

CHAPTER 5

FAMILY PLANNING

The National Family Welfare Programme in India has traditionally sought 'to promote responsible and planned parenthood through voluntary and free choice of family planning methods best suited to individual acceptors' (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 1998a). In April 1996, the programme was renamed the Reproductive and Child Health Programme and given a new orientation to meet the health needs of women and children more completely. The programme now aims to cover all aspects of women's reproductive health throughout their lives. With regard to family planning, the new approach emphasizes the target-free promotion of contraceptive use among eligible couples, the provision to couples of a choice of contraceptive methods (including condoms, oral pills, IUDs, and male and female sterilization), and the assurance of high-quality care. An important component of the programme is the encouragement of adequate spacing of births, with at least three years between births (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, n.d.).

The new National Population Policy, 2000, adopted by the Government of India has set as its immediate objective the task of addressing unmet need for contraception in order to achieve the medium-term objective of bringing the total fertility rate down to replacement level by the year 2010. One of the 14 national socio-demographic goals identified for this purpose is to achieve universal access to information/counselling and services for fertility regulation and contraception with a wide range of choices (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 2000).

Information about knowledge and use of contraceptive methods provided in this chapter is designed to be of practical relevance to programme administrators and policymakers responsible for monitoring existing programmes and formulating new strategies to meet the health and family planning needs of the population. The chapter begins with an appraisal of women's knowledge of contraceptive methods and then discusses women's past and present use of contraception and sources of supply of modern contraceptive methods. Special attention is focused on reasons for discontinuation and nonuse of contraception and on intentions to use family planning methods in the future. The chapter also contains information on exposure to family planning messages through the media and on discussions about family planning with relatives and friends.

5.1 Knowledge of Family Planning Methods

Lack of knowledge of contraceptive methods can be a major obstacle to their use. In NFHS-2, interviewers obtained information on knowledge and ever use of contraceptive methods by asking each respondent the following question: '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. For each method I mention, please tell me if you have ever heard of the method and whether you have ever used the method at any time in your life?' If a respondent did not recognize the name of a method, a short description was read. In this way, the survey assesses women's knowledge and ever use of seven contraceptive methods, namely the pill, condom, IUD, female sterilization, male sterilization, rhythm or safe-period method, and withdrawal. In addition, the survey

Table 5.1 Knowledge of contraceptive methods			
Percentage of currently married women who know any contraceptive method by specific method and residence, India, 1998–99			
Method	Urban	Rural	Total
Any method	99.7	98.7	99.0
Any modern method	99.7	98.6	98.9
Pill	91.5	75.2	79.5
IUD	87.8	64.6	70.6
Condom	88.0	64.9	71.0
Female sterilization	99.3	97.8	98.2
Male sterilization	93.6	87.8	89.3
Any traditional method	60.3	44.9	48.9
Rhythm/safe period	56.7	41.0	45.1
Withdrawal	41.1	27.7	31.2
Other method ¹	3.1	2.6	2.7
Number of women	21,888	61,761	83,649
¹ Includes both modern and traditional methods that are not listed separately			

collected information on respondents' knowledge and ever use of any other contraceptive methods (modern, traditional, or folkloric).

Table 5.1 shows the extent of knowledge of contraceptive methods among currently married women by specific method and urban-rural residence. Knowledge of contraceptive methods is nearly universal in India, with 99 percent of currently married women recognizing at least one method of contraception and at least one modern method of contraception.

Female sterilization is the most widely known method of contraception in India, followed by male sterilization. Overall, 98 percent of currently married women know about female sterilization and 89 percent know about male sterilization. There is little difference by residence in knowledge of female sterilization, but 94 percent of urban women know about male sterilization compared with 88 percent of rural women. Knowledge of the officially-sponsored spacing methods (pill, IUD, and condom) is much less widespread. The best-known spacing method is the pill, which is known by 80 percent of currently married women, followed by the condom and IUD (71 percent each). Although knowledge of these spacing methods is lower than knowledge of sterilization, the results indicate that knowledge of spacing methods has increased since NFHS-1. At the time of NFHS-1, only 66 percent of currently married women knew about the pill, 61 percent knew about IUDs, and 58 percent knew about condoms.

There are large differences in knowledge of spacing methods by residence. Seventy-five percent of rural women know about pills compared with 92 percent of urban women. For IUDs and condoms, the corresponding proportions are 65 and 88 percent.

Traditional methods of contraception are less well known than modern methods. Forty-nine percent of currently married women report knowledge of a traditional method, with the rhythm/safe period method being better known (45 percent) than withdrawal (31 percent). Knowledge of traditional methods is much higher in urban areas (60 percent) than in rural areas

(45 percent). Between NFHS-1 and NFHS-2, knowledge of traditional methods increased from 39 percent to 49 percent.

Interstate Variations in Knowledge

Interstate variations in knowledge of contraception are shown in Table 5.2. Knowledge of any method of contraception as well as any modern method is nearly universal in all states except Meghalaya and Nagaland, where the proportion of currently married women knowing any method or any modern method is 88 percent. Knowledge of female sterilization is also nearly universal, except in Meghalaya, where the proportion knowing the method is 79 percent, and Nagaland, where it is 83 percent. The proportion knowing about male sterilization ranges from 48 percent in Meghalaya to nearly 100 percent in Himachal Pradesh. States with less than 80 percent reporting knowledge of male sterilization are Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, and Mizoram. There are wide variations among the states in the extent of knowledge of temporary modern methods. For pills the proportion with knowledge varies from 60 percent in Andhra Pradesh to 99 percent in Delhi. For IUDs it varies from 50 percent in Madhya Pradesh to 97 percent in Punjab. For condoms it varies from 48 percent in Andhra Pradesh to 97 percent in Delhi and Punjab. Knowledge of any traditional method exceeds 70 percent in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Kerala, Haryana, West Bengal, Delhi, and Sikkim.

5.2 Contraceptive Use

Ever Use of Family Planning Methods

NFHS-2 asked respondents if they had ever used each of the methods they knew about. Women who said they had not used any of the methods were asked further if they had ‘ever used anything or tried in any way to delay or avoid getting pregnant’. Table 5.3 presents the pattern of ever use of family planning methods for currently married women by age and residence.

Although nearly all currently married women know at least one method of contraception, only 55 percent have ever used a method, up from 47 percent in NFHS-1. Forty-nine percent of currently married women have ever used a modern method, and 12 percent have ever used a traditional method. Ever use of any method is higher in urban areas (67 percent) than in rural areas (51 percent). Ever use of both modern methods and traditional methods is also higher in urban areas. The most commonly used method is female sterilization, which has been adopted by 34 percent of currently married women, compared with 2 percent who have adopted male sterilization. Six to 8 percent have ever used each modern spacing method (the pill, condom, or IUD). Ever use of each method of family planning is higher in urban than in rural areas, except for ever use of male sterilization, which shows almost no variation by place of residence. Ever use of IUDs and condoms is more than three times higher among urban women than among rural women.

Table 5.2 Knowledge of contraceptive methods by state

Percentage of currently married women who know any contraceptive method by specific method and state, India, 1998–99

State	Any method	Any modern method	Pill	IUD	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Any traditional method	Rhythm/safe period	Withdrawal	Other method ¹
India	99.0	98.9	79.5	70.6	71.0	98.2	89.3	48.9	45.1	31.2	2.7
North											
Delhi	99.7	99.7	98.7	95.3	97.4	99.2	99.1	73.1	69.2	54.2	2.1
Haryana	99.9	99.8	93.9	90.3	92.1	99.5	97.1	77.5	70.6	65.5	2.8
Himachal Pradesh	100.0	100.0	93.9	92.3	93.6	100.0	99.8	90.9	87.9	68.3	1.4
Jammu & Kashmir	98.8	98.8	81.8	77.0	76.9	98.3	94.0	54.2	37.0	42.6	8.0
Punjab	100.0	100.0	96.5	96.9	97.1	99.9	98.8	78.3	72.7	63.1	2.1
Rajasthan	98.8	98.7	79.0	69.3	74.4	97.8	90.7	32.2	29.5	17.3	1.8
Central											
Madhya Pradesh	97.8	97.8	67.0	50.1	55.5	96.6	80.6	31.1	29.5	13.6	2.3
Uttar Pradesh	98.4	98.3	84.7	73.5	83.1	97.4	92.5	60.2	54.8	33.0	3.0
East											
Bihar	99.2	99.2	74.9	58.7	64.3	98.9	97.3	39.5	36.2	24.4	3.4
Orissa	98.6	98.3	75.4	55.3	53.1	97.7	90.2	52.0	46.3	43.0	3.5
West Bengal	99.6	99.4	92.5	72.7	78.9	98.3	83.7	74.7	67.5	61.6	3.0
Northeast											
Arunachal Pradesh	98.1	98.1	84.9	75.1	68.9	96.9	63.3	33.4	32.6	17.4	4.2
Assam	98.4	98.3	87.3	70.3	71.2	96.3	85.0	65.8	61.5	50.3	5.9
Manipur	95.1	94.9	82.3	85.3	74.6	93.4	90.1	67.2	55.2	56.9	7.7
Meghalaya	88.4	87.9	75.9	62.4	67.8	78.6	47.9	48.2	45.0	33.7	14.4
Mizoram	97.8	97.8	88.1	86.8	91.2	96.8	78.5	54.6	52.2	40.1	0.5
Nagaland	88.0	87.5	73.7	77.1	68.3	83.0	59.3	67.0	64.5	58.4	1.1
Sikkim	99.4	99.4	89.4	89.7	79.4	98.4	91.3	70.3	67.1	41.7	2.4
West											
Goa	99.7	99.7	89.7	79.6	86.7	98.8	76.7	56.8	51.4	37.7	5.7
Gujarat	98.5	98.3	72.0	76.2	68.2	97.8	81.9	56.8	54.2	35.3	5.9
Maharashtra	99.4	99.4	84.1	79.9	71.7	98.9	87.6	34.5	32.4	18.6	1.7
South											
Andhra Pradesh	98.9	98.9	60.1	50.7	48.3	98.5	90.9	15.3	14.4	7.4	1.2
Karnataka	99.4	99.3	69.0	74.4	51.1	99.0	76.5	41.9	41.5	8.4	1.1
Kerala	99.7	99.7	90.4	89.2	91.5	99.0	94.0	78.1	71.4	61.4	0.5
Tamil Nadu	99.9	99.9	82.8	86.5	79.4	99.8	93.7	51.3	48.1	35.3	3.6

¹Includes both modern and traditional methods that are not listed separately

Ever use of any modern method increases with women's age up to age 35–39 (peaking at 67 percent) and declines at older ages. The increase in contraceptive use with age up to 35–39 reflects a life-cycle effect, with women increasingly adopting contraception as their fertility goals are met. Declining ever use of modern methods by older women reflects, at least in part, larger family size norms and lower levels of contraceptive prevalence in the past. The pattern of ever use by age is similar for urban and rural areas, although urban women are more likely to have used contraception than rural women at every age.

Table 5.3 Ever use of contraception												
Percentage of currently married women who have ever used any contraceptive method by specific method, according to age and residence, India, 1998–99												
Age	Any method	Any modern method	Pill	IUD	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Any traditional method	Rhythm/safe period	Withdrawal	Other method ¹	Number of women
URBAN												
15–19	15.8	11.7	4.5	1.6	5.4	1.6	0.2	6.0	3.8	3.3	0.1	1,181
20–24	43.3	37.3	10.2	7.8	16.0	10.7	0.2	11.6	8.4	6.7	0.9	3,689
25–29	68.9	62.7	13.6	13.5	21.0	31.8	0.5	14.7	10.1	8.3	1.4	4,453
30–34	79.0	72.5	13.7	15.6	21.0	44.7	0.8	17.6	12.5	9.5	1.7	4,078
35–39	81.8	76.1	12.5	14.6	17.9	51.5	2.4	17.4	13.0	8.7	1.4	3,601
40–44	77.6	70.4	9.9	9.9	13.1	50.2	4.8	17.2	13.0	9.0	1.1	2,804
45–49	73.0	66.6	8.2	6.9	10.5	46.9	6.6	15.2	11.4	7.4	1.0	2,081
Total	67.2	61.0	11.4	11.4	16.8	36.0	1.9	15.1	10.9	8.0	1.2	21,888
RURAL												
15–19	13.0	7.6	3.4	0.6	2.9	1.5	0.0	6.8	4.7	3.7	0.1	6,833
20–24	32.9	26.2	7.8	2.8	5.2	14.1	0.2	10.5	7.5	5.3	0.4	12,241
25–29	53.5	47.5	9.2	4.8	6.4	34.2	0.7	11.6	8.6	5.9	1.0	12,602
30–34	64.8	59.4	9.7	5.5	6.1	46.7	1.3	12.1	9.4	5.5	1.4	10,208
35–39	68.3	63.4	7.7	4.4	4.7	51.6	3.1	11.3	8.7	5.1	1.4	8,451
40–44	66.8	61.8	5.6	2.4	2.8	51.1	5.3	10.5	8.3	4.8	1.3	6,559
45–49	61.2	56.1	4.2	1.7	2.1	43.0	9.0	9.1	7.0	3.9	1.6	4,867
Total	50.8	45.2	7.4	3.5	4.8	33.5	2.1	10.6	7.9	5.1	1.0	61,761
TOTAL												
15–19	13.4	8.2	3.6	0.7	3.3	1.5	0.0	6.7	4.6	3.6	0.1	8,014
20–24	35.3	28.8	8.3	3.9	7.7	13.3	0.2	10.8	7.7	5.6	0.5	15,930
25–29	57.5	51.5	10.4	7.1	10.2	33.5	0.7	12.4	9.0	6.5	1.1	17,055
30–34	68.9	63.1	10.8	8.4	10.4	46.1	1.1	13.7	10.3	6.7	1.4	14,286
35–39	72.3	67.2	9.1	7.5	8.6	51.6	2.9	13.1	9.9	6.2	1.4	12,052
40–44	70.0	64.4	6.9	4.6	5.9	50.8	5.1	12.5	9.7	6.0	1.2	9,363
45–49	64.7	59.2	5.4	3.2	4.6	44.2	8.3	10.9	8.3	5.0	1.4	6,948
Total	55.1	49.3	8.4	5.6	7.9	34.2	2.0	11.8	8.7	5.9	1.0	83,649
¹ Includes both modern and traditional methods that are not listed separately												

Current Use of Family Planning Methods

Table 5.4 and Figure 5.1 provide information on current use of family planning methods for currently married women in India. Forty-eight percent of currently married women were currently using some method of contraception at the time of the survey. This level compares with 83 percent for China and 62 percent for Asia as a whole (Population Reference Bureau, 2000). The NFHS-2 estimates of current use, both overall use and use of specific methods, are close to those obtained by the national Reproductive and Child Health Household Survey, which was carried out at about the same time (International Institute for Population Sciences, 2000).

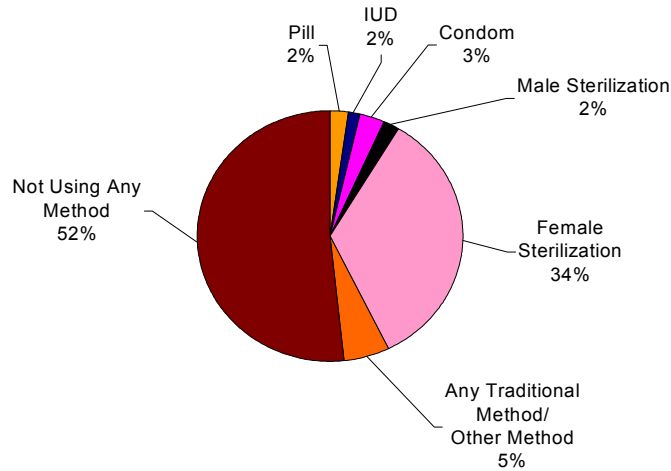
Table 5.4 Current use of contraception

Percent distribution of currently married women by contraceptive method currently used, according to age and residence, India, 1998–99

Age	Any method	Any modern method	Pill	IUD	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Any traditional method	Rhythm/safe period	Withdrawal	Other method ¹	Not using any method	Total percent	Number of women
URBAN														
15–19	9.9	7.4	2.1	1.1	2.5	1.6	0.2	2.5	1.3	1.2	0.0	90.1	100.0	1,181
20–24	31.7	26.0	3.7	4.1	7.4	10.7	0.2	5.3	2.8	2.5	0.4	68.3	100.0	3,689
25–29	58.0	51.2	3.9	5.4	9.7	31.8	0.4	6.4	3.7	2.8	0.3	42.0	100.0	4,453
30–34	71.4	63.2	3.0	4.6	10.2	44.6	0.7	7.9	4.5	3.4	0.4	28.6	100.0	4,078
35–39	75.3	66.9	2.1	3.3	7.8	51.5	2.2	8.2	5.0	3.2	0.2	24.7	100.0	3,601
40–44	70.8	61.9	1.4	1.6	4.0	50.2	4.6	8.6	5.1	3.5	0.3	29.2	100.0	2,804
45–49	60.7	56.0	0.4	0.6	1.7	46.9	6.4	4.6	2.7	1.9	0.2	39.3	100.0	2,081
Total	58.2	51.2	2.7	3.5	7.2	36.0	1.8	6.7	3.9	2.8	0.3	41.8	100.0	21,888
RURAL														
15–19	7.7	4.2	1.2	0.4	1.2	1.5	0.0	3.5	1.7	1.7	0.0	92.3	100.0	6,833
20–24	24.3	19.8	2.5	1.1	1.9	14.1	0.2	4.4	2.7	1.8	0.1	75.7	100.0	12,241
25–29	46.2	41.2	2.5	1.5	2.4	34.1	0.6	4.6	3.0	1.7	0.4	53.8	100.0	12,602
30–34	59.2	53.5	2.3	1.4	2.0	46.7	1.1	5.2	3.2	2.0	0.6	40.8	100.0	10,208
35–39	64.0	58.2	1.7	0.9	1.2	51.6	2.8	5.1	3.2	1.9	0.6	36.0	100.0	8,451
40–44	62.4	57.8	0.7	0.4	0.7	51.1	4.9	4.1	2.7	1.4	0.4	37.6	100.0	6,559
45–49	55.7	52.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	42.9	8.7	2.7	1.8	0.9	0.5	44.3	100.0	4,867
Total	44.7	39.9	1.9	1.0	1.6	33.5	1.9	4.4	2.7	1.7	0.4	55.3	100.0	61,761
TOTAL														
15–19	8.0	4.7	1.3	0.5	1.4	1.5	0.0	3.3	1.7	1.7	0.0	92.0	100.0	8,014
20–24	26.0	21.2	2.8	1.8	3.2	13.3	0.2	4.6	2.7	1.9	0.2	74.0	100.0	15,930
25–29	49.3	43.8	2.9	2.5	4.3	33.5	0.6	5.1	3.2	1.9	0.4	50.7	100.0	17,055
30–34	62.7	56.2	2.5	2.3	4.4	46.1	1.0	6.0	3.6	2.4	0.5	37.3	100.0	14,286
35–39	67.4	60.8	1.9	1.6	3.2	51.6	2.6	6.1	3.7	2.3	0.5	32.6	100.0	12,052
40–44	64.9	59.1	1.0	0.8	1.7	50.8	4.8	5.4	3.4	2.0	0.4	35.1	100.0	9,363
45–49	57.2	53.5	0.3	0.4	0.7	44.1	8.0	3.3	2.1	1.2	0.4	42.8	100.0	6,948
Total	48.2	42.8	2.1	1.6	3.1	34.2	1.9	5.0	3.0	2.0	0.4	51.8	100.0	83,649

¹Includes both modern and traditional methods that are not listed separately

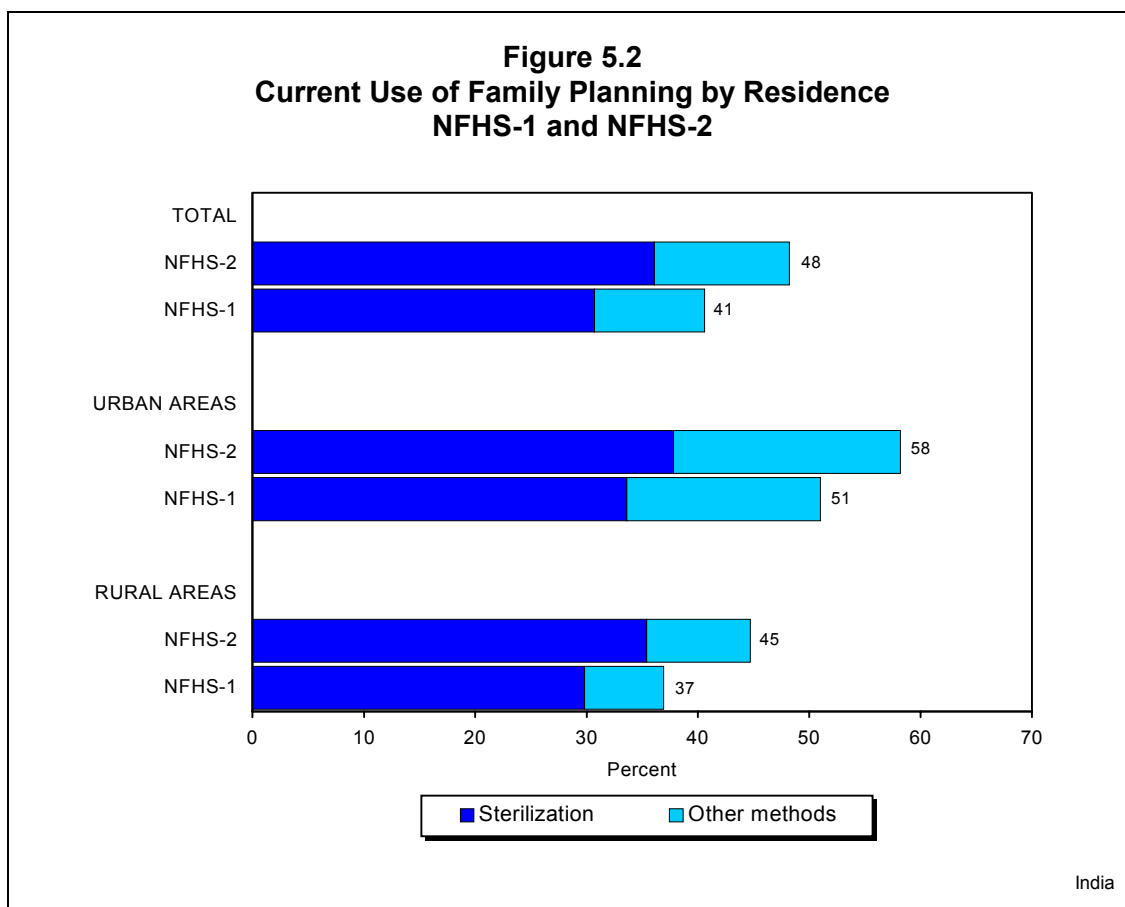
Figure 5.1
Current Use of Contraceptive Methods



NFHS-2, India, 1998–99

Table 5.4 also shows that current use of any method is considerably higher in urban areas (58 percent) than in rural areas (45 percent). Country-wide, 87 percent of ever users of contraception are current users, and 89 percent of current users are using a modern method. Thirty-four percent of currently married women are sterilized, accounting for 71 percent of total current contraceptive prevalence. Only 2 percent of currently married women reported that their husbands are sterilized. Female sterilization and male sterilization together account for 75 percent of current contraceptive prevalence. No other individual method of family planning is used by more than 4 percent of currently married women. Less than 7 percent of currently married women are currently using any of the three officially-sponsored spacing methods.

By residence, female and male sterilization together account for 65 percent of contraceptive prevalence in urban areas and 79 percent in rural areas. Current use of all modern methods except male sterilization is higher in urban areas than in rural areas, and the gap for condoms is especially wide (urban use is more than four times rural use). By age, current contraceptive use increases from 8 percent for women age 15–19 to a peak of 67 percent for women age 35–39 and then decreases for older women. The pattern of variation by age is similar in urban areas and rural areas.



Comparison of NFHS-2 results for current contraceptive use with NFHS-1 results reveals an 18 percent increase in contraceptive prevalence since NFHS-1, when prevalence was 41 percent (Figure 5.2). The share of female sterilization in contraceptive prevalence increased slightly from 67 to 71 percent over the period. Since the share of male sterilization declined from 9 to 4 percent, however, the share of female and male sterilization together remained almost the same in NFHS-1 and NFHS-2 at about 75 percent. In rural areas it remained about 80 percent, and in urban areas it remained at about 65 percent.

The proportion of currently married women using the officially-sponsored spacing methods—pill, IUD, and condom—was 6 percent in NFHS-1 and 7 percent in NFHS-2, indicating almost no change between the two surveys. Current use of traditional methods increased slightly between the two surveys, from 4 percent of currently married women in NFHS-1 to 5 percent in NFHS-2. These results indicate that, despite the increased emphasis on contraceptive choice and on spacing methods in the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, female sterilization continues to dominate the method mix in India, and, despite improvement in the knowledge of spacing methods, spacing methods still account for only a small fraction of contraceptive use.

Socioeconomic Differentials in Current Use of Family Planning Methods

Table 5.5 shows differences in contraceptive use by background characteristics. Current contraceptive use among currently married women generally increases with education, from 43

percent among illiterate women to 57 percent among women with at least a high school education. There is, however, little difference in contraceptive use between literate women who have and have not completed middle school. In the case of spacing methods, use also tends to increase with education. Modern spacing methods account for 6 percent of contraceptive use by illiterate women and 35 percent of contraceptive use by women with at least a high school education. On the other hand, use of female sterilization declines sharply with education among literate women. Illiterate women, however, have a somewhat lower prevalence of sterilization than literate women who have not completed middle school. Female and male sterilization account for 85 percent of contraceptive use by illiterate women but only 48 percent of contraceptive use by women with at least a high school education. Contraceptive use increased between NFHS-1 and NFHS-2 among women of every educational level. The increase, however, was much more rapid among illiterate women than among literate women. Various studies based on NFHS-1 data have shown that even after controlling the effects of other factors, education is a key factor influencing contraceptive use (Retherford and Ramesh, 1996; Ramesh et al., 1996).

By religion, contraceptive prevalence among Hindus (49 percent) is higher than among Muslims (37 percent) but lower than among women belonging to most other religions (52–65 percent). Use of the pill is highest among Muslims and Sikhs (4 percent), use of the IUD is highest among Sikhs (7 percent), and use of condoms is highest among Sikhs and Jains (10–12 percent). Male sterilization is rare for all religious groups except Buddhists/Neo-Buddhists. Use of female sterilization is lowest among Muslims (20 percent) and highest among Buddhists/Neo-Buddhists (53 percent). Since NFHS-1, contraceptive prevalence has increased for all religious groups, but the largest increases have been for Buddhists/Neo-Buddhists and Muslims. By caste/tribe, contraceptive prevalence is highest among women who do not belong to a scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, or other backward class (54 percent), followed by women belonging to other backward classes (47 percent), scheduled castes (45 percent), and scheduled tribes (39 percent). The use of male sterilization and each of the modern temporary methods is very low for all caste/tribe groups. By the standard of living index (SLI), contraceptive prevalence ranges from 40 percent among women living in households with a low SLI to 61 percent among women living in households with a high SLI. The use of officially-sponsored spacing methods is also much higher among women with a high SLI (16 percent) than among women with a medium (6 percent) or low SLI (3 percent).

Table 5.5 also shows differences in current use by number and sex of living children. Contraceptive use increases sharply from 5 percent for women with no living children to 68 percent for women with three living children and then falls to 57 percent for women with four or more living children. A similar pattern is evident for female and male sterilization. The results also indicate strong preference for sons over daughters. At each parity, current use of family planning is lower among women with no sons than among women with one or more sons, with a maximum differential at parity 3. Son preference is not, however, an insuperable barrier to contraceptive use. At parities 2, 3, and 4+, the percentage of women with no sons who are currently using sterilization (female or male) is 23, 27, and 30 percent, respectively. An earlier study based on NFHS-1 data has shown that son preference is an important factor influencing contraceptive use in India and that the national contraceptive prevalence rate would be 5 percentage points higher if there were no son preference (Arnold et al., 1998).

Table 5.5 Current use by background characteristics

Percent distribution of currently married women by contraceptive method currently used, according to selected background characteristics, India, 1998–99

Background characteristic	Any method	Any modern method	Pill	IUD	Con-dom	Female ster-ilization	Male ster-ilization	Any traditional method	Rhythm/safe period	With-drawal	Other method ¹	Not using any method	Total percent	Number of women
Residence														
Urban	58.2	51.2	2.7	3.5	7.2	36.0	1.8	6.7	3.9	2.8	0.3	41.8	100.0	21,888
Rural	44.7	39.9	1.9	1.0	1.6	33.5	1.9	4.4	2.7	1.7	0.4	55.3	100.0	61,761
Education														
Illiterate	42.9	39.2	1.2	0.5	0.9	34.4	2.2	3.3	2.1	1.2	0.4	57.1	100.0	48,018
Literate, < middle school complete	55.5	49.7	3.3	1.5	2.3	40.8	1.8	5.4	3.1	2.4	0.3	44.5	100.0	16,257
Middle school complete	52.2	44.6	3.7	2.9	5.0	32.1	0.9	7.4	4.0	3.4	0.2	47.8	100.0	7,073
High school complete and above	57.0	47.1	3.0	5.7	11.2	25.8	1.4	9.6	5.9	3.7	0.3	43.0	100.0	12,291
Religion														
Hindu	49.2	44.3	1.8	1.5	2.7	36.2	2.1	4.7	2.9	1.8	0.3	50.8	100.0	68,443
Muslim	37.0	30.2	4.1	1.5	4.2	19.6	0.8	6.4	3.6	2.8	0.4	63.0	100.0	10,477
Christian	52.4	44.9	1.2	2.3	2.8	36.5	2.1	7.1	4.9	2.3	0.4	47.6	100.0	2,072
Sikh	65.2	54.7	3.7	7.4	11.8	30.2	1.6	10.1	4.6	5.5	0.4	34.8	100.0	1,365
Jain	65.1	58.1	0.2	4.3	10.0	42.3	1.4	6.4	4.6	1.8	0.6	34.9	100.0	316
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	64.7	63.9	2.5	1.4	2.5	52.5	5.0	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.0	35.3	100.0	601
Other	48.6	35.2	2.8	3.9	1.3	26.1	1.0	9.1	4.9	4.3	4.2	51.4	100.0	259
No religion	30.1	28.6	3.3	6.3	2.4	16.7	0.0	1.4	1.0	0.4	0.0	69.9	100.0	38
Caste/tribe														
Scheduled caste	44.6	40.1	1.5	0.7	1.6	34.4	1.9	4.2	2.7	1.6	0.3	55.4	100.0	15,178
Scheduled tribe	39.1	35.2	1.6	0.9	0.8	28.8	3.1	3.2	2.3	1.0	0.7	60.9	100.0	7,176
Other backward class	46.8	43.4	1.1	1.5	2.0	37.2	1.6	3.1	2.0	1.1	0.3	53.2	100.0	27,529
Other	53.5	45.8	3.3	2.4	5.1	33.1	1.9	7.3	4.2	3.1	0.4	46.5	100.0	32,957
Standard of living index														
Low	39.5	35.5	1.5	0.4	0.6	31.0	2.0	3.6	2.3	1.3	0.4	60.5	100.0	26,505
Medium	48.4	43.3	2.2	1.2	2.2	36.0	1.7	4.8	2.9	1.9	0.3	51.6	100.0	38,999
High	61.2	53.1	2.7	4.5	8.7	35.0	2.2	7.8	4.5	3.2	0.3	38.8	100.0	17,173

Contd...

Table 5.5 Current use by background characteristics (contd.)

Percent distribution of currently married women by contraceptive method currently used, according to selected background characteristics, India, 1998–99

Background characteristic	Any method	Any modern method	Pill	IUD	Con- dom	Female ster- ilization	Male ster- ilization	Any traditional method	Rhythm/ safe period	With- drawal	Other method ¹	Not using any method	Total percent	Number of women
Number and sex of living children														
No children	4.6	2.1	0.4	0.0	1.0	0.4	0.3	2.5	1.3	1.2	0.0	95.4	100.0	9,792
1 child	23.7	15.8	3.1	2.9	4.9	4.2	0.7	7.7	4.5	3.2	0.2	76.3	100.0	13,215
1 son	25.3	16.9	3.2	3.3	5.2	4.8	0.5	8.2	4.8	3.4	0.3	74.7	100.0	7,062
No sons	21.9	14.6	3.1	2.5	4.5	3.6	0.9	7.1	4.1	3.0	0.2	78.1	100.0	6,153
2 children	58.1	51.9	2.7	3.0	4.7	39.4	2.1	5.9	3.4	2.5	0.3	41.9	100.0	20,184
2 sons	66.8	61.6	2.4	2.9	3.5	50.5	2.3	4.8	2.7	2.1	0.3	33.2	100.0	6,185
1 son	58.9	52.2	3.0	3.2	5.4	38.5	2.2	6.4	3.8	2.6	0.2	41.1	100.0	10,621
No sons	39.7	33.1	2.4	2.6	5.0	21.9	1.3	6.3	3.4	3.0	0.2	60.3	100.0	3,378
3 children	67.5	63.1	1.7	1.2	2.5	54.8	2.8	4.1	2.5	1.6	0.4	32.5	100.0	17,840
3 sons	73.8	69.7	0.9	0.7	1.7	63.8	2.5	3.7	2.2	1.5	0.5	26.2	100.0	2,381
2 sons	74.9	71.0	1.6	1.0	2.0	63.3	3.2	3.5	2.2	1.3	0.4	25.1	100.0	8,131
1 son	61.6	56.5	2.0	1.8	3.6	46.4	2.8	4.8	3.0	1.8	0.3	38.4	100.0	5,975
No sons	37.9	32.8	2.8	1.1	2.4	25.5	1.0	4.8	3.0	1.9	0.2	62.1	100.0	1,354
4+ children	57.4	52.2	1.9	0.7	1.8	45.3	2.4	4.5	3.0	1.5	0.7	42.6	100.0	22,617
2+ sons	58.5	53.5	1.9	0.6	1.6	46.9	2.4	4.4	2.9	1.4	0.7	41.5	100.0	17,488
1 son	56.2	50.4	2.3	1.1	2.7	41.7	2.6	5.1	3.4	1.7	0.7	43.8	100.0	4,423
No sons	37.3	33.0	0.8	0.1	2.2	28.8	1.1	3.7	2.2	1.5	0.6	62.7	100.0	705
Total	48.2	42.8	2.1	1.6	3.1	34.2	1.9	5.0	3.0	2.0	0.4	51.8	100.0	83,649

Note: Total includes 11, 77, 809, and 971 women with missing information on education, religion, caste/tribe, and the standard of living index, respectively, who are not shown separately.

¹Includes both modern and traditional methods that are not listed separately

Table 5.6, which classifies contraceptive use rates by both religion and education, sheds further light on religious differentials in contraceptive use. When contraceptive prevalence by religion is examined among women at the same educational level, it is seen that prevalence differentials by religion are still large. In other words, religion has a substantial effect on contraceptive use even after education is controlled by holding it constant. It is noteworthy that among literate women, use varies little by level of education for Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Jains. Among literate women belonging to these religions, religion has a bigger effect on use than education does. Earlier studies based on analysis of NFHS-1 data also suggest that religion has a substantial effect on contraceptive use, even after controlling for education, and that Muslims have lower use rates than Hindus (Ramesh et al., 1996; Moulasha and Rama Rao, 1999).

Interstate Variations in Current Use of Family Planning Methods

Table 5.7 and Figure 5.3 show variations in the current use of contraception by state. The current use of any method among states varies widely from 20 percent in Meghalaya to 68 percent in Himachal Pradesh.

Among the major states, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have the lowest level of current use (25 and 28 percent, respectively), followed by Rajasthan (40 percent), Assam (43 percent), and Madhya Pradesh (44 percent). Low rates in these states have important implications for future population growth in India because these states together account for more than 40 percent of India's population. Orissa and all the northeastern states except Mizoram and Sikkim also have current contraceptive use rates below the national average. Interestingly, Goa, which is at an

advanced stage of fertility transition, has a current use rate very close to the national average, as was also the case in NFHS-1, suggesting that later-than-average marriage accounts for a substantial amount of Goa's low fertility. The eight top-ranking states in current use are Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, West Bengal, Delhi, Kerala, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh (60–68 percent). When the rankings of states in NFHS-2 are compared with those in NFHS-1, it is seen that Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, and Nagaland have risen in relative rank, while Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala have fallen.

Sterilization continues to be the mainstay of the family planning programme in all except a few small northeastern states. The method mix in Andhra Pradesh continues to be highly skewed, with 96 percent of users sterilized, compared with 95 percent in NFHS-1. In all other southern states, as well as in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan, 80–90 percent of users have adopted sterilization. At the other extreme are Delhi, Punjab, and the northeastern states (except Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram), where sterilization accounts for 32–46 percent of current use.

Table 5.6 Current use by religion and education

Percentage of currently married women currently using any method, any modern method, and any modern temporary method of contraception, by religion and education, India 1998–99

Religion	Any method				Any modern method ¹				Any modern temporary method ²			
	Illit- erate	Literate, < middle school complete	Middle school complete	High school complete and above	Illit- erate	Literate, < middle school complete	Middle school complete	High school complete and above	Illit- erate	Literate, < middle school complete	Middle school complete	High school complete and above
Hindu	44.2	57.2	52.2	57.5	41.0	51.8	44.7	47.7	1.9	6.0	10.7	19.5
Muslim	31.3	45.1	46.4	46.1	25.1	37.4	38.5	38.8	6.6	11.7	16.6	21.0
Christian	45.7	50.0	57.4	58.7	43.1	44.5	49.9	44.8	1.4	3.8	9.5	11.5
Sikh	66.5	66.5	61.7	63.9	57.0	57.8	50.4	51.2	10.0	20.0	29.0	39.2
Jain	*	68.0	(64.2)	63.8	*	67.0	(61.7)	52.1	*	5.0	(10.3)	21.5
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	65.3	74.4	53.2	58.3	64.9	74.3	52.6	55.3	2.5	6.6	7.5	15.7
Other	43.0	51.7	72.1	65.0	29.6	40.1	50.4	59.8	3.3	9.5	24.2	30.0
No religion	15.6	(17.3)	*	*	14.8	(13.3)	*	*	1.2	(8.1)	*	*

() Based on 25–49 unweighted cases
 *Percentage not shown; based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases
¹Includes female sterilization, male sterilization, pill, IUD, and condom
²Includes the pill, IUD, and condom

Table 5.7 Current use by state

Percent distribution of currently married women by contraceptive method currently used, according to state and residence, India, 1998–99

State	Any method	Any modern method	Pill	IUD	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Any traditional method	Rhythm/safe period	Withdrawal	Other method ¹	Not using any method	Total percent
URBAN													
India	58.2	51.2	2.7	3.5	7.2	36.0	1.8	6.7	3.9	2.8	0.3	41.8	100.0
North													
Delhi	64.0	56.4	4.0	6.2	18.2	25.7	2.3	7.3	4.8	2.5	0.3	36.0	100.0
Haryana	67.2	53.4	2.3	5.9	14.8	28.0	2.5	13.5	5.9	7.5	0.2	32.8	100.0
Himachal Pradesh	74.3	63.9	1.5	6.3	17.8	34.1	4.1	10.4	5.6	4.8	0.0	25.7	100.0
Jammu & Kashmir	68.0	59.7	3.2	4.1	9.6	37.5	5.4	7.9	2.0	5.9	0.5	32.0	100.0
Punjab	71.8	54.0	3.1	8.8	23.2	17.9	0.9	17.6	8.1	9.5	0.2	28.2	100.0
Rajasthan	50.4	46.9	2.4	2.1	7.6	33.0	1.9	2.9	1.9	1.0	0.5	49.6	100.0
Central													
Madhya Pradesh	55.2	52.5	2.0	2.1	8.1	37.9	2.3	2.5	1.4	1.1	0.2	44.8	100.0
Uttar Pradesh	44.8	36.6	2.3	2.6	12.6	18.0	1.0	7.3	4.3	2.9	0.9	55.2	100.0
East													
Bihar	38.9	35.4	2.9	1.2	3.0	26.6	1.7	3.2	1.5	1.7	0.3	61.1	100.0
Orissa	54.0	45.2	6.4	3.0	3.0	30.9	1.8	7.6	5.0	2.6	1.2	46.0	100.0
West Bengal	73.4	46.4	9.1	2.0	7.1	27.0	1.2	26.6	11.6	15.1	0.4	26.6	100.0
Northeast													
Arunachal Pradesh	47.3	42.7	9.2	4.6	1.5	27.5	0.0	4.6	3.8	0.8	0.0	52.7	100.0
Assam	53.4	30.6	6.0	1.9	4.5	17.9	0.3	22.2	13.0	9.3	0.6	46.6	100.0
Manipur	44.9	31.4	2.6	8.0	2.1	17.5	1.1	13.5	8.1	5.4	0.0	55.1	100.0
Meghalaya	45.3	38.9	5.9	8.9	3.5	20.6	0.0	6.4	6.4	0.0	0.0	54.7	100.0
Mizoram	65.1	64.7	6.4	6.4	1.3	50.6	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	34.9	100.0
Nagaland	46.7	37.8	3.8	10.0	4.4	19.6	0.0	9.0	7.7	1.2	0.0	53.3	100.0
Sikkim	56.8	47.2	7.2	5.6	3.2	31.2	0.0	9.6	8.0	1.6	0.0	43.2	100.0
West													
Goa	52.7	39.4	0.8	2.2	7.0	28.7	0.7	12.2	7.2	5.0	1.1	47.3	100.0
Gujarat	61.8	53.3	2.2	5.1	6.4	37.6	2.0	8.3	6.8	1.4	0.2	38.2	100.0
Maharashtra	58.5	56.7	2.5	3.5	5.6	43.6	1.5	1.7	1.4	0.3	0.1	41.5	100.0
South													
Andhra Pradesh	63.4	62.3	1.4	1.6	1.8	52.4	5.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.1	36.6	100.0
Karnataka	59.9	56.4	1.0	5.0	2.4	47.1	0.9	3.4	3.1	0.3	0.1	40.1	100.0
Kerala	65.5	57.4	0.2	1.6	4.4	48.5	2.7	8.1	3.8	4.3	0.0	34.5	100.0
Tamil Nadu	58.2	55.1	0.4	5.0	3.1	46.0	0.6	3.0	2.2	0.9	0.0	41.8	100.0

Table 5.7 Current use by state (contd.)

Percent distribution of currently married women by contraceptive method currently used, according to state and residence, India, 1998–99

State	Any method	Any modern method	Pill	IUD	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Any traditional method	Rhythm/safe period	Withdrawal	Other method ¹	Not using any method	Total percent
RURAL													
India	44.7	39.9	1.9	1.0	1.6	33.5	1.9	4.4	2.7	1.7	0.4	55.3	100.0
North													
Delhi	60.8	55.5	4.8	5.8	9.6	32.7	2.6	5.2	1.6	3.7	0.0	39.2	100.0
Haryana	60.4	53.1	2.0	2.6	3.4	43.0	2.0	7.0	3.9	3.1	0.4	39.6	100.0
Himachal Pradesh	67.0	60.5	1.3	1.6	3.7	46.1	7.6	6.4	4.2	2.2	0.2	33.0	100.0
Jammu & Kashmir	43.9	36.8	3.3	2.7	3.5	25.3	2.0	6.5	1.8	4.7	0.6	56.1	100.0
Punjab	64.4	53.8	3.1	4.9	9.5	34.3	1.9	10.1	5.3	4.8	0.5	35.6	100.0
Rajasthan	37.1	35.3	1.2	0.9	1.7	30.1	1.3	1.6	1.2	0.4	0.2	62.9	100.0
Central													
Madhya Pradesh	40.7	39.3	0.6	0.4	1.1	35.0	2.2	1.0	0.8	0.2	0.3	59.3	100.0
Uttar Pradesh	23.9	18.3	1.0	0.6	2.1	14.1	0.6	5.3	4.0	1.3	0.3	76.1	100.0
East													
Bihar	22.9	20.9	0.8	0.4	0.4	18.3	0.9	1.4	0.8	0.6	0.6	77.1	100.0
Orissa	45.9	39.7	2.6	0.5	0.7	34.2	1.7	5.4	3.7	1.7	0.8	54.1	100.0
West Bengal	64.5	47.5	9.2	1.2	1.6	33.5	2.0	15.9	7.8	8.1	1.0	35.5	100.0
Northeast													
Arunachal Pradesh	33.3	31.0	6.9	4.1	0.5	19.3	0.1	2.0	1.0	0.9	0.3	66.7	100.0
Assam	42.3	26.3	6.3	1.9	1.5	15.5	1.1	15.2	10.9	4.3	0.9	57.7	100.0
Manipur	35.6	23.1	2.0	6.2	0.9	12.8	1.1	12.2	5.7	6.5	0.2	64.4	100.0
Meghalaya	13.8	9.5	4.1	1.9	0.7	2.9	0.0	3.6	2.2	1.4	0.6	86.2	100.0
Mizoram	49.7	48.7	4.3	4.3	0.5	39.4	0.2	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	50.3	100.0
Nagaland	26.1	20.9	2.2	7.1	1.1	10.5	0.0	5.1	3.6	1.5	0.2	73.9	100.0
Sikkim	53.3	40.4	9.9	5.6	1.2	20.9	2.8	12.7	10.5	2.2	0.2	46.7	100.0
West													
Goa	43.9	33.4	1.0	1.7	3.4	27.2	0.1	8.9	4.8	4.2	1.6	56.1	100.0
Gujarat	57.0	53.3	1.0	1.6	1.3	47.0	2.4	3.6	3.2	0.4	0.0	43.0	100.0
Maharashtra	62.7	62.1	1.2	0.8	2.9	51.9	5.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	37.3	100.0
South													
Andhra Pradesh	58.3	57.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	52.8	4.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	41.7	100.0
Karnataka	57.4	56.6	0.4	1.5	0.3	53.9	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.1	42.6	100.0
Kerala	63.2	55.7	0.5	1.6	2.6	48.6	2.4	7.5	3.8	3.6	0.0	36.8	100.0
Tamil Nadu	48.8	47.6	0.3	1.1	0.7	44.7	0.9	1.1	0.8	0.3	0.1	51.2	100.0

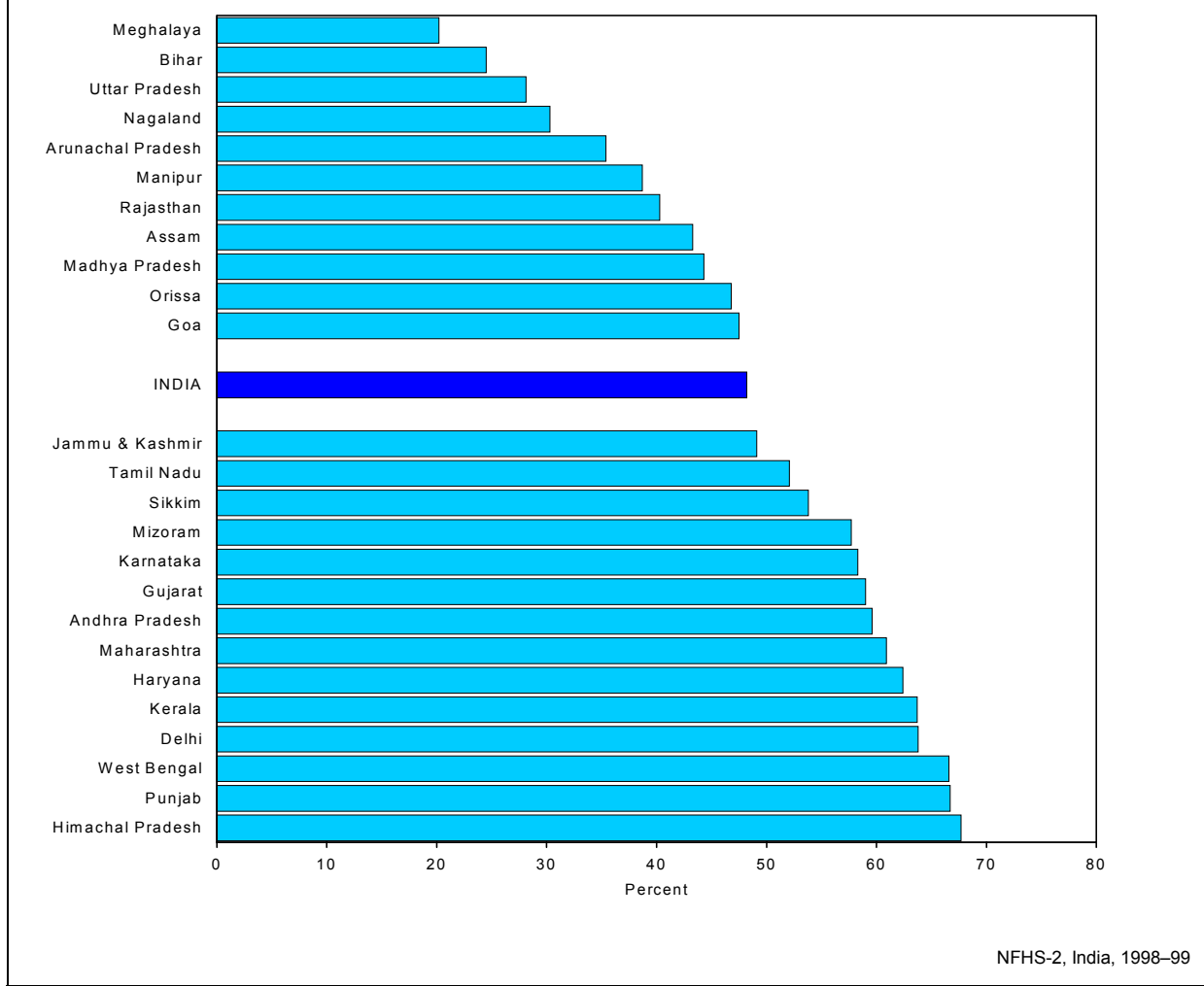
Table 5.7 Current use by state (contd.)

Percent distribution of currently married women by contraceptive method currently used, according to state and residence, India, 1998–99

State	Any method	Any modern method	Pill	IUD	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Any traditional method	Rhythm/safe period	Withdrawal	Other method ¹	Not using any method	Total percent
TOTAL													
India	48.2	42.8	2.1	1.6	3.1	34.2	1.9	5.0	3.0	2.0	0.4	51.8	100.0
North													
Delhi	63.8	56.3	4.0	6.2	17.5	26.3	2.3	7.1	4.5	2.6	0.3	36.2	100.0
Haryana	62.4	53.2	2.1	3.6	6.8	38.7	2.1	8.9	4.5	4.4	0.3	37.6	100.0
Himachal Pradesh	67.7	60.8	1.3	2.1	5.0	45.1	7.3	6.8	4.4	2.4	0.2	32.3	100.0
Jammu & Kashmir	49.1	41.7	3.3	3.0	4.8	28.0	2.7	6.8	1.8	4.9	0.6	50.9	100.0
Punjab	66.7	53.8	3.1	6.1	13.8	29.3	1.6	12.4	6.2	6.3	0.4	33.3	100.0
Rajasthan	40.3	38.1	1.5	1.2	3.1	30.8	1.5	1.9	1.3	0.6	0.3	59.7	100.0
Central													
Madhya Pradesh	44.3	42.6	1.0	0.8	2.9	35.7	2.2	1.4	1.0	0.4	0.3	55.7	100.0
Uttar Pradesh	28.1	22.0	1.2	1.0	4.2	14.9	0.7	5.7	4.1	1.6	0.4	71.9	100.0
East													
Bihar	24.5	22.4	1.0	0.5	0.7	19.2	1.0	1.6	0.9	0.7	0.5	75.5	100.0
Orissa	46.8	40.3	3.0	0.8	0.9	33.9	1.7	5.6	3.8	1.8	0.9	53.2	100.0
West Bengal	66.6	47.3	9.2	1.4	2.9	32.0	1.8	18.5	8.7	9.8	0.9	33.4	100.0
Northeast													
Arunachal Pradesh	35.4	32.8	7.3	4.2	0.7	20.6	0.1	2.4	1.5	0.9	0.3	64.6	100.0
Assam	43.3	26.6	6.3	1.9	1.8	15.7	1.0	15.8	11.1	4.7	0.8	56.7	100.0
Manipur	38.7	25.9	2.2	6.8	1.3	14.4	1.1	12.7	6.5	6.1	0.2	61.3	100.0
Meghalaya	20.2	15.5	4.5	3.3	1.3	6.5	0.0	4.2	3.1	1.1	0.5	79.8	100.0
Mizoram	57.7	57.1	5.4	5.4	0.9	45.2	0.1	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	42.3	100.0
Nagaland	30.3	24.2	2.5	7.7	1.8	12.3	0.0	5.9	4.5	1.4	0.1	69.7	100.0
Sikkim	53.8	41.4	9.5	5.6	1.5	22.4	2.4	12.3	10.1	2.1	0.2	46.2	100.0
West													
Goa	47.5	35.9	0.9	1.9	4.9	27.8	0.4	10.3	5.8	4.5	1.4	52.5	100.0
Gujarat	59.0	53.3	1.5	3.1	3.5	43.0	2.3	5.6	4.8	0.8	0.1	41.0	100.0
Maharashtra	60.9	59.9	1.7	1.9	4.0	48.5	3.7	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.1	39.1	100.0
South													
Andhra Pradesh	59.6	58.9	0.5	0.6	0.7	52.7	4.3	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.2	40.4	100.0
Karnataka	58.3	56.5	0.6	2.8	1.0	51.5	0.7	1.7	1.5	0.2	0.1	41.7	100.0
Kerala	63.7	56.1	0.4	1.6	3.1	48.5	2.5	7.6	3.8	3.8	0.0	36.3	100.0
Tamil Nadu	52.1	50.3	0.3	2.5	1.5	45.2	0.8	1.8	1.3	0.5	0.1	47.9	100.0

¹Includes both modern and traditional methods that are not listed separately

Figure 5.3
Current Use of Family Planning by State



Modern temporary methods of contraception are most prevalent in Delhi, Punjab, West Bengal, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, and the northeastern states. Their use among currently married women in these states ranges from 9 to 28 percent. About one-quarter of currently married women in Punjab and Delhi use modern temporary methods, accounting for 34 and 43 percent of current use in these states, respectively. Although the level of use of modern temporary methods is about the same (2–6 percent of currently married women) in the four better-performing southern states (Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu) and the five large poor-performing states (Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Orissa), use of these methods constitutes only 3–8 percent of current use in the southern states while in the other group it accounts for 9–23 percent of current use. In Uttar Pradesh, about one out of every four users uses a modern temporary method.

Traditional methods are used most in West Bengal, Assam, Manipur, Punjab, Sikkim, and Goa, where 10–19 percent of currently married women use a traditional method. Traditional methods account for 19–36 percent of current use in these states. About one-third of users in Assam and Manipur use traditional methods. Since NFHS-1, use of traditional methods has

increased most (by 5–6 percentage points) in Nagaland and Punjab, but declined substantially in Assam (from 22 to 16 percent). The rhythm method is most prevalent in Assam and Sikkim, where it is used by 10–11 percent of currently married women, and withdrawal is most prevalent in West Bengal, where it is used by 10 percent of currently married women.

There are considerable urban-rural differentials in current use in almost all states. Maharashtra is the only state where prevalence is higher in rural areas (63 percent) than in urban areas (59 percent), and the gap has widened slightly since NFHS-1. Urban-rural differentials are small in Sikkim and all the southern and western states except Goa and Tamil Nadu. They are large in Meghalaya, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, and Nagaland.

Number of Living Children at First Use of Contraception

In order to examine the timing of initial family planning use, NFHS-2 included a question on how many living children women had when they first used a method. Table 5.8 shows the distribution of ever-married women by the number of living children at the time of first contraceptive use, according to current age and residence. Only 4 percent of ever-married women (7 percent of ever-married women who have ever used contraception) began using contraception when they did not have any children, and another 10 percent (19 percent of ever users) began using when they had one living child. Although early use of contraception is rare, 39 percent of ever-married women (73 percent of ever users) began when they had three or fewer living children. This pattern of first acceptance at low parities means that family planning has a larger demographic impact than it would if contraceptive use were initiated later. A similar age pattern is observed among women in urban and rural areas, but urban users are more likely than rural users to begin using when they have two or fewer living children. Fifty-nine percent of urban users and 44 percent of rural users start using contraception when they have two or fewer children. Because of the dominance of sterilization in the contraceptive mix, women usually begin contraceptive use only after achieving their desired family size. Clearly, spacing methods need to be promoted if reductions are sought in the parity at which women first accept contraception.

Problems with Current Method

Women who were using a contraceptive method were asked if they had experienced any problem with their current method. Table 5.9 presents the percentage of current contraceptive users who report specific problems. Overall, four out of every five current users report having no problem with their method. This may be an underestimate of the extent of problems, however, because women who have experienced problems with spacing methods may have stopped using contraception altogether, and these women are not represented in the table.

Table 5.8 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, 1998–99									
Current age	Never used	Number of living children at the time of first use					Missing	Total percent	Number of women
		0	1	2	3	4+			
URBAN									
15–19	84.5	6.3	6.8	2.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	100.0	1,201
20–24	57.4	8.9	17.6	11.1	3.9	1.2	0.0	100.0	3,779
25–29	32.4	7.3	22.4	19.2	12.8	5.7	0.0	100.0	4,620
30–34	23.0	4.9	21.4	19.8	17.4	13.5	0.0	100.0	4,274
35–39	21.1	3.5	16.7	18.9	18.2	21.6	0.0	100.0	3,888
40–44	25.7	2.9	13.1	16.2	16.9	25.2	0.0	100.0	3,135
45–49	30.6	2.5	12.0	12.4	15.0	27.4	0.1	100.0	2,473
Total	34.4	5.3	17.3	16.0	13.3	13.7	0.0	100.0	23,370
RURAL									
15–19	87.2	6.4	4.4	1.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	100.0	6,981
20–24	67.6	4.5	10.7	10.5	5.2	1.4	0.0	100.0	12,610
25–29	47.6	3.1	10.4	15.9	14.2	8.7	0.0	100.0	13,124
30–34	36.7	2.1	8.7	15.1	18.4	19.0	0.1	100.0	10,820
35–39	34.4	1.5	6.9	13.1	18.4	25.6	0.0	100.0	9,201
40–44	35.8	1.1	4.8	9.3	16.6	32.3	0.1	100.0	7,387
45–49	42.3	1.0	3.8	7.3	12.9	32.6	0.0	100.0	5,706
Total	50.2	2.9	7.8	11.4	12.4	15.2	0.0	100.0	65,829
TOTAL									
15–19	86.8	6.4	4.7	1.8	0.2	0.0	0.0	100.0	8,182
20–24	65.2	5.5	12.3	10.7	4.9	1.4	0.0	100.0	16,389
25–29	43.7	4.2	13.5	16.8	13.9	7.9	0.0	100.0	17,745
30–34	32.8	2.9	12.3	16.4	18.1	17.5	0.0	100.0	15,094
35–39	30.5	2.1	9.8	14.9	18.4	24.4	0.0	100.0	13,089
40–44	32.8	1.6	7.3	11.4	16.7	30.2	0.1	100.0	10,521
45–49	38.8	1.5	6.3	8.9	13.6	31.0	0.0	100.0	8,179
Total	46.1	3.6	10.3	12.6	12.7	14.8	0.0	100.0	89,199

The analysis of method-specific problems reveals that 75 percent of sterilized women and 87 percent of women whose husbands are sterilized report having no problem with their method. The most common problems experienced by sterilized women are headache, bodyache, or backache (13 percent), abdominal pain (8 percent), weakness or tiredness (7 percent), and white discharge (4 percent). Among women whose husbands are sterilized and who report problems with this method, the two most common complaints are headache, bodyache, or backache and weakness or tiredness. These results point to a continuing need to strengthen post-operative care and counselling for sterilization acceptors. The two most common problems reported by pill users are weakness/tiredness and headache/bodyache/backache. Too much bleeding, abdominal pain, and headache/bodyache/backache are reported as problems by 5–6 percent of IUD users.

Table 5.9 Problems with current method									
Percentage of current users of specific contraceptive methods who have had problems in using the method, India, 1998–99									
Problem	Contraceptive method								Total
	Pill	IUD	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Rhythm/safe period	Withdrawal	Other methods ¹	
No problem	82.8	81.5	97.1	75.4	87.2	99.4	98.5	91.7	80.3
Weight gain	0.8	1.3	0.2	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.9
Weight loss	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.2	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9
Too much bleeding	1.5	5.8	0.1	2.4	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.0	2.0
Hypertension	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.8	0.3
Headache/bodyache/backache	5.5	4.7	0.3	12.7	6.3	0.1	0.2	2.4	9.7
Nausea/vomiting	1.6	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.7	0.6
No menstruation	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Weakness/tiredness	6.2	3.1	0.3	7.0	4.6	0.1	0.6	3.6	5.6
Dizziness	2.1	1.0	0.0	1.3	0.4	0.0	0.1	1.0	1.1
Fever	1.2	0.2	0.0	1.7	0.6	0.0	0.0	1.8	1.3
Cramps	0.8	0.5	0.1	0.9	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.7
Spotting	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Inconvenient to use	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Abdominal pain	1.5	4.9	0.2	7.6	1.9	0.1	0.3	1.7	5.7
White discharge	0.6	2.7	0.5	4.0	0.3	0.1	0.2	2.7	3.0
Irregular periods	1.7	2.4	0.2	2.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.8	1.6
Breast tenderness	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Allergy	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Reduced sexual satisfaction	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.1
Other	1.2	0.4	0.3	2.2	1.6	0.0	0.3	0.5	1.7
Number of users	1,735	1,371	2,568	28,580	1,587	2,526	1,664	296	40,327

Note: Percentages add to more than 100.0 because multiple problems could be recorded.
¹Includes both modern and traditional methods that are not listed separately

5.3 Sterilization

Timing of Sterilization

Table 5.10 shows how many years before the survey women or their husbands were sterilized and how old the women were when the sterilization took place. Of 30,167 sterilizations reported, 95 percent are female sterilizations. Thirty-eight percent of female sterilizations took place less than 6 years before the survey, another 22 percent took place 6–9 years before the survey, and the remaining 40 percent took place 10 or more years before the survey. By contrast, 75 percent of male sterilizations took place 10 or more years before the survey. The median age of the wife at the time of sterilization was 25.7 years, with 44 percent of sterilized couples undergoing sterilization before the wife was age 25. Seventy-nine percent of sterilizations took place before the wife was age 30, and less than 1 percent took place when the wife was in her forties.

Table 5.10 Timing of sterilization										
Percent distribution of currently married, sterilized women and wives of sterilized men by age at the time of sterilization, and median age of the woman at the time of sterilization, according to the number of years since sterilization, India, 1998–99										
Years since sterilization	Woman's age at the time of sterilization							Total percent	Number sterilized	Median age ¹
	< 20	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49			
STERILIZED WOMEN										
< 2	6.3	37.2	34.4	14.9	5.4	1.5	0.4	100.0	3,615	25.7
2–3	6.4	37.1	34.5	16.2	4.4	1.2	0.1	100.0	3,430	25.7
4–5	7.3	37.2	32.8	16.2	5.1	1.4	0.0	100.0	3,894	25.6
6–7	8.3	36.0	32.2	16.8	5.6	1.0	U	100.0	3,277	25.7
8–9	7.8	34.9	35.0	16.2	5.6	0.4	U	100.0	3,050	26.0
10+	7.4	36.0	38.1	16.0	2.5	U	U	100.0	11,315	NC
Total	7.3	36.3	35.5	16.0	4.1	0.7	0.1	100.0	28,580	25.7
WIVES OF STERILIZED MEN										
< 10	4.9	25.9	27.9	20.4	16.2	3.8	U	100.0	394	27.8
10+	10.0	35.6	39.4	13.1	2.0	U	U	100.0	1,193	NC
Total	8.7	33.2	36.5	14.9	5.5	0.9	0.2	100.0	1,587	25.8
STERILIZED WOMEN AND WIVES OF STERILIZED MEN										
< 2	6.3	36.8	34.4	14.8	5.6	1.5	0.5	100.0	3,687	25.7
2–3	6.3	37.0	34.4	16.2	4.7	1.3	0.1	100.0	3,484	25.7
4–5	7.2	37.2	32.6	16.3	5.2	1.5	0.0	100.0	3,958	25.6
6–7	8.3	35.6	32.1	17.1	5.9	1.1	U	100.0	3,362	25.8
8–9	7.8	34.6	34.7	16.4	6.0	0.4	U	100.0	3,168	26.1
10+	7.6	36.0	38.2	15.8	2.4	U	U	100.0	12,508	NC
Total	7.3	36.2	35.5	16.0	4.2	0.7	0.1	100.0	30,167	25.7
NC: Not calculated due to censoring										
U: Not available										
¹ To avoid censoring, median age is calculated only for sterilizations that took place when the woman was less than 40 years old.										

Male sterilization is not as common as it was 10 or more years ago. Only 2 percent of sterilizations during the 10 years preceding the survey were male sterilizations, compared with 10 percent of sterilizations 10 or more years before the survey.

The median age of women at the time of sterilization has declined marginally, from age 26.1 during the period 8–9 years before the survey to age 25.7 in more recent years. From NFHS-2 data it is not possible to assess the trend in the median age at sterilization for more than 10 years before the survey because only women age 15–49 years were interviewed. Women in their forties 10 or more years before the survey would have been 50–59 years at the time of the survey and would therefore not have been interviewed. A comparison with NFHS-1 data, however, suggests that the decline in women's age at sterilization began more than 10 years ago. Women's median age at sterilization declined by one and one-half years between about 1983–84 (8–9 years before NFHS-1) and the mid-to-late 1990s.

Table 5.11 Timing of sterilization by state						
Median age of currently married, sterilized women and wives of sterilized men at the time of sterilization by number of years since sterilization, according to state, India, 1998–99						
State	Years since sterilization					Total
	<2	2–3	4–5	6–7	8–9	
India	25.7	25.7	25.6	25.8	26.1	25.7
North						
Delhi	29.0	28.9	29.1	27.7	27.7	27.8
Haryana	26.4	25.6	26.4	26.3	26.6	26.5
Himachal Pradesh	26.2	25.4	25.9	26.0	25.8	26.2
Jammu & Kashmir	29.8	29.2	28.4	27.9	28.2	28.2
Punjab	26.6	27.3	27.0	27.2	26.8	27.1
Rajasthan	26.6	27.1	26.6	27.2	27.1	27.0
Central						
Madhya Pradesh	26.6	26.2	26.7	26.4	26.9	26.4
Uttar Pradesh	27.9	28.0	27.9	28.9	29.6	28.3
East						
Bihar	27.5	27.8	27.0	28.1	28.3	27.7
Orissa	27.2	26.4	26.3	26.0	26.3	26.3
West Bengal	24.7	25.0	25.4	25.4	25.5	25.1
Northeast						
Arunachal Pradesh	*	(26.8)	(26.2)	(26.8)	*	26.2
Assam	(28.4)	27.0	25.7	27.4	26.7	26.7
Manipur	*	*	*	*	*	30.5
Meghalaya	*	*	*	*	*	28.6
Mizoram	29.7	29.6	30.4	29.7	(28.2)	29.3
Nagaland	*	*	*	*	*	29.0
Sikkim	(25.9)	(26.1)	*	(27.8)	(26.1)	26.7
West						
Goa	(29.8)	(27.8)	(29.5)	(29.0)	*	28.5
Gujarat	26.3	26.6	26.5	27.1	27.0	26.5
Maharashtra	25.3	25.1	24.8	24.7	24.6	25.0
South						
Andhra Pradesh	23.5	22.9	23.2	23.3	24.2	23.6
Karnataka	23.9	23.9	24.0	23.8	23.9	24.2
Kerala	27.4	27.1	26.6	26.4	26.1	26.4
Tamil Nadu	25.3	25.8	24.8	25.3	24.9	25.3

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 age 40 to avoid problems of censoring.
 () Based on 25–49 unweighted cases
 *Median not shown; based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases

Interstate Variations in Timing of Sterilization

Table 5.11 shows state differentials in the median age of currently married, sterilized women and wives of sterilized men at the time of sterilization by the number of years since the operation. The median age varies from a low of 23.6 years in Andhra Pradesh to a high of 30.5 in Manipur. Among major states, the highest median age is 28.3 in Uttar Pradesh. The median age is relatively low in the southern states, except Kerala, and in West Bengal and Maharashtra. According to Table 5.11, in recent years the largest declines in the median age at sterilization

(calculated as the difference between columns 1 and 5) occurred in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal. During the same period, the median age increased in almost half the states.

Methods Used before Sterilization

Because sterilization is a terminal method, it is essential for policymakers to know whether couples use any temporary methods before they finally adopt sterilization. Table 5.12 shows that, in India as a whole, 82 percent of sterilization users never used any other method before sterilization, the same percentage as in NFHS-1. Six percent each used the pill or rhythm method before sterilization, while 5 percent each used the IUD or condom. The extent of prior use of temporary methods before sterilization is substantial in Sikkim (53 percent), Manipur and Kerala (42–43 percent), and West Bengal (40 percent). It is lowest in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar (6–8 percent). Prior use of the pill by 10 percent or more of sterilized couples is found in Sikkim, West Bengal, Manipur, and Jammu and Kashmir. Prior use of the IUD by 10 percent or more of sterilized couples is found in Manipur, Sikkim, Delhi, Mizoram, Kerala, and Goa. Condoms were previously used by 10 percent or more of sterilized couples in Delhi, Punjab, Kerala, and Jammu and Kashmir.

5.4 Sources of Contraceptive Methods

Family planning methods and services in India are provided primarily through a network of government hospitals and urban family welfare centres in urban areas and Primary Health Centres (PHC) and sub-centres in rural areas. Family planning services are also provided by private hospitals and clinics, as well as nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Sterilizations and IUD insertions are carried out mostly in government hospitals and PHCs. Sterilization camps, organized from time to time, also provide sterilization services. Modern spacing methods such as the IUD, pill, and condom are available through both the government and private sectors. It is expected that since levels of urbanization and education in India are rapidly increasing, reliance on private sector family planning services is likely to expand in the future (Nair et al., 1999).

To assess the relative importance of various sources of contraceptive methods, NFHS-2 included a question on where current contraceptive users obtained their methods. Table 5.13 and Figure 5.4 show the percent distribution of current modern contraceptive users by the most recent source, according to specific method and residence. The public medical sector, consisting of government/municipal hospitals, government dispensaries, Primary Health Centres, and other governmental health infrastructure, is the source of contraception for 76 percent of current users of modern methods, down from 79 percent in NFHS-1. The role of the private medical sector, including private hospitals or clinics, private doctors, private mobile clinics, private paramedics, *vaidyas*, *hakims*, homeopaths, traditional birth attendants, and pharmacies or drugstores, as the source for current users has increased marginally from 15 percent in NFHS-1 to 17 percent in NFHS-2. Five percent of current users obtain their methods from other sources such as shops, friends, and relatives, and 1 percent from NGOs. Government/municipal hospitals are the main source (53 percent) for female sterilization, followed by community health centres, rural hospitals, or Primary Health Centres (22 percent), and private hospitals or clinics (12 percent). Government hospitals, community health centres, and Primary Health Centres are the source for 75 percent of male sterilizations. In contrast, private shops and pharmacies/drugstores are the main source for condoms (68 percent) and pills (62 percent).

Table 5.12 Methods used before sterilization by state

Percentage of sterilized persons who used specific contraceptive methods before sterilization by state, India, 1998–99

State	Method used before sterilization						
	None	Pill	IUD	Condom	Rhythm/ safe period	With- drawal	Other method ¹
India	81.9	5.8	5.1	4.7	5.5	3.1	0.6
North							
Delhi	62.0	8.4	13.2	20.0	8.0	5.8	0.3
Haryana	81.2	5.1	4.0	5.3	6.7	4.2	0.2
Himachal Pradesh	70.7	4.2	5.4	7.4	14.8	4.4	0.2
Jammu & Kashmir	69.6	10.1	8.6	11.0	5.5	9.0	1.3
Punjab	66.8	6.6	8.6	14.0	8.1	4.7	0.1
Rajasthan	84.9	4.5	4.9	5.9	4.3	2.7	0.1
Central							
Madhya Pradesh	85.5	5.8	4.0	4.7	4.0	1.2	0.6
Uttar Pradesh	82.3	5.4	5.0	6.9	5.0	2.1	0.2
East							
Bihar	92.5	2.7	0.8	1.9	2.5	1.3	0.2
Orissa	85.7	5.8	3.4	1.8	4.3	3.4	0.4
West Bengal	59.6	16.5	4.5	5.0	18.3	11.1	0.7
Northeast							
Arunachal Pradesh	83.7	9.8	5.8	1.4	0.8	1.2	0.0
Assam	74.9	7.7	1.9	2.7	11.5	9.5	0.5
Manipur	56.6	12.3	24.2	9.9	14.9	11.4	0.5
Meghalaya	85.5	7.0	3.8	0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0
Mizoram	79.7	9.9	12.4	1.7	0.5	0.0	0.2
Nagaland	82.7	3.1	9.1	0.0	5.1	3.1	0.0
Sikkim	47.2	21.6	18.2	4.4	23.0	8.6	0.0
West							
Goa	72.8	8.3	10.0	7.1	5.9	3.7	0.3
Gujarat	75.9	5.9	7.5	4.1	12.7	4.5	2.0
Maharashtra	82.8	6.7	5.9	7.0	1.9	0.7	0.1
South							
Andhra Pradesh	94.4	2.9	2.0	1.5	0.5	0.2	0.3
Karnataka	90.0	2.9	5.6	1.4	1.9	0.3	0.3
Kerala	57.9	5.0	11.9	11.8	17.8	14.5	0.2
Tamil Nadu	87.8	4.2	7.1	1.2	0.8	0.7	2.9

Note: Percentages may add to more than 100.0 because all prior methods are included.

¹Includes both modern and traditional methods that are not listed separately

Table 5.13 Source of modern contraceptive methods

Percent distribution of current users of modern contraceptive methods by most recent source, according to specific method and residence, India, 1998–99

Source	Contraceptive method					All modern methods
	Pill	IUD	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	
URBAN						
Public medical sector	13.1	44.8	8.7	74.5	78.2	60.1
Government/municipal hospital	7.8	31.8	5.3	58.6	54.5	46.5
Government dispensary	1.5	2.4	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.4
UHC/UHP/UFWC	1.0	2.7	0.4	1.4	2.2	1.3
CHC/rural hospital/PHC	0.8	5.9	1.0	8.2	10.2	6.7
Sub-centre	1.1	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1
Government mobile clinic	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.8	0.1
Government paramedic	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1
Camp	0.0	0.3	0.2	4.1	5.9	3.1
Other public medical sector	0.9	1.1	0.3	2.2	4.6	1.9
NGO or trust	0.3	2.4	0.2	1.9	0.8	1.5
Hospital/clinic	0.1	2.4	0.1	1.9	0.8	1.5
NGO worker	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Private medical sector	45.0	52.2	43.0	23.2	19.9	29.0
Private hospital/clinic	4.7	39.4	4.1	21.9	18.4	19.5
Private doctor	3.2	12.5	2.0	1.0	0.7	2.0
Private mobile clinic	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Private paramedic	2.5	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.5
<i>Vaidya/hakim/homeopath</i>	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pharmacy/drugstore	33.6	0.0	33.2	0.0	0.0	6.4
<i>Dai</i> (TBA)	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other private medical sector	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.3
Other source	38.3	0.6	40.3	0.3	0.9	7.9
Shop	37.8	0.0	39.8	0.0	0.0	7.6
Other	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.4
Don't know ¹	3.0	0.0	7.3	0.0	0.0	1.2
Missing	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of users	584	765	1,580	7,887	398	11,213

Table 5.13 Source of modern contraceptive methods (contd.)

Percent distribution of current users of modern contraceptive methods by most recent source, according to specific method and residence, India, 1998–99

Source	Contraceptive method					All modern methods
	Pill	IUD	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	
RURAL						
Public medical sector	24.4	65.9	22.2	89.4	92.1	83.2
Government/municipal hospital	5.3	30.5	4.9	50.8	47.9	46.2
Government dispensary	2.6	4.1	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.4
UHC/UHP/UFWC	0.4	1.1	0.3	0.8	1.0	0.8
CHC/rural hospital/PHC	8.0	22.9	7.6	26.6	31.0	25.1
Sub-centre	6.6	5.9	4.3	0.0	0.0	0.6
Government mobile clinic	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	1.0	0.4
Government paramedic	0.6	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Camp	0.2	1.1	0.0	10.4	10.5	9.3
Other public medical sector	0.7	0.3	1.2	0.4	0.8	0.5
NGO or trust	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.6	0.8
Hospital/clinic	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.6	0.8
NGO worker	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Private medical sector	38.4	31.5	33.3	9.3	5.3	12.0
Private hospital/clinic	4.8	23.5	2.6	8.8	4.7	8.6
Private doctor	5.0	7.7	1.9	0.4	0.4	0.8
Private mobile clinic	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Private paramedic	1.3	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.1
<i>Vaidya/hakim/homeopath</i>	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Pharmacy/drugstore	25.0	0.0	26.4	0.0	0.0	2.2
<i>Dai</i> (TBA)	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other private medical sector	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other source	33.4	1.5	33.5	0.1	1.4	3.1
Shop	32.6	0.0	32.7	0.0	0.0	2.8
Other	0.9	1.5	0.9	0.1	1.4	0.3
Don't know ¹	2.9	0.0	10.6	0.0	0.0	0.6
Missing	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.4
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of users	1,151	606	988	20,693	1,189	24,628

Table 5.13 Source of modern contraceptive methods (contd.)

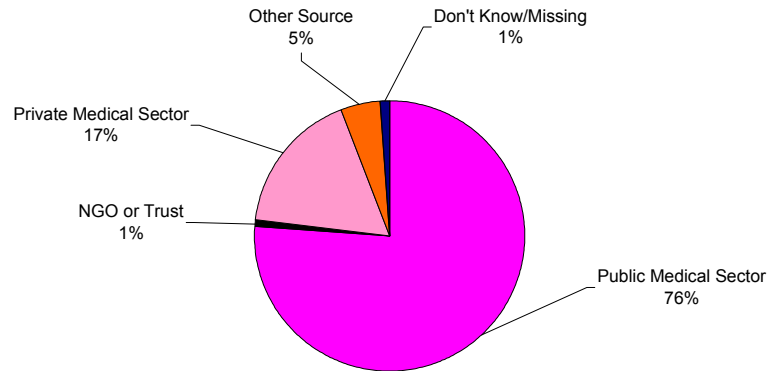
Percent distribution of current users of modern contraceptive methods by most recent source, according to specific method and residence, India, 1998–99

Source	Contraceptive method					All modern methods
	Pill	IUD	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	
TOTAL						
Public medical sector	20.6	54.1	13.9	85.3	88.6	76.0
Government/municipal hospital	6.1	31.2	5.1	53.0	49.5	46.3
Government dispensary	2.2	3.1	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.4
UHC/UHP/UFWC	0.6	2.0	0.3	1.0	1.3	1.0
CHC/rural hospital/PHC	5.5	13.4	3.6	21.5	25.7	19.3
Sub-centre	4.8	2.8	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.5
Government mobile clinic	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.9	0.3
Government paramedic	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Camp	0.1	0.7	0.1	8.7	9.3	7.4
Other public medical sector	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.9	1.8	0.9
NGO or trust	0.4	1.5	0.2	1.1	0.7	1.0
Hospital/clinic	0.1	1.5	0.2	1.1	0.7	1.0
NGO worker	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Private medical sector	40.6	43.1	39.3	13.1	8.9	17.3
Private hospital/clinic	4.7	32.4	3.5	12.4	8.2	12.0
Private doctor	4.4	10.4	2.0	0.5	0.5	1.2
Private mobile clinic	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Private paramedic	1.7	0.0	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.3
Vaidya/hakim/homeopath	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Pharmacy/drugstore	27.9	0.0	30.6	0.0	0.0	3.5
Dai (TBA)	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other private medical sector	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Other source	35.1	1.0	37.7	0.1	1.3	4.6
Shop	34.3	0.0	37.0	0.0	0.0	4.3
Other	0.7	1.0	0.7	0.1	1.3	0.3
Don't know ¹	2.9	0.0	8.6	0.0	0.0	0.8
Missing	0.4	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 of users	1,735	1,371	2,568	28,580	1,587	35,841

UHC: Urban health centre; UHP: Urban health post; UFWC: Urban family welfare centre; CHC: Community health centre; PHC: Primary Health Centre; NGO: Nongovernmental organization; TBA: Traditional birth attendant

¹For the pill and condom, this category includes women who say their husband or a friend or other relative obtained the method, but they do not know the original source of supply.

Figure 5.4
Sources of Family Planning Among Current
Users of Modern Contraceptive Methods



NFHS-2, India, 1998-99

Eighty-three percent of rural users obtain their contraceptives from the public medical sector compared with 60 percent of urban users. The role of the private medical sector in providing sterilization services in urban areas and services for IUD insertion in both rural and urban areas is especially notable. About one-quarter of female sterilizations and one-fifth of male sterilizations in urban areas as well as nearly one-third of IUD insertions in rural areas and more than half of IUD insertions in urban areas are performed in the private sector.

Interstate Variations in the Role of the Public Sector

Table 5.14 provides information on the extent to which urban, rural, and all current users of modern contraceptive methods used a public-sector source as their most recent source of contraception, by specific method and by state. In Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Karnataka, 85-92 percent of users used a public-sector source. On the other hand, in Meghalaya, Delhi, Nagaland, Assam, Punjab, and Kerala, less than two-thirds of users used a public-sector source. The proportion who used a public-sector source is lower in urban areas than in rural areas. In 14 out of 24 states, 90 percent or more of sterilizations of rural women were performed in the public medical sector. In 13 out of 25 states, 80 percent or more of sterilizations of urban women were performed in the public medical sector.

Table 5.14 Public sector as source of modern contraceptives by state

Percentage of current users of modern contraceptive methods for whom the most recent source of contraceptives was the public sector, according to specific method, residence, and state, India, 1998–99

State	Contraceptive method					All modern methods
	Pill	IUD	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	
URBAN						
India	13.1	44.8	8.7	74.5	78.2	60.1
North						
Delhi	15.9	56.3	11.4	80.2	79.2	50.8
Haryana	*	(45.7)	7.5	90.7	*	59.2
Himachal Pradesh	*	56.0	14.8	97.8	(100.0)	68.4
Jammu & Kashmir	*	(38.7)	2.7	79.8	(83.0)	60.7
Punjab	(16.7)	35.5	5.9	88.2	*	40.3
Rajasthan	(23.4)	(62.5)	15.1	89.7	(96.0)	73.3
Central						
Madhya Pradesh	(28.9)	(59.4)	8.9	84.7	(83.2)	69.8
Uttar Pradesh	(13.4)	(65.8)	4.4	81.9	*	49.8
East						
Bihar	*	*	*	65.6	*	56.0
Orissa	19.3	*	*	91.2	*	74.2
West Bengal	6.0	(56.8)	3.6	79.9	*	52.6
Northeast						
Arunachal Pradesh	*	*	*	(77.8)	*	64.3
Assam	(6.3)	*	(8.3)	68.1	*	46.8
Manipur	*	(51.1)	*	90.9	*	69.7
Meghalaya	*	*	*	(43.2)	*	33.5
Mizoram	(55.4)	(64.1)	*	76.8	*	72.8
Nagaland	*	*	*	(90.5)	*	59.5
Sikkim	*	*	*	(89.7)	*	76.3
West						
Goa	*	*	(12.4)	79.3	*	62.8
Gujarat	(11.7)	30.3	8.0	64.1	(68.7)	52.2
Maharashtra	10.6	28.1	14.4	69.4	(77.0)	59.1
South						
Andhra Pradesh	*	*	*	68.7	(69.5)	64.9
Karnataka	*	50.2	(9.3)	77.1	*	70.7
Kerala	*	*	(8.5)	68.1	*	63.4
Tamil Nadu	*	43.7	15.6	70.8	*	65.0

Table 5.14 Public sector as source of modern contraceptives by state (contd.)

Percentage of current users of modern contraceptive methods for whom the most recent source of contraceptives was the public sector, according to specific method, residence, and state, India, 1998–99

State	Contraceptive method					All modern methods
	Pill	IUD	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	
RURAL						
India	24.4	65.9	22.2	89.4	92.1	83.2
North						
Delhi	*	*	*	88.6	*	63.7
Haryana	(35.1)	63.5	21.6	96.6	(100.0)	87.9
Himachal Pradesh	(59.3)	(85.3)	36.1	99.2	100.0	94.2
Jammu & Kashmir	19.3	(59.3)	9.0	87.5	(89.1)	72.0
Punjab	28.1	53.0	14.6	98.0	(100.0)	75.2
Rajasthan	56.4	(74.5)	40.9	96.9	86.4	91.8
Central						
Madhya Pradesh	(33.9)	*	28.5	97.2	98.9	94.2
Uttar Pradesh	22.9	(73.3)	21.0	94.2	98.0	81.7
East						
Bihar	(15.9)	(55.6)	(11.6)	86.0	79.2	80.9
Orissa	26.3	*	*	97.8	96.5	91.6
West Bengal	15.7	(96.3)	(21.5)	92.3	(78.7)	74.6
Northeast						
Arunachal Pradesh	33.1	(72.0)	*	90.6	*	74.2
Assam	31.9	(85.8)	(16.4)	79.7	(92.2)	65.5
Manipur	*	72.2	*	94.7	*	81.7
Meghalaya	(44.2)	*	*	*	*	61.8
Mizoram	*	*	*	94.2	*	92.8
Nagaland	*	(43.2)	*	80.7	*	56.8
Sikkim	52.9	67.0	*	93.8	(87.9)	78.2
West						
Goa	*	*	*	82.9	*	72.9
Gujarat	*	(56.1)	(37.2)	89.3	98.0	86.7
Maharashtra	(28.6)	*	27.3	89.9	96.4	85.5
South						
Andhra Pradesh	*	*	*	83.5	89.5	83.4
Karnataka	*	(60.0)	*	94.9	*	93.3
Kerala	*	(83.6)	12.0	69.5	(84.7)	67.4
Tamil Nadu	*	(32.0)	*	81.0	*	78.9

Table 5.14 Public sector as source of modern contraceptives by state (contd.)

Percentage of current users of modern contraceptive methods for whom the most recent source of contraceptives was the public sector, according to specific method, residence, and state, India, 1998–99

State	Contraceptive method					All modern methods
	Pill	IUD	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	
TOTAL						
India	20.6	54.1	13.9	85.3	88.6	76.0
North						
Delhi	14.4	57.0	11.2	81.0	79.3	51.9
Haryana	27.4	54.9	12.6	95.4	96.8	79.5
Himachal Pradesh	(53.1)	77.2	29.2	99.1	100.0	91.7
Jammu & Kashmir	15.3	53.2	6.3	85.3	86.5	68.5
Punjab	24.5	45.3	10.0	96.1	(100.0)	64.3
Rajasthan	43.7	69.4	25.8	95.1	89.3	86.3
Central						
Madhya Pradesh	31.3	(66.5)	14.7	93.9	94.8	86.6
Uttar Pradesh	19.4	69.3	11.0	91.2	94.5	71.1
East						
Bihar	16.2	(48.5)	(11.1)	83.1	78.3	76.9
Orissa	24.6	(73.3)	(21.7)	97.2	96.1	89.5
West Bengal	13.4	82.7	11.1	89.8	78.7	69.5
Northeast						
Arunachal Pradesh	28.3	(76.7)	*	88.0	*	72.2
Assam	29.8	83.5	14.7	78.6	(92.3)	63.7
Manipur	(24.2)	63.9	*	93.1	*	76.8
Meghalaya	(32.3)	(67.0)	*	52.4	*	47.3
Mizoram	72.3	73.6	*	84.1	*	81.0
Nagaland	*	44.3	*	83.8	*	57.7
Sikkim	49.6	69.7	*	93.0	(87.9)	77.9
West						
Goa	*	*	12.5	81.3	*	68.3
Gujarat	27.2	37.8	14.4	79.9	86.8	72.0
Maharashtra	18.1	29.8	19.9	82.3	93.1	75.2
South						
Andhra Pradesh	*	*	(15.3)	79.8	83.8	78.5
Karnataka	*	53.7	(12.4)	89.1	(80.7)	85.3
Kerala	*	(76.3)	10.8	69.2	83.8	66.4
Tamil Nadu	*	40.3	14.7	77.3	(95.5)	73.5

() Based on 25–49 unweighted cases
 *Percentage not shown; based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases

5.5 Reasons for Discontinuation/Non-Use of Contraception

Currently married, nonpregnant women who were not using a contraceptive method at the time of the survey fall into two categories with respect to their contraceptive experience: those who used contraception in the past and those who never used contraception. NFHS-2 asked women who had discontinued contraceptive use their main reason for discontinuing. The survey also asked women who had never used contraception the main reason they were not currently using a method. Table 5.15 shows that only 4,588 nonpregnant women who ever used family planning methods—10 percent of ever users—have discontinued use. Because 66 percent of ever users are sterilized, only 34 percent of ever users even have the option of discontinuing use. Among the small group who discontinued contraception, the most commonly mentioned reasons for discontinuing are that they wanted to have a child (29 percent) or that the method created a health problem or a menstrual problem (21 percent). There are no sharp urban-rural differentials in the reasons given for discontinuation, except that the percentage of those who discontinued because the husband was away is somewhat higher in rural areas (13 percent) than in urban areas (8 percent).

Among the 32,464 currently married nonpregnant women who never used contraception, the most commonly mentioned reason for not currently using a method is the desire for more children (45 percent). Another 12 percent of women say they are not currently using contraception because they are menopausal, have had a hysterectomy, or are infecund or subfecund. Only 7 percent mention a health-related problem (health concerns or worry about side effects). Another 7 percent mention opposition to family planning. Although knowledge of family planning methods is found to be almost universal, only 4 percent of women mention lack of knowledge as their main reason for not currently using contraception. Three percent say they are not currently using contraception because they are afraid of sterilization (thereby implicitly equating family planning with sterilization). There are no substantial urban-rural differences in reasons for not currently using contraception among women who never used contraception.

5.6 Future Intentions Regarding Contraceptive Use

Currently married women who were not using any contraceptive method at the time of the survey (including those who were pregnant at that time) were asked about their intentions to use a method in the future. If they intended to use a method, they were asked about their preferred method. This type of information can help managers of family planning programmes to identify potential groups of users and to provide the types of contraception that are likely to be in demand. Table 5.16 gives women's responses to the questions on future use according to residence and number of living children.

Sixty percent of currently married women who are not currently using any contraceptive method express an intention to use a method in the future, which is double the corresponding percentage in NFHS-1. Among women who intend to use contraception, only one-third intend to use a method within the next 12 months. The proportion of women who intend to use contraception any time in the future increases from 60 percent of women with no living children to 71 percent of women with one living child, and then declines to 68 percent of women with two living children and 60 percent of women with three living children. Fifty-three percent of women with four or more living children say they have no intention of using contraception at any time in the future.

Table 5.15 Reasons for discontinuation/non-use

Percent distribution of nonpregnant, currently married women who stopped using contraception by main reason for stopping use, and percent distribution of nonpregnant, currently married women who never used contraception by main reason for not currently using, according to residence, India, 1998–99

Reason	Urban	Rural	Total
REASON FOR STOPPING USE			
Method failed/got pregnant	3.6	4.7	4.3
Lack of sexual satisfaction	1.7	1.8	1.8
Created menstrual problem	9.2	6.9	7.7
Created health problem	14.4	12.7	13.3
Inconvenient to use	2.2	1.5	1.7
Hard to get method	0.5	1.9	1.4
Gained weight	0.3	0.1	0.2
Did not like the method	4.2	5.1	4.8
Wanted to have a child	29.8	29.2	29.4
Wanted to replace dead child	0.6	0.5	0.5
Lack of privacy for use	0.8	0.7	0.7
Husband away	8.2	13.4	11.6
Costs too much	0.9	2.3	1.8
Others	23.2	18.3	20.0
Missing	0.4	0.9	0.8
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of women	1,578	3,010	4,588
REASON FOR NOT CURRENTLY USING			
Husband away	3.1	2.8	2.9
Fertility-related reasons	68.8	66.4	66.8
Not having sex	2.0	1.1	1.3
Infrequent sex	1.6	1.0	1.1
Menopausal/had hysterectomy	9.4	7.9	8.2
Subfecund/infecund	5.4	3.8	4.1
Postpartum/breastfeeding	6.6	7.8	7.6
Wants more children	43.8	44.8	44.6
Opposition to use	7.9	7.3	7.4
Opposed to family planning	0.8	0.9	0.9
Husband opposed	4.0	3.7	3.8
Other people opposed	0.8	0.7	0.7
Against religion	2.3	2.0	2.0
Lack of knowledge	1.6	4.5	4.0
Knows no method	0.6	1.5	1.3
Knows no source	1.0	3.0	2.6
Method-related reasons	13.7	14.4	14.3
Health concerns	3.9	3.2	3.4
Worry about side effects	4.1	3.3	3.4
Hard to get method	0.2	0.5	0.4
Costs too much	0.3	1.1	1.0
Inconvenient to use	0.3	0.3	0.3
Afraid of sterilization	1.4	3.0	2.7
Doesn't like existing methods	3.5	3.0	3.1
Other	3.5	2.6	2.7
Don't know/missing	1.4	2.0	1.9
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of women	6,172	26,292	32,464

Table 5.16 Future use of contraception

Percent distribution of currently married women who are not currently using any contraceptive method by intention to use in the future, according to number of living children and residence, India, 1998–99

Intention to use in the future	Number of living children ¹					Total
	0	1	2	3	4+	
URBAN						
Intends to use in next 12 months	5.3	22.6	34.0	31.2	25.5	23.8
Intends to use later	57.1	48.7	30.2	24.9	13.4	36.5
Intends to use, unsure when	1.5	2.3	1.7	1.0	0.4	1.5
Unsure as to intention	11.2	4.7	2.9	2.4	2.2	4.7
Does not intend to use	24.6	21.7	31.0	40.1	58.4	33.4
Missing	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of women	1,655	2,525	2,154	1,176	1,639	9,149
RURAL						
Intends to use in next 12 months	4.3	14.7	24.5	28.9	26.2	20.1
Intends to use later	53.8	53.2	41.8	29.9	16.6	38.3
Intends to use, unsure when	1.0	1.9	1.5	1.6	1.1	1.4
Unsure as to intention	10.6	6.1	4.0	3.6	3.6	5.4
Does not intend to use	30.0	23.9	28.0	35.7	52.0	34.6
Missing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of women	5,519	7,972	6,954	5,139	8,588	34,173
TOTAL						
Intends to use in next 12 months	4.6	16.6	26.8	29.3	26.1	20.9
Intends to use later	54.6	52.1	39.1	28.9	16.1	37.9
Intends to use, unsure when	1.1	2.0	1.6	1.5	1.0	1.5
Unsure as to intention	10.8	5.8	3.7	3.3	3.4	5.3
Does not intend to use	28.8	23.4	28.7	36.5	53.0	34.3
Missing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of women	7,174	10,497	9,109	6,314	10,227	43,322

¹Includes current pregnancy, if any

The expressed timing of future use also varies by number of living children. The proportion of women who say that they intend to use contraception after 12 or more months falls steadily with the number of living children from 55 percent among women with no living children to 16 percent among those with four or more children. The proportion expressing an intention to use contraception within the next 12 months increases from 5 percent among those with no children to 29 percent among those with three living children and then falls slightly to 26 percent among those with four or more children. The overall proportion of women who intend to use contraception at some time in the future does not differ greatly by residence, but the timing of intended future use is somewhat different for women in rural and urban areas. Twenty percent of women in rural areas intend to use contraception in the next 12 months compared with 24 percent in urban areas. Among women with one or more children, the proportion intending to use contraception after 12 months is higher in rural areas than in urban areas at each number of living children. One-third of rural as well as urban women who are currently non-users have no intention of using contraception any time in the future.

Table 5.17 Future use of contraception by state						
Percentage of currently married women not currently using contraception who intend to use any time in the future by number of living children, according to state, India, 1998–99						
State	Number of living children ¹					Total
	0	1	2	3	4+	
India	60.2	70.7	67.4	59.8	43.3	60.2
North						
Delhi	59.6	74.5	61.7	60.2	48.1	62.1
Haryana	85.1	90.2	86.0	77.4	56.8	80.2
Himachal Pradesh	89.7	94.5	88.1	82.8	59.9	85.6
Jammu & Kashmir	63.9	74.9	74.5	62.9	49.5	63.6
Punjab	86.2	87.3	76.3	65.2	48.2	75.1
Rajasthan	59.2	67.2	67.0	62.2	43.2	58.5
Central						
Madhya Pradesh	78.8	85.8	80.7	70.6	53.7	73.5
Uttar Pradesh	55.0	65.4	61.5	57.9	45.1	55.1
East						
Bihar	63.1	68.3	65.5	58.0	42.7	57.0
Orissa	47.4	67.6	63.2	57.8	42.4	57.5
West Bengal	42.0	63.3	66.0	63.5	42.9	56.5
Northeast						
Arunachal Pradesh	53.2	60.2	56.3	46.1	47.6	52.9
Assam	25.7	45.7	45.5	42.3	32.6	38.6
Manipur	40.5	61.9	62.6	59.7	35.8	50.8
Meghalaya	(13.5)	40.2	34.7	38.0	32.1	34.1
Mizoram	(37.0)	64.0	66.7	59.4	50.8	58.6
Nagaland	(23.8)	57.7	54.8	51.2	47.4	49.0
Sikkim	(73.9)	81.4	79.2	61.0	55.5	70.3
West						
Goa	56.5	58.3	51.1	34.0	31.1	50.2
Gujarat	76.9	83.6	68.9	72.1	50.4	72.1
Maharashtra	70.9	81.6	78.6	73.1	56.8	74.5
South						
Andhra Pradesh	62.3	72.1	70.5	57.8	28.9	62.9
Karnataka	64.0	73.5	69.7	52.9	23.9	60.8
Kerala	37.8	50.4	54.0	38.2	17.8	44.5
Tamil Nadu	47.5	68.0	63.3	38.2	18.5	54.7

() Based on 25–49 unweighted cases
¹ Includes current pregnancy, if any

Interstate Variations in Intentions to Use Contraception in the Future

Table 5.17 shows considerable interstate variation in intentions to use contraception in the future among women who were not using contraception at the time of the survey. The proportion of currently married women not using contraception but intending to use it in the future ranges from 34 percent in Meghalaya to 86 percent in Himachal Pradesh. The proportion is 75 percent or higher in Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, and Maharashtra.

Table 5.18 Reasons for not intending to use contraception			
Percent distribution of currently married women who are not using any contraceptive method and who do not intend to use any method in the future by main reason for not intending to use contraception, according to current age, India, 1998–99			
Reason	Current age		Total
	15–29	30–49	
Fertility-related reasons	43.5	59.1	54.0
Not having sex	0.6	4.6	3.2
Infrequent sex	0.4	2.3	1.7
Menopausal/had hysterectomy	2.1	32.9	22.8
Subfecund/infecund	3.0	12.0	9.0
Wants as many children as possible	37.4	7.5	17.3
Opposition to use	21.4	11.0	14.4
Opposed to family planning	1.9	1.6	1.7
Husband opposed	6.4	3.7	4.6
Other people opposed	1.1	0.4	0.6
Against religion	12.1	5.2	7.5
Lack of knowledge	7.0	2.2	3.8
Knows no method	5.2	1.4	2.6
Knows no source	1.8	0.8	1.1
Method-related reasons	22.0	21.8	21.9
Health concerns	3.2	4.9	4.3
Worry about side effects	6.6	5.1	5.6
Hard to get method	0.1	0.3	0.2
Costs too much	1.2	0.7	0.9
Inconvenient	0.1	0.3	0.2
Afraid of sterilization	5.0	5.5	5.3
Doesn't like existing methods	5.9	5.1	5.3
Other	1.8	4.2	3.4
Don't know/missing	4.3	1.7	2.5
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of women	4,876	9,993	14,868

From these results it is evident that the proportion intending to use is not highly correlated with the level of fertility. This is possible because a high proportion currently using contraception and a low fertility rate are compatible with a residual group of non-users who are highly resistant to the idea of using contraception or who do not feel the need to use contraception. In most states the proportion intending to use in the future is highest among women with one or two living children.

Reasons for Not Intending to Use Contraception

The survey asked currently married women who were not using any method of contraception and who said that they did not intend to use a method at any time in the future why they did not intend to use contraception. This type of information is crucial for understanding the obstacles to further increases in contraceptive use and for designing effective information programmes. Table 5.18 shows that 54 percent of women mention a fertility-related reason for not intending to use contraception in the future, 22 percent mention a method-related reason, and 18 percent mention a reason related to opposition to use or lack of knowledge.

The most frequently mentioned single reason given for not intending to use contraception is that the woman is menopausal or has undergone a hysterectomy (23 percent). Other reasons given by sizeable proportions of women are that the woman wants as many children as possible (17 percent) or that the couple is subfecund or infecund (9 percent). Thirty-seven percent of women below age 30 mention the desire to have as many children as possible as the main reason for not intending to use contraception, compared with 8 percent of women age 30–49. By contrast, 45 percent of older women mention reasons related to menopause, hysterectomy, infecundity, or subfecundity, compared with only 5 percent of younger women.

Since women below age 30 account for more than 80 percent of total current fertility in India, the reasons they give for not intending to use contraception are extremely important from a policy perspective. Among the 52 percent of younger women who give reasons not related to fertility, 19 percent mention health concerns or concerns about side effects, 24 percent give other method-related reasons, and another 13 percent mention lack of knowledge. This suggests that improved information and improved quality of services could enhance the acceptance of the government's family welfare programme. Nevertheless, among younger women who are not using contraception, the desire to have as many children as possible remains the major reason for not intending to use contraception in the future.

Preferred Future Method of Contraception

NFHS-2 asked currently married women who were not using contraception but intended to use a method in the future which method of family planning they would prefer to use. Table 5.19 shows the results according to the timing of intended use. A large majority (65 percent) of women who intend to use contraception say they intend to use female sterilization, up from 59 percent in NFHS-1. The next most preferred method is the pill, which was the preference of 16 percent of women, down from 19 percent in NFHS-1. Less than 1 percent of the women prefer that their husbands get sterilized, and 3 percent each prefer to use the condom or IUD. There are important differences in the choice of preferred methods by timing of intended use. Women who intend to use within the next 12 months show a much greater preference for modern spacing methods (38 percent) than women who intend to use later (14 percent). Among women who intend to use in the next 12 months, the pill is the spacing method mentioned most often (25 percent), followed by the IUD and the condom (6 percent each). A negligible percentage of women from either group mention male sterilization as the preferred method. Results are similar for urban and rural areas with some exceptions. Among women who intend to use a method within the next 12 months, a higher proportion of rural women than urban women prefer the pill (28 percent compared with 18 percent), whereas a higher proportion of urban women than rural women prefer the condom (11 percent vs. 5 percent) and IUD (9 percent vs. 5 percent).

Overall, the mix of contraceptive methods that intended future users say they would prefer to use is not very different from the methods currently being used, with heavy reliance on female sterilization. However, the fact that 38 percent of the women intending to use contraception within the next year plan to use a spacing method suggests that there is a significant potential demand for spacing methods that will need to be met.

Table 5.19 Preferred method

Percent distribution of currently married women who are not currently using a contraceptive method but who intend to use a method in the future by preferred method, according to timing of intended use and residence, India, 1998–99

Preferred method	Timing of intended use			Total
	Next 12 months	Later	Unsure about timing	
URBAN				
Pill	18.4	7.4	2.7	11.5
IUD	9.2	3.1	0.9	5.4
Condom	11.0	4.0	2.3	6.6
Female sterilization	48.2	74.1	75.2	64.1
Male sterilization	0.6	0.4	1.3	0.5
Rhythm/safe period	2.7	1.2	0.6	1.8
Withdrawal	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.6
Other	1.0	0.7	1.1	0.8
Unsure	8.1	8.8	15.5	8.7
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,179	3,339	138	5,655
RURAL				
Pill	27.5	11.7	13.3	17.0
IUD	5.0	1.4	0.8	2.6
Condom	4.7	1.2	2.2	2.4
Female sterilization	48.4	74.4	67.4	65.5
Male sterilization	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.8
Rhythm/safe period	3.6	1.2	3.5	2.1
Withdrawal	1.1	0.3	0.7	0.5
Other	2.0	1.1	0.1	1.4
Unsure	6.7	8.0	11.1	7.6
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,857	13,080	492	20,429
TOTAL				
Pill	25.3	10.8	11.0	15.9
IUD	6.0	1.7	0.8	3.2
Condom	6.2	1.8	2.2	3.3
Female sterilization	48.4	74.3	69.1	65.2
Male sterilization	0.9	0.6	1.0	0.7
Rhythm/safe period	3.4	1.2	2.9	2.0
Withdrawal	1.0	0.3	0.6	0.5
Other	1.8	1.0	0.3	1.3
Unsure	7.0	8.2	12.1	7.9
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,035	16,419	630	26,084

5.7 Exposure to Family Planning Messages

For many years, the family planning programme has been using electronic and other mass media to promote family planning. Studies have confirmed that even after controlling the effect of residence and education the exposure to electronic mass media has a substantial effect on contraceptive use (Ramesh et al., 1996). It is also found to strengthen women's motivation to prevent unwanted fertility (Kulkarni and Choe, 1998). In order to explore the reach of family planning messages through various mass media, NFHS-2 asked women whether they had heard or seen any message about family planning in the past few months. Table 5.20 shows the proportion of ever-married women who report having heard or seen a family planning message in the past few months, according to various background characteristics. Results indicate that messages disseminated through the mass media reach 60 percent of ever-married women in India. The most common source of exposure to family planning messages is television. Forty-four percent of ever-married women report having seen a family planning message on television, followed by radio (38 percent), wall paintings or hoardings (31 percent), newspapers or magazines (18 percent), and cinema/film shows (13 percent). Only 4 percent were exposed to a message through a drama, folk dance, or street play.

Overall exposure to mass media messages on family planning does not vary much by age, but exposure is much higher in urban areas than in rural areas. Eighty-three percent of urban ever-married women report seeing or hearing a family planning message from at least one media source, compared with 52 percent of women in rural areas. Urban women are more likely than rural women to have been exposed to a message through each form of mass media.

Exposure to family planning messages varies greatly by education. More than 75 percent of women who are literate have heard or seen a family planning message from at least one media source in the past few months, compared with only 42 percent of women who are illiterate. This proportion reaches 94 percent among women with at least a high school education. Exposure to family planning messages through some specific media sources is even more closely linked to education than is exposure in general. For example, 86 percent of women with at least a high school education have heard or seen a family planning message on television, compared with only 26 percent of illiterate women.

Exposure to family planning messages also differs by religion. Fifty-nine percent of Hindu women and 57 percent of Muslim women say they have heard or seen a family planning message through the media, compared with 70–90 percent of Buddhist, Christian, Sikh, or Jain women. Muslim women report less exposure through television, newspapers or magazines, and wall paintings or hoardings than do women from any of the other five religions.

Sixty-eight percent of ever-married women not belonging to scheduled castes/tribes or other backward classes have seen or heard a family planning message, followed by 60 percent of women from other backward classes, 53 percent of women from scheduled castes, and 39 percent of women from scheduled tribes. This pattern of differential exposure by caste/tribe is also observed for all specific media sources except cinema/film shows. Exposure to family planning messages rises steadily as the standard of living increases, both for media in general and for each specific media source. Only 38 percent of women living in households with a low standard of living are exposed to family planning messages, compared with 89 percent of women living in households with a high standard of living.

Table 5.20 Exposure to family planning messages

Percentage of ever-married women who have heard or seen any message about family planning in the past few months, by specific media source and selected background characteristics, India, 1998–99

Background characteristic	Source of family planning message						Any source	Number of women
	Radio	Television	Cinema/ film show	News-paper/ magazine	Wall painting/ hoarding	Drama/ folk dance/ street play		
Age								
15–24	37.9	42.2	13.9	16.9	30.1	4.4	59.4	24,571
25–34	39.4	45.4	13.8	19.5	32.8	4.7	61.5	32,839
35–49	37.1	43.6	11.5	17.6	29.4	4.1	58.6	31,789
Residence								
Urban	49.0	75.9	24.5	38.1	47.3	5.6	83.4	23,370
Rural	34.3	32.5	8.9	11.0	25.0	4.0	51.6	65,829
Education								
Illiterate	25.9	25.8	5.8	1.2	14.7	2.5	42.4	51,871
Literate, < middle school complete	48.2	56.0	14.7	21.6	42.6	5.1	76.4	17,270
Middle school complete	55.8	70.5	21.8	41.0	54.1	7.1	85.9	7,328
High school complete and above	64.4	86.0	34.8	69.0	67.4	9.8	94.0	12,719
Religion								
Hindu	38.2	43.6	13.5	17.8	30.7	4.7	59.2	72,903
Muslim	35.1	38.8	8.8	13.8	25.9	2.5	57.1	11,190
Christian	51.9	50.8	19.3	37.3	48.0	5.1	75.4	2,263
Sikh	34.4	75.6	6.1	28.3	39.3	1.1	82.7	1,427
Jain	48.3	82.2	28.9	55.4	59.1	7.4	89.6	331
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	38.2	55.9	14.9	24.8	43.3	8.8	69.5	676
Other	32.1	20.4	6.1	8.5	23.5	4.1	49.8	285
No religion	31.6	33.2	7.0	24.5	32.4	1.7	51.6	44
Caste/tribe								
Scheduled caste	33.4	35.7	10.0	9.6	24.6	3.9	53.2	16,301
Scheduled tribe	25.2	20.6	4.9	7.0	18.2	3.3	38.8	7,750
Other backward class	38.6	43.4	15.3	17.2	33.1	4.5	60.2	29,383
Other	43.0	53.7	14.4	25.7	35.1	4.9	67.9	34,904
Standard of living index								
Low	24.1	18.6	6.4	3.4	17.8	2.8	38.0	29,033
Medium	40.2	44.5	12.1	15.1	30.4	4.2	62.6	41,289
High	55.9	83.2	25.8	48.8	53.2	7.4	89.1	17,845
Use of contraception								
Ever used	43.4	52.7	15.7	23.3	37.2	5.2	68.8	48,092
Never used	32.0	33.6	9.9	12.1	23.5	3.4	49.5	41,107
Total	38.1	43.9	13.0	18.1	30.9	4.4	59.9	89,199

Note: Total includes 11, 79, 862, and 1,032 women with missing information on education, religion, caste/tribe, and the standard of living index, respectively, who are not shown separately.

Finally, as expected, women who have ever used contraception are more likely (69 percent) to report hearing or seeing a media message on family planning than are women who have never used contraception (50 percent). These differentials are likely to reflect some combination of greater access to broadcast signals in urban areas, the greater ability of higher-income households to own radios and televisions, and variations in attentiveness to media messages associated with differing levels of education, leisure, and interest.

5.8 Discussion of Family Planning

Irrespective of whether they had ever used contraception, all currently married women were asked whether they had discussed family planning with their husband, friends, neighbours, or other relatives in the past few months. Information on whether women talk about family planning at all, and with whom they discuss it, sheds light on their level of interest in family planning, their familial and other sources of family planning information, and the possibility of communication with others on such a personal topic. Table 5.21 shows that only 25 percent of women discussed family planning with their husband, friends, neighbours, or other relatives in the past few months. Only 18 percent of currently married women discussed family planning with their husbands and 11 percent discussed family planning with friends or neighbours. Discussions with other relatives were rare.

Women age 15–34 years are more likely to have discussed family planning with someone (27–29 percent) than women age 35–49 (17 percent). In general, the proportion of women who have discussed family planning varies predictably by most other background characteristics. Urban women are somewhat more likely (29 percent) than rural women (23 percent) to have discussed family planning. The proportion of women reporting such discussions rises with women's education (from 20 among illiterate women to 36 percent among women with at least a high school education), husband's education (from 19 to 31 percent), and the standard of living index (from 19 percent among women living in households with a low standard of living to 33 percent among women living in households with a high standard of living). By religion, about one-quarter of women from each religion have discussed family planning with others, except the percentage is almost double (49 percent) among Sikh women. Discussions about family planning are slightly lower for scheduled-tribe women than for other caste/tribe groups, but the differences are small. Women who have ever used contraception are more likely to have discussed family planning (28 percent) than women who have never used contraception (20 percent).

Interstate Variations in Exposure to Family Planning Messages and Discussions about Family Planning

The three indicators shown in Table 5.22 summarize state differentials in the situation of women regarding their exposure to family planning messages through media and their discussions with their husbands and others about family planning. Women's media exposure to family planning messages varies from 36 percent in Rajasthan to 92 percent in Delhi. Exposure also exceeds 80 percent in Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Goa, Punjab, Karnataka, Manipur, and Kerala. At the other extreme are four large states with low levels of contraception—Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh—with exposure ranging from 36 percent in Rajasthan to 49 percent in Madhya Pradesh.

Table 5.21 Discussion of family planning

Percentage of currently married women who discussed family planning with their husbands, friends, neighbours, or other relatives in the past few months by selected background characteristics, India, 1998–99

Background characteristic	Person with whom discussed family planning								Any of these persons	Number of women
	Husband	Mother	Sister	Daughter	Mother-in-law	Sister-in-law	Friend/ neighbour	Other relative		
Age										
15–24	21.7	2.5	1.2	0.1	3.1	2.2	9.8	0.3	27.4	23,944
25–34	21.8	1.9	1.7	0.2	2.0	2.6	12.3	0.4	29.3	31,342
35–49	10.1	0.5	0.9	1.1	0.5	1.5	9.1	0.2	17.2	28,363
Residence										
Urban	21.8	2.0	1.8	0.5	1.9	2.2	11.5	0.4	29.3	21,888
Rural	16.4	1.4	1.1	0.4	1.8	2.1	10.1	0.3	23.0	61,761
Education										
Illiterate	13.8	1.1	0.8	0.5	1.4	1.6	8.7	0.2	19.7	48,018
Literate, < middle school complete	19.1	2.0	1.7	0.6	2.2	2.4	11.8	0.4	27.1	16,257
Middle school complete	24.0	2.4	1.8	0.3	2.7	2.9	13.7	0.4	32.3	7,073
High school complete and above	27.9	2.5	2.3	0.2	2.4	3.4	14.1	0.5	36.3	12,291
Religion										
Hindu	17.1	1.6	1.2	0.5	1.9	2.1	10.5	0.3	24.1	68,443
Muslim	19.3	1.3	1.3	0.2	1.3	1.9	9.4	0.4	24.9	10,477
Christian	17.2	1.5	1.7	0.5	1.0	1.5	10.6	0.2	24.9	2,072
Sikh	40.7	2.7	3.4	0.1	4.0	7.3	21.3	0.0	48.9	1,365
Jain	18.7	1.8	1.5	0.4	2.0	1.9	10.0	0.5	24.8	316
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	21.4	1.8	0.8	0.0	2.4	0.5	8.0	1.2	25.2	601
Other	18.9	1.4	1.1	0.0	1.8	1.9	7.6	1.0	24.9	259
No religion	19.4	1.4	0.4	0.0	4.5	0.2	11.0	0.2	24.8	38
Caste/tribe										
Scheduled caste	17.4	1.5	1.0	0.6	1.9	1.7	10.7	0.2	24.1	15,178
Scheduled tribe	15.1	0.9	0.7	0.2	1.3	1.2	8.5	0.3	20.8	7,176
Other backward class	16.4	1.9	1.4	0.6	2.0	2.2	11.0	0.3	23.9	27,529
Other	19.8	1.6	1.4	0.4	1.7	2.5	10.5	0.4	26.4	32,957
Standard of living index										
Low	13.6	1.4	0.8	0.3	1.2	1.3	8.9	0.3	19.3	26,505
Medium	17.8	1.6	1.3	0.5	2.0	2.0	10.3	0.3	24.7	38,999
High	24.2	1.9	2.1	0.6	2.5	3.7	13.4	0.4	32.7	17,173
Use of contraception										
Ever used	20.0	1.6	1.7	0.7	1.8	2.7	12.7	0.3	28.4	46,115
Never used	15.1	1.5	0.8	0.2	1.9	1.5	7.8	0.3	19.9	37,534
Husband's education										
Illiterate	12.7	1.2	0.8	0.6	1.2	1.4	8.5	0.2	18.6	24,965
Literate, < middle school complete	15.8	1.5	1.3	0.5	1.6	1.9	10.0	0.3	22.7	21,298
Middle school complete	19.7	1.7	1.3	0.3	2.1	2.2	10.8	0.3	26.3	11,330
High school complete and above	23.5	2.0	1.7	0.4	2.5	3.0	12.7	0.4	31.3	25,847
Total	17.8	1.6	1.3	0.5	1.8	2.1	10.5	0.3	24.6	83,649

Note: Total includes 11, 77, 809, 971, and 209 women with missing information on education, religion, caste/tribe, the standard of living index, and husband's education, respectively, who are not shown separately.

Table 5.22 Exposure to messages and discussion of family planning by state

Percentage of ever-married women who have been exposed to a family planning message in the past few months, and percentage of currently married women who know a contraceptive method who have discussed family planning with their husbands, friends, neighbours, or other relatives by state, India, 1998–99

State	Exposed to family planning message ¹	Discussed family planning with husband	Discussed family planning with anyone ²
India	59.9	17.8	24.6
North			
Delhi	91.7	23.6	27.5
Haryana	76.6	47.4	57.0
Himachal Pradesh	88.4	44.4	54.5
Jammu & Kashmir	60.6	22.0	28.9
Punjab	84.8	49.7	58.8
Rajasthan	35.9	17.7	22.6
Central			
Madhya Pradesh	48.9	16.4	23.7
Uttar Pradesh	47.1	18.5	22.7
East			
Bihar	39.7	13.9	19.8
Orissa	58.9	24.4	31.1
West Bengal	56.5	17.8	25.2
Northeast			
Arunachal Pradesh	67.9	19.3	27.7
Assam	60.8	20.5	25.4
Manipur	80.8	18.5	23.5
Meghalaya	62.8	27.4	30.6
Mizoram	77.7	32.6	40.0
Nagaland	64.4	29.8	35.4
Sikkim	88.0	12.4	20.3
West			
Goa	85.7	25.1	33.4
Gujarat	62.5	11.4	20.6
Maharashtra	62.2	17.5	20.5
South			
Andhra Pradesh	75.9	10.0	22.7
Karnataka	84.4	14.8	21.8
Kerala	80.6	17.8	23.8
Tamil Nadu	75.7	13.1	23.8

¹Women who have heard or seen any message about family planning on the radio or television, in a cinema, film show, newspaper, or magazine, on a wall painting or hoarding, or in a drama, folk dance, or street play in the past few months

²Husband, friends, neighbours, or other relatives

Women in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Sikkim, and Tamil Nadu (10–13 percent) are less likely than women in other states to have discussed family planning with their husbands. Comparable estimates for Punjab and Haryana are 50 percent and 47 percent, respectively. Discussions of family planning with anyone range from 20 percent in Bihar and Sikkim to 59 percent in Punjab. Surprisingly, women in the southern states, despite high levels of media exposure to family planning messages, are about as likely to have discussed family planning with their husbands or with anyone as women in the states with low media exposure to family planning messages.

5.9 Need for Family Planning

Currently married women who are not using any method of contraception but who do not want any more children or want to wait two or more years before having another child are defined as having an unmet need for family planning. Current contraceptive users are said to have a met need for family planning. The total demand for family planning is the sum of the met need and the unmet need. Table 5.23 shows the unmet need, met need, and total demand for family planning, according to whether the need is for spacing or limiting births, by background characteristics of women. The footnotes in the table provide detailed definitions of these concepts.

According to these definitions, 16 percent of currently married women in India have an unmet need for family planning. The unmet need for spacing births is the same as the unmet need for limiting births (8 percent). If all of the women who say they want to space or limit their births were to use family planning, the contraceptive prevalence rate would increase from 48 percent to 64 percent of currently married women, implying that 25 percent of total family planning need is not being met. Comparison with NFHS-1 indicates that the proportion of women with unmet need for family planning declined from 20 to 16 percent during the six and one-half years between the two surveys. The proportion of total demand for family planning that is met increased from 68 percent to 75 percent.

Unmet need is highest (27 percent) among women below age 20; the unmet need in this age group is almost entirely for spacing rather than for limiting. Unmet need is also relatively high for women age 20–24 (24 percent), with 75 percent of the need being for spacing. Among women age 25–29, 19 percent have an unmet need, and more than half of this need is for limiting. Only 23 percent of the total demand for family planning is being met for married women age 15–19. This proportion rises sharply to 52 percent for women age 20–24, to 73 percent for women age 25–29, and to 82–95 percent for women age 30–49. Both met need and unmet need for contraception among women age 30 years and above are mostly for limiting.

Unmet need for family planning is higher in rural areas than in urban areas, and the proportion of total demand for family planning that is satisfied is lower in rural areas than in urban areas. Unmet need for family planning varies by women's education, but only within a narrow range of 14 to 17 percent. The percentage of demand satisfied rises with education from 73 percent among illiterate women to 79 percent among women with at least a high school education.

Table 5.23 Need for family planning services

Percentage of currently married women with unmet need, met need, and total demand for family planning (FP) services and percentage of total demand satisfied by selected background characteristics, India, 1998–99

Background characteristic	Unmet need for FP ¹			Met need (currently using) ²			Total demand for FP			Percentage of demand satisfied
	For spacing	For limiting	Total	For spacing	For limiting	Total	For spacing	For limiting	Total	
Age										
15–19	25.6	1.6	27.1	5.6	2.4	8.0	31.2	4.0	35.2	22.8
20–24	18.4	5.9	24.4	7.7	18.3	26.0	26.1	24.3	50.4	51.6
25–29	8.1	10.5	18.6	4.9	44.4	49.3	13.0	54.8	67.9	72.7
30–34	3.1	11.1	14.1	2.1	60.6	62.7	5.2	71.7	76.8	81.6
35–39	1.1	9.1	10.2	0.7	66.7	67.4	1.7	75.8	77.5	86.9
40–44	0.2	5.5	5.7	0.2	64.7	64.9	0.5	70.1	70.6	91.9
45–49	0.1	3.0	3.1	0.0	57.2	57.2	0.1	60.2	60.3	94.8
Residence										
Urban	6.7	6.7	13.4	5.2	53.0	58.2	11.9	59.7	71.6	81.3
Rural	8.9	7.8	16.7	2.9	41.8	44.7	11.8	49.6	61.3	72.8
Education										
Illiterate	7.8	8.5	16.2	1.6	41.3	42.9	9.4	49.8	59.2	72.6
Literate, < middle school complete	8.4	6.1	14.4	3.5	52.0	55.5	11.8	58.1	69.9	79.3
Middle school complete	11.1	6.1	17.1	6.8	45.4	52.2	17.9	51.5	69.3	75.3
High school complete and above	8.8	6.3	15.1	9.1	47.9	57.0	17.9	54.2	72.1	79.0
Religion										
Hindu	8.0	7.1	15.1	3.1	46.1	49.2	11.1	53.2	64.3	76.5
Muslim	11.0	11.0	22.0	5.2	31.8	37.0	16.1	42.8	59.0	62.7
Christian	8.7	6.1	14.8	5.2	47.2	52.4	13.9	53.3	67.2	78.0
Sikh	3.6	5.1	8.6	5.6	59.6	65.2	9.2	64.7	73.9	88.3
Jain	5.9	3.6	9.5	6.0	59.1	65.1	12.0	62.6	74.6	87.2
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	7.4	5.3	12.7	2.7	62.0	64.7	10.1	67.3	77.4	83.6
Other	6.9	5.4	12.3	8.7	39.9	48.6	15.6	45.3	60.9	79.8
No religion	14.2	11.4	25.6	5.1	24.9	30.1	19.4	36.3	55.7	54.0
Caste/tribe										
Scheduled caste	8.6	8.2	16.8	2.7	42.0	44.6	11.2	50.2	61.4	72.7
Scheduled tribe	8.8	7.0	15.9	2.5	36.7	39.1	11.3	43.7	55.0	71.1
Other backward class	8.6	7.1	15.7	2.5	44.3	46.8	11.2	51.3	62.5	74.8
Other	7.7	7.5	15.2	5.0	48.5	53.5	12.7	56.0	68.7	77.8
Standard of living index										
Low	9.0	8.8	17.9	1.9	37.5	39.5	11.0	46.4	57.4	68.8
Medium	8.5	7.2	15.6	3.3	45.2	48.4	11.7	52.3	64.0	75.6
High	6.7	6.1	12.8	6.3	54.9	61.2	13.0	61.0	74.0	82.7

Contd...

Table 5.23 Need for family planning services (contd.)

Percentage of currently married women with unmet need, met need, and total demand for family planning (FP) services and percentage of total demand satisfied by selected background characteristics, India, 1998–99

Background characteristic	Unmet need for FP ¹			Met need (currently using) ²			Total demand for FP			Percentage of demand satisfied
	For spacing	For limiting	Total	For spacing	For limiting	Total	For spacing	For limiting	Total	
Number of living children										
0	13.8	0.2	14.1	3.8	0.7	4.6	17.7	1.0	18.6	24.4
1	20.6	2.6	23.2	12.4	11.4	23.7	32.9	14.0	46.9	50.6
2	7.9	7.1	15.0	3.0	55.1	58.1	10.8	62.2	73.1	79.5
3	4.1	7.8	11.9	1.1	66.4	67.5	5.2	74.2	79.4	85.0
4	2.9	9.7	12.5	0.7	65.1	65.8	3.5	74.8	78.3	84.0
5	2.4	14.2	16.6	0.3	56.4	56.7	2.8	70.5	73.3	77.3
6+	2.0	20.5	22.5	0.3	41.1	41.4	2.4	61.6	63.9	64.8
Total	8.3	7.5	15.8	3.5	44.7	48.2	11.8	52.2	64.0	75.3

¹Unmet need for *spacing* includes pregnant women whose pregnancy was mistimed, amenorrhoeic women whose last birth was mistimed, and women who are neither pregnant nor amenorrhoeic and who are not using any method of family planning and who say they want to wait two or more years for their next birth. Also included in unmet need for spacing are women who are unsure whether they want another child or who want another child but are unsure when to have the birth. Unmet need for *limiting* refers to pregnant women whose pregnancy was unwanted, amenorrhoeic women whose last child was unwanted, and women who are neither pregnant nor amenorrhoeic who are not using any method of family planning and who want no more children.

²Met need for *spacing* refers to women who are using some method of family planning and say they want to have another child or are undecided whether to have another. Met need for *limiting* refers to women who are using some method and who want no more children. Note that *spacing* and *limiting* refer to the reason for using contraception rather than to the particular method used.

Hindu and Christian women have a lower unmet need for family planning (15 percent) than Muslim women (22 percent) but a higher unmet need than women from other religious groups (8–13 percent). The percentage of total demand satisfied is higher for Hindu and Christian women (77–78 percent) than for Muslims (63 percent), but less than that of other religious groups (80–88 percent). There are no notable differentials in the extent of unmet need by caste/tribe, but the percentage of demand satisfied is somewhat higher for women who do not belong to a scheduled caste or tribe or other backward class. Unmet need declines steadily from 18 to 13 percent, and the percentage of demand satisfied increases from 69 to 83 percent as the standard of living index rises from low to high.

Unmet need is much higher for women with one living child and for women with 6 or more living children (23 percent) than for women with either no children (14 percent) or two to five children (12–17 percent). Among women with no children or one child, unmet need is almost exclusively for spacing. The proportion of unmet need that is for limiting then rises from 47 percent among women with two living children to 91 percent among women with six or more living children.

Among women with no living children, only 24 percent of total demand for family planning is satisfied. Half of total demand is satisfied among women with one living child. The proportion of demand satisfied rises sharply to 80–85 percent for women with two to four living children and then declines to 65 percent for women with six or more children. These results indicate that the family planning programme's strong emphasis on sterilization results in failure to meet the spacing needs of young women who are still in the process of forming their families.

These findings on unmet need from NFHS-2 corroborate similar findings from NFHS-1 (Radha Devi et al., 1996).

Interstate Variations in Unmet Need

Table 5.24 and Figure 5.5 show that unmet need for family planning services ranges from 7 percent in Punjab to 25 percent in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (among major states) to 36 percent in the small northeastern state of Meghalaya. In Uttar Pradesh unmet need declined from 30 to 25 percent between NFHS-1 and NFHS-2. In Bihar it remained unchanged at 25 percent. In Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Orissa, unmet need declined from 20–22 percent in NFHS-1 to 16–18 percent in NFHS-2. Haryana, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, West Bengal, Assam, and Gujarat are the other states that have achieved a considerable decline in unmet need since NFHS-1. Unmet need increased in all the northeastern states except Assam. The percentage of demand satisfied increased in all states except Meghalaya, Mizoram, Goa, and Kerala. The percentage of unmet need that is for spacing ranges from 37 percent in Jammu and Kashmir to 75 percent in Mizoram.

In summary, NFHS-2 results show that although current use of contraception has increased and the extent of unmet need has declined in most of the states in India, there is a need for considerable improvement in the coverage and quality of family planning services, especially in the four large states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan, as well as in Orissa. The findings underscore the need for appropriate state-specific strategies with emphasis on universal education, imaginative use of electronic mass media for IEC programmes, intensified promotion of temporary methods, and improvement in the quality of services.

Table 5.24 Need for family planning services by state

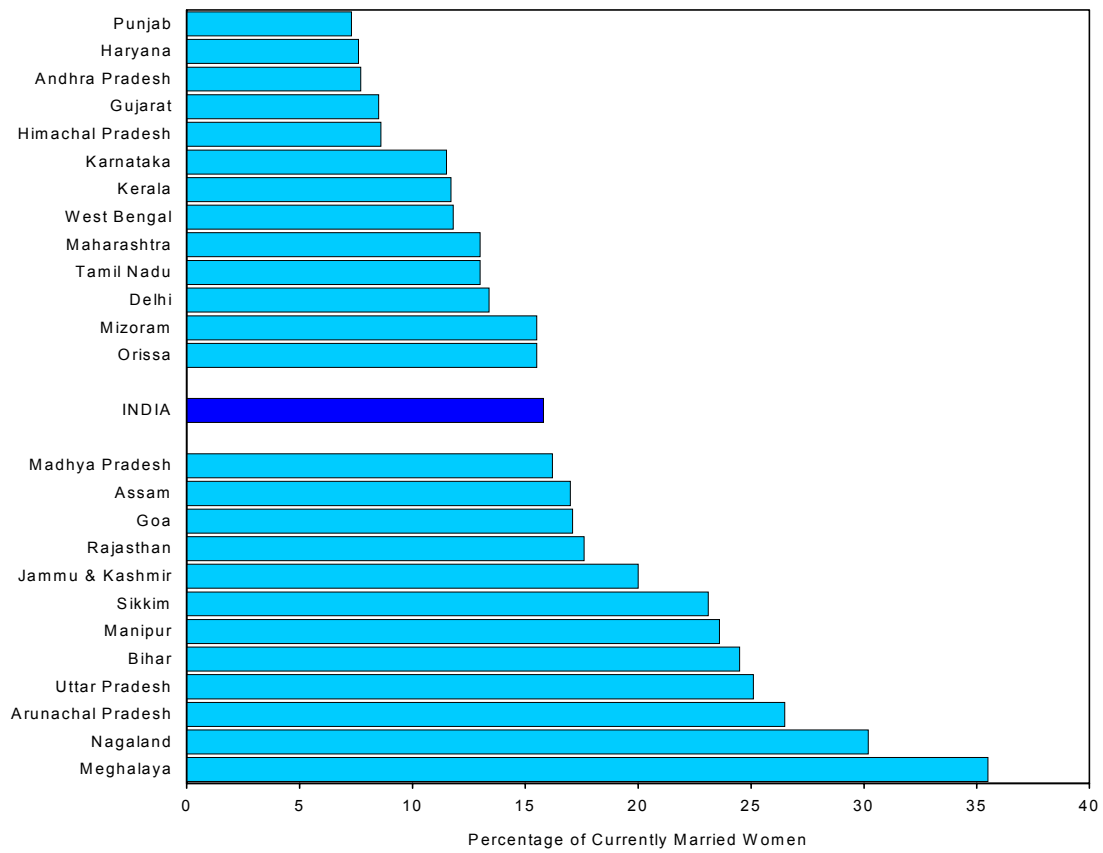
Percentage of currently married women with unmet need, met need, and total demand for family planning (FP) services, and percentage of total demand satisfied, according to state, India, 1998–99

State	Unmet need for FP ¹			Met need (currently using) ²			Total demand for FP			Percentage of demand satisfied
	For spacing	For limiting	Total	For spacing	For limiting	Total	For spacing	For limiting	Total	
India	8.3	7.5	15.8	3.5	44.7	48.2	11.8	52.2	64.0	75.3
North										
Delhi	5.9	7.5	13.4	7.8	56.0	63.8	13.7	63.5	77.1	82.7
Haryana	2.9	4.7	7.6	4.1	58.3	62.4	7.0	62.9	69.9	89.2
Himachal Pradesh	3.6	4.9	8.6	3.5	64.2	67.7	7.1	69.2	76.3	88.8
Jammu & Kashmir	7.4	12.6	20.0	4.5	44.6	49.1	11.9	57.1	69.0	71.1
Punjab	2.8	4.5	7.3	5.2	61.5	66.7	8.0	66.0	74.0	90.1
Rajasthan	8.7	8.9	17.6	2.4	37.9	40.3	11.1	46.8	57.9	69.6
Central										
Madhya Pradesh	8.9	7.3	16.2	2.2	42.1	44.3	11.1	49.4	60.5	73.2
Uttar Pradesh	11.8	13.4	25.1	3.0	25.1	28.1	14.7	38.5	53.2	52.8
East										
Bihar	12.6	11.9	24.5	1.4	23.1	24.5	14.0	35.0	49.1	50.0
Orissa	8.7	6.8	15.5	2.4	44.4	46.8	11.1	51.2	62.3	75.1
West Bengal	6.3	5.5	11.8	9.8	56.9	66.6	16.0	62.4	78.4	85.0
Northeast										
Arunachal Pradesh	17.2	9.3	26.5	6.4	29.1	35.4	23.6	38.4	61.9	57.2
Assam	7.0	10.0	17.0	7.9	35.3	43.3	14.9	45.3	60.2	71.8
Manipur	13.6	10.0	23.6	8.9	29.8	38.7	22.5	39.8	62.3	62.1
Meghalaya	23.4	12.1	35.5	4.5	15.6	20.2	27.9	27.8	55.7	36.3
Mizoram	11.7	3.7	15.5	8.2	49.5	57.7	20.0	53.3	73.2	78.9
Nagaland	18.3	11.9	30.2	2.5	27.7	30.3	20.8	39.6	60.5	50.0
Sikkim	9.9	13.2	23.1	6.4	47.4	53.8	16.3	60.6	76.9	70.0
West										
Goa	7.3	9.8	17.1	7.1	40.4	47.5	14.4	50.2	64.6	73.5
Gujarat	4.8	3.7	8.5	4.9	54.2	59.0	9.7	57.8	67.5	87.4
Maharashtra	8.1	4.9	13.0	3.1	57.8	60.9	11.2	62.7	74.0	82.4
South										
Andhra Pradesh	5.2	2.5	7.7	0.7	58.9	59.6	5.9	61.4	67.3	88.5
Karnataka	8.3	3.2	11.5	2.1	56.2	58.3	10.4	59.4	69.8	83.5
Kerala	6.9	4.9	11.7	6.2	57.5	63.7	13.1	62.4	75.5	84.4
Tamil Nadu	6.6	6.4	13.0	2.2	49.9	52.1	8.8	56.3	65.1	80.1

¹Unmet need for *spacing* includes pregnant women whose pregnancy was mistimed, amenorrhoeic women whose last birth was mistimed, and women who are neither pregnant nor amenorrhoeic and who are not using any method of family planning and who say they want to wait two or more years for their next birth. Also included in unmet need for spacing are women who are unsure whether they want another child or who want another child but are unsure when to have the birth. Unmet need for *limiting* refers to pregnant women whose pregnancy was unwanted, amenorrhoeic women whose last child was unwanted, and women who are neither pregnant nor amenorrhoeic who are not using any method of family planning and who want no more children.

²Met need for *spacing* refers to women who are using some method of family planning and say they want to have another child or are undecided whether to have another. Met need for *limiting* refers to women who are using some method and who want no more children. Note that *spacing* and *limiting* refer to the reason for using contraception rather than to the particular method used.

Figure 5.5
Unmet Need for Family Planning by State



NFHS-2, India, 1998-99