

*K. Arustamyan and G. Avagyan*

The primary function of family planning programs is to advocate conscious entry into parenthood for both women and men. Contraception provides women and men with the means to achieve their desired number of children and to time the birth of those children. The efficacy of family planning depends on people's knowledge of contraceptive methods and on the availability of methods to meet the varying needs of a wide spectrum of potential users. Availability of methods, in turn, depends on the quality and quantity of service providers and on available financial and technical resources.

Family planning topics addressed in this chapter include knowledge of contraceptive methods, use of methods in the past and present, source of supply, reasons for nonuse, desire to use in the future, exposure to family planning messages, and attitudes toward family planning.

## 5.1 KNOWLEDGE OF CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS

Knowledge of contraceptive methods is a prerequisite for their use. Data on knowledge were collected by asking the respondent to name ways or methods by which a couple could delay or avoid pregnancy. If the respondent failed to mention a particular method spontaneously, the interviewer described the method and asked whether she recognized it. Thus, knowledge of a contraceptive method is defined simply as having heard of a method.

Contraceptive methods include both modern and traditional methods. Modern methods include the pill, the IUD, injectables, implants, female sterilization, male sterilization, emergency contraception, barrier methods (diaphragm, foam, jelly, male and female condom), and the lactational amenorrhea method (LAM). Traditional methods include periodic abstinence (rhythm method) and withdrawal. In addition to these methods, the interviewer was able to record in the questionnaire any other methods mentioned spontaneously by the respondent.

Table 5.1 shows the percentage of women who have heard about specific methods. Knowledge of contraception is nearly universal among Armenian women, 94 percent of whom have heard of at least one method. Knowledge is highest among currently married women (99 percent), but even 84 percent of women with no sexual experience know at least one method. The following discussion of results focuses on currently married women since they have the greatest exposure to the risk of pregnancy.

Regarding knowledge of specific modern methods, 93 percent of currently married women have heard of the IUD, 90 percent have heard of male condoms, and 83 percent have heard of the pill. More than three-fourths of married women have heard of the LAM method. Withdrawal is the most widely known traditional method (88 percent). Among women who are not currently married, the most widely known methods are the condom, IUD, and pill.

On average, Armenian women know 6.2 contraceptive methods. The average number of methods known varies by marital status. Currently married women know an average of 7.1

**Table 5.1 Knowledge of contraceptive methods**

Percentage of all women, of currently married women, and of unmarried women (by sexual experience) who know any contraceptive method, by specific methods, Armenia 2000

Contraceptive method	All women	Currently married women	Unmarried women	
			Has had sex	Has never had sex
<b>Any method</b>	94.4	98.8	94.8	84.4
<b>Any modern method</b>	93.8	98.0	94.2	84.3
Pill	78.3	83.3	78.6	66.9
IUD	84.9	92.7	86.9	67.0
Injectables	42.9	48.9	44.0	29.1
Diaphragm	10.0	11.5	9.5	6.7
Foam/jelly/cream	19.0	21.5	21.2	12.8
Male condom	85.9	90.1	86.6	76.2
Female condom	22.5	24.6	21.4	18.0
Female sterilization	40.8	47.5	40.4	25.9
Male sterilization	18.1	20.3	19.5	12.9
Implants	9.4	10.4	9.9	6.9
Emergency contraception	19.3	22.3	21.4	12.1
Lactational amenorrhea (LAM)	63.8	78.6	70.8	28.9
<b>Any traditional method</b>	74.4	91.4	81.6	34.3
Periodic abstinence	53.3	65.0	59.6	25.6
Withdrawal	69.3	88.0	76.8	25.3
<b>Any folk method</b>	5.3	7.0	6.5	1.2
Douche	3.8	5.2	4.5	0.6
Other	1.5	1.8	2.0	0.6
<b>Any traditional or folk method</b>	74.5	91.6	82.1	34.4
Mean number of methods known	6.2	7.1	6.5	4.2
Number of women	6,430	4,125	468	1,838

methods. Among women who are not married, those women who have ever had sex know an average of 6.5 contraceptive methods and unmarried women with no sexual experience know an average of 4.2 methods.

Table 5.2 shows the percentage of currently married women who know of at least one method of contraception by background characteristics. With the exception of the youngest age group, knowledge of any method and of modern methods does not vary by age and is virtually universal. Knowledge of a contraceptive method does not vary substantially by residence, region, or education.

**Table 5.2 Knowledge of contraceptive methods by background characteristics**

Percentage of currently married women who know at least one contraceptive method and who know at least one modern method, by background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Knows any method	Knows any modern method <sup>1</sup>	Number of women
<b>Age</b>			
15-19	92.9	92.9	99
20-24	98.3	97.1	511
25-29	98.5	97.7	625
30-34	98.8	98.5	660
35-39	99.7	98.5	816
40-44	99.0	98.1	773
45-49	99.0	98.6	640
<b>Residence</b>			
Urban	99.1	98.8	2,391
Rural	98.3	96.9	1,733
<b>Region</b>			
Yerevan	98.4	98.4	1,291
Aragatsotn	98.2	97.9	193
Ararat	99.7	99.7	449
Armavir	100.0	99.4	373
Gegharkunik	99.1	98.0	341
Lori	99.6	98.9	323
Kotayk	99.6	98.9	316
Shirak	96.8	92.6	388
Syunik	98.1	97.8	173
Vayots Dzor	96.6	92.2	79
Tavush	99.2	98.9	198
<b>Education</b>			
Primary/middle	96.6	94.7	276
Secondary	98.1	97.0	1,537
Secondary-special	99.3	98.7	1,603
Higher	99.9	99.9	708
Total	98.8	98.0	4,125

<sup>1</sup> Female sterilization, male sterilization, pill, IUD, injectables, implants, male condom, female condom, diaphragm, foam or jelly, lactational amenorrhea method (LAM), and emergency contraception

## 5.2 EVER USE OF CONTRACEPTION

All respondents who had heard of a specific method of contraception were asked whether they (or a partner with them) had ever used that method; each known method was inquired about separately. The questionnaire contained an additional probe to be asked of women who reported no contraceptive use. Results are presented in Table 5.3 for all women and for currently married women by five-year age groups.

**Table 5.3 Ever use of contraception**

Percentage of all women and of currently married women who have ever used any contraceptive method, by specific method and age, Armenia 2000

Age	Modern method									Traditional method			Folk method			Number of women	
	Any meth- od	Any modern method	Pill	IUD	In- ject- ables	Con- dom	Female steri- liza- tion	Foam/ jelly/ cream	Emer- gency contra- ception	LAM	Any tradi- tional method	Periodic absti- nence	With- drawal	Any folk meth- od	Douche		Other meth- ods
ALL WOMEN																	
15-19	3.0	2.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	1.4	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,160
20-24	36.6	22.4	1.8	4.0	0.1	8.9	0.3	0.2	0.1	11.5	26.2	4.1	24.8	0.9	0.8	0.1	1,007
25-29	71.4	48.6	4.7	13.8	0.5	23.6	0.3	0.5	0.2	23.5	54.6	13.0	49.7	2.7	2.2	0.5	769
30-34	80.5	56.6	7.2	23.1	0.8	22.8	1.9	1.0	0.8	25.5	62.3	17.7	57.9	4.1	3.6	0.5	763
35-39	78.7	54.7	6.4	24.5	0.6	22.3	2.4	0.5	0.6	25.5	60.7	21.1	52.5	4.8	4.2	0.6	962
40-44	73.8	48.3	4.8	17.4	0.8	18.7	4.0	0.3	0.4	23.5	57.4	17.3	53.0	5.6	4.4	1.2	947
45-49	68.6	47.0	5.1	13.6	0.9	15.2	4.4	0.9	0.7	23.6	51.4	19.6	42.9	6.8	5.1	1.7	822
Total	55.8	37.7	4.1	13.0	0.5	15.0	1.8	0.4	0.4	18.2	42.4	12.5	38.1	3.4	2.7	0.6	6,430
CURRENTLY MARRIED WOMEN																	
15-19	35.4	25.0	2.1	2.8	0.0	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.4	16.0	0.0	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	99
20-24	70.7	43.4	3.5	7.5	0.3	17.1	0.6	0.5	0.3	22.6	50.5	8.1	47.8	1.8	1.6	0.2	511
25-29	85.1	57.8	5.8	16.5	0.6	27.9	0.3	0.6	0.2	28.1	65.4	15.6	59.7	3.3	2.7	0.6	625
30-34	88.0	62.1	8.3	26.1	0.7	25.2	2.2	1.1	1.0	26.8	68.6	19.3	64.1	4.1	3.6	0.5	660
35-39	88.1	61.6	7.3	28.1	0.7	25.0	2.7	0.6	0.8	28.5	68.0	23.8	58.8	5.5	4.8	0.7	816
40-44	83.0	54.8	5.4	20.5	0.9	20.5	4.6	0.3	0.5	27.4	65.2	19.8	60.2	6.0	4.8	1.2	773
45-49	76.6	52.0	5.0	16.3	1.1	17.3	5.0	1.0	0.6	25.6	58.3	22.4	48.3	7.3	5.2	2.1	640
Total	81.5	55.2	5.9	19.6	0.7	22.0	2.7	0.7	0.6	26.5	62.2	18.4	56.0	4.7	3.8	0.9	4,125

Note: 24 women in the sample (0.4 percent) reported ever use of the female condom.

More than eight in ten currently married women have used a contraceptive method at some time in their lives. Levels of ever use among all women are significantly lower than among currently married women because the former includes women who have never been sexually active (56 percent versus 82 percent). More married women have tried a traditional method (62 percent) than a modern method (55 percent). The most common method is, by far, withdrawal. Ever use of withdrawal (56 percent) exceeds by a factor of two ever use of the condom (22 percent) or the IUD (20 percent). Twenty-seven percent of currently married women have used LAM, the second most widely used method after withdrawal.

It should be noted that although female condoms have never been distributed through the public sector in Armenia or sold in pharmacies, 0.4 percent of all women reported ever use. This may be attributed to confusion between male and female condoms. Alternatively, it is possible that a respondent tried female condoms outside the country.

### 5.3 CURRENT USE OF CONTRACEPTION

Table 5.4 presents levels of current use of contraception for all women and for currently married women. Approximately four out of every ten women of reproductive age are using a method of contraception; almost all users are currently married women. Overall, the ADHS found that 61 percent of married women are currently using a contraceptive method. Among married women, use of traditional methods (37 percent) is two-thirds higher than the use of modern methods (22 percent) (Figure 5.1). The most widely used method is, by far, withdrawal.

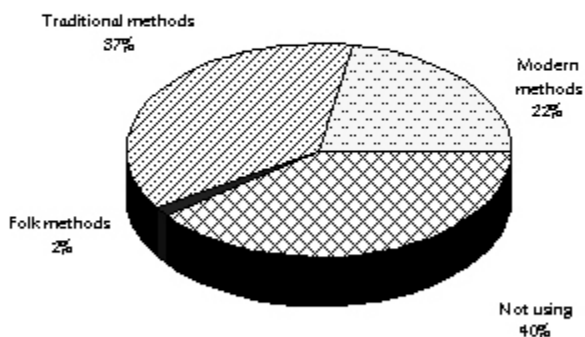
**Table 5.4 Current use of contraception**

Percent distribution of all women and of currently married women by contraceptive method currently used, according to age, Armenia 2000

Age	Modern method								Traditional method					Not using a method	Number of women	
	Any method	Any modern method	Pill	IUD	In-ject-ables	Con-dom	Female steri-liza-tion	Foam/jelly/cream	LAM	Any tradi-tional method	Periodic absti-nence	With-drawal	Any folk meth-od			
<b>ALL WOMEN</b>																
15-19	2.2	1.5	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.6	0.0	0.6	0.0	97.8	100.0	1,160
20-24	28.2	11.2	0.4	3.0	0.0	4.0	0.3	0.2	3.3	16.8	0.9	15.9	0.1	71.8	100.0	1,007
25-29	56.8	23.1	1.6	9.3	0.0	9.0	0.3	0.0	2.8	32.7	3.3	29.4	0.9	43.2	100.0	769
30-34	61.8	25.7	1.7	11.4	0.0	9.1	1.9	0.4	1.2	35.5	4.0	31.5	0.6	38.2	100.0	763
35-39	60.2	20.3	0.9	10.9	0.0	5.5	2.4	0.1	0.4	38.2	6.0	32.2	1.7	39.8	100.0	962
40-44	48.3	14.8	0.4	6.3	0.2	3.9	4.0	0.0	0.0	31.6	4.2	27.4	1.9	51.7	100.0	947
45-49	30.9	10.7	0.3	4.3	0.0	1.7	4.4	0.0	0.0	18.2	4.5	13.8	2.0	69.1	100.0	822
Total	39.0	14.4	0.7	6.1	0.0	4.4	1.8	0.1	1.2	23.6	3.1	20.5	1.0	61.0	100.0	6,430
<b>CURRENTLY MARRIED WOMEN</b>																
15-19	25.5	18.0	2.1	2.8	0.0	2.6	0.0	0.0	10.5	7.5	0.0	7.5	0.0	74.5	100.0	99
20-24	55.3	21.9	0.8	5.9	0.0	7.6	0.6	0.5	6.5	33.2	1.8	31.4	0.2	44.7	100.0	511
25-29	69.6	28.2	2.0	11.2	0.0	11.0	0.3	0.0	3.5	40.2	4.1	36.2	1.1	30.4	100.0	625
30-34	71.4	29.7	1.9	13.2	0.0	10.6	2.2	0.4	1.4	41.0	4.6	36.4	0.7	28.6	100.0	660
35-39	70.9	23.8	1.1	12.8	0.0	6.5	2.7	0.2	0.5	45.0	7.0	38.0	2.0	29.1	100.0	816
40-44	58.7	17.9	0.5	7.7	0.3	4.8	4.6	0.0	0.0	38.7	5.2	33.5	2.2	41.3	100.0	773
45-49	38.9	12.9	0.2	5.6	0.0	2.2	5.0	0.0	0.0	23.4	5.8	17.7	2.5	61.1	100.0	640
Total	60.5	22.3	1.1	9.4	0.1	6.9	2.7	0.2	1.9	36.7	4.8	31.9	1.5	39.5	100.0	4,125

Note: If more than one method is used, only the most effective method is considered in this tabulation.

**Figure 5.1 Current Use of Contraception among Married Women by Method Type**



Note: Total does not add to 100 due to rounding.

Armenia DHS 2000

Among married women, current use of withdrawal (32 percent) exceeds by a factor of three current use of the IUD (9 percent) or the condom (7 percent). The level of withdrawal among married women in Armenia is higher than in any other former Soviet republic where a DHS survey has been conducted. In Central Asian countries, for example, use ranges from 3 percent of married women in Kazakhstan (APM and MI, 1999) and Uzbekistan (IOG and MI, 1997) to 5 percent in Turkmenistan (MOH, NISF, and ORC Macro, 2001) and 6 percent in the Kyrgyz Republic (RIOP and MI, 1998). Results from a survey conducted in Georgia indicate that use is 11 percent, which is higher than the Central Asian countries but still just one-third of the prevalence in Armenia (Serbanescu et al., 2000). Furthermore, withdrawal accounts for just one-fourth of contraceptive use among currently married women in Georgia, whereas it accounts for more than half of contraceptive use among currently married women in Armenia. Overall, according to international DHS data, levels of withdrawal in Armenia are three times as high as any other country in the world except for Turkey (HU and MI, 1999), where 24 percent of all married women use withdrawal.

Contraceptive use ranges from a low of one-quarter of currently married women age 15-19 to more than two-thirds of currently married women age 25-39. This pattern holds true for specific methods, with a few exceptions. LAM is most frequently used by women age 15-19 and 20-24 (the cohort with the highest levels of fertility—see Chapter 4), while female sterilization is more common among older women. It should be noted, however, that female sterilization is generally performed for medical reasons as opposed to contraceptive purposes.

#### 5.4 CURRENT USE BY BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS

Table 5.5 shows that levels of current contraceptive use among currently married women vary little by background characteristics. Contraception is used by the majority of women in urban and rural areas, of all educational levels, and at all parities (with the exception of women with no living children).

There are, however, significant differences in terms of the type of contraceptive methods that married women use depending on background characteristics. For example, women of all educational levels are equally likely to be using a contraceptive method, but twice as many women with higher education are using a modern method than women with a primary/middle or a secondary education (35 percent, 13 percent, 18 percent, respectively). Regarding traditional methods, women with higher education are most likely to be using periodic abstinence and least likely to be using withdrawal. Overall, rural women are much more likely to use any traditional method than urban women. Whereas withdrawal is used by one-quarter of urban women (26 percent), 40 percent of rural women are trying to control their fertility through withdrawal (Figure 5.2).

Method use also varies by region. Regarding withdrawal, the most popular contraceptive method, at least one-third of women in all regions (except Yerevan and Syunik) report current use. Vayots Dzor is the region with the highest percentage of women using withdrawal (48 percent). In Yerevan, 21 percent of women rely on withdrawal. Use of a modern method ranges from a high of 28 percent in Yerevan to 13 percent in Syunik. The IUD is used by at least 10 percent of currently married women in Yerevan, Ararat, Lori, and Shirak in comparison to 3 percent in Vayots Dzor. Condom use is reported by 1 in 10 currently married women in Yerevan (12 percent) and Tavush (11 percent) but less than 1 in 30 women in Aragatsotn (2 percent) and Gegharkunik (3 percent). Although sampling variation may account for some of the difference, female sterilization appears to be more prevalent in Ararat and Vayots Dzor than in other regions. Approximately half of women in Kotayk and Syunik are not using any method of contraception.

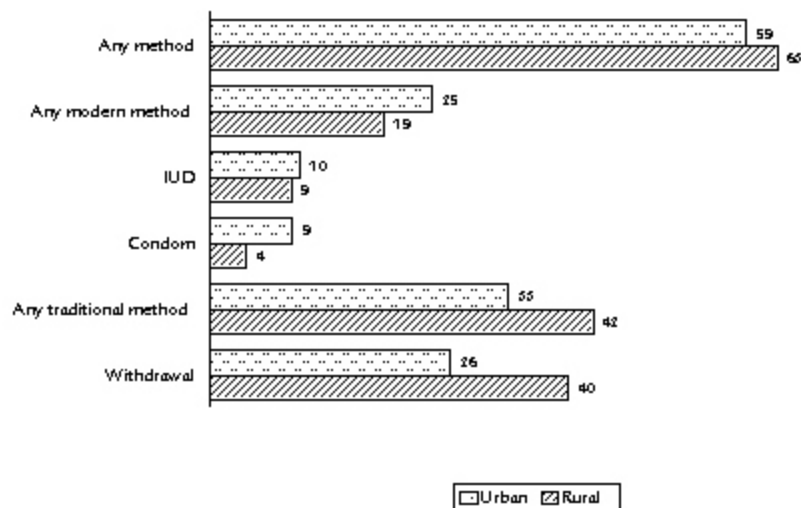
Table 5.5 Current use of contraception by background characteristics

Percent distribution of currently married women by contraceptive method currently used, according to background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Modern method									Traditional method					Number of women	
	Using any method	Any modern method	Pill	IUD	In-ject-ables	Con-dom	Female steri-liza-tion	Foam/jelly/cream	LAM	Any tradi-tional method	Periodic absti-nence	With-drawal	Any folk meth-od	Not using a method		Total
<b>Residence</b>																
Urban	59.1	24.5	1.2	9.8	0.1	9.0	2.3	0.2	1.9	32.8	6.4	26.4	1.8	40.9	100.0	2,391
Rural	62.5	19.2	1.0	8.9	0.0	4.0	3.1	0.1	2.0	42.2	2.7	39.5	1.1	37.5	100.0	1,733
<b>Region</b>																
Yerevan	57.1	28.1	1.4	9.9	0.0	11.7	2.3	0.4	2.3	27.4	6.6	20.8	1.6	42.9	100.0	1,291
Aragatsotn	63.0	14.6	0.6	7.8	0.0	2.4	2.1	0.0	1.5	48.1	3.9	44.2	0.3	37.0	100.0	193
Ararat	66.3	25.8	1.0	11.4	0.0	5.3	6.1	0.0	2.0	40.0	4.3	35.7	0.5	33.7	100.0	449
Armavir	65.3	18.0	1.2	9.3	0.3	3.3	1.5	0.3	2.1	42.8	4.8	38.0	4.5	34.7	100.0	373
Gegharkunik	56.2	18.3	0.6	8.1	0.0	2.9	3.5	0.0	2.9	37.1	2.6	34.5	0.9	43.8	100.0	341
Lori	68.1	21.1	0.7	11.9	0.4	3.7	1.9	0.0	2.6	45.9	4.1	41.9	1.1	31.9	100.0	323
Kotayk	52.5	14.0	0.0	7.6	0.0	4.0	1.4	0.0	1.1	37.4	2.5	34.9	1.1	47.5	100.0	316
Shirak	65.4	23.7	2.6	11.9	0.0	6.7	1.9	0.0	0.6	39.7	5.8	34.0	1.9	34.6	100.0	388
Syunik	49.7	12.7	0.3	5.7	0.0	4.4	0.9	0.0	1.3	35.8	5.4	30.4	1.3	50.3	100.0	173
Vayots Dzor	65.9	15.0	0.6	2.5	0.0	3.8	6.3	0.0	1.6	50.3	2.8	47.5	0.6	34.1	100.0	79
Tavush	63.8	21.8	1.1	6.5	0.0	10.5	3.1	0.0	0.6	41.0	2.5	38.4	1.1	36.2	100.0	198
<b>Education</b>																
Primary/middle	50.2	13.2	1.0	5.3	0.0	1.4	4.2	0.0	1.3	35.1	1.3	33.8	1.9	49.8	100.0	276
Secondary	59.2	17.9	1.0	8.0	0.0	4.0	2.3	0.3	2.3	40.2	3.1	37.2	1.1	40.8	100.0	1,537
Secondary-special	62.1	22.3	1.0	9.4	0.1	7.2	2.8	0.0	1.6	38.3	5.7	32.6	1.5	37.9	100.0	1,603
Higher	63.8	35.3	1.5	14.2	0.0	14.6	2.7	0.2	2.0	26.4	8.0	18.4	2.2	36.2	100.0	708
<b>Number of living children</b>																
None	5.3	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.0	2.3	0.0	94.7	100.0	226
1	50.7	26.5	0.5	6.1	0.2	10.5	2.1	0.3	6.8	23.4	2.6	20.9	0.8	49.3	100.0	514
2	68.6	26.3	1.9	12.2	0.0	8.5	2.2	0.2	1.3	40.3	6.5	33.8	2.0	31.4	100.0	1,770
3	65.3	19.9	0.7	9.4	0.1	5.1	3.3	0.1	1.2	44.0	5.0	39.0	1.4	34.7	100.0	1,231
4+	53.3	16.7	0.3	6.9	0.0	2.8	4.8	0.0	1.9	35.2	2.6	32.6	1.4	46.7	100.0	384
Total	60.5	22.3	1.1	9.4	0.1	6.9	2.7	0.2	1.9	36.7	4.8	31.9	1.5	39.5	100.0	4,125

Note: If more than one method is used, only the most effective method is considered in this tabulation.

**Figure 5.2 Current Use of Contraception (Percent) among Married Women by Residence**



Armenia DHS 2000

### 5.5 CONTRACEPTIVE PREVALENCE RATES FROM OTHER SURVEYS

The findings of the ADHS are similar to those of two recent reproductive health surveys that provided contraceptive prevalence rates at the national level. According to a survey conducted in 1998, for example, 57 percent of ever-married women used contraception, and two-thirds of these current users relied on withdrawal (Khachikyan and Abrahamyan, 1998). Similarly, a 1997 survey found that 60 percent of ever-married women used a contraceptive method, and slightly more than half used withdrawal (NPRH, 1998).

### 5.6 DISCONTINUATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF USE

Table 5.6 shows contraceptive discontinuation rates. Overall, 40 percent of all users of a contraceptive method discontinued use within 12 months of adopting the method. The first year discontinuation rate is lowest among users of the IUD (7 percent) and highest among users of LAM (77 percent), which should be used only during the first 6 months after a birth. Nearly four in ten users of condoms, periodic abstinence, and withdrawal discontinued using the method during the first year of use.



Table 5.6 First-year contraceptive discontinuation rates

Percentage of contraceptive users who discontinued use of a method by 12 months after beginning use in the five years preceding the survey, by reason for discontinuation and method, Armenia 2000

Method discontinued	Reason for discontinuation				Total
	Method failure	Desire to become pregnant	Switched to another method <sup>1</sup>	Other reason	
IUD	1.4	0.6	1.8	2.8	6.5
Condom	13.0	5.7	8.9	11.3	38.9
Lactational amenorrhea	24.9	4.6	31.1	16.4	77.0
Periodic abstinence	21.4	3.9	7.6	5.0	37.9
Withdrawal	28.6	3.8	3.3	3.5	39.2
Total	22.4	3.7	7.3	6.2	39.6

Note: Contraceptive discontinuation rates were calculated using the multiple decrement life table technique. When there is more than one reason for discontinuation of a contraceptive method, this technique calculates reason-specific discontinuation rates month by month according to duration since the start of use of a particular method. The monthly discontinuation rates are the basis for calculating the one-year reason-specific discontinuation rate.

<sup>1</sup> Used a different method in the month after discontinuation or said that they wanted a more effective method and started another method within two months of discontinuation

Table 5.7 shows the distribution of discontinuations of all contraceptive methods during the last five years preceding the survey by reason for discontinuation. More than half of all discontinuations were attributed to method failure, i.e., accidental pregnancy. The low efficacy of periodic abstinence, withdrawal, and douching (the most popular folkloric method) is evidenced by the high failure rate of these methods during use (Figure 5.3).

As previously noted, withdrawal is the most popular method of contraception. It is used by 32 percent of currently married women and accounts for half of all contraceptive use. Twenty-nine percent of users discontinued during the first year of use because of method failure, i.e., accidental pregnancy. This accounted for two-thirds of all discontinuations. It is striking that method failure is most likely among women who are using the most common method of contraception. Stated another way, a significant proportion of Armenian women who are trying to control their fertility using withdrawal are unable to do so. It is notable that in rural areas, where withdrawal is used by a significantly larger percentage of women than in urban areas (40 percent versus 26 percent), total abortion rates are also significantly higher (3.4 versus 2.1).

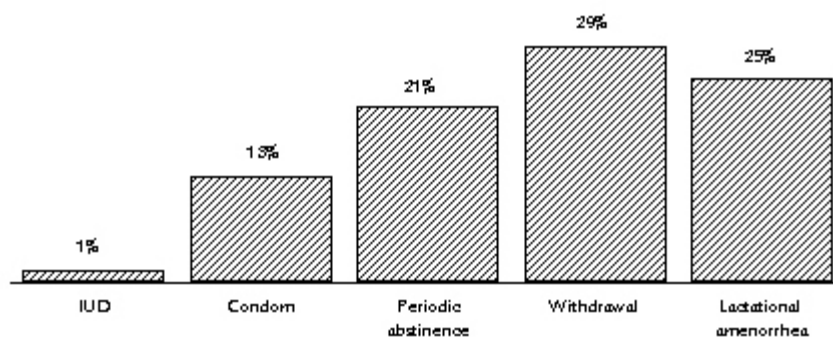
**Table 5.7 Reasons for discontinuing contraceptive methods**

Percent distribution of discontinuations of contraceptive methods by 12 months after beginning use in the five years preceding the survey by main reason for discontinuation, according to specific method, Armenia 2000

Reason for discontinuation	Modern method discontinued				Traditional/folk method discontinued				All methods
	Pill	IUD	Condom	LAM	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Douche	Other methods	
Became pregnant while using	17.8	8.5	33.1	32.0	57.2	67.2	64.2	(58.7)	52.8
Wanted to become pregnant	7.0	5.2	16.0	5.8	9.1	9.4	4.5	(0.0)	9.1
Side effects	7.4	11.3	3.2	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.0	(3.4)	1.9
Health concerns	38.5	60.1	2.4	0.6	0.3	1.1	7.5	(3.9)	6.8
Access/availability	7.9	0.4	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.2	(0.0)	0.8
Wanted a more effective method	2.7	2.8	3.6	28.3	11.0	5.1	7.8	(12.1)	7.8
Inconvenient to use	3.9	1.1	7.0	5.6	3.2	1.1	1.5	(10.2)	2.6
Cost too much	6.4	0.0	5.8	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	(0.0)	0.9
Husband disapproved	0.0	1.5	7.6	0.7	3.4	4.2	0.0	(0.0)	3.7
Infrequent sex/husband away	6.8	5.4	9.6	1.4	9.7	7.3	10.2	(0.0)	7.0
Marital dissolution/separation	0.0	1.1	0.9	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.0	(0.0)	0.5
Difficult to get pregnant/menopausal	0.0	1.3	1.3	0.4	2.2	1.0	3.0	(7.8)	1.2
Fatalistic	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.0	(0.0)	0.3
Other reason	1.6	1.4	1.9	22.1	1.6	0.7	0.0	(3.9)	3.3
Don't know	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.0)	0.0
Missing	0.0	0.0	3.4	2.4	0.8	1.1	0.0	(0.0)	1.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(100.0)	100.0
Number of discontinuations	71	254	373	336	290	1,786	91	29	3,230

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25 to 49 unweighted cases.

**Figure 5.3 Contraceptive Discontinuation Due to Method Failure: Proportion of Users Who Discontinued Use Within 12 Months**



Armenia DHS 2000

The DHS data also show that one-quarter of women who rely on LAM as a contraceptive method, also become accidentally pregnant within 12 months of beginning its use. This strongly suggests that Armenian women are not using this method properly. One indication of improper use is that approximately half of all women who use LAM report that they are still relying on the method more than six months after giving birth (data not shown), which is longer than the method can effectively be used.

Fifty-seven percent of periodic abstinence, 64 percent of douche, and 33 percent of condom discontinuations were reported to be method failures. The most common reason cited for discontinuation of the pill and IUD was concern for health (39 and 60 percent, respectively). Although the majority of discontinuations can be attributed to method failure, 9 percent of respondents who discontinued said that they wanted to get pregnant.

## 5.7 CURRENT USE BY WOMEN'S STATUS

A woman's ability to use contraceptive methods to control her fertility is likely to be affected by her status and degree of empowerment. Women who are more empowered are expected to be better able to control all aspects of their lives including their fertility. The ADHS collected information on three indicators of women's empowerment: number of decisions in which the respondent participates in the final say, the number of reasons for which a woman can refuse to have sexual relations with her husband, and the number of reasons for which the respondent feels a husband is justified in beating his wife. This section focuses on the relationship between contraceptive use and women's status. (See Chapter 3 for an explanation of these indicators.)

Table 5.8 shows the relationship of each of these three indicators of women's empowerment with current use of contraceptive methods by currently married women age 15-49. Overall, women who are more empowered (i.e., respondents with higher scores on the first two indicators of status and lower scores on the third indicator of women's status) are more likely to be using a modern method of contraception. For example, less than half of women (45 percent) who have no final say in household decisionmaking are using a method of contraception as opposed to almost two-thirds of women who have a final say in three or more of the specified decisions. Similarly, women with higher levels of status are more likely to use a modern method or periodic abstinence. Results of the second indicator follow the same pattern. Use of periodic abstinence, which requires a high degree of communication and cooperation between a woman and man, is the method that is most correlated with these indicators of women's status. Although the third indicator appears to have no discernable relationship to contraceptive use, these results suggest that overall, different dimensions of women's empowerment are positively associated with women's use of contraception in Armenia.

Table 5.8 Current use of contraception by women's status

Percent distribution of currently married women by contraceptive method currently used, according to selected indicators of women's status, Armenia 2000

Women's status indicator	Modern method								Traditional method					Number of women		
	Using any method	Any modern method	Pill	IUD	In-ject-ables	Con-dom	Female steri-liza-tion	Foam/jelly/cream	LAM	Any tradi-tional method	Periodic absti-nence	With-drawal	Any folk meth-od		Not using a method	Total
<b>Number of decisions where woman has final say<sup>1</sup></b>																
0	44.7	14.1	1.0	4.9	0.0	3.9	1.5	0.0	2.8	30.6	0.6	30.0	0.0	55.3	100.0	159
1-2	58.5	23.3	1.5	9.3	0.0	6.9	2.2	0.0	3.3	33.8	2.3	31.5	1.3	41.5	100.0	732
3-4	64.0	24.4	0.8	10.7	0.1	7.4	3.3	0.1	2.0	38.0	5.5	32.5	1.6	36.0	100.0	1,338
5	60.2	21.0	1.2	9.0	0.1	6.7	2.5	0.3	1.2	37.5	5.6	31.8	1.6	39.8	100.0	1,895
<b>Number of reasons wife can refuse sex with husband</b>																
0	46.8	11.2	0.0	3.4	0.0	2.0	3.6	0.0	2.2	33.4	1.8	31.5	2.2	53.2	100.0	181
1-2	55.5	22.8	2.0	8.9	0.0	6.9	3.3	0.0	1.7	32.4	4.4	28.0	0.3	44.5	100.0	443
3-4	61.9	22.8	1.0	9.8	0.1	7.1	2.5	0.2	1.9	37.5	5.0	32.4	1.6	38.1	100.0	3,501
<b>Number of reasons wife beating justified</b>																
0	61.5	24.5	1.0	10.2	0.0	8.3	2.7	0.2	2.0	35.4	5.8	29.5	1.7	38.5	100.0	2,681
1-2	61.7	19.8	1.5	9.1	0.0	4.6	3.1	0.0	1.6	40.8	3.6	37.2	1.2	38.3	100.0	884
3-4	52.8	14.8	0.8	6.7	0.0	3.3	1.6	0.0	2.2	36.8	2.1	34.7	1.1	47.2	100.0	469
5	58.4	17.4	0.6	5.7	1.2	6.4	2.3	0.0	1.1	38.2	1.5	36.7	2.8	41.6	100.0	91
Total	60.5	22.3	1.1	9.4	0.1	6.9	2.7	0.2	1.9	36.7	4.8	31.9	1.5	39.5	100.0	4,125

Note: If more than one method is used, only the most effective method is considered in this tabulation.

<sup>1</sup> Either by herself or jointly with others

## 5.8 NUMBER OF CHILDREN AT FIRST USE

To make an assessment of the motivations for using family planning methods, women were asked how many living children they had at the time they first used a method of family planning. Women who first use a method before having a child presumably want to delay their childbearing to some time in the future. Women who first employ a method after having one or two children may either want to delay the next child or to limit their childbearing. Women who use a method for the first time after having several children are more likely to be using family planning to stop childbearing than to space their births.

Table 5.9 presents the percent distribution of ever-married women by the number of living children they had at the time they first used a method of family planning. Overall, three in ten ever-married women began using contraception after having one child and another third began after having two children. Less than 2 percent of women used contraception prior to giving birth.

Younger women report first use of contraception at lower parities than older women. Contraceptive use among women with one living child, for instance, is more than 50 percent higher among those age 20-29 than among those age 35-49.

**Table 5.9 Number of children at first use of contraception**

Percent distribution of ever-married women by number of living children at the time of first use of contraception and median number of children at first use, according to current age, Armenia 2000

Current age	Never used contraception	Number of living children at time of first use of contraception					Total	Median number of children at first use	Number of women
		0	1	2	3	4+			
15-19	65.0	2.7	31.3	1.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.5	100
20-24	30.3	3.9	46.5	17.3	1.9	0.0	100.0	0.7	529
25-29	17.7	1.7	40.7	34.3	4.9	0.7	100.0	1.0	665
30-34	15.0	1.8	30.0	40.3	11.2	1.7	100.0	1.3	723
35-39	16.6	0.7	24.9	36.5	16.9	4.3	100.0	1.4	907
40-44	20.9	0.9	25.2	34.0	15.8	3.2	100.0	1.4	882
45-49	27.2	0.7	23.9	31.0	11.7	5.3	100.0	1.4	775
Total	21.8	1.5	30.5	32.4	11.1	2.7	100.0	1.2	4,579

Note: Median among those who have ever used contraception.

## 5.9 KNOWLEDGE OF THE FERTILE PERIOD

A basic knowledge of the physiology of reproduction is especially useful for the successful practice of coitus-related methods such as periodic abstinence. All women in the ADHS were asked about their knowledge of a woman's fertile period. Table 5.10 shows that less than one-third (30 percent) of all women correctly identify the fertile period as occurring halfway between periods. Approximately one in four women said that they did not know when a woman has her fertile period. Among users of periodic abstinence, however, 73 percent were able to correctly identify the fertile period.

**Table 5.10 Knowledge of fertile period**

Percent distribution of women who use periodic abstinence, of women who do not use periodic abstinence, and of all women, by knowledge of the fertile period during the ovulatory cycle, Armenia 2000

Perceived fertile period	Users of periodic abstinence	Nonusers of periodic abstinence	All women
Just before her period begins	2.8	3.8	3.8
During her period	0.0	0.2	0.1
Right after her period has ended	17.4	17.7	17.7
Halfway between two periods	72.9	28.8	30.2
No specific time	3.7	10.8	10.6
Other	0.0	0.1	0.1
Don't know	3.2	38.6	37.5
Missing	0.0	0.1	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of women	199	6,231	6,430

## 5.10 SOURCE OF FAMILY PLANNING

Information on sources of modern contraceptives is useful for family planning managers and implementers. Women who reported they were currently using a modern method of contraception were asked where they obtained the method the last time. Since the distinction between different types of clinics and between public and private sources may not always be clear, the information on the source of supply must be interpreted with caution.

The public sector is the primary source of contraceptive supply in Armenia (Table 5.11). Sixty-seven percent of modern method users received their method from the public sector. A hospital was the source for almost all sterilized women (96 percent) and the majority of IUD users (60 percent). The majority of pill users obtained their last supply from a public medical facility: 22 percent from polyclinics, 21 percent from women’s consulting centers, and 20 percent from hospitals. Among condom users, the majority (61 percent) reported obtaining their most recent supply from the pharmacy. One-fifth of condom users, however, did not know their source of supply, which suggests that their partners obtain the condoms.

**Table 5.11 Source of modern contraceptive methods**

Percent distribution of current users of modern contraceptive methods by most recent source of supply, according to specific methods, Armenia 2000

Source	Pill	IUD	Con- dom	Female sterili- zation	All modern methods
<b>Public sector</b>	(63.9)	97.2	13.9	98.8	67.0
Hospital	(19.9)	60.1	1.4	96.1	42.5
Polyclinic	(21.8)	14.3	3.1	1.6	9.0
Doctor’s assistant/midwife post	(1.2)	4.3	4.5	0.0	3.7
Women’s consulting center	(21.0)	18.4	4.8	0.0	11.5
Other public	(0.0)	0.0	0.1	1.2	0.2
<b>Private medical</b>	(33.2)	2.2	61.3	1.2	24.3
Private hospital, clinic	(0.0)	0.9	0.0	1.2	0.6
Pharmacy	(33.2)	0.0	60.8	0.0	23.2
Private doctor	(0.0)	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.4
Other private medical	(0.0)	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.2
Other	(2.9)	0.0	5.0	0.0	1.8
Don’t know	(0.0)	0.0	19.4	0.0	6.5
Missing	(0.0)	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.4
Total	(100.0)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of users	47	391	285	117	850

Note: Total includes 11 users of other modern methods. Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

## 5.11 INFORMED CHOICE

Women should make decisions about contraceptive use after having been fully informed of the various methods and side effects or risks associated with the methods. Table 5.12 shows the percentage of sterilized women who were informed that they would not be able to bear more children after the sterilization operation. The table also shows the percentage of current users of modern contraception who were told about the side effects of methods and the different methods available by a health or family planning worker at the time they accepted their current method.

Virtually all sterilized respondents reported that they were informed that they would not be able to bear more children after the procedure (94 percent). Among women using other methods of contraception, 36 percent were informed about side effects and 32 percent were told what to do if they did experience side effects. Only 23 percent were informed about other methods of contraception. It is clear that both public and private health and family planning workers in Armenia need to provide women with more information about contraceptive methods in order to help women make informed choices.

Table 5.12 Informed choice

Among current users of specific modern contraceptive methods who adopted the method in the five years preceding the survey, percentage of women who were sterilized in the five years preceding the survey who were informed that they would not be able to have any more children, percentage who were informed about the side effects of the current method used, percentage who were informed what to do if side effects were experienced, and percentage who were informed of other methods that could be used for contraception, by specific method, initial source of method, and background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Method, source, and background characteristic	Type of information			
	Informed that sterilization is permanent <sup>1</sup>	Informed about side effects of method used <sup>2</sup>	Informed what to do if experience side effects <sup>2</sup>	Informed of other methods that could be used <sup>3</sup>
<b>Method</b>				
Pill	na	(44.5)	(41.2)	(49.6)
IUD	na	34.1	31.8	21.2
Female sterilization	94.0	37.0	29.7	11.5
<b>Initial source of method</b>				
Government hospital	94.4	55.6	48.4	30.4
Government polyclinic	*	(44.5)	(41.4)	(29.5)
Women's consulting center	*	66.9	61.4	61.3
<b>Residence</b>				
Urban	92.5	37.0	33.9	27.0
Rural	95.6	33.3	29.2	17.4
<b>Education</b>				
Primary/middle	*	(25.5)	(15.7)	(9.7)
Secondary	(96.1)	31.4	28.6	16.6
Secondary-special	100.0	35.4	30.8	24.5
Higher	*	43.0	41.8	32.8
Total	94.1	35.5	32.0	23.0
Number of women	117	558	558	644

Note: Total includes users of modern methods not shown and users who received their method from sources not shown because of the small numbers of cases. For all methods except sterilization, the figures refer to users who adopted their current method in the five years preceding the survey. The initial source is the source at the start of the current method. Figures in parentheses are based on 25 to 49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

na = Not applicable

<sup>1</sup> Sterilized women who were told that they would not be able to have more children

<sup>2</sup> Among users of female sterilization, pill, IUD, injectables, and implants

<sup>3</sup> Among users of female sterilization, pill, IUD, injectables, implants, vaginal methods, and LAM

## 5.12 INTENTION TO USE FAMILY PLANNING AMONG NONUSERS

The needs and practices of women in the area of contraception change as they go through their reproductive years. Currently married respondents who were not using contraception at the time of the survey were asked whether they intend to use family planning methods in the future. The results are presented in Table 5.13.

**Table 5.13 Future use of contraception**

Percent distribution of currently married women who are not using a contraceptive method by intention to use in the future, according to number of living children, Armenia 2000

Intention	Number of living children <sup>1</sup>					Total
	0	1	2	3	4+	
Intends to use later	38.2	53.6	35.5	28.6	25.9	35.5
Unsure as to intention	26.2	17.6	19.1	13.3	14.2	17.4
Does not intend to use	35.6	28.3	45.3	58.1	59.9	47.1
Missing	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of women	148	250	591	448	191	1,629

<sup>1</sup> Includes current pregnancy

More than one-third (36 percent) of all currently married nonusers stated that they do intend to use a contraceptive method at some time in the future. The majority of women with one living child (54 percent) intend to use contraception. These women are significantly more likely to state an intention to use than women with no children and women with two or more living children.

An understanding of the reasons that people do not like to use family planning methods is critical in designing programs that could improve the quality of services. Table 5.14 presents the main reasons for not intending to use family planning as given by currently married nonusers who do not intend to use a method in the future. Reasons for nonuse vary by age. Among younger women, the most common reason is opposition to family planning. Women age 15-29 are significantly more likely to give this reason than women age 30-49 (28 percent versus 15 percent). The majority of older women, on the other hand, cite reasons related to a lower risk of pregnancy such as difficulty becoming pregnant (25 percent), menopause or hysterectomy (14 percent), and infrequent sexual intercourse (11 percent). Eleven percent of both older women and younger women cite health concerns as the reason they do not intend to use a method in the future.

**Table 5.14 Reasons for not intending to use contraception**

Percent distribution of currently married women who are not using a contraceptive method and who do not intend to use in the future by main reason for not intending to use, according to age, Armenia 2000

Reason	Age		All ages
	15-29	30-49	
Wants children	14.1	2.4	3.2
Side effects	3.7	0.6	0.8
Health concerns	10.8	11.1	11.1
Access/availability	2.3	0.0	0.2
Cost	0.0	0.7	0.7
Inconvenient	4.3	0.2	0.5
Religion	2.6	0.7	0.9
Opposed to family planning	28.1	15.0	15.9
Partner opposed	0.0	1.6	1.5
Others disapprove	0.0	0.2	0.2
Infrequent sex/no sex	4.8	10.9	10.5
Difficult to get pregnant	11.7	25.1	24.2
Menopausal/hysterectomy	0.0	14.2	13.2
Other reason	0.9	1.7	1.7
Don't know/missing	16.7	15.5	15.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of women	53	714	766



Future demand for specific methods of family planning can be assessed by asking nonusers who intend to use in the future which methods they prefer to use. Table 5.15 presents information on method preference among currently married nonusers who say they intend to use in the future. The IUD and withdrawal are the most popular methods among women who intend to use in the future (28 percent and 24 percent, respectively). Women age 30 and over are most likely to cite withdrawal (37 percent), followed by IUD (21 percent) and condom (16 percent). Younger women, on the other hand, are most likely to prefer the IUD (33 percent), although more than one in ten nonusers below 30 years of age state a preference for the condom, pill, or withdrawal (16, 13, and 14 percent, respectively).

Table 5.15 Preferred method of contraception for future use

Percent distribution of currently married women who are not using a contraceptive method but who intend to use in the future by preferred method, according to age, Armenia 2000

Preferred method	Age		All women
	15-29	30-49	
Pill	12.7	8.7	10.9
IUD	32.7	20.6	27.5
Injectables	0.0	0.2	0.1
Diaphragm/foam/jelly	0.4	0.0	0.2
Condom	15.8	16.2	16.0
Periodic abstinence	4.8	7.3	5.9
Withdrawal	13.6	37.4	23.9
Lactational amenorrhea	0.3	0.0	0.2
Female condom	0.2	0.2	0.2
Douche	0.3	0.8	0.6
Unsure	19.3	8.4	14.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of women	328	251	578

### 5.13 EXPOSURE TO FAMILY PLANNING MESSAGES IN THE MASS MEDIA

The mass media provide an opportunity to communicate family planning information to a broad spectrum of the population. Information on the level of exposure to such media is important for programmers and planners to effectively target population subgroups for information, education, and communication campaigns. Table 5.16 shows that almost nine in ten women have seen a mass media family planning message in the few months preceding the survey. This high level of exposure may be attributed to the implementation of the “Green Path” family planning social marketing program, which occurred during the few months preceding the survey.

Television is the most common source of messages on family planning: 87 percent of all female respondents have seen a family planning message on television. With the exception of women living in Lori Region and women with a primary/middle school education, more than eight in ten women of all ages, places of residence, and educational levels have seen a family planning message on television. Approximately one in four women have heard a family planning message on the radio (42 percent) or seen a message in a newspaper (38 percent).

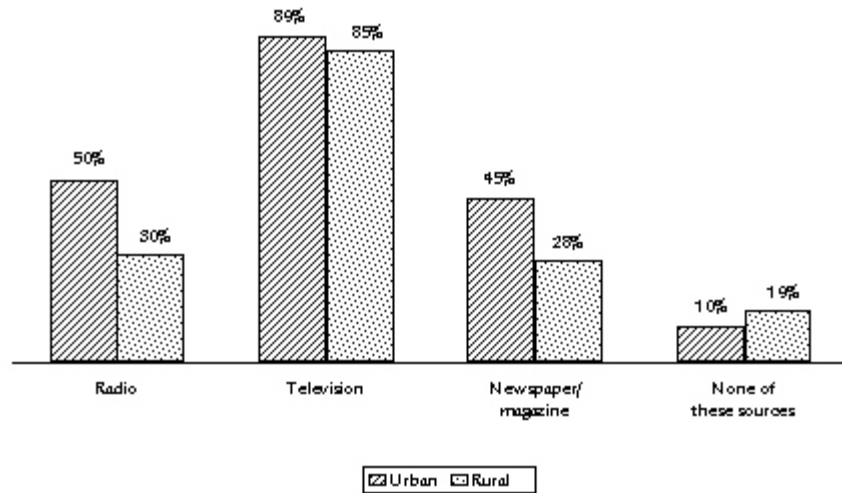
Table 5.16 Exposure to family planning messages

Percentage of women who have heard or seen a family planning message on radio, television, or newspaper/magazine in the few months preceding the survey, by background characteristics, Armenia, 2000

Background characteristic	Exposed to family planning messages on			None of these three sources	Number of women
	Radio	Television	Newspaper/magazine		
<b>Age</b>					
15-19	40.5	84.6	33.6	14.6	1,160
20-24	45.7	90.2	41.6	8.2	1,007
25-29	43.6	90.6	42.7	8.2	769
30-34	40.9	87.2	38.1	11.8	763
35-39	39.5	85.7	37.1	12.5	962
40-44	42.2	85.7	38.3	13.3	947
45-49	41.2	87.1	36.2	11.8	822
<b>Residence</b>					
Urban	49.7	88.8	44.6	10.0	3,942
Rural	29.6	84.6	27.6	14.3	2,488
<b>Region</b>					
Yerevan	57.2	89.7	48.1	9.1	2,206
Aragatsotn	58.3	87.0	53.9	12.0	279
Ararat	33.5	93.3	37.6	6.4	642
Armavir	17.8	89.3	13.3	10.5	553
Gegharkunik	29.9	80.0	28.2	18.2	484
Lori	24.2	75.1	21.8	22.0	489
Kotayk	31.2	87.4	20.7	11.2	505
Shirak	34.6	85.4	44.7	13.8	611
Syunik	63.6	89.3	56.1	9.3	271
Vayots Dzor	58.7	90.4	57.0	8.3	113
Tavush	31.5	82.5	29.4	15.9	278
<b>Education</b>					
Primary/middle	21.6	70.8	17.5	28.4	593
Secondary	35.7	85.9	30.7	12.9	2,341
Secondary-special	45.7	89.5	40.9	9.3	2,295
Higher	56.8	93.1	56.9	5.3	1,201
Total	41.9	87.2	38.0	11.6	6,430

There is a significant relationship between women who are not exposed to family planning messages at all and place of residence and educational level. Women living in rural areas and women with lower levels of education are less likely to have been exposed to a message than urban dwellers and women with higher levels of education (Figure 5.4).

**Figure 5.4 Percentage of Women Exposed to Family Planning Messages by Residence**



Armenia DHS 2000

#### 5.14 CONTACT OF NONUSERS OF FAMILY PLANNING WITH FAMILY PLANNING PROVIDERS

Table 5.17 shows the percent distribution of female nonusers by their exposure to a family planning provider. Among women not using a method of contraception, very few discussed family planning with either a fieldworker or with someone at a health facility (2 percent each). Variation by background characteristic is not significant with the exception of Tavush where 9 percent of women discussed family planning with a fieldworker and 11 percent discussed family planning in a health facility. Approximately one-fifth of nonusers visited a health facility but did not discuss family planning.

**Table 5.17 Contact of nonusers with family planning providers**

Percent distribution of women who are not using contraception by whether they were visited by a family planning worker or spoke with a health facility staff member about family planning methods during the 12 months preceding the survey, according to background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Women who were visited by a health worker who discussed family planning	Women who visited a health facility and discussed family planning	Women who visited a health facility but did not discuss family planning	Neither visited by a health worker nor discussed family planning at health facility	Number of women
<b>Age</b>					
15-19	0.9	0.3	8.2	98.9	1,135
20-24	2.0	3.5	18.9	95.2	723
25-29	3.3	5.2	32.0	93.4	332
30-34	2.8	4.3	31.0	94.0	291
35-39	2.9	2.5	22.7	95.0	383
40-44	1.2	1.3	19.4	97.7	489
45-49	1.8	1.1	20.1	97.4	568
<b>Residence</b>					
Urban	1.3	1.8	18.8	97.2	2,523
Rural	2.8	2.5	17.6	95.7	1,398
<b>Region</b>					
Yerevan	1.4	1.2	19.3	97.5	1,466
Aragatsotn	2.2	2.2	21.2	96.3	158
Ararat	2.3	1.3	13.6	96.3	342
Armavir	2.2	2.6	14.2	96.0	306
Gegharkunik	2.7	3.7	22.1	94.6	291
Lori	0.9	0.4	22.9	98.7	266
Kotayk	0.0	1.3	18.7	98.7	339
Shirak	0.3	0.7	12.2	99.0	358
Syunik	1.5	4.5	22.0	95.0	185
Vayots Dzor	8.5	4.9	12.1	91.1	61
Tavush	9.0	11.2	22.8	85.4	149
<b>Education</b>					
Primary/middle	0.9	0.6	17.1	98.8	455
Secondary	2.1	1.7	17.7	96.8	1,430
Secondary-special	1.4	2.8	19.3	96.4	1,293
Higher	2.6	2.3	19.0	95.4	744
Total	1.8	2.1	18.4	96.6	3,922

## 5.15 COUPLES' COMMUNICATION ABOUT FAMILY PLANNING

Spousal communication is an important intermediate step toward eventual adoption and use of contraceptive methods. Table 5.18 shows that more than half of all currently married women have never discussed family planning with their husband. Women in their twenties are more likely to have discussed family planning than women of other cohorts. Overall, 32 percent of women have discussed family planning with their husband once or twice in the year preceding the survey, and 12 percent have discussed this topic more often.

Table 5.18 Discussion of family planning with husband

Percent distribution of currently married women who know a contraceptive method by the number of times family planning was discussed with their husband in the past year, according to current age, Armenia 2000

Age	Number of times family planning was discussed with husband				Total	Number of women
	Never	Once or twice	Three or more times	Missing		
15-19	58.6	31.0	9.1	1.2	100.0	92
20-24	46.2	38.3	14.7	0.8	100.0	502
25-29	42.6	38.4	18.7	0.3	100.0	616
30-34	51.6	34.9	12.9	0.6	100.0	652
35-39	54.5	32.2	13.0	0.3	100.0	813
40-44	61.5	30.1	8.2	0.2	100.0	765
45-49	72.5	19.3	7.3	0.9	100.0	634
Total	55.4	31.9	12.2	0.5	100.0	4,074

## 5.16 ATTITUDES TOWARD FAMILY PLANNING

Use of effective contraceptive methods is facilitated when couples have a positive attitude toward family planning. Attitudinal data were collected by asking women whether they approve of couples using family planning and what they perceived as their husband's attitude toward family planning. This information is useful in the formulation of family planning policies, since it indicates the extent to which further education and publicity are needed to increase acceptance of family planning. Widespread disapproval of contraception can be a barrier to the adoption of methods.

Table 5.19 shows that overall, 86 percent of currently married women state that they approve of contraception, and 69 percent state that their husband approves. In general, the youngest and oldest husbands and wives are the least likely to approve. Approval of contraception correlates strongly with education, with approval ranging from 73 percent of women with a primary/middle education to 90 percent of women with a higher education. Similarly, according to their wives only 54 percent of men with a primary/middle school education approve of contraception, compared with 77 percent of men with a higher education. Overall, two-thirds of married respondents state that both they and their husband approve of contraception. It is significant that 7 percent of women state that they are unsure of their own attitude toward contraception and 15 percent are unsure of their husband's attitude.

Table 5.19 Attitudes of couples toward family planning

Percent distribution of currently married women who know of a method of family planning (FP), by approval of family planning and their perception of their husband's attitude toward family planning, according to background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Woman approves of FP			Woman disapproves of FP			Woman is unsure	Total	Overall approval		
	Both approve	Husband disapproves	Husband's attitude unknown	Husband approves	Both disapprove	Husband's attitude unknown			Wife approves	Husband approves <sup>1</sup>	Number of women
<b>Age</b>											
15-19	48.8	4.5	22.5	2.8	4.0	2.9	14.5	100.0	75.8	52.9	92
20-24	68.1	4.9	14.8	0.9	3.4	0.3	7.7	100.0	87.7	70.2	502
25-29	74.2	5.9	8.8	1.2	3.5	1.9	4.5	100.0	88.9	76.4	616
30-34	70.1	6.9	10.9	1.7	5.3	1.2	3.8	100.0	87.9	72.3	652
35-39	67.0	6.7	11.8	2.2	3.7	1.9	6.6	100.0	85.5	70.3	813
40-44	66.0	5.1	14.0	1.1	6.3	2.1	5.4	100.0	85.0	68.0	765
45-49	56.7	4.7	18.7	1.6	5.7	2.5	10.1	100.0	80.2	58.9	634
<b>Residence</b>											
Urban	68.7	6.1	11.4	1.3	4.8	1.7	6.1	100.0	86.1	70.7	2,369
Rural	63.5	5.2	15.9	1.9	4.6	1.8	7.0	100.0	84.7	66.5	1,705
<b>Region</b>											
Yerevan	69.2	5.6	10.7	1.1	5.2	1.3	6.9	100.0	85.5	71.0	1,271
Aragatsotn	72.9	6.4	7.0	2.1	7.3	1.8	2.4	100.0	86.3	75.1	190
Ararat	64.5	4.3	21.6	1.5	1.8	1.5	4.8	100.0	90.4	66.2	448
Armavir	61.1	6.9	19.2	0.3	3.0	1.5	8.1	100.0	87.1	62.3	373
Gegharkunik	64.0	8.2	11.4	2.3	5.8	3.2	5.0	100.0	83.6	67.5	338
Lori	63.2	4.8	20.4	2.2	2.6	2.2	4.5	100.0	88.5	67.3	321
Kotayk	68.2	6.9	10.5	2.2	3.6	1.1	7.6	100.0	85.6	71.5	314
Shirak	69.9	6.3	5.0	2.6	8.6	2.3	5.3	100.0	81.1	73.5	375
Syunik	50.3	3.2	17.4	0.6	7.7	3.2	17.4	100.0	71.0	51.9	170
Vayots Dzor	67.3	4.5	12.6	1.0	4.5	1.0	9.1	100.0	84.5	71.2	76
Tavush	72.6	4.0	14.2	1.7	1.7	1.7	4.0	100.0	90.9	74.6	196
<b>Education</b>											
Primary/middle	51.9	4.3	17.0	0.6	9.2	2.1	14.9	100.0	73.2	53.8	266
Secondary	64.7	5.6	15.0	1.4	4.4	2.1	6.7	100.0	85.4	67.1	1,508
Secondary-special	66.6	6.5	12.6	2.1	4.5	1.7	6.0	100.0	85.7	69.6	1,592
Higher	75.6	5.0	9.6	1.0	4.0	1.0	3.8	100.0	90.1	77.0	708
<b>Total</b>	<b>66.5</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>68.9</b>	<b>4,074</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes women who are unsure about their own attitude, but know their husband's attitude