



THE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS ON ENHANCING FAMILY PLANNING UPTAKE IN KARACHI AND HYDERABAD, SINDH

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INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Community health workers (CHWs) are significant contributors in the provision of healthcare services within the community, with the capacity to address concerns related to family planning, provide information about contraceptive decision-making, and improve the accessibility of mother and child health services.

MATERIALS & METHODS

This study deployed a methodology that involved the identification of currently active CHWs who had the adequate skills and knowledge to deliver family planning information and services. The capacity building of CHWs encompassed the provision of contraceptive methods in conjunction with counselling services. A range of equipment and supplies, comprising MEC (Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use) wheels, IEC (Information, Education and Communication) materials, and short contraceptive methods, were provided to trained CHWs, and monitoring supervision was carried out by Lady Health supervisors. The data employed in this study was collected from the Contraceptive Logistics Management Information System (cLMIS) over two distinct time periods, precisely July 2021 to June 2022 and June 2022 to July 2023, and analysed using SPSS (v 26.0).

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES / QUESTIONS

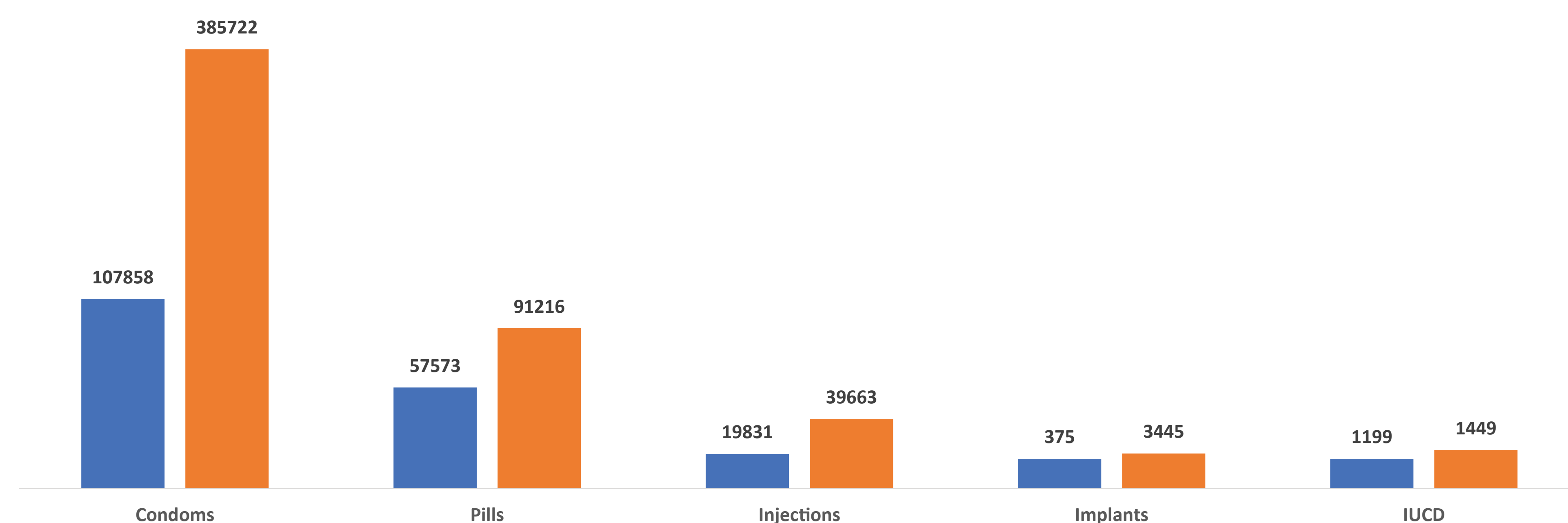
The objective of this study is to evaluate the impact of CHWs in providing counselling on family planning methods to women and men, as well as in promoting the uptake of modern family planning methods in Karachi and Hyderabad.

RESULTS

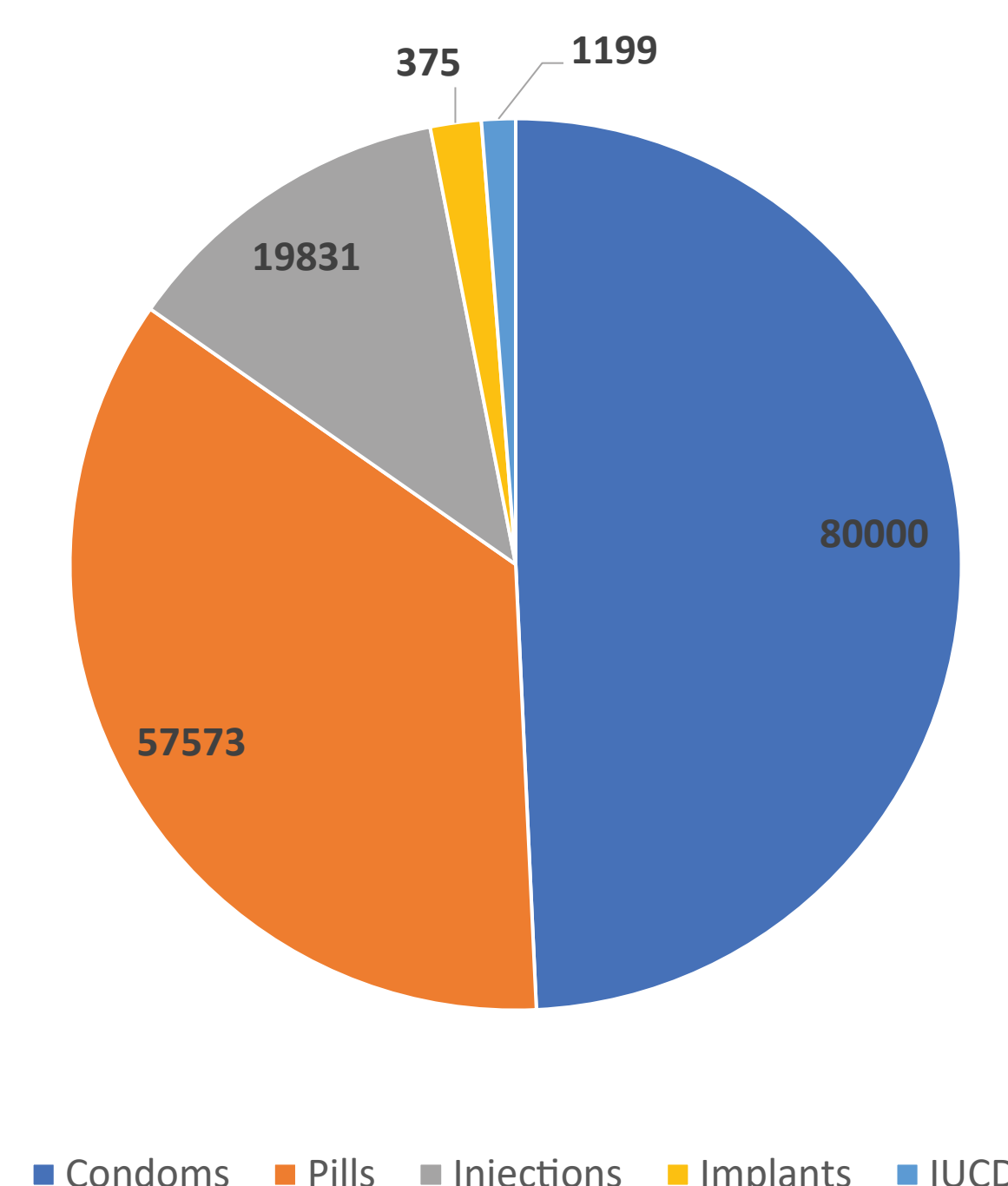
It indicates a significant increase in commodity consumption ($p < 0.05$) throughout the two-year period. Significantly, there was a substantial increase of 357% in the consumption of condoms, as shown by the comparison of the figures 385,722 and 107,858. In the second year, there was a noticeable 918% increase in Jedalle insertions, with a total of 3,445 insertions compared to the previous count of 375. Likewise, IUCD insertions had a 12% increase, with 1,449 insertions compared to the previous count of 1,199. Pill consumption also observed a significant rise of 158%, with a total of 91,216 consumed compared to the previous count of 57,573. Furthermore, injections showed a substantial 200% increase, with a total of 39,663 injections administered compared to the previous count of 19,831.

FP Commodities' Consumptions Before and After HII Implementation

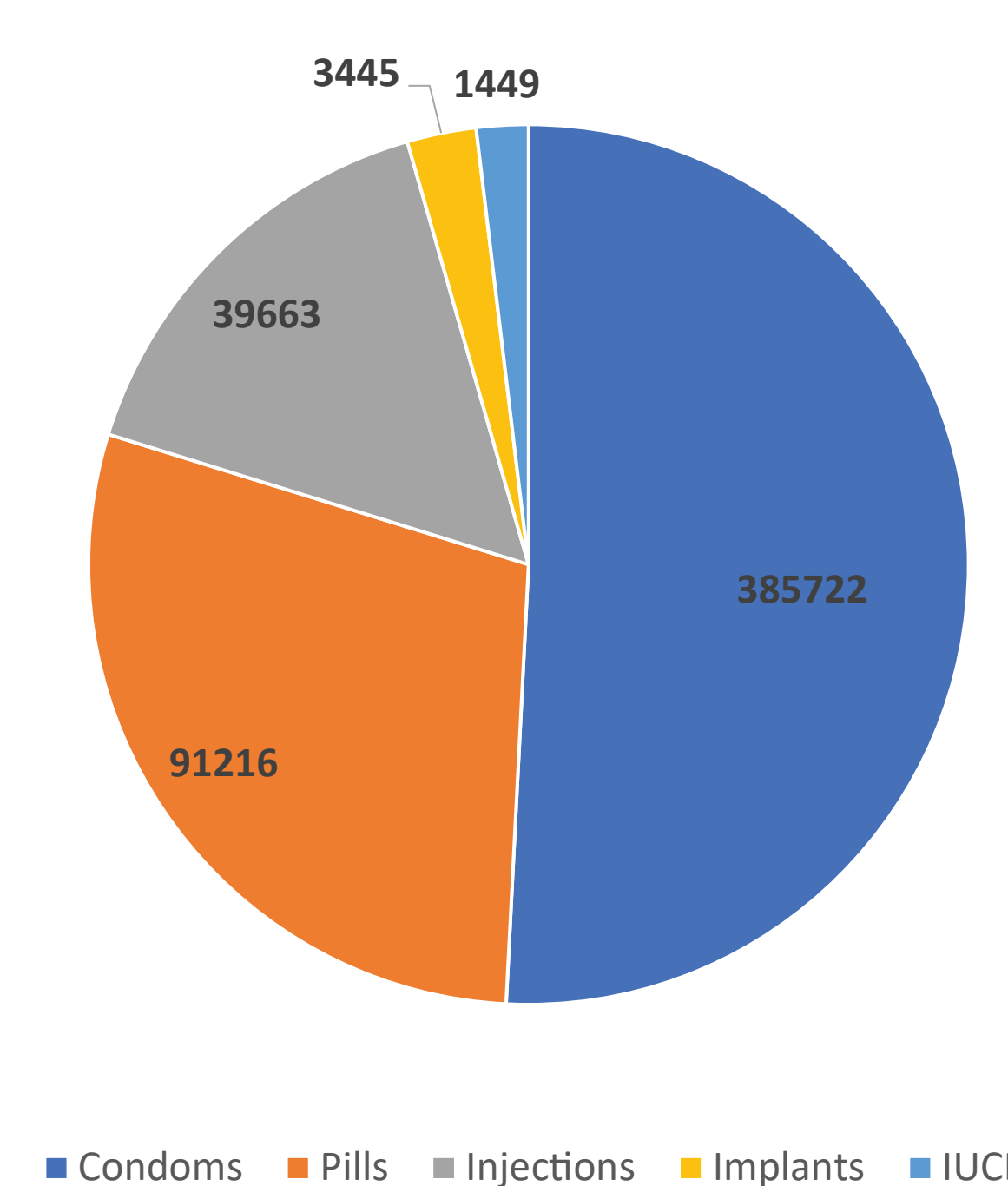
■ Sep'21- Aug'22 ■ Sep'22-Aug'23



FP Commodities Consumption Sep'21- Aug'22



FP Commodities Consumption Sep'22- Aug'23



CONCLUSION

This study provides evidence that CHWs play a vital role as integral members of the community, with an in-depth understanding of the health care needs and family planning choices within their respective communities. They assist in the reduction of waiting times at healthcare facilities by offering preferred family planning choices and facilitating the referral for Long Term methods.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This study underscores the crucial role of Community Health Workers (CHWs) in enhancing family planning uptake. To leverage their impact, ongoing training and capacity-building for CHWs should be prioritized. Strengthening collaboration between CHWs, Lady Health supervisors, and healthcare facilities is essential for effective monitoring. Hiring of young LHWs and public awareness initiatives highlighting the vital role of CHWs in family planning should be implemented for community engagement and trust.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to Greenstar Social Marketing and TCI (The Challenge Initiative) for the unwavering support, local government bodies, communities, and healthcare professionals whose dedication and active participation were instrumental in the success of the facility makeovers.