

## THE LATEST DATA ON

# FEMALE CONDOM ACCEPTABILITY

**Confirms: Female condoms have high acceptance rates, are in high demand by both women and men, and provide women with triple protection: with the FC2, they have the autonomy to protect themselves from unplanned pregnancy as well as STIs, including HIV & Zika.**

## SOUTH AFRICA

Results from this study were published in the 20th Edition of the South African Health Review. Chapter 14: Twenty years of the female condom programme in South Africa: past, present, and future (Beksinska et al., 2017). For the cohort study (598 females, 60 male partners) interviews were conducted at baseline, and follow-up interviews were conducted at one, six and 12 months.

The FC programme introduced in South Africa 20 years ago is now well established and embedded in the healthcare system; in particular, systems for MC and FC distribution are complementary, with similar ordering and reporting processes.

- Nearly 90% of men and women interviewed had heard of the FC, and approximately 20% had used it.
- **73,4%** Of the current FC users, 73.4% reported **using condoms more often** than before they started using FCs.
- At the 12-month interview, over half (53%) of the male partners reported that they were interested in and willing to try FCs when initially introduced to them by their partners and the majority (57%) said that FCs did not change their sexual experience.
- **97%** At six months into the research, 97% of women reported that their **partners were supportive of using the FC** (rising from 87% at their one-month interview).
- 80% of women at one month felt that FC use placed the woman in charge.
- **8,4%** The level of **unprotected sex** (no MC or FC use) declined from 43.3% at baseline to 8.4% at 12 months.
- The most commonly distributed FC was FC2 (99%), followed by Cupid (34%) and Pleasure More (2%). Female Health Company has provided training support on the FC2 in South Africa ever since it was first introduced.
- **74%** At their one month interview, 58% of **men said that the FC was 'better or much better'** than the MC, and at 12 months this rose to 74%.

## URUGUAY

The FC2 female condom has been available in Uruguay since 2013. A pilot study and pilot scheme were commissioned by UNFPA Uruguay. Results from the **1st pilot study** (The Female Condom Satisfaction Study [Estudio de Satisfacción del Condon Femenino] (ESCF), Montevideo, 2014, 142 female participants):

- Those who used the FC2 rated it highly positive, even though it was practically unknown to the participants.
- **84%** stated that they would **continue using it in the future.**
- According to the women, men also rated the FC2 female condom positively.
- The main advantage for women is that it provides them with autonomy.

Results from the **2nd pilot scheme**, which included training of health care providers, counselling services, guaranteed access and restocking of the product, and M&E of the process (2015, 95 female participants, average age; 29):

- **77%** of the women said the **FC2 was good or very good.**
- Study participants cited greater comfort and practicality and greater protection and safety as the two main advantages of FC2.
- **81%** said that they would **continue using FC2 in the future.**
- 64% of women said they experience no difficulties at all.

Promotion of the FC2 in Uruguay forms part of a series of global and regional activities supporting the Comprehensive Condom Programme (CCP), on behalf of the United Nations System. The encouraging results from the pilot scheme have led to the first procurement of the female condom in the country.



Please note: results of studies summarized by the Female Health Company. Please refer to the original publications for more details, available for free in our online Research Database: [https://fc2femalecondom.com/research\\_database/](https://fc2femalecondom.com/research_database/)  
References: From pilot study to public policy, Promotion and distribution of the female condom in Uruguay. (Lucía Pérez Chabanes) UNFPA Uruguay. Adapted from the original publication 'Experiencias de promoción del condón femenino en Uruguay' (UNFPA Uruguay). Translated by Mimi McQuaid. Twenty years of the female condom programme in South Africa: past, present, and future. Mags Beksinska et al. (chapter 14/p.147 from the South African Health Review, 2017)

