

The subcutaneous injectable, or DMPA-SC, is a new type of contraceptive injectable administered under the skin. Unlike traditional injectables administered into the muscle (DMPA-IM), DMPA-SC combines drug and needle into one device (Uniject), making it easier for lower-level health workers to administer.

Since 2013, the Government of Uganda and key stakeholders have engaged in various research and advocacy efforts to introduce and scale up DMPA-SC. In 2016, there was commitment to scale up DMPA-SC using Village Health Teams (VHTs) and, in 2017, DMPA-SC was registered for home use and self-injection. A socially-marketed brand of DMPA-SC was also introduced in 2017 for distribution through the private sector. By June 2017, DMPA-SC was being administered by VHTs and public-sector midwives in 28 out of 112 districts and self-injection pilots were underway.

PMA2020/Uganda began collecting data on the availability and use of subcutaneous injectable in 2017, making it the first Uganda survey to provide national data on DMPA-SC.

Use Highlights

- DMPA-SC is the 6th most commonly used contraceptive method among all women using modern methods, following DMPA-IM, implants, male condom, pills, and female sterilization.
- DMPA-SC is used by 6% of married women and 5% of all women who currently use modern methods.
- Two-thirds (68%) of DMPA-SC users obtained the methods from public facilities. DMPA-SC users are more likely to obtain the method from the public sector, compared to other modern method users.

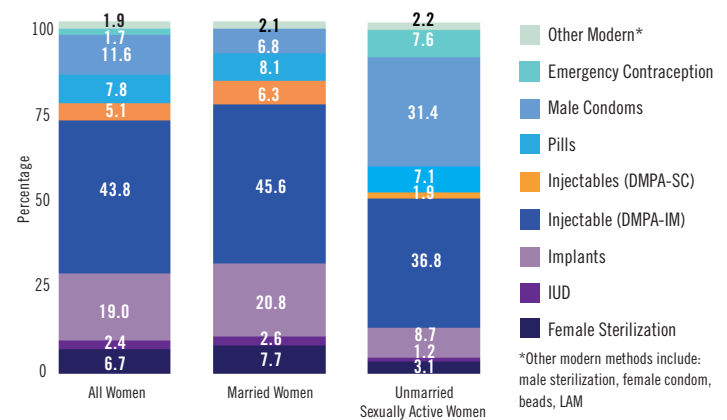
Availability Highlights

- Among public facilities, only 28% offer DMPA-SC, while nearly all (99%) offer DMPA-IM.
- DMPA-SC is predominantly offered in public facilities; only 4% of private facilities offer DMPA-SC.
- Among public facilities offering DMPA-SC, only 59% have the method in stock and have not had a stockout in the past 3 months, compared to 81% for DMPA-IM.
- Length of stockout is substantially longer for DMPA-SC, compared to DMPA-IM stockout.

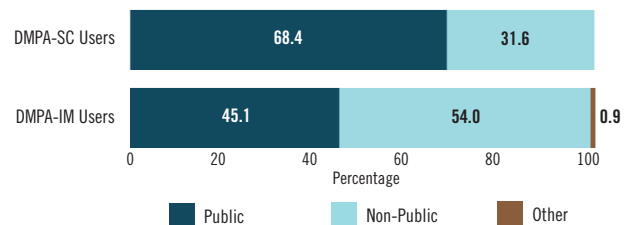
What's Next?

PMA2020/Uganda will continue monitoring the availability and use of DMPA-SC. The 2018 survey will provide information on where women obtain DMPA-SC, how it is provided (by a health professional or via self-injection), and shifts in women's method choice.

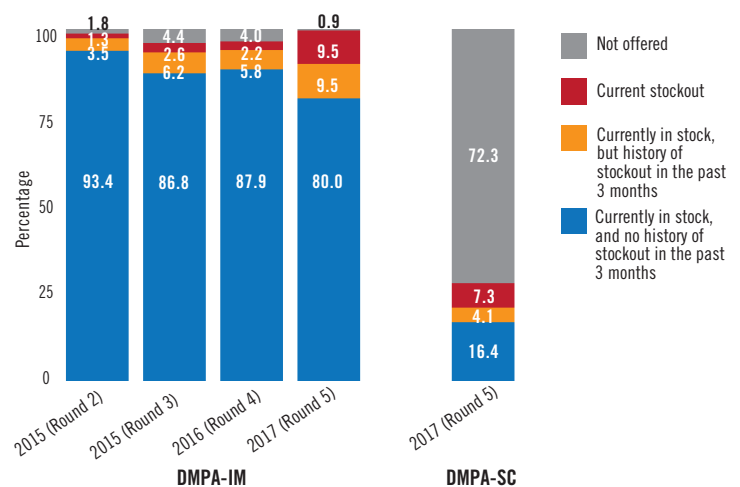
Current Modern Method Mix Among Contraceptive Users



Source of Methods Among All Women Currently Using Injectables



Availability of Injectables Among Public Facilities



Note: SDP samples are representative of facilities serving the population in the study enumeration areas. For further information on sampling methods, please see <https://www.pma2020.org/sampling-overview>.