

Mode effect and couple concurrence in the reporting of current family planning method in Southern Honduras

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Background

In this proposed paper, we begin with a literature review on mode effects (i.e. how data differs if it is collected from different survey administration modes) among individuals in sexual and reproductive health (SRH) research. Emphasis will be on mode effects for reporting current method of family planning (FP) and, if available, literature of mode effect between qualitative and quantitative methods.

Next, we will present background literature on couple concordance (i.e. the extent to which couples report the same answer). Data on how concordant reporting can serve as a proxy for communication, as well as evidence that higher rates of couple communication leads to higher rates of modern FP use, will be presented. The concept of mode effects and couple concordance will be linked.

Note: this paper will use the term “concurrency” instead of concordance. Concurrency can be coincidental (concordance) or mutually recognized agreement based on an explicit discussion (consensus) (Hill et al., 1959).

Setting

This study took place in three rural communities situated in two municipalities in Choluteca Department, in rural Southern Honduras. These communities are between a two and three hour bus ride from each other, and have approximately 300 residents each. Background data on FP use in rural Honduras will be presented using data from the most recent Demographic and Health Survey. We will share the little existing research conducted with couples on SRH topics in Honduras. To our knowledge, there are no SRH studies with couples in rural Honduras.

Research questions

This study aimed to explore 1) the mode effects for individuals and 2) couple concurrency, with respect to the reporting of current FP method use. Specifically, the research questions were:

- To what extent is an individual’s report of current FP method use consistent between quantitative and qualitative survey administration modes?
- To what extent is men’s report of current FP method use consistent between quantitative and qualitative survey administration modes? What about women’s reports?
- Within a couple:
 - How concurrent is the quantitative reporting on current FP methods?
 - How concurrent is the qualitative reporting on current method of FP?
 - To what extent do the qualitative reports corroborate the quantitative reports with respect to reported current method of FP?

Methods

- Interviews with women and men linked as couples, conducted in May of 2010.
- Eligibility criteria: being in a relationship for at least 2 years with a current partner, residing in one of three study communities, self-reported fecundability, and being between 18-49

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years of age. No formal quotas were set for use of specific FP methods or pregnancy intention.

- In addition to couples, other women were interviewed who were currently in a partnership but whose partner was unavailable to be interviewed.
- Training, guide development, and piloting were done with seven Honduran study staff.
- Sampling: interviewers divided each community into quintiles (north, south, east, west and center) and recruited from each of these quintiles to better ensure a geographically representative sample within each community and to minimize sampling bias.
- Three male data collectors interviewed all male participants and three female data collectors interviewed all female participants.
- The interviewers spoke with couples simultaneously but separately, and interviewers ensured that all study procedures for women occurred outside of audible range from their partners.
- Interviewers administered a brief quantitative survey to all participants containing demographic and SRH items.
- The larger, qualitative component of the study included semi-structured interviews, which began with a simple definition of FP followed by a series of questions based on the last conversation about FP with a current partner. The guide primarily focused on individual and perceived partner fertility and contraceptive beliefs, intentions and behaviors.
- **Table 1** (not shown in this abstract) presents a summary of the analysis techniques for individual and couple reports, across and between quantitative and qualitative survey administration modes.

Data analysis

- Generate frequencies of reports of current method of FP from quantitative survey;
- Generate frequencies of reports of current method of FP from semi-structured interviews;
- Link data for individuals across different quantitative and qualitative modes;
- Link data for couples across different quantitative and qualitative modes; and
- Select quotes from individuals with inaccurate reporting and/or from non-concurrent couples (forthcoming).

Results

We interviewed 24 men and 24 women linked as couples. Fifteen additional women were interviewed without their partners, for a total of 63 interviews.

- **Table 2:** Background characteristics from couples (quantitative survey) (*Note: this table may be replaced with a more traditional "Table 1" of individual background characteristics*).
- **Table 3:** Mode effects within individuals comparing quantitative and qualitative reporting of current method of family planning (N=48)
- **Figure 1:** Men's reporting of current method of family planning (N=24)
- **Figure 2:** Women's reporting of current method of family planning (N=24)
- **Table 4:** Non-concurrent reports of current family planning method from quantitative survey (N=9)
- *Note: We will use quotations from the semi-structured interview to elucidate discrepant reports for individuals and/or couples.*

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Discussion

If this paper is accepted, this section will place the results in perspective of the current literature and cultural context of Honduras. Explanations for discrepant individuals (for mode effect) and couples (concurrence) will be discussed. We will briefly mention study limitations and conclude with ideas for future research.

References

Hill R., Mayone Stycos J., & Back K.W. (1959). *The family and population control: a Puerto Rican experiment in social change*. New Haven CT: College and University Press.

Tables and Figures

Table 2: Background characteristics of couples from quantitative survey (N=24) *

Demographic characteristics	No. couples (%)
Married (versus cohabitating)	13 (54)
Women <30 (versus women >=30)	12 (50)
1-2 children	10 (42)
3-4 children	9 (38)
4 or more children	5 (21)
Man at least 5 years older than woman (range 5-14 years)	11 (46)

*Women's responses are used as the reference when reports of the couple's characteristics are discrepant.

Table 3: Mode effects within individuals comparing quantitative and qualitative reporting of current method of family planning

	Consistent, no. (%)	Not consistent, no. (%)
Men (n=24)	20 (83%)	4 (17%)
Women (n=39)	36 (93%)	3 (7%)

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Figure 1: Men’s reporting of current method of family planning (N=24)

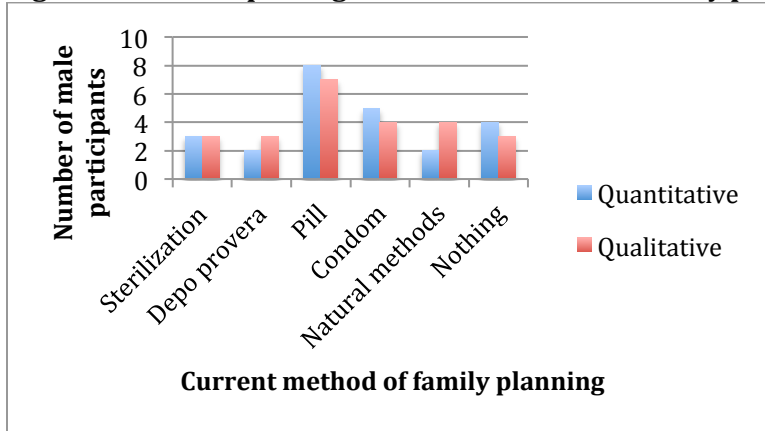


Figure 2: Women’s reporting of current method of family planning (N=24)

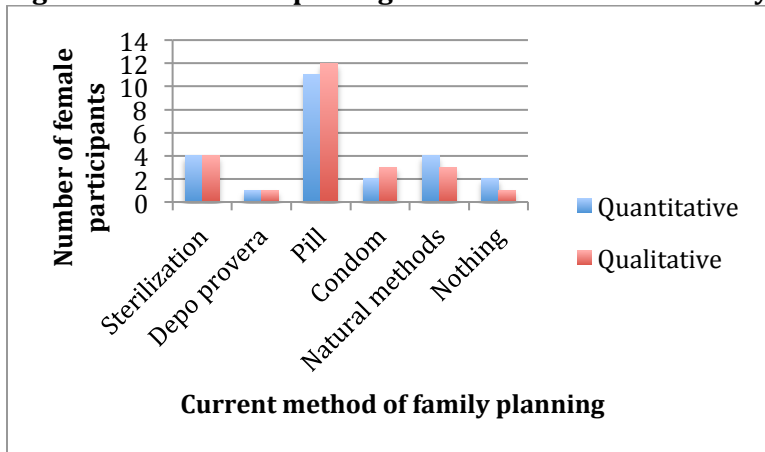


Table 3: Non-concurrent reports of current family planning method from quantitative survey (N=9)

Women’s report	Her partner’s report
Pill	Nothing
Rhythm	Nothing
Nothing	Condom
Cyclebeads	Rhythm
Pill	Nothing
Pill	Condom
Cyclebeads	Condom
Pill	Depo-provera
Sterilization	Pill