

IUSSP Webinar: "Three Years and a Lifetime Later: Recommendations for Rights- and Justice-informed FP Measures"

Wednesday 30 September 2026

Written Q&A

1. On the Preference-Use concordance, I'm curious if/how this framework captures people who do not want to get pregnant but also do not want to use a method because they don't like the options available? (Sarah Rich)

Answer: If a person does not want to use a method and is not using, this is considered concordant as our focus is on if they want to be using and if they are actually using. That said, your point about people not liking the current options is important and indicative of future directions in the field's work to improve the method options available to all potential users. (Ilene Speizer)

2. Combining "use at last sex" with "current use" among unmarried women would mean that we are inferring current contraceptive use for some women based on their reported use at last sex, even when they have not self-reported "current use." Wouldn't this mean that the data user is ascribing current use to women who have not reported current use themselves? (Shiza Farid)

Answer: This recommendation is not necessarily about person-centeredness, rather it is about more accurately assessing contraceptive use among unmarried women, for whom "current use" questions do not capture contraceptive behavior-- in part because sexual frequency is more episodic and coital-dependent methods are more frequent and therefore "current" framing is a mis-match. The composite measure of "current use + use at last sex within the previous four weeks" is aimed at fixing this known measurement issue to better reflect behavior among unmarried women. See: Jadhav, A., Fabric, M.S. and MacQuarrie, K. (2025), How It Was and How It Should Be: Moving Toward a Better Measurement of Contraceptive Prevalence Among Unmarried Women. *Studies in Family Planning*, 56: 454-469. <https://doi.org/10.1111/sifp.70028> (Madeleine Short Fabric)

3. Thank you so much for an excellent overview! I have 2 questions. For the PUC question "Want to use contraception". Have you discussed this in relation to individuals contraceptive knowledge (or rather lack of)? Some might answer "no" when they lack information/knowledge. Second- from work with women with migration background in Sweden and women in Somalia, "Pregnancy prevention" wasn't accepted and women suggested to use "spacing of pregnancies". (Elin Larsson)
4. To what extent does the design of these proposed measurements account for data limitations in LMICs especially where measurement often depends heavily on periodic surveys such as the DHS? Ps. Thank you for proposing this important measurement!" (Pravitasari Pravitasari)

5. This has been fabulous! Thank you for this work. Two questions: 1/ Sorry if I missed – how is contraception defined / who defines it? Thinking about mine and colleagues current work on the methods people use that often fall outside medical definitions and where that sits within the idea of 'person-centred' (not to mention if post-coital methods e.g., mife use are recommended to be captured?) 2/ What are the main political barriers you see to the uptake of this work? Does the push towards data sovereignty represent an opportunity for uptake of these new measures?" (Joe Strong)
6. I want to acknowledge that there is a regional difference (Europe v US v elsewhere) in the use of the term "contraception" and whether it is the same as family planning, birth control, or "using or doing something to avoid or delay pregnancy". In this convo, contraception is used more expansively to include modern, traditional, or folkloric methods, coital, post-coital, etc, as Ilene mentioned. (Kerry MacQuarrie)
7. For the PUC, one concern I have is around how 'you want' can be interpreted by respondents. In more individualistic societies this is pretty easily understood as your own preferences, but in more communitarian societies it can be harder to differentiate between what 'you' want and what others want, particularly when there is a preference for harmony in relationships (particularly in contexts of large power differences). Some very careful cognitive testing of how this is interpreted would be really important I think. (Jeffrey Edmeades)