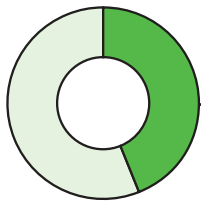


SMALL ACTIONS FOR BIG CHANGES

MAKING SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENTS IN ADOLESCENT- AND YOUTH-FRIENDLY HEALTH SERVICES



It is important that young people in Nigeria can use modern contraception when they need it.



As of mid-2020, **44%** of the total Nigerian population was under age 15.¹

1 OUT OF **3**

women ages 15 to 24 who have a need for family planning are currently using a modern contraceptive method.² **And this proportion has decreased since 2013.**

The young population's unique sexual and reproductive health needs must be addressed **now**.

Strengthening adolescent- and youth-friendly health services (AYFHS) is proven to increase youth access to and use of contraception.

AYFHS **attract** young people, **respond** to their needs, and **increase** the likelihood that they will use available services.³

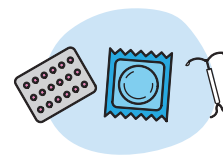
Elements of family planning service delivery that are friendly to youth and adolescents:



NONJUDGMENTAL SERVICE PROVISION



AUDIO AND VISUAL PRIVACY



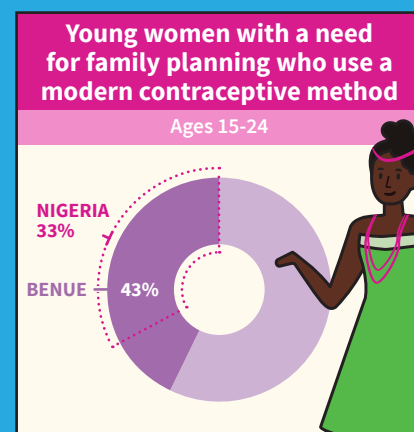
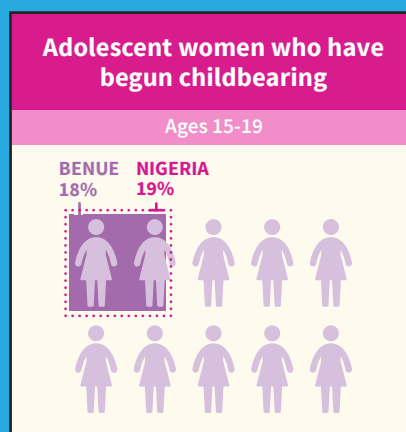
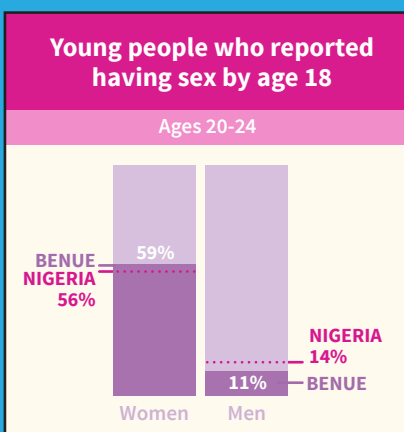
WIDE RANGE OF CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS



FREE OR SUBSIDIZED SERVICES

AYFHS include **family planning services** that young people trust and feel are meant for them based on an understanding of their wants and respect for the realities of their diverse sexual and reproductive lives.⁵

HOW DO YOUTH IN BENUE STATE COMPARE TO YOUTH IN ALL NIGERIA?



SOURCE: National Population Commission (NPC) and ICF, Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2018 (Abuja, Nigeria and Rockville, MD: NPC and ICF, 2018).



The government of Nigeria has committed to increasing funding for family planning and to ensuring youth can use modern contraception, but Benue State does not have a specific budget line dedicated to AYFHS, but Benue State has not funded the specific budget line dedicated for AYFHS.

Programs and funding for adolescent- and youth-friendly contraceptive services are usually included in other family planning efforts targeting the general population, **meaning that young people's specific needs are not explicitly addressed.**

The Nigerian government needs to improve domestic financing for AYFHS to ensure health initiatives are sustainable and can be reliably funded.

Nigeria relies heavily on donors and implementing partners to fund family planning, including AYFHS.

- Between 2007 and 2013, Nigeria consistently received more than US\$10 million annually from bilateral donors, multilateral institutions, global health initiatives, and private foundations. In fact, from 2003 to 2013, Nigeria received one of the 10 largest aggregated disbursements for family planning.⁶
- The Nigerian government has not allocated enough funds for family planning commodities and in 2016 relied on donors to fill an estimated US\$13 million gap.⁷

Donor funding is not predictable or sustainable and often comes with specific conditions that may not align with country priorities. **Total external funding for family planning has steadily declined since 2014.**⁸

EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL MECHANISMS TO INCREASE DOMESTIC FUNDING FOR FAMILY PLANNING

- Increasing allocation of public revenues to family planning.
- Ensuring funds allocated to family planning are spent fully and on time.
- Investing in evidence-based programming.
- Organizing service delivery to optimize the health workforce (e.g., task shifting and integration in routine services).
- Leveraging non-budgetary financing mechanisms.
 - Integrating family planning into national and social health insurance.
 - Taking out new government loans to increase investment in family planning (e.g. Global Financing Facility).
 - Earmarking a percentage of tax revenues for family planning.

SOURCE: High-Impact Practices in Family Planning, "Domestic Public Financing: Building a Sustainable Future for Family Planning Programs," 2018, <https://www.fphighimpactpractices.org/briefs/domestic-public-financing/>.

Leaders in Benue State are making progress to ensure dedicated, sustainable funding to meet young people's contraceptive needs, but action is still needed!

The Ministry of Health should:



CREATE AND FUND a specific budget line for AYFHS that includes contraceptive information and services.



PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT of other sustainable financing mechanisms for adolescent- and youth-friendly health programs and services.



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