

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine conducted the most comprehensive analysis to date of private family planning, antenatal care and delivery care. By linking Demographic and Health Surveys across 57 countries, researchers captured data reported by more than 860,000 women of reproductive age in four geographic regions.

## Key findings



**Coverage** | Private providers delivered a considerable proportion of care among women using appropriate family planning (37%), antenatal care (44%) and delivery care (40%) across the four regions. The public sector, however, provided the majority of all appropriate care.



**Unmet need** | A substantial proportion of women still had unmet need for appropriate family planning, antenatal care and delivery care. Poorer women were more likely to have unmet need for all three types of care than wealthier women.



**Equity** | Poorer women received care from private providers less often than wealthier women, but private providers were an important source of care for women from all socioeconomic groups.

## Definitions

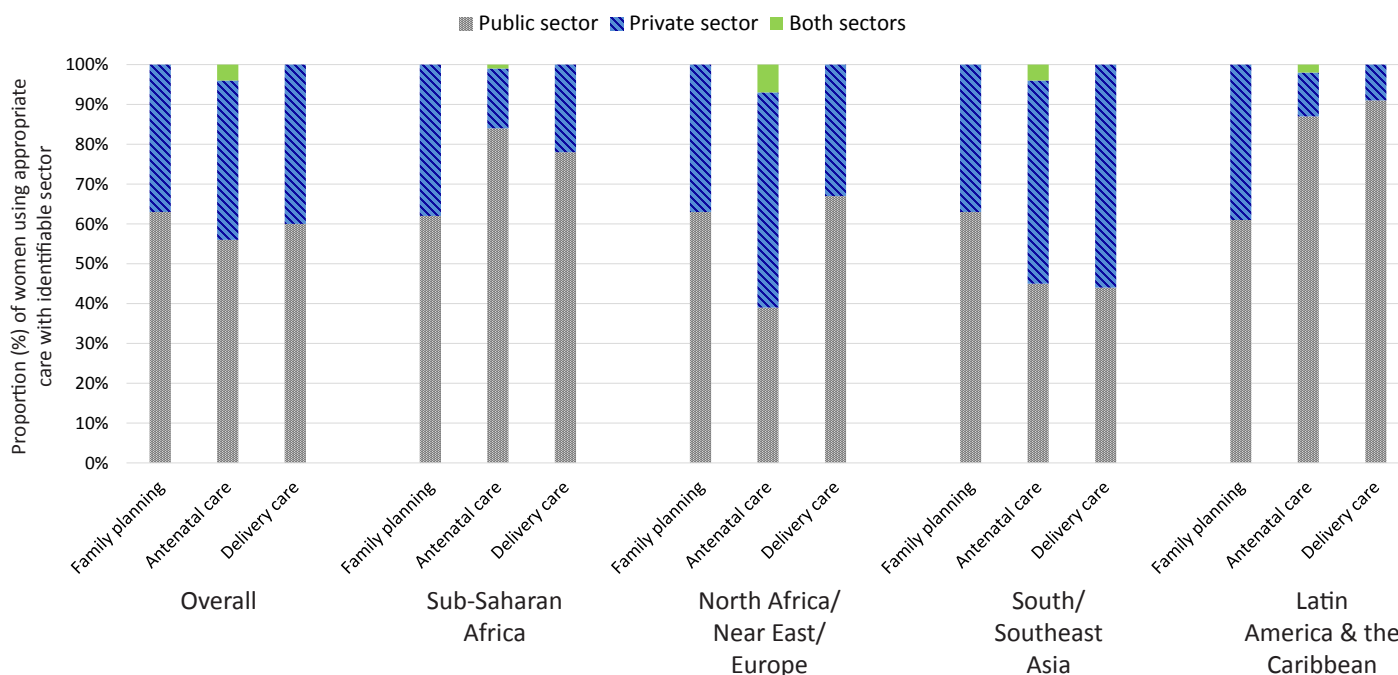
### • Appropriate care

- » **Family planning** | Using a modern contraceptive method
- » **Antenatal care** | At least one visit regardless of location and provider skill level
- » **Delivery care** | Facility delivery or home delivery with a skilled birth attendant

### • Sector

- » **Public** | Government and social service providers
- » **Private** | For-profit and not-profit (NGO and faith-based) providers

## Appropriate health care provision by sector



## Potential implications

These findings highlight the importance of expanding family planning and maternal health services to meet the needs of women around the world. They also reveal that among women who seek care, a significant portion used the private sector. It's clear that we need to better understand this overlooked part of the health system: why do women choose private providers, who are private providers and what quality of care do they deliver? These questions are particularly important given global efforts to achieve universal health coverage and ensure that women have access to affordable, quality maternal health services *wherever* they seek care.

## References

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