



COUNTING WHAT COUNTS: TRACKING ACCESS TO EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION IN GHANA

Policies support the use of Emergency Contraception (EC) in Ghana. Ghana has a comprehensive family planning program and EC is available in the public sector and at pharmacies without a prescription. International donors have procured EC for distribution in the private and public sector. However, women's knowledge of EC in Ghana is low.

ABOUT GHANA

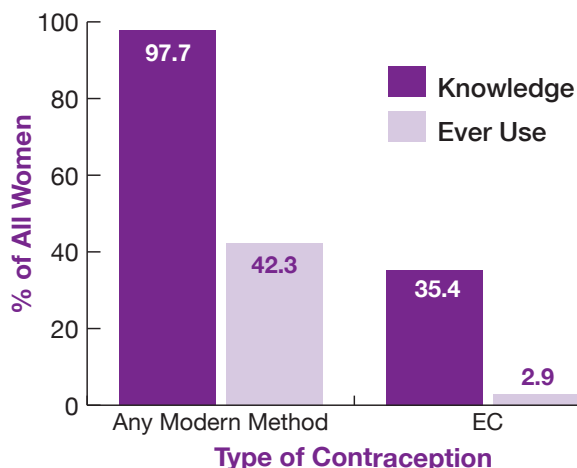
Ghana has a population of 25,199,609, of which 12,762,573 are women.¹ The population is evenly divided between urban and rural areas (51.9% and 48.1%, respectively)¹, and 28.5% of the population lives in poverty.² In 1969 Ghana became one of the first countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to adopt a national family planning policy and the current government continues to support access to family planning methods.³

CONTRACEPTIVE AND EC KNOWLEDGE & USE

- **Total fertility rate:** 4.0 children per woman (4.9 rural, 3.1 urban)
- **Unmet need for family planning (among married women):** 35.3%
- **Current contraceptive modern method use (among all women):** 13.5%
- **Between 1998 and 2008 the overall contraceptive prevalence rate of currently married women rose only slightly, from 22% to 24%.**

Source: Demographic and Health Surveys, Ghana 2008.⁴

KNOWLEDGE AND EVER USE OF MODERN CONTRACEPTION AND EC



Source: Demographic and Health Surveys, Ghana 2008.⁴

POLICIES

Essential Drug List: Levonorgestrel 1.5 mg pills specified for EC use appear on the 2010 Essential Drug List.⁵

National norms and guidelines: EC was introduced into the National Family Planning Program in 1996.⁶

Prescription status: EC can be purchased in most pharmacies without a prescription and can be obtained at government-run family planning clinics throughout the country.⁷

Post-rape care: Ghana does not have national policies or protocols to guide post-rape care.

PRODUCT AVAILABILITY

Registered products: There are three dedicated EC products registered and marketed in Ghana: NorLevo (HRA Pharma), Postinor-2 (Gedeon Richter), and Pregnon (FamyCare).⁷

Locally manufactured products: None.

Poor quality or counterfeit EC products:

While not specific to EC, there have been reports that counterfeit drugs are prevalent in Ghana.⁸

WHERE WOMEN CAN ACCESS EC

EC in the commercial sector: Pharmacists in Ghana are allowed to sell dedicated EC products directly to women.⁷

EC in the public sector: EC is available in the public sector at government-run health clinics.⁷

EC in the NGO, social marketing and social franchising sectors: Although social marketing firms in Ghana provide reproductive health services and products, including oral contraceptives,⁹ none are known to provide EC.¹⁰

Community-based distribution of EC: In 1999, the Ghana Health Service instituted a community-based service delivery program called the Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) Initiative.¹¹ Community Health Officers provide family planning services in CHPS zones but it is unclear if EC is included as part of these services.

PROVIDERS

In a study assessing knowledge of EC published in 2011, researchers found providers in the urban areas of Kumasi could give 4.1 correct answers out of 11 questions assessing theoretical knowledge of EC, and 5.6 correct answers out of 8 questions assessing practical ability to provide EC.¹²

MEDIA COVERAGE OF EC

Over 80% of women in Ghana have exposure to the mass media at least once a week.⁴ In the past, there has been a small amount of media covering EC.

DONOR SUPPORT

Three donors have purchased EC for Ghana between 2000 and 2011. IPPF made shipments in 2003 (1,550 units), 2004 (13,450 units), 2010 (10,000 units), and 2011 (3,360 units). UNFPA made shipments in 2008 (5,000 units) and 2009 (90,740 units). The World Bank made shipments in 2005 (40,000 units) and 2008 (41,880 units).¹³

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This fact sheet has been prepared by the International Consortium for Emergency Contraception and represents the best information we have been able to gather. We welcome your input for future revisions. Please contact us at info@cecinfo.org. Visit our website at www.emergencycontraception.org for more information on EC.