

CHAPTER 6

FAMILY PLANNING

Information about knowledge of family planning and the use of contraceptive methods is of practical use to policymakers and programme administrators for formulating policies and strategies. This chapter begins with an appraisal of women's knowledge of contraceptive methods and knowledge of sources of supply of modern contraceptive methods before moving on to a consideration of current and past family planning practice. Special attention is focused on nonuse, reasons for discontinuation, and intentions to use family planning in the future. The chapter also contains information on exposure to media coverage on family planning and interspousal discussions on family planning, and concludes with an analysis of attitudes toward family planning.

6.1 Knowledge of Family Planning Methods and Sources

Each respondent was asked the following question about her knowledge of family planning, "Now I would like to talk about family planning - the various ways or methods that a couple can use to delay or avoid a pregnancy. Which ways or methods have you heard about?" The respondent was first asked to name all the methods she knew or had heard of, without any prompting. Then the interviewer read out the name and a short description of each method not mentioned, and asked if she knew the method. Thus, the woman's knowledge of contraception is measured at three levels: a) methods the woman thinks of on her own (she can name them spontaneously without probing), b) methods she knows when asked specifically about them (she recognizes the method after probing), and c) methods that she has not heard of. Six modern methods (pills, IUDs, injections, condoms, female sterilization, and male sterilization) were included, as well as two traditional methods (periodic abstinence, or the rhythm method, and withdrawal). Any other methods mentioned by the respondent as a method to avoid a pregnancy, such as herbs and breastfeeding, were also recorded. For each modern method known to the respondent, either spontaneously or after probing, she was asked if she knew where a person could go to get the method. If she reported knowing about the rhythm method, she was asked if she knew where a person could obtain advice on how to use the method.

Table 6.1 presents the extent of knowledge of ever-married women and currently married women as obtained by spontaneous responses (without any probe) and probed responses. Knowledge of family planning is nearly universal in India, with 99 and 94 percent of ever-married respondents in urban and rural areas, respectively, recognizing at least one modern method of family planning (Figure 6.1). Knowledge of at least one modern method among ever-married women is reported spontaneously by 82 percent of urban women and 64 percent of rural women. Effective knowledge of family planning methods is thus lower in rural than in urban areas. Ever-married and currently married women differ little in their knowledge of family planning methods, and the discussion focuses on currently married women for the sake of simplicity.

Knowledge about sterilization is widespread in India. A higher proportion of women are aware of female than male sterilization, with the gap in knowledge of the two methods being especially large in rural areas. Spontaneous knowledge is also higher for female sterilization

Table 6.1 Knowledge of contraceptive methods and source of methods

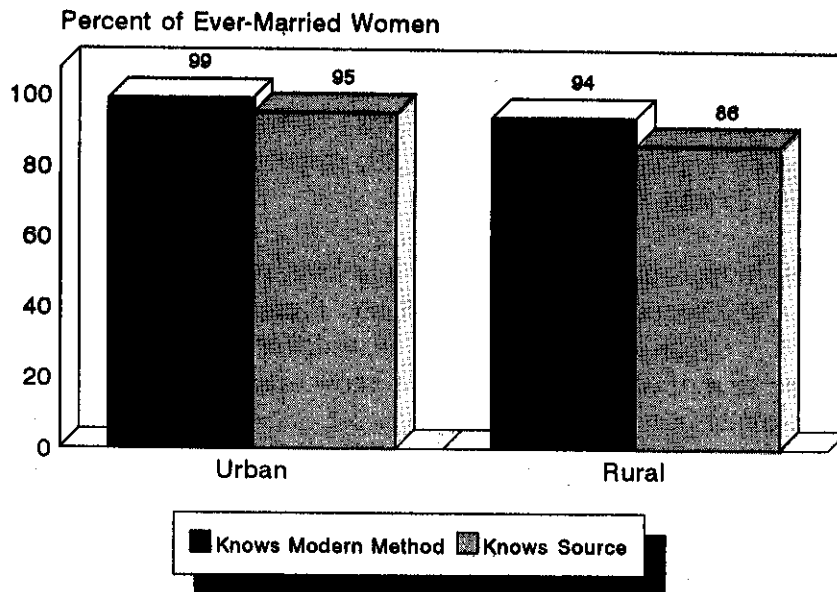
Percentage of ever-married and currently married women knowing any contraceptive method and knowing a source, by specific method and residence, India, 1992-93

Method	Ever-married women				Currently married women			
	Knowing method			Knowing source ¹	Knowing method			Knowing source ¹
	Without probe	With probe	Total		Without probe	With probe	Total	
URBAN								
Any method	82.5	16.1	98.5	95.4	83.3	15.4	98.7	95.6
Any modern method	82.0	16.5	98.5	95.2	82.7	15.9	98.6	95.5
Any modern temporary method	65.5	24.9	90.4	82.3	66.7	24.5	91.2	83.3
Pill	55.0	29.6	84.6	74.1	56.1	29.4	85.5	75.1
Copper T/IUD	49.2	32.9	82.1	72.7	50.2	32.8	83.1	73.8
Injection	8.1	16.6	24.7	19.8	8.2	16.9	25.2	20.3
Condom	47.6	31.5	79.1	69.0	48.7	31.5	80.2	70.2
Female sterilization	66.5	31.1	97.6	92.9	67.1	30.6	97.7	93.1
Male sterilization	43.7	46.9	90.6	84.6	44.2	47.0	91.1	85.1
Any traditional method	15.6	32.3	48.0	NA	16.0	32.8	48.8	NA
Rhythm/periodic abstinence	11.5	31.8	43.3	31.4	11.8	32.2	44.0	31.9
Withdrawal	5.6	20.2	25.8	NA	5.8	20.6	26.4	NA
Other methods	3.7	NA	3.7	NA	3.8	NA	3.8	NA
Number of women	23455	23455	23455	23455	22077	22077	22077	22077
RURAL								
Any method	64.9	29.6	94.5	86.7	65.5	29.3	94.7	87.0
Any modern method	63.8	30.5	94.2	86.2	64.3	30.1	94.5	86.5
Any modern temporary method	33.9	36.1	70.1	56.1	34.5	36.2	70.7	56.8
Pill	25.2	33.5	58.7	45.6	25.7	33.7	59.4	46.2
Copper T/IUD	20.6	31.7	52.4	42.2	21.0	31.9	52.9	42.7
Injection	3.8	13.2	17.0	12.6	3.8	13.4	17.2	12.8
Condom	18.3	31.2	49.4	37.4	18.7	31.5	50.2	38.0
Female sterilization	55.8	37.4	93.2	83.9	56.3	37.2	93.5	84.2
Male sterilization	32.9	48.9	81.8	71.8	33.1	49.0	82.1	72.1
Any traditional method	9.3	26.2	35.5	NA	9.5	26.5	36.0	NA
Rhythm/periodic abstinence	5.7	25.6	31.3	21.9	5.8	25.9	31.7	22.1
Withdrawal	2.2	15.4	17.6	NA	2.2	15.6	17.8	NA
Other methods	3.4	NA	3.4	NA	3.5	NA	3.5	NA
Number of women	66322	66322	66322	66322	62601	62601	62601	62601
TOTAL								
Any method	69.5	26.1	95.5	89.0	70.1	25.7	95.8	89.2
Any modern method	68.5	26.8	95.3	88.6	69.1	26.4	95.5	88.8
Any modern temporary method	42.2	33.2	75.4	63.0	42.9	33.2	76.1	63.7
Pill	33.0	32.5	65.4	53.0	33.6	32.6	66.2	53.7
Copper T/IUD	28.1	32.0	60.1	50.2	28.6	32.1	60.8	50.8
Injection	4.9	14.1	19.0	14.5	5.0	14.3	19.3	14.7
Condom	25.9	31.2	57.2	45.7	26.5	31.5	58.1	46.4
Female sterilization	58.6	35.7	94.3	86.3	59.1	35.5	94.6	86.5
Male sterilization	35.7	48.4	84.1	75.1	36.0	48.5	84.5	75.5
Any traditional method	11.0	27.8	38.8	NA	11.2	28.1	39.3	NA
Rhythm/periodic abstinence	7.2	27.2	34.4	24.3	7.3	27.5	34.9	24.7
Withdrawal	3.1	16.7	19.7	NA	3.2	16.9	20.1	NA
Other methods	3.5	NA	3.5	NA	3.6	NA	3.6	NA
Number of women	89777	89777	89777	89777	84678	84678	84678	84678

NA: Not applicable

¹For modern methods, the source refers to a place that a person could go to get the method. For rhythm/periodic abstinence, the source refers to a source of advice on how to use periodic abstinence.

Figure 6.1
Knowledge of Modern Contraceptive
Methods and Sources by Residence



NFHS, India, 1992-93

than male sterilization in both urban and rural areas.

In contrast to widespread knowledge of sterilization, knowledge of the three officially sponsored temporary methods, namely, the IUD, the pill, and the condom, is much less widespread. Nearly one-fourth of currently married women do not know any of the modern temporary methods, this proportion being higher in rural (29 percent) than in urban areas (9 percent). The most well known among the modern temporary methods is the pill (reported by 66 percent of currently married women), followed by the IUD (61 percent) and condoms (58 percent). Injections are the least known modern method, with only 19 percent reporting knowledge of them¹.

In India, traditional methods of contraception are generally less well known than modern methods. Thirty-nine percent of currently married women report knowledge of these methods, with periodic abstinence being better known (35 percent) than withdrawal (20 percent). The table reveals that probing was often needed to elicit complete knowledge about contraceptive methods, especially traditional methods.

¹ For a method with negligible use in India, it is perhaps surprising that 19 percent of women say they have heard of the method. One possible explanation for the unexpectedly high reported knowledge of contraceptive injections in North India is that the Hindi word for injections (*sui*) is also often used in reference to IUD insertions.

The Third All India Survey on Family Planning Practices in India, conducted in 1988-89 (Operations Research Group, 1990), which studied currently married women age 15-44, reached broadly similar conclusions about women's awareness of specific methods. Comparing the two surveys and recognizing that the NFHS was done almost three years later than the Third All India Survey, the proportion of women having knowledge of condoms and male sterilization were found to be lower in the NFHS (58 and 85 percent, respectively) than in the Third All India Survey (66 and 89 percent). The proportion of women having knowledge of female sterilization is exactly the same in both surveys, and, the NFHS estimates of the proportion of women having knowledge of the other major methods (the IUD, the pill, periodic abstinence and withdrawal) are slightly higher (61, 66, 35 and 20, respectively) than those in the Third All India Survey (55, 60, 27 and 17, respectively).

In the NFHS, urban-rural differentials in the level of knowledge are most pronounced for the pill, the IUD, and condoms, with knowledge of these methods greater among urban than among rural women. Urban and rural women also differ in their knowledge of traditional methods. Only 36 percent of women in rural areas know of a traditional method, compared with nearly one-half of women in urban areas.

Table 6.1 also provides information about knowledge of sources of contraceptive methods. The question about the source of a method was asked only of those women who knew about the method. Knowledge about the sources of contraceptives is generally high, with more than 89 percent of currently married women knowing where to obtain at least one modern method of family planning. Women are most knowledgeable about a source for sterilizations, especially female sterilization. In comparison, 64 percent of the women know where to obtain a modern temporary method. Regardless of the method, urban women are more likely to know of a contraceptive source than rural women.

Table 6.2 shows differentials in knowledge of modern contraceptive methods and sources of methods among currently married women according to background characteristics. In terms of the respondent's age, the level of knowledge increases with age through age 30-34 and stays very high through age 45-49 years. Particularly noticeable, in this context, is the relatively low level of knowledge among women age 13-14. More than one-third of women age 13-14 either do not know about any modern method of family planning or are not aware of the source of any method. The proportion of such women is also relatively high (20 percent) among women age 15-19. The level of knowledge of at least one modern method of contraception increases with the level of education. Although the knowledge of contraception is widespread, it is lowest among illiterate women. Six percent of illiterate women do not know about a modern method and 16 percent are ignorant about the source. Knowledge about a modern method is slightly higher among Sikh, Jain and Buddhist women and is lower among scheduled tribe women.

Interstate variations in the knowledge of contraception are shown in Table 6.3. Knowledge of any modern method is widespread in all states except Nagaland, where only 44 percent of women reported having knowledge of any modern method. Knowledge of any modern method is also relatively low in two other northeastern states (Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya). Among the major states (with a population more than 5 million), the proportion of women knowing at least one modern method ranges from a low of 87 percent in Rajasthan to nearly 100 percent in Kerala and Punjab. The situation is similar in terms of knowledge of

Table 6.2 Knowledge of methods and source by background characteristics

Percentage of currently married women knowing any contraceptive method and at least one modern method and knowing a source for a modern method by selected background characteristics, India, 1992-93

Background characteristic	Knows any method	Knows any modern method ¹	Knows source for any modern method	Number of women
Age				
13-14	77.8	76.9	65.8	351
15-19	90.4	90.2	79.9	8897
20-24	95.1	94.8	86.4	17504
25-29	96.5	96.3	90.3	16807
30-34	97.6	97.4	92.0	13900
35-39	97.2	97.0	92.0	11596
40-44	97.0	96.9	91.1	8725
45-49	95.7	95.6	89.4	6896
Residence				
Urban	98.7	98.6	95.5	22077
Rural	94.7	94.5	86.5	62601
Education				
Illiterate	93.9	93.5	84.1	53045
Lit., < middle complete	98.3	98.3	95.2	15476
Middle school complete	99.3	99.3	97.0	6280
High school and above	99.7	99.7	98.9	9879
Religion				
Hindu	95.6	95.4	88.7	69635
Muslim	96.8	96.6	87.5	10082
Christian	93.5	93.2	90.5	1960
Sikh	99.6	99.6	98.1	1606
Jain	99.7	99.7	99.2	418
Buddhist	97.1	97.1	95.4	665
Other	84.5	84.5	75.8	312
Caste/tribe				
Scheduled caste	95.7	95.4	86.7	10350
Scheduled tribe	85.5	85.0	75.9	7422
Other	96.9	96.7	90.6	66906
Total	95.8	95.5	88.8	84678

¹Includes pill, copper T/IUD, injections, condoms, female sterilization and male sterilization

female sterilization. In fact, except in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, where 85 percent of women reported knowledge of female sterilization, in all the other major states more than 90 percent of women know about female sterilization. Interstate variations in the knowledge of contraception are more pronounced in the case of modern temporary methods. Less than two-thirds of women reported knowledge of any modern temporary method in Nagaland, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Meghalaya, compared to more than 90 percent of women in Haryana, West Bengal, Punjab, Tripura, Kerala and Delhi. Among the modern temporary methods, the pill is relatively well known. This is particularly true in Tripura and West Bengal where knowledge of the pill is much higher than knowledge of either IUDs or condoms. This is not surprising because the use of pills is also higher in these two states than in any other Indian state (see Table 6.7). In states such as Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Orissa, more than half of women report that they have not heard of the

Table 6.3 Knowledge of contraceptive methods by state

Percentage of currently married women age 13-49 knowing any contraceptive method by specific method and state, India, 1992-93

State	Any method	Any modern method	Any modern temporary method	Pill	IUD	Injection	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Any traditional method	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Other methods
India	95.8	95.5	76.1	66.2	60.8	19.3	58.1	94.6	84.5	39.3	34.9	20.1	3.6
North													
Delhi	99.0	98.9	96.8	94.3	93.4	34.9	93.7	97.5	95.3	59.3	54.6	31.1	5.6
Haryana	99.4	99.4	90.6	76.2	80.0	45.8	75.9	99.2	98.2	58.7	46.5	41.9	4.2
Himachal Pradesh	99.1	98.9	88.4	70.1	73.7	45.6	74.1	98.1	95.7	61.0	49.1	37.3	9.9
Jammu Region of J & K	99.7	99.6	88.5	76.6	74.3	51.1	74.9	99.4	98.0	72.0	59.5	53.5	2.4
Punjab	99.8	99.8	94.0	83.9	87.5	47.2	82.1	99.7	99.1	64.1	56.0	41.5	1.5
Rajasthan	87.5	87.2	58.8	53.1	46.4	23.4	37.7	85.3	70.9	27.5	23.8	14.5	1.4
Central													
Madhya Pradesh	88.1	87.8	57.4	51.3	42.3	12.7	42.3	85.4	76.5	19.7	17.7	5.3	2.6
Uttar Pradesh	95.7	95.2	80.1	64.7	56.2	25.0	67.2	93.7	88.2	36.7	34.3	12.9	2.6
East													
Bihar	94.9	94.9	68.4	57.3	44.1	4.2	54.6	94.5	88.0	29.4	26.0	9.4	1.8
Orissa	92.9	92.5	60.7	52.1	48.0	7.4	34.6	91.7	72.2	33.9	27.4	9.5	7.4
West Bengal	99.1	98.8	90.9	85.6	68.2	42.5	67.6	98.0	84.8	72.5	62.0	55.4	5.0
Northeast													
Arunachal Pradesh	77.7	77.7	62.9	55.2	52.6	28.7	39.6	75.1	47.8	27.2	25.4	17.6	0.6
Assam	97.5	96.9	82.2	72.9	60.8	39.0	59.2	96.2	83.9	79.2	71.0	61.0	9.6
Manipur	93.6	93.0	87.9	77.9	81.0	5.6	60.3	87.7	87.4	72.4	71.2	44.4	3.9
Meghalaya	78.0	76.9	64.7	58.5	49.3	9.7	47.7	71.9	46.5	43.5	35.5	17.7	15.7
Mizoram	98.1	98.1	86.2	70.1	76.2	1.8	61.0	98.0	71.3	43.7	36.2	30.7	0.3
Nagaland	44.4	44.3	36.7	24.9	24.2	15.9	29.0	30.4	20.9	10.7	9.7	9.3	0.8
Tripura	99.7	99.7	95.4	93.9	65.0	42.1	68.1	99.4	89.2	85.7	75.8	68.8	7.8
West													
Goa	98.9	98.8	89.9	80.6	76.3	20.7	73.1	97.7	72.8	45.6	41.6	24.1	2.9
Gujarat	96.6	96.4	77.0	65.9	71.4	22.8	62.7	95.6	78.6	45.9	43.3	24.4	1.7
Maharashtra	97.8	97.8	76.8	67.1	70.7	8.1	57.3	97.3	83.6	23.3	21.3	8.4	2.0
South													
Andhra Pradesh	96.7	96.6	61.2	53.7	43.7	12.8	41.9	95.7	89.7	14.6	11.3	2.9	3.5
Karnataka	98.9	98.8	83.8	75.1	78.0	5.4	50.0	98.6	81.1	41.1	38.8	15.0	6.4
Kerala	99.7	99.7	96.6	87.1	90.3	13.0	91.0	99.3	90.0	72.6	66.1	50.7	2.7
Tamil Nadu	99.1	99.1	85.6	74.5	77.8	12.6	61.0	98.8	86.0	46.2	39.0	23.7	6.6

IUD. Knowledge of condoms is particularly low in Orissa, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland. Injections, which are not included in the official family welfare programme, are the least known modern method in every state.

6.2 Contraceptive Use

Ever Use of Family Planning Methods

All respondents who knew at least one method of family planning were asked whether they had ever used each of the methods they knew. The use of contraception was further probed by asking whether they "ever used anything or tried in any way to delay or avoid getting pregnant". Table 6.4 presents the pattern of ever use by age and residence separately for ever-married and currently married women.

Although 96 percent of currently married women know of at least one method of family planning, only 47 percent have ever used a method. Modern methods have been used by 42 percent of currently married women and traditional methods by 12 percent. By far the most commonly used method is female sterilization, which has been adopted by 27 percent of currently married women. Male sterilization has been used by 4 percent of couples. Modern temporary methods such as IUDs, pills, and condoms have each been used by only 5-7 percent.

Table 6.4 Ever use of contraception

Percentage of ever-married and currently married women who have ever used any contraceptive method, by specific method and age, according to residence, India, 1992-93

Age	Any method	Any modern method	Any modern temporary method	Pill	IUD	Injection	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Any trad. method	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Other methods	Number of women
URBAN														
Ever-married women														
13-14	(11.2)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(11.2)	(11.2)	(--)	(--)	42
15-19	14.9	11.9	10.9	3.7	2.7	0.1	5.8	1.2	0.1	4.7	3.1	3.2	0.2	1376
20-24	36.1	31.7	23.6	7.3	9.2	0.2	12.1	9.5	0.3	8.8	6.0	4.5	0.5	4229
25-29	60.6	54.8	33.2	10.1	13.8	0.3	18.0	26.2	1.0	16.1	11.5	8.5	0.9	4705
30-34	70.3	64.7	32.3	10.4	14.3	0.4	17.9	38.8	2.3	17.1	12.4	8.1	1.2	4291
35-39	73.8	68.1	26.5	9.3	10.6	0.2	14.3	46.7	4.6	16.8	12.3	7.7	1.5	3715
40-44	66.7	60.8	18.2	7.3	6.1	0.3	9.5	41.9	7.5	14.4	10.6	6.0	1.1	2899
45-49	59.5	52.9	15.8	5.9	4.1	0.2	9.1	32.1	10.6	15.3	11.8	7.0	0.9	2197
Total	57.9	52.5	25.4	8.4	10.0	0.3	13.7	29.7	3.3	14.1	10.2	6.8	1.0	23455
Currently married women														
13-14	(11.2)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(11.2)	(11.2)	(--)	(--)	42
15-19	15.1	12.1	11.2	3.8	2.8	0.1	5.9	1.1	0.1	4.8	3.2	3.2	0.2	1339
20-24	36.6	32.1	24.2	7.4	9.5	0.2	12.3	9.5	0.3	9.0	6.2	4.6	0.5	4116
25-29	61.7	55.8	34.1	10.4	14.2	0.3	18.5	26.5	1.0	16.2	11.6	8.6	0.9	4553
30-34	72.3	66.5	33.5	10.8	14.8	0.4	18.5	40.0	2.2	17.8	12.9	8.4	1.3	4082
35-39	75.7	70.0	27.4	9.7	10.9	0.2	14.9	47.9	4.7	17.3	12.7	8.0	1.6	3493
40-44	70.1	64.0	19.4	7.7	6.6	0.3	10.0	44.3	7.7	15.4	11.3	6.5	1.2	2603
45-49	63.4	56.4	17.2	6.5	4.6	0.1	9.7	34.1	11.1	16.4	12.7	7.3	1.0	1849
Total	59.4	53.9	26.5	8.7	10.5	0.3	14.3	30.4	3.3	14.6	10.6	7.0	1.0	22077

Table 6.4 Ever use of contraception (Contd.)

Percentage of ever-married and currently married women who have ever used any contraceptive method, by specific method and age, according to residence, India, 1992-93

Age	Any method	Any modern method	Any modern temporary method	Pill	IUD	Injection	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Any trad. method	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Other methods	Number of women
RURAL														
Ever-married women														
13-14	6.5	2.0	2.0	0.6	--	--	1.4	--	--	4.5	3.2	3.4	--	311
15-19	11.0	5.7	4.4	1.9	0.7	0.1	2.3	1.3	--	6.5	4.8	3.4	0.1	7719
20-24	26.4	20.6	10.4	4.4	3.0	0.2	5.1	10.8	0.4	9.4	7.1	4.7	0.3	13755
25-29	44.7	39.2	12.6	5.2	4.6	0.1	5.8	28.3	1.3	11.2	8.5	5.4	0.7	12735
30-34	56.6	51.3	12.3	5.0	4.4	0.2	5.7	40.2	3.1	12.1	9.3	5.3	1.3	10369
35-39	58.9	53.8	9.8	4.3	3.2	0.3	4.4	41.6	6.1	12.2	9.4	5.1	1.0	8746
40-44	54.5	49.2	7.3	2.8	2.1	0.4	3.6	35.9	9.3	10.8	8.5	4.2	1.0	6850
45-49	45.4	40.8	4.6	1.7	1.5	0.1	2.0	27.4	10.9	8.5	6.4	3.4	0.8	5838
Total	41.6	36.2	9.5	3.9	3.0	0.2	4.5	25.7	3.5	10.2	7.8	4.7	0.7	66322
Currently married women														
13-14	6.5	2.0	2.0	0.6	--	--	1.4	--	--	4.5	3.2	3.5	--	309
15-19	11.2	5.7	4.5	1.9	0.7	0.1	2.4	1.3	--	6.6	4.9	3.5	0.1	7558
20-24	26.7	20.8	10.6	4.5	3.1	0.2	5.2	10.8	0.4	9.5	7.2	4.8	0.3	13388
25-29	45.7	40.1	13.0	5.4	4.7	0.2	6.0	28.8	1.3	11.4	8.7	5.5	0.7	12254
30-34	57.9	52.6	12.6	5.2	4.5	0.2	5.8	41.3	3.1	12.3	9.4	5.4	1.3	9818
35-39	61.0	55.8	10.3	4.5	3.4	0.3	4.6	43.1	6.2	12.6	9.6	5.4	1.1	8104
40-44	57.3	52.1	7.8	3.1	2.2	0.4	3.8	38.0	9.7	11.1	8.8	4.5	1.0	6122
45-49	48.3	43.7	5.1	2.0	1.7	0.1	2.2	29.3	11.6	8.8	6.6	3.6	0.9	5047
Total	42.5	37.1	9.9	4.1	3.2	0.2	4.6	26.3	3.5	10.4	8.0	4.8	0.7	62601
TOTAL														
Ever-married women														
13-14	7.1	1.8	1.8	0.5	--	--	1.3	--	--	5.3	4.1	3.0	--	352
15-19	11.6	6.6	5.4	2.2	1.0	0.1	2.8	1.3	0.1	6.2	4.6	3.4	0.1	9095
20-24	28.6	23.2	13.5	5.1	4.5	0.2	6.8	10.5	0.4	9.2	6.8	4.7	0.4	17983
25-29	49.0	43.4	18.2	6.5	7.0	0.2	9.1	27.7	1.2	12.5	9.3	6.2	0.8	17441
30-34	60.6	55.2	18.2	6.6	7.3	0.2	9.3	39.8	2.9	13.6	10.2	6.1	1.2	14660
35-39	63.3	58.1	14.8	5.8	5.4	0.2	7.4	43.1	5.7	13.6	10.3	5.9	1.2	12461
40-44	58.1	52.6	10.5	4.2	3.3	0.3	5.4	37.7	8.7	11.8	9.1	4.8	1.0	9748
45-49	49.2	44.1	7.7	2.9	2.2	0.1	3.9	28.7	10.8	10.3	7.9	4.3	0.9	8036
Total	45.9	40.5	13.7	5.1	4.9	0.2	6.9	26.8	3.5	11.2	8.5	5.2	0.8	89777
Currently married women														
13-14	7.1	1.8	1.8	0.5	--	--	1.3	--	--	5.3	4.1	3.0	--	351
15-19	11.8	6.7	5.5	2.2	1.0	0.1	2.9	1.3	0.1	6.3	4.7	3.4	0.1	8897
20-24	29.0	23.5	13.8	5.2	4.6	0.2	6.9	10.5	0.4	9.4	7.0	4.8	0.4	17504
25-29	50.0	44.3	18.7	6.7	7.3	0.2	9.4	28.2	1.2	12.7	9.5	6.3	0.8	16807
30-34	62.2	56.7	18.8	6.8	7.5	0.2	9.5	40.9	2.8	13.9	10.4	6.3	1.3	13900
35-39	65.4	60.1	15.5	6.1	5.6	0.3	7.7	44.6	5.7	14.0	10.6	6.2	1.3	11596
40-44	61.1	55.6	11.2	4.5	3.5	0.4	5.7	39.9	9.1	12.4	9.5	5.1	1.1	8725
45-49	52.4	47.1	8.3	3.2	2.4	0.1	4.2	30.6	11.5	10.8	8.2	4.6	0.9	6896
Total	46.9	41.5	14.2	5.3	5.1	0.2	7.1	27.3	3.5	11.5	8.6	5.4	0.8	84678

() Based on 25-49 unweighted cases
 -- Less than 0.05 percent

The pattern of use suggests very little switching among the modern temporary methods. Less than 4 percent of women have ever used more than one spacing method. As expected, ever use of contraceptive methods is higher in urban than in rural areas (59 percent compared with 43 percent of currently married women; see Figure 6.2). This is true for every contraceptive method except male sterilization, but the difference is particularly large for modern temporary methods. The proportion of women who have ever used a modern temporary method is almost three times as high in urban areas (27 percent) as in rural areas (10 percent). The use of more than one modern temporary method is also higher in urban areas than in rural areas. Ever use of traditional methods is also somewhat higher in urban areas (15 percent) than in rural areas (10 percent).

In terms of differences by age, experience with having used contraception rises through age 35-39 and gradually decreases thereafter. Contraceptive use rates are highest in the age group 30-39, where knowledge is also reported to be highest. A very low use rate, even for modern temporary methods, is observed among younger married women age less than 20. Only 2 and 6 percent of women age 13-14 and 15-19, respectively, reported ever use of any modern temporary method. The use of traditional methods is also low in these two age groups, although it is higher than the use of modern temporary methods. Male sterilization is the only method that increases steadily throughout the age range. The relatively large proportion of male sterilizations in the older age groups undoubtedly reflects the large number of vasectomies that were performed 15-20 years before the survey.

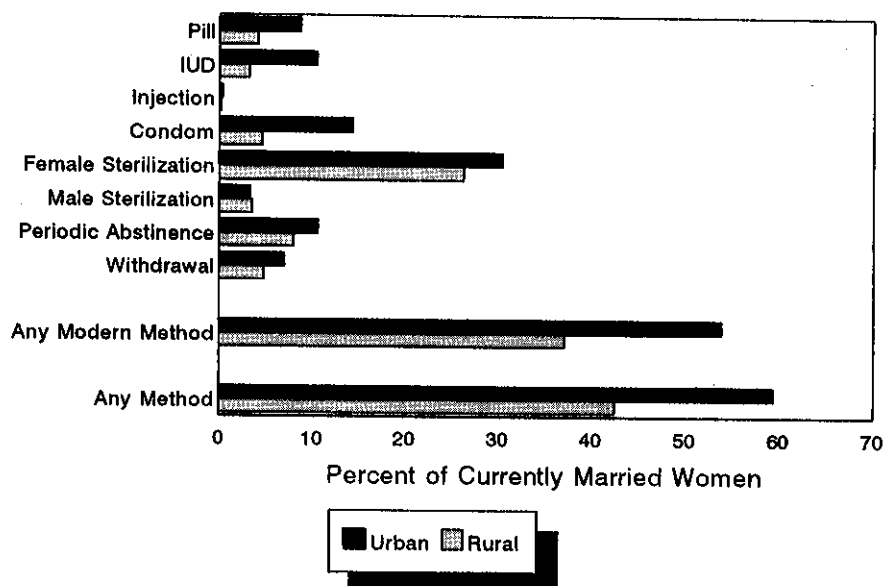
The age pattern of ever use of modern methods of family planning is similar for urban and rural women, peaking in the 35-39 age group. At every age, however, the level of ever use is higher for urban than for rural women.

Current Use of Family Planning Methods

Current contraceptive prevalence in India is moderate with 41 percent of currently married women age 13-49 practising family planning; 36 percent use modern methods (31 percent using sterilization and 6 percent using modern temporary methods) and another 4 percent use traditional methods (Table 6.5)². Most of the currently married women who have ever used contraception are current users (41 out of 47 percent). The overall level of contraceptive use is almost the same as the combined level of 42 percent for all less developed countries excluding China (Population Reference Bureau, 1994). The NFHS estimate of current contraceptive prevalence is somewhat lower than that obtained in the 1988-89 Third All India Survey on Family Planning Practices in India (Operations Research Group, 1990). That survey (which covered currently married women age 15-44 only) found a contraceptive prevalence rate of 45 percent for India, with 40 percent using modern methods and 5 percent using traditional methods. When the NFHS sample is restricted by age to match the All India Survey's sample, the prevalence rate is 40 percent, with 36 percent using modern methods. The percentage of couples sterilized is almost identical in the two surveys (between 30 and 31 percent). The estimates in the two surveys are also close in the case of pills (around 1 percent) and IUDs (2

² In the NFHS, no specific reference period was defined for current use. The woman was asked whether she or her husband was currently using a method.

Figure 6.2
Ever Use of Contraception by
Residence



NFHS, India, 1992-93

percent). Therefore, the difference between the overall contraceptive prevalence rates estimated in the NFHS and the Third All India Survey is largely in the reported use of condoms, which was 5 percent in the Third All India Survey and less than 3 percent in the NFHS. The NFHS sterilization figures are also very close to the unpublished official statistics for 1993 (Evaluation and Information Division, Department of Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare), according to which 30 percent of couples in the country are protected through sterilization compared with 31 percent in the NFHS.

Table 6.5 shows that female sterilization is the most popular contraceptive method in India. Twenty-seven percent of currently married women are sterilized and female sterilization alone accounts for 67 percent of current contraceptive prevalence. Another 3 percent of currently married women report that their husbands are sterilized, and 2 percent each report the use of IUDs and condoms. The pill is used by only 1 percent of currently married women. The preponderance of terminal methods is commensurate with the emphasis on sterilization in the Indian family planning programme.

Contraceptive prevalence is 38 percent higher in urban than in rural areas (51 percent compared with 37 percent), with urban use higher for every single method of family planning, except male sterilization. In rural areas, however, male and female sterilization together account for a higher proportion of total contraceptive use among women age 15-49 (81 percent) than they do in urban areas (66 percent). As expected, the use of modern temporary methods is higher in urban areas (12 percent) than rural areas (3 percent).

Table 6.5 Current use of contraception

Percent distribution of currently married women by contraceptive method currently used, according to age and residence, India, 1992-93

Age	Any method	Any modern method	Any modern temporary method	Pill	IUD	In-jection	Con-dom	Female ster-il-ization	Male ster-il-ization	Any trad. method	Peri-odic absti-nence	With-drawal	Other meth-ods	Not using any method	Total per-cent	Number of women
URBAN																
13-14	(10.6)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(10.6)	(10.6)	(--)	(--)	(89.4)	100.0	42
15-19	9.8	7.7	6.6	1.7	1.7	--	3.2	1.1	0.1	2.1	0.5	1.4	0.2	90.2	100.0	1339
20-24	26.7	23.0	13.2	2.2	4.6	--	6.4	9.5	0.3	3.7	2.5	1.0	0.1	73.3	100.0	4116
25-29	51.2	44.9	17.4	3.1	6.2	--	8.1	26.5	1.0	6.3	3.6	2.7	0.1	48.8	100.0	4553
30-34	64.2	57.3	15.2	2.2	5.3	0.1	7.5	40.0	2.2	6.9	4.0	2.6	0.3	35.8	100.0	4082
35-39	70.5	62.5	9.9	1.5	3.3	--	5.1	47.9	4.7	8.0	5.0	2.5	0.5	29.5	100.0	3493
40-44	63.5	57.5	5.5	0.8	1.1	--	3.6	44.3	7.6	6.1	3.5	2.3	0.2	36.5	100.0	2603
45-49	51.8	47.4	2.2	0.5	0.4	--	1.4	34.1	11.0	4.5	3.2	0.9	0.3	48.2	100.0	1849
15-44	51.0	45.2	12.6	2.1	4.2	--	6.2	30.1	2.5	5.9	3.5	2.2	0.2	49.0	100.0	20186
15-49	51.1	45.3	11.7	1.9	3.9	--	5.8	30.4	3.2	5.8	3.5	2.1	0.2	48.9	100.0	22035
13-49	51.0	45.3	11.7	1.9	3.9	--	5.8	30.4	3.2	5.8	3.5	2.1	0.2	49.0	100.0	22077
RURAL																
13-14	3.9	1.0	1.0	0.4	--	--	0.6	--	--	3.0	1.8	1.2	--	96.1	100.0	309
15-19	6.6	3.4	2.0	0.6	0.4	--	0.9	1.3	--	3.3	2.1	1.2	0.1	93.4	100.0	7558
20-24	19.3	15.6	4.3	1.4	1.4	--	1.5	10.8	0.4	3.7	2.3	1.4	--	80.7	100.0	13388
25-29	39.1	35.1	5.1	1.4	1.9	--	1.7	28.8	1.3	4.0	2.4	1.3	0.2	60.9	100.0	12254
30-34	52.4	48.3	3.8	0.9	1.4	--	1.5	41.3	3.1	4.1	2.6	1.1	0.4	47.6	100.0	9818
35-39	56.9	52.3	3.0	0.8	1.2	0.1	1.0	43.1	6.2	4.6	2.9	1.4	0.3	43.1	100.0	8104
40-44	53.2	49.3	1.6	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.7	38.0	9.7	3.9	2.5	1.0	0.4	46.8	100.0	6122
45-49	43.6	41.8	0.9	0.2	0.3	--	0.4	29.3	11.6	1.8	0.9	0.6	0.2	56.4	100.0	5047
15-44	36.5	32.6	3.6	1.0	1.2	--	1.3	26.1	2.8	3.9	2.5	1.2	0.2	63.5	100.0	57244
15-49	37.1	33.3	3.4	0.9	1.2	--	1.2	26.4	3.5	3.8	2.3	1.2	0.2	62.9	100.0	62291
13-49	36.9	33.1	3.4	0.9	1.2	--	1.2	26.3	3.5	3.8	2.3	1.2	0.2	63.1	100.0	62601
TOTAL																
13-14	4.7	0.8	0.8	0.3	--	--	0.5	--	--	3.9	2.8	1.0	--	95.3	100.0	351
15-19	7.1	4.0	2.7	0.8	0.6	--	1.2	1.3	0.1	3.1	1.8	1.2	0.1	92.9	100.0	8897
20-24	21.0	17.3	6.4	1.6	2.1	--	2.7	10.5	0.4	3.7	2.3	1.3	0.1	79.0	100.0	17504
25-29	42.4	37.8	8.4	1.9	3.1	--	3.5	28.2	1.2	4.6	2.7	1.7	0.2	57.6	100.0	16807
30-34	55.9	50.9	7.2	1.3	2.6	--	3.2	40.9	2.8	4.9	3.0	1.5	0.4	44.1	100.0	13900
35-39	61.0	55.4	5.1	1.0	1.8	--	2.2	44.6	5.7	5.6	3.5	1.7	0.4	39.0	100.0	11596
40-44	56.3	51.7	2.7	0.4	0.7	0.1	1.6	39.9	9.1	4.5	2.8	1.4	0.3	43.7	100.0	8725
45-49	45.8	43.3	1.3	0.3	0.3	--	0.7	30.6	11.4	2.5	1.5	0.7	0.3	54.2	100.0	6896
15-44	40.3	35.8	5.9	1.3	2.0	--	2.6	27.2	2.7	4.4	2.7	1.5	0.2	59.7	100.0	77430
15-49	40.7	36.5	5.6	1.2	1.9	--	2.4	27.4	3.5	4.3	2.6	1.4	0.2	59.3	100.0	84326
13-49	40.6	36.3	5.5	1.2	1.9	--	2.4	27.3	3.4	4.3	2.6	1.4	0.2	59.4	100.0	84678

() Based on 25-49 unweighted cases

-- Less than 0.05 percent

The level of contraceptive use varies with the age of women, increasing from 5 percent for currently married women age 13-14 to a high of 61 percent for women age 35-39, and decreasing thereafter. In the age groups with the highest fertility (20-24 and 25-29), contraceptive prevalence rates are 21 and 42 percent, respectively. Among modern methods, female sterilization is the most widely used method above age 20, and its use peaks in the age group 35-39 (at 45 percent). The use rate of most of the modern methods, especially female sterilization, shows an expected curvilinear relationship with age. The temporary methods (pills, IUDs, injections, condoms, periodic abstinence and withdrawal) are each consistently used by less than 4 percent of couples at all ages. The low use rate of any method at early ages and the lack of use of temporary methods suggest that very little attempt is being made by women to space their children. The age pattern of the current use of contraception is similar for urban and rural women, peaking in the age group 35-39. At every age, however, current use is higher for urban than for rural women.

Socioeconomic Differentials in Current Use of Family Planning

Table 6.6 and Figure 6.3 show differences in current contraceptive use by background characteristics. Education has a positive relationship to current use, although the differences are most evident between illiterate women and women with the lowest level of education (literate but primary school not completed). Further increases in the contraceptive use rate with education are marginal. A little more than one-third of illiterate women currently use a family planning method, compared to 51-55 percent of literate women. A strong positive relationship between education and the level of current use is seen for spacing methods, both for modern and traditional methods. The use of sterilization, however, decreases with an increase in education among literate women, although female sterilization is also lower among illiterate women than among women with less than a high school education. Since female sterilization is the most dominant method, this curvilinear relationship tends to weaken the otherwise strong positive relationship between the level of education and the current use of any method. It should also be noted that women with the highest levels of education come disproportionately from the younger age groups, where the use of contraception is generally lower.

Religious differences in the use of contraception are even more substantial than the differences by education. The prevalence rate is highest among Jains (63 percent) and lowest among Muslims (28 percent). Contraceptive prevalence is also higher among Sikhs (58 percent), Buddhists (50 percent), and Christians (48 percent) than among Hindus (42 percent). The use of modern temporary methods is particularly high among Jains and Sikhs. Twenty-two percent of Jains and 17 percent of Sikhs are using a modern temporary method compared to only 4-7 percent among other religious groups. The prevalence of female sterilization does not differ much among most religious groups, except for the fact that it is very low among Muslims and the small proportion of women belonging to "other" religious groups. The proportion of women and men who have been sterilized is twice as high for Hindus as for Muslims. Religious differentials in contraceptive use may be partly an artifact of the relationship between the level of education and contraceptive use. That is, a portion of these differentials may disappear once the level of education of women is controlled. Further discussion on this issue is presented later in this chapter.

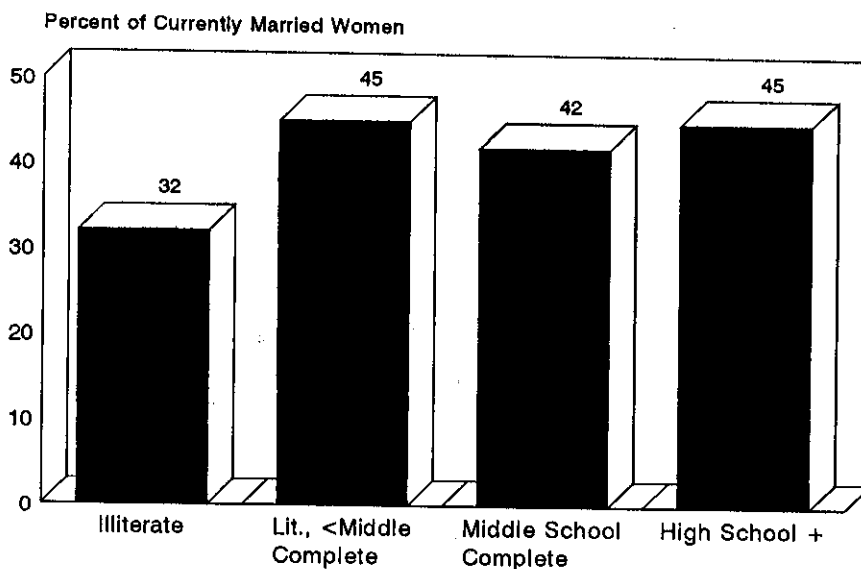
Table 6.6 Current use by background characteristics

Percent distribution of currently married women by contraceptive method currently used, according to selected background characteristics, India, 1992-93

Background characteristic	Any method	Any modern method	Any modern temporary method	Pill	IUD	Injection	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Any method	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Other methods	Not using any method	Total per cent	Number of women
Residence																
Urban	51.0	45.3	11.7	1.9	3.9	--	5.8	30.4	3.2	5.8	3.5	2.1	0.2	49.0	100.0	22077
Rural	36.9	33.1	3.4	0.9	1.2	--	1.2	26.3	3.5	3.8	2.3	1.2	0.2	63.1	100.0	62601
Education																
Illiterate	33.9	31.5	2.1	0.6	0.6	--	0.8	25.7	3.7	2.4	1.6	0.6	0.2	66.1	100.0	53045
Literate, < middle school	50.4	44.8	6.1	1.7	2.2	--	2.2	35.1	3.7	5.5	3.2	2.1	0.2	49.6	100.0	15476
Middle school complete	50.8	42.4	9.5	2.3	3.3	--	3.8	30.1	2.8	8.5	4.9	3.4	0.1	49.2	100.0	6280
High school and above	54.7	45.0	20.9	2.8	7.3	--	10.7	22.0	2.1	9.7	5.9	3.4	0.3	45.3	100.0	9879
Religion																
Hindu	41.6	37.7	5.1	1.0	1.7	--	2.2	29.0	3.7	3.9	2.4	1.3	0.2	58.4	100.0	69635
Muslim	27.7	22.0	6.1	1.9	1.7	--	2.4	14.4	1.6	5.7	3.7	1.6	0.4	72.3	100.0	10082
Christian	48.3	40.3	6.5	1.2	2.5	--	2.8	30.2	3.6	8.0	5.2	2.2	0.6	51.7	100.0	1960
Sikh	57.6	50.0	17.0	2.5	6.4	--	8.1	30.3	2.6	7.6	4.2	3.3	--	42.4	100.0	1606
Jain	62.6	58.3	22.3	2.1	7.9	--	12.3	34.3	1.7	4.2	3.3	0.9	--	37.4	100.0	418
Buddhist	50.4	47.9	5.7	1.9	2.8	--	1.0	30.3	11.9	2.5	1.9	0.6	--	49.6	100.0	665
Other	37.4	33.3	4.2	1.0	1.4	--	1.8	23.8	5.3	4.1	3.1	0.6	0.4	62.6	100.0	312
Caste/tribe																
Scheduled caste	34.5	31.7	2.8	0.7	0.8	--	1.3	25.6	3.2	2.8	1.9	0.8	0.2	65.5	100.0	10350
Scheduled tribe	33.0	30.8	2.0	0.7	0.5	--	0.7	23.2	5.6	2.2	1.2	0.6	0.4	67.0	100.0	7422
Other	42.4	37.6	6.4	1.3	2.2	--	2.8	28.0	3.2	4.7	2.9	1.6	0.2	57.6	100.0	66906
Number and sex of living children																
None	4.2	2.1	1.4	0.3	0.1	--	1.1	0.3	0.4	2.1	1.2	0.8	--	95.8	100.0	11265
1 child	19.3	12.8	8.5	1.6	3.2	--	3.6	3.1	1.2	6.5	3.8	2.5	0.2	80.7	100.0	13843
1 son	20.9	14.1	9.2	1.8	3.7	0.1	3.7	3.5	1.4	6.9	4.0	2.7	0.2	79.1	100.0	7271
No sons	17.4	11.4	7.8	1.5	2.7	--	3.6	2.6	1.0	6.0	3.6	2.3	0.1	82.6	100.0	6572
2 children	46.1	40.2	9.5	1.7	3.6	--	4.2	27.1	3.6	5.9	3.7	2.0	0.2	53.9	100.0	17695
2 sons	55.0	50.0	9.0	1.6	3.7	--	3.6	37.0	4.0	5.1	3.1	1.9	0.1	45.0	100.0	5233
1 son	46.4	40.2	10.0	1.9	3.6	0.1	4.5	26.3	3.8	6.2	3.9	2.0	0.2	53.6	100.0	9134
No sons	31.5	24.9	8.9	1.4	3.4	--	4.1	13.4	2.5	6.6	4.2	2.3	0.2	68.5	100.0	3328
3 children	58.9	55.4	4.8	1.1	1.5	--	2.1	45.3	5.3	3.5	2.2	1.1	0.2	41.1	100.0	17204
3 sons	64.9	62.4	3.1	0.9	0.8	--	1.4	52.3	7.0	2.5	1.6	0.8	0.2	35.1	100.0	2342
2 sons	68.0	65.1	4.1	1.1	1.3	--	1.8	54.9	6.0	2.9	1.8	1.0	0.2	32.0	100.0	7662
1 son	51.2	47.1	6.0	1.1	2.2	--	2.7	36.4	4.7	4.1	2.5	1.3	0.3	48.8	100.0	5778
No sons	31.7	25.9	6.1	2.1	1.6	--	2.5	18.0	1.8	5.7	4.2	1.3	0.3	68.3	100.0	1422
4+ children	52.4	49.0	3.4	1.0	1.0	0.1	1.3	40.9	4.6	3.4	2.1	0.9	0.4	47.6	100.0	24672
2+ sons	53.8	50.5	3.0	0.9	0.8	0.1	1.2	42.8	4.7	3.3	2.0	0.9	0.5	46.2	100.0	19408
1 son	49.5	45.6	5.1	1.6	1.5	0.1	1.9	36.1	4.3	3.9	2.6	1.1	0.3	50.5	100.0	4471
No sons	34.8	30.9	4.4	0.8	1.4	0.2	2.0	22.5	4.1	3.9	2.6	1.3	--	65.2	100.0	794
Total	40.6	36.3	5.5	1.2	1.9	--	2.4	27.3	3.4	4.3	2.6	1.4	0.2	59.4	100.0	84678

-- Less than 0.05 percent

Figure 6.3
Current Use of Modern Contraceptive
Methods by Education



NFHS, India, 1992-93

Caste/tribe is also related to current use of contraception, although not as strongly as religion or parity. The practice of family planning is lower among scheduled caste and scheduled tribe women (33-35 percent) than among non-SC/ST women (42 percent). Between 83 and 87 percent of current use among scheduled caste and scheduled tribe women consists of sterilization, a figure that is 74 percent among non-SC/ST women.

Table 6.6 also shows differences in current use by the number and sex of living children. A curvilinear relationship exists between the number of living children a woman has and her current practice of contraception. Current use of any modern method increases steadily from only 2 percent for women with no living children to 13 percent for women with one child, 40 percent with two children, and 55 percent with three children, before declining to 49 percent among women with four or more children. A similar trend is evident for sterilized women. The data on the prevalence rate by the sex composition of living children indicate the existence of son preference; at each parity, the current use of family planning is lowest for women having no sons and highest for women who have two or more sons. The contraceptive prevalence rate is highest (between 64 and 68 percent) among women who have exactly three sons or two sons and one daughter. As expected, sterilization is a particularly unpopular method for women who do not have any sons.

Table 6.7 and Figure 6.4 show variations in the current use of contraception by state. Among the major states, the current use of any method varies from a low of 20 percent in Uttar Pradesh to a high of 63 percent in Kerala. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa and Madhya

Table 6.7. Current use by state

Percent distribution of currently married women age 13-49 by contraceptive method currently used, according to state and residence, India, 1992-93

State	Any method	Any modern method	Any modern temporary method	Pill IUD	Injection	Condom	Male sterilization		Any method	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawals	Other methods	Mot using any method	Total percent
							Female sterilization	Male sterilization						
URBAN														
India	51.0	45.3	11.7	1.9	3.9	--	5.8	30.4	3.2	5.8	3.5	2.1	0.2	100.0
North														
Delhi	60.7	54.9	31.5	3.0	8.1	0.1	20.3	20.2	3.1	5.8	3.2	2.5	0.1	100.0
Haryana	58.0	48.7	20.2	1.5	5.4	--	13.3	23.5	5.0	9.3	3.0	6.1	0.2	100.0
Himachal Pradesh	70.4	63.0	24.4	1.2	8.9	--	14.3	29.1	9.6	7.4	2.4	4.9	0.1	100.0
Jammu Region of J & K	64.4	50.1	22.5	2.5	7.0	--	13.1	22.5	5.0	14.3	3.9	9.9	0.4	100.0
Punjab	62.8	54.3	23.9	1.8	7.8	--	14.4	27.6	2.8	8.5	4.3	4.0	0.3	100.0
Rajasthan	47.1	46.8	8.6	0.8	2.5	0.1	5.1	34.9	3.4	0.3	0.1	0.2	--	100.0
Central														
Madhya Pradesh	47.7	46.2	11.6	1.2	3.6	--	6.8	29.9	4.7	1.5	1.0	0.2	0.2	100.0
Uttar Pradesh	32.0	29.6	13.7	1.5	3.4	--	8.8	13.6	2.2	2.4	1.6	0.6	0.2	100.0
East														
Bihar	42.5	39.2	8.5	2.3	1.6	0.2	4.5	27.4	3.3	3.3	1.7	1.1	0.5	100.0
Orissa	47.4	45.1	7.9	2.5	3.2	--	2.2	33.1	4.1	2.3	1.2	0.7	0.4	100.0
West Bengal	61.8	36.5	11.1	5.2	1.6	--	4.3	23.3	2.1	25.3	12.8	11.8	0.7	100.0
Northeast														
Arunachal Pradesh	39.5	29.0	13.7	4.0	5.6	--	4.0	14.5	0.8	10.5	8.9	1.6	--	100.0
Assam	62.3	33.6	10.9	3.9	1.6	--	5.5	21.4	1.3	28.7	17.2	11.0	0.5	100.0
Manipur	44.3	31.6	17.2	3.4	12.0	--	1.7	11.0	3.4	12.7	12.0	0.7	--	100.0
Meghalaya	31.9	27.7	7.9	3.7	3.7	--	0.5	19.4	0.5	4.2	2.1	2.1	--	100.0
Mizoram	57.1	55.8	9.5	3.6	4.5	--	1.4	46.0	0.2	1.4	0.9	0.5	--	100.0
Nagaland	20.6	20.6	8.3	3.2	3.2	--	1.8	11.9	0.5	--	--	--	--	100.0
Tripura	71.1	39.3	13.9	9.5	2.0	--	2.5	23.4	2.0	31.8	15.4	15.9	0.5	100.0
West														
Goa	51.2	36.7	9.3	0.9	3.0	--	5.4	26.0	1.4	14.5	11.3	3.1	0.1	100.0
Gujarat	52.7	49.0	11.0	1.7	5.5	0.1	3.7	34.8	3.3	3.7	2.8	0.9	--	100.0
Maharashtra	52.9	50.8	11.3	2.3	4.6	--	4.4	36.7	2.8	2.2	2.0	0.1	0.1	100.0
South														
Andhra Pradesh	56.6	55.6	4.3	1.1	1.0	--	2.1	44.1	7.2	1.0	0.8	--	0.2	100.0
Karnataka	52.0	49.1	8.7	0.7	5.0	--	2.9	39.4	1.0	2.9	2.6	0.2	0.1	100.0
Kerala	68.2	57.3	6.9	0.6	2.3	--	3.9	42.6	7.8	10.9	7.9	3.0	--	100.0
Tamil Nadu	50.9	44.5	9.9	0.9	6.1	--	3.0	33.3	1.4	6.3	4.3	1.6	0.5	100.0

Table 6.7 Current use by state (Contd.)

Percent distribution of currently married women age 15-49 by contraceptive method currently used, according to state and residence, India, 1992-93

State	Any method	Any modern method	Any modern temporary method	Pill	IUD	Injection	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Any method	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Other methods	Not using any method	Total percent
RURAL															
India	36.9	33.1	3.4	0.9	1.2	--	1.2	26.3	3.5	3.8	2.3	1.2	0.2	63.1	100.0
North															
Delhi	55.3	50.6	28.4	1.6	4.3	--	22.6	17.9	4.3	4.7	2.3	1.9	0.4	44.7	100.0
Haryana	46.7	42.8	5.8	1.1	2.4	0.1	2.3	32.0	5.0	3.9	2.0	1.9	--	53.3	100.0
Himachal Pradesh	57.1	53.4	6.9	0.5	2.0	0.1	4.3	33.0	13.6	3.6	1.6	1.9	0.1	42.9	100.0
Jammu Region of J & K	46.2	37.5	7.3	1.1	1.9	--	4.4	25.9	4.2	8.8	3.3	5.4	--	53.8	100.0
Punjab	57.2	50.2	14.8	2.3	5.7	--	6.8	33.0	2.4	7.0	4.5	2.5	--	42.8	100.0
Rajasthan	28.2	27.1	2.0	0.4	0.9	--	0.6	23.0	2.1	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.1	71.8	100.0
Central															
Madhya Pradesh	33.4	32.5	1.8	0.5	0.4	--	0.9	25.4	5.3	0.9	0.6	--	0.3	66.6	100.0
Uttar Pradesh	16.7	15.8	3.4	0.9	0.6	0.2	1.8	11.2	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.1	0.1	83.3	100.0
East															
Bihar	19.8	18.5	2.0	0.9	0.4	--	0.7	15.6	1.0	1.2	0.8	0.4	--	80.2	100.0
Orissa	34.2	32.7	2.1	0.6	1.2	--	0.3	27.3	3.3	1.5	0.9	0.2	0.5	65.8	100.0
West Bengal	55.7	37.6	5.0	2.9	1.1	0.1	0.9	27.4	5.1	18.2	10.8	6.9	0.5	44.3	100.0
Northeast															
Arunachal Pradesh	20.8	17.6	7.7	3.1	4.4	0.1	0.1	9.6	0.3	3.2	3.0	0.3	--	79.2	100.0
Assam	40.1	18.0	4.7	2.7	0.8	--	1.2	10.8	2.5	22.1	15.5	5.7	1.0	59.9	100.0
Manipur	30.3	20.5	7.0	1.8	4.2	--	1.0	10.8	2.7	9.8	9.0	0.8	--	69.7	100.0
Naghalaya	18.0	12.1	4.4	2.1	1.8	--	0.5	7.0	0.6	5.9	1.0	0.2	4.7	82.0	100.0
Mizoram	50.5	50.1	7.1	1.5	5.6	--	--	43.0	--	0.4	0.4	--	--	49.5	100.0
Nagaland	10.9	10.9	6.1	1.9	1.7	0.2	2.2	4.8	--	--	--	--	--	89.1	100.0
Tripura	52.4	25.9	8.4	5.6	1.4	--	1.4	15.1	2.5	26.4	17.0	9.1	0.4	47.6	100.0
West															
Goa	44.4	39.0	5.4	0.5	2.4	--	2.5	33.0	0.6	5.3	3.7	1.6	--	55.6	100.0
Gujarat	47.5	45.7	3.2	0.7	1.7	--	0.8	38.9	3.7	1.7	1.1	0.6	--	52.5	100.0
Maharashtra	54.3	53.8	2.9	0.7	1.1	--	1.2	42.3	8.5	0.5	0.4	--	0.1	45.7	100.0
South															
Andhra Pradesh	43.6	43.3	0.9	0.2	0.4	--	0.2	36.0	6.4	0.3	0.1	--	0.2	56.4	100.0
Karnataka	47.7	46.4	2.9	0.3	2.3	--	0.3	41.7	1.8	1.2	1.0	0.1	0.1	52.3	100.0
Kerala	61.4	53.2	5.8	0.4	2.9	--	2.5	41.5	6.0	8.1	5.2	2.8	0.1	38.6	100.0
Tamil Nadu	49.2	45.5	3.4	0.4	2.2	--	0.8	39.9	2.3	3.7	1.7	1.3	0.7	50.8	100.0

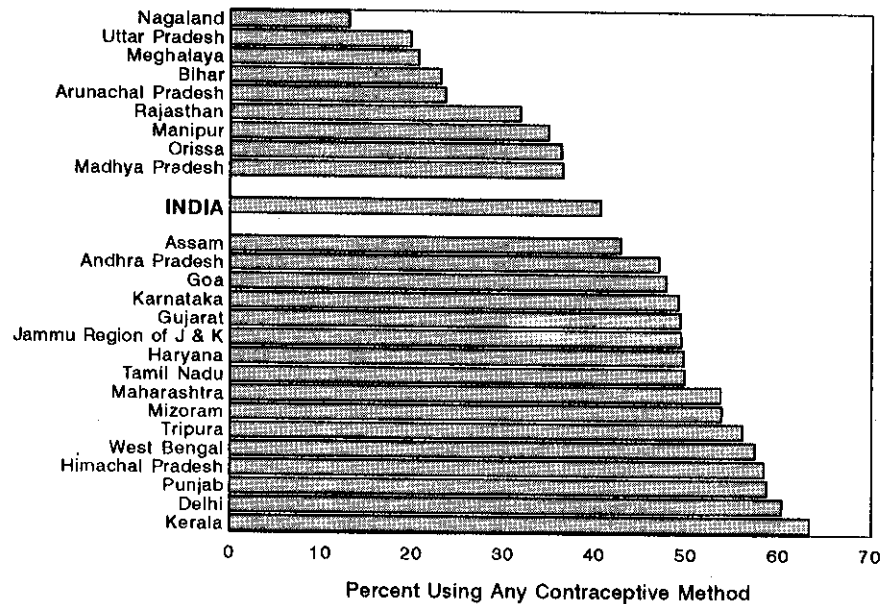
Table 6.7 Current use by state (Contd.)

Percent distribution of currently married women age 13-49 by contraceptive method currently used, according to state and residence, India, 1992-93

State	Any method	Any modern method	Any temporary method	Pill	IUD	Injection	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Any trad. method	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Other methods	Not using any method	Total per cent
TOTAL															
India	40.6	36.3	5.5	1.2	1.9	--	2.4	27.3	3.4	4.3	2.6	1.4	0.2	59.4	100.0
North															
Delhi	60.3	54.6	31.3	2.9	7.8	0.1	20.5	20.0	3.2	5.7	3.1	2.5	0.2	39.7	100.0
Haryana	49.7	44.3	9.6	1.2	3.2	--	5.2	29.7	5.0	5.3	2.2	3.0	0.1	50.3	100.0
Himachal Pradesh	58.4	54.4	8.6	0.5	2.7	--	5.3	32.6	13.2	4.0	1.7	2.2	0.1	41.6	100.0
Jammu Region of J & K	49.4	39.7	10.0	1.3	2.8	--	5.9	25.3	4.4	9.7	3.4	6.2	0.1	50.6	100.0
Punjab	58.7	51.3	17.3	2.2	6.3	--	8.9	31.5	2.5	7.4	4.4	2.9	0.1	41.3	100.0
Rajasthan	31.8	30.9	3.3	0.5	1.2	0.1	1.5	25.3	2.4	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.1	68.2	100.0
Central															
Madhya Pradesh	36.5	35.5	4.0	0.7	1.1	--	2.2	26.4	5.1	1.0	0.7	0.1	0.3	63.5	100.0
Uttar Pradesh	19.8	18.5	5.5	1.0	1.1	0.1	3.2	11.7	1.4	1.3	0.9	0.2	0.1	80.2	100.0
East															
Bihar	23.1	21.6	2.9	1.1	0.5	--	1.3	17.3	1.3	1.5	0.9	0.5	0.1	76.9	100.0
Orissa	36.3	34.6	3.0	0.9	1.5	--	0.6	28.2	3.4	1.6	0.9	0.3	0.5	63.7	100.0
West Bengal	57.4	37.3	6.7	3.5	1.3	0.1	1.9	26.3	4.3	20.1	11.3	8.3	0.5	42.6	100.0
Northeast															
Arunachal Pradesh	23.6	19.3	8.6	3.2	4.6	0.1	0.7	10.3	0.4	4.3	3.8	0.5	--	76.4	100.0
Assam	42.8	19.8	5.4	2.8	0.9	--	1.7	12.1	2.3	22.9	15.7	6.3	0.9	57.2	100.0
Manipur	34.9	24.1	10.3	2.4	6.7	--	1.2	10.9	2.9	10.8	10.0	0.8	--	65.1	100.0
Meghalaya	20.7	15.1	5.1	2.4	2.2	--	0.5	9.4	0.6	5.6	1.2	0.6	3.8	79.3	100.0
Mizoram	53.8	52.9	8.3	2.5	5.1	--	0.7	44.5	0.1	0.9	0.7	0.2	--	46.2	100.0
Nagaland	13.0	13.0	6.5	2.1	2.0	0.2	2.1	6.3	0.1	--	--	--	--	87.0	100.0
Tripura	56.1	28.6	9.5	6.4	1.5	--	1.6	16.7	2.4	27.5	16.7	10.5	0.4	43.9	100.0
West															
Goa	47.8	37.9	7.3	0.7	2.7	--	3.9	29.5	1.0	9.9	7.5	2.4	0.1	52.2	100.0
Gujarat	49.3	46.9	5.9	1.0	3.0	0.1	1.8	37.5	3.5	2.4	1.7	0.7	--	50.7	100.0
Maharashtra	53.7	52.5	6.4	1.4	2.5	--	2.5	40.0	6.2	1.2	1.1	0.1	0.1	46.3	100.0
South															
Andhra Pradesh	47.0	46.5	1.8	0.5	0.6	--	0.7	38.1	6.6	0.5	0.3	--	0.2	53.0	100.0
Karnataka	49.1	47.3	4.8	0.4	3.2	--	1.2	41.0	1.5	1.8	1.5	0.1	0.1	50.9	100.0
Kerala	63.3	54.4	6.1	0.5	2.7	--	2.9	41.8	6.5	8.9	6.0	2.9	0.1	36.7	100.0
Tamil Nadu	49.8	45.2	5.7	0.6	3.5	--	1.6	37.5	2.0	4.6	2.6	1.4	0.6	50.2	100.0

-- Less than 0.05 percent

Figure 6.4
Current Use of Any Contraceptive Method by State



NFHS, India, 1992-93

Pradesh, which together accounted for 43 percent of the population of the country in 1991, have a prevalence rate lower than the national average. In fact, contraceptive use is way below the national average in the two most populous states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The contraceptive prevalence rate is at least one-third higher than the national average in West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi and Kerala. Considerable variation in the contraceptive prevalence rate is observed in the seven northeastern states, with a higher rate than the national average in Assam, Mizoram and Tripura and a particularly low prevalence rate in Nagaland, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. As mentioned earlier, knowledge of contraceptives is also low in the latter three states.

Sterilization is the mainstay of the family planning programme and it accounts for more than three-fourths of contraceptive use in half of the states. In fact, more than 85 percent of current contraceptive users are sterilized in Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Karnataka. The contraceptive method mix is particularly skewed in Andhra Pradesh, where 95 percent of users are sterilized. Male sterilization constitutes 11 percent of total sterilizations in India. The use of male sterilization is noticeably high in Himachal Pradesh, where this method is used by 13 percent of couples. Assam, West Bengal, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh are the only major states where the relative contribution of methods other than sterilization is large.

The use of modern temporary methods is low in all states except in Delhi, where 31 percent of currently married women use a modern temporary method. The use rate for any modern temporary method ranges from 10-17 percent in Jammu, Manipur and Punjab. In the

remaining states, less than 10 percent of currently married women use a modern temporary method. The contribution of modern temporary methods to total contraceptive use is relatively high in Delhi (52 percent), Punjab (29 percent) and Uttar Pradesh (28 percent).

Traditional methods of family planning, mostly periodic abstinence, are used by only 4 percent of Indian women, ranging from a low of less than 1 percent in several states to a high of 28 percent in Tripura. Among the major states, West Bengal and Assam are characterized by an unusually high prevalence of traditional methods, which constitute 35 percent and 54 percent of total contraceptive prevalence, respectively. In Tripura, which borders on Assam, nearly half of all contraceptive users rely on traditional methods.

There are considerable urban-rural differentials in the use of contraception in almost all states. Maharashtra is the only state where the prevalence rate is slightly higher in rural areas (54 percent) than in urban areas (53 percent). The urban-rural differentials are also quite small in Tamil Nadu and several other low fertility states. The gap between the urban and rural rates is substantial in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and several small northeastern states, where the contraceptive prevalence rate is approximately twice as high in urban areas as in rural areas.

The patterns of contraceptive use by age for the states are shown in Table 6.8. Although the extent of contraceptive use varies considerably across the states, the age pattern of use is more or less invariant. In all states except Haryana, Manipur, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, the use rate reaches a maximum at age 35-39. In Haryana and Manipur, the peak is attained at age 40-44, whereas in the other four states the peak is at age 30-34. In Kerala, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, at least 80 percent of women age 35-39 are using contraception. In Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and some of the small northeastern states, where the overall practice of family planning is low, the use of contraception in the early reproductive ages of 15-24 is negligible (less than 10 percent). West Bengal, Delhi and Tripura are the only states where the contraceptive use rate at age 20-24 is higher than 40 percent. In addition to these states, the contraceptive prevalence rate at age 25-29 is also high (more than 50 percent) in Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra and the four southern states.

The pattern of contraceptive use by the number and sex of living children for the states is presented in Table 6.9. West Bengal, Delhi and Tripura stand out as having relatively high levels of use (more than 40 percent) among women with one child. The early use of contraception is consistent with the fact that spacing methods are particularly popular in these states. More than 60 percent of two-child couples are using family planning in these three states, as well as in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Kerala. The table reveals a strong association between the sex composition of children and the use of contraception. For a given number of living children, women with more sons are generally more likely to be using contraception. The differentials are quite small for women with one living child. For women with two living children, son preference is observed in every state except Nagaland and Meghalaya, although a slight preference for a balanced sex composition exists together with son preference in Delhi, Kerala and several small northeastern states. At parity three, son preference persists, but a desire to have at least one daughter emerges in half of the states. Overall, son preference is evident in every state. Son preference is extremely high in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Himachal Pradesh. Son preference is relatively low (but still pronounced) in the southern states (except in Karnataka) and in Goa, West Bengal,

Table 6.8 Current use by state and age

Percentage of currently married women age 13-49 who are currently using any contraceptive method, according to state and age, India, 1992-93

State	Current age										
	13-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	15-44	15-49	13-49
India	4.7	7.1	21.0	42.4	55.9	61.0	56.3	45.8	40.3	40.7	40.6
North											
Delhi	*	14.7	42.1	61.0	74.3	74.4	72.0	55.5	60.8	60.3	60.3
Haryana	*	8.2	25.9	53.8	68.2	71.8	72.8	63.5	48.7	49.7	49.7
Himachal Pradesh	NC	9.1	24.2	63.8	81.2	79.9	73.5	57.9	58.4	58.4	58.4
Jammu Region of J & K	*	6.2	22.9	42.8	65.4	72.4	68.8	59.5	48.5	49.4	49.4
Punjab	*	10.7	28.0	55.3	73.6	81.4	73.6	57.6	58.8	58.7	58.7
Rajasthan	*	2.1	9.1	28.6	43.9	53.0	52.2	46.0	30.6	31.9	31.8
Central											
Madhya Pradesh	(--)	3.8	12.8	35.0	57.6	61.3	61.0	53.2	35.5	36.7	36.5
Uttar Pradesh	(--)	2.6	7.4	17.4	27.7	34.6	32.5	26.1	19.2	19.8	19.8
East											
Bihar	(--)	2.7	7.8	23.5	35.8	40.0	36.9	30.2	22.5	23.2	23.1
Orissa	*	1.8	16.3	33.5	53.6	59.3	50.0	40.1	36.1	36.3	36.3
West Bengal	(20.6)	27.2	44.9	63.9	72.3	76.5	66.3	47.9	58.5	57.7	57.4
Northeast											
Arunachal Pradesh	*	9.0	11.6	26.9	31.6	38.9	26.4	(17.1)	24.0	23.6	23.6
Assam	*	18.1	31.4	41.0	54.6	62.7	50.7	39.2	43.2	43.0	42.8
Manipur	NC	*	17.4	27.6	42.2	45.5	47.9	34.7	34.9	34.9	34.9
Meghalaya	*	3.5	9.1	19.6	31.8	32.5	28.6	22.4	20.5	20.7	20.7
Mizoram	NC	(5.9)	22.0	37.6	65.1	76.1	73.1	63.6	51.9	53.8	53.8
Nagaland	NC	(5.0)	4.0	9.2	23.1	22.2	16.1	10.7	13.4	13.0	13.0
Tripura	*	26.4	40.0	60.9	70.8	74.7	61.3	42.0	57.8	56.4	56.1
West											
Goa	*	(18.8)	21.4	38.1	51.8	59.0	57.3	49.8	47.5	47.8	47.8
Gujarat	*	3.2	18.1	42.4	63.8	76.9	73.9	64.3	47.8	49.3	49.3
Maharashtra	(--)	9.1	29.5	59.2	72.4	76.8	71.0	67.4	53.0	54.1	53.7
South											
Andhra Pradesh	(--)	4.5	31.6	57.5	70.4	65.3	62.3	54.3	46.9	47.4	47.0
Karnataka	(4.0)	4.3	31.8	59.4	67.2	69.7	62.0	48.4	49.5	49.4	49.1
Kerala	*	13.0	28.5	61.0	75.5	83.1	77.4	68.1	62.8	63.3	63.3
Tamil Nadu	*	10.6	29.2	55.1	66.9	66.4	58.3	41.7	50.6	49.8	49.8

NC: Not calculated because there are no currently married women age 13-14.

() Based on 25-49 unweighted cases

* Percentage not shown; based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases

-- Less than 0.05 percent

Delhi and parts of the northeast. The contraceptive prevalence rate is highest for women with three sons and no daughter in most major states except Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Assam and southern states where the prevalence rate is highest for women with 2 sons and 1 daughter.

The gap in the contraceptive prevalence rate between illiterate and literate women is conspicuous in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan (Table 6.10). Contraceptive use differentials by literacy are also large in West Bengal and Assam, where the use of spacing methods is prominent. In Uttar Pradesh, only 16 percent of illiterate women use family planning compared with 40 percent of women who have completed high school. In general, the use of family planning is higher among literate than illiterate women, but literacy is not strongly related to the

Table 6.9 Current use by state and number and sex of living children

Percentage of currently married women age 13-49 who are currently using any contraceptive method, by state and number and sex of living children, India, 1992-93

State	Number and sex of living children																
	None	1 child	1 son	2 children	2 sons	1 son	1 No son	3 children	3 sons	2 sons	2 1 son	1 No sons	4+ children	2+ sons	1 son	No sons	
India	4.2	19.3	20.9	17.4	46.1	55.0	46.4	31.5	58.9	64.9	68.0	51.2	31.7	52.4	53.8	49.5	34.8
North																	
Delhi	13.1	47.6	48.5	46.4	70.8	69.3	75.4	57.6	71.4	76.6	73.9	71.3	53.7	67.9	68.7	67.7	*
Haryana	3.4	19.8	20.6	18.8	48.1	65.3	42.6	26.0	70.6	84.9	81.9	51.3	(12.8)	67.1	71.0	55.8	*
Himachal Pradesh	6.8	20.1	22.5	16.8	64.6	77.9	63.1	31.6	76.4	89.4	87.0	66.2	(19.4)	75.3	79.5	68.0	*
Jammu Region of J & K	3.9	23.3	24.3	22.1	49.9	55.3	53.2	30.8	67.9	76.8	75.3	57.1	(43.4)	65.0	69.3	44.4	*
Punjab	2.3	28.9	31.2	26.3	61.1	70.2	61.5	34.8	74.1	85.7	82.3	65.9	(29.8)	76.1	80.9	61.8	*
Rajasthan	1.9	6.9	6.9	7.0	27.6	34.2	30.6	5.8	47.2	63.9	57.4	27.2	12.0	49.3	52.2	36.4	(26.5)
Central																	
Madhya Pradesh	2.2	9.3	9.1	9.6	35.2	52.6	32.2	16.2	54.9	57.3	70.4	39.3	16.4	57.6	60.9	48.2	33.3
Uttar Pradesh	1.8	7.8	9.2	6.3	18.6	26.9	17.1	9.7	28.1	35.6	35.3	19.0	14.8	28.5	30.4	21.2	10.8
East																	
Bihar	1.7	7.9	7.8	8.0	24.7	34.5	23.1	14.7	34.3	38.0	46.9	24.7	4.0	33.4	36.3	23.9	8.9
Orissa	2.7	12.1	14.0	9.9	39.9	51.8	40.0	20.0	51.7	60.2	61.5	43.3	21.5	54.3	55.8	51.0	(42.7)
West Bengal	19.8	49.5	53.9	44.8	66.4	74.8	67.0	52.7	74.2	82.3	78.0	72.0	53.2	62.0	61.4	66.7	(47.3)
Northeast																	
Arunachal Pradesh	4.1	14.2	19.8	5.9	25.0	(26.2)	29.2	(15.8)	25.5	(30.8)	33.3	19.2	*	34.5	37.0	*	*
Assam	18.0	28.4	32.8	23.9	46.4	54.4	46.6	35.0	51.4	51.8	59.2	48.0	27.8	49.6	50.5	46.6	(42.9)
Manipur	4.8	20.3	26.6	15.2	35.0	(43.6)	35.6	(20.0)	46.9	*	51.4	41.3	*	42.2	43.2	37.5	*
Meghalaya	4.0	13.5	14.3	12.5	23.5	20.8	24.7	(24.4)	32.1	*	39.7	27.0	*	23.4	22.5	(30.6)	*
Mizoram	0.9	25.2	33.3	14.0	48.9	(61.1)	43.5	(47.1)	67.0	(71.9)	67.5	71.9	*	74.3	75.7	70.9	*
Nagaland	2.4	7.3	6.4	9.0	9.6	(8.5)	10.6	(8.7)	17.5	*	17.1	21.6	*	17.3	18.0	14.0	*
Tripura	15.7	45.1	49.5	40.2	60.8	61.4	64.6	(48.7)	71.4	*	67.4	77.0	*	62.5	59.7	78.4	*
West																	
Goa	4.6	27.1	26.9	27.2	48.6	52.0	48.9	43.2	63.0	63.0	70.3	58.2	46.3	66.6	68.7	62.8	(44.4)
Gujarat	3.3	18.2	23.3	11.7	55.6	70.0	54.7	26.2	67.7	84.0	81.6	53.3	18.3	68.6	73.9	56.5	(11.1)
Maharashtra	3.1	22.8	27.3	17.8	50.3	65.9	48.1	27.9	74.8	86.0	84.7	63.9	30.8	76.0	79.7	69.5	(48.6)
South																	
Andhra Pradesh	1.6	15.2	16.2	14.2	53.2	55.5	54.9	45.7	73.5	76.9	79.9	70.8	51.7	69.9	70.4	70.7	(59.1)
Karnataka	2.2	18.5	19.4	17.5	54.9	67.3	54.6	35.0	72.3	76.0	79.8	69.9	38.9	63.5	64.5	62.6	(47.4)
Kerala	8.5	37.1	38.1	36.0	78.1	78.2	80.1	73.1	83.1	85.3	86.5	81.8	74.3	68.9	67.1	77.4	(65.5)
Tamil Nadu	3.3	24.4	24.9	23.9	59.5	62.5	61.9	49.0	72.6	74.2	80.4	70.4	50.6	64.6	64.1	68.0	(59.5)

() Based on 25-49 unweighted cases

* Percentage not shown; based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases

Table 6.10 Current use by state and background characteristics

Percentage of currently married women age 13-49 who are currently using any contraceptive method, by state and selected background characteristics, India, 1992-93

State	Education				Religion					Caste/tribe				
	Illiterate	Little & middle	Middle complete	High school & above	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Jain	Buddhist	Other	Scheduled caste	Scheduled tribe	Other
India	33.9	50.4	50.8	54.7	41.6	27.7	48.3	57.6	62.6	50.4	37.4	34.5	33.0	42.4
North														
Delhi	50.2	60.8	65.8	68.4	61.2	47.4	(68.0)	65.8	(73.5)	*	*	58.8	61.5	60.4
Haryana	47.8	50.7	52.6	55.4	51.3	13.8	*	47.2	*	*	*	43.5	NC	51.9
Himachal Pradesh	58.0	59.4	55.4	59.6	58.8	(41.4)	*	(72.9)	NC	*	*	56.6	39.5	60.1
Jammu Region of J & K	45.7	47.8	49.7	61.1	51.8	34.3	*	61.8	*	NC	*	43.4	*	51.9
Punjab	56.7	61.0	58.0	62.4	59.9	(40.6)	(34.8)	59.0	*	NC	*	57.2	NC	59.3
Rajasthan	29.2	42.5	43.5	46.9	32.3	18.4	*	41.5	(61.3)	*	*	28.5	23.9	35.1
Central														
Madhya Pradesh	33.6	43.4	42.7	49.6	36.1	38.6	(33.1)	*	(64.4)	*	*	33.2	30.2	39.4
Uttar Pradesh	15.5	28.4	29.5	40.4	21.2	10.5	*	*	(55.7)	*	*	15.1	12.0	20.9
East														
Bihar	17.6	39.2	42.4	45.7	26.0	7.5	(19.6)	*	*	(22.9)	(22.6)	14.7	16.4	24.7
Orissa	33.8	40.5	33.8	47.5	36.5	16.1	45.6	39.7	*	NC	*	33.7	30.0	38.5
West Bengal	49.1	61.6	66.9	75.1	61.4	43.0	*	NC	*	*	(41.3)	54.5	44.8	58.4
Northeast														
Arunachal Pradesh	19.9	26.4	27.5	46.9	35.5	*	23.7	*	NC	29.7	10.9	NC	18.4	41.3
Assam	32.1	51.7	63.7	69.3	48.3	32.3	19.1	*	*	NC	NC	52.9	31.4	44.5
Manipur	30.4	35.3	40.8	41.0	39.9	25.0	22.8	*	*	NC	(45.7)	NC	22.6	39.2
Meghalaya	17.0	20.1	30.8	32.0	45.7	(28.0)	18.7	NC	NC	*	11.2	*	17.9	42.3
Mizoram	35.4	58.5	49.4	51.5	*	*	54.1	NC	*	*	*	NC	54.1	40.0
Nagaland	6.6	16.0	17.8	20.8	12.1	*	13.1	NC	*	NC	*	NC	12.9	14.0
Tripura	45.0	61.0	66.9	67.8	58.6	28.6	*	NC	NC	(44.0)	NC	*	51.0	56.8
West														
Goa	46.6	49.4	41.3	49.8	52.3	48.3	36.1	*	*	*	*	45.1	41.5	48.0
Gujarat	46.3	51.2	53.9	54.8	50.3	35.0	*	*	(68.3)	*	*	53.5	47.3	49.4
Maharashtra	54.1	53.2	45.4	58.0	56.6	36.1	(41.4)	*	59.7	52.0	(70.4)	55.1	49.2	54.2
South														
Andhra Pradesh	43.5	55.8	55.3	52.2	47.0	44.7	52.3	*	*	*	*	35.9	36.5	49.7
Karnataka	45.5	53.3	52.8	56.9	50.6	36.8	47.6	*	(61.8)	NC	*	45.1	45.7	49.9
Kerala	66.7	64.1	60.5	62.9	72.5	37.8	71.7	*	*	NC	*	76.7	75.0	62.5
Tamil Nadu	47.5	51.7	52.6	52.3	50.2	45.8	48.8	NC	*	NC	*	45.0	*	51.0

NC: Not calculated because there are no cases on which to base a percentage

() Based on 25-49 unweighted cases

* Percentage not shown; based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases

use of family planning in Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, all of which have relatively high average levels of education.

Table 6.10 also shows that in all states except Madhya Pradesh, the contraceptive prevalence rate is higher among Hindus than Muslims. However, the gap in the contraceptive prevalence rate between the two religious groups is marginal in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Goa. In general, the practice of family planning is relatively low among women from both scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. In Assam, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Kerala, the prevalence rate is higher among scheduled caste women than women from either of the other two caste/tribe groups. Similarly, in Delhi, the practice of contraception is highest among scheduled tribe women.

The religious differentials in the contraceptive use rate can be understood better from Table 6.11, which provides these rates by religious composition as well as level of education of women. The contraceptive prevalence rate is lowest among Muslims and highest among Sikhs for each educational category of women. With more education, the religious differentials in the use rate tend to narrow. For women with at least a high school education, the contraceptive prevalence rate ranges from a low level of 45 percent among Muslims to a high of 62 percent among Sikhs. For illiterates, the variation is from a low of 22 percent among Muslims to a high of 56 percent among Sikhs. The use of any modern temporary method is, however, higher among Muslims than among Hindus in each educational category. The analysis suggests that educational differentials among different religious groups partly explain the religious differences in contraceptive use; however, the religious differentials persist even after controlling for education.

Table 6.11 Current use by religion and education

Percentage of currently married women age 13-49 currently using any method, any modern method, and any modern temporary method of contraception, by religion and education, India, 1992-93

Religion	Any method				Any modern method				Any modern temporary method			
	Illit- erate	Literate, < middle school	Middle school complete	High school and above	Illit- erate	Literate, < middle school	Middle school complete	High school and above	Illit- erate	Literate, < middle school	Middle school complete	High school and above
Hindu	35.1	52.2	51.7	55.2	33.1	47.3	43.5	45.5	1.8	5.3	8.8	20.3
Muslim	21.8	37.2	40.5	44.9	17.3	29.0	31.4	38.9	3.1	8.0	13.6	24.6
Christian	36.4	55.6	55.0	52.0	32.1	50.1	44.0	39.2	2.1	4.2	7.2	13.4
Sikh	55.9	57.4	57.0	61.9	50.6	49.3	45.8	50.6	8.3	20.7	20.2	34.1
Other	43.1	56.7	50.2	57.3	42.4	51.7	45.2	50.3	2.0	8.6	12.1	30.0

Number of Children at First Use of Contraception

In order to examine the timing of initial family planning use, the NFHS included a question on how many living children women had when they first used a method. The distribution of ever-married women according to the number of living children at first contraceptive use is shown in Table 6.12. Overall, only 7 percent of contraceptors (3 percent of all ever-married women) initiated the use of contraception before having any children, and another 19 percent started after the first child. As mentioned earlier, use of spacing methods

is minimal and there is hardly any effort to space the first child. However, although early use of contraception is rare, the majority of those who ever used family planning (68 percent) initiated use when they had fewer than four living children. This pattern of first acceptance at relatively low parities means that family planning has a larger demographic impact than it would if contraceptive use were initiated later.

Table 6.12 suggests that there has been a shift over time toward initiating contraceptive use at lower parities. In the older cohorts, the average parity at which women who ever used contraception first did so was considerably higher than the parity at which ever users in the younger cohorts first used. For example, 30 percent of ever users age 25-29 began their first use when they had fewer than two living children, whereas only 12 percent of ever users age

Table 6.12 Number of living children at first use									
Percent distribution of ever-married women by number of living children at the time of first use of contraception, according to current age and residence, India, 1992-93									
Current age	Never used	Number of living children at the time of first use						Total percent	Number of women
		0	1	2	3	4+	Missing		
URBAN									
13-14	(88.8)	(10.6)	(0.6)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	100.0	42
15-19	85.1	5.5	7.4	1.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	100.0	1376
20-24	63.9	6.7	15.7	8.4	4.0	1.2	0.2	100.0	4229
25-29	39.4	6.0	19.3	15.9	11.5	7.7	0.1	100.0	4705
30-34	29.7	3.8	16.7	16.9	16.5	16.1	0.2	100.0	4291
35-39	26.2	3.4	12.5	14.8	17.1	25.9	--	100.0	3715
40-44	33.3	2.2	9.4	11.3	15.0	28.7	0.1	100.0	2899
45-49	40.5	1.9	8.3	9.2	12.4	27.5	0.3	100.0	2197
Total	42.1	4.4	14.1	12.5	11.8	15.0	0.2	100.0	23455
RURAL									
13-14	93.5	5.6	0.9	--	--	--	--	100.0	311
15-19	89.0	5.5	3.9	1.3	0.3	--	0.1	100.0	7719
20-24	73.6	4.0	8.9	7.4	4.6	1.3	0.1	100.0	13755
25-29	55.3	2.4	8.4	12.0	13.5	8.2	0.1	100.0	12735
30-34	43.4	1.7	7.6	10.7	16.5	20.0	0.1	100.0	10369
35-39	41.1	1.5	6.1	9.4	15.6	26.3	0.1	100.0	8746
40-44	45.5	1.4	4.9	6.5	11.5	30.1	0.1	100.0	6850
45-49	54.6	0.6	3.4	4.5	8.0	28.6	0.2	100.0	5838
Total	58.4	2.6	6.7	8.0	10.1	14.1	0.1	100.0	66322
TOTAL									
13-14	92.9	6.2	0.9	--	--	--	--	100.0	352
15-19	88.4	5.5	4.4	1.3	0.3	--	0.1	100.0	9095
20-24	71.3	4.6	10.5	7.6	4.5	1.3	0.1	100.0	17983
25-29	51.0	3.4	11.4	13.1	13.0	8.1	0.1	100.0	17441
30-34	39.4	2.4	10.3	12.5	16.5	18.8	0.1	100.0	14660
35-39	36.7	2.1	8.0	11.0	16.0	26.2	0.1	100.0	12461
40-44	41.9	1.6	6.2	8.0	12.5	29.7	0.1	100.0	9748
45-49	50.8	1.0	4.8	5.8	9.2	28.3	0.2	100.0	8036
Total	54.1	3.1	8.7	9.1	10.5	14.3	0.1	100.0	89777
() Based on 25-49 unweighted cases									
-- Less than 0.05 percent									

45-49 initiated the use of contraception at such an early stage in the family building process. The average parity at which urban women initiate contraceptive use also is slightly lower than the average parity at which rural women initiate use, but the difference is small, despite the very substantial urban-rural difference in total contraceptive prevalence.

Problems in the Current Use of Family Planning

Table 6.13 deals with the problems faced by women while using the pill, IUD, and sterilization. Most women using these methods did not report any problems. For pill and IUD users, however, the extent of problems may be underestimated because women who had serious problems with these methods may have already discontinued use. Among the specific problems listed in the case of pill users, headache is most common (6 percent of users) followed by dizziness and body ache (each was mentioned by 4 percent of users). In the case of the IUD, the major problems are excessive bleeding (8 percent) and backache (7 percent). The proportion of women complaining of a problem is higher in the case of female sterilization, the most

Table 6.13 Problems with current method		
Percentage of current users of the pill, copper T/IUD, and female/male sterilization who have had problems in using the method, India, 1992-93		
Problem	Method	
	Pill	
No problems	80.0	
Cramps	0.8	
Dizziness	3.8	
Body ache	3.8	
Spotting/bleeding	2.4	
White discharge	1.5	
Headache	5.9	
Other	5.8	
Number of pill users	1013	
	Copper T/IUD	
No problems	81.1	
Backache	6.5	
Irregular periods	2.6	
Excessive bleeding	7.8	
Weakness/inability to work	3.0	
Other	3.4	
Number of IUD users	1589	
	Female sterilization	Male sterilization
No problems	76.7	84.9
Fever	1.7	1.0
Pain/backache	14.6	7.3
Sepsis	2.0	1.8
Weakness/inability to work	9.5	6.1
Failure/women got pregnant	0.6	1.2
Loss of sexual power	0.3	0.6
Other	3.0	0.8
Number sterilized	23136	2916
Note: Percentages may sum to more than 100.0 because multiple problems could be recorded.		

commonly used method. The major causes of discomfort reported in this case are pain or backache (15 percent) and weakness or inability to work (10 percent). The same problems were most commonly mentioned in the case of male sterilization. Sepsis was mentioned in a few cases, as was the failure of the operation, but even fewer women mentioned the loss of sexual power as a result of female or male sterilization.

Family Planning Services

The NFHS included some questions designed to elicit information on the extent of follow-up services provided by health workers to the users of various contraceptive methods, either at home or outside the home. Such data can provide useful information about the mechanisms to encourage continuity in use, which is an important element in the framework for assessing the quality of care provided by the family welfare programme (Bruce, 1990). In a recent study conducted in India, it was found that home visits by health workers can be an important factor affecting the utilization of government family welfare services (Verma et al., 1994).

The follow-up care provided by the family welfare programme needs improvement. Only 15 percent of IUD and pill users reported having received a follow-up visit at home, and for the most popular method (sterilization), follow-up care was received by 30 percent of users (Table 6.14). There are wide interstate variations in the extent of follow-up home care provided by the programme. Only in Karnataka and Orissa did more than 50 percent of sterilized women or their sterilized husbands receive follow-up care services at home. Even in Kerala and Maharashtra, where the programme has been performing well, health workers are generally not providing follow-up home visits. Only one-fifth of sterilized couples in Maharashtra and less than one-fifth (18 percent) of sterilized couples in Kerala reported a follow-up home visit.

A larger proportion of acceptors, however, went outside the home for a follow-up consultation with medical or health personnel. Sixty percent of IUD users, 49 percent of pill users and 43 percent of sterilization acceptors made such a visit. It appears that women using spacing methods had a substantial need for counselling regarding side effects and other method-related problems, and follow-up home care was particularly lacking in such cases. For example, 79 percent of IUD users in Maharashtra went outside the home for a consultation with a medical or a health person. Only 18 percent of the IUD users in Maharashtra were given the required follow-up home visits by health workers.

The quality of care and services offered by the programme was further assessed by asking sterilized women about the quality of care they received during and just after the operation, as well as the quality of follow-up home care if they were visited by a health worker. A majority of sterilized women (53 percent) rated the operative and postoperative care as either very good or excellent (Table 6.15). More than 60 percent of women rated the care as either very good or excellent in Gujarat (79 percent), Karnataka (72 percent), Mizoram (72 percent), Goa (66 percent), Maharashtra (66 percent), Tripura (64 percent), Tamil Nadu (63 percent) and Manipur (61 percent).

Ratings of the quality of follow-up home care received after the operation are similar to ratings given to the care during and just after the operation. Only 4 percent thought the follow-up care was not so good or very bad. Not only was the extent of follow-up services very high

Table 6.14 Follow-up from a health worker

Percentage of currently married women age 13-49 currently using the pill, IUD or sterilization who had a follow-up visit from a health worker, by place of visit and state, India, 1992-93

State	Follow-up at home			Follow-up outside home			Follow-up of any type		
	Pill	IUD	Sterilization	Pill	IUD	Sterilization	Pill	IUD	Sterilization
India	15.0	14.7	30.1	48.8	60.4	43.4	54.6	65.3	61.9
North									
Delhi	3.1	1.9	10.8	51.0	67.2	60.3	53.1	68.3	66.1
Haryana	(15.6)	3.9	44.5	(52.2)	59.0	50.5	(58.9)	61.2	81.1
Himachal Pradesh	*	2.1	34.4	*	65.7	50.8	*	67.8	72.5
Jammu Region of J & K	(--)	3.1	12.9	(43.2)	66.7	69.4	(43.2)	68.4	76.6
Punjab	3.2	4.4	35.0	38.7	71.3	53.1	40.3	73.5	75.4
Rajasthan	(24.0)	22.2	24.3	(44.0)	54.0	41.4	(48.0)	61.9	53.8
Central									
Madhya Pradesh	(25.3)	16.9	32.0	(69.3)	71.8	42.3	(79.5)	77.1	60.0
Uttar Pradesh	21.6	5.8	28.4	45.0	56.9	36.5	57.0	59.3	53.8
East									
Bihar	3.0	(8.6)	16.8	31.3	(49.6)	37.2	31.9	(55.8)	48.1
Orissa	(11.5)	25.3	52.7	(29.4)	58.9	36.1	(32.7)	72.1	71.8
West Bengal	7.2	(13.2)	17.8	49.8	(49.4)	50.3	53.2	(55.2)	60.2
Northeast									
Arunachal Pradesh	(7.4)	(5.3)	4.5	(74.1)	(63.2)	67.4	(74.1)	(65.8)	70.8
Assam	9.5	(1.3)	11.3	40.5	(58.3)	57.2	44.1	(59.6)	64.0
Manipur	*	--	4.9	*	45.0	53.7	*	45.0	53.7
Meghalaya	*	*	6.0	*	*	67.0	*	*	67.0
Mizoram	*	(17.4)	10.4	*	(78.3)	18.8	*	(82.6)	25.7
Nagaland	*	*	12.1	*	*	56.1	*	*	56.1
Tripura	1.6	*	7.8	50.0	*	66.1	51.6	*	69.3
West									
Goa	*	21.5	22.2	*	65.8	73.5	*	77.2	79.5
Gujarat	(37.8)	13.8	38.9	(35.1)	53.2	32.9	(54.1)	56.0	63.7
Maharashtra	32.7	17.7	20.1	78.8	79.2	45.5	78.8	81.3	57.9
South									
Andhra Pradesh	*	*	37.6	*	*	50.8	*	*	71.4
Karnataka	*	33.8	53.7	*	59.2	46.7	*	66.2	75.5
Kerala	*	28.7	17.9	*	35.2	31.5	*	51.9	43.6
Tamil Nadu	*	13.2	32.2	*	50.4	40.3	*	57.4	63.0

() Based on 25-49 unweighted cases

* Percentage not shown; based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases

-- Less than 0.05 percent

in Karnataka, but a large majority of women in that state (70 percent) also rated the services as very good or excellent. In Orissa, on the other hand, where the extent of follow-up visits was also relatively good, the majority of women (55 percent) rated the service as "alright". In Gujarat and Maharashtra, where the extent of follow-up care was relatively low, a large majority of women rated the services as very good or excellent.

Table 6.15 Quality of care during sterilization and follow-up after sterilization

Percent distribution of sterilization acceptors by reported quality of care during sterilization and at the time of follow-up visit by state, India, 1992-93

State	Care during sterilization						Follow-up care ¹							
	Excel- lent	Very good	AL- right	Not so good	Very bad	DK/ missing	Total percent	Excel- lent	Very good	AL- right	Not so good	Very bad	DK/ missing	Total percent
India	10.0	42.6	39.2	5.6	1.5	1.1	100.0	8.5	47.6	40.0	3.2	0.5	0.3	100.0
North														
Delhi	16.4	35.5	41.2	3.6	1.2	2.2	100.0	15.7	42.2	39.8	2.4	--	--	100.0
Haryana	3.7	40.6	44.6	7.1	0.4	3.5	100.0	2.8	40.0	53.3	3.9	--	--	100.0
Himachal Pradesh	3.9	30.5	58.7	4.8	1.5	0.7	100.0	6.2	37.2	53.8	1.9	0.6	0.3	100.0
Jammu Region of J & K	4.6	26.1	57.5	7.8	1.3	2.7	100.0	6.5	23.9	66.6	1.7	1.2	--	100.0
Punjab	8.8	30.5	54.4	4.6	0.5	1.2	100.0	7.9	43.0	46.8	2.3	--	--	100.0
Rajasthan	13.3	20.1	52.3	7.4	3.6	3.3	100.0	15.0	25.3	54.1	3.8	0.9	0.9	100.0
Central														
Madhya Pradesh	7.5	29.3	50.1	9.1	3.0	1.1	100.0	7.0	35.6	52.0	4.4	0.8	0.1	100.0
Uttar Pradesh	11.0	37.2	40.5	6.9	2.8	1.6	100.0	14.7	44.9	34.8	3.5	1.0	1.0	100.0
East														
Bihar	4.2	35.9	51.2	7.0	0.8	0.8	100.0	1.5	34.9	57.8	4.6	--	1.3	100.0
Orissa	3.2	30.7	53.7	8.7	1.1	2.6	100.0	3.4	30.4	55.1	9.7	0.9	0.6	100.0
West Bengal	7.6	39.3	40.7	9.5	2.7	0.2	100.0	7.5	47.6	41.1	2.7	1.0	--	100.0
Northeast														
Arunachal Pradesh	4.5	49.4	34.8	9.0	1.1	1.1	100.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	100.0
Assam	2.2	48.7	38.4	5.6	0.6	4.5	100.0	(3.8)	(57.6)	(32.4)	(6.2)	(--)	(--)	100.0
Manipur	1.6	59.3	25.2	9.8	4.1	--	100.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	100.0
Meghalaya	13.0	18.0	60.0	6.0	1.0	2.0	100.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	100.0
Mizoram	22.0	49.5	19.3	8.2	1.0	--	100.0	(23.8)	(45.2)	(26.2)	(4.8)	(--)	(--)	100.0
Nagaland	21.2	13.6	48.5	16.7	--	--	100.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	100.0
Tripura	4.2	59.9	26.0	6.8	--	3.1	100.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	100.0
West														
Goa	10.6	55.8	29.0	3.1	0.9	0.6	100.0	6.6	49.7	38.1	4.6	1.0	--	100.0
Gujarat	8.1	70.4	18.0	2.4	0.5	0.6	100.0	7.6	69.1	22.4	0.9	--	--	100.0
Maharashtra	18.1	47.4	29.4	3.3	1.0	0.7	100.0	10.7	56.5	28.8	2.8	0.6	0.6	100.0
South														
Andhra Pradesh	8.8	41.2	44.1	4.6	1.1	0.3	100.0	8.1	45.0	44.7	1.9	0.3	--	100.0
Karnataka	13.9	58.1	23.6	3.2	0.6	0.6	100.0	10.0	59.6	27.6	2.6	0.2	--	100.0
Kerala	4.9	43.2	45.2	3.8	1.0	1.9	100.0	6.4	37.5	48.8	5.2	1.7	0.3	100.0
Tamil Nadu	12.2	51.0	29.5	5.2	1.4	0.8	100.0	9.7	55.3	33.5	1.3	0.2	--	100.0

DK: Don't know

() Based on 25-49 unweighted cases

* Percentage not shown; based on 25-49 unweighted cases

-- Less than 0.05 percent

¹For those receiving follow-up home care from a health worker

Duration of Contraceptive Use

In the NFHS, the duration of continuous use of a method was ascertained from each current user of family planning. Table 6.16 shows that the mean duration of continuous use of any method of family planning is 77 months, or 6.4 years. On average, female sterilizations took place 7 years before the time of the survey and male sterilizations were performed nearly 13 years before the survey. Among the modern temporary methods, the mean duration of use is the highest for condoms (28 months), followed by the IUD (23 months). The shortest mean duration of use for any method is for the pill (17 months). The duration of use for each method increases with the current age of the woman.

Table 6.16 Mean duration of use of contraceptive methods

Mean duration of use of contraceptive methods in months, by woman's age, India, 1992-93

Woman's current age	Any method	Any modern method	Any modern temporary method		Injection	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal
			Pill	IUD						
15-19	6.7	8.8	5.1	7.8 (5.8)	*	6.0	10.0	*	5.3	1.7
20-24	17.3	19.4	9.2	9.1 11.8	*	9.2	24.9	29.2	9.1	4.7
25-29	36.6	39.3	16.2	15.7 18.7	*	17.3	45.1	60.6	15.2	11.3
30-34	63.1	66.5	29.1	22.3 29.7	*	35.2	70.8	97.1	26.8	25.9
35-39	94.9	100.0	42.8	26.9 39.8	*	53.1	101.6	140.9	44.6	38.5
40-44	130.7	137.4	54.6	(46.4) 45.1	*	70.7	134.3	177.3	51.0	51.4
45-49	166.7	173.0	56.3	* (62.2)	*	71.3	167.2	202.7	57.4	47.3
Total	76.7	82.7	24.5	17.1 23.4 (23.0)		28.1	86.5	152.9	26.8	21.7

() Based on 25-49 unweighted cases

* Mean not shown; based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases

Age at Sterilization

Table 6.17 shows the age and time at which couples obtained a sterilization. A total of 26,051 sterilization operations were reported, of which 42 percent were conducted fewer than 6 years before the survey, another 26 percent were conducted 6-9 years before the survey and the remaining 32 percent were conducted 10 or more years before the survey. Sixty-nine percent of the vasectomy operations (which constitute only 11 percent of total sterilization operations) were performed more than 10 years before the survey. About three-fourths (73 percent) of couples had undergone sterilization before the wife was age 30, and there are only a negligible proportion of cases of sterilization being performed when the wife was age 40 and above. The median age of the woman at the time of sterilization is 27 years. There has been a gradual decline in the median age at sterilization, from 27.3 years among those who underwent the operation 8-9 years ago to 26.3 years among those who were sterilized in the last two years. One cannot assess the trend in the median age at sterilization more than 10 years before the survey because the NFHS only interviewed ever-married women age 13-49. This means that, for the period 10 or more years before the survey, there are no women age 40-49 because these women would have been age 50-59 at the time of survey.

Table 6.17 Timing of sterilization

Percent distribution of currently married sterilized women and wives of sterilized men by age at the time of sterilization, according to the number of years since the operation, India, 1992-93

Years since operation	Woman's age at the time of operation						Total percent	Number	Median age ¹
	<25	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49			
STERILIZED WOMEN									
< 2	38.6	34.8	18.2	6.4	1.5	0.5	100.0	3654	26.3
2-3	39.2	34.5	17.8	6.7	1.6	0.2	100.0	3165	26.2
4-5	37.2	33.8	19.4	6.8	2.7	0.1	100.0	3669	26.4
6-7	35.4	34.0	20.2	8.0	2.3	U	100.0	3497	26.9
8-9	31.1	37.4	20.8	9.8	0.9	U	100.0	2901	27.2
10+	35.0	40.5	20.3	4.2	U	U	100.0	6248	NC
Total	36.1	36.3	19.5	6.6	1.3	0.1	100.0	23136	26.6
WIVES OF STERILIZED MEN									
< 2	33.9	26.2	24.3	9.1	3.5	2.9	100.0	122	27.1
2-3	27.7	34.3	22.4	10.2	4.1	1.3	100.0	124	27.4
4-5	39.6	28.1	15.6	11.4	5.2	--	100.0	205	25.8
6-7	32.9	28.0	25.7	9.5	3.9	U	100.0	222	27.9
8-9	32.5	33.2	21.1	12.1	1.0	U	100.0	221	27.7
10+	38.5	39.9	18.5	3.1	U	U	100.0	2021	NC
Total	37.1	36.8	19.5	5.4	1.1	0.2	100.0	2916	26.7
STERILIZED COUPLES									
< 2	38.5	34.5	18.4	6.4	1.5	0.6	100.0	3776	26.3
2-3	38.8	34.5	17.9	6.8	1.7	0.3	100.0	3289	26.2
4-5	37.3	33.5	19.2	7.0	2.8	0.1	100.0	3873	26.4
6-7	35.3	33.7	20.5	8.1	2.4	U	100.0	3719	27.0
8-9	31.2	37.1	20.8	9.9	0.9	U	100.0	3123	27.3
10+	35.9	40.3	19.9	3.9	U	U	100.0	8269	NC
Total	36.2	36.4	19.5	6.4	1.3	0.1	100.0	26051	26.6

NC: Not calculated due to censoring

U: Not available

-- Less than 0.05 percent

¹Median ages are calculated only for persons sterilized at less than 40 years of age to avoid problems of censoring.

The median age of women at the time of sterilization varies from a low of 24.5 years in Andhra Pradesh to a high of 29.7 years in Manipur (Table 6.18). The median age at sterilization is relatively high in the larger North Indian states, such as Uttar Pradesh (29.6 years), Bihar (28.1 years) and Rajasthan (27.7 years) where the current use of contraception is also low. The median age at sterilization is relatively low in Maharashtra and the four southern states, and it has registered a decline, particularly in recent years, in Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

Methods Used Before Sterilization

The NFHS did not collect information on the sequence of contraceptive methods used in the past, but some information on method switching is provided by the survey data. Table 6.19 shows the extent to which sterilization users have used other temporary methods before accepting

Table 6.18 Timing of sterilization by state

Median age of currently married sterilized women or wives of sterilized men at the time of sterilization, by number of years since operation and state, India, 1992-93

State	Years since operation					Total
	<2	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	
India	26.3	26.2	26.4	27.0	27.3	26.6
North						
Delhi	29.0	27.6	28.4	28.4	27.7	28.2
Haryana	26.3	26.7	27.4	27.0	28.4	27.3
Himachal Pradesh	26.2	26.5	26.9	27.4	26.4	26.9
Jammu Region of J & K	28.4	27.8	28.2	29.8	29.4	28.6
Punjab	27.4	27.1	28.4	28.4	28.5	27.9
Rajasthan	28.3	27.9	27.2	27.1	28.0	27.7
Central						
Madhya Pradesh	28.0	26.9	26.8	27.5	27.5	27.3
Uttar Pradesh	29.3	29.1	30.2	29.7	29.7	29.6
East						
Bihar	28.1	27.5	27.2	28.3	29.3	28.1
Orissa	27.7	27.2	26.4	26.7	27.1	26.8
West Bengal	25.7	25.2	25.8	26.7	26.1	26.0
Northeast						
Arunachal Pradesh	28.3	28.5	29.5	30.5	24.8	28.0
Assam	28.0	26.6	27.1	27.7	28.3	27.1
Manipur	28.3	29.0	30.0	29.7	31.8	29.7
Meghalaya	29.8	31.8	29.0	28.0	27.0	27.9
Mizoram	28.6	29.5	28.3	28.3	28.9	28.8
Nagaland	31.5	33.0	30.5	29.3	26.8	29.3
Tripura	28.3	27.7	26.0	30.6	29.2	28.1
West						
Goa	28.7	29.3	29.3	28.8	29.4	28.5
Gujarat	27.8	27.7	27.2	27.7	27.6	27.5
Maharashtra	24.7	25.6	24.9	26.5	26.0	25.6
South						
Andhra Pradesh	24.3	23.8	24.2	24.3	25.7	24.5
Karnataka	24.9	25.0	24.6	24.9	25.9	25.2
Kerala	26.6	26.1	27.0	26.8	27.5	26.5
Tamil Nadu	25.0	26.2	26.4	26.4	27.4	26.2

Note: Medians are not shown for persons sterilized 10 or more years before the survey, and median ages are calculated only for persons sterilized at less than 40 years of age to avoid problems of censoring.

the terminal method. For India as a whole, 82 percent of sterilization users never used any other method of contraception before sterilization. Seven percent used periodic abstinence previously, 6 percent used condoms and 4 percent each used the pill, the IUD or withdrawal. Two-thirds of sterilized couples in Tripura used some temporary method, especially the traditional methods, before accepting sterilization. The extent of prior use of temporary methods before sterilization is also substantial in Assam (54 percent), Delhi (50 percent), West Bengal (43 percent) and Kerala (39 percent). In Delhi, more of the couples used modern temporary methods (particularly condoms) prior to the sterilization, but couples in the other three states relied more on the use of traditional methods. In Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa, very few of the sterilized couples (less than 12 percent) had any prior experience with contraceptive use.

Table 6.19 Methods used before sterilization

Percentage of sterilized persons who used specific contraceptive methods before the sterilization, by state, India, 1992-93

State	Method used before sterilization							
	None	Pill	IUD	Injec- tion	Condom	Periodic absti- nence	With- drawal	Other
India	81.9	4.2	4.3	0.2	5.5	7.2	3.8	0.6
North								
Delhi	49.7	10.1	17.8	0.5	30.0	11.0	7.0	2.7
Haryana	76.7	3.7	5.0	0.2	9.9	9.0	7.2	0.9
Himachal Pradesh	67.6	4.5	8.2	0.4	13.0	12.6	7.4	1.6
Jammu Region of J & K	64.7	8.1	5.8	--	15.1	12.7	11.2	0.4
Punjab	73.1	3.7	7.1	0.3	9.6	8.4	5.1	0.4
Rajasthan	91.3	2.5	2.2	0.4	2.5	2.0	1.9	0.1
Central								
Madhya Pradesh	86.7	3.6	2.4	0.3	6.4	3.4	0.9	0.2
Uttar Pradesh	88.9	3.5	3.5	0.1	3.7	3.1	1.0	0.5
East								
Bihar	91.6	2.3	0.8	--	2.9	2.5	1.0	0.2
Orissa	88.2	3.4	3.9	--	1.9	4.3	0.8	0.8
West Bengal	57.3	10.9	2.2	0.6	7.1	27.8	15.9	1.4
Northeast								
Arunachal Pradesh	62.9	19.1	13.5	1.1	5.6	10.1	3.4	1.1
Assam	46.2	13.8	5.8	0.4	5.8	37.2	17.6	2.5
Manipur	70.7	2.4	9.8	--	2.4	17.1	--	2.4
Meghalaya	77.0	10.0	5.0	--	2.0	4.0	2.0	4.0
Mizoram	85.4	5.7	6.7	0.2	0.7	1.7	1.5	--
Nagaland	86.4	7.6	4.5	7.6	7.6	3.0	4.5	--
Tripura	33.3	22.9	4.7	--	7.3	39.1	24.0	1.6
West								
Goa	84.4	3.3	4.7	--	5.3	5.6	3.1	0.7
Gujarat	86.0	2.5	4.1	0.1	4.0	5.6	1.3	0.2
Maharashtra	86.9	4.7	5.2	0.1	5.6	2.5	0.5	--
South								
Andhra Pradesh	93.0	2.3	2.0	0.3	2.1	1.1	0.2	0.3
Karnataka	83.1	3.2	7.5	0.2	3.4	5.9	0.6	1.1
Kerala	60.6	4.8	8.6	0.2	14.9	18.1	16.4	0.5
Tamil Nadu	81.3	3.1	5.6	0.2	5.1	6.7	4.9	0.8

Note: Percentages may add to more than 100.0 because all prior methods are included
 -- Less than 0.05 percent

6.3 Source of Supply of Contraception

Family planning methods and services in India are provided through a network of government hospitals and urban family welfare centres in urban areas and Primary Health Centres and sub-centres in rural areas. Besides these government outlets, family planning services are also provided by a few private hospitals and clinics as well as by nongovernmental organizations. Sterilization operations and IUD insertions are carried out mostly in government hospitals and Primary Health Centres. Sterilization camps, organized from time to time, also provide sterilization services. Modern spacing methods such as the IUD, the pill and condoms are available through both the government and private sectors.

In order to assess the relative importance of various sources of contraceptive methods, the NFHS included a question about where current users of contraception obtained their methods. Overall, the public sector, consisting of government/municipal hospitals, Primary Health Centres and other governmental health infrastructure, provide services to 79 percent of the current users of all modern methods, while the private medical sector, including private hospitals and clinics, private doctors, and pharmacies/drugstores serve 15 percent of current users (Table 6.20 and Figure 6.5). Only 6 percent of users obtain their methods from other sources, such as shops, friends or relatives.

The mix of public and private sector sources varies substantially according to the method used. For clinical methods (sterilizations and the IUD), the government is by far the major source of supply - 93 percent of male sterilizations, 86 percent of female sterilizations and 63 percent of IUD insertions were done at a government source. The pill is obtained from both the government sector (31 percent) and the private medical sector (42 percent). More than one-quarter of pill users obtain the pill from shops, friends and relatives. One-fifth of condom users obtain their supplies from the private medical sector, and another 65 percent of condom users obtain their supplies from other sources, such as shops, friends or relatives.

With regard to specific sources of contraception, Primary Health Centres and government/municipal hospitals (the main institutions that provide contraceptive services) are the most important sources. Seventy-seven percent of female sterilization acceptors, 81 percent of male sterilization acceptors, 56 percent of IUD users, and 21 percent of pill users are served by

Table 6.20 Source of supply of modern contraceptive methods

Percent distribution of current users of modern contraceptive methods by most recent source of supply, according to specific method and residence, India, 1992-93

Source of supply	Pill	Copper T/IUD	In-jec-tion	Con-dom	Female steril-ization	Male steril-ization	All modern methods
URBAN							
Public sector	17.3	52.2	*	7.8	74.6	86.1	62.4
Government/municipal hospital	11.3	44.3	*	5.0	62.5	66.6	51.6
Primary Health Centre	4.1	5.0	*	1.6	7.0	8.7	6.1
Sub-centre	0.3	0.4	*	0.4	0.2	--	0.2
Family planning clinic	0.3	0.8	*	0.3	0.7	2.5	0.8
Public mobile clinic	0.1	0.2	*	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.1
Camp	--	--	*	--	3.6	7.8	3.0
Government paramedic	0.9	0.5	*	0.1	--	--	0.1
Other	0.3	1.1	*	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.5
Private medical sector	49.9	46.1	*	21.8	24.9	9.8	26.3
Private hospital or clinic	5.0	32.8	*	0.8	22.8	7.3	19.0
Pharmacy/drugstore	35.6	--	*	19.4	--	--	4.0
Private doctor	8.8	13.2	*	1.5	2.0	2.4	3.2
Other	0.5	--	*	0.2	0.1	--	0.1
Other source	32.8	1.7	*	70.3	0.6	4.1	11.2
Shop	30.3	--	*	46.3	--	--	7.2
Husband	--	--	*	19.7	--	--	2.5
Friend/relative	1.9	--	*	0.8	--	--	0.2
Other	0.6	1.7	*	3.5	0.6	4.1	1.3
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	425	865	5	1280	6702	715	9992

Table 6.20 Source of supply of modern contraceptive methods (Contd.)

Percent distribution of current users of modern contraceptive methods by most recent source of supply, according to specific method and residence, India, 1992-93

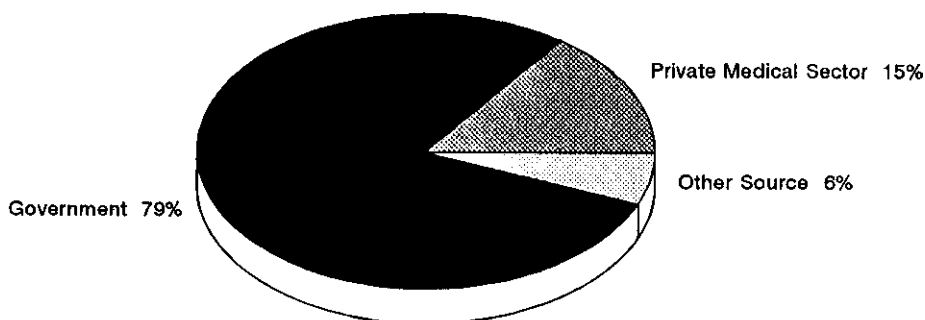
Source of supply	Pill	Copper T/ IUD	Injec- tion	Con- dom	Female steril- ization	Male steril- ization	All modern methods
RURAL							
Public sector	41.0	74.9	*	27.4	90.8	95.7	87.0
Government/municipal hospital	8.0	31.5	*	7.9	54.2	47.2	49.6
Primary Health Centre	16.3	32.1	*	11.7	26.5	36.2	26.9
Sub-centre	11.5	8.0	*	6.6	0.7	1.5	1.6
Family planning clinic	0.9	0.7	*	0.2	0.7	0.7	0.7
Public mobile clinic	0.2	0.2	*	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.4
Camp	--	--	*	--	8.2	9.5	7.5
Government paramedic	3.5	2.3	*	0.9	--	--	0.2
Other	0.5	0.1	*	--	0.1	0.1	0.1
Private medical sector	35.5	23.6	*	17.8	8.6	2.6	9.6
Private hospital or clinic	1.6	13.0	*	0.9	7.7	2.0	6.9
Pharmacy/drugstore	26.6	--	*	13.8	--	--	1.3
Private doctor	5.0	10.3	*	1.5	0.8	0.5	1.3
Other	2.4	0.4	*	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.2
Other source	23.5	1.4	*	54.8	0.6	1.7	3.4
Shop	19.9	--	*	26.8	--	--	1.6
Husband	--	--	*	23.6	--	--	0.9
Friend/relative	3.1	--	*	0.9	--	--	0.1
Other	0.6	1.4	*	3.5	0.6	1.7	0.9
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	588	725	28	775	16434	2201	20750
TOTAL							
Public sector	31.0	62.6	(54.8)	15.2	86.1	93.4	79.0
Government/municipal hospital	9.3	38.4	(31.8)	6.1	56.6	52.0	50.2
Primary Health Centre	11.2	17.4	(17.8)	5.5	20.8	29.4	20.1
Sub-centre	6.8	3.9	(0.7)	2.7	0.6	1.1	1.1
Family planning clinic	0.7	0.7	(--)	0.2	0.7	1.2	0.7
Public mobile clinic	0.1	0.2	(4.5)	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.3
Camp	--	--	(--)	--	6.9	9.1	6.0
Government paramedic	2.4	1.3	(--)	0.4	--	--	0.2
Other	0.4	0.6	(--)	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Private medical sector	41.5	35.8	(45.2)	20.3	13.3	4.3	15.0
Private hospital or clinic	3.0	23.8	(14.5)	0.8	12.1	3.3	10.8
Pharmacy/drugstore	30.4	--	(--)	17.3	--	--	2.2
Private doctor	6.6	11.9	(25.6)	1.5	1.1	1.0	1.9
Other	1.6	0.2	(5.1)	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.2
Other source	27.4	1.6	(--)	64.5	0.6	2.3	6.0
Shop	24.3	--	(--)	38.9	--	--	3.4
Husband	--	--	(--)	21.2	--	--	1.4
Friend/relative	2.6	--	(--)	0.9	--	--	0.1
Other	0.6	1.6	(--)	3.5	0.6	2.3	1.0
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1013	1589	33	2055	23136	2916	30741

() Based on 25-49 unweighted cases

* Percent not shown; based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases

-- Less than 0.05 percent

Figure 6.5
Sources of Family Planning Among Current
Users of Modern Contraceptive Methods



NFHS, India, 1992-93

these institutions. Private shops are major sources for condoms (39 percent of condom users), and they also are the sources for 24 percent of pill users. Pharmacies and drugstores serve 30 percent of pill users. Twenty-four percent of IUD insertions are done at private hospitals or clinics and 12 percent by private doctors. Seven percent of female sterilizations and 9 percent of male sterilizations were done in sterilization camps.

Urban and rural areas differ regarding the sources of contraceptive methods. In rural areas, the public sector is the source of supply for 87 percent of users, while in urban areas, the public sector is the source of supply for only 62 percent of all users. In urban areas, private medical sources provide contraception to 26 percent of users and other nonmedical sources to 11 percent of them; together, they supply 25 percent of female sterilizations, 48 percent of the IUD users, and 83 percent of the pill users. As expected, other (non-medical) sources provided condoms for a sizeable percentage of users (70 percent) in urban areas. Thus while government sources are important in urban as well as rural areas, their importance is particularly great in rural areas. In rural areas, the predominance of the public sector is particularly evident in the case of female and male sterilizations (91 and 96 percent, respectively).

Interstate variations in the extent to which the public sector supplies contraceptive services are shown in Table 6.21. The public sector is the major source for sterilization in both urban and rural areas (particularly the latter) in all the states. In general, sterilization acceptors in the northern, central and eastern states rely more on the public sector for the services than

Table 6.21 Public sector as source of modern contraceptives

Percentage of current users of modern contraceptive methods who reported the public sector as the source of supply, according to specific method, residence and state, India, 1992-93

State	Pill	Copper T/ IUD	Con- dom	Female steril- ization	Male steril- ization	All modern methods
URBAN						
India	17.3	52.2	7.8	74.6	86.1	62.4
North						
Delhi	21.7	56.5	7.6	75.4	87.5	45.2
Haryana	*	57.7	14.7	91.6	(97.9)	65.8
Himachal Pradesh	*	83.5	14.2	96.9	98.8	75.2
Jammu Region of J & K	*	69.8	6.8	91.1	(95.6)	62.8
Punjab	*	69.4	9.6	89.1	*	62.7
Rajasthan	*	(80.0)	12.0	96.5	(100.0)	85.6
Central						
Madhya Pradesh	*	73.2	9.2	89.7	90.8	74.9
Uttar Pradesh	(26.2)	49.2	4.4	86.7	93.0	55.2
East						
Bihar	(8.0)	*	4.0	67.7	(66.0)	55.0
Orissa	(22.2)	(85.7)	*	88.0	(81.8)	79.7
West Bengal	(5.0)	*	(6.0)	77.2	*	57.9
Northeast						
Arunachal Pradesh	*	*	*	*	*	(72.2)
Assam	(2.6)	*	12.7	74.5	*	55.8
Manipur	*	(80.0)	*	(93.8)	*	80.4
Meghalaya	*	*	*	(64.9)	*	58.5
Mizoram	*	*	*	94.1	*	87.4
Nagaland	*	*	*	(84.6)	*	(68.9)
Tripura	*	*	*	(93.6)	*	69.6
West						
Goa	*	(43.2)	11.5	76.7	*	62.7
Gujarat	*	44.9	(4.3)	72.6	(85.7)	63.6
Maharashtra	(13.9)	38.9	8.6	62.7	(90.9)	55.2
South						
Andhra Pradesh	*	*	*	62.9	78.9	61.8
Karnataka	*	52.9	(10.3)	75.2	*	68.9
Kerala	*	(65.4)	(13.6)	75.6	86.2	72.1
Tamil Nadu	*	41.0	(2.6)	72.4	*	63.3

those in the western and southern states. In Himachal Pradesh, Jammu, Punjab, Rajasthan, Orissa, Tripura and Haryana, more than 95 percent of sterilized women reported having obtained their services from the public sector, whereas in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra and Gujarat, 77-80 percent of sterilized women received the services from the public sector. For the modern temporary methods, the utilization of public sector services is relatively low, but there are interstate variations. Ninety-two percent of IUD insertions in Orissa were done in the public sector, whereas this sector provided services to only 48 percent of the IUD users in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

Table 6.21 Public sector as source of modern contraceptives (Contd.)

Percentage of current users of modern contraceptive methods who reported the public sector as the source of supply, according to specific method, residence and state, India, 1992-93

	Pill	Copper T/ IUD	Con- dom	Female steril- ization	Male steril- ization	All modern methods
RURAL						
India	41.0	74.9	27.4	90.8	95.7	87.0
North						
Delhi	*	*	8.6	(87.0)	*	46.2
Haryana	*	(76.2)	(22.5)	96.3	98.9	90.1
Himachal Pradesh	*	(84.6)	42.9	98.6	95.8	92.5
Jammu Region of J & K	*	(87.9)	9.2	98.2	100.0	86.2
Punjab	(39.6)	78.2	19.9	98.8	(100.0)	83.1
Rajasthan	*	(81.6)	*	97.1	96.5	95.1
Central						
Madhya Pradesh	(54.1)	*	61.7	96.4	98.4	94.9
Uttar Pradesh	55.5	(72.3)	20.8	95.4	96.6	83.6
East						
Bihar	(17.1)	*	(15.6)	91.2	(92.0)	83.7
Orissa	*	(94.4)	*	98.4	96.9	96.8
West Bengal	23.8	(90.0)	(17.6)	95.0	96.8	87.5
Northeast						
Arunachal Pradesh	*	(96.8)	*	92.6	*	89.6
Assam	(26.1)	*	*	89.8	(90.7)	76.2
Manipur	*	(76.0)	*	93.8	*	83.7
Meghalaya	*	*	*	78.9	*	73.5
Mizoram	*	(92.3)	*	95.0	*	94.0
Nagaland	*	*	*	(82.1)	*	71.6
Tripura	(15.6)	*	*	98.3	*	77.4
West						
Goa	*	(65.7)	(41.7)	85.3	*	80.7
Gujarat	*	(67.5)	*	84.1	89.7	82.3
Maharashtra	*	*	(57.7)	86.7	99.0	87.8
South						
Andhra Pradesh	*	*	*	84.7	92.0	85.6
Karnataka	*	72.6	*	92.4	(97.9)	90.9
Kerala	*	78.0	23.6	77.3	91.9	76.0
Tamil Nadu	*	58.8	*	88.7	92.5	85.8

6.4 Reasons for Discontinuation

All currently married women who had ever used contraception but who were not using any method at the time of the survey and were not currently pregnant were asked why they had discontinued their use of contraception. Their responses to this question are presented in Table 6.22. Apart from "other" reasons such as the onset of menopause or the absence of the husband (mentioned by 31 percent), the most commonly mentioned reasons for discontinuing a method are the desire to have a child (28 percent of discontinuers) and health problems (15 percent). Another 7 percent of the discontinuers reported that they discontinued the use because the method created menstrual problems. Method failure was the reason for discontinuation for 5 percent of the women. With a little motivation and improvement in services, these women may be successfully brought under the programme again.

Table 6.21 Public sector as source of modern contraceptives (Contd.)

Percentage of current users of modern contraceptive methods who reported the public sector as the source of supply, according to specific method, residence and state, India, 1992-93

State	Pill	Copper T/ IUD	Con- dom	Female steril- ization	Male steril- ization	All modern methods
TOTAL						
India	31.0	62.6	15.2	86.1	93.4	79.0
North						
Delhi	21.9	56.0	7.7	76.2	86.9	45.2
Haryana	(43.3)	67.9	17.2	95.3	98.6	83.1
Himachal Pradesh	*	84.3	35.3	98.4	96.0	90.6
Jammu Region of J & K	(40.0)	79.9	8.3	97.1	99.1	81.1
Punjab	30.6	75.1	15.2	96.5	98.6	77.1
Rajasthan	(48.0)	81.0	28.4	97.0	97.5	92.3
Central						
Madhya Pradesh	(40.2)	76.6	25.9	94.7	96.9	89.2
Uttar Pradesh	46.7	58.6	11.8	93.4	95.4	74.5
East						
Bihar	14.3	(30.6)	9.7	85.8	82.8	76.1
Orissa	(42.8)	91.6	(22.9)	96.5	94.1	93.4
West Bengal	16.2	(82.3)	10.3	90.7	93.9	79.6
Northeast						
Arunachal Pradesh	(66.7)	(97.4)	*	90.7	*	85.7
Assam	22.2	(89.4)	16.6	86.6	90.8	72.0
Manipur	*	78.3	*	93.8	(100.0)	82.3
Meghalaya	*	*	*	73.4	*	68.2
Mizoram	*	(80.4)	*	94.5	*	90.6
Nagaland	*	*	*	83.1	*	70.7
Tripura	15.6	*	*	97.0	*	75.3
West						
Goa	*	53.2	21.1	81.5	(82.8)	72.0
Gujarat	(43.2)	53.2	6.2	80.4	88.4	75.5
Maharashtra	36.5	47.9	21.9	77.7	97.4	74.8
South						
Andhra Pradesh	*	*	(31.0)	78.0	88.3	78.1
Karnataka	*	62.3	(14.6)	86.9	95.1	83.4
Kerala	*	75.0	19.8	76.8	90.0	74.9
Tamil Nadu	*	48.1	5.3	83.6	91.5	78.0

Note: Public sector includes government/municipal hospital, Primary Health Centre, sub-centre, family planning clinic, public mobile clinic, camp and government paramedic.

() Based on 25-49 unweighted cases

* Percentage not shown; based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases

-- Less than 0.05 percent

6.5 Intention to Use Family Planning in the Future

In the NFHS, all currently married women who were not using contraception at the time of the interview (including those who were currently pregnant) were asked about their future intentions regarding the use of family planning and their method preference if they intended to use contraception. This type of information can assist family planning programme administrators in identifying potential groups of users and in providing the types of contraception that are likely

Table 6.22 Reasons for discontinuation

Percent distribution of nonpregnant, currently married ever users who are not currently using a contraceptive method by main reason for stopping use and residence, India, 1992-93

Reason for stopping use	Urban	Rural	Total
Method failed/got pregnant	3.4	6.4	5.3
Lack of sexual satisfaction	1.4	2.1	1.8
Created menstrual problem	7.6	6.0	6.6
Created health problem	20.2	11.6	14.6
Inconvenient to use	3.6	2.2	2.7
Hard to get method	0.7	1.2	1.0
Put on weight	0.6	0.3	0.4
Did not like the method	3.8	4.1	4.0
Wanted to have a child	24.7	30.3	28.4
Wanted to replace dead child	0.2	0.7	0.5
Lack of privacy for use	2.2	1.0	1.4
Other	29.1	32.0	31.0
Don't know/missing	2.6	2.1	2.3
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1462	2718	4180

to be in demand. Responses to the questions on future use according to past use, place of residence, and number of living children are given in Table 6.23.

Overall, 58 percent of currently married nonusers reported that they do not intend to use contraception in the future. Twenty-nine percent said that they would use in the future, and another 13 percent were unsure of their intentions. The high proportion of women who do not intend to use family planning suggests that it will be difficult for the family planning programme to succeed without a strong Information, Education and Communication (IEC) component to motivate couples to use contraception.

Among those intending to use family planning, 48 percent said they would use contraception within the next 12 months, almost an equal proportion said they would use it at a later stage, and 5 percent were unsure when they would start using contraception. Among women who have never used contraceptive methods before, the majority (60 percent) reported that they do not intend to use them in the future, and 14 percent were not sure of their intentions. In contrast, 55 percent of the smaller number of women who have used contraception in the past, but are not currently using, intend to use contraception again in the future; another 7 percent are not sure of their intentions.

The proportion of women who intend to use family planning in the future increases gradually with each additional living child up to two, then declines slightly among women with three or more children. For instance, whereas only 15 percent of women with no living children expressed an intention to use contraceptives in the future, this percentage reaches 36 for those with two living children and then declines to 27 percent of women with four or more living children. This drop-off in the percentage intending to use family planning among women with four or more children may reflect their relatively advanced ages and consequent infecundability.

Table 6.23 Future use

Percent distribution of currently married women who are currently not using any contraceptive method by intention to use in the future, according to number of living children, residence and whether ever used contraception, India, 1992-93

Past use/ intention to use in future	Number of living children ¹					Total
	0	1	2	3	4+	
URBAN						
Never used contraception						
Intends to use in next 12 months	2.2	11.9	13.9	16.1	14.6	11.8
Intends to use later	13.4	16.9	12.8	10.5	3.5	11.7
Intends to use, unsure when	0.4	1.0	1.7	0.6	1.0	1.0
Unsure as to intention	15.0	9.3	6.9	7.7	8.0	9.3
Does not intend to use	64.0	47.3	38.3	42.1	53.8	48.7
Missing	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.4
Previously used contraception						
Intends to use in next 12 months	0.1	3.2	9.1	8.1	6.0	5.3
Intends to use later	1.6	4.2	4.7	2.7	1.2	3.0
Intends to use, unsure when	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.4
Unsure as to intention	0.9	1.0	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.2
Does not intend to use	2.0	4.2	9.9	10.1	9.8	7.1
Missing	--	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All currently married nonusers						
Intends to use in next 12 months	2.3	15.2	23.0	24.2	20.6	17.1
Intends to use later	15.0	21.1	17.5	13.2	4.7	14.7
Intends to use, unsure when	0.7	1.2	2.6	1.0	1.3	1.4
Unsure as to intention	15.9	10.3	8.3	9.4	9.3	10.5
Does not intend to use	65.9	51.5	48.2	52.1	63.6	55.8
Missing	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.6	0.5
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1858	2757	2456	1501	2239	10812
RURAL						
Never used contraception						
Intends to use in next 12 months	1.6	6.7	10.4	14.6	15.3	10.0
Intends to use later	11.2	17.7	14.8	9.6	5.0	11.5
Intends to use, unsure when	0.4	0.9	1.4	1.4	0.9	1.0
Unsure as to intention	17.9	13.6	10.6	12.0	11.8	13.0
Does not intend to use	66.2	54.1	51.1	51.3	55.1	55.3
Missing	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Previously used contraception						
Intends to use in next 12 months	0.2	1.8	3.8	4.5	4.5	3.0
Intends to use later	0.8	2.2	2.7	1.9	0.9	1.7
Intends to use, unsure when	--	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3
Unsure as to intention	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.7
Does not intend to use	1.2	2.0	3.6	3.4	4.9	3.2
Missing	--	--	--	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All currently married nonusers						
Intends to use in next 12 months	1.8	8.5	14.2	19.1	19.8	13.1
Intends to use later	12.0	19.9	17.4	11.4	5.9	13.1
Intends to use, unsure when	0.4	1.2	1.9	1.8	1.3	1.3
Unsure as to intention	18.2	14.2	11.4	12.6	12.7	13.7
Does not intend to use	67.3	56.1	54.7	54.7	59.9	58.5
Missing	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.3
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6584	8868	7676	6054	10321	39502

Table 6.23 Future use (Contd.)

Percent distribution of currently married women who are currently not using any contraceptive method by intention to use in the future, according to number of living children, residence and whether ever used contraception, India, 1992-93

Past use/ intention to use in future	Number of living children ¹					Total
	0	1	2	3	4+	
TOTAL						
Never used contraception						
Intends to use in next 12 months	1.7	8.0	11.3	14.9	15.2	10.4
Intends to use later	11.7	17.5	14.3	9.8	4.7	11.5
Intends to use, unsure when	0.4	0.9	1.5	1.2	0.9	1.0
Unsure as to intention	17.3	12.6	9.7	11.1	11.1	12.2
Does not intend to use	65.7	52.5	48.0	49.5	54.8	53.9
Missing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3
Previously used contraception						
Intends to use in next 12 months	0.2	2.1	5.1	5.2	4.7	3.5
Intends to use later	1.0	2.7	3.2	2.0	1.0	2.0
Intends to use, unsure when	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4
Unsure as to intention	0.5	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.8
Does not intend to use	1.4	2.6	5.2	4.8	5.7	4.0
Missing	--	--	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All currently married nonusers						
Intends to use in next 12 months	1.9	10.1	16.3	20.1	19.9	13.9
Intends to use later	12.6	20.2	17.5	11.8	5.7	13.5
Intends to use, unsure when	0.5	1.2	2.1	1.7	1.3	1.3
Unsure as to intention	17.7	13.3	10.7	11.9	12.1	13.0
Does not intend to use	67.0	55.0	53.1	54.2	60.6	57.9
Missing	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8441	11625	10132	7555	12560	50314

-- Less than 0.05 percent

¹Includes current pregnancy, if any

Intentions to use a contraceptive method in the future do not vary substantially between urban and rural areas.

There are considerable interstate variations in the proportion of women (currently married nonusers) who expressed an intention to use family planning in the future (Table 6.24). In the four large states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan only 19-25 percent of the current nonusers intend to use a method in the future. It is worth noting that these are the states where the current use of contraception is also low. On the other hand, in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat and Kerala, where the contraceptive prevalence rate is 50 percent or more, a greater proportion of the current nonusers expressed an intention to use contraception in the future.

6.6 Reasons for Nonuse of Contraception

Currently married women who are not using any contraceptive method and who say that they do not intend to use contraception at any time in the future are asked the main reason they

Table 6.24 Future use by state

Percentage of currently married women not currently using contraception who intend to use any time in future, by number of living children, according to state, India, 1992-93

State	Number of living children ¹					Total
	0	1	2	3	4+	
India	15.0	31.5	35.9	33.6	26.9	28.8
North						
Delhi	20.4	41.1	39.7	41.1	42.1	37.4
Haryana	38.1	65.9	68.0	64.1	52.3	58.7
Himachal Pradesh	30.9	56.9	63.0	51.0	40.7	50.0
Jammu Region of J & K	32.3	60.4	61.4	66.5	50.3	54.0
Punjab	23.5	52.7	57.0	49.1	42.9	46.8
Rajasthan	8.6	17.2	26.0	24.9	22.2	19.8
Central						
Madhya Pradesh	11.8	24.6	30.2	32.2	27.5	25.1
Uttar Pradesh	7.1	15.0	20.5	21.9	23.0	18.7
East						
Bihar	11.9	23.4	26.6	28.5	24.9	23.3
Orissa	13.5	28.2	34.0	37.6	29.6	28.8
West Bengal	27.7	55.6	56.3	58.9	37.8	47.1
Northeast						
Arunachal Pradesh	7.9	23.6	29.8	25.0	23.1	23.4
Assam	15.0	39.7	53.8	53.5	47.0	44.4
Manipur	(2.6)	24.0	36.1	41.9	26.6	28.4
Meghalaya	21.4	19.6	20.6	19.8	12.9	17.5
Mizoram	23.8	35.5	36.1	43.7	12.6	30.1
Nagaland	(2.3)	13.6	12.4	9.2	14.6	12.5
Tripura	35.6	58.7	59.6	55.9	43.4	50.9
West						
Goa	27.6	42.0	39.2	31.0	15.5	32.9
Gujarat	31.8	56.3	55.5	40.0	30.5	44.3
Maharashtra	11.1	31.0	38.1	41.6	34.8	31.5
South						
Andhra Pradesh	22.3	32.1	40.9	32.2	24.2	30.5
Karnataka	17.3	37.1	45.3	41.3	21.5	33.0
Kerala	25.5	52.8	51.1	43.1	15.0	41.3
Tamil Nadu	11.9	36.1	39.3	34.1	13.6	28.9

() Based on 25-49 unweighted cases

¹Includes current pregnancy, if any

do not intend to use a method. Information on reasons for nonuse is crucial for designing successful information programmes and for understanding the obstacles to further increases in contraceptive prevalence. Reasons for not intending to use any method are indicated in Table 6.25. The largest proportion of women (52 percent) say they do not intend to use contraception because they want more children, either in general or because they want a child of a specific sex, particularly a son. Not surprisingly, this reason is more common among women under age 30 (80 percent) than among those 30 or older (19 percent). It is worth noting that this reason for intended nonuse is almost as prevalent among urban women as among rural women. A small proportion (8 percent) of women reported that contraception is either against their religion or that they or their husbands are against the use of family planning. A higher proportion of older women (10 percent) gave these as reasons for not intending to use family planning than younger

Table 6.25 Reasons for nonuse

Percent distribution of currently married women who are not using any contraceptive method and who do not intend to use in the future by main reason for not intending to use, according to age and residence, India, 1992-93

Reason	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Age <30	Age 30+	Total	Age <30	Age 30+	Total	Age <30	Age 30+	Total
Wants children	64.2	13.8	36.9	63.0	12.5	41.4	63.2	12.8	40.5
Wants a son	12.1	4.2	7.8	15.0	5.7	11.0	14.5	5.3	10.4
Wants a daughter	2.0	0.5	1.2	1.8	0.8	1.4	1.8	0.7	1.4
Worry about side effects	1.8	2.5	2.2	1.2	2.4	1.7	1.3	2.4	1.8
Can't work after sterilization	0.5	1.2	0.9	1.1	3.1	1.9	1.0	2.6	1.7
Lack of knowledge	1.8	2.3	2.1	3.8	6.2	4.8	3.5	5.3	4.3
Afraid of sterilization	1.6	2.6	2.2	1.6	4.5	2.9	1.6	4.0	2.7
Hard to get methods	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3
Cost too much	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4
Against religion	3.2	4.3	3.8	2.7	4.4	3.5	2.8	4.4	3.5
Opposed to family planning	0.3	1.3	0.9	0.9	2.0	1.4	0.8	1.9	1.3
Husband opposed	3.2	3.7	3.4	2.5	4.3	3.2	2.6	4.1	3.3
Other people opposed	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4
Difficult to get pregnant	1.7	14.3	8.5	0.8	8.1	3.9	1.0	9.6	4.9
Menopausal/had hysterectomy	0.4	25.3	13.9	0.1	25.7	11.0	0.2	25.6	11.6
Health does not permit	1.5	7.0	4.5	1.1	7.1	3.7	1.2	7.1	3.9
Inconvenient	0.3	2.9	1.7	0.1	0.9	0.5	0.2	1.4	0.7
Doesn't like existing methods	2.2	5.0	3.7	1.8	4.9	3.1	1.8	4.9	3.2
Other	1.8	7.7	5.0	1.4	6.0	3.3	1.4	6.4	3.7
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2763	3271	6034	13250	9858	23108	16013	13129	29142

women (6 percent). A significant proportion of older women (26 percent) also reported their actual or perceived sterility as the main reason for not intending to use contraception in the future. Four percent of all the women do not intend to use family planning methods due to a lack of knowledge. Therefore, there is still some scope for the family planning programme to increase contraceptive use through providing contraceptive information, particularly in rural areas.

6.7 Preferred Future Method of Family Planning

Women currently not using contraception who said they intend to use a method in the future were asked to specify the method of family planning that they want to use. Although female sterilization remains the most preferred method in the future (59 percent), a sizeable proportion of women (31 percent) intend to use a modern temporary method (Table 6.26). Among the temporary methods, the pill is the most preferred method (19 percent), followed by the IUD (6 percent) and condoms (4 percent). Only 1 percent of the intended future users prefer male sterilization.

The choice of preferred methods is slightly different for those who intend to use within 12 months than those who intend to use later, with the modern temporary methods being more popular in the former group and female sterilization being most popular in the latter. The

Table 6.26 Preferred method

Percent distribution of currently married women who are not using a contraceptive method but who intend to use in the future by preferred method, according to whether they intend to use in the next 12 months or later, by residence, India, 1992-93

Preferred method	Timing of intended use			All women
	Next 12 months	Later	Unsure when	
URBAN				
Pill	18.9	7.4	7.8	13.3
Copper T/IUD	12.8	5.2	7.4	9.2
Injection	2.8	0.7	0.2	1.8
Condom	9.5	3.6	6.9	6.7
Female sterilization	45.3	72.7	54.2	57.8
Male sterilization	1.2	0.5	0.6	0.9
Periodic abstinence	3.0	1.5	3.0	2.4
Withdrawal	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.6
Other	1.9	1.9	2.9	1.9
Unsure	3.9	5.8	16.1	5.3
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1848	1594	153	3606
RURAL				
Pill	30.7	11.5	12.5	20.7
Copper T/IUD	7.4	2.2	4.8	4.8
Injection	3.0	1.4	1.5	2.1
Condom	5.3	1.6	2.7	3.4
Female sterilization	43.7	74.8	51.5	58.9
Male sterilization	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.9
Periodic abstinence	3.3	1.4	4.2	2.4
Withdrawal	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.5
Other	1.8	0.8	3.7	1.4
Unsure	3.2	5.1	17.5	4.8
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5166	5189	522	10911
TOTAL				
Pill	27.6	10.5	11.5	18.9
Copper T/IUD	8.8	2.9	5.4	5.9
Injection	3.0	1.2	1.2	2.1
Condom	6.4	2.1	3.6	4.2
Female sterilization	44.1	74.3	52.1	58.6
Male sterilization	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Periodic abstinence	3.2	1.4	4.0	2.4
Withdrawal	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.6
Other	1.8	1.1	3.5	1.5
Unsure	3.4	5.3	17.2	4.9
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7013	6782	675	14516

pattern of preferred future methods is generally similar in both urban and rural areas, although the pill is more popular among intended users in rural areas, and condoms and IUDs are more popular in urban areas.

The contraceptive method mix that intended future users say they would prefer is substantially different from the methods selected by current users. Modern temporary methods

are being used by only 14 percent of current users (Table 6.5), but 31 percent of intended future users say they would like to use modern temporary methods. These results suggest that the potential demand for modern temporary methods is relatively strong among intended future users and that the family welfare programme should pay increasing attention to these methods as part of a balanced programme to satisfy the contraceptive needs of women.

6.8 Exposure to Family Planning Messages on Radio and Television

For many years, the family welfare programme has been utilizing the electronic mass media to promote family planning. In order to explore the spread of family planning messages through various mass media, respondents were asked whether they had heard such messages on radio or television in the month prior to the survey. Table 6.27 shows the percentage of women

Table 6.27 Exposure to family planning messages on radio and television

Percent distribution of ever-married women by whether they heard a radio or television message about family planning in the month prior to the interview, according to selected background characteristics, India, 1992-93

Background characteristic	Heard family planning message on radio or television					Total percent	Number
	Neither	Radio only	Television only	Both	Missing		
Age							
13-19	63.2	17.9	4.2	14.6	--	100.0	9448
20-29	56.6	15.3	5.8	22.2	--	100.0	35424
30-39	56.4	13.4	6.6	23.6	--	100.0	27121
40-49	59.2	13.1	5.9	21.8	0.1	100.0	17784
Residence							
Urban	31.5	8.3	12.7	47.5	--	100.0	23455
Rural	67.0	16.8	3.5	12.7	--	100.0	66322
Education							
Illiterate	72.5	14.6	3.4	9.5	--	100.0	56656
Lit., < middle complete	44.0	18.3	8.5	29.1	--	100.0	16475
Middle school complete	30.3	15.5	11.5	42.7	--	100.0	6508
High school and above	15.3	7.9	12.0	64.7	--	100.0	10138
Religion							
Hindu	58.3	14.7	5.6	21.4	--	100.0	73648
Muslim	60.0	15.0	5.4	19.6	0.1	100.0	10806
Christian	47.8	17.5	6.3	28.4	--	100.0	2142
Sikh	43.3	5.6	21.4	29.7	--	100.0	1673
Jain	16.5	3.8	11.1	68.5	--	100.0	428
Buddhist	50.1	11.8	8.9	29.1	--	100.0	734
Other	75.3	9.2	3.2	12.2	--	100.0	345
Caste/tribe							
Scheduled caste	65.9	14.8	4.9	14.3	--	100.0	10970
Scheduled tribe	77.9	11.9	2.1	8.0	--	100.0	7934
Other	54.2	14.8	6.5	24.4	--	100.0	70872
Use of contraception							
Ever used	47.7	14.8	8.0	29.6	--	100.0	41172
Never used	66.3	14.4	4.1	15.1	--	100.0	48604
Total	57.8	14.6	5.9	21.7	--	100.0	89777

-- Less than 0.05 percent

who report seeing or hearing a family planning message according to various background characteristics. The effort to disseminate family planning information through the electronic mass media has succeeded in reaching less than half (42 percent) of ever-married women. This is not surprising, given that only 21 percent of households in India own televisions and only 39 percent own radios (Table 3.13). About one in four women (22 percent) reported hearing a message on both the radio and television in the month preceding the survey. One in seven (15 percent) reported hearing a family planning message only on the radio, and 6 percent of women only on television. This suggests that there is substantial scope for electronic media to play a more significant role in reaching potential users of family planning in the future.

Urban-rural differences in exposure to family planning messages are substantial. While two-thirds (68 percent) of urban women reported exposure to family planning messages on the radio or television, only one-third (33 percent) of rural women did so. In urban areas, television and radio are about equally important in conveying family planning messages, but in rural areas, radio is far more important than television.

Women's exposure to family planning messages on the radio and television is positively related with educational attainment. Only 27 percent of illiterate respondents reported having heard a family planning message on the radio or television, whereas 85 percent of women with at least a high school education have heard a message. The proportion having heard a message on television or on both the radio and television increases sharply with increasing education.

There are almost no differences in the extent of exposure to family planning messages between Hindus and Muslims (40-42 percent). The exposure to family planning messages on the radio or television is much higher among Christians (52 percent), Sikhs (57 percent) and especially Jains (84 percent). The percentage who recall having heard a family planning message on the radio or television is lowest among scheduled tribe women (22 percent) and highest among non-SC/ST women (46 percent). All of these differentials are likely to reflect some combination of greater access to broadcast signals in urban than in rural areas, the greater ability of higher-income groups to own receivers, and the differential attentiveness to media messages associated with differing levels of education and leisure. Media messages on family planning are particularly unlikely to have reached women who have never used contraception, which is the group most in need of obtaining family planning information.

6.9 Acceptability of Family Planning Messages on Radio and Television

Regardless of whether women had heard a family planning message on the radio or television, they were asked whether they considered it acceptable for family planning information to be provided over the airwaves. Two-thirds of the sample women say it is acceptable to have family planning messages on the radio and television. Only 8 percent say it is not acceptable and the rest (23 percent) are not sure (Table 6.28). Younger women (under age 20) and older women (over age 39), rural residents, illiterate women, and women belonging to scheduled tribes are less likely than other women to think that it is acceptable to broadcast family planning messages on the radio or television. The acceptance of family planning messages on the electronic media is particularly high among women with at least a middle school education. A higher percentage of Christian, Sikh, Jain and Buddhist women find family planning messages on the radio and television to be acceptable than do the women belonging to other religions.

Table 6.28 Acceptability of media messages on family planning

Percent distribution of ever-married women by their attitude toward having messages about family planning on the radio or television, according to selected background characteristics, India, 1992-93

Background characteristic	Acceptability of media messages				Total percent	Number of women
	Acceptable	Not acceptable	Unsure	Missing		
Age						
13-14	55.0	10.7	34.3	--	100.0	352
15-19	63.4	7.9	28.7	0.1	100.0	9095
20-24	69.6	7.7	22.7	--	100.0	17983
25-29	70.5	7.2	22.2	--	100.0	17441
30-34	70.2	8.1	21.7	--	100.0	14660
35-39	69.9	8.4	21.7	--	100.0	12461
40-44	66.8	9.7	23.4	0.1	100.0	9748
45-49	62.8	10.0	27.1	0.1	100.0	8036
Residence						
Urban	81.3	8.5	10.2	--	100.0	23455
Rural	63.7	8.1	28.1	--	100.0	66322
Education						
Illiterate	57.3	9.4	33.3	0.1	100.0	56656
Lit., < middle complete	83.9	6.2	9.9	--	100.0	16475
Middle school complete	90.2	4.6	5.1	--	100.0	6508
High school and above	90.6	7.0	2.3	--	100.0	10138
Religion						
Hindu	68.3	7.6	24.1	--	100.0	73648
Muslim	64.3	12.5	23.2	0.1	100.0	10806
Christian	76.8	8.0	15.2	--	100.0	2142
Sikh	79.6	5.3	15.1	--	100.0	1673
Jain	84.5	13.7	1.8	--	100.0	428
Buddhist	79.3	8.9	11.8	--	100.0	734
Other	49.0	14.6	36.4	--	100.0	345
Caste/tribe						
Scheduled caste	63.8	6.7	29.4	0.1	100.0	10970
Scheduled tribe	51.4	11.0	37.5	--	100.0	7934
Other	70.9	8.1	20.9	--	100.0	70872
Total	68.3	8.2	23.4	--	100.0	89777
-- Less than 0.05 percent						

The responses suggest a considerable amount of ambivalence regarding the acceptability of media messages on family planning among illiterate women and those belonging to scheduled tribes and scheduled castes.

6.10 Discussion of Family Planning Among Couples

Among nonsterilized couples, all currently married women who know a contraceptive method were asked how often they talked with their husbands about family planning in the year before the survey. The extent of such communication is fairly high. Overall, 51 percent of women said they had discussed this topic with their husbands in the previous year (Table 6.29). Thirty-seven percent discussed family planning once or twice and 13 percent discussed it more often. A relatively high percentage (58 percent) of women age 25-34 reported that they had

Table 6.29 Discussion of family planning with husband

Percent distribution of nonsterilized currently married women knowing a contraceptive method by the number of times they discussed family planning with their husbands in the past year, according to selected background characteristics, India, 1992-93

Background characteristic	Number of times family planning discussed				Total percent	Number of women
	Never	Once or twice	More often	Missing		
Age						
13-14	68.5	24.1	7.4	--	100.0	273
15-19	56.6	33.3	10.0	0.1	100.0	7927
20-24	45.2	41.1	13.6	0.2	100.0	14747
25-29	40.8	42.9	16.1	0.2	100.0	11280
30-34	43.2	40.3	16.2	0.3	100.0	7483
35-39	50.9	34.5	13.9	0.7	100.0	5436
40-44	62.1	26.2	11.2	0.5	100.0	4189
45-49	71.2	21.2	7.2	0.4	100.0	3700
Residence						
Urban	39.9	42.6	17.1	0.4	100.0	14369
Rural	52.7	35.1	12.0	0.2	100.0	40667
Respondent's education						
Illiterate	57.5	33.0	9.2	0.3	100.0	34187
Lit., < middle complete	42.2	41.7	15.9	0.3	100.0	9218
Middle school complete	35.0	44.3	20.5	0.2	100.0	4167
High school and above	29.0	45.9	24.9	0.2	100.0	7464
Religion						
Hindu	50.1	37.0	12.6	0.3	100.0	43837
Muslim	49.7	35.3	14.8	0.2	100.0	8153
Christian	43.8	34.7	21.0	0.5	100.0	1171
Sikh	32.8	46.6	20.5	--	100.0	1070
Jain	24.6	53.5	20.9	0.9	100.0	266
Buddhist	41.3	47.9	10.8	--	100.0	365
Other	49.5	39.0	11.5	--	100.0	173
Caste/tribe						
Scheduled caste	54.4	34.9	10.5	0.3	100.0	6914
Scheduled tribe	58.0	32.0	9.7	0.2	100.0	4207
Other	47.8	37.8	14.1	0.3	100.0	43915
Use of contraception						
Ever used	24.2	48.4	27.2	0.2	100.0	13687
Never used	57.7	33.2	8.7	0.3	100.0	41350
Husband's education						
Illiterate	59.1	31.7	8.9	0.3	100.0	18697
Lit., < primary complete	53.5	33.7	12.4	0.3	100.0	4954
Primary school complete	51.2	36.7	11.9	0.2	100.0	7982
Middle school complete	44.9	40.1	14.8	0.2	100.0	7016
High school complete	41.2	42.7	15.8	0.3	100.0	10606
Above high school	31.9	43.7	24.2	0.2	100.0	5673
Missing	48.7	30.4	14.1	6.8	100.0	109
Total	49.4	37.0	13.3	0.3	100.0	55036

Note: Table excludes women who are sterilized or whose husbands are sterilized.
 -- Less than 0.05 percent

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discussed family planning with their husbands. Women in the early and late reproductive years are least likely to have communicated with their husbands on family planning, probably because younger women are still early in the family building process and hence are not yet interested in limiting family size, and older women no longer believe themselves to be at high risk of pregnancy (see Table 6.25).

Substantial differences in the extent of discussion of family planning among couples are also observed according to the place of residence, respondent's level of education, her husband's education, and the ever use of family planning. Women in urban areas are more likely to have discussed family planning with their husbands than those in rural areas (60 percent compared to 47 percent). As expected, the extent of husband-wife communication about family planning is positively related to the educational attainment of women, as well as the education of their husbands. For example, 71 percent of women who completed high school had discussed family planning with their husbands compared to only 42 percent of illiterate women. Similarly, interspousal communication was more common among women whose husbands had continued schooling beyond high school (68 percent) than among those whose husbands were illiterate (41 percent).

Around one-half of Hindus, Muslims and women belonging to "other" religions have discussed family planning with their husbands, compared to 56-75 percent of Christian, Buddhist, Sikh and Jain women. The non-SC/ST women are more likely than scheduled caste and scheduled tribe women to have discussed family planning in the year preceding the survey.

A large majority (76 percent) of the women who have ever used a family planning method discussed the topic with their husbands in the last year, 48 percent having discussed it once or twice and 27 percent having discussed it more often. Among those who have never used family planning, however, only 42 percent have discussed family planning with their husbands in the past year.

6.11 Attitudes of Couples Toward Family Planning

Information on attitudes toward family planning was obtained by asking women whether they and their husbands approved or disapproved of couples using a method to delay or avoid pregnancy. Table 6.30 shows the degree of consensus between women's attitudes and those of their husbands. Of course, women may not accurately report their husband's actual attitudes toward contraception. However, a wife's perception of her husband's attitude is important since it may affect her own decisions.

Table 6.30 shows that 77 percent of currently married, nonsterilized women who know of a contraceptive method approve of family planning use and only 22 percent disapprove. Whereas 21 percent of women say they do not know their husband's attitude, 19 percent think that their husbands disapprove of family planning. There is a substantial amount of consensus between individual husbands and wives regarding the approval of family planning. In fact, 58 percent of female respondents reported that both they and their husbands approve of family planning and 12 percent said they both disapprove. This pattern of consensus among couples in favour of family planning makes the task of family planning administrators much easier.

Table 6.30 Attitudes of couples toward family planning

For nonsterilized currently married women who know of a contraceptive method, the percentage who approve of family planning by their perception of their husband's attitude, according to selected background characteristics, India, 1992-93

Background characteristic	Respondent approves			Respondent disapproves			Respondent unsure ²	Total percent	Number of women
	Husband approves	Husband disapproves	Husband's attitude unknown ¹	Husband approves	Husband disapproves	Husband's attitude unknown ¹			
Respondent's age									
13-14	42.0	3.7	24.2	2.2	8.8	16.9	2.2	100.0	273
15-19	56.5	5.6	16.9	1.2	8.9	10.0	0.8	100.0	7927
20-24	63.2	6.2	11.7	1.1	9.3	7.5	0.9	100.0	14747
25-29	63.9	6.7	9.3	1.3	10.2	7.7	0.9	100.0	11280
30-34	59.2	7.6	8.6	1.2	13.4	8.9	1.2	100.0	7483
35-39	55.1	8.4	9.8	1.6	14.0	10.0	1.1	100.0	5436
40-44	46.9	9.1	12.1	1.6	16.9	12.5	1.0	100.0	4189
45-49	44.4	8.2	14.0	1.7	15.7	14.8	1.2	100.0	3700
Residence									
Urban	70.7	7.4	7.7	1.3	8.6	3.6	0.7	100.0	14369
Rural	54.1	6.8	13.0	1.3	12.5	11.3	1.1	100.0	40667
Respondent's education									
Illiterate	47.9	7.3	14.4	1.4	14.6	13.4	1.1	100.0	34187
Lit., < middle complete	67.7	8.3	8.9	1.5	8.9	4.0	0.8	100.0	9218
Middle school complete	76.6	6.5	7.3	1.2	5.3	2.1	1.0	100.0	4167
High school and above	85.2	4.2	4.7	0.8	3.7	0.9	0.6	100.0	7464
Religion									
Hindu	59.2	6.6	12.0	1.3	10.2	9.6	1.0	100.0	43837
Muslim	49.3	9.2	10.1	1.6	19.5	9.4	0.9	100.0	8153
Christian	65.3	8.1	10.8	1.5	9.1	4.2	1.0	100.0	1171
Sikh	83.4	2.5	9.1	0.9	2.6	1.4	0.1	100.0	1070
Jain	83.3	3.8	3.9	1.7	5.0	1.3	1.1	100.0	266
Buddhist	60.0	12.0	7.4	1.2	12.1	6.2	1.1	100.0	365
Other	54.2	3.3	11.4	1.9	18.5	10.4	0.3	100.0	173
Caste/tribe									
Scheduled caste	55.0	6.9	14.1	1.2	10.1	11.7	1.0	100.0	6914
Scheduled tribe	50.0	4.8	14.3	2.2	13.0	14.7	1.0	100.0	4207
Other	59.8	7.2	10.9	1.2	11.5	8.4	1.0	100.0	43915
Use of contraception									
Ever used	85.4	5.8	2.8	1.3	3.4	0.8	0.6	100.0	13687
Never used	49.5	7.4	14.5	1.3	14.1	12.1	1.1	100.0	41350
Family planning discussed with husband in last year									
Never	37.6	7.0	20.1	1.4	16.1	17.0	0.9	100.0	27177
Once or twice	77.3	7.7	3.7	1.3	7.8	1.6	0.7	100.0	20377
More often	84.6	4.8	2.4	1.2	4.3	2.1	0.5	100.0	7331
Don't know/missing	1.8	3.1	3.0	1.6	0.8	2.0	87.7	100.0	151
Husband's education									
Illiterate	45.9	7.9	14.7	1.3	14.9	14.4	1.0	100.0	18697
Lit., < primary complete	54.1	8.6	11.6	1.9	14.1	8.7	1.0	100.0	4954
Primary school complete	56.6	8.2	12.0	1.5	11.6	9.0	1.1	100.0	7982
Middle school complete	62.7	6.9	11.3	1.3	9.8	7.1	0.9	100.0	7016
High school complete	68.5	5.3	9.3	1.3	8.6	5.9	1.0	100.0	10606
Above high school	82.0	3.9	5.5	0.9	4.9	2.0	0.7	100.0	5673
Missing	47.5	9.4	14.0	--	7.1	14.7	7.3	100.0	109
Total	58.4	7.0	11.6	1.3	11.5	9.3	1.0	100.0	55036

Note: Table excludes women who are sterilized or whose husbands are sterilized.

-- Less than 0.05 percent

¹ Respondent does not know her husband's attitude

² Includes women with missing information on approval of contraception

The percentage of women approving family planning decreases slowly with the age of the woman. Urban women are more likely to approve of family planning than rural women (86 percent versus 74 percent). The approval of family planning by both husband and wife is 71 percent in urban areas and 54 percent in rural areas. Rural women are less likely to know their husband's attitude than urban women, a fact which is consistent with the lower level of interspousal communication about family planning in rural areas.

Education of women as well as their husbands is an important determinant of the approval of family planning by both husband and wife. Overall, 70 percent of illiterate women approve of family planning compared to 94 percent of women who have completed high school. Approval by both husband and wife is the lowest (48 percent) among illiterate women. A similar relationship is observed with the level of husband's education. As the education of the husband increases, the proportion of women who reported that both they and their husbands approve of family planning increases, from 46 percent in the case of illiterates to 82 percent for those having more than a high school education.

Approval is lower among those belonging to scheduled tribes than among other groups. Eighty-five percent of the women who have ever used family planning reported that both they and their husbands approve of family planning, compared with 50 percent of never users. Among never users who approve of family planning, only 10 percent said their husbands do not approve of family planning.

Table 6.30 also reveals that as expected, the approval of family planning by both the husband and wife is positively related to the number of times family planning was discussed between the husband and the wife in the past year. The percentage of women who reported that both they and their husbands approve family planning is 38 for those who did not discuss family planning, 77 for those who discussed the topic once or twice and 85 for those who had more frequent discussions about family planning with their husbands. The percentage of women who are not aware of their husband's attitude is greatest (37 percent) among those who did not discuss family planning with their husbands in the last year.

Interstate variations in exposure to mass media, acceptance of media messages, discussion of family planning between husband and wife and approval of family planning are summarized in Table 6.31. States differ widely on each of these indices. There is a particularly pressing need to evolve state-specific Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities in the larger, demographically backward states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Exposure to family planning messages is limited in these states (only 27-34 percent of women heard recent family planning messages on the radio or television), a relatively small proportion of women feel that media messages are acceptable (38-55 percent), husband-wife communication is low (36-48 percent having discussed family planning with their husband in the last year) and a relatively small proportion of the couples approve of family planning (42-59 percent). The situation is much better in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu where a larger proportion of women than the national average have heard family planning messages and are favourable toward such media messages. Husband-wife communication is also relatively high in these states as is the approval of family planning. All of the states in the southern and western regions also score above average on the two media indicators and most of them are also well above average on the indicators of interspousal communication and the approval of family planning.

Table 6.31 Exposure to and acceptance of family planning messages and discussion and approval of family planning

Percentage of ever-married women who have heard a family planning message on the radio or television, who approve of media messages on family planning, and the percentage of nonsterilized currently married women knowing a contraceptive method who have discussed family planning with their husbands, and who approve and perceive that their husbands approve of family planning, according to state, India, 1992-93

State	Heard family planning message on the radio or television	Accept media messages on family planning	Discussed family planning with husband	Both husband and wife approve of family planning
India	42.2	68.3	50.3	58.4
North				
Delhi	79.3	76.2	66.9	76.4
Haryana	52.5	82.2	67.3	79.4
Himachal Pradesh	45.2	84.1	58.0	77.8
Jammu Region of J & K	60.4	79.9	62.1	80.2
Punjab	59.9	81.8	69.5	86.0
Rajasthan	33.3	55.1	44.2	59.1
Central				
Madhya Pradesh	34.3	50.0	36.3	50.3
Uttar Pradesh	32.7	50.3	47.8	42.3
East				
Bihar	26.6	37.5	39.6	46.0
Orissa	26.1	71.5	30.8	61.1
West Bengal	34.2	83.5	58.7	70.0
Northeast				
Arunachal Pradesh	29.9	48.5	53.4	52.1
Assam	23.7	85.3	78.7	76.3
Manipur	63.3	66.7	71.7	59.2
Meghalaya	35.4	39.7	48.2	44.4
Mizoram	50.8	70.7	55.9	60.6
Nagaland	38.6	41.5	79.5	57.9
Tripura	38.1	89.3	64.7	80.7
West				
Goa	74.2	83.4	58.5	67.1
Gujarat	47.4	81.4	58.5	70.1
Maharashtra	51.5	77.4	59.7	57.8
South				
Andhra Pradesh	58.4	86.7	41.6	77.1
Karnataka	66.8	77.8	56.9	63.2
Kerala	55.9	87.4	60.9	62.6
Tamil Nadu	51.9	92.5	47.9	63.7