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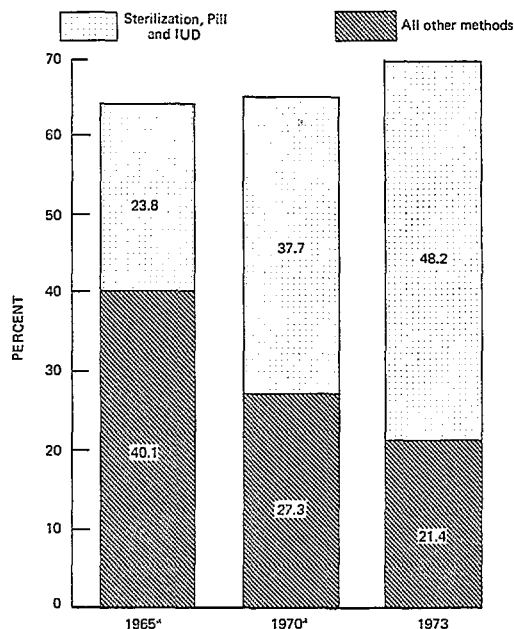
CONTRACEPTIVE UTILIZATION AMONG CURRENTLY MARRIED WOMEN 15-44 YEARS OF AGE: UNITED STATES, 1973¹

An estimated 18.5 million, or 69.6 percent, of all the married couples in the United States in 1973 were using contraceptive methods to plan their families, according to results from Cycle I of the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG). These figures represent a continuing increase in the proportion of married couples using contraception which has been observed through the sixties. In 1960, 50.4 percent of currently married women were using contraception, as indicated by a nationwide sample survey taken in that year.² The National Fertility Studies of 1965 and 1970 showed the proportion of couples currently using contraception had continued to rise to 63.9 percent and 65.0 percent in the respective years.³

In addition to an increased proportion of couples using contraceptive methods, the type of methods used has also been changing (figure 1). In 1973, 12.8 million couples were using the pill, the intrauterine device (IUD), or steriliza-

tion. For convenience, since they have been known or widely accepted as methods of family planning only since 1960, these methods are referred to in this report as the modern methods of contraception. As seen in figure 1, the use of modern contraceptive methods increased 13.9 percent among currently married women between 1965 and 1970 and 10.5 percent between 1970 and 1973. In other words, the proportion of couples using contraception (contraceptors)

Figure 1. PERCENT OF MARRIED COUPLES, WIFE 15-44 YEARS OF AGE, USING A CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD: UNITED STATES, 1965, 1970, and 1973.



⁴Data from table 2, page 10 of reference cited in footnote 3.

¹ Prepared by Kathleen Ford, Ph.D., Division of Vital Statistics.

² This survey, the second Growth of American Families Study (GAF-II), is reported in *Fertility and Family Planning in the United States*, by Whelpton, P. K., Campbell, A. A., and Patterson, J. E., Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press, 1966. This figure was computed from the computer tape for this survey obtained from the Data and Program Library Service at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

³ These surveys, the first and second National Fertility Studies (NFS-I and NFS-II), are reported, respectively, in *Reproduction in the United States, 1965*, by Ryder, N. B., and Westoff, C. F., Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press, 1971, and in "The Modernization of U.S. Contraceptive Practice," by Westoff, C. F., in *Fam. Plann. Perspect.* 4(3), 9-12, July 1972.

who were using modern methods rose from about 37 percent in 1965 to almost 70 percent in 1973. This represents an increase in use of methods which have been shown to be more effective in preventing accidental pregnancies among married couples.^{4,5} The more traditional methods of family planning, including the condom, the diaphragm, foam, rhythm, withdrawal, douche, and other methods,⁶ correspondingly declined during this period.

The statistics presented in this report are the latest nationwide statistics on contraceptive utilization. They are results from Cycle I of the NSFG, conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics. The NSFG was designed to provide information about fertility, family planning, and those aspects of maternal and child health that are closely related to childbearing. Data on these topics were collected by personal interviews with about 9,800 women aged 15-44 years who had ever been married or who had children of their own living in the household. The statistics in this report refer to the 7,566 women who were currently married at the time of the interview. The interviews were conducted between July 1973 and February 1974, and centered on September 13, 1973. Respondents were selected by a multistage, area probability, cross-sectional sample of households in the conterminous United States. Further discussion of the survey design, definition of terms, and sampling variability will be found in the Technical Notes at the end of this report.

In data presented here the contraceptive status of currently married women and the methods they reported refer to the time of the interview. In an effort to plan their pregnancies, the proportion of couples currently using contraception (69.6 percent) is therefore smaller than the proportion who have ever used a method and smaller than the proportion who regularly use a method. The 14.3 percent of women who were pregnant at the time of interview, who were seeking pregnancy, or had just

completed a pregnancy (postpartum) included many who had previously used contraception and many who will return to the practice. Since these women, along with those who are completely sterile, are not "at risk" of an unplanned pregnancy, they are not included when measuring the current use of contraception to avoid unplanned births. In 1973 contraceptors comprised 89.0 percent of currently married women "at risk" of an unplanned pregnancy at the time of interview.

The percent of currently married women using contraception was not significantly different between wives 15-29 years of age and wives 30-44 years of age (tables A, 1, and 2). Differences between the age groups in the reason for not using contraception largely reflect differences in stages of the life cycle. Most noncontracepting younger wives, those 15-29 years of age, were pregnant, postpartum, or trying to become pregnant; most noncontracepting older wives were sterile or other nonusers. Among these "other nonusers," the reasons for not using contraception included indifference to the risk of pregnancy, a low risk of pregnancy due to some impairment of fecundity, and religious or personal objections to contraception.

White wives (70.5 percent) were more likely than Negro wives (60.0 percent) to be using a contraceptive method. Among white wives aged 15-29 years, 70.7 percent were using a contraceptive method, and among Negro wives aged 15-29 years, 63.7 percent were using contraception. For the age groups 30-44 years, 70.3 percent of white wives and 56.8 percent of Negro wives were using contraception.

Negro women were more likely than white women to be noncontraceptors for reasons other than childbearing and sterility. The proportion of women either currently pregnant, seeking pregnancy, postpartum, or sterile were about the same for Negro and white wives. However, 17.9 percent of Negro wives were not using contraception for other reasons compared with only 7.8 percent of white wives.

The modern methods of family planning—the pill, sterilization, and the IUD—dominated contraceptive practice. They were used by 69.2 percent of all currently married contraceptors (tables B, 3, and 4). The pill, the most popular method, was used by 36.1 percent, about 6.7 million women. Female sterilization for contra-

⁴Ryder, N. B., Contraceptive failure in the United States, *Fam. Plann. Perspect.* 5(3): 133-142, Summer 1973.

⁵Ryder, N. B., and Westoff, C. F.: *Reproduction in the United States, 1965*. Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press, 1971. pp. 331-335.

⁶"Other" methods include primarily jelly, cream, suppositories, and abstinence.

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Table A. Number and percent distribution of currently married women 15-44 years of age by contraceptive status, according to race and age: United States, 1973

Race and age	Number of women in thousands	All women	Contraceptors	Noncontraceptors			
				Total	Pregnant post-partum, or seeking pregnancy	Sterile	Other nonusers
ALL RACES				Percent distribution			
15-44 years----	26,646	100.0	69.6	30.4	14.3	7.5	8.6
15-29 years-----	12,040	100.0	70.2	29.8	23.0	1.3	5.5
30-34 years-----	14,606	100.0	69.1	30.9	7.1	12.6	11.2
WHITE							
15-44 years-----	24,249	100.0	70.5	29.5	14.2	7.4	7.8
15-29 years-----	10,963	100.0	70.7	29.3	23.0	1.3	5.0
30-34 years-----	13,286	100.0	70.3	29.7	7.0	12.5	10.1
NEGRO							
15-44 years-----	2,081	100.0	60.0	40.0	14.0	8.1	17.9
15-29 years-----	964	100.0	63.7	36.3	22.8	*1.6	12.0
30-34 years-----	1,117	100.0	56.8	43.2	6.4	13.7	23.1

ceptive reasons accounted for another 12.3 percent and male sterilization, for 11.2 percent. Altogether, about 4.4 million couples had one or the other partner sterilized for contraceptive rea-

sons. The IUD was used by 9.6 percent of contraceptors, about 1.8 million couples.

The more traditional methods (diaphragm, condom, foam, rhythm, withdrawal, douche,

Table B. Number and percent distribution of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives by method of contraception used, according to race and age: United States, 1973

Race and age	Number of contraceptors in thousands	All contraceptors	Method of contraception										
			Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Pill	IUD	Diaphragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	Withdrawal	Douche	Other
ALL RACES			Percent distribution										
15-44 years--	18,543	100.0	12.3	11.2	36.1	9.6	3.4	13.5	5.0	4.0	2.1	0.8	1.9
15-29 years-----	8,451	100.0	5.9	5.3	53.6	12.0	2.5	10.0	5.1	2.0	1.5	*0.4	1.6
30-44 years-----	10,092	100.0	17.7	16.1	21.4	7.6	4.2	16.4	4.9	5.7	2.7	1.2	2.1
WHITE													
15-44 years----	17,102	100.0	11.6	11.9	35.5	9.4	3.6	14.1	5.0	4.1	2.2	0.7	1.9
15-29 years-----	7,756	100.0	5.7	5.6	52.9	11.9	2.6	10.5	5.3	2.0	1.5	*0.3	1.7
30-44 years-----	9,346	100.0	16.5	17.1	21.2	7.4	4.4	17.1	4.7	5.9	2.8	1.0	2.1
NEGRO													
15-44 years----	1,249	100.0	22.7	*1.7	43.8	12.7	2.0	5.3	5.0	*1.3	*0.7	3.0	*1.6
15-29 years-----	614	100.0	9.8	*0.7	63.9	13.1	*1.2	*3.1	*3.5	*1.6	*0.5	*2.1	*0.5
30-44 years-----	635	100.0	35.2	*2.7	24.3	12.4	*2.8	7.5	6.6	*0.9	*0.9	4.0	*2.7

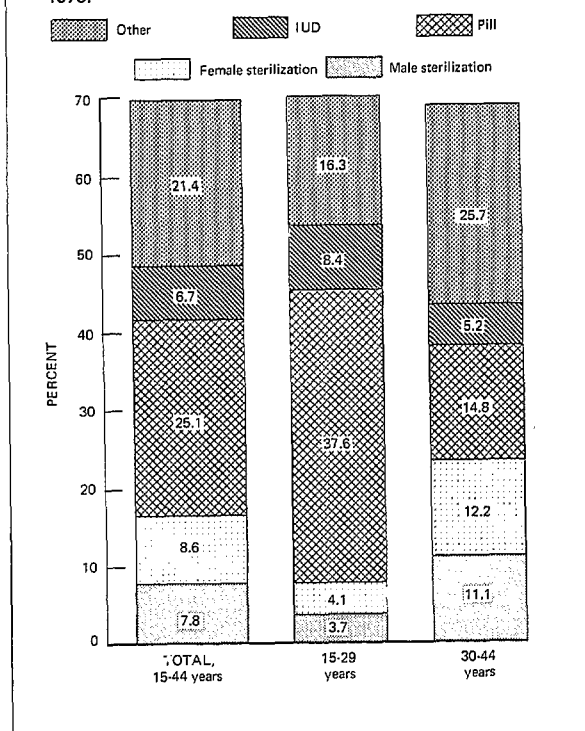
and other)⁶ accounted for the remaining 30.7 percent of contraceptive use. Of these methods, the condom was most popular. It was used by 13.5 percent of currently married contraceptors, about 2.5 million couples. The diaphragm, foam, rhythm, withdrawal, douche, and other methods each accounted for 5 percent or less of contraceptive use.

Contracepting wives under age 30 (76.8 percent of contracepting wives aged 15-29 years) were more likely than older wives (62.8 percent of contracepting wives aged 30-44 years) to be using one of the more modern methods (table B). Among these younger wives, the pill, used by 53.6 percent of contraceptors, was the most popular method. The IUD was used by 12.0 percent of contraceptors; female sterilization, by 5.9 percent; and male sterilization, by 5.3 percent of contraceptors. In this age group, 23.1 percent were using the more traditional methods: the condom was employed by 10.0 percent of contraceptors; foam, by 5.1 percent; the diaphragm, by 2.5 percent; rhythm, by 2.0 percent; and withdrawal was used by 1.5 percent of contraceptors.

Among older wives (30-44 years of age), sterilization was the most popular method including 17.7 percent who had been sterilized themselves and 16.1 percent whose husbands had been sterilized. The percents of older wives using the pill (21.4 percent) or the IUD (7.6 percent) were less than the percents using these methods among wives under 30 years of age (53.6 percent and 12.0 percent, respectively). The more traditional methods encompassed 37.2 percent of practice among older women. The condom was used by 16.4 percent; rhythm, by 5.7 percent; foam, by 4.9 percent; and the diaphragm, by 4.2 percent. Withdrawal accounted for 2.7 percent; douche, for 1.2 percent; and other methods accounted for 2.1 percent of these traditional contraceptive methods.

Although Negro women were less likely to use any contraception, those who did were more likely than white women to be using the more modern methods of pill, IUD, and sterilization. These methods were used by 80.9 percent of Negro contraceptors compared with 68.4 percent of white contraceptors. As a consequence, the difference in the proportion of all Negro and white currently married women 15-44 years of age using the modern methods of family plan-

Figure 2. PERCENT OF CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS USED BY CURRENTLY MARRIED WOMEN, BY AGE: UNITED STATES, 1973.

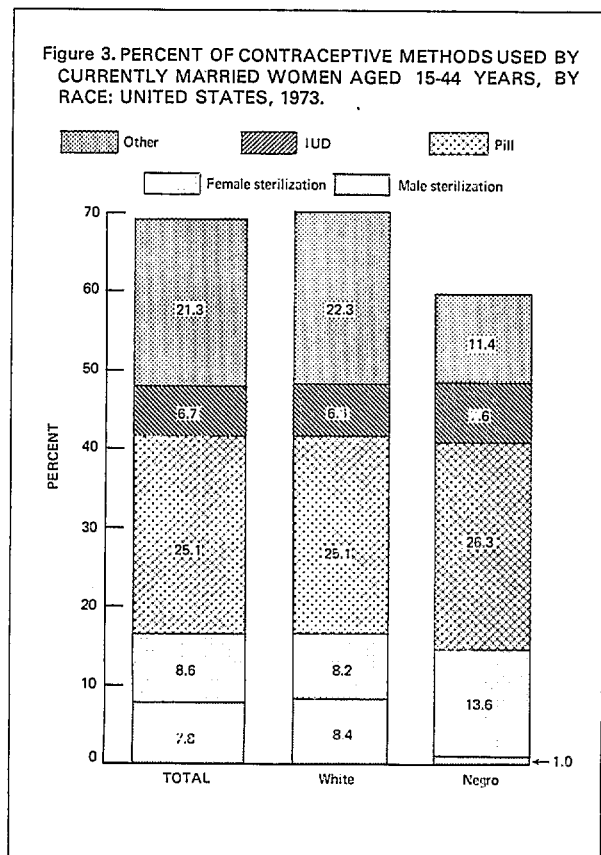


ning was not statistically significant (48.6 percent of Negro wives and 48.2 percent of white wives, figure 3).

The percent of contraceptors selecting sterilization as their method did not differ significantly between white and Negro couples (23.5 percent and 24.4 percent, respectively). However, while male sterilization accounted for half of all contraceptive sterilizations among white couples, fewer than 1 in 10 sterilizations among Negro couples were performed on the husband.

The pattern of contraceptive practice among currently married women of Spanish origin (tables 5 and 6) is between that for white and Negro women. Contracepting couples account for 65.5 percent of all couples in which the wife is of Spanish origin compared with 70.5 percent of white couples and 60.0 percent of Negro couples. The percent of contraceptors using modern methods among wives of Spanish origin was about 4 percent greater than that among all white wives but nearly 9 percent lower than that among all Negro wives. Overall, the proportion of wives of Spanish origin who were protected

Figure 3. PERCENT OF CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS USED BY CURRENTLY MARRIED WOMEN AGED 15-44 YEARS, BY RACE: UNITED STATES, 1973.



by the modern methods was not significantly different than in either of the other groups. About one in three contraceptive sterilizations was performed on the husband among couples with wives of Spanish origin, which is substantially more frequent than among Negro couples but well below the frequency among white couples.

Among the four major regions of the United States, differences in the percent of couples using contraception were not statistically significant, ranging from 67.6 percent in the South to 71.4 percent in the West (tables 7 and 8). Among those using contraception, the percent using the more modern methods was greatest in the West (79.8 percent) and smallest in the Northeast (56.9 percent).

The contraceptive practice of couples differs with total family income. In tables 9 and 10 family income is shown as a ratio of total family income to poverty level income, as defined by the Bureau of the Census. The proportion using contraception was lowest among wives with incomes below the poverty level, and this is seen among both younger and older wives. While modern methods of contraception were used by the large majority of contraceptors at all income levels, contracepting wives 30-44 years of age with income twice the poverty level or more were less likely to be using these methods. The use of male sterilization, however, was highest among this group.

In tables 11 and 12 contraceptive status and the methods used by contraceptors are shown in relation to the parity of women (the number of live births they have had). The proportion of currently married women using contraception was higher for women with two or more children, but it was lower for those with five and more live births compared to those with two to four live births. Among those not using contraception, more women were pregnant, trying to become pregnant, or postpartum in the lower than in the higher parities. The proportion of noncontraceptors who were sterile was highest among women with five or more live births. In all parities, the modern methods were used by the majority of contraceptors, but the pill was most popular among the low parity women, many of whom wanted to have additional children, while sterilization was the most popular method among higher parity women, many of whom had all the children they wanted.

There was not a statistically significant difference in the percent of contraceptors between women in the labor force (70.5 percent) and those not in the labor force (68.9 percent, tables 13 and 14). A greater proportion of women not in the labor force are not using contraception for reasons associated with pregnancy, many of whom might otherwise be in the labor force. Women in the labor force have a higher proportion of noncontraceptors as a result of sterility and "other" reasons.

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Table 1. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age by contraceptive status, race, and age: United States, 1973

Race and age	All women	Contraceptors	Noncontraceptors			
			Total	Pregnant, post-partum, or seeking pregnancy	Sterile	Other nonusers
Number of women in thousands						
ALL RACES 15-44 years-----	26,646	18,543	8,104	3,807	1,996	2,300
15-19 years-----	1,028	586	442	368	*4	*70
20-24 years-----	4,949	3,524	1,426	1,133	*17	276
25-29 years-----	6,063	4,342	1,721	1,270	133	317
30-34 years-----	5,248	3,900	1,349	628	329	391
35-39 years-----	4,632	3,241	1,391	286	553	553
40-44 years-----	4,726	2,951	1,775	122	960	693
WHITE						
15-44 years-----	24,249	17,102	7,147	3,451	1,805	1,890
15-19 years-----	915	524	391	325	*4	*61
20-24 years-----	4,469	3,195	1,274	1,033	*13	228
25-29 years-----	5,579	4,037	1,542	1,166	122	254
30-34 years-----	4,768	3,588	1,180	555	299	325
35-39 years-----	4,199	2,997	1,202	262	510	430
40-44 years-----	4,320	2,761	1,558	109	857	591
NEGRO						
15-44 years-----	2,081	1,249	832	291	168	373
15-19 years-----	96	49	47	39	-	*8
20-24 years-----	451	313	138	91	*3	44
25-29 years-----	417	252	164	90	*12	63
30-34 years-----	402	265	138	50	26	62
35-39 years-----	347	201	146	*13	34	99
40-44 years-----	367	169	199	*8	93	97

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Table 2. Number and percent distribution of currently married women 15-44 years of age by contraceptive status, according to race and age: United States, 1973

Race and age	Number of women in thousands	All women	Contraceptors	Noncontraceptors			
				Total	Pregnant, post-partum, or seeking pregnancy	Sterile	Other nonusers
ALL RACES				Percent distribution			
15-44 years-----	26,646	100.0	69.6	30.4	14.3	7.5	8.6
15-19 years-----	1,028	100.0	57.0	43.0	35.8	*0.4	6.8
20-24 years-----	4,949	100.0	71.2	28.8	22.9	*0.3	5.6
25-29 years-----	6,063	100.0	71.6	28.4	21.0	2.2	5.2
30-34 years-----	5,248	100.0	74.3	25.7	12.0	6.3	7.5
35-39 years-----	4,632	100.0	70.0	30.0	6.2	11.9	11.8
40-44 years-----	4,726	100.0	62.4	37.6	2.6	20.3	14.7
WHITE							
15-44 years-----	24,249	100.0	70.5	29.5	14.2	7.4	7.8
15-24 years-----	5,384	100.0	69.1	30.9	25.2	*0.3	5.4
25-34 years-----	10,347	100.0	73.7	26.3	16.6	4.1	5.6
35-44 years-----	8,518	100.0	67.6	32.4	4.4	16.0	12.0
NEGRO							
15-44 years-----	2,081	100.0	60.0	40.0	14.0	8.1	17.9
15-24 years-----	547	100.0	66.1	33.9	23.8	*0.6	9.5
25-34 years-----	819	100.0	63.1	36.9	17.0	4.6	15.3
35-44 years-----	715	100.0	51.8	48.2	*3.0	17.8	27.5

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Table 3. Number and percent distribution of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives by method of contraception used, according to race and age: United States, 1973

Race and age	Number of contraceptors in thousands	All contraceptors	Method of contraception										
			Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Pill	IUD	Dia-phragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	With-drawal	Douche	Other
ALL RACES			Percent distribution										
15-44 years--	18,543	100.0	12.3	11.2	36.1	9.6	3.4	13.5	5.0	4.0	2.1	0.8	1.9
15-19 years-----	586	100.0	*0.1	*0.7	77.0	*5.3	*1.3	*7.9	*2.8	*1.4	*1.4	*0.1	*1.8
20-24 years-----	3,524	100.0	4.2	2.5	63.3	11.3	*1.6	8.3	4.1	2.0	*1.0	*0.3	*1.4
25-29 years-----	4,342	100.0	8.1	8.3	42.6	13.5	3.4	11.6	6.4	2.1	1.8	*0.6	1.8
30-34 years-----	3,900	100.0	14.9	14.4	27.2	11.3	2.9	15.2	5.7	4.4	1.8	*0.8	*1.3
35-39 years-----	3,241	100.0	17.6	18.6	20.2	7.5	4.7	15.0	4.5	5.7	3.2	*0.9	2.2
40-44 years-----	2,951	100.0	21.6	15.7	15.0	2.8	5.4	19.6	4.2	7.4	3.3	*2.0	3.0
WHITE			Percent distribution										
15-44 years----	17,102	100.0	11.6	11.9	35.5	9.4	3.6	14.1	5.0	4.1	2.2	0.7	1.9
15-24 years-----	3,719	100.0	3.4	2.4	64.4	10.4	*1.7	8.8	4.0	*1.8	*1.2	*0.1	*1.6
25-34 years-----	7,625	100.0	11.0	11.7	35.0	12.1	3.2	13.8	6.1	3.1	1.8	*0.6	1.6
35-44 years-----	3,758	100.0	17.6	18.2	17.6	5.2	5.2	17.9	4.2	6.9	3.4	*1.2	2.5
NEGRO			Percent distribution										
15-44 years----	1,249	100.0	22.7	*1.7	43.8	12.7	2.0	5.3	5.0	*1.3	*0.7	3.0	*1.6
15-24 years-----	362	100.0	*6.4	*0.1	73.6	11.9	*0.1	*2.1	*2.5	*1.5	*0.3	*1.5	-
25-34 years-----	517	100.0	17.0	*2.8	42.9	17.0	*2.9	4.9	6.6	*1.1	*0.3	*3.1	*1.2
35-44 years-----	370	100.0	46.6	*1.6	15.9	7.7	*2.7	9.1	*5.3	*1.2	*1.6	*4.4	*3.8

Table 4. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives by method of contraception used, race, and age: United States, 1973

Race and age	All contraceptors	Method of contraception										
		Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Pill	IUD	Dia-phragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	With-drawal	Douche	Other
ALL RACES		Number of women in thousands										
15-44 years----	18,543	2,289	2,077	6,690	1,781	636	2,501	927	746	392	155	348
15-19 years-----	586	*0	*4	451	*31	*8	*46	*17	*8	*8	*1	*11
20-24 years-----	3,524	148	86	2,230	399	*56	294	143	*71	*37	*10	*50
25-29 years-----	4,342	351	360	1,849	584	146	502	276	92	79	*26	76
30-34 years-----	3,900	581	563	1,062	439	114	594	222	171	*68	*33	*52
35-39 years-----	3,241	569	601	654	244	152	487	145	186	103	*28	*71
40-44 years-----	2,951	639	462	443	83	160	578	125	219	97	*58	88
WHITE		Number of women in thousands										
15-44 years----	17,102	1,980	2,033	6,078	1,608	610	2,408	857	703	378	118	328
15-19 years-----	524	-	*4	397	*29	*8	*43	*17	*8	*8	-	*11
20-24 years-----	3,195	125	86	1,999	359	*56	284	134	*60	*36	*5	*50
25-29 years-----	4,037	314	347	1,704	533	139	485	264	88	*72	*19	73
30-34 years-----	3,588	525	547	962	389	106	565	200	152	*68	*24	*49
35-39 years-----	2,997	483	591	589	228	148	473	124	178	98	*21	*64
40-44 years-----	2,761	531	458	427	71	154	559	118	218	96	*48	81
NEGRO		Number of women in thousands										
15-44 years----	1,249	284	21	547	159	*25	67	63	*16	*9	38	*20
15-19 years-----	49	*0	-	41	*3	-	*3	-	-	*1	*1	-
20-24 years-----	313	*23	*0	225	40	*1	*4	*9	*6	*0	*5	-
25-29 years-----	252	37	*4	126	38	*7	*11	*12	*5	-	*7	*3
30-34 years-----	265	51	*11	96	50	*8	*14	*22	*1	-	*9	*3
35-39 years-----	201	82	*2	48	*16	*4	*15	*13	*3	*5	*7	*7
40-44 years-----	169	91	*4	*11	*12	*6	*19	*7	*1	*1	*9	*7

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Table 5. Number and percent distribution of currently married women 15-44 years of age by contraceptive status, according to Spanish origin and age: United States, 1973

Spanish origin and age	Number of women in thousands	All women	Contraceptors	Noncontraceptors			
				Total	Pregnant post-partum, or seeking pregnancy	Sterile	Other nonusers
TOTAL				Percent distribution			
15-44 years-----	26,646	100.0	69.6	30.4	14.3	7.5	8.6
SPANISH							
15-44 years-----	1,676	100.0	65.5	34.5	19.0	5.9	9.7
15-29 years-----	770	100.0	67.6	32.4	26.2	-	*6.2
30-44 years-----	906	100.0	63.7	36.3	12.8	10.9	12.6
OTHER							
15-44 years-----	24,970	100.0	69.9	30.1	14.0	7.6	8.6
15-29 years-----	11,270	100.0	70.4	29.6	22.8	1.4	5.5
30-44 years-----	13,700	100.0	69.4	30.6	6.7	12.7	11.1

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Table 6. Number and percent distribution of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives by method of contraception used, according to Spanish origin and age: United States, 1973

Spanish origin and age	Number of contraceptors in thousands	All contraceptors	Method of contraception										
			Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Pill	IUD	Diaphragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	Withdrawal	Douche	Other
TOTAL			Percent distribution										
15-44 years--	18,543	100.0	12.3	11.2	36.1	9.6	3.4	13.5	5.0	4.0	2.1	0.8	1.9
SPANISH													
15-44 years----	1,098	100.0	16.4	7.6	35.0	13.3	*2.7	10.7	*2.8	*3.2	*3.4	*0.9	*4.1
15-29 years-----	520	100.0	*10.5	*5.3	48.8	15.9	*1.9	*7.3	*1.8	*1.6	*3.9	*1.0	*2.0
30-34 years-----	578	100.0	21.7	*9.7	22.6	10.8	*3.5	13.7	*3.6	*4.6	*2.9	*0.9	*5.9
OTHER													
15-44 years----	17,445	100.0	12.1	11.4	36.1	9.4	3.5	13.7	5.1	4.1	2.0	0.8	1.7
15-29 years-----	7,931	100.0	5.6	5.3	53.9	11.8	2.5	10.1	5.4	2.0	1.3	*0.4	1.6
30-44 years-----	9,514	100.0	17.5	16.5	21.3	7.4	4.3	16.6	5.0	5.8	2.6	1.2	1.9

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Table 7. Number and percent distribution of currently married women 15-44 years of age by contraceptive status, according to region, race, and age: United States, 1973

Geographic region, race and age	Number of women in thousands	All women	Contraceptors	Noncontraceptors			
				Total	Pregnant, post-partum, or seeking pregnancy	Sterile	Other nonusers
NORTHEAST				Percent distribution			
All Races							
15-44 years----	5,374	100.0	70.7	29.3	14.2	5.5	9.6
15-24 years-----	909	100.0	73.5	26.5	21.6	-	*5.0
25-34 years-----	2,407	100.0	73.8	26.2	18.3	*1.4	6.5
35-44 years-----	2,058	100.0	65.9	34.1	6.2	12.7	15.2
White							
15-44 years-----	4,860	100.0	71.4	28.6	14.2	5.2	9.2
15-29 years-----	1,921	100.0	72.6	27.4	22.4	*0.2	4.8
30-44 years-----	2,939	100.0	70.6	29.4	8.9	8.5	12.1
Negro							
15-44 years-----	459	100.0	63.5	36.5	13.0	8.9	14.6
15-29 years-----	215	100.0	66.6	33.4	18.8	*0.8	13.8
30-44 years-----	244	100.0	60.9	39.1	*7.8	16.1	15.3
NORTH CENTRAL							
All Races							
15-44 years----	7,014	100.0	69.9	30.1	14.3	6.2	9.7
15-24 years-----	1,542	100.0	68.0	32.0	26.5	*0.3	5.1
25-34 years-----	2,985	100.0	73.1	26.9	16.9	3.5	6.4
35-44 years-----	2,487	100.0	67.1	32.9	3.5	12.9	16.4
White							
15-44 years-----	6,615	100.0	70.7	29.3	14.3	6.1	9.0
15-29 years-----	2,938	100.0	70.3	29.7	24.2	*1.2	4.2
30-44 years-----	3,677	100.0	71.0	29.0	6.3	10.0	12.8
Negro							
15-44 years-----	357	100.0	56.4	43.6	15.2	8.2	20.3
15-29 years-----	150	100.0	59.3	40.7	26.8	*0.8	*13.2
30-44 years-----	207	100.0	54.3	45.7	*6.7	13.5	25.5
SOUTH							
All Races							
15-44 years----	8,924	100.0	67.6	32.4	14.8	9.4	8.1
15-24 years-----	2,334	100.0	67.5	32.5	24.5	*0.7	7.3
25-34 years-----	3,631	100.0	70.8	29.2	17.0	5.9	6.3
35-44 years-----	2,960	100.0	63.9	36.1	4.6	20.7	10.9

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Table 7. Number and percent distribution of currently married women 15-44 years of age by contraceptive status, according to region, race, and age: United States, 1973—Con.

Geographic region, race and age	Number of women in thousands	All women	Contraceptors	Noncontraceptors			
				Total	Pregnant, post-partum, or seeking pregnancy	Sterile	Other nonusers
SOUTH—Con.				Percent distribution			
White							
15-44 years-----	7,703	100.0	68.9	31.1	14.9	9.8	6.4
15-29 years-----	3,722	100.0	69.9	30.1	22.6	*1.7	5.8
30-44 years-----	3,981	100.0	67.9	32.1	7.7	17.3	7.0
Negro							
15-44 years-----	1,142	100.0	58.9	41.1	14.2	7.9	19.0
15-29 years-----	541	100.0	63.0	37.0	23.9	2.0	11.1
30-44 years-----	601	100.0	55.2	44.8	5.6	13.1	26.2
WEST							
All Races							
15-44 years-----	5,335	100.0	71.4	28.6	13.4	8.0	7.2
15-24 years-----	1,193	100.0	68.6	31.4	27.1	-	*4.3
25-34 years-----	2,289	100.0	74.9	25.1	14.6	4.8	5.7
35-44 years-----	1,853	100.0	68.8	31.2	*3.1	17.2	11.0
White							
15-44 years-----	5,070	100.0	72.0	28.0	13.2	7.8	7.0
15-29 years-----	2,382	100.0	71.1	28.9	22.7	*1.5	4.7
30-44 years-----	2,688	100.0	72.8	27.2	4.7	13.4	9.1
Negro							
15-44 years-----	123	100.0	67.4	32.6	*12.1	*6.8	*13.6
15-29 years-----	58	100.0	70.5	*29.5	*17.3	*1.9	*10.4
30-44 years-----	65	100.0	64.7	35.3	*7.6	*11.2	*16.5

MONTHLY VITAL STATISTICS REPORT

Table 8. Number and percent distribution of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives by method of contraception used, according to region, race, and age; United States, 1973

Geographic region, race, and age	Number of contraceptors in thousands	All contraceptors	Method of contraception										
			Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Pill	IUD	Dia-phragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	With-drawal	Douche	Other
NORTHEAST			Percent distribution										
All Races													
15-44 years--	3,800	100.0	11.1	5.7	30.4	9.7	5.7	20.9	5.0	4.6	3.5	*0.7	2.6
15-24 years-----	668	100.0	*3.3	*1.9	57.6	10.4	*3.4	12.8	*3.9	*2.2	*1.5	-	*3.0
25-34 years-----	1,775	100.0	10.0	4.8	31.2	13.1	4.6	21.9	5.4	*3.0	*2.9	*0.1	*3.0
35-44 years-----	1,357	100.0	16.3	8.8	16.0	5.0	8.3	23.6	5.2	7.9	5.3	*1.9	*1.8
White													
15-44 years----	3,468	100.0	9.8	6.2	30.1	9.7	5.8	21.6	4.8	4.9	3.8	*0.5	2.7
15-29 years-----	1,394	100.0	5.4	*2.2	44.6	12.7	4.6	17.4	4.7	*2.4	*2.0	-	*4.1
30-44 years-----	2,074	100.0	12.8	8.9	20.4	7.8	6.6	24.4	4.8	6.7	5.0	*0.9	*1.7
Negro													
15-44 years----	292	100.0	26.0	*0.2	36.5	11.0	*5.6	8.3	*6.2	*1.6	*0.6	*2.6	*1.5
15-29 years-----	143	100.0	*9.7	-	59.2	15.9	*3.9	*3.7	*2.1	*2.8	*0.8	*0.7	*1.2
30-44 years-----	149	100.0	41.7	*0.4	14.6	*6.2	*7.3	*12.7	*10.2	*0.4	*0.4	*4.4	*1.7
NORTH CENTRAL													
All Races													
15-44 years--	4,899	100.0	10.5	12.7	36.6	8.5	2.9	12.8	5.2	5.9	2.5	*0.9	1.4
15-24 years-----	1,049	100.0	*3.3	*2.4	65.9	9.7	*1.3	8.2	*4.1	*1.2	*1.6	*0.1	*2.1
25-34 years-----	2,182	100.0	10.8	13.4	36.7	11.7	*2.4	11.1	6.4	4.3	*1.9	*0.6	*0.7
35-44 years-----	1,668	100.0	14.7	18.2	18.1	*3.7	4.5	18.0	4.4	10.9	*3.8	*1.7	*2.0
White													
15-44 years----	4,675	100.0	9.9	13.2	36.2	8.5	2.9	13.2	5.1	6.2	2.6	*0.8	*1.4
15-29 years-----	2,066	100.0	5.9	7.6	53.4	10.9	*2.0	9.0	5.6	*1.9	*1.7	*0.3	*1.7
30-44 years-----	2,610	100.0	13.1	17.6	22.6	6.6	3.6	16.5	4.7	9.5	3.3	*1.2	*1.2
Negro													
15-44 years----	201	100.0	25.1	*2.4	42.1	*9.0	*2.5	*5.5	*8.1	*0.6	*0.6	*2.8	*1.3
15-29 years-----	89	100.0	*20.6	-	57.1	*11.2	*1.2	*2.2	*5.2	-	*0.7	*1.3	*0.6
30-44 years-----	112	100.0	28.6	*4.2	30.2	*7.4	*3.6	*8.1	*10.4	*1.0	*0.6	*4.0	*1.9
SOUTH													
All Races													
15-44 years--	6,036	100.0	13.7	7.6	40.6	9.1	3.0	12.6	5.7	3.3	1.3	1.3	2.0
15-24 years-----	1,575	100.0	*2.5	*1.1	70.1	9.8	*0.8	6.6	4.9	*1.7	*0.6	*0.7	*1.2
25-34 years-----	2,570	100.0	12.3	7.3	37.8	11.2	3.2	13.3	7.1	3.2	*1.1	*1.7	*1.7
35-44 years-----	1,891	100.0	24.9	13.2	19.8	5.7	4.5	16.5	4.4	4.8	*2.0	*1.2	*3.0
White													
15-44 years----	5,307	100.0	12.6	8.2	40.1	8.6	3.3	13.8	5.9	3.3	*1.2	*1.0	2.0
15-29 years-----	2,602	100.0	5.1	3.0	58.7	10.3	*2.5	9.1	6.2	*1.9	*1.1	*0.7	*1.4
30-44 years-----	2,705	100.0	19.9	13.2	22.1	6.9	4.2	18.2	5.7	4.6	*1.4	*1.3	2.6
Negro													
15-44 years----	673	100.0	21.0	*2.0	46.6	14.0	*0.4	4.4	3.9	*1.3	*0.9	3.7	*1.9
15-29 years-----	341	100.0	*6.6	*1.3	67.0	12.5	*0.3	*3.4	*3.8	*1.4	*0.3	*3.1	*0.3
30-44 years-----	332	100.0	35.8	*2.7	25.7	15.6	*0.5	*5.4	*4.0	*1.2	*1.4	*4.3	*3.5
WEST													
All Races													
15-44 years--	3,807	100.0	13.8	20.5	33.9	11.6	2.6	8.3	3.7	2.1	*1.6	*0.2	*1.6
15-24 years-----	818	100.0	*6.3	*4.3	61.3	12.8	*1.7	7.9	*1.6	*3.0	*1.1	-	-
25-34 years-----	1,714	100.0	11.8	20.8	34.1	14.4	*2.7	7.0	4.8	*1.8	*1.5	-	*1.0
35-44 years-----	1,275	100.0	21.2	30.6	15.9	7.1	*3.0	10.4	*3.5	*1.9	*2.1	*0.7	*3.5
White													
15-44 years----	3,651	100.0	13.8	21.0	33.3	11.5	2.7	8.5	3.8	1.9	*1.7	*0.2	*1.7
15-29 years-----	1,694	100.0	6.4	10.2	50.1	14.8	*2.0	8.6	4.2	*2.0	*1.5	-	*0.3
30-44 years-----	1,957	100.0	20.2	30.3	18.7	8.5	*3.3	8.5	*3.3	*1.9	*1.8	*0.5	*2.9
Negro													
15-44 years----	83	100.0	*19.1	*3.3	50.6	*17.9	*1.7	*2.6	*2.5	*1.6	-	-	*0.7
15-29 years-----	41	100.0	*12.9	-	69.2	*13.3	-	-	*1.3	*3.3	-	-	-
30-44 years-----	42	100.0	*25.1	*6.5	*32.6	*22.5	*3.3	*5.1	*3.6	-	-	-	*1.3

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Table 9. Number and percent distribution of currently married women 15-44 years of age by contraceptive status, according to ratio of total family income to poverty level income, race, and age: United States, 1973

Income level, race, and age	Number of women in thousands	All women	Contra- ceptors	Noncontraceptors			
				Total	Pregnant, post- partum, or seeking pregnancy	Sterile	Other nonusers
BELOW POVERTY INCOME				Percent distribution			
All Races							
15-44 years----	2,033	100.0	60.7	39.3	17.3	9.4	12.6
15-29 years-----	993	100.0	61.9	38.1	27.3	*1.9	9.0
30-44 years-----	1,040	100.0	59.6	40.4	7.7	16.6	16.1
White							
15-44 years----	1,681	100.0	61.5	38.5	18.4	10.4	9.7
15-29 years-----	857	100.0	61.4	38.6	27.8	*2.0	8.7
30-44 years-----	824	100.0	61.6	38.4	8.5	19.1	10.8
Negro							
15-44 years----	326	100.0	55.7	44.3	12.9	*4.1	27.3
15-29 years-----	131	100.0	63.4	36.6	24.9	*0.8	*10.9
30-44 years-----	195	100.0	50.6	49.4	*4.9	*6.3	38.2
100-149 PERCENT POVERTY INCOME							
All Races							
15-44 years----	2,108	100.0	72.4	27.6	11.4	7.0	9.2
15-29 years-----	1,028	100.0	75.5	24.5	19.7	*1.0	*3.8
30-44 years-----	1,079	100.0	69.5	30.5	*3.5	12.7	14.3
White							
15-44 years----	1,717	100.0	74.2	25.8	12.0	6.1	7.7
15-29 years-----	851	100.0	76.6	23.4	20.2	*0.5	*2.6
30-44 years-----	867	100.0	71.9	28.1	*4.0	11.5	12.6
Negro							
15-44 years----	358	100.0	62.5	37.5	9.3	12.1	16.1
15-29 years-----	158	100.0	66.4	33.6	19.1	*3.6	*10.9
30-44 years-----	200	100.0	59.3	40.7	*1.5	18.8	20.3
150-199 PERCENT POVERTY INCOME							
15-44 years----	3,053	100.0	73.0	27.0	11.9	5.8	9.4
15-29 years-----	1,487	100.0	74.4	25.6	18.7	*0.9	6.1
30-44 years-----	1,566	100.0	71.6	28.4	5.4	10.5	12.5

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Table 9. Number and percent distribution of currently married women 15-44 years of age by contraceptive status, according to ratio of total family income to poverty level income, race, and age: United States, 1973—Con.

Income level, race, and age	Number of women in thousands	All women	Contra- ceptors	Noncontraceptors			
				Total	Pregnant, post- partum, or seeking pregnancy	Sterile	Other nonusers
150-199 PERCENT POVERTY INCOME—Con.				Percent distribution			
White							
15-44 years-----	2,742	100.0	74.1	25.9	11.9	5.5	8.5
15-29 years-----	1,361	100.0	75.2	24.8	18.5	*0.6	5.7
30-44 years-----	1,380	100.0	72.9	27.1	5.4	10.3	11.3
Negro							
15-44 years-----	273	100.0	59.7	40.3	13.1	9.9	17.2
15-29 years-----	107	100.0	59.3	40.7	24.5	4.2	12.1
30-44 years-----	166	100.0	60.0	40.0	5.7	13.7	20.6
200 PERCENT OR MORE POVERTY INCOME							
All Races							
15-44 years-----	19,452	100.0	69.7	30.3	14.7	7.6	8.0
15-29 years-----	8,531	100.0	69.8	30.2	23.7	1.3	5.2
30-44 years-----	10,921	100.0	69.6	30.4	7.6	12.5	10.3
White							
15-44 years-----	18,109	100.0	70.5	29.5	14.4	7.6	7.5
15-29 years-----	7,894	100.0	70.4	29.6	23.6	1.4	4.7
30-44 years-----	10,215	100.0	70.6	29.4	7.3	12.4	9.7
Negro							
15-44 years-----	1,124	100.0	60.5	39.5	16.0	7.5	16.0
15-29 years-----	567	100.0	63.8	36.2	23.0	*0.7	12.5
30-44 years-----	556	100.0	57.1	42.9	8.8	14.5	19.5

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Table 10. Number and percent distribution of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives by method of contraception used, according to ratio of total family income to poverty level income, race, and age: United States, 1973

Income level, race, and age	Number of contra- ceptors in thousands	All contra- ceptors	Method of contraception										
			Female sterili- zation	Male sterili- zation	Pill	IUD	Dia- phragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	With- drawal	Douche	Other
Percent distribution													
BELOW POVERTY INCOME													
All Races													
15-44 years--	1,235	100.0	19.7	8.0	40.0	9.4	*3.1	8.3	*4.3	*1.8	*1.3	*1.4	*2.6
15-29 years-----	615	100.0	*9.5	*4.5	58.9	*7.6	*4.1	*6.4	*2.1	*1.6	*2.1	*1.6	*1.6
30-44 years-----	620	100.0	29.8	11.6	21.3	11.2	*2.1	*10.1	*6.4	*2.0	*0.6	*1.3	*3.5
White													
15-44 years----	1,034	100.0	18.9	9.1	39.8	9.2	*3.3	8.7	*4.8	*1.8	*1.6	*0.4	*2.7
15-29 years-----	527	100.0	*8.3	*5.2	59.6	*7.7	*4.1	*5.8	*2.5	*1.9	*2.4	*0.8	*1.8
30-44 years-----	508	100.0	29.9	13.1	19.2	*10.8	*2.5	*11.6	*7.1	*1.6	*0.7	-	*3.6
Negro													
15-44 years----	182	100.0	26.6	*0.3	43.1	*11.6	*2.4	*4.1	*2.1	-	-	*7.4	*2.4
15-29 years-----	83	100.0	*18.1	-	58.1	*7.6	*4.7	*4.2	-	-	-	*6.6	*0.7
30-44 years-----	99	100.0	33.8	*0.5	30.4	*14.9	*0.5	*4.0	*3.9	-	-	*8.1	*3.8
100-149 PERCENT POVERTY INCOME													
All Races													
15-44 years--	1,527	100.0	19.7	8.1	37.0	10.5	*1.3	9.7	*4.6	*4.8	*1.6	*0.9	*1.8
15-29 years-----	777	100.0	12.5	*4.9	51.6	11.2	*1.2	9.9	*2.3	*0.6	*2.4	*0.8	*2.5
30-44 years-----	750	100.0	27.1	11.5	21.8	9.7	*1.3	9.5	*7.0	9.2	*0.8	*0.9	*1.1
White													
15-44 years----	1,275	100.0	19.0	8.9	36.1	9.6	*1.5	10.3	*5.1	*4.9	*1.8	*0.7	*2.1
15-29 years-----	652	100.0	13.2	*5.0	49.3	11.2	*1.4	10.6	*2.7	-	*2.9	*0.8	*2.9
30-44 years-----	623	100.0	25.0	13.0	22.3	*7.9	*1.5	*9.9	*7.6	*10.1	*0.8	*0.6	*1.3
Negro													
15-44 years----	224	100.0	25.9	*1.1	46.8	14.9	*0.2	*5.3	*2.4	*0.4	*0.5	*1.9	*0.5
15-29 years-----	105	100.0	*10.3	*0.4	76.0	*8.7	*0.5	*2.1	*0.4	-	-	*1.1	*0.6
30-44 years-----	119	100.0	39.8	*1.6	21.0	20.3	-	*8.2	*4.2	*0.8	*0.9	*2.7	*0.4
150-199 PERCENT POVERTY INCOME													
All Races													
15-44 years--	2,227	100.0	14.4	8.7	37.4	11.9	*1.9	11.3	4.5	4.8	*1.7	*2.1	*1.3
15-29 years-----	1,106	100.0	7.1	*5.6	53.6	13.6	*0.4	9.0	*4.6	*2.4	*1.9	*0.8	*0.9
30-44 years-----	1,121	100.0	21.6	11.8	21.3	10.2	*3.4	13.7	*4.4	7.1	*1.5	*3.4	*1.7
White													
15-44 years----	2,031	100.0	13.1	9.3	36.5	11.9	*2.1	12.1	*4.7	*5.2	*1.8	*2.0	*1.3
15-29 years-----	1,024	100.0	6.9	*6.1	51.9	13.8	*0.4	9.5	*4.8	*2.6	*2.0	*0.9	*1.0
30-44 years-----	1,007	100.0	19.4	12.5	20.9	10.0	*3.7	14.6	*4.5	7.9	*1.6	*3.1	*1.7
Negro													
15-44 years----	163	100.0	24.0	*3.4	47.2	*10.9	*0.3	*4.6	*3.2	*0.4	*0.6	*4.1	*1.4
15-29 years-----	64	100.0	*12.1	-	75.2	*6.3	*0.8	*2.5	*2.3	-	*0.8	-	-
30-44 years-----	100	100.0	31.6	*5.6	29.3	*13.8	-	*5.9	*3.7	*0.6	*0.5	*6.8	*2.2
200 PERCENT OR MORE POVERTY INCOME													
All Races													
15-44 years--	13,553	100.0	10.5	12.2	35.4	9.2	4.0	14.7	5.2	4.0	2.3	0.6	1.9
15-29 years-----	5,954	100.0	4.5	5.4	53.3	12.3	2.9	10.5	5.9	2.2	*1.2	*0.2	1.6
30-44 years-----	7,599	100.0	15.3	17.6	21.4	6.7	4.8	18.1	4.6	5.5	3.2	*0.9	2.1
White													
15-44 years----	12,762	100.0	10.0	12.8	35.0	9.0	4.0	15.2	5.1	4.0	2.4	*0.5	1.9
15-29 years-----	5,554	100.0	4.3	5.7	52.8	12.0	3.0	11.1	6.0	2.1	*1.2	*0.1	1.7
30-44 years-----	7,208	100.0	14.4	18.3	21.3	6.7	4.8	18.4	4.3	5.5	3.3	*0.8	2.1
Negro													
15-44 years----	680	100.0	20.3	*1.9	42.2	12.8	*2.9	5.9	7.1	*2.1	*1.0	*2.0	*1.9
15-29 years-----	362	100.0	7.3	*1.1	59.8	16.9	*0.8	*3.2	*5.3	*2.8	*0.6	*1.7	*0.6
30-44 years-----	318	100.0	35.1	*2.8	22.1	8.2	*5.4	8.9	9.2	*1.3	*1.4	*2.3	*3.3

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Table 11. Number and percent distribution of currently married women 15-44 years of age by contraceptive status, according to parity, race, and age: United States, 1973

Parity, race, and age	Number of women in thousands	All women	Contraceptors	Noncontraceptors			
				Total	Pregnant, post-partum, or seeking pregnancy	Sterile	Other nonusers
0-1 PARITY				Percent distribution			
All Races							
15-44 years----	9,917	100.0	58.3	41.7	28.4	4.3	9.0
15-29 years-----	7,426	100.0	63.7	36.3	29.6	*0.8	5.9
30-44 years-----	2,491	100.0	42.2	57.8	24.6	14.7	18.6
White							
15-44 years-----	9,010	100.0	59.4	40.6	28.4	3.9	8.4
15-29 years-----	6,845	100.0	64.1	35.9	29.5	*0.9	5.6
30-44 years-----	2,165	100.0	44.4	55.6	24.8	13.6	17.3
Negro							
15-44 years-----	756	100.0	48.8	51.2	26.7	8.1	16.5
15-29 years-----	515	100.0	59.1	40.9	30.7	*0.7	9.5
30-44 years-----	241	100.0	26.6	73.4	18.2	23.8	31.4
2-4 PARITY							
All Races							
15-44 years----	14,199	100.0	77.0	23.0	6.5	8.5	8.1
15-29 years-----	4,467	100.0	81.2	18.8	12.2	1.9	4.8
30-44 years-----	9,732	100.0	75.0	25.0	3.8	11.5	9.6
White							
15-44 years-----	13,125	100.0	77.6	22.4	6.4	8.7	7.3
15-29 years-----	4,022	100.0	82.2	17.8	12.0	1.9	3.9
30-44 years-----	9,102	100.0	75.5	24.5	3.9	11.7	8.8
Negro							
15-44 years-----	936	100.0	68.4	31.6	7.8	6.2	17.7
15-29 years-----	406	100.0	70.2	29.8	14.1	*2.4	13.3
30-44 years-----	530	100.0	66.9	33.1	*2.9	9.0	21.1
5 PARITY OR MORE							
All Races							
15-44 years----	2,531	100.0	72.5	27.5	3.1	14.3	10.1
15-29 years-----	147	100.0	64.9	35.1	*19.9	*4.1	*11.1
30-44 years-----	2,383	100.0	73.0	27.0	*2.0	14.9	10.1
White							
15-44 years-----	2,115	100.0	74.3	25.7	2.9	14.6	8.2
15-29 years-----	96	100.0	65.2	*34.8	*26.1	*4.6	*4.1
30-44 years-----	2,019	100.0	74.8	25.2	*1.8	15.0	8.4
Negro							
15-44 years-----	389	100.0	61.7	38.3	*4.2	*12.7	21.3
15-29 years-----	42	100.0	56.6	43.4	*10.4	*3.7	*29.3
30-44 years-----	347	100.0	62.4	37.6	*3.5	13.8	20.4

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Table 12. Number and percent distribution of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives by method of contraception used, according to parity, race, and age: United States, 1973

Parity, race, and age	Number of contra- ceptors in thousands	All contra- ceptors	Method of contraception											
			Female sterili- zation	Male sterili- zation	Pill	IUD	Dia- phragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	With- drawal	Douche	Other	
0-1 PARITY			Percent distribution											
All Races														
15-44 years--	5,781	100.0	2.2	3.1	56.8	9.1	3.4	12.2	6.3	2.7	1.8	*0.8	1.7	
15-29 years-----	4,730	100.0	*0.6	*1.1	63.3	9.8	3.2	10.9	5.6	2.3	*1.4	*0.6	*1.3	
30-44 years-----	1,050	100.0	9.3	12.5	27.5	*5.7	*4.2	18.3	9.2	*4.2	*3.6	*1.9	*3.6	
White														
15-44 years----	5,348	100.0	1.9	3.4	56.4	8.8	3.6	12.7	6.4	2.5	1.7	*0.7	1.8	
15-29 years-----	4,387	100.0	*0.6	*1.2	63.0	9.4	3.4	11.3	5.8	2.3	*1.3	*0.5	*1.4	
30-44 years-----	961	100.0	8.0	13.6	26.5	*6.1	*4.6	19.3	9.2	*3.5	*3.6	*2.0	*3.6	
Negro														
15-44 years----	369	100.0	6.5	-	64.0	12.3	*1.5	*4.0	*3.9	*3.1	*1.7	*2.2	*0.9	
15-29 years-----	305	100.0	*0.9	-	69.2	14.7	*1.8	*3.9	*3.3	*3.2	*0.8	*2.2	*0.2	
30-44 years-----	64	100.0	33.1	-	39.5	*0.8	-	*4.6	*6.5	*3.0	*5.9	*2.2	*4.2	
2-4 PARITY														
All Races														
15-44 years--	10,927	100.0	14.6	15.1	28.0	10.0	3.6	15.0	4.6	4.4	2.4	0.7	1.7	
15-29 years-----	3,625	100.0	12.2	10.5	41.7	15.0	*1.5	8.9	4.5	*1.7	*1.6	*0.3	2.1	
30-44 years-----	7,302	100.0	15.8	17.3	21.2	7.5	4.7	18.0	4.7	5.7	2.8	*0.9	1.4	
White														
15-44 years----	10,183	100.0	14.0	15.9	27.1	10.0	3.7	15.5	4.5	4.5	2.6	*0.5	1.7	
15-29 years-----	3,307	100.0	11.9	11.4	40.0	15.3	*1.5	9.4	4.6	*1.7	*1.8	*0.1	2.2	
30-44 years-----	6,876	100.0	15.1	18.1	20.9	7.4	4.8	18.5	4.4	5.8	2.9	*0.7	1.4	
Negro														
15-44 years----	640	100.0	23.4	*2.2	42.0	10.9	*2.7	5.5	6.8	*0.5	*0.2	4.1	*1.6	
15-29 years-----	285	100.0	17.9	*0.2	59.9	12.0	*0.8	*2.2	*3.9	*0.2	*0.2	*2.1	*0.8	
30-44 years-----	355	100.0	27.9	*3.9	27.5	10.1	*4.2	8.1	9.2	*0.8	*0.3	*5.7	*2.3	
5 PARITY OR MORE														
All Races														
15-44 years--	1,835	100.0	30.8	13.5	19.0	9.1	*2.2	8.8	*3.2	6.4	*1.5	*1.8	*3.7	
15-29 years-----	96	100.0	*29.7	*19.1	*29.3	*6.2	*4.7	*5.4	*5.1	-	-	-	*0.6	
30-44 years-----	1,740	100.0	30.8	13.2	18.4	9.3	*2.0	9.0	*3.1	6.8	*1.6	*1.9	*3.9	
White														
15-44 years----	1,572	100.0	28.6	14.8	19.2	7.8	*2.4	9.2	*3.4	7.1	*1.7	*1.8	*3.9	
15-29 years-----	62	100.0	*35.1	*15.5	*20.7	*6.8	*7.1	*7.1	*7.7	-	-	-	-	
30-44 years-----	1,509	100.0	28.3	14.8	19.1	7.9	*2.2	9.3	*3.2	7.4	*1.8	*1.9	*4.1	
Negro														
15-44 years----	240	100.0	45.8	*2.9	17.6	18.3	*1.2	*7.1	*2.1	*0.4	*0.4	*1.5	*2.8	
15-29 years-----	24	100.0	*26.8	*16.0	*44.6	*7.0	-	*3.0	-	-	-	-	*2.5	
30-44 years-----	216	100.0	47.9	*1.4	14.6	19.5	*1.3	*7.6	*2.3	*0.4	*0.5	*1.7	*2.8	

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Table 13. Number and percent distribution of currently married women 15-44 years of age by contraceptive status, according to labor force status, race, and age: United States, 1973

Labor force status, race, and age	Number of women in thousands	All women	Contra- ceptors	Noncontraceptors			
				Total	Pregnant, post- partum, or seeking pregnancy	Sterile	Other nonusers
IN LABOR FORCE		Percent distribution					
All Races							
15-44 years----	11,084	100.0	70.5	29.5	11.3	8.2	9.9
15-29 years-----	4,950	100.0	73.6	26.4	18.5	*1.3	6.7
30-44 years-----	6,134	100.0	68.0	32.0	5.5	13.8	12.6
White							
15-44 years-----	9,829	100.0	71.9	28.1	11.2	8.1	8.8
15-29 years-----	4,443	100.0	74.2	25.8	18.5	*1.3	6.1
30-44 years-----	5,387	100.0	70.0	30.0	5.3	13.7	11.1
Negro							
15-44 years-----	1,128	100.0	61.4	38.6	10.8	9.2	18.7
15-29 years-----	482	100.0	69.7	30.3	17.8	*0.9	11.6
30-44 years-----	646	100.0	55.1	44.9	5.6	15.3	24.0
NOT IN LABOR FORCE							
All Races							
15-44 years----	15,562	100.0	68.9	31.1	16.4	7.0	7.7
15-29 years-----	7,089	100.0	67.8	32.2	26.2	1.3	4.7
30-44 years-----	8,472	100.0	69.8	30.2	8.2	11.7	10.2
White							
15-44 years-----	14,419	100.0	69.6	30.4	16.3	7.0	7.1
15-29 years-----	6,520	100.0	68.4	31.6	26.1	1.2	4.3
30-44 years-----	7,899	100.0	70.6	29.4	8.1	11.8	9.5
Negro							
15-44 years-----	953	100.0	58.4	41.6	17.8	6.8	17.0
15-29 years-----	482	100.0	57.6	42.4	27.8	*2.2	12.3
30-44 years-----	471	100.0	59.1	40.9	7.5	11.5	21.9

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Table 14. Number and percent distribution of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives by method of contraception used, according to labor force status, race, and age: United States, 1973

Labor force status, race and age	Number of contraceptors in thousands	All contraceptors	Method of contraception											
			Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Pill	IUD	Diaphragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	Withdrawal	Douche	Other	
IN LABOR FORCE			Percent distribution											
All races														
15-44 years--	7,816	100.0	12.0	10.0	40.6	9.3	3.5	11.3	4.7	3.4	2.2	*0.7	2.2	
15-29 years-----	3,642	100.0	3.5	3.5	62.2	10.9	2.6	8.4	4.9	*1.3	*1.2	*0.2	*1.5	
30-44 years-----	4,174	100.0	19.4	15.7	21.7	8.0	4.3	13.9	4.6	5.3	3.0	*1.2	2.9	
White														
15-44 years----	7,063	100.0	10.9	10.8	40.5	9.0	3.7	12.0	4.5	3.4	2.3	*0.5	2.3	
15-29 years-----	3,295	100.0	3.0	3.8	62.0	10.5	2.7	9.1	4.9	*1.1	*1.3	-	*1.6	
30-44 years-----	3,769	100.0	17.8	17.0	21.6	7.7	4.5	14.6	4.2	5.5	3.2	*1.0	3.0	
Negro														
15-44 years----	692	100.0	22.9	*1.5	42.7	13.1	*2.1	4.8	5.9	*1.8	*0.9	*2.6	*1.6	
15-29 years-----	336	100.0	7.9	-	64.7	14.1	*1.8	*1.9	*4.2	*2.5	*0.5	*1.8	*0.5	
30-44 years-----	356	100.0	37.1	*2.9	22.0	12.1	*2.4	7.5	7.6	*1.1	*1.3	*3.3	*2.7	
NOT IN LABOR FORCE														
All races														
15-44 years--	10,727	100.0	12.6	12.1	32.8	9.8	3.4	15.1	5.2	4.5	2.1	0.9	1.6	
15-29 years-----	4,809	100.0	7.8	6.7	47.1	12.8	2.4	11.2	5.4	2.6	1.7	*0.6	1.8	
30-44 years-----	5,918	100.0	16.5	16.4	21.2	7.3	4.2	18.2	5.1	6.0	2.4	1.2	1.5	
White														
15-44 years----	10,039	100.0	12.1	12.6	32.1	9.7	3.5	15.5	5.3	4.6	2.1	0.8	1.6	
15-29 years-----	4,462	100.0	7.6	7.0	46.1	12.9	2.5	11.5	5.6	2.6	1.7	*0.5	1.9	
30-44 years-----	5,577	100.0	15.6	17.2	20.8	7.1	4.2	18.8	5.1	6.1	2.5	*1.0	1.5	
Negro														
15-44 years----	556	100.0	22.4	*2.0	45.1	12.3	*1.9	6.1	*3.9	*0.6	*0.4	*3.6	*1.6	
15-29 years-----	278	100.0	12.0	*1.5	62.9	11.9	*0.6	*4.5	*2.6	*0.6	*0.4	*2.4	*0.6	
30-44 years-----	279	100.0	32.8	*2.4	27.3	12.7	3.3	*7.6	*5.3	*0.6	*0.4	*4.8	*2.7	

SYMBOLS	
Data not available-----	...
Category not applicable-----	...
Quantity zero-----	-
Quantity more than 0 but less than 0.05----	0.0
Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision-----	*

TECHNICAL NOTES

DESIGN OF THE SURVEY: The National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), initiated in 1971, is designed to provide data on fertility, family planning, and related aspects of maternal and child health. Field work for Cycle I was carried out by the National Opinion Research Center in 1973 and early 1974 with September 13, 1973, as the midpoint of the interviewing.

A multistage probability sample of women in the noninstitutional population of the conterminous United States was used. Approximately 33,000 households were screened to identify the sample of women who would be eligible for the NSFG, i.e., women between the ages of 15 to 44 years, inclusive, who were currently married or previously married or who were never married but had natural children presently living in the household. In households with more than one eligible woman, a random procedure was used to select only one to be interviewed. Since the interviews were always conducted with the sample person, the term "respondent" is used throughout this report as synonymous with sample person. Interviews were completed for 3,856 Negro women and for 5,941 women of other races. A detailed description of the sample design will be presented in a forthcoming report "Sample Design, Estimation Procedures, and Variance Estimation for a National Survey of Family Growth."

The interview was highly focused on the respondents' marital and pregnancy histories, on their use of contraception and the planning status of each pregnancy, on the respondents' intentions regarding the number and spacing of future births, on maternity and family planning services, and on a broad range of social and economic characteristics. While the interviews varied greatly in the time required for their completion, they averaged about 70 minutes. Quality control procedures were applied at all stages of the survey. This included a verification of listing completeness with unlisted dwelling units being brought into the sample, a preliminary field review of completed questionnaires for possible missing data or inaccurate administration, a 10-percent sample recheck of all households to be screened in the survey, observation of interviews in the field, and an independent recoding of a 5-percent subsample of completed interviews.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES: Since the statistics presented in this report are based on a sample, they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken, using the same questionnaires, instructions, interviewing personnel, and field procedures. This chance difference between sample results and a complete count is referred to as sampling error. In addition, the results are also subject to nonsampling error due to respondent misreporting, data processing mistakes, and nonresponse. It is very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain accurate measures of nonsampling errors. These types of error were kept to a minimum by the quality control procedures and other methods incorporated into the survey design and administration.

Sampling error, or the extent to which samples may differ by chance from a complete count, is measured by a statistic called the standard error of estimate. Approximate standard errors for estimated numbers and percentages from this survey are shown in tables I and II for the total and white populations and in tables III and IV for the Negro population.

The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete census by less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the differences between the sample estimate and a complete count would be less than twice the standard error. The relative standard error is the ratio of the standard error to the statistic being estimated. In this report, numbers and percentages which have a standard error that is more

Table I. Approximate standard errors for estimated numbers for white and total women: 1973 National Survey of Family Growth

Size of Estimate	Relative standard error	Standard error
50,000	30.0	15,000
100,000	21.2	21,000
200,000	15.0	30,000
500,000	9.5	47,000
1,000,000	6.7	67,000
2,000,000	4.8	95,000
5,000,000	3.0	151,000
10,000,000	2.2	216,000
20,000,000	1.5	311,000

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Table II. Approximate standard errors for estimated percentages expressed in percentage points for white and total women: 1973 National Survey of Family Growth

Base of percentage	Estimated percentage						
	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	20 or 80	30 or 70	40 or 60	50
100,000	3.0	4.6	6.4	8.5	9.7	10.4	10.6
500,000	1.3	2.1	2.8	3.8	4.3	4.6	4.7
1,000,000	0.9	1.5	2.0	2.7	3.1	3.3	3.3
3,000,000	0.5	0.8	1.2	1.5	1.8	1.9	1.9
5,000,000	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.5
7,000,000	0.3	0.5	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.3
10,000,000	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.1

Table III. Approximate standard errors for estimated numbers for Negro women: 1973 National Survey of Family Growth

Size of Estimate	Relative standard error	Standard error
25,000	25.3	6,000
50,000	17.9	9,000
100,000	12.7	13,000
150,000	10.3	16,000
250,000	8.0	20,000
350,000	6.8	24,000
500,000	5.7	28,000
750,000	4.7	35,000
1,000,000	4.0	40,000

than 25 percent of the estimate itself are considered "unreliable." They are marked with an asterisk to caution the user but may be combined to make other types of comparisons of greater precision.

In this report, terms such as "similar" and "the same" mean that any observed difference between two estimates being compared is not

statistically significant. Similarly, terms such as "greater," "less," "larger," "smaller," etc., indicate that the observed differences are statistically significant. The normal deviate test with a .05 level of significance was used to test all comparisons which are discussed in the text. A statistically significant difference is one large enough that in repeated samples of the same size and type as this one, such a large difference would be expected to be found in less than 5 percent of the samples. Lack of comment in the text between any two statistics does *not* mean the difference was tested and found not to be significant.

DEFINITION OF TERMS:

Contraceptive status.—The classification by contraceptive status is derived from several topics covered in the questionnaire including pregnancy status, fecundity, current use or non-use of contraception, and specific contraceptive methods being used. A first broad division is

Table IV. Approximate standard errors for estimated percentages expressed in percentage points for Negro women: 1973 National Survey of Family Growth

Base of percentage	Estimated percentage						
	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	20 or 80	30 or 70	40 or 60	50
5,000	7.9	12.3	17.0	22.6	25.9	27.7	28.3
10,000	5.6	8.7	12.0	16.0	18.3	19.6	20.0
50,000	2.5	3.9	5.4	7.1	8.2	8.8	8.9
100,000	1.8	2.7	3.8	5.1	5.8	6.2	6.3
300,000	1.0	1.6	2.2	2.9	3.3	3.6	3.6
500,000	0.8	1.2	1.7	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.8
700,000	0.7	1.0	1.4	1.9	2.2	2.3	2.4
1,000,000	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.0

made between noncontraceptors and contraceptors, each of which is further subclassified.

Noncontraceptive status is classified as:

1. *Pregnant.*—A women (or couple) was classed as pregnant if she replied affirmatively to the question "Are you pregnant now?" or for those in doubt, "Do you think you probably are pregnant or not?" A woman who reported that the onset of her last menstrual period was within the last 30 days prior to the interview was automatically considered not pregnant.
2. *Seeking pregnancy.*—A woman (or couple) was classified as seeking pregnancy if she reported she was not using a method at the time of interview because she wanted to become pregnant.
3. *Postpartum.*—A woman (or couple) was classified as postpartum if she reported she was not currently using a method, was not seeking a pregnancy, and her last pregnancy had terminated within 2 months before the date she was interviewed.
4. *Sterile.*—A woman (or couple) was classified as noncontraceptively sterile if she reported that it was impossible for her to have another baby for any of the following reasons: menopause, sterility due to accident, illness, or congenital causes, or a sterilizing operation performed on the wife or the husband entirely for reasons other than preventing future children.
5. *Other nonusers.*—Women (or couples) who reported they were currently using no contraceptive method and could not be classified in any of the preceding categories of noncontraceptors were classified here. Among these are women who were indifferent to the chances of pregnancy, had a very low risk of pregnancy due to some fecundity impairment, or objected to contraceptive methods for personal or religious reasons. Women who used the douche following intercourse, but who did not report this as a method of contraception, were also classified here although such douching practice is known to have a very modest contraceptive effect when done very soon after intercourse.

Contraceptive status is classified as:

1. *Sterile.*—A woman (or couple) was classified as contraceptively sterile if she or her husband had had a sterilizing operation that was done "at least partly so that (they) would not have any more children." Surgical sterilizations for contraceptive reasons are further classified according to female and male operations.
2. *Method users.*—A woman (or couple) who reported use of a contraceptive method at the date of interview was classified according to the specific method used. Methods used by extremely small proportions of the population such as jelly, cream suppositories, or abstinence, not in combination with any other methods, were grouped in the category "Other." Where more than one method was reported in current use, the method generally considered the most effective was used for classification purposes. The contraceptive pill, the intrauterine device (IUD), and contraceptive sterilization were developed, or achieved prominence, since 1960 and are referred to as the modern methods, while those prominent before 1960 are referred to as traditional methods.

Age.—In this report, age is classified by the age of the respondent at her last birthday before the date of interview.

Race.—Classification by race, based on interviewer observation, was reported as Negro, white, or other. Race refers to the race of the woman interviewed.

Spanish origin.—A respondent was classified as being of Spanish origin if she reported her origin or descent as Mexicano, Chicano, Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or other Spanish.

Labor Force Status.—A woman is categorized as being in the labor force if she was working full time or part time, had a job but was not at work because of temporary illness, vacation, or a strike, or if she was unemployed, laid off, or looking for work.

Poverty level.—The poverty index ratio was calculated by dividing the total family income by the weighted average threshold income of nonfarm residence, head under 65, based on the poverty levels shown in the U.S. Bureau of the

Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-60, No. 98, "Characteristics of the Low-Income Population, 1973," table A-3. This definition takes into account the sex of the family head and the number of persons in the family. Total family income includes income from all sources for all members of the respondent's family.

Region.—Region refers to the part of the country where the respondent was living at the time of the survey according to the definition of the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Parity.—Parity refers to the number of live births the respondent has had.

Marital Status.—Persons are classified by marital status as married, widowed, divorced, separated, or never married. Married persons include those who report themselves as married or as informally married, such as living with a partner or common-law spouse. Persons who are temporarily separated for reasons other than marital discord, such as vacation, illness, or Armed Forces, are classified as married. Divorced persons are those whose most recent marriage was legally dissolved and who are free to remarry. The annulled, while having the legal status of never having been married, are classified together with the divorced. The category "separated" includes those who are legally or informally separated from their most recent spouse due to marital discord. The "never married" include those who have never had a formal marriage and do not consider themselves in any of the preceding categories. However, in the NSFG, single women with children of their own in the household were included and are separately classified. All tables in this report are based upon currently married women or those whose marital status at the time of the interview was "married."

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