



# UNMET NEED FOR CONTRACEPTION AMONG MEN IN ZAMBIA: IMPLICATIONS FOR FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMMES

Eunice N. S. Imasiku (Doctoral Student)

Demography & Population Studies, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

## Introduction

- ❖ Unmet need for contraception (unmet need) has occupied the attention of scholars since the 1960s (Sonfield 2006).
- ❖ Concept revised but, research has continued focusing on married women's unmet need - men largely ignored (Ikamari and Lwaanga 2000).
- ❖ it is unacceptable - reducing unmet need translates into lowering fertility (Ngom 1997).
- ❖ Male rather than female preferences greatly influence reproductive choices (Dodoo 1998; Dudgeon & Inkhorn 2004).

### Research Questions

- What is the measure of unmet need among men in Zambia
- What are the determinants of unmet need among men in Zambia.



Figure 1: Male Condom

Photo Credit condom image by Jorge Casais from Fotolia.com

## Data Sources and Methods

### Data

- ❖ 2007 Zambia DHS: 7,146 women aged 15-49; 6,500 men aged 15-59.

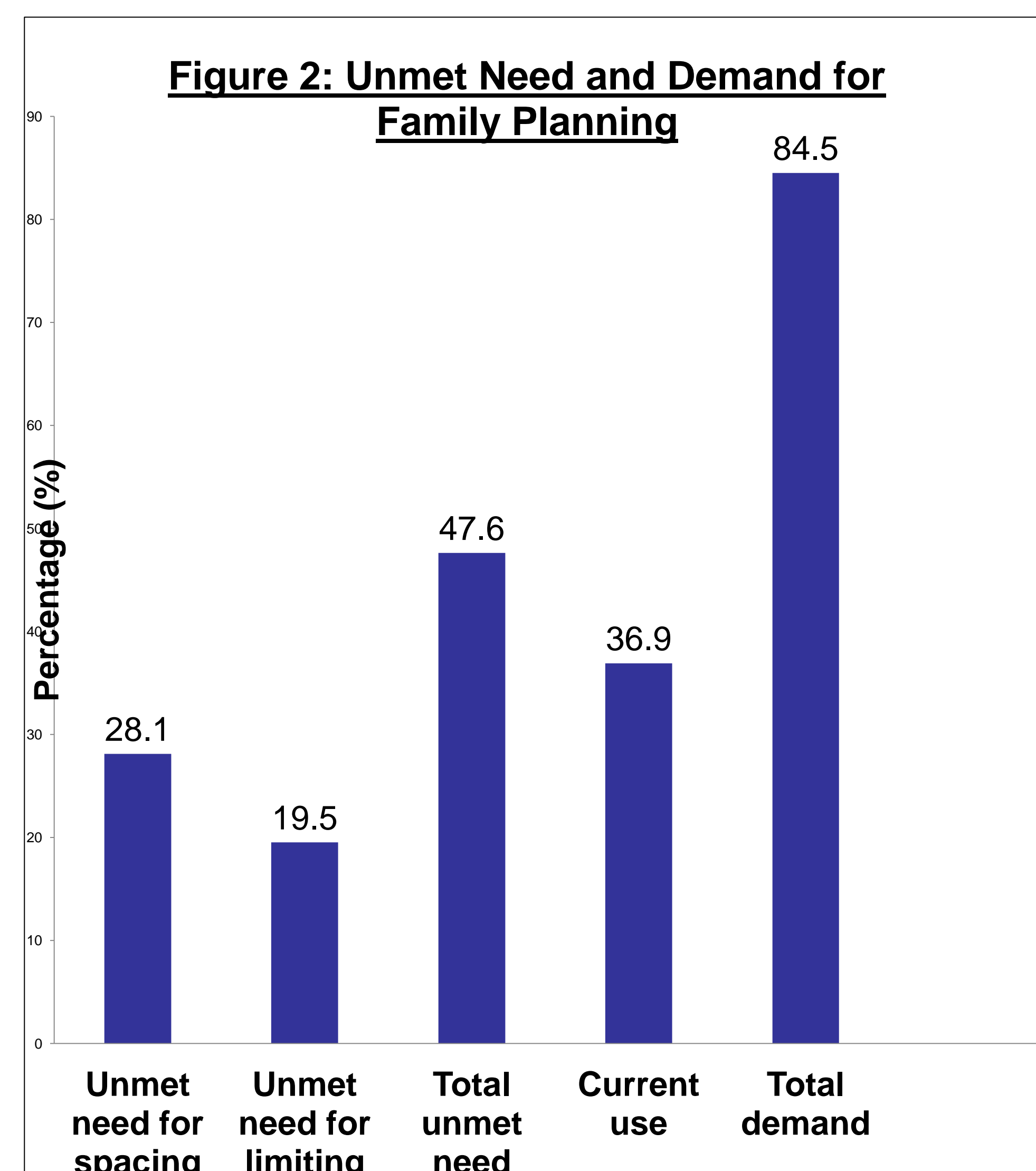
### Analytic Sample

- ❖ 3630 currently married men.

### Measures

**Outcome:** Unmet need (met=0, spacing=1 and limiting=2).

**Independent Variables:** age, number of living children, place of residence, region, education, occupation, wealth index, heard about family planning on media, and discussed family planning with a health worker.



## Results

- ❖ Unmet need for spacing – 28.1%, Limiting – 19.5%, Total – 47.6%. Total demand: 84.5% (fig. 2)
- ❖ Final model in Table 1 reveals that:
  - Unmet need was significantly lower among men residing in all the regions than those in Luapula.
  - Men with secondary/higher education were significantly less likely (0.62) to have unmet need compared to those with no education.
  - Men aged 50-59 were 1.6 times more likely to have unmet need than those aged 15-24.
  - Men with 5 and more children were 60% more likely to have unmet need than those with no children.

## Discussion

- ❖ Unmet need is high: few methods.
- ❖ Condom (see fig. 1): used less inside wedlock.
- ❖ Vasectomy: not a popular option as indicated in fig. 3.
- ❖ Unmet need in all regions is lower than in Luapula : contraceptive use lowest in Luapula.



Figure 3: How some people view vasectomy

Source: <http://lioninoil.blogspot.com/2009/03/come-march-Lmadness-do-some-snipping-of.html>

## Conclusion

- ❖ Level of unmet need is 47.6% - demand not met.
- ❖ Region: most important determinant
- ❖ Programmes to target men as well. Need more men specific methods.

Table 1: Odds ratios from binary logistic regression analyses assessing the association between selected characteristics and unmet need for contraception among men aged 15-59, Zambia DHS 2007

Variable	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
<b>Age</b>			
15-24 <sup>R</sup>	1.00	1.00	1.00
25-34	0.72*	0.75	0.75
35-49	0.71*	0.77	0.78
50-59	1.44	1.61*	1.62*
<b>No. of living children</b>			
0 <sup>R</sup>	1.00	1.00	1.00
1-2	1.07	1.10	1.11
3-4	1.24	1.22	1.23
5 & above	1.62*	1.58*	1.60*
<b>Region</b>			
Luapula <sup>R</sup>	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central	0.41***	0.47***	0.48***
Copperbelt	0.46***	0.53***	0.54***
Eastern	0.47***	0.48***	0.49***
Lusaka	0.31***	0.39***	0.40***
Northern	0.63**	0.64***	0.66*
North Western	0.61*	0.64	0.64*
Southern	0.40***	0.46***	0.47***
Western	0.41***	0.39***	0.40***
<b>Education</b>			
No education <sup>R</sup>		1.00	1.00
Primary		0.75	0.77
Secondary/Higher		0.60**	0.62*
<b>Heard about family planning on media</b>			
No <sup>R</sup>			1.00
Yes			0.87

<sup>R</sup> = Reference category, \* = p<0.05, \*\* = p<0.01, \*\*\* = p<0.001

## References

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