

Frontiers in Reproductive Health (FRONTIERS) is a global program that uses operations research (OR) in family planning and reproductive health to test alternative approaches to service delivery for the purpose of improving delivery systems and/or influencing related policies. FRONTIERS is active in 29 countries worldwide supporting innovative research and the utilization of these results on topics including access to services, contraceptive options, cost and sustainability, gender and empowerment, post-abortion care, quality of care, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, and youth. FRONTIERS also focuses on fostering the capacity within developing country institutions to both produce and use operations research. See <http://www.popcouncil.org/frontiers/>

The Population Council is an international, nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that seeks to improve the well-being and reproductive health of current and future generations around the world and to help achieve a humane, equitable, and sustainable balance between people and resources.

Recent Publications - October 2002

- Who Uses Youth Centers and Why? - This study in South Africa found that more than half of the youth center visitors were sexually experienced, but visiting a center had little discernible effect on reproductive health knowledge or safer sexual behavior (ORS #23).
<http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/frontiers/orsummaries/orSum23.pdf>
- Providers Should Encourage Sexually Active Youth to Use Condoms - The study in South Africa reveals that although many sexually active youth are knowledgeable about the sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS, they do not use condoms consistently (ORS #24).
<http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/frontiers/orsummaries/orsum24.pdf>
- Marketing New Reproductive Health Services Is Cost-Effective - Research at six rural health centers in Honduras found that, the use of ten-minute talks and leaflets to advertise the availability of IUD insertions, DMPA injections, and Pap smears increased use of the services at an affordable cost (ORS #25). <http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/frontiers/orsummaries/orsum25.pdf>
- Postpartum and Postabortion Patients Want Family Planning - This study at five Honduran hospitals showed that when providers were trained to provide family planning counseling and methods to postpartum and postabortion women, the proportion of women receiving this information doubled, and the proportion who received a method tripled (ORS #26).
<http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/frontiers/orsummaries/orsum26.pdf>
- Community Sensitization Must Precede Alternative Coming-of-Age Rite - This study in Kenya found that where cultural support for female circumcision is weakening, communities are more likely to accept sensitization messages encouraging abandonment of the practice and to participate in an alternative coming-of-age ceremony for girls that does not involve genital cutting. However, such alternative ceremonies must be preceded by extensive sensitization that changes attitudes and must be tailored to fit cultural norms for rite of passage (ORS #27).
<http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/frontiers/orsummaries/orsum27.pdf>

- Clarify Goals and Expand the Reach of Anti-Trafficking Programs - Laws to eliminate human trafficking in South Asia should uphold international covenants and human rights standards to ensure that both citizens and non-citizens receive humane treatment. Programs to oppose trafficking should develop clear objectives and indicators to demonstrate success and point out directions for future operations (ORS #28). <http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/frontiers/orsummaries/orsum28.pdf>
- CBD Roles Modified to Address Zimbabwe's HIV/AIDS Crisis - A review of the Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council's community-based distribution program revealed a need to reorient the program to fit the country's changing reproductive health needs—specifically the country's growing HIV/AIDS crisis. The organization incorporated the study findings in a pilot program to improve organizational efficiency while focusing agents' efforts on the HIV/AIDS crisis. (ORS #29). <http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/frontiers/orsummaries/orsum29.pdf>
- Using Men as Community-based Distributors of Condoms - The HIV/AIDS epidemic has led program managers to seek approaches to family planning (FP) that will also help combat HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). These approaches include use of simplified STI diagnosis and treatment protocols and promotion of male and female condoms. One aspect of condom promotion that is receiving increased attention is the idea of adding men to community-based distribution (CBD) programs in order to increase the use of condoms as dual protection against STIs and pregnancy. Program Brief Number 2, January 2002. http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/frontiers/pbriefs/male_CBD_sum.pdf
Summary http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/frontiers/pbriefs/male_CBD_sum.pdf
- Designing HIV/AIDS Intervention Studies: An Operations Research Handbook. Fisher and Foreit. 2002. This handbook is a resource for HIV/AIDS researchers that can be used in workshops and courses on research design and proposal development. Organized chapter-by-chapter like a proposal, it gives users the tools to develop and write a detailed operations research (OR) proposal. By reviewing many key concepts and methods essential for conducting HIV/AIDS field research studies, the Handbook also helps program administrators and health policymakers understand how OR works and how to use research findings to improve HIV/AIDS service delivery. <http://www.popcouncil.org/horizons/orhivaidshndbk.html>

FRONTIERS Collaboration on Quality of Care

New Perspectives on Quality of Care. Population Reference Bureau/MEASURE Communications and Population Council/FRONTIERS. 2002.

- Overview of Quality of Care in Reproductive Health: Definitions and Measurements of Quality. Creel, Sass and Yinger, 2002. (No. 1)
- Client-Centered Quality: Clients' Perspectives and Barriers to Receiving Care. Creel, Sass, and Yinger, 2002. (No. 2)
- Providers and Quality of Care. Lantis, Green, and Joyce, 2002. (No. 3)
- Best Practices in Client-Provider Interactions in Reproductive Health Services: A Review of the Literature. Murphy, 2002.

For more information see <http://www.popcouncil.org/frontiers/> or e-mail FRONTIERS@pcdc.org

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