

Evaluation of South Africa's National Female Condom Programme



How effective is South Africa's Female Condom Programme in providing and promoting female condoms, expanding method choice, increasing condom use and meeting the diverse needs of women?

A CRITICAL PROBLEM

The female condom (FC) is the only woman-initiated HIV prevention barrier method, offering both women and men an additional HIV prevention option. Yet FC distribution remains significantly low compared with male condoms, accounting for only 0.2% of global condom procurement. Research is needed to better understand how to improve FC service delivery and enhance use of the product, thereby maximizing its contribution to reductions in HIV acquisition.

SPOTLIGHT ON SOUTH AFRICA'S FEMALE CONDOM PROGRAMME

- The FC was introduced in South Africa in 1998.
- The program has grown rapidly from a pilot phase to a national government-supported program that is one of the largest in the world.
- 27 million FCs were distributed in South Africa in 2016, exceeding the country's National Strategic Plan annual target of 25 million.
- Since 2014, a variety of FCs have been distributed through the public sector program.
- No evaluation of the national program has been conducted since the pilot phase in 1999-2000.

THE FEMALE CONDOM EVALUATION (2014 – 2016)

The MatCH Research Unit at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, led a comprehensive mixed-methods study to identify strategies to enhance the FCs' acceptability, and strengthen the national FC program's effectiveness and efficiency.

Who were the study participants?



