




Centre of Excellence for Development Impact and Learning

Structural interventions aiming to enable adolescents' use of contraception in low- and middle-income countries: A mixed-methods synthesis

Helen Burchett, LSHTM
 Dylan Kneale, UCL; Malica de Melo, ICRH-M; Joelma Joaquim Picardo, ICRH-M; Sally Griffin, ICRH-M/H2N; Rebecca French, LSHTM





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Structural interventions address upstream factors



- Poverty
 - increase girls' economic status
- Education
 - increase girls' participation in schooling
- Girls' status / power
 - empower girls / increase their agency
- Social norms
 - change gender and/or fertility norms

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Methods



- Systematic search & screening
- Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)
- Intervention Component Analysis (ICA)

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RESULTS: What types of interventions have been evaluated?



- Nearly 7,000 references screened
- 40 intervention evaluations included (63 papers)

Intervention activities*:

- 29 economic empowerment
- 17 encouraging school participation
- 13 changing community social norms

*most had more than one activity

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RESULTS: What types of interventions have been evaluated? Methods & outcomes



Methods

- 20 RCTs
- 14 nRCTs
- 8 natural experiments

Various outcomes:

- 30 pregnancy/birth outcomes
- 20 contraceptive use outcomes
- 9 other (e.g. attitudes/preferences for number of children)

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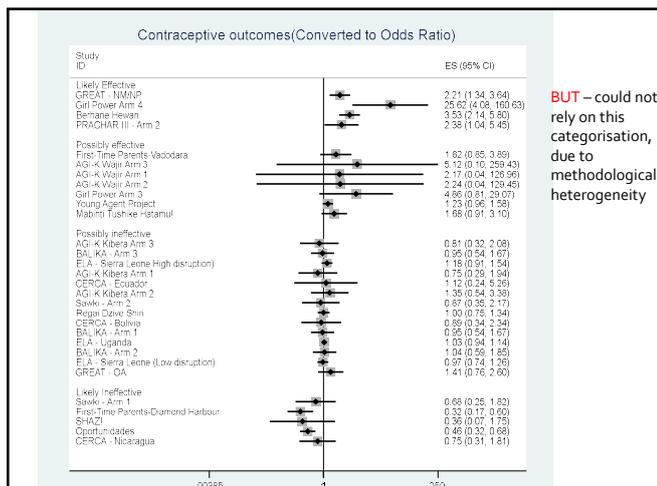
In-depth review focus

Agreed, with advisory group, to focus on studies reporting contraceptive outcomes. Excluded three studies with historical controls.

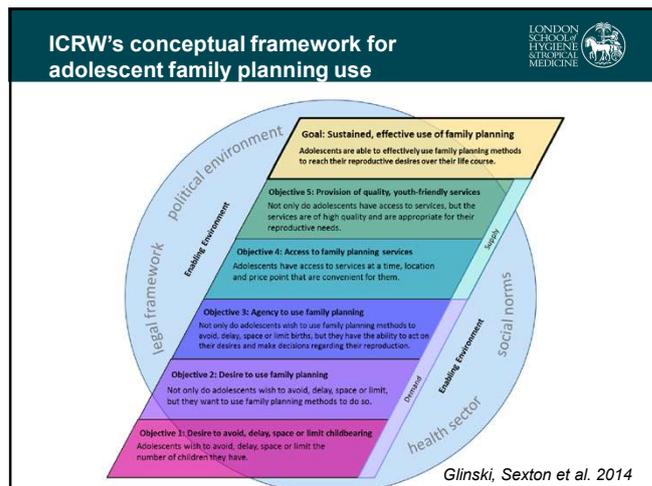
17 studies, with 29 structural intervention arms, were included in this in-depth phase.



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Designing effective interventions

Step 1: Tailor interventions to the adolescents' life stage

Step 2: Assess the baseline situation for each objective

Step 3: Select appropriate intervention activities

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Structural interventions activities

Agency		Example activities
Choice	Opportunities	Livelihoods experience Support for schooling Employment opportunities
	Value beyond motherhood	Vocational support Income generating support
Voice		Community development Communication / negotiation training Gender rights training
Power	To make decisions	Decision-making training Experience of decision-making Economic empowerment
	Within (esteem)	Safe space groups - to build confidence
	With (support)	Safe space groups - to build social network Safe space groups - mentors

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Structural interventions aiming to foster an enabling environment

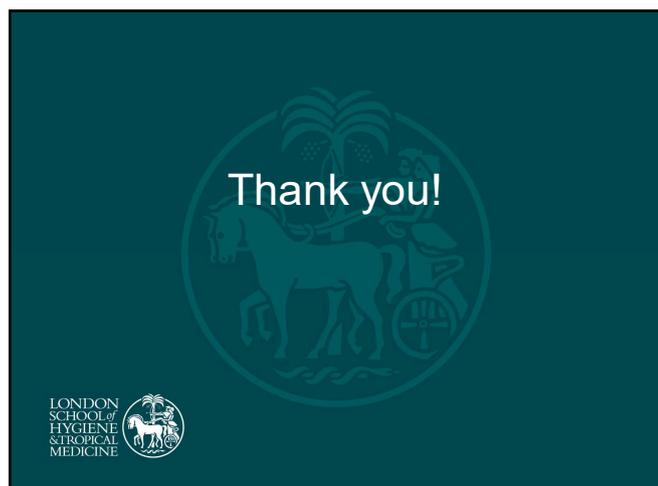
- Active engagement with communities
- Demonstrating girls' value beyond motherhood

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Recommendations

- Outcomes & indicators
- Study design factors
- Understanding *how* interventions work
- Test & refine:
 - this three-step approach
 - this operationalised ICRW framework

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Papers in progress

LONDON SCHOOL of HYGIENE & TROPICAL MEDICINE

- Burchett et al, Structural interventions to enable adolescent contraceptive use in LMICs : a mid-range theory to support intervention development and evaluation
- Burchett et al, Which structural interventions for adolescent contraceptive use have been evaluated in low- and middle-income countries?
- Kneale et al, Can cash transfer interventions increase contraceptive use and reduce adolescent birth and pregnancy in low and middle income countries? A systematic review and meta-analysis

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