

ABSTRACT

The dual method of Family Planning

Are Clients Using It?

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This is a Cross Sectional analytic study conducted during the months of February and March 2005 among a random sample of family planning clients in the parish of Portland. The purpose of the study is to assess family planning clients knowledge about the dual method of family planning and STIs, to assess women's attitude towards the dual method, to assess levels of dual method use among family planning clients, to identify barriers to dual method use, to ascertain whether there is a relationship between women's perceived susceptibility to HIV and other STIs and dual method use, and to determine factors that will encourage use of the dual method among non-users.

Structured questionnaires were used to collect quantitative data and three Focus groups were also done to obtain qualitative data. Knowledge among the respondents about the dual method of family planning was high. The study reflected a prevalence of dual method use (48.8%) that is higher than the reported national average (39.6% in 2001 and 12% in 2003).

The women identified as those most likely to use the dual method were women that were motivated by self protective action.

The study reemphasized the need for sustained educational activities especially geared towards men. There is need for more innovative strategies to help to strengthen women's negotiating skills as they seek to protect themselves in an environment where the lives of women in the reproductive years are being threatened by sexually transmitted disease.

Key words :Cherron Raffington; Dual method, family planning.