
UNDERSTANDING HEALTH WORKER'S VIEWS ON ADDRESSING THE ONGOING UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING IN GUADALCANAL, SOLOMON ISLANDS.

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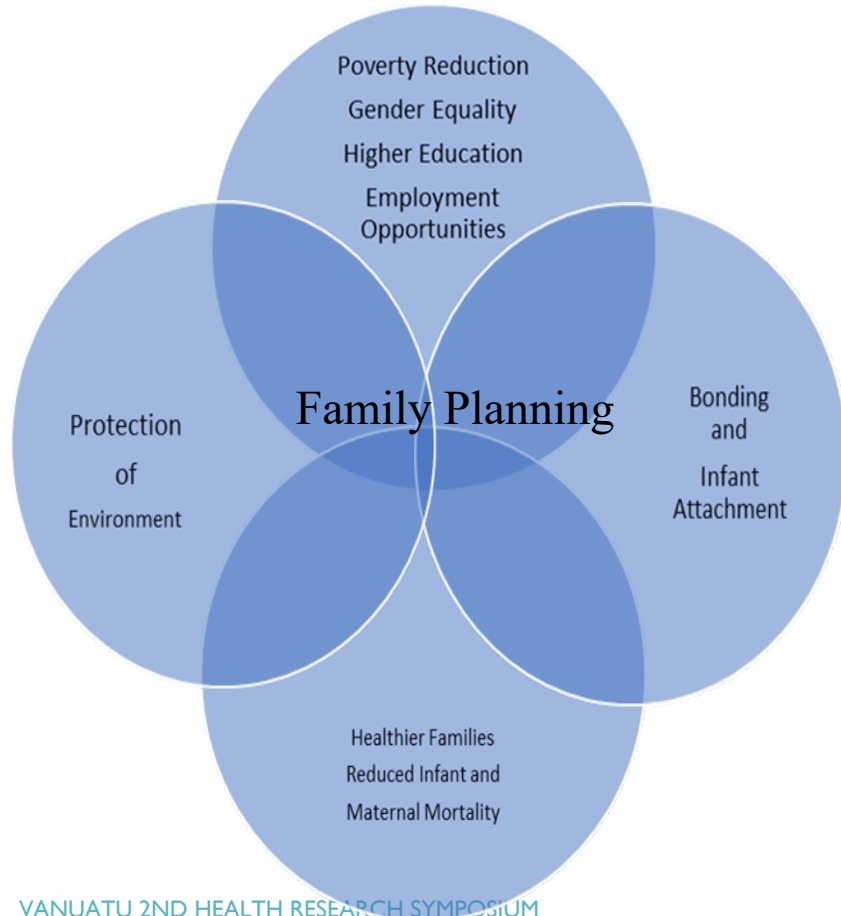


MAP OF GUADALCANAL



INTRODUCTION

BENEFITS OF FAMILY PLANNING



- Estimates of contraceptive coverage for the Solomon Islands range widely, from 19% Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) reported by the global organization Family Planning 2020 (FP2020, 2020) to UNFPA data that estimates a 32% CPR (UNFPA, 2019).
- In 2019 it was estimated that for the Solomon Islands there were 12,000 unintended pregnancies (FP2020, 2019).

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Every aspect of well-being, from women's health and secure infant bonding, to strengthening outcomes in education, gender equality, employment, economic independence, and sustainable development is linked to family planning (United Nations Fund for Population Activities, 2020).
- Contraceptives prevent unintended pregnancies, reduce the number of abortions, and lower the incidence of maternal death and disability related to complications of pregnancy and childbirth (UNFPA, 2020)
- Guadalcanal has been identified as the region with a “disparity of highest unmet need” (UNFPA, 2019, p. 4)
- In the Pacific region access to and use of contraception lags behind other developing regions (Tiebere, 2019).



AIM OF STUDY

- To help address the unmet need for contraception in Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands,
- To understand health workers' views of the barriers to family planning and their proposed solutions to increasing access to contraception.
- To investigate health workers' views of the role, long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARC) may play in responding to the unmet need for contraception.



METHOD.

- Exploratory descriptive research approach using a survey method.
- Open and close ended questionnaires
- Overall, 56 surveys were completed and returned. 41 [urban Honiara] [15 from the remote Guadalcanal Province region]
- Data was transcribed from the paper survey and the quantitative responses were entered onto an Excel spreadsheet.
- Additional open-ended answers were thematically grouped, coded, and analyzed using thematic analysis

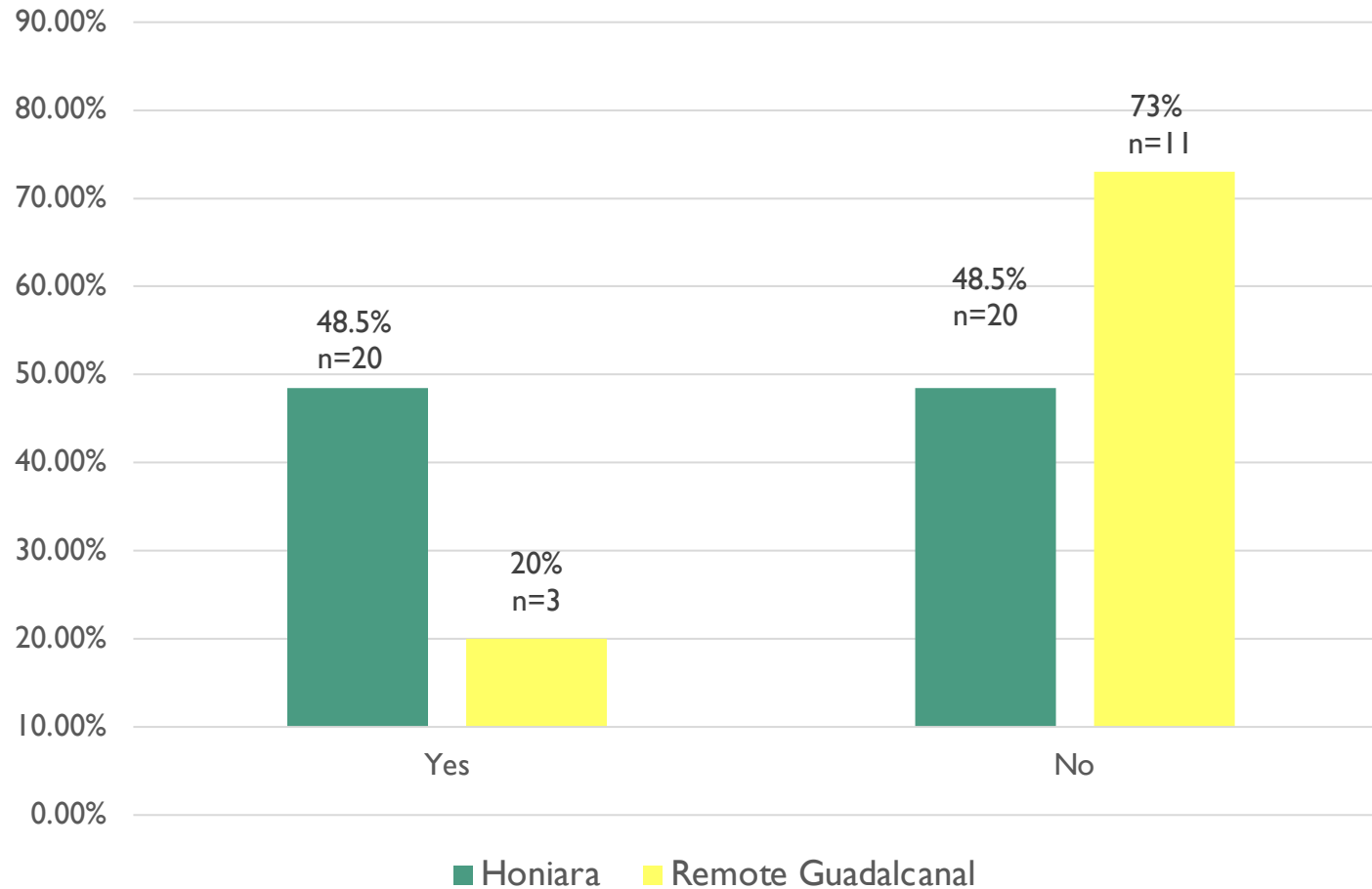


RESULT; HEALTH WORKER DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

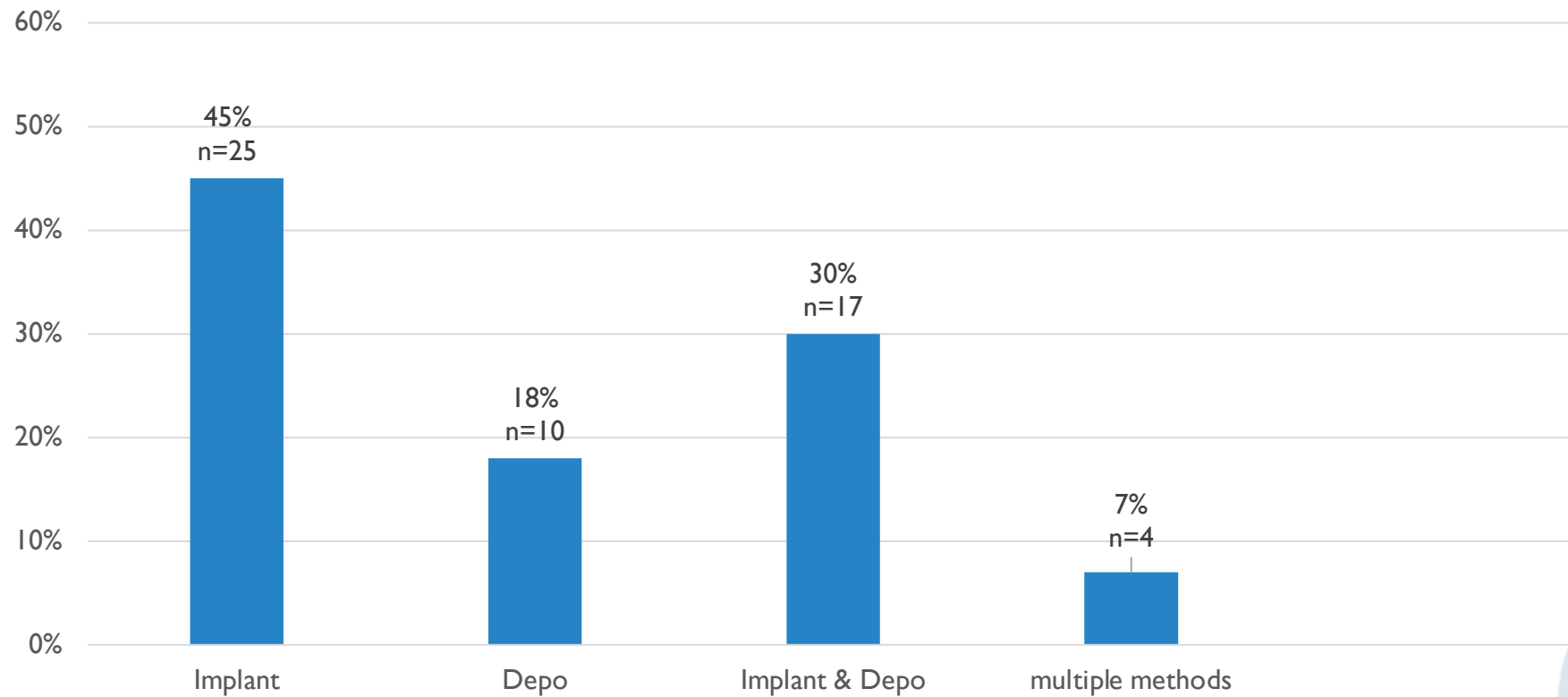
- Of the participants, 50% were nurses, and 34% were midwives
- 32% of participants reported they had more than 20 years of experience working in their current role.
- From the remote region, (47%) reported that they could provide contraceptive implants
- Health workers reported that they thought implants were the most common type of contraception that women want.
- Emergency contraception could be provided by 30% of respondents from Honiara, and 1 amongst the health workers from the remote region.



HAVE YOU RECEIVED TRAINING FOR LARC? (BY REGION)



HEALTH WORKER PERCEPTIONS OF WHAT METHODS OF CONTRACEPTION WOMEN WANT.



DISCUSSION

Although there is consistent research and much is known about the unmet need for family planning in the Solomon Islands,

- The views of health workers need to be considered as they are the experts in their communities.
- Health workers identified clear and practical solutions to the problem of unmet need for family planning.
- The consistently raised theme includes the need for listening to health workers and valuing the relationships they have with communities; increasing training, information, and education about contraceptive side effects
- The need for public education programmes and enhancing community acceptance addressing key reproductive healthcare priorities; and continuing efforts to acknowledge the need to address macro factors and invest in family planning.



RECOMMENDATIONS / IMPLICATIONS

- **VALUE Health workers relationships.**
- Increase health workers' access to **LARC training**,
- Undertake work to **counter misinformation**
- Increase **public education**
- Focus on key reproductive healthcare **priorities**
- Continue efforts to address **structural factors**

The recommendations from this study are in essence, very clear: support health workers to optimise their family planning care in their communities. Encourage health workers' pride and ownership of their vital role, support their agency, and provide resources. The findings from this study are a confirmation that strong relationships are what make any system robust



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