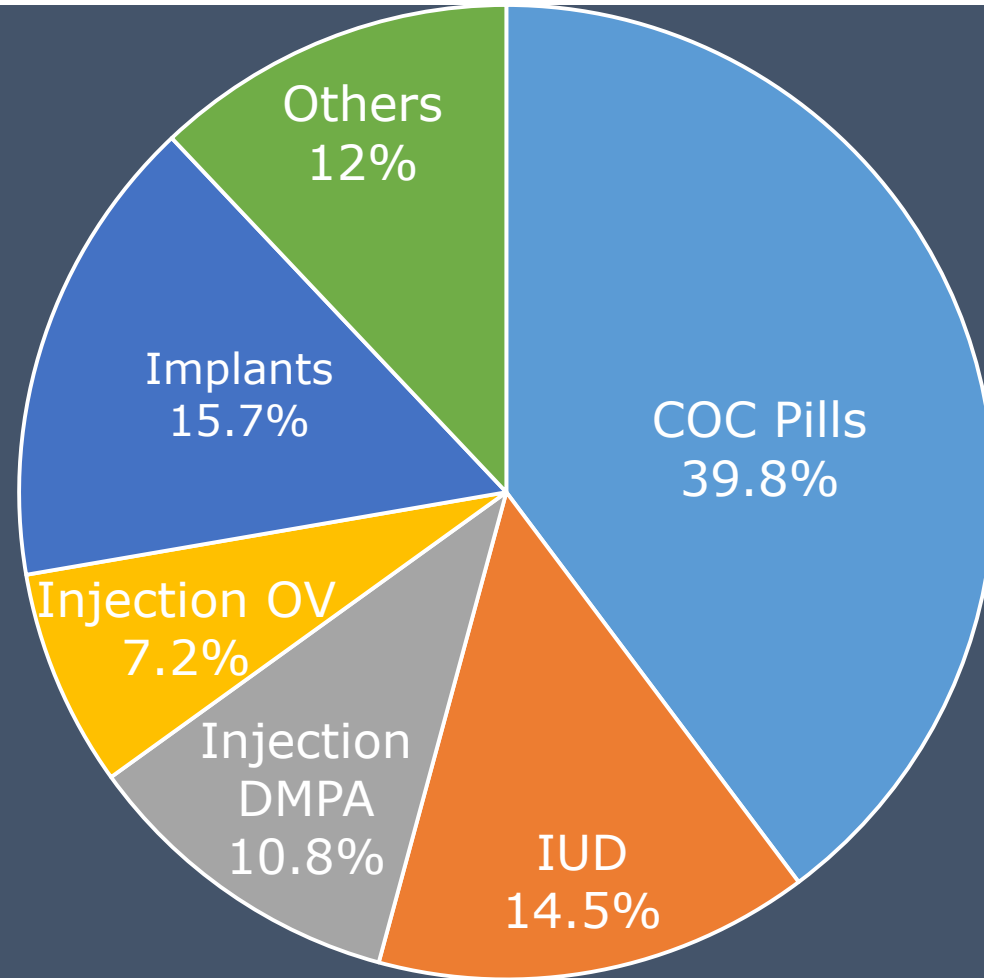
# Primary source of Information on Injectables among current users

Source of Information	Frequency	%
Health worker	92	37.2
Relation/friend who uses method	69	27.9
Television	44	17.8
Radio	21	8.5
Others	13	5.3
Unknown	8	3.2
Total	247	100.0

# Reasons for use of Injectable Contraceptives

Reason	No.	%
Considered a very effective method	61	25.4
Low incidence/no associated forgetfulness	45	18.8
Relatively longer intervals for injection	32	13.3
Low incidence/no associated forgetfulness	35	14.6
Preference for injections	12	5.0
Side effects/dislike for other methods	11	4.6
No specific reason	9	3.8
Desire for regular menses	8	3.3
Underlying medical condition	6	2.5
Curiosity	6	2.5
Desire to be discreet	4	1.7
Others	18	4.6

Figure 1: Methods of Contraception used previously by current users of an injectable contraceptive



# Conclusion

- A high level of satisfaction exists among users of injectable contraceptives
- The side effects for both methods appear to be well tolerated
- The interval of injections was also found to be highly acceptable among respondents
- Satisfied users may be contributing to the high uptake observed

# Recommendations

- Satisfied users should be identified and continually used to promote this method of contraception
- The Family Planning Programme in Ghana must ride on the back of the high level of satisfaction among clients to further educate the public education on injectables to contribute to improving Ghana's contraceptive prevalence rate and reduce the high unmet need for contraception (family planning)



# Acknowledgements

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