



Contraceptive Security Indicators Survey

Policy

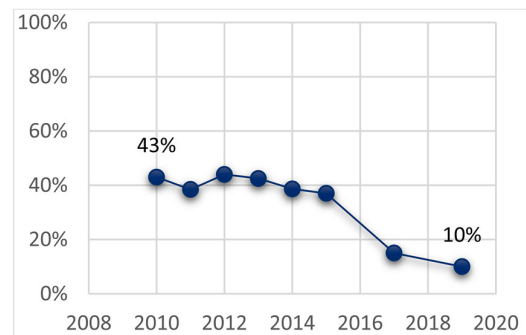
National Policies and the Private Sector

Policies indicate the level of government commitment to contraceptive security (CS) and influence national practices that can promote or hinder CS. Supportive family planning/reproductive health (FP/RH) policies are integral to the existence of successful health systems and strong FP programs. The policy section of the survey recognizes that how FP/RH policies are made, who makes them, and the level of contention on the issues being addressed, all have implications for policy implementation (Measure Evaluation, 2017). The indicators in this section aim to address key policies affecting CS and their implementation to help determine whether a country has an enabling environment for and is committed to CS.

Policies Hindering Private Sector Provision of Contraceptives

The private sector includes the commercial, non-governmental (NGO), and social marketing sectors. Examples of national policies that could hinder the ability of the private sector to provide contraceptive methods include price controls, distribution limitations, taxes or duties, and advertising bans. In keeping with the ongoing trends to remove barriers toward the provision of contraceptives, only four countries (10 percent of respondents) cited hindering policies for the private sector, providing the following examples:

- Private sector needs specific permission to import contraceptives
- Customs duties on contraceptives
- High taxes and lengthy registration processes
- Regulated drugs (contraceptives included) are prohibited from mass media advertising



Percentage of surveyed countries citing policies that hinder private sector distribution of contraceptives

Policies Enabling Private Sector Provision of Contraceptives

Within the countries surveyed, 90 percent reported an enabling environment for CS. The manners in which national policies reportedly support successful health systems and FP programs differed, but most countries reported policies aimed to achieve the following:

- Facilitate better coordination between the government and the private sector

- Build capacity of health care providers to deliver FP services
- Expand availability of and access to contraceptives in the private and public sectors (through social marketing especially)
- Increase the variety of contraceptive methods available

“The MOH policy is to support the private sector to establish health posts to provide health services including contraceptive methods in remote areas or where faith-based health facilities do not provide modern contraception.”

*Rwanda
2019 CSI Survey Response*

- *In one country only* - increase access to reproductive health information for clients

The Ethiopian government reported a multi-pronged approach that demonstrates the myriad methods in which government policy can be leveraged to empower the private sector. In this case, a public private partnership has been harnessed to foster private sector alliances with the public by setting national standards for the provision of trainings, products, and service linkages. The private sector’s involvement in FP is encouraged through the federal adoption of social marketing as a strategy

for promoting, distributing, and selling contraceptives within existing commercial channels. To keep private sector pricing affordable for the general public, the policy also allows for importation free from duties and taxation. National partnerships with non-governmental organizations were common among the policies reported, with some countries choosing to formally partner with donors or NGO’s, and others partnering directly with the general public through events and traveling caravans to raise awareness and access.