

FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM EFFECTS: A REVIEW OF EVIDENCE FROM MICRODATA

APPENDIX 1: SEARCH METHODOLOGY

Grant Miller and Kimberly Singer Babiarz

To identify the universe of relevant studies, we developed explicit search criteria for three key databases: PubMed, CAB Global Health, SCOPUS, and POPLINE. Search criteria are detailed below. This initial search returned 9,501 results. We narrowed our initial results to studies that (1) focused on middle- and low-income countries, (2) that undertook a micro-level quantitative evaluation of one or more family planning programs, and (3) that studied at least one fertility, health or socioeconomic outcome (rather than just contraceptive prevalence, for example). For non-experimental (observational) studies, we restricted our review to those using commonly-accepted methodologies for addressing the role of confounding factors and endogenous program placement/intensity. These include (but are not limited to) conventional panel data techniques, difference-in-difference estimation, and instrumental variables strategies using plausibly exogenous instruments.

As we proceeded with our review, we also used a ‘snowball’ method to identify additional studies not returned by our original search but that otherwise met our inclusion criteria. We emphasize that our review should not be considered a formal systematic review. Our specific search criteria for each database are as follows:

SCOPUS

(TITLE-ABS-KEY("family planning" AND "effect" AND "fertility") AND TITLE-ABS-KEY(effects)) AND SUBJAREA(mult OR agri OR bioc OR immu OR neur OR phar OR mult OR medi OR nurs OR vete OR dent OR heal OR mult OR arts OR busi OR deci OR econ OR psyc OR soci) AND (LIMIT-TO(DOCTYPE, "ar")) AND (LIMIT-TO(LANGUAGE, "English")) AND (EXCLUDE(SUBJAREA, "BIOC") OR EXCLUDE(SUBJAREA, "PSYC") OR EXCLUDE(SUBJAREA, "AGRI") OR EXCLUDE(SUBJAREA, "ENVI") OR EXCLUDE(SUBJAREA, "NURS") OR EXCLUDE(SUBJAREA, "PHAR") OR EXCLUDE(SUBJAREA, "EART")) AND (EXCLUDE(SUBJAREA, "MULT") OR EXCLUDE(SUBJAREA, "ARTS") OR EXCLUDE(SUBJAREA, "VETE") OR EXCLUDE(SUBJAREA, "MATH")) .

CAB: Global health

(TI=(("family planning" OR contraception OR "planned pregnanc*" OR "reproductive health program*" OR "birth control" OR abortion OR "abortion ban")) AND TI=(("birth intervals" OR "birth spacing" OR "maternal health" OR "maternal mortality" OR "child health" OR "infant mortality" OR "neonatal mortality" OR educat* OR "labor market" OR education* OR "Population Control" OR "birth rate" OR "fertility rate" OR "excess fertility" OR "contraceptive use" OR "demand for children" OR "fertility decline" OR "birth interval" OR impact* OR outcome* OR change* OR analys*)))

(BD=developing countries AND DE=family planning) Language=(English) Research Areas=(PSYCHOLOGY OR WOMEN S STUDIES OR BUSINESS ECONOMICS OR DEMOGRAPHY OR SOCIOLOGY OR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OR GOVERNMENT LAW OR SOCIAL SCIENCES OTHER TOPICS OR EDUCATION EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH OR PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH OR COMMUNICATION) Document Types=(JOURNAL ARTICLE OR JOURNAL ISSUE OR MISCELLANEOUS OR BOOK CHAPTER OR THESIS OR BOOK OR BULLETIN OR ANNUAL REPORT)

PUBMED

("Contraception"[mesh] OR "Family Planning Services"[mesh] OR "reproductive health services"[mesh:noexp] OR "Family planning"[ti] OR contraception[ti] OR "reproductive health programs"[tiab] OR "reproductive health program"[tiab]) AND ("Models, theoretical" OR "Statistics as topic" OR "Utilization"[sh] OR "Predictive Value of Tests"[mesh] AND "Cross-Sectional Studies"[mesh] OR "Epidemiologic Studies"[mesh] OR "Motivation"[mesh] OR "Demography"[mesh] OR "Health Services Research" OR "Research Support, Non-U.S. Gov't"[Publication Type] OR "Research Support, U.S. Government"[Publication Type] OR "Outcome and Process Assessment (Health Care)"[Mesh:noexp] OR "Outcome Assessment (Health Care)"[Mesh:noexp] OR Evaluat*[ti] OR Impact*[ti] OR Effect*[ti] OR Outcome*[ti] OR Analys*[ti] OR Evidenc*[ti]) AND ("Birth Rate"[mesh] OR "educational status" [mesh] OR "socioeconomic factors" [mesh:noexp] OR "Contraception behavior"[mesh] OR "Population Control"[mesh] OR "birth rate"[ti] OR "fertility rate"[ti] OR "excess fertility"[tiab] OR "contraceptive use"[ti] OR "demand for children"[tiab] OR "fertility decline"[tiab] OR "birth interval"[ti] OR "birth intervals"[ti] OR "birth spacing"[ti] OR "maternal health"[ti] OR "maternal mortality"[ti] OR "child health"[ti] OR "infant mortality"[ti] OR "neonatal mortality"[ti] OR educat*[ti] OR "labor market"[tiab]) NOT ("europe"[mesh] OR "australia" [mesh] OR "united states"[mesh] OR "canada"[mesh]) NOT (letter [pt] OR editorial [pt]) NOT ("animals" [mesh] NOT "humans" [mesh]) NOT ("qualitative research" [mesh])

POPLINE

For POPLINE, we made use of hierarchical indexing, searching publications indexed under subheadings Family Planning Program Evaluation, Evaluation, Program Effectiveness, Fertility, Program Evaluations, Fertility Changes, Socioeconomic Status, Maternal Health, Child Health, Birth Spacing, Parity and Mortality, each indexed more broadly under: Family Planning Programs > Program Monitoring, Evaluations, Indicators > Developing Countries