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Number 7

Contraceptive Utilization

United States, 1976

Statistics, based on data collected in 1976, are presented on the use of contraception by currently married women, never-married women with offspring in the household, and widowed, divorced, and separated women. Women who used contraception are shown by the method of contraception used, according to race and age of the woman and by various socioeconomic characteristics.

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CONTRACEPTIVE UTILIZATION

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The National Survey of Family Growth, a periodic survey conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics, is designed to provide information on fertility, family planning, and aspects of maternal and child health that are closely related to childbearing. This report presents statistics on the use of contraception in the United States by currently married women, by previously married women, and by never-married women with offspring living in their households. Data are presented on whether contraception was used at the time of interview (contraceptive status) and if so, what contraceptive method was used, according to race and age of the woman and various socioeconomic characteristics.

This report presents final, revised data on contraceptive use from Cycle II of the National Survey of Family Growth, which was conducted in 1976. Preliminary data for currently and previously married women were published in the *Advance Data* series.[1,2] The final data in this report supersede the 1976 data in those preliminary reports.

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL FINDINGS

An estimated 13.5 million, or 49.2 percent, of the married couples with wives 15-44 years of age were using nonsurgical methods of contraception in 1976. Another 5.1 million wives or their husbands, or 18.6 percent, had been surgically sterilized because they had all the children they wanted. Therefore, a total of 18.6 million, or 67.7 percent of couples were using contraception in 1976. Of the 32.3 percent of couples not using contraception, 11.4 percent were sterile for reasons other than contraceptive intent; 13.3 percent were pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy; and 7.6 percent were not using contraception for other reasons.

The percent of couples using *any* method of contraception did not change dramatically between 1973 (69.6 percent) and 1976 (67.7 percent), but the distribution of contraceptive methods used did change in important ways. For the first time, the number of married women using the oral contraceptive pill dropped, from 6.7 million in 1973 to 6.2 million in 1976. Apparently, a trend away from the pill, and toward sterilization and methods other than the pill, had begun.

However, among couples who were using nonsurgical methods of contraception (nonsurgical contraceptors) in 1976, the pill was still the most popular method, accounting for 45.8 percent of nonsurgical contraceptors (or 22.5 percent of all married couples). The condom accounted for 14.8 percent of nonsurgical contraceptors; the intrauterine device (IUD), 12.9 percent; the rhythm method, 6.9 percent; foam, 6.1 percent; the diaphragm, 5.9 percent; and withdrawal, douche, and other methods, 7.7 percent.

The percent of couples using nonsurgical methods of contraception was much higher among couples with wives 15-29 years of age than among those with wives 30-44 years of age. Conversely, the percent using sterilization as a contraceptive method was higher among couples with wives 30-44 years of age than among those with wives 15-29 years of age.

Among couples using nonsurgical methods of contraception, those with wives 15-29 years

of age were more likely to use the pill and less likely to use the diaphragm or the condom than those with wives 30-44 years of age.

White couples were more likely than black couples to have been surgically sterilized because they had all the children they wanted (19.3 percent compared with 12.7 percent). In addition, the data suggest that white couples were more likely than black couples to use nonsurgical methods of contraception (49.5 percent compared with 45.9 percent).

The data on the contraceptive status of currently married couples also include the following findings: couples in which the wife was of Hispanic origin were much less likely than other couples to be surgically sterile because they had all the children they wanted (surgical contraceptors); the percent of couples using nonsurgical methods was higher in the Northeast Region than in other regions and higher among white Catholic than among white Protestant couples; and the percent using nonsurgical methods of contraception increased sharply with education.

Among currently married couples using nonsurgical methods of contraception (nonsurgical contraceptors) the differences by socioeconomic characteristics include the following: wives of Hispanic origin were much more likely to use the IUD than other wives; use of the pill was lower in the Northeast Region than in the other regions; use of the diaphragm was more common among high income than among women below the poverty level, and more common among wives with at least some college education than among wives with a high school education or less; the percent using the pill was higher among wives in the labor force than among other wives; and white Protestant couples were more likely to use the pill, and less likely to use the rhythm method than white Catholic couples.

In 1976, 40.0 percent of the 4.4 million widowed, divorced, and separated women 15-44 years of age were using nonsurgical methods of contraception; another 13.7 percent were surgically sterile because they had all the children they wanted (surgical contraceptors). In contrast to currently married women, the number and percent of previously married women using the pill increased between 1973 and 1976, from 18.1 to 24.3 percent.

Among the 1.1 million never-married women with offspring living in the household, 57.0 percent were using nonsurgical methods of contraception; 4.7 percent were surgically sterile because they had all the children they wanted.

The pill or IUD were used by the majority of nonsurgical contraceptors regardless of marital status.

BACKGROUND

Cycle II of the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) was based on personal interviews with a multistage area probability sample of 8,611 women 15-44 years of age in the conterminous United States. Women were eligible for inclusion in the sample if they were currently married, previously married, or never married but had offspring living with them in the household.

Between January and September of 1976, 3,009 black women and 5,602 women of other races were interviewed. The interview focused on the respondents' marital and pregnancy histories, their use of contraception, whether each pregnancy was planned at the time of conception, their use of maternal care and family planning services, reproductive impairments, and a wide range of social and economic characteristics.

Characteristics such as age, race, Hispanic origin, parity, education, geographic region, labor force status, and religion are reported for the women interviewed. For convenience in writing, in this report the term "black couples" refers to couples with black wives and "couples 30-44 years of age" refers to couples with wives 30-44 years of age, regardless of the race or age of the husbands in those couples.

The statistics are estimates for the national population from which the sample was drawn. Because the estimates are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability. Also, nonsampling errors may have been introduced during data collection, processing, and analysis, although quality control measures were used at each stage to minimize error. Further discussion of the survey design, definition of terms, and sampling variability can be found both in the appendixes and in "Sample Design, Estimation

Procedures, and Variance Estimation: National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle II," Series 2, Number 87.[3]

The term "similar" means that any observed difference between two estimates being compared is not statistically significant; terms such as "greater," "less," "larger," and "smaller" indicate that the observed differences are statistically significant at the 5-percent level by using a 2-tailed *t*-test with 40 degrees of freedom. Statements about differences that are qualified in some way (e.g., the data suggest or some evidence) indicate that the difference is significant at the 10-percent level but not at the 5-percent level.

Sections discussing detailed findings for currently married women, previously married women, and single women with offspring follow this summary and background. Appendixes I-III contain technical notes, definitions of terms, and a reproduction of the survey questions on contraception.

CONTRACEPTIVE USE AMONG MARRIED COUPLES

Between 1960 and 1973, the proportion of currently married couples using contraception to plan their families increased from 50.4 percent in 1960[4] to 63.9 percent in 1965[5] and 69.6 percent in 1973.[4] In 1976, however, the proportion was essentially unchanged, but the distribution of methods continued to shift in important ways. The apparent decrease between 1973 and 1976 (table A) in the percent using contraception was caused by a change in the wording of the survey question on the contraceptive intent of surgical sterilization, and did not reflect any increase in the proportion of couples at risk of an unplanned pregnancy. More discussion of this topic can be found in two pertinent publications.[1,6]

Between 1965 and 1976 (table A), the percent of married couples using sterilization as a method of contraception increased dramatically, from 7.8 percent in 1965 to 18.6 percent in 1976. At the same time, the percent of couples using the oral contraceptive pill increased from 15.3 percent in 1965 to a high of 25.1 percent in 1973, but dropped to 22.5 percent in 1976.

Table A. Percent distribution of currently married women 15-44 years of age, by contraceptive status and method: United States, 1965, 1973, and 1976

Contraceptive status and method	1976	1973[1]	1965[2]
	Percent distribution		
All women	100.0	100.0	100.0
Contraceptors	67.7	69.6	63.9
Surgical	18.6	16.4	7.8
Nonsurgical	49.2	53.2	56.1
Pill	22.5	25.1	15.3
IUD	6.3	6.7	0.7
Other methods	20.3	21.4	40.1
Noncontraceptors	32.3	30.4	36.1
Noncontraceptively sterile	11.4	7.4	14.4
Pregnant, post partum or seeking pregnancy	13.3	14.2	14.2
Other nonuser	7.6	8.7	7.5

SOURCES: [1]See reference 1.

[2]Westoff, C. F.: The modernization of U.S. contraceptive practice. *Fam. Plann. Perspect.* 4(3):9-13, July 1972. table 2.

Similarly, use of the IUD increased from 0.7 percent of couples in 1965 to 6.7 percent in 1973, but decreased (nonsignificantly) to 6.3 percent in 1976.

The upward trend in use of the pill and IUD came to a halt by 1976, and was replaced by an apparent trend toward the use of surgical sterilization and contraceptive methods other than the pill and the IUD. Futhermore, this trend differed markedly among various segments of the population.[1,7]

This report focuses on differences in nonsurgical contraceptive practice between various groups in the United States in 1976. It is similar in scope and design to a previous report based on Cycle I of the NSFG.[4]

Women not using contraception were divided into three groups in this report: (1) those women who were pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy; (2) women who were sterile for reasons other than contraception; and (3) women who were other nonusers of contraception (table B). Most noncontracepting wives 15-29 years of age were pregnant, post partum, or trying to become pregnant; most noncontracepting wives 30-44 years of age were sterile or

Table B. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age and percent distribution by contraceptive status, according to race and age: United States, 1976

Race and age	Number of women in thousands	Contraceptive status					
		All women	Contraceptors		Noncontraceptors		
			Surgical	Non-surgical	Noncontra-ceptively sterile	Pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy	Other non-user
		Percent distribution					
All races[1]							
15-44 years	27,488	100.0	18.6	49.2	11.4	13.3	7.6
15-29 years	12,463	100.0	8.1	60.8	3.3	22.2	5.6
30-44 years	15,024	100.0	27.2	39.5	18.2	5.8	9.3
White							
15-44 years	24,795	100.0	19.3	49.5	11.4	12.7	7.1
15-29 years	11,218	100.0	8.5	61.5	3.1	21.8	5.1
30-44 years	13,577	100.0	28.2	39.6	18.2	5.2	8.7
Black							
15-44 years	2,169	100.0	12.7	45.9	11.7	16.4	13.3
15-29 years	993	100.0	5.4	55.6	5.4	23.9	9.6
30-44 years	1,177	100.0	18.8	37.7	17.0	10.1	16.4

[1]Includes white, black, and other races.

other nonusers. Among these other nonusers, the reasons for not using contraception may have included a low risk of pregnancy because of a fecundity impairment, indifference to the risk of pregnancy, or religious or personal objections to contraception.

The data in this report refer to the contraceptive status of women and the methods they used at the interview date. The proportion of couples who reported use of contraception at the interview is smaller than the proportion who have ever used a contraceptive method and somewhat smaller than the proportion who regularly use a contraceptive method. The 13.3 percent of women who were pregnant at the time of the interview, who were seeking pregnancy, or had just completed a pregnancy (post partum) included many who had previously used and would return to using contraceptive methods.

Couples may not be at risk of an unplanned pregnancy because they are definitely sterile, or because the wife is pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy. Tables 1 and 2 show the percent distribution of currently married couples in 1976 by detailed contraceptive status to show the relative importance of a number of these categories and their variations by age, race, and origin. These data are helpful in interpreting tables 3-22.

Sterility by sex and contraceptive intent.— For couples of all races and origins, 30.0 percent were sterile at the time of interview (table 1), almost all (28.2 percent) were surgically sterile, and only 1.7 percent were nonsurgically sterile. Although contraceptive surgical sterility was about evenly divided between husbands and wives, noncontraceptive surgical sterility was almost entirely among females. Thus, in odd-numbered tables 3-21, the category "noncontraceptively sterile" is predominantly *surgical* sterility among *females.*

Black couples were substantially less likely to be surgically sterile than white couples (21.6 percent compared with 29.0 percent) (table 1). This difference was because a much lower percent of black than white husbands had opera-

tions (1.7 percent compared with 10.5 percent, respectively). The percents of white and black couples with female operations were similar. Thus for white couples in the odd-numbered tables 3-21, the category "surgical contraceptors" is about half male and half female operations (although this varies with other characteristics as well). For black couples, however, this category reflects predominantly female operations.

Hispanic couples were much less likely to be surgically sterile (18.7 percent) than other couples (28.9 percent). Hispanic wives were less likely than other wives to be surgically sterile (14.0 percent compared with 18.7 percent); similarly, Hispanic husbands were less likely than other husbands to be surgically sterile (4.6 percent compared with 10.1 percent). This pattern contrasts with the difference in surgical sterilization between white and black couples, which was primarily due to the difference in the prevalence of male operations (table 1).

Pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy.—Data on contraceptive status by race and age appear in table 2. The percent pregnant or post partum ranged from 14.7 at 15-24 years of age to 1.1 percent at 35-44 years of age. The percent seeking pregnancy also declined as age increased, from 10.3 percent at 15-24 years of age to 2.0 percent at 35-44 years of age. The category "pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy," (which appears in odd-numbered tables 3-21) may be divided into pregnant or post partum and seeking pregnancy (see tables 1 and 2). Data in table 2 show that the relative share of this division changes with age. Among wives 15-24 years of age, about 59 percent of the women who were pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy were pregnant or post partum (14.7 percent divided by 25.0 percent), but at 35-44 years of age, this percent was only 35 (1.1 percent divided by 3.1 percent). Therefore, in the odd-numbered tables 3-21, at the younger ages most of the women in the category "pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy" were pregnant or post partum; at the older reproductive ages, most were trying to become pregnant.

Other nonusers.—The last category of noncontraceptors shown in the odd-numbered tables 3-21 is "other nonusers." It includes women who were not using contraception; did not report that it was impossible for them to have a baby; and were not pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy. Some of these women had fecundity impairments, but did not report that they were sterile; others were not using contraception for religious, esthetic, or other reasons.

Contraceptors.—Couples who were using contraception are divided into two groups: surgical contraceptors (those who had a sterilization operation because they had all the children they wanted) and nonsurgical contraceptors (those who were using methods such as the contraceptive pill, IUD, condom, etc.). Couples using nonsurgical methods of contraception (nonsurgical contraceptors) (table B) comprised 49.2 percent of all couples. In tables 1 and 2, the percent of couples using a particular method, such as the pill, is affected by two factors: (1) the percent who are using a nonsurgical method of contraception, and (2) the popularity of the particular method among those couples. To describe differences among social, racial, and age groups in the proportion using any nonsurgical method, the odd-numbered tables 3-21 show that category with the noncontraceptive categories that were previously discussed, based on all women. To describe differences in contraceptive method popularity, the even-numbered tables 4-22 show percents of women using particular methods, the base of which is limited to nonsurgical contraceptors.

Age and Race

The current contraceptive status of wives was strongly associated with their age at interview and their race. The age differences may reflect both differences in stages of the life cycle that persist in successive cohorts, and particular histories of the age cohorts represented. The differences by race may be caused by social and economic differences (e.g., education and income) between white and black couples, the greater dependence of black wives on public family planning clinics rather than on personal physicians,[8] or other factors.

The percent of currently married women using nonsurgical methods of contraception was sharply higher among the younger wives (60.8

percent of wives 15-29 years of age, compared with 39.5 percent of wives 30-44 years of age) (table B). Conversely, the percent using sterilization (surgical contraceptors) was much higher among the older wives (30-44 years of age) (table B).Thus the proportion of couples using some method of contraception was not sharply different by age—68.9 percent of the younger and 66.7 percent of the older wives used either surgical or nonsurgical methods of contraception.

The methods used by nonsurgical contraceptors differed substantially by age (tables C and 4). Among the younger contraceptive method users, a majority (57.8 percent) used the pill; 11.9 percent, the IUD; and 10.9 percent, the condom. No other method accounted for more than 6 percent of use among nonsurgical contraceptors 15-29 years of age.

Among nonsurgical contraceptors 30-44 years of age, only 30.4 percent used the pill, but it was still the leading method; 19.8 percent used the condom; 14.1 percent, the IUD; and 10.0 percent, the rhythm method.

Overall and in both 15-year age groups, white couples were more likely than black couples to be surgical contraceptors (table B and figure 1). Among the older couples this difference was almost 10 percentage points (28.2 percent compared with 18.8 percent). In addition, the younger white couples (wife 15-29 years of age) were more likely than the younger black couples to be using nonsurgical methods of contraception; however, among the older couples (wife 30-44 years of age), the percents using nonsurgical methods were similar for black and white couples.

The percent of black couples not using contraception was higher than that of white couples, overall and in both 15-year age groups (table B). Among the three types of nonuse, the principal reason for this difference appears in the other nonuser category: black couples, overall and in both age groups, were notably more likely than white couples to be other nonusers (table B). Among wives 30-44 years of age, black wives were also more likely than white wives to be pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy.

Among nonsurgical contraceptors (tables C and 4), the percents of white and black wives using the pill were similar in each 10- and 15-year age group. This similarity by race also held for the IUD. These findings by race represent a change from 1973, when black nonsurgical contraceptors were much more likely than white nonsurgical contraceptors to use the pill or IUD (75 percent compared with 59 percent).[4] By 1976 this 16 percentage point difference had

Table C. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives other than sterilization and percent distribution by method of contraception used, according to race and age: United States, 1976

Race and age	Number of women in thousands	Method of contraception									
		All methods	Pill	IUD	Diaphragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	Withdrawal	Douche	Other
All races[1]		Percent distribution									
15-44 years	13,511	100.0	45.8	12.9	5.9	14.8	6.1	6.9	4.2	1.4	2.1
15-29 years	7,574	100.0	57.8	11.9	4.4	10.9	5.4	4.5	2.8	0.7	1.6
30-44 years	5,937	100.0	30.4	14.1	7.7	19.8	6.9	10.0	5.9	2.4	2.7
White											
15-44 years	12,270	100.0	45.7	12.8	6.1	15.1	5.9	7.1	4.1	1.1	2.0
15-29 years	6,899	100.0	57.5	11.9	4.7	11.0	5.4	4.6	2.8	0.4	1.6
30-44 years	5,371	100.0	30.6	13.9	7.9	20.3	6.4	10.5	5.9	2.0	2.6
Black											
15-44 years	994	100.0	48.5	13.5	3.8	10.0	8.3	3.1	3.9	5.9	3.0
15-29 years	551	100.0	61.5	10.0	1.5	9.2	5.4	3.4	2.8	4.3	1.9
30-44 years	443	100.0	32.3	17.9	6.7	11.1	11.9	2.7	5.2	7.8	4.3

[1]Includes white, black, and other races.

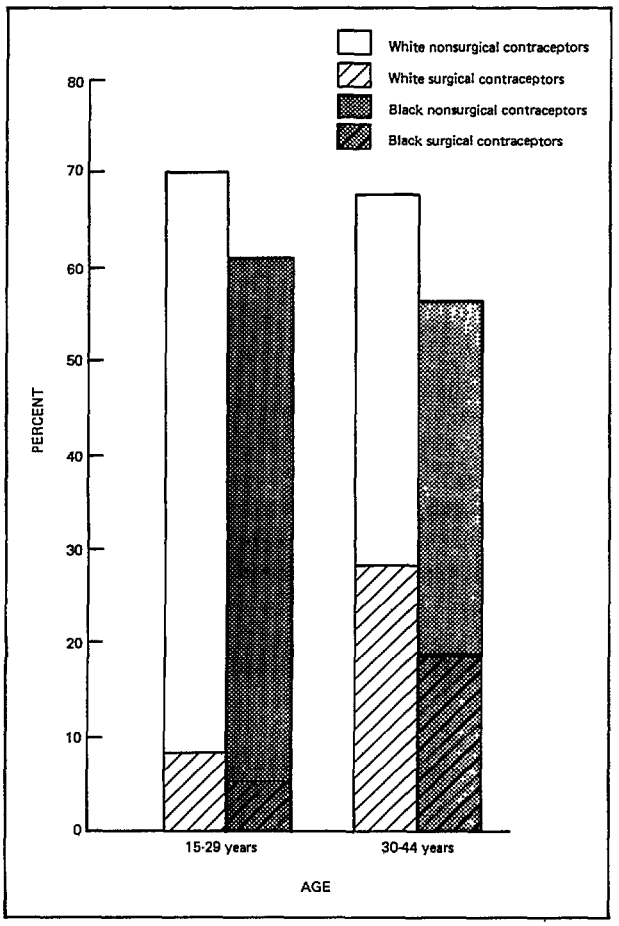

Figure 1. Percent of currently married women 15-44 years of age using surgical and nonsurgical methods of contraception, by race and age: United States, 1976

been reduced to a statistically nonsignificant 3.5 percentage points (table 4). The virtual disappearance of this differential is probably attributable to the increase between 1973 and 1976 in the use of methods other than the pill and the IUD among black couples.[7] Some observers have linked this increase among black couples to increases in abortions to black women, and speculated that unwanted births to black women might also increase if this trend continued.[9]

Hispanic Origin

Hispanic women 15-29 years of age were *more* likely than other wives (table 5) to be pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy. Among those 30-44 years of age, Hispanic wives were more likely than other women to be other nonusers. As a result, wives of Hispanic origin were substantially more likely to be noncontraceptors (40.5 percent) than other wives (31.8 percent).

At the same time, Hispanic couples were substantially *less* likely than other couples to be contraceptively sterile (surgical contraceptors). These differences counterbalanced each other; therefore, the percents of couples who were nonsurgical contraceptors were not significantly different by Hispanic origin—overall or in either age group (table 5).

Among nonsurgical contraceptors (table 6 and figure 2), Hispanic wives were considerably more likely than other wives to be using the IUD (23.7 percent, compared with 12.2 percent). This difference was present at 15-29 years of age, and the data suggest that it was also present at 30-44 years of age. The percents of Hispanic and other wives using the pill and the rhythm method were similar.

Region

Differences in contraceptive status and method choice among the four major geographic regions may be related to varying age, race, and ethnic composition; socioeconomic and religious composition; variations in medical practice and family planning services; or other factors.

The percent of couples who were contraceptively sterile (surgical contraceptors) was *lower*

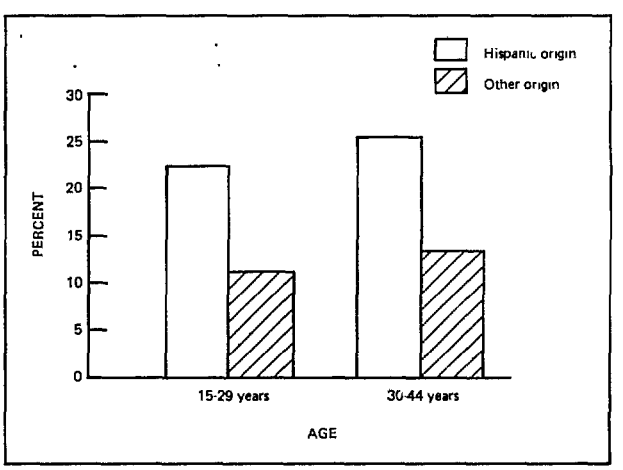

Figure 2. Percent of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives other than sterilization who were using the IUD, by origin and age: United States, 1976

and the percent using nonsurgical methods was *higher* in the Northeast Region than in the other regions (table 7). These differences were consistent and significant for couples of all races and white couples, but they were not evident at all for black couples. Finally, the percent of white couples who were other nonusers was higher in the Northeast Region than in the other regions.

Among nonsurgical contraceptors (table 8), four differences in method choice by geographic region were found; all of these were present for women of all races and white women. Use of the pill was *lower* in the Northeast Region than in the other regions; and the percent using the IUD was *higher* in the West Region than in the other regions. The percent of contraceptive method users who used the diaphragm ranged from about 10 percent in the Northeast Region to about 3 percent in the South Region. Finally, the percent using the rhythm method ranged from about 10 percent in the Northeast Region to about 5 percent in the West and South Regions.

Poverty Level 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 U.S. Bureau of the Census. Because income was less completely reported than other items, special caution should be used in interpreting findings that use this measure (see appendix II). Differences in contraceptive status between poverty level income groups (table 9) were generally not statistically significant. However, the percent of couples who were noncontraceptively sterile was *lower* for poor couples than for couples at 200 percent or more poverty level income. In contrast, the percent of other nonusers was *higher* for couples below the poverty level than it was in the highest income category. It is possible that this difference reflects better diagnosis of fecundity impairments among high-income couples, or age differences between the income categories, or both.

The distribution of methods used by nonsurgical contraceptors varied with poverty level income, particularly among wives 15-29 years of age (table 10). The data suggest that use of the pill was less common among high-income contraceptive method users than among those with incomes below the poverty level at ages 15-29 years (56.6 percent compared with 68.1 percent, respectively). Use of the diaphragm was higher among high-income women 15-29 years of age (4.2 percent) than among poor women (0.7 percent). Among nonsurgical contraceptors 15-44 years of age, 6.1 percent of high-income women and 1.7 percent of women with incomes below the poverty level used the diaphragm.

Parity

Contraceptive status and methods used are shown according to parity (the number of live births a woman had) in tables 11 and 12. Differences by parity are intended to indicate stages of family growth, but may also be related to the age composition of parity groups.

The percent of couples using sterilization (surgical contraceptors) (table 11) increased sharply with parity; this pattern was strong and significant for wives 15-44 and 30-44 years of age. Among wives 15-29 years of age, the differences were large, but one of the percents was unreliable.

Conversely, the percent of wives using nonsurgical methods of contraception decreased sharply with parity, from 56.1 percent of wives with 0-1 child to 27.9 percent of wives with 5 children or more (figure 3). For wives 15-29 years of age, the range was from 63.6 to 29.4 percent, respectively. Among wives 30-44 years of age, however, the pattern was different: the percent using nonsurgical methods *increased* from 34.3 percent of wives with 0-1 child to 43.4 percent of wives with 2-4 children (figure 3). This difference is probably related to the high percent of older wives with 0 or 1 child who were pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy (18.4 percent compared with only 3.2 percent of wives 30-44 years of age with 2-4 children).

The percent of wives who were not using contraception was lowest for those with 2-4 children (25.7 percent) (figure 4). Among women with 0 or 1 child, 41.2 percent were not using contraception, most of whom (25.3 percent) were pregnant, post partum, or seeking

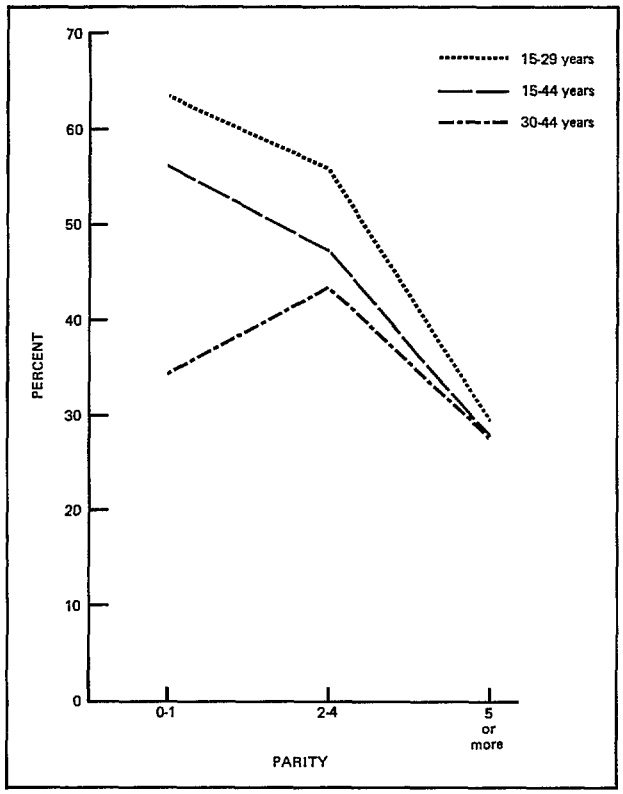

Figure 3. Percent of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives other than sterilization, by age and parity: United States, 1976

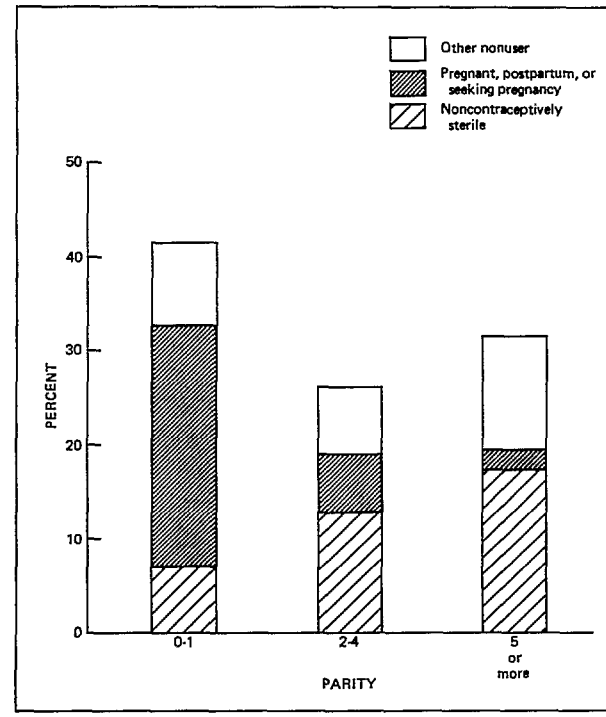

Figure 4. Percent of currently married women 15-44 years of age not using contraception, by type of nonuse and parity: United States, 1976

pregnancy. Of women with 5 or more children, 31.8 percent were not using contraception, and only 2.2 percent were pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy.

Among nonsurgical contraceptors 15-44 years of age, the percent using the pill decreased from 56.2 percent at parity 0-1 to 27.7 percent at parity 5 or more, a difference of almost 30 percentage points (table 12). However, within age groups 15-29 and 30-44 years, the percent using the pill differed by less than 10 percentage points across parity groups. In addition, differences within the two age groups between adjacent parity categories (0-1 and 2-4, 2-4 and 5 or more) were not statistically significant in 3 of 4 comparisons. Therefore, much of the parity difference was related to age: higher parity women are older than lower parity women, and as shown in table 4, older women were less likely to use the pill. Nonetheless, in each of the nine age-parity categories for women of all races, the pill was the most popular method.

Labor Force Status

Among wives 15-29 years of age, those in the labor force were more likely than those not in the labor force to use nonsurgical methods of contraception, and less likely to be pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy (table 13). Among young wives (15-29 years of age) in the labor force, 66.5 percent were nonsurgical contraceptors, compared with 55.4 percent of young wives not in the labor force. Among wives 15-29 years of age, 18.0 percent of those in the labor force and 26.1 percent of those not in the labor force were pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy.

The principal difference by labor force status in method choice among nonsurgical contraceptors was a greater reliance on the pill among those in the labor force (table 14). Wives in the labor force were more likely to use the pill than

those not in the labor force. This difference was evident for both white and black wives. Among black wives 15-44 years of age, 52.9 percent of nonsurgical contraceptors in the labor force used the pill, compared with 40.5 percent of those not in the labor force. The percents of couples of all races using the IUD were not significantly different for those with wives in and out of the labor force; the same finding was true for the condom.

Education

Overall and in both age groups (15-29 and 30-44 years), the percent of wives using nonsurgical methods of contraception increased sharply with education (table 15 and figure 5). In contrast, the percent using surgical methods of contraception ranged from 21.7 percent for wives with less than a high school education to 15.4 percent for wives with 1 year or more of college.

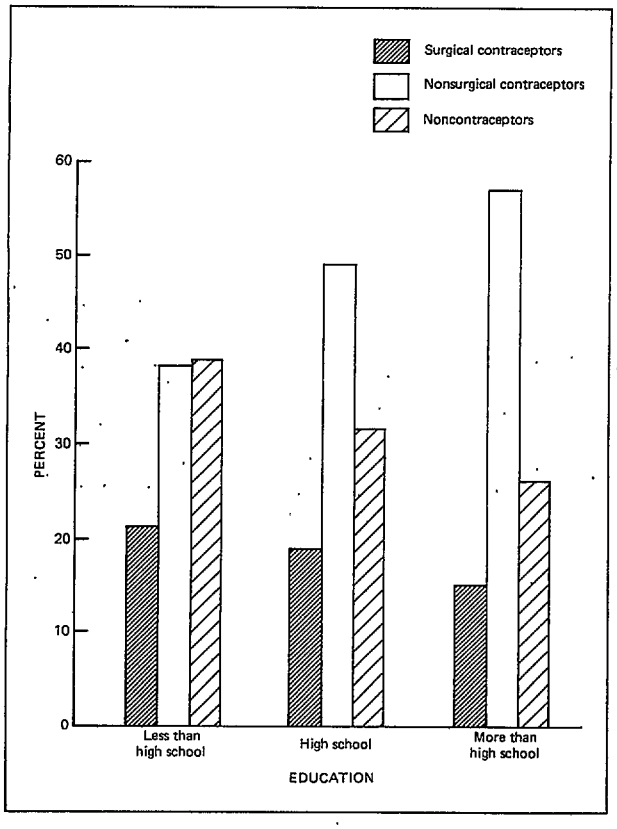

Figure 5. Percent of currently married women 15-44 years of age, by contraceptive status and education: United States, 1976

Furthermore, the percent not using contraception decreased as education increased (figure 5). This pattern appears to reflect noncontraceptive sterility, which decreased as education increased among wives 15-44 years of age.

Among nonsurgical contraceptors, the percent using the pill ranged from 50.0 percent of wives with less than a high school education to 41.7 percent of wives with 1 year or more of college (table 16). In contrast, overall and in both age groups, use of the diaphragm was more common among wives with 1 year or more of college than among wives with 12 years of education or less.

Religion

The following discussion will be restricted to white women, because the number of black women in some religion categories was too small to make statistically reliable comparisons.

Catholic wives were *more* likely than Protestant wives to use nonsurgical methods of contraception. This statement is related to the finding that Catholic couples were much *less* likely than Protestant couples to be contraceptively sterile (table 17). Among white wives 15-44 years of age, 53.8 percent of Catholic and 46.0 percent of Protestant women were using nonsurgical methods. The percent of Protestant couples who were contraceptively sterile was 22.8; this percent was significantly higher than that of Catholic couples (13.6 percent), Jewish couples (12.1 percent), and those with no religion (14.1 percent).

Among white women using nonsurgical methods of contraception (table 18), Catholic wives were more likely than Protestant wives to use the rhythm method and less likely to use the pill. For both methods, these differences were significant overall at 15-44 years of age; significant and large among the wives 30-44 years of age, and small and not statistically significant among wives 15-29 years of age (figure 6).

Jewish nonsurgical contraceptors and those with no religion were more likely to use the diaphragm than Protestant wives.

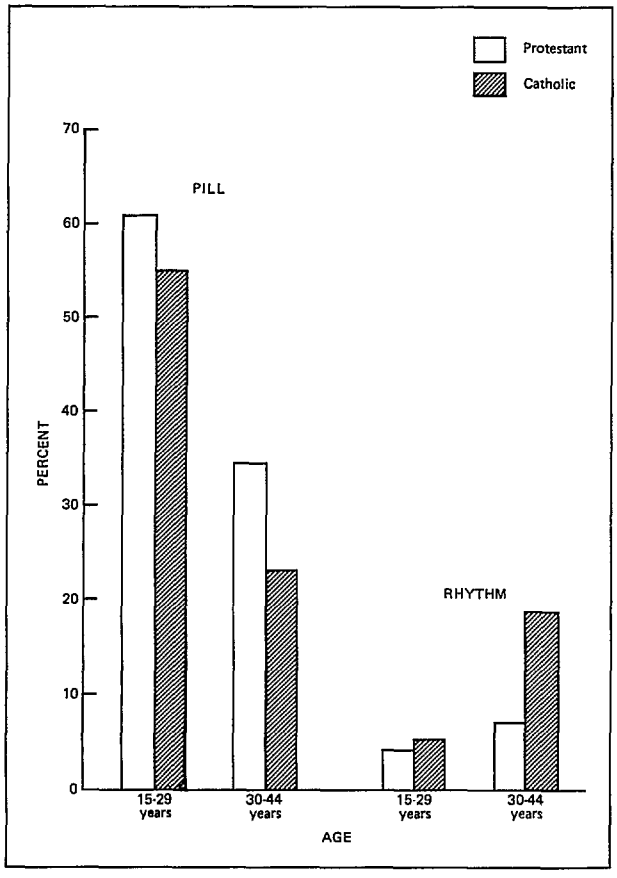

Figure 6. Percent of currently married white women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives other than sterilization who were using the oral contraceptive pill and percent using rhythm, by religion and age: United States, 1976

CONTRACEPTIVE USE AMONG WIDOWED, DIVORCED, AND SEPARATED WOMEN

The data in tables 19 and 20 are revised estimates of the current contraceptive status of widowed, divorced, and separated women in the United States in 1976. For convenience, these women will be referred to collectively as postmarried women. Preliminary data on the contraceptive status of postmarried women in 1976 were published in *Advance Data* No. 40;[2] the data in tables 19, 20, and D supersede those preliminary estimates.

In analyzing data on contraceptive use by married women the assumption was made implicitly that they were sexually active, and if not sterile, exposed to the risk of pregnancy. Although some unmarried women do become pregnant, many do not have intercourse or do so infrequently, therefore, many unmarried women may have no regular need for contraceptives. Contraceptive status of the unmarried women in the sample was determined according to the rules used for married women, with some modifications: (1) unmarried women who were not using a contraceptive method were not asked if they were trying to become pregnant, and those who were seeking pregnancy would fall into the other nonuser category; (2) unmarried women were not asked about the sterility of male partners; therefore, only female procedures were included in the sterile categories.

Table D shows data on the contraceptive status of postmarried women in 1973 and 1976. One important difference between those years is the 21-percent increase in the number of postmarried women (from 3,601,000 to 4,359,000), compared with a 3-percent increase among currently married women. The increase was about 23 percent among white postmarried women and only 11 percent among black postmarried women. The rapid growth in the population of postmarried women reflects an earlier growth in the population of young married women, the high and rising divorce rate, and the declining remarriage rate.

Another notable feature of table D is that black women comprised about 1 out of 4 postmarried women in 1976, but only about 1 in 13 currently married women. This disproportionate representation of black women among the postmarried is attributable to the higher rates of separation and divorce and lower probability of remarriage among black than among white women.[10,11]

Between 1973 and 1976 (table D), the percent of postmarried women who were other nonusers dropped almost 15 percentage points, from 45.3 percent in 1973 to 30.6 percent in 1976. Most of this decline in nonuse of contraception was accounted for by an increase of almost 5 percentage points in surgical sterility and an increase of about 6 percentage points in

Table D. Number of widowed, divorced, and separated women 15-44 years of age and percent distribution by contraceptive status and method, according to race: United States, 1973 and 1976

Contraceptive status and method	All races[1]		White		Black	
	1976	1973[2]	1976	1973[2]	1976	1973[2]
	Number in thousands					
All women	4,359	3,601	3,134	2,546	1,145	1,028
	Percent distribution					
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
STERILE WOMEN						
All sterile women	27.7	21.4	26.6	20.3	30.5	24.4
Surgically sterile	25.5	20.9	24.8	19.9	27.7	23.5
Contraceptively sterile	13.7	12.3	13.1	11.1	15.2	15.3
Noncontraceptively sterile	11.7	8.4	11.7	8.6	12.5	8.2
Nonsurgically sterile	2.2	*0.5	1.8	*0.3	2.9	*0.9
FECUND WOMEN						
Noncontraceptors						
Pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy	1.7	2.9	1.3	2.3	2.9	4.5
Other nonuser	30.6	45.3	30.7	47.4	28.5	39.2
Contraceptors						
All methods	40.0	30.4	41.4	30.1	38.1	31.9
Pill	24.3	18.1	26.1	18.6	20.4	17.2
IUD	8.0	7.2	7.9	7.0	8.9	7.9
Diaphragm	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.2	*0.6
Condom	1.6	*0.9	1.8	1.1	1.5	*0.5
Foam	1.2	*0.7	1.0	*0.4	2.0	*1.6
Rhythm	1.0	*0.4	1.2	*0.4	0.6	*0.4
Withdrawal	0.4	*0.3	0.2	*0.4	0.9	*0.0
Douche	0.9	*0.3	0.8	-	1.3	*1.1
Other	1.3	1.2	1.3	*0.7	1.5	2.5

[1]Includes white, black, and other races.
[2]For 1973 data, see reference 2.

use of the pill. The increase in use of the pill among the rapidly growing group of white postmarried women was almost 8 percentage points—from 18.6 in 1973 to 26.1 percent in 1976. Among black postmarried women, the increase was not statistically significant.

The increase in surgical sterilization between 1973 and 1976 among postmarried women (4.6 percentage points) was comparable to the increase among currently married women (5.3 percentage points). Among postmarried women, the percent using the pill increased by 6.2 percentage points, but decreased by 2.6 percentage points among currently married women.

In 1976, the percent of postmarried women who were other nonusers (30.6 percent) was substantially higher than that of currently married women (7.6 percent). This difference probably reflects a higher percent of postmarried than currently married women who were not sexually active.

Overall and at 30-44 years of age, the percents of white and black postmarried women who were contraceptively sterile were similar

(table 19). Because only female sterilizations are included, this finding parallels the white-black similarity in female surgical sterilization among currently married women (table 1).

Among postmarried nonsurgical contraceptors, 60.8 percent used the pill, and 20.1 percent used the IUD. The pill accounted for 70.9 percent of nonsurgical contraceptors among postmarried women 15-29 years of age, compared with 49.0 percent among postmarried women 30-44 years of age (table 20). This difference by age was present for both white and black women.

Despite striking increases between 1973 and 1976 in the number and percent of postmarried women who reported using contraception, the pattern of method preference among postmarried nonsurgical contraceptors was similar in 1973 and 1976. No statistically significant differences were found between 1973 and 1976 in in the percent of postmarried nonsurgical contraceptors who reported using the pill, the IUD, or methods other than the pill or IUD as a group. This finding was true for women of all races, and white and black women.

CONTRACEPTIVE USE AMONG NEVER-MARRIED WOMEN WITH OFFSPRING IN THE HOUSEHOLD

Never-married women with offspring living in the household will be referred to as single mothers. The single mothers are not representative of all never-married women. Many never-married women experience pregnancies; however, the outcomes do not always result in having their baby live with them. Sometimes these pregnancies result in fetal losses, induced abortions, or adoptions. Women who were single mothers in the past may be excluded from this category because of marriage; those who had married by the survey date were included with the currently married or postmarried groups. In 1976 the 1.1 million single mothers comprised about 6 percent of the 17.7 million never-married women 15-44 years of age.[12] A recent report based on the National Survey of Family Growth contained selected characteristics of single mothers: about 69 percent were black women; 65 percent were under 25 years of age; 61 percent had incomes below the poverty level; 57 percent had less than a high school education; and 70 percent received Aid to Families with Dependent Children.[13]

In 1976, 57.0 percent of single mothers were using nonsurgical methods of contraception (table 21). Use of nonsurgical methods was more common among single mothers 15-29 years of age than among those 30-44 years of age. Among single mothers who were nonsurgical contraceptors, 64.1 percent used the pill, and 21.0 percent used the IUD (table 22).

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[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Contraceptive status and method	Total[1]	Race		Origin	
		White	Black	Hispanic[2]	Other
	Number in thousands				
All women	27,488	24,795	2,169	1,699	25,741
	Percent distribution				
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sterile	30.0	30.7	24.4	20.2	30.6
Surgically sterile	28.2	29.0	21.6	18.7	28.9
Contraceptively sterile	18.6	19.3	12.7	10.7	19.1
Female	9.5	9.6	10.9	6.9	9.7
Male	9.0	9.7	*1.7	*3.8	9.4
Noncontraceptively sterile	9.7	9.7	9.0	8.0	9.8
Female	8.9	8.9	8.7	7.1	9.0
Male	0.7	0.8	-	*0.8	0.7
Nonsurgically sterile	1.7	1.7	2.7	*1.5	1.8
Pregnant, post partum	6.8	6.8	6.8	13.5	6.4
Seeking pregnancy	6.5	5.9	9.6	7.0	6.4
Other nonuser	7.6	7.1	13.3	10.5	7.4
Nonsurgical contraceptors	49.2	49.5	45.9	48.8	49.1
Pill	22.5	22.6	22.2	20.4	22.6
IUD	6.3	6.3	6.2	11.6	6.0
Diaphragm	2.9	3.0	1.8	*2.4	2.9
Condom	7.3	7.5	4.6	6.1	7.4
Foam	3.0	2.9	3.8	*3.5	3.0
Rhythm	3.4	3.5	*1.4	*3.1	3.4
Withdrawal	2.0	2.1	1.8	*1.2	2.1
Douche	0.7	0.6	2.7	*0.1	0.8
Other	1.0	1.0	*1.4	*0.5	1.1

[1] Includes white, black, and other races; also includes unknown origin.
[2] Includes all women reporting any Hispanic origin, regardless of race or other ethnic origins reported; women of Hispanic origin are included in the statistics by race.

Table 2. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age and percent distribution by contraceptive status and method, according to race and age: United States, 1976

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Contraceptive status and method	Total	All races[1]			White			Black		
		15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years
	Number in thousands									
All women	27,488	6,020	12,179	9,288	5,412	10,993	8,390	509	912	749
	Percent distribution									
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	00.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sterile	30.0	4.2	27.3	50.1	4.1	28.4	50.8	6.3	18.3	44.0
Surgically sterile	28.2	3.9	25.8	47.1	3.8	26.9	48.0	*5.1	16.5	39.1
Contraceptively sterile	18.6	3.5	19.1	27.7	3.5	20.1	28.5	4.0	9.6	22.3
Female	9.5	2.4	10.4	12.9	2.4	10.7	12.6	*3.7	9.2	17.9
Male	9.0	*1.0	8.6	14.8	*1.1	9.3	15.9	*0.3	*0.4	*4.3
Noncontraceptively sterile	9.7	*0.4	6.8	19.4	*0.4	6.8	19.5	1.1	6.9	16.8
Female	8.9	*0.4	6.0	18.3	*0.4	6.0	18.3	*1.1	6.3	16.7
Male	0.7	-	0.7	1.2	-	0.8	1.2	-	-	-
Nonsurgically sterile	1.7	*0.4	1.5	3.0	*0.3	1.5	2.8	1.2	1.8	4.9
Pregnant, post partum	6.8	14.7	7.3	*1.1	14.8	7.2	*1.1	11.2	9.4	*0.7
Seeking pregnancy	6.5	10.3	8.0	2.0	9.7	7.4	1.6	14.4	11.3	*4.2
Other nonuser	7.6	5.8	5.6	11.4	5.2	5.3	10.7	13.3	7.8	20.0
Nonsurgical contraceptors	49.2	64.9	51.8	35.5	66.3	51.7	35.8	54.7	53.1	31.1
Pill	22.5	42.9	23.5	7.9	43.9	23.4	7.9	35.8	26.6	7.7
IUD	6.3	6.3	7.6	4.7	6.3	7.5	4.8	*6.0	7.2	*5.1
Diaphragm	2.9	2.5	3.0	2.9	2.8	3.2	3.0	*0.2	1.7	*2.9
Condom	7.3	5.1	7.5	8.4	5.3	7.6	8.7	*3.3	5.6	*4.3
Foam	3.0	2.9	3.2	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.8	*2.0	4.3	4.5
Rhythm	3.4	2.6	3.2	4.2	2.6	3.4	4.3	*3.4	*0.4	*1.4
Withdrawal	2.0	1.6	2.0	2.3	1.6	1.9	2.5	*1.9	2.2	*1.3
Douche	0.7	*0.3	0.6	1.2	*0.2	0.3	*1.1	*1.0	4.1	*2.2
Other	1.0	*0.7	1.3	*0.9	*0.7	1.3	*0.8	*1.3	*1.0	*1.8

[1] Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 3. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age and percent distribution by contraceptive status, according to race and age: United States, 1976

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Race and age	Number of women in thousands	Contraceptive status						
		All women	Contraceptors		Noncontraceptors			
			Surgical	Non-surgical	Total	Noncontra-ceptively sterile	Pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy	Other non-user
		Percent distribution						
All races[1]								
15-44 years	27,488	100.0	18.6	49.2	32.3	11.4	13.3	7.6
15-24 years	6,020	100.0	*3.5	64.9	31.6	*0.8	25.1	*5.8
15-19 years	1,043	100.0	*0.8	68.6	30.6	*0.2	23.6	*6.8
20-24 years	4,977	100.0	*4.0	64.1	31.9	*0.9	25.3	*5.6
25-34 years	12,179	100.0	19.1	51.8	29.1	8.3	15.2	*5.6
25-29 years	6,443	100.0	12.5	56.9	30.6	*5.6	19.6	*5.4
30-34 years	5,736	100.0	26.4	46.1	27.5	11.3	*10.3	*5.8
35-44 years	9,288	100.0	27.7	35.5	36.9	22.4	*3.1	11.4
35-39 years	4,814	100.0	28.9	37.6	33.5	19.1	*4.0	*10.4
40-44 years	4,474	100.0	26.4	33.1	40.5	26.0	*2.1	12.4
White								
15-44 years	24,795	100.0	19.3	49.5	31.2	11.4	12.7	7.1
15-24 years	5,412	100.0	3.5	66.3	30.3	*0.7	24.4	5.2
25-34 years	10,993	100.0	20.1	51.7	28.2	8.3	14.6	5.3
35-44 years	8,390	100.0	28.5	35.8	35.8	22.4	*2.7	10.7
Black								
15-44 years	2,169	100.0	12.7	45.9	41.4	11.7	16.4	13.3
15-24 years	509	100.0	*4.0	54.7	41.3	*2.3	25.6	*13.3
25-34 years	912	100.0	9.6	53.1	37.3	8.7	20.8	7.8
35-44 years	749	100.0	22.3	31.1	46.6	21.8	*4.9	20.0

[1]Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 4. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives other than sterilization and percent distribution by method of contraception used, according to race and age: United States, 1976

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Race and age	Number of women in thousands	Method of contraception									
		All methods	Pill	IUD	Dia-phragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	With-drawal	Douche	Other
		Percent distribution									
All races[1]											
15-44 years	13,511	100.0	45.8	12.9	5.9	14.8	6.1	6.9	4.2	1.4	2.1
15-24 years	3,907	100.0	66.1	9.6	*3.8	7.9	*4.5	*4.0	*2.5	*0.4	*1.1
15-19 years	716	100.0	71.8	9.4	*2.4	*6.9	*3.8	*2.9	*1.9	-	*0.8
20-24 years	3,191	100.0	64.8	9.7	*4.1	8.1	*4.6	*4.3	*2.6	*0.5	*1.2
25-34 years	6,313	100.0	45.4	14.6	*5.8	14.4	*6.1	*6.1	*3.9	*1.1	*2.4
25-29 years	3,667	100.0	49.0	14.2	5.0	14.1	6.5	5.1	*3.0	*1.0	*2.0
30-34 years	2,646	100.0	40.4	15.2	7.0	14.9	5.5	7.6	5.1	*1.3	*3.0
35-44 years	3,291	100.0	22.3	13.3	8.3	23.8	8.1	11.9	6.6	3.3	*2.4
35-39 years	1,808	100.0	24.7	17.7	9.8	18.9	9.0	9.2	*6.3	*2.5	*1.8
40-44 years	1,483	100.0	19.3	8.0	6.4	29.7	7.0	15.3	7.0	*4.2	*3.3
White											
15-44 years	12,270	100.0	45.7	12.8	6.1	15.1	5.9	7.1	4.1	1.1	2.0
15-24 years	3,587	100.0	66.2	9.5	4.1	8.0	4.4	3.9	*2.5	*0.3	*1.1
25-34 years	5,687	100.0	45.3	14.5	6.1	14.7	5.8	6.6	3.7	*0.6	2.5
35-44 years	2,996	100.0	22.0	13.3	8.4	24.3	7.7	12.1	6.9	3.0	*2.2
Black											
15-44 years	994	100.0	48.5	13.5	3.8	10.0	8.3	3.1	3.9	5.9	3.0
15-24 years	278	100.0	65.4	*10.9	*0.3	*6.1	*3.6	*6.1	*3.4	*1.8	*2.3
25-34 years	484	100.0	50.2	13.7	*3.2	10.6	8.1	*0.7	*4.1	7.7	*1.9
35-44 years	233	100.0	24.7	16.5	*9.4	*13.7	*14.4	*4.4	*4.1	*7.0	*5.9

[1]Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 5. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age and percent distribution by contraceptive status, according to origin and age: United States, 1976

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Origin and age	Number of women in thousands	Contraceptive status						
		All women	Contraceptors		Noncontraceptors			
			Surgical	Non-surgical	Total	Noncontra-ceptively sterile	Pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy	Other non-user
		Percent distribution						
All origins[1]								
15-44 years	27,488	100.0	18.6	49.2	32.3	11.4	13.3	7.6
Hispanic[2]								
15-44 years	1,699	100.0	10.7	48.8	40.5	9.5	20.5	10.5
15-29 years	834	100.0	*4.8	59.6	35.6	*0.8	30.8	*4.0
30-44 years	865	100.0	16.4	38.4	45.2	17.9	*10.5	16.7
Other origins								
15-44 years	25,741	100.0	19.1	49.1	31.8	11.5	12.8	7.4
15-29 years	11,624	100.0	8.4	60.8	30.8	3.4	21.6	5.7
30-44 years	14,117	100.0	27.9	39.5	32.6	18.2	5.6	8.8

[1] Includes women of unknown origin.

[2] Includes all women reporting any Hispanic origin, regardless of race or other ethnic origins reported; women of Hispanic origin are included in the statistics by race.

Table 6. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives other than sterilization and percent distribution by method of contraception used, according to origin and age: United States, 1976

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Origin and age	Number of women in thousands	Method of contraception									
		All methods	Pill	IUD	Dia-phragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	With-drawal	Douche	Other
All origins[1]		Percent distribution									
15-44 years	13,511	100.0	45.8	12.9	5.9	14.8	6.1	6.9	4.2	1.4	2.1
Hispanic[2]											
15-44 years	829	100.0	41.9	23.7	*4.9	12.4	*7.1	*6.3	*2.5	*0.2	*1.0
15-29 years	497	100.0	50.8	22.5	*3.8	*11.1	*5.6	*3.2	*2.4	-	*0.5
30-44 years	332	100.0	28.5	25.5	*6.7	*14.3	*9.4	*10.9	*2.6	*0.6	*1.6
Other origins											
15-44 years	12,637	100.0	45.9	12.2	5.9	15.0	6.1	7.0	4.3	1.5	2.1
15-29 years	7,072	100.0	58.3	11.1	4.4	10.9	5.4	4.6	2.8	0.8	1.7
30-44 years	5,566	100.0	30.2	13.5	7.8	20.1	6.8	10.0	6.2	2.5	2.8

[1] Includes women of unknown origin.
[2] Includes all women reporting any Hispanic origin, regardless of race or other ethnic origins reported; women of Hispanic origin are included in the statistics by race.

Table 7. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age and percent distribution by contraceptive status, according to geographic region, race, and age: United States, 1976

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Geographic region, race,[1] and age	Number of women in thousands	Contraceptive status						
		All women	Contraceptors		Noncontraceptors			
			Surgical	Non-surgical	Total	Noncontra-ceptively sterile	Pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy	Other non-user
		Percent distribution						
NORTHEAST								
All races								
15-44 years	5,561	100.0	13.0	53.8	33.3	8.6	13.5	11.1
15-24 years	963	100.0	*1.4	61.2	37.4	*1.1	29.2	*7.1
25-34 years	2,545	100.0	13.5	58.2	28.3	*4.0	14.9	9.3
35-44 years	2,052	100.0	17.7	44.8	37.5	17.8	*4.3	15.4
White								
15-44 years	5,100	100.0	13.3	54.5	32.2	8.8	12.7	10.7
15-29 years	1,998	100.0	5.7	60.9	33.4	*2.8	23.0	7.6
30-44 years	3,102	100.0	18.2	50.4	31.4	12.6	6.1	12.7
Black								
15-44 years	342	100.0	12.2	51.6	36.2	*9.1	12.9	14.1
15-29 years	121	100.0	*6.3	70.9	*22.8	*2.8	*13.4	*6.6
30-44 years	220	100.0	15.5	40.9	43.6	*12.7	*12.7	18.3
NORTH CENTRAL								
All races								
15-44 years	7,893	100.0	19.8	48.0	32.3	12.7	12.9	6.7
15-24 years	1,778	100.0	*4.3	65.6	30.1	*0.8	24.3	*4.9
25-34 years	3,491	100.0	21.2	50.2	28.6	9.3	14.8	4.5
35-44 years	2,624	100.0	28.4	33.0	38.6	25.1	*2.5	10.9
White								
15-44 years	7,479	100.0	20.2	47.8	32.0	12.9	12.7	6.4
15-29 years	3,463	100.0	8.9	62.1	29.0	*2.1	22.7	4.2
30-44 years	4,016	100.0	30.0	35.5	34.5	22.2	4.0	8.3
Black								
15-44 years	304	100.0	13.2	45.3	41.5	11.4	15.0	15.1
15-29 years	118	100.0	*4.7	55.2	40.1	*6.4	*19.7	*14.0
30-44 years	186	100.0	18.6	39.0	42.4	14.6	*11.9	15.9
SOUTH								
All races								
15-44 years	9,213	100.0	18.5	48.6	32.9	12.3	13.3	7.2
15-24 years	2,262	100.0	*2.8	67.5	29.6	*1.0	22.1	6.5
25-34 years	3,933	100.0	19.2	49.0	31.8	10.2	16.2	5.4
35-44 years	3,017	100.0	29.4	33.9	36.7	23.6	2.9	10.1

[1] Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 7. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age and percent distribution by contraceptive status, according to geographic region, race, and age: United States, 1976—Con.

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Geographic region, race,[1] and age	Number of women in thousands	Contraceptive status						
		All women	Contraceptors		Noncontraceptors			
			Surgical	Non-surgical	Total	Noncontra-ceptively sterile	Pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy	Other non-user
SOUTH—Con.		Percent distribution						
White								
15-44 years	7,838	100.0	19.6	49.2	31.2	12.4	12.4	6.4
15-29 years	3,720	100.0	8.6	61.9	29.6	4.5	19.6	5.4
30-44 years	4,118	100.0	29.6	37.7	32.7	19.5	5.9	7.3
Black								
15-44 years	1,281	100.0	13.0	44.2	42.8	12.5	17.5	12.9
15-29 years	645	100.0	*5.4	53.1	41.5	*6.7	25.1	9.7
30-44 years	637	100.0	20.7	35.1	44.2	18.3	9.9	16.0
WEST								
All races								
15-44 years	4,821	100.0	23.0	47.0	30.0	10.8	13.6	5.6
15-24 years	1,016	100.0	*5.2	61.5	33.3	-	28.7	*4.5
25-34 years	2,210	100.0	21.9	52.1	26.0	8.1	14.6	*3.3
35-44 years	1,595	100.0	36.0	30.6	33.5	21.5	*2.6	9.4
White								
15-44 years	4,378	100.0	24.1	47.1	28.7	10.2	13.3	5.3
15-29 years	2,037	100.0	10.3	60.3	29.3	*2.9	22.7	*3.7
30-44 years	2,341	100.0	36.2	35.6	28.2	16.5	5.1	6.6
Black								
15-44 years	242	100.0	*10.8	47.6	41.5	11.7	17.6	12.2
15-29 years	108	100.0	*5.3	53.5	41.3	-	33.5	*7.7
30-44 years	134	100.0	*15.4	42.9	41.7	*21.3	*4.6	*15.9

[1] Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 8. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives other than sterilization and percent distribution by method of contraception used, according to geographic region, race, and age: United States, 1976

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Geographic region, race,[1] and age	Number of women in thousands	Method of contraception									
		All methods	Pill	IUD	Dia-phragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	With-drawal	Douche	Other
		Percent distribution									
NORTHEAST											
All races											
15-44 years	2,990	100.0	32.3	12.4	9.9	19.2	6.3	10.0	6.7	0.7	2.3
15-24 years	590	100.0	54.4	*10.4	*5.2	*11.2	*6.4	*8.3	*4.2	-	-
25-34 years	1,482	100.0	36.6	12.6	10.9	17.7	*6.0	*6.4	*6.2	*0.9	*2.8
35-44 years	918	100.0	11.3	13.5	11.2	27.0	*6.8	17.1	*9.3	*0.7	*3.0
White											
15-44 years	2,780	100.0	33.0	11.8	10.2	19.5	5.7	10.0	7.0	*0.4	*2.5
15-29 years	1,217	100.0	47.0	10.1	*8.7	15.3	*6.1	*5.7	*5.0	*0.5	*1.4
30-44 years	1,563	100.0	22.0	13.1	11.4	22.8	*5.3	13.2	8.5	*0.4	*3.3
Black											
15-44 years	176	100.0	*24.7	*14.8	*6.1	*18.3	*16.5	*9.9	*4.5	*4.7	*0.6
15-29 years	86	100.0	*29.2	*11.6	*1.5	*23.5	*13.2	*16.5	*4.5	-	-
30-44 years	90	100.0	*20.4	*17.9	*10.4	*13.3	*19.7	*3.5	*4.5	*9.1	*1.1
NORTH CENTRAL											
All races											
15-44 years	3,785	100.0	50.5	10.2	5.9	13.7	4.8	7.7	3.7	*1.0	2.5
15-24 years	1,166	100.0	67.9	7.4	*4.8	7.3	*4.1	*3.8	*2.4	*0.5	*1.9
25-34 years	1,754	100.0	47.3	13.5	6.1	12.8	*4.7	9.1	*3.4	*0.1	*3.1
35-44 years	865	100.0	33.6	*7.5	6.8	24.1	*6.0	*10.1	*6.0	3.7	*2.1
White											
15-44 years	3,577	100.0	50.4	10.0	6.0	13.7	4.7	8.0	3.7	*0.9	*2.4
15-29 years	2,151	100.0	59.6	10.4	5.3	9.3	*4.8	5.6	*2.6	*0.3	*2.0
30-44 years	1,426	100.0	36.6	*9.5	*7.1	20.4	*4.5	11.5	*5.3	*1.9	*3.2
Black											
15-44 years	138	100.0	46.4	*13.6	*5.0	*15.1	*9.3	*1.3	*0.6	*4.1	*4.5
15-29 years	65	100.0	50.3	*13.6	*6.7	*16.2	*8.0	-	*1.3	-	*3.9
30-44 years	73	100.0	42.9	*13.6	*3.5	*14.1	*10.5	*2.4	-	*7.9	*5.0
SOUTH											
All races											
15-44 years	4,476	100.0	50.9	12.6	2.8	14.8	6.2	5.1	3.7	2.6	*1.3
15-24 years	1,526	100.0	70.5	10.1	*0.8	*6.9	*4.1	*3.7	*2.4	*0.7	*0.8
25-34 years	1,926	100.0	50.7	14.0	*2.7	14.8	6.3	*4.2	*3.4	*2.6	*1.4
35-44 years	1,023	100.0	22.1	13.8	*5.8	26.5	*9.3	*8.7	*6.4	*5.4	*2.0

[1]Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 8. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives other than sterilization and percent distribution by method of contraception used, according to geographic region, race, and age: United States, 1976—Con.

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Geographic region, race,[1] and age	Number of women in thousands	Method of contraception									
		All methods	Pill	IUD	Dia-phragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	With-drawal	Douche	Other
SOUTH—Con.		Percent distribution									
White											
15-44 years	3,854	100.0	50.9	12.6	*2.8	15.5	6.0	5.6	3.5	*2.0	*1.1
15-29 years	2,301	100.0	63.7	12.0	*1.8	9.7	5.2	*3.7	*2.2	*0.6	*1.1
30-44 years	1,553	100.0	31.8	13.5	*4.4	24.0	7.1	8.4	*5.6	*4.0	*1.2
Black											
15-44 years	565	100.0	54.8	13.6	*1.7	7.3	*5.4	*1.8	*5.3	7.3	*2.8
15-29 years	342	100.0	67.6	*10.1	*0.7	*4.2	*3.9	*1.3	*3.2	*6.8	*2.3
30-44 years	223	100.0	35.2	19.0	*3.2	*12.0	*7.7	*2.6	*8.6	*8.0	*3.7
WEST											
All races											
15-44 years	2,260	100.0	45.4	18.3	6.6	10.9	7.7	5.3	2.4	*0.9	2.5
15-24 years	625	100.0	63.3	*12.0	*8.1	*8.1	*4.3	*1.2	*1.5	-	*1.6
25-34 years	1,151	100.0	45.0	20.0	*4.1	12.3	7.9	*4.6	*2.7	*0.6	*2.8
35-44 years	484	100.0	23.3	22.3	*10.5	*11.3	*11.7	*12.1	*3.0	*2.7	*3.0
White											
15-44 years	2,059	100.0	45.2	19.2	6.7	10.7	8.0	*4.7	*2.2	*0.8	*2.4
15-29 years	1,229	100.0	52.7	16.3	*5.2	12.0	*6.1	*3.1	*2.1	*0.4	*2.1
30-44 years	829	100.0	34.1	23.5	*8.9	*8.8	*10.6	*7.2	*2.5	*1.4	*3.0
Black											
15-44 years	115	100.0	56.3	*11.2	*9.4	*4.7	*8.9	*1.0	-	*3.3	*5.3
15-29 years	58	100.0	85.9	*3.4	-	*9.4	-	-	-	*1.2	-
30-44 years	57	100.0	26.3	*19.0	*18.8	-	*17.9	*2.0	-	*5.4	*10.6

[1] Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 9. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age and percent distribution by contraceptive status, according to poverty level income, race, and age: United States, 1976

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Income level, race,[1] and age	Number of women in thousands	Contraceptive status						
		All women	Contraceptors		Noncontraceptors			
			Surgical	Non-surgical	Total	Noncontra-ceptively sterile	Pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy	Other non-user
		Percent distribution						
BELOW POVERTY INCOME								
All races								
15-44 years	1,418	100.0	*17.5	47.9	34.6	*7.7	*14.9	*12.0
15-29 years	738	100.0	*10.3	55.5	34.2	*3.1	23.9	*7.3
30-44 years	680	100.0	25.4	39.6	35.0	*12.6	*5.2	17.1
White								
15-44 years	1,117	100.0	17.2	49.1	33.7	6.6	16.2	11.0
15-29 years	611	100.0	*9.5	57.2	33.3	*3.2	24.8	*5.3
30-44 years	506	100.0	26.3	39.4	34.3	*10.6	*5.9	17.8
Black								
15-44 years	252	100.0	17.1	40.6	42.3	*14.0	*9.4	18.9
15-29 years	99	100.0	*12.8	44.4	42.8	*2.9	*18.3	*21.5
30-44 years	153	100.0	19.9	38.2	42.0	21.1	*3.6	17.3
100-149 PERCENT POVERTY INCOME								
All races								
15-44 years	2,030	100.0	20.1	48.2	31.7	8.7	13.7	9.2
15-29 years	1,026	100.0	9.8	59.3	30.9	*2.6	22.0	*6.4
30-44 years	1,004	100.0	30.7	37.0	32.4	14.9	*5.3	12.2
White								
15-44 years	1,748	100.0	21.5	47.0	31.6	9.2	13.8	8.5
15-29 years	880	100.0	10.5	58.9	30.6	*2.7	22.9	5.0
30-44 years	868	100.0	32.6	34.9	32.5	15.7	4.7	12.1
Black								
15-44 years	226	100.0	*14.5	51.2	34.3	*6.3	*13.1	*14.9
15-29 years	105	100.0	*7.4	57.9	34.7	*2.2	*16.5	*16.0
30-44 years	121	100.0	*20.7	45.3	34.0	*9.9	*10.2	*13.9
150-199 PERCENT POVERTY INCOME								
All races								
15-44 years	3,098	100.0	18.7	54.5	26.8	8.4	10.9	7.4
15-29 years	1,561	100.0	12.1	62.2	25.7	*2.7	15.5	7.4
30-44 years	1,538	100.0	25.4	46.8	27.8	14.2	*6.2	7.4

[1]Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 9. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age and percent distribution by contraceptive status, according to poverty level income, race, and age: United States, 1976—Con.

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Income level, race,[1] and age	Number of women in thousands	Contraceptive status						
		All women	Contraceptors		Noncontraceptors			
			Surgical	Non-surgical	Total	Noncontra-ceptively sterile	Pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy	Other non-user
		Percent distribution						
150-199 PERCENT POVERTY INCOME—Con.								
White								
15-44 years	2,790	100.0	18.9	55.5	25.6	8.1	10.4	7.1
15-29 years	1,398	100.0	12.7	63.3	24.0	*1.8	14.8	7.4
30-44 years	1,393	100.0	25.1	47.6	27.3	14.5	5.9	6.9
Black								
15-44 years	274	100.0	18.9	43.0	38.1	*12.6	15.0	*10.5
15-29 years	148	100.0	*7.5	50.3	42.2	*11.8	23.1	*7.3
30-44 years	126	100.0	32.3	34.4	33.3	*13.6	*5.5	*14.2
200 PERCENT OR MORE POVERTY INCOME								
All races								
15-44 years	17,958	100.0	19.0	49.8	31.1	11.9	13.3	5.9
15-29 years	8,013	100.0	7.4	62.6	29.9	3.1	22.5	4.4
30-44 years	9,945	100.0	28.4	39.5	32.1	19.0	6.0	7.2
White								
15-44 years	16,723	100.0	19.7	50.0	30.3	11.8	12.7	5.8
15-29 years	7,443	100.0	7.7	63.1	29.2	*3.0	22.0	4.2
30-44 years	9,280	100.0	29.3	39.5	31.2	19.0	5.3	7.0
Black								
15-44 years	945	100.0	10.5	48.8	40.7	12.0	19.9	8.8
15-29 years	454	100.0	*3.5	58.5	37.9	*5.2	26.3	*6.5
30-44 years	490	100.0	17.0	39.8	43.2	18.3	14.0	10.9

[1] Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 10. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives other than sterilization and percent distribution by method of contraception used, according to poverty level income, race, and age: United States, 1976

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Income level, race,[1] and age	Number of women in thousands	Method of contraception									
		All methods	Pill	IUD	Dia-phragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	With-drawal	Douche	Other
		Percent distribution									
BELOW POVERTY INCOME											
All races											
15-44 years	679	100.0	54.0	*13.1	*1.7	*12.0	*4.5	*5.2	*3.7	*2.0	*3.8
15-29 years	410	100.0	68.1	*14.3	*0.7	*6.5	*5.4	*1.1	*1.6	*0.7	*1.5
30-44 years	269	100.0	32.6	*11.4	*3.2	*20.4	*3.0	*11.4	*7.0	*4.0	*7.1
White											
15-44 years	549	100.0	53.8	*12.5	*1.5	*13.5	*5.0	*5.1	*3.5	*1.8	*3.2
15-29 years	349	100.0	66.8	*14.1	*0.8	*6.9	*6.4	*1.3	*1.9	-	*1.8
30-44 years	199	100.0	30.9	*9.8	*2.8	*25.0	*2.7	*11.8	*6.4	*5.0	*5.7
Black											
15-44 years	102	100.0	53.9	20.1	*2.8	*7.5	*2.6	*1.0	*0.7	*3.7	*7.7
15-29 years	44	100.0	66.1	*21.5	-	*5.9	-	-	-	*6.5	-
30-44 years	58	100.0	44.8	*18.9	*4.9	*8.6	*4.6	*1.7	*1.3	*1.6	*13.5
100-149 PERCENT POVERTY INCOME											
All races											
15-44 years	980	100.0	51.0	9.6	*7.3	10.3	*5.6	*4.8	*3.3	*5.2	*2.8
15-29 years	609	100.0	64.2	*7.5	*7.7	*7.0	*4.0	*3.6	*3.0	*0.1	*2.8
30-44 years	371	100.0	29.4	*13.0	*6.7	*15.8	*8.3	*6.7	*3.6	*13.5	*2.9
White											
15-44 years	821	100.0	51.7	*9.5	*8.6	*11.1	*5.1	*3.3	*2.5	*4.8	*3.3
15-29 years	519	100.0	63.9	*7.5	*9.1	*7.9	*4.5	*1.9	*2.2	-	*3.1
30-44 years	303	100.0	30.9	*13.1	*7.9	16.7	*6.2	*5.7	*2.9	*13.1	*3.5
Black											
15-44 years	116	100.0	35.0	*13.6	*0.9	*8.4	*9.5	*12.3	*10.0	*9.6	*0.7
15-29 years	61	100.0	50.0	*11.7	-	*2.6	*1.3	*20.4	*11.3	*1.4	*1.3
30-44 years	55	100.0	*18.2	*15.8	*1.8	*14.8	*18.5	*3.4	*8.6	*18.8	-
150-199 PERCENT POVERTY INCOME											
All races											
15-44 years	1,690	100.0	43.3	12.9	5.4	15.7	7.2	8.7	*3.9	*1.8	*1.3
15-29 years	971	100.0	56.2	12.4	*3.8	12.7	*6.7	*4.3	*1.9	*0.8	*1.2
30-44 years	719	100.0	25.9	*13.5	*7.5	19.6	*7.7	14.6	*6.6	*3.1	*1.4

[1] Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 10. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives other than sterilization and percent distribution by method of contraception used, according to poverty level income, race, and age: United States, 1976—Con.

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Income level, race,[1] and age	Number of women in thousands	Method of contraception									
		All methods	Pill	IUD	Dia-phragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	With-drawal	Douche	Other
150-199 PERCENT POVERTY INCOME—Con.		Percent distribution									
White											
15-44 years	1,548	100.0	43.3	13.2	5.4	15.7	6.0	9.4	*4.1	*1.6	*1.2
15-29 years	885	100.0	56.5	12.4	*4.2	12.7	*5.8	*4.6	*1.9	*0.7	*1.3
30-44 years	663	100.0	25.7	*14.3	*7.1	19.8	*6.2	15.9	*7.2	*2.9	*1.0
Black											
15-44 years	118	100.0	50.9	*6.2	*1.1	*14.2	18.1	*0.6	*1.7	*4.2	*3.1
15-29 years	75	100.0	60.8	*6.3	-	*9.2	*17.4	*0.9	*2.6	*2.7	-
30-44 years	43	100.0	*33.7	*6.1	*3.0	*22.8	*19.1	-	-	*6.9	*8.4
200 PERCENT OR MORE POVERTY INCOME											
All races											
15-44 years	8,947	100.0	45.8	13.1	6.1	15.4	5.7	7.1	4.2	*0.8	*1.9
15-29 years	5,019	100.0	56.6	12.3	4.2	11.5	5.1	5.3	*2.8	*0.5	*1.5
30-44 years	3,928	100.0	32.0	14.1	8.4	20.4	6.4	9.4	5.9	*1.1	*2.3
White											
15-44 years	8,358	100.0	45.7	13.0	6.2	15.5	5.5	7.3	4.2	*0.7	*1.9
15-29 years	4,694	100.0	56.4	12.4	4.4	11.4	5.1	5.4	2.9	*0.5	*1.5
30-44 years	3,664	100.0	32.0	13.7	8.5	20.7	6.0	9.8	5.9	*1.0	*2.4
Black											
15-44 years	460	100.0	54.7	12.8	*4.7	10.5	7.1	*1.3	*4.6	*1.8	*2.5
15-29 years	265	100.0	67.1	*8.6	*1.4	*12.9	*3.8	*0.7	*1.4	*0.8	*3.3
30-44 years	195	100.0	37.8	18.6	*9.2	*7.2	*11.7	*2.1	*9.1	*3.1	*1.3

[1] Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 11. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age and percent distribution by contraceptive status, according to parity, race, and age: United States, 1976

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Parity, race,[1] and age	Number of women in thousands	Contraceptive status						
		All women	Contraceptors		Noncontraceptors			
			Surgical	Non-surgical	Total	Noncontraceptively sterile	Pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy	Other non-user
		Percent distribution						
0-1 PARITY								
All races								
15-44 years	10,805	100.0	2.7	56.1	41.2	7.5	25.3	8.4
15-29 years	8,039	100.0	1.0	63.6	35.4	2.7	27.7	5.0
30-44 years	2,766	100.0	7.5	34.3	58.2	21.6	18.4	18.2
White								
15-44 years	9,797	100.0	*2.9	57.5	39.6	*7.3	24.2	*8.1
15-29 years	7,342	100.0	*1.1	64.8	34.1	2.7	26.7	4.7
30-44 years	2,455	100.0	8.2	35.7	56.0	21.3	16.7	18.0
Black								
15-44 years	768	100.0	*0.8	43.8	55.4	11.2	32.7	11.5
15-29 years	526	100.0	*0.1	55.5	44.3	*3.3	34.5	6.5
30-44 years	242	100.0	*2.1	18.5	79.4	28.3	28.9	22.2
2-4 PARITY								
All races								
15-44 years	14,523	100.0	27.1	47.2	25.7	13.4	5.9	6.3
15-29 years	4,363	100.0	20.8	56.0	23.2	4.3	12.3	6.5
30-44 years	10,161	100.0	29.8	43.4	26.8	17.3	3.2	6.3
White								
15-44 years	13,198	100.0	28.5	46.6	24.9	13.4	5.6	5.9
15-29 years	3,829	100.0	22.2	55.6	22.1	4.0	12.4	5.7
30-44 years	9,369	100.0	31.0	42.9	26.1	17.3	2.9	6.0
Black								
15-44 years	1,060	100.0	14.8	52.0	33.2	11.9	8.7	12.6
15-29 years	452	100.0	10.2	56.3	33.5	8.0	11.9	13.6
30-44 years	608	100.0	18.2	48.8	33.0	14.9	6.3	11.8
5 PARITY OR MORE								
All races								
15-44 years	2,159	100.0	40.3	27.9	31.8	17.5	*2.2	12.0
15-29 years	*62	100.0	*37.9	*29.4	*32.6	*7.6	*9.2	*15.8
30-44 years	2,097	100.0	40.4	27.9	31.7	17.8	2.0	11.9

[1]Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 11. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age and percent distribution by contraceptive status, according to parity, race, and age: United States, 1976—Con.

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Parity, race,[1] and age	Number of women in thousands	Contraceptive status						
		All women	Contraceptors		Noncontraceptors			
			Surgical	Non-surgical	Total	Noncontra-ceptively sterile	Pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy	Other non-user
5 PARITY OR MORE—Con.		Percent distribution						
White								
15-44 years	1,800	100.0	41.2	27.5	31.3	18.7	*2.0	10.6
15-29 years	*47	100.0	36.2	27.0	36.8	*8.5	*7.4	20.8
30-44 years	1,753	100.0	41.3	27.5	31.2	19.0	*1.8	10.4
Black								
15-44 years	342	100.0	32.9	31.5	35.6	*12.2	*3.7	19.7
15-29 years	*15	100.0	*43.4	*37.1	*19.5	*4.5	*15.0	-
30-44 years	327	100.0	32.4	31.3	36.3	12.5	*3.2	20.6

[1] Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 12. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives other than sterilization and percent distribution by method of contraception used, according to parity, race, and age: United States, 1976

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Parity, race,[1] and age	Number of women in thousands	Method of contraception									
		All methods	Pill	IUD	Dia-phragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	With-drawal	Douche	Other
		Percent distribution									
0-1 PARITY											
All races											
15-44 years	6,060	100.0	56.2	10.1	6.3	11.9	4.7	5.4	2.9	*0.9	1.5
15-29 years	5,112	100.0	59.9	10.4	5.6	10.7	4.4	4.8	2.2	*0.6	1.5
30-44 years	948	100.0	36.3	*8.9	10.2	18.2	*6.1	*8.7	*6.9	*2.8	*2.0
White											
15-44 years	5,633	100.0	56.2	10.3	6.6	11.8	4.5	5.3	3.1	*0.7	1.5
15-29 years	4,756	100.0	59.6	10.5	6.0	10.6	4.3	4.8	2.2	*0.5	1.4
30-44 years	878	100.0	37.6	*9.1	*10.1	18.1	*5.6	*8.3	*7.5	*1.8	*2.0
Black											
15-44 years	336	100.0	60.1	*8.2	*3.0	10.1	*4.9	*5.3	*1.5	*4.5	*2.4
15-29 years	291	100.0	64.7	*7.9	*0.6	*10.8	*4.6	*5.8	*1.7	*1.5	*2.4
30-44 years	45	100.0	*30.4	*10.4	*19.1	*5.4	*6.5	*2.0	-	*24.3	*1.9
2-4 PARITY											
All races											
15-44 years	6,848	100.0	38.1	14.7	5.3	17.4	6.8	7.7	5.5	*1.9	2.5
15-29 years	2,444	100.0	53.4	14.9	*1.9	11.4	7.6	*4.0	*4.0	*1.0	*1.8
30-44 years	4,404	100.0	29.6	14.6	7.3	20.8	6.4	9.7	6.4	*2.3	*2.9
White											
15-44 years	6,142	100.0	37.7	14.6	5.5	18.1	6.7	8.1	5.4	*1.4	2.5
15-29 years	2,131	100.0	52.8	15.2	*1.8	11.9	7.9	*4.0	*4.1	*0.2	*2.0
30-44 years	4,011	100.0	29.7	14.3	7.4	21.4	6.0	10.2	6.1	*2.1	*2.8
Black											
15-44 years	551	100.0	43.9	14.9	*4.5	10.3	8.5	*1.7	*6.1	7.2	*2.8
15-29 years	255	100.0	58.3	11.7	*2.6	*7.6	*6.4	*0.6	*4.1	*7.7	*1.0
30-44 years	296	100.0	31.6	17.6	*6.2	12.5	*10.4	*2.6	*7.8	*6.7	*4.5
5 PARITY OR MORE											
All races											
15-44 years	603	100.0	27.7	19.5	*6.9	*14.6	*12.2	*13.8	*0.8	*1.9	*2.5
15-29 years	*18	100.0	*65.8	*22.0	-	*7.8	-	-	-	-	*4.4
30-44 years	584	100.0	26.5	19.5	*7.1	14.8	*12.6	*14.2	*0.9	*2.0	*2.5

[1]Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 12. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives other than sterilization and percent distribution by method of contraception used, according to parity, race, and age: United States, 1976—Con.

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Parity, race,[1] and age	Number of women in thousands	Method of contraception									
		All methods	Pill	IUD	Dia-phragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	With-drawal	Douche	Other
5 PARITY OR MORE—Con.		Percent distribution									
White											
15-44 years	495	100.0	26.1	18.7	*7.8	15.8	*11.0	16.2	*1.0	*1.5	*1.9
15-29 years	*13	100.0	*77.7	*11.1	-	*11.1	-	-	-	-	-
30-44 years	482	100.0	24.7	18.9	*8.0	15.9	*11.3	16.6	*1.0	*1.6	*2.0
Black											
15-44 years	108	100.0	35.3	*23.3	*2.6	*8.9	*17.8	*3.1	-	*3.7	*5.4
15-29 years	*5	100.0	*38.2	*47.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	*14.5
30-44 years	102	100.0	35.1	*22.0	*2.8	*9.4	*18.7	*3.2	-	*3.9	*4.9

[1]Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 13. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age and percent distribution by contraceptive status, according to labor force status, race, and age: United States, 1976

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Labor force status, race,[1] and age	Number of women in thousands	Contraceptive status						
		All women	Contraceptors		Noncontraceptors			
			Surgical	Non-surgical	Total	Noncontra-ceptively sterile	Pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy	Other non-user
		Percent distribution						
IN LABOR FORCE								
All races								
15-44 years	13,488	100.0	18.8	51.1	30.1	11.8	11.0	7.2
15-29 years	6,021	100.0	6.9	66.5	26.6	3.4	18.0	5.2
30-44 years	7,468	100.0	28.4	38.7	32.9	18.7	5.4	8.9
White								
15-44 years	11,914	100.0	19.5	51.8	28.7	11.8	10.2	6.7
15-29 years	5,357	100.0	7.2	67.4	25.3	3.2	17.2	4.9
30-44 years	6,557	100.0	29.5	39.0	31.5	18.8	4.5	8.3
Black								
15-44 years	1,349	100.0	13.2	47.4	39.3	11.8	15.0	12.5
15-29 years	563	100.0	*4.4	60.1	35.6	*5.5	21.3	*8.7
30-44 years	786	100.0	19.6	38.3	42.1	16.4	10.5	15.2
NOT IN LABOR FORCE								
All races								
15-44 years	13,957	100.0	18.4	47.2	34.4	11.0	15.4	8.0
15-29 years	6,431	100.0	9.4	55.4	35.2	*3.1	26.1	6.0
30-44 years	7,527	100.0	26.1	40.2	33.7	17.7	6.3	9.7
White								
15-44 years	12,839	100.0	19.1	47.3	33.6	11.1	15.0	7.4
15-29 years	5,849	100.0	9.6	56.1	34.3	3.1	25.9	5.4
30-44 years	6,990	100.0	27.1	40.0	32.9	17.8	6.0	9.2
Black								
15-44 years	819	100.0	11.7	43.3	45.0	11.5	18.8	14.7
15-29 years	428	100.0	6.7	49.6	43.7	*5.4	27.4	10.9
30-44 years	391	100.0	17.2	36.4	46.4	18.1	*9.3	18.9

[1]Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 14. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives other than sterilization and percent distribution by method of contraception used, according to labor force status, race, and age: United States, 1976

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Labor force status, race,[1] and age	Number of women in thousands	Method of contraception									
		All methods	Pill	IUD	Dia-phragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	With-drawal	Douche	Other
		Percent distribution									
IN LABOR FORCE											
All races											
15-44 years	6,891	100.0	49.4	12.0	5.9	15.3	5.1	6.2	3.5	*1.3	*1.4
15-29 years	4,005	100.0	59.5	11.4	4.8	10.4	4.7	4.9	2.1	*0.7	*1.3
30-44 years	2,886	100.0	35.3	12.8	7.3	21.9	5.6	8.0	5.3	*2.1	*1.7
White											
15-44 years	6,168	100.0	49.0	12.2	6.1	15.7	4.8	6.5	3.4	*1.0	*1.3
15-29 years	3,613	100.0	58.8	11.9	5.3	10.7	4.5	5.0	2.1	*0.5	*1.2
30-44 years	2,555	100.0	35.3	12.7	7.2	22.7	5.3	8.7	5.2	*1.6	*1.5
Black											
15-44 years	639	100.0	52.9	11.0	*3.7	10.3	7.5	*2.1	*4.9	*4.9	*2.8
15-29 years	339	100.0	67.7	*7.5	*0.5	*8.8	*6.2	*1.6	*2.3	*2.9	*2.4
30-44 years	301	100.0	36.3	14.9	*7.2	*12.0	*8.9	*2.7	*7.7	*7.1	*3.2
NOT IN LABOR FORCE											
All races											
15-44 years	6,590	100.0	41.9	13.7	5.9	14.4	7.2	7.7	4.8	*1.6	*2.7
15-29 years	3,562	100.0	56.0	12.3	*3.9	11.5	6.3	*4.1	*3.3	*0.7	*1.9
30-44 years	3,028	100.0	25.4	15.4	8.2	17.9	8.3	12.0	6.6	*2.6	*3.7
White											
15-44 years	6,072	100.0	42.3	13.3	6.1	14.6	7.0	7.8	4.9	*1.3	2.8
15-29 years	3,279	100.0	56.3	12.0	4.0	11.3	6.5	4.0	3.4	*0.3	2.0
30-44 years	2,793	100.0	25.9	14.9	8.6	18.3	7.5	12.1	6.6	2.4	3.7
Black											
15-44 years	354	100.0	40.5	17.9	*4.1	9.6	9.9	*4.8	*2.2	*7.7	*3.3
15-29 years	212	100.0	51.7	*13.7	*3.0	*9.9	*4.1	*6.3	*3.6	*6.6	*1.1
30-44 years	142	100.0	*23.9	*24.1	*5.8	*9.2	*18.4	*2.6	-	*9.4	*6.6

[1] Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 15. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age and percent distribution by contraceptive status, according to education, race, and age: United States, 1976

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Education, race,[1] and age	Number of women in thousands	Contraceptive status						
		All women	Contraceptors		Noncontraceptors			
			Surgical	Non-surgical	Total	Noncontra-ceptively sterile	Pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy	Other non-user
		Percent distribution						
LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL								
All races								
15-44 years	6,272	100.0	21.7	38.4	39.9	15.0	13.7	11.2
15-29 years	2,485	100.0	10.8	49.3	40.0	*4.1	27.4	8.4
30-44 years	3,787	100.0	28.9	31.2	39.9	22.2	4.8	13.0
White								
15-44 years	5,442	100.0	22.4	39.5	38.1	15.2	13.0	9.9
15-29 years	2,184	100.0	11.1	51.0	37.9	*4.0	26.7	7.2
30-44 years	3,258	100.0	30.0	31.8	38.2	22.6	3.9	11.7
Black								
15-44 years	691	100.0	17.9	30.2	51.9	14.3	15.6	22.0
15-29 years	236	100.0	*8.6	35.0	56.4	*6.5	31.7	18.2
30-44 years	455	100.0	22.7	27.8	49.5	18.3	7.2	24.0
HIGH SCHOOL								
All races								
15-44 years	12,970	100.0	19.0	49.0	32.0	11.5	13.5	7.1
15-29 years	6,062	100.0	8.7	60.2	31.1	3.5	21.9	5.6
30-44 years	6,908	100.0	28.0	39.2	32.8	18.5	6.0	8.3
White								
15-44 years	11,941	100.0	19.8	48.8	31.4	11.6	13.0	6.9
15-29 years	5,501	100.0	9.1	60.3	30.6	3.4	21.7	5.4
30-44 years	6,441	100.0	28.8	39.0	32.2	18.5	5.5	8.1
Black								
15-44 years	889	100.0	11.0	50.1	39.0	11.8	18.0	9.2
15-29 years	469	100.0	*5.2	61.3	33.5	*5.3	21.4	6.8
30-44 years	421	100.0	17.5	37.4	45.1	19.2	14.2	11.8
MORE THAN HIGH SCHOOL								
All races								
15-44 years	8,198	100.0	15.4	57.7	26.9	8.6	12.6	5.8
15-29 years	3,903	100.0	5.6	69.0	25.4	*2.3	19.2	3.8
30-44 years	4,295	100.0	24.3	47.4	28.3	14.2	6.6	7.5

[1]Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 15. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age and percent distribution by contraceptive status, according to education, race, and age: United States, 1976—Con.

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Education, race,[1] and age	Number of women in thousands	Contraceptive status						
		All women	Contraceptors		Noncontraceptors			
			Surgical	Non-surgical	Total	Noncontra-ceptively sterile	Pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy	Other non-user
MORE THAN HIGH SCHOOL—Con.		Percent distribution						
White								
15-44 years	7,364	100.0	16.2	58.0	25.9	8.4	12.0	5.4
15-29 years	3,522	100.0	5.8	69.9	24.2	*2.2	18.6	3.4
30-44 years	3,842	100.0	25.7	47.0	27.3	14.1	6.0	7.2
Black								
15-44 years	588	100.0	9.0	58.0	33.0	8.5	15.1	9.4
15-29 years	287	100.0	*3.0	63.1	33.9	*4.9	21.8	7.2
30-44 years	301	100.0	14.7	53.1	32.2	11.9	8.8	11.4

[1] Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 16. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives other than sterilization and percent distribution by method of contraception used, according to education, race, and age: United States, 1976

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Education, race,[1] and age	Number of women in thousands	Method of contraception									
		All methods	Pill	IUD	Diaphragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	Withdrawal	Douche	Other
		Percent distribution									
LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL											
All races											
15-44 years	2,406	100.0	50.0	13.5	*3.1	12.1	5.2	5.5	5.8	*3.3	*1.6
15-29 years	1,225	100.0	67.0	11.5	*1.9	*7.3	*4.7	*2.5	*3.0	*0.7	*1.4
30-44 years	1,182	100.0	32.3	15.5	*4.3	17.1	*5.6	8.6	8.8	*6.0	*1.8
White											
15-44 years	2,150	100.0	50.8	13.0	*3.2	12.6	*4.4	6.0	5.9	*2.6	*1.5
15-29 years	1,113	100.0	67.8	10.8	*1.9	*8.0	*4.4	*2.7	*2.9	-	*1.5
30-44 years	1,037	100.0	32.7	15.5	*4.4	17.5	*4.3	9.6	9.1	*5.3	*1.5
Black											
15-44 years	209	100.0	42.6	20.6	*3.0	10.1	*6.4	*0.9	*2.2	11.0	*3.3
15-29 years	83	100.0	57.1	*24.1	*1.5	*1.0	-	-	*5.5	*9.7	*1.0
30-44 years	126	100.0	33.1	*18.4	*4.0	*16.0	*10.5	*1.5	-	*11.8	*4.8
HIGH SCHOOL											
All races											
15-44 years	6,351	100.0	47.1	12.1	4.2	15.0	6.7	7.4	4.1	*1.4	*1.9
15-29 years	3,651	100.0	59.9	12.4	*2.6	10.1	*5.8	*4.0	*3.2	*1.0	*1.1
30-44 years	2,701	100.0	29.8	11.7	6.4	21.6	8.0	12.0	5.4	*1.8	*3.1
White											
15-44 years	5,825	100.0	46.7	12.0	4.4	15.5	6.5	7.6	4.3	*1.2	*1.9
15-29 years	3,317	100.0	59.6	12.6	2.9	10.2	5.7	3.9	3.4	*0.8	*0.9
30-44 years	2,508	100.0	29.5	11.2	6.4	22.5	7.6	12.4	5.5	*1.7	*3.2
Black											
15-44 years	445	100.0	53.6	10.6	*1.9	8.9	10.2	*5.0	*2.6	*4.2	*2.9
15-29 years	288	100.0	63.8	*6.6	-	*8.9	*7.2	*5.6	*0.8	*3.8	*3.3
30-44 years	157	100.0	35.1	*17.9	*5.3	*8.9	*15.7	*4.0	*6.0	*4.8	*2.3
MORE THAN HIGH SCHOOL											
All races											
15-44 years	4,726	100.0	41.7	13.5	9.5	16.0	5.8	7.0	3.4	*0.7	2.5
15-29 years	2,692	100.0	50.7	11.3	7.9	13.7	5.3	6.2	*2.1	*0.4	*2.3
30-44 years	2,034	100.0	29.7	16.5	11.5	19.2	6.4	8.1	5.0	*1.0	*2.7

[1]Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 16. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives other than sterilization and percent distribution by method of contraception used, according to education, race, and age: United States, 1976—Con.

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Education, race,[1] and age	Number of women in thousands	Method of contraception									
		All methods	Pill	IUD	Dia-phragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	With-drawal	Douche	Other
MORE THAN HIGH SCHOOL—Con.		Percent distribution									
White											
15-44 years	4,268	100.0	41.8	13.7	9.9	15.9	5.7	7.0	3.1	*0.3	*2.5
15-29 years	2,463	100.0	50.0	11.7	8.4	13.5	5.5	6.3	*1.9	*0.2	*2.5
30-44 years	1,805	100.0	30.6	16.5	12.0	19.2	6.0	8.1	*4.6	*0.5	*2.5
Black											
15-44 years	340	100.0	45.4	12.8	*6.9	*11.5	*7.1	*1.9	*6.6	*5.1	*2.8
15-29 years	180	100.0	60.1	*8.6	*3.8	*13.5	*5.1	*1.4	*4.8	*2.8	-
30-44 years	160	100.0	29.0	17.5	*10.3	*9.4	*9.3	*2.4	*8.6	*7.7	*5.9

[1] Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 17. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age and percent distribution by contraceptive status, according to religion, race, and age: United States, 1976

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Religion,[1] race,[2] and age	Number of women in thousands	Contraceptive status						
		All women	Contraceptors		Noncontraceptors			
			Surgical	Non-surgical	Total	Noncontra-ceptively sterile	Pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy	Other non-user
		Percent distribution						
PROTESTANT								
All races								
15-44 years	17,354	100.0	21.7	46.1	32.3	12.5	13.0	6.8
15-29 years	7,632	100.0	9.5	58.5	32.0	3.9	22.9	5.3
30-44 years	9,722	100.0	31.3	36.2	32.5	19.3	5.3	7.9
White								
15-44 years	15,368	100.0	22.8	46.0	31.1	12.6	12.6	6.0
15-29 years	6,760	100.0	10.0	59.0	31.1	*3.7	22.6	4.7
30-44 years	8,608	100.0	32.9	35.9	31.2	19.5	4.7	6.9
Black								
15-44 years	1,908	100.0	13.7	45.4	41.0	11.9	16.2	12.9
15-29 years	845	100.0	5.9	55.5	38.6	5.1	23.6	9.9
30-44 years	1,063	100.0	19.8	37.3	42.8	17.3	10.3	15.3
CATHOLIC								
All races								
15-44 years	7,792	100.0	13.1	53.5	33.4	10.6	13.7	9.1
15-29 years	3,638	100.0	5.2	64.9	29.9	*2.9	21.4	5.5
30-44 years	4,154	100.0	20.1	43.5	36.4	17.3	6.8	12.3
White								
15-44 years	7,336	100.0	13.6	53.8	32.5	10.5	12.9	9.1
15-29 years	3,405	100.0	5.4	65.7	28.9	*2.8	20.6	5.5
30-44 years	3,931	100.0	20.7	43.6	35.7	17.2	6.2	12.3
Black								
15-44 years	165	100.0	*4.4	47.5	48.1	*13.1	15.3	19.7
15-29 years	83	100.0	*2.1	49.0	48.9	*12.5	*23.9	*12.5
30-44 years	83	100.0	*6.8	46.0	47.2	*13.6	*6.8	*26.8
JEWISH								
White								
15-44 years	706	100.0	*12.1	59.1	28.9	*11.0	*12.2	*5.8
15-29 years	222	100.0	*4.7	58.0	37.3	*2.4	*29.2	*5.8
30-44 years	484	100.0	15.4	59.5	25.0	14.9	*4.4	*5.8
NO RELIGION								
White								
15-44 years	1,053	100 0	14.1	61.8	24.1	*3.6	10.8	*9.6
15-29 years	617	100.0	*11.4	71.0	17.6	-	*12.2	*5.3
30-44 years	436	100.0	17.8	48.9	33.3	*8.8	*8.8	*15.8

[1]Due to limitations of sample size, women with religious preferences other than Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, or no religion are not shown separately in this table. They are, however, included in the totals shown in other tables.
[2]Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 18. Number of currently married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives other than sterilization and percent distribution by method of contraception used, according to religion, race, and age: United States, 1976

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Religion,[1] race,[2] and age	Number of women in thousands	Method of contraception									
		All methods	Pill	IUD	Dia-phragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	With-drawal	Douche	Other
		Percent distribution									
PROTESTANT											
All races											
15-44 years	7,981	100.0	49.4	12.4	4.7	14.4	6.1	5.2	3.7	*2.1	*2.1
15-29 years	4,466	100.0	61.3	12.1	3.1	10.7	4.3	4.0	*1.8	*1.0	*1.8
30-44 years	3,515	100.0	34.4	12.7	6.7	19.0	8.4	6.7	6.1	3.5	*2.4
White											
15-44 years	7,077	100.0	49.5	12.3	4.7	14.8	6.1	5.5	3.5	*1.6	*1.9
15-29 years	3,987	100.0	60.9	12.3	3.3	10.8	4.4	4.3	1.7	*0.6	1.7
30-44 years	3,090	100.0	34.8	12.3	6.6	20.0	8.2	7.1	5.9	2.9	2.2
Black											
15-44 years	865	100.0	49.2	13.6	*4.2	10.8	6.7	*1.5	*4.2	6.7	*3.1
15-29 years	468	100.0	63.2	10.8	*1.5	10.3	*3.4	*0.7	*3.0	*5.1	*2.0
30-44 years	397	100.0	32.7	16.8	*7.5	11.3	10.6	*2.4	*5.7	*8.6	*4.4
CATHOLIC											
All races											
15-44 years	4,162	100.0	41.7	12.1	5.0	15.8	6.4	11.1	5.1	*0.5	2.4
15-29 years	2,360	100.0	55.6	11.1	*3.4	11.3	6.7	5.9	*4.3	*0.4	*1.3
30-44 years	1,802	100.0	23.5	13.3	7.1	21.7	6.0	17.9	6.1	*0.6	*3.8
White											
15-44 years	3,945	100.0	41.5	12.2	5.1	15.9	6.0	11.2	5.3	*0.5	2.5
15-29 years	2,236	100.0	55.3	11.2	*3.5	11.4	6.7	5.7	*4.5	*0.4	*1.3
30-44 years	1,708	100.0	23.5	13.4	7.2	21.8	5.0	18.4	6.3	*0.6	*3.9
Black											
15-44 years	78	100.0	54.5	*17.1	*1.6	*3.4	*12.2	*5.3	*1.8	*1.1	*2.9
15-29 years	41	100.0	79.3	*4.9	*3.2	*4.6	-	*4.5	*1.6	-	*2.0
30-44 years	38	100.0	*27.9	*30.2	-	*2.1	*25.3	*6.2	*2.0	*2.3	*4.0
JEWISH											
White											
15-44 years	417	100.0	*18.9	24.1	*17.9	24.1	*2.8	*5.3	*5.5	-	*1.4
15-29 years	128	100.0	31.1	*9.0	*23.8	*19.3	*4.2	*8.1	-	-	*4.6
30-44 years	288	100.0	*13.4	30.8	*15.3	*26.3	*2.1	*4.1	*7.9	-	-
NO RELIGION											
White											
15-44 years	651	100.0	50.3	*13.8	19.3	*5.3	*3.3	*2.5	*3.3	*0.8	*1.5
15-29 years	438	100.0	49.6	*14.6	17.1	*7.3	*4.9	*0.9	*4.5	-	*1.0
30-44 years	213	100.0	51.7	*12.0	*23.9	*1.3	-	*5.7	*0.7	*2.3	*2.4

[1]Due to limitations of sample size, women with religious preferences other than Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, or no religion are not shown separately in this table. They are, however, included in the totals shown in other tables.
[2]Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 19. Number of widowed, divorced, and separated women 15-44 years of age and percent distribution by contraceptive status, according to race and age: United States, 1976

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Race and age	Number of women in thousands	Contraceptive status						
		All women	Contraceptors		Noncontraceptors			
			Surgical	Non-surgical	Total	Noncontra-ceptively sterile	Pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy	Other non-user
		Percent distribution						
All races[1]								
15-44 years	4,359	100.0	13.7	40.0	46.3	13.9	*1.7	30.6
15-29 years	1,681	100.0	9.8	55.4	34.7	*5.6	*4.1	25.0
30-44 years	2,678	100.0	16.2	30.1	53.7	19.3	*0.2	34.2
White								
15-44 years	3,134	100.0	13.1	41.4	45.6	13.6	*1.3	30.7
15-29 years	1,259	100.0	9.2	59.6	31.2	*5.4	*3.2	22.6
30-44 years	1,876	100.0	15.7	28.8	55.5	19.2	*0.1	36.3
Black								
15-44 years	1,145	100.0	15.2	38.1	46.7	15.4	*2.9	28.5
15-29 years	374	100.0	10.6	47.0	42.4	*5.7	*7.7	29.0
30-44 years	770	100.0	17.4	33.8	48.8	20.1	*0.5	28.2

[1]Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 20. Number of widowed, divorced, and separated women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives other than sterilization and percent distribution by method of contraception used, according to race and age: United States, 1976

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Race and age	Number of women in thousands	Method of contraception									
		All methods	Pill	IUD	Diaphragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	Withdrawal	Douche	Other
		Percent distribution									
All races[1]											
15-44 years	1,715	100.0	60.8	20.1	*3.0	*4.1	*3.0	*2.6	*0.9	*2.3	*3.2
15-29 years	928	100.0	70.9	16.4	*2.5	*4.2	*1.2	*0.1	*1.3	*1.2	*2.2
30-44 years	787	100.0	49.0	24.4	*3.5	*4.0	*5.2	*5.5	*0.4	*3.6	*4.4
White											
15-44 years	1,268	100.0	63.0	19.2	*2.9	*4.2	*2.4	*2.9	*0.4	*1.9	*3.1
15-29 years	746	100.0	71.9	16.0	*2.6	*4.8	*0.6	-	*0.7	*0.7	*2.8
30-44 years	521	100.0	50.4	23.7	*3.4	*3.4	*4.8	*7.2	-	*3.7	*3.4
Black											
15-44 years	436	100.0	53.4	23.3	*3.2	*3.8	*5.1	*1.7	*2.4	*3.3	*3.8
15-29 years	176	100.0	65.7	*19.0	*2.3	*1.9	*3.6	*0.5	*3.9	*3.1	-
30-44 years	260	100.0	45.1	26.2	*3.8	*5.1	*6.1	*2.4	*1.4	*3.4	*6.4

[1]Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 21. Number of never-married women 15-44 years of age with offspring in the household and percent distribution by contraceptive status, according to age: United States, 1976

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Age	Number of women in thousands	Contraceptive status						
		All women	Contraceptors		Noncontraceptors			
			Surgical	Nonsurgical	Total	Noncontraceptively sterile	Pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy	Other nonuser
		Percent distribution						
15-44 years	1,071	100.0	*4.7	57.0	38.3	*3.2	*7.3	27.8
15-29 years	870	100.0	*3.2	61.3	35.5	*2.4	*8.2	24.9
30-44 years	200	100.0	*11.3	38.2	50.5	*6.8	*3.5	40.2

Table 22. Number of never-married women 15-44 years of age using contraceptives other than sterilization with offspring in the household and percent distribution by method of contraception used, according to age: United States, 1976

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Age	Number of women in thousands	Method of contraception									
		All methods	Pill	IUD	Dia-phragm	Condom	Foam	Rhythm	With-drawal	Douche	Other
		Percent distribution									
15-44 years.....	610	100.0	64.1	21.0	*1.8	*4.1	*2.0	*1.2	*0.3	*4.3	*1.2
15-29 years.....	534	100.0	69.1	19.1	*1.4	*1.7	*1.9	*1.0	*0.1	*4.2	*1.4
30-44 years.....	*76	100.0	*28.9	*34.6	*4.2	*20.6	*2.4	*2.9	*1.6	*4.8	-

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APPENDIX I

TECHNICAL NOTES

Background

This report is one of a series based on the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). The NSFG was designed to provide data on fertility, family planning, and aspects of maternal and child health that are closely related to childbearing.

The NSFG is a periodic survey based on personal interviews with a nationwide sample of women. A detailed description of the methods and procedures used in Cycle I of the NSFG can be found in "National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle I: Sample Design, Estimation Procedures, and Variance Estimation," Series 2, No. 76, of *Vital and Health Statistics*.[14] The present report is based on Cycle II of the NSFG. A detailed description of the methods and procedures of Cycle II can be found in "National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle II: Sample Design, Estimation Procedures, and Variance Estimation," Series 2, No. 87 of *Vital and Health Statistics*.[3] This appendix presents a summary discussion of the more important technical aspects of Cycle II.

Fieldwork for Cycle II was carried out under a contract with NCHS by Westat, Inc., between January and September of 1976. The sample is representative of women 15-44 years of age in the household population of the conterminous United States who were ever married or had coresident offspring. Interviews were completed with 8,611 women; 3,009 respondents were black women, and the other 5,602 respondents were of races other than black.

The interview focused on the respondents' marital and pregnancy histories, their use of contraception and the planning status of each pregnancy, their use of maternal care and family planning services, fecundity impairments and their expectations about future births, and a wide range of social and economic characteristics. Although the time required to complete the interviews varied considerably, the average Cycle II interview lasted about 58 minutes.

Statistical Design

The NSFG is based on a multistage area probability sample. Black households were sampled at higher rates than other households so that reliable estimates of statistics could be presented separately for white and black women. In addition, the sample was designed to provide tabulations for each of the four major geographic regions of the United States.

The first stage of the sample design consisted of drawing a sample of primary sampling units (PSU's). A PSU consisted of a county, a small group of contiguous counties, or standard metropolitan statistical area as defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in 1970. The second and third stages of sampling were used to select several segments (clusters of 15 to about 60 dwelling units) within each PSU. A systematic sample of dwelling units was then selected from each segment. Each sample dwelling unit was visited by an interviewer who listed all household members. If a woman 15-44 years of age, ever-married or never-married with offspring in household was listed as being in the household, an extended interview was conducted. If more than one woman in the household met the eligibility criteria, one of the women was randomly selected for an extended interview.

The statistics in this report are estimates for the national population and were computed by

NOTE: A list of references follows the text.

multiplying each sample case by the number of women she represented in the population. The multipliers, or final weights, ranged from 647 to 43,024 and averaged 3,822. They were derived by using three basic steps:

- *Inflation by the reciprocal of the probability of selection.*—The probability of selection is the product of the probabilities of selection of the PSU, segment, household, and sample person within the household.
- *Nonresponse adjustment.*—The weighted estimates were ratio adjusted for nonresponse by a multiplication of two factors. The first factor adjusted for nonresponse to the screener by imputing the characteristics of women in responding households to women in nonresponding households in the same PSU and stratum. The second factor adjusted for nonresponse to the interview by imputing the characteristics of responding women to nonresponding women in the same age-race category and PSU. Response to the screener was 93.8 percent; the response to the interview was 88.2 percent, yielding a combined response rate of approximately 82.7 percent.
- *Poststratification by marital status, age, and race.*—The estimates were ratio adjusted within each of the 12 age-race categories to an independent estimate of the population of ever-married women. The independent estimates were derived from the U.S. Bureau of the Census Current Population Surveys of March 1971-March 1976. The numbers of never-married women with coresident offspring were inflated by the first and second steps only.

The effect of the ratio-estimating process was to make the sample more closely representative of the population of women 15-44 years of age living in households in the conterminous United States, who were ever married or with coresident offspring. The final poststratification reduced the sample variance of the estimates for most statistics.

All figures were individually rounded; aggregate figures (numbers) were rounded to the nearest thousand. Aggregate numbers and percents may not sum to the total because of the rounding.

Measurement Process

Field operations for Cycle II were carried out by Westat, Inc., under contract with NCHS; these operations included pretesting the interview schedule, selecting the sample, interviewing respondents, and performing specified quality control checks. Interviewers, all of whom were female, were trained for 1 week prior to field work. The first five interview schedules were reviewed; after a high level of quality was achieved by an interviewer, this review was reduced to a sample of questionnaires, unless an unacceptable level of accuracy was found. A 10-percent sample of respondents was recontacted by telephone to verify that the interview had taken place and that certain key items were accurately recorded.

A portion of the interview schedule applicable to this report is reproduced in appendix III. The complete schedule for currently married women was reprinted elsewhere.[15] Two different forms of the questionnaire were used, one for interviewing currently married women and the other for interviewing widowed, divorced, separated, or never-married women with coresident offspring. The two forms differed mainly in wording when reference was made to the husband; some questions in one schedule did not appear in the other.

Data Reduction

The responses of each woman to the interview questions were translated into predetermined numerical codes, and these code numbers were recorded on computer tapes. The first few questionnaires coded by each coder were checked completely; after an acceptable level of quality was reached, verification of coding was performed on a systematic sample of each coder's questionnaires. The data were edited by computer to identify inconsistencies between responses, as well as code numbers that were not

NOTE: A list of references follows the text.

allowed in the coding scheme; these errors were corrected.

Missing data on age and race were imputed because they were used in the nonresponse adjustments and for poststratification purposes. Unlike Cycle I, however, other missing data were not imputed to expedite release of the data. Therefore, percents and other statistics in Cycle II were based on cases with known data. For most variables, the level of missing data was less than 1 percent. The level of missing data is noted in the "Definitions of Terms" for each item that was missing 2 percent or more of the responses. For those few variables for which missing data may pose a problem for analysis (e.g., poverty level income), this fact is noted in the text.

Reliability of Estimates

Because 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.

Sampling error is measured by a statistic called the standard error of estimate. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete count by less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference between the sample estimate and a complete count would be less than twice the standard error. The relative standard error of an estimate is obtained by dividing the standard error of the estimate by the estimate itself, and is expressed as a percent of the estimate. Numbers and percents that have a relative standard error that is more than 25 percent are considered unreliable. These figures are marked with an asterisk to caution the user, but may be combined to make other types of comparisons of greater reliability.

Estimation of standard errors.—Because of the complex multistage design of the NSFG sample, conventional formulas for calculating sampling errors are inapplicable. Standard errors were, therefore, estimated empirically by using a technique known as balanced half-sample replication. This technique produces highly reliable, unbiased estimates of sampling errors. Its application to the NSFG has been described elsewhere.[3,14]

Because it would be prohibitively expensive to estimate, and cumbersome to publish, a standard error for each percent or other statistic by this technique, standard errors were computed for selected statistics and population subgroups that were chosen to represent a wide variety of demographic characteristics and a wide variation in the size of the estimates themselves. Curves were then fitted to the relative standard error estimates (ratio of the standard error to the estimate itself) for numbers of women according to the model

$$\mathrm{RSE}(N') = (A + B/N')^{1/2}$$

where N' is the number of women and A and B are the parameters whose estimates determine the shape of the curve. Separate curves were fitted for women of all races combined, for black women, and for women of races other than black, because different sampling rates were used for black and other women. The estimates of A and B are shown in table I.

NOTE: A list of references follows the text.

Table I. Parameters used to compute estimated standard errors and relative standard errors of numbers and percents of women, by marital status and race: 1976 National Survey of Family Growth

Marital status and race	Parameter	
	A	*B*
Currently married		
All races	-0.0001858989	6751.0619
Black	-0.0006310400	2798.6440
White and other	-0.0002056235	7021.1665
Ever married		
All races	0.0001700390	6486.5185
Black	-0.0004520643	2848.2362
White and other	0.0000422037	7111.5185

To calculate the estimated standard error or relative standard error of an aggregate or percent, the appropriate estimates of A and B are used in the equations:

$$\mathrm{RSE}_{N'} = (A + B/N')^{1/2}$$

$$\mathrm{SE}_{N'} = (A + B/N')^{1/2} \times N'$$

$$\mathrm{RSE}_{P'} = (B/P' \times (100 - P')/X')^{1/2}$$

$$\mathrm{SE}_{P'} = (B \times P' \times (100 - P')/X')^{1/2}$$

where

N' = number of women
P' = percent
X' = number of women in the denominator of the percent
SE = standard error
RSE = relative standard error

Tables II and III show some illustrative standard errors of aggregates and percents of currently married women of all races from Cycle II of the NSFG.

Testing differences.—The standard error of a difference between two comparative statistics such as the proportion surgically sterile among white couples compared with black couples, is approximately the square root of the sum of the squares of the standard errors of the statistics considered separately, or calculated by the formula,

if

$$d = P'_1 - P'_2$$

then

$$\sigma_d = \sqrt{(P'_1)^2 \cdot (\mathrm{RSE}_{P'_1})^2 + (P'_2)^2 \cdot (\mathrm{RSE}_{P'_2})^2}$$

where P'_1 is the estimated percent for one group and P'_2 is the estimated percent for the other group, and $\mathrm{RSE}_{P'_1}$ and $\mathrm{RSE}_{P'_2}$ are the relative standard errors of P'_1 and P'_2, respectively. This formula will represent the actual standard error quite accurately for the difference between separate and uncorrelated characteristics although it is only a rough approximation in most other cases.

Table II. Approximate relative standard errors and standard errors for estimated numbers of currently married women of all races combined: 1976 National Survey of Family Growth

Size of estimate	Relative standard error	Standard error
50,000	36.7	18,000
100,000	25.9	26,000
500,000	11.5	58,000
1,000,000	8.1	81,000
3,000,000	4.5	136,000
5,000,000	3.4	171,000
7,000,000	2.8	195,000
10,000,000	2.2	221,000
20,000,000	1.2	246,000

A statistically significant difference among comparable proportions or other statistics from two or more subgroups is sufficiently large when a difference of that size or larger would be expected by chance in less than 5 percent of repeated samples of the same size and type if no true difference existed in the populations sampled. Such a difference would be statistically significant at the 0.05 level. By this criterion, if the observed difference or a larger one could be expected by chance in more than 5 percent of repeated samples, then one cannot be sufficiently confident to conclude that a real difference exists between the populations. When an observed difference is large enough to be statistically significant, the true difference in the population is estimated to lie between the observed difference plus or minus 2 standard errors of that difference in 95 out of 100 samples.

Although the 5-percent criterion is conventionally applied, it is in a sense arbitrary; depending on the purpose of the particular comparison, a different level of significance may be more useful. For greater confidence one would test for significance at the 0.01 (1-percent) level, but if one can accept a 10-percent chance of concluding a difference exists when there actually is none in the population, a test of significance at the 0.10 level would be appropriate.

The term "similar" means that any observed difference between two estimates being compared is not statistically significant, but terms

Table III. Approximate standard errors expressed in percentage points for estimated percents of currently married women of all races combined: 1976 National Survey of Family Growth

Base of percent	Estimated percent								
	2 or 98	5 or 95	7 or 93	10 or 90	15 or 85	20 or 80	30 or 70	40 or 60	50
	Standard error expressed in percentage points								
100,000	3.6	5.7	6.6	7.8	9.3	10.4	11.9	12.7	13.0
500,000	1.6	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.2	4.7	5.3	5.7	5.8
1,000,000	1.2	1.8	2.1	2.5	2.9	3.3	3.8	4.0	4.1
3,000,000	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.2	2.3	2.4
5,000,000	0.5	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.8
7,000,000	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.6
10,000,000	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.3
20,000,000	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9

Example of use of table III: If 30 percent of currently married women in a specific category used the oral contraceptive pill and the base of that percent was 10,000,000, then the 30-percent column and the 10,000,000 row would indicate that 1 standard error is 1.2 percentage points and 2 standard errors are twice that, or 2.4 percentage points. Therefore, the chances are about 95 out of 100 that the true percent in the population was between 27.6 and 32.4 percent (30.0 percent ± 2.4 percent). This is called a 95-percent confidence interval. In addition, the relative standard error of that 30-percent estimate is 1.2 percent divided by 30 percent or 4.0 percent.

such as "greater," "less," "larger," and "smaller" indicate that the observed differences are statistically significant at the 0.05 level, by using a two-tailed t-test with 40 degrees of freedom. Statements about differences that are qualified in some way (e.g., by the phrases "the data suggest" or "some evidence") indicate that the difference is significant at the 0.10 level but not the 0.05 level.

When a substantial difference observed is found not to be statistically significant, one should not conclude that no difference exists, but simply that such a difference cannot be established with 95-percent confidence from this sample. Lack of comment in the text about any two statistics does *not* mean that the difference was tested and found not to be significant.

The number of replicates in the balanced half-sample replication design (40 for Cycle II) can reasonably be used as an estimate of the number of degrees of freedom, although the exact value of the degrees of freedom is unknown. Therefore, in this report, differences between sample statistics are compared by using a two-tailed t-test with 40 degrees of freedom.

Example: In 1976, 29.0 percent of 24,795,000 currently married white women or their husbands had been surgically sterilized, compared with 21.6 percent of 2,169,000 currently married black women or their husbands. To test this racial difference at the 0.05 level of significance, compute

$$t = \frac{29.0 - 21.6}{\sqrt{(29.0)^2 \cdot \mathrm{RSE}^2_{(29.0)} + (21.6)^2 \cdot \mathrm{RSE}^2_{(21.6)}}}$$

By using the parameters from table I in the formula for the RSE of a percent,

$$\mathrm{RSE}_{(29.0)} = \sqrt{\frac{7021.1665}{29.0} \cdot \frac{(100 - 29.0)}{24{,}795{,}000}}$$

$$= 0.026$$

and

$$\mathrm{RSE}_{(21.6)} = \sqrt{\frac{2798.6440}{21.6} \cdot \frac{(100 - 21.6)}{2{,}169{,}000}}$$

$$= 0.068$$

Thus

$$t = \frac{29.0 - 21.6}{\sqrt{(29.0)^2(0.026)^2 + (21.6)^2(0.068)^2}}$$

$$= 4.48$$

The two-tailed 0.95 critical value $(1 - \alpha)$ for a t statistic with 40 degrees of freedom is 2.02. Therefore, the difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

Nonsampling Error

Although sampling error affects the precision or reliability of survey estimates, nonsampling error introduces bias. To minimize nonsampling error, stringent quality control procedures were introduced at every stage of the survey including a check on completeness of the household listing; extensive training and practice of interviewers; field editing of questionnaires; short verification interviews with a subsample of respondents; verification of coding and editing; an independent recode of a sample of questionnaires by NCHS; keypunch verification; and an extensive computer "cleaning" to check for inconsistent responses, missing data, and invalid codes. A detailed description of some of these procedures follows; others were previously discussed.

The results of any survey are subject to at least four types of potential nonsampling error including interview nonresponse; nonresponse to individual questions or items within the interview; inconsistency of responses to questions; and errors of recording, coding, and keying by survey personnel.

A discussion of interview nonresponse and item nonresponse follows. The third and fourth types of errors cannot be accurately measured, but the quality control procedures (some of which are discussed under "Measurement Process" and "Data Reduction") of the survey were designed to reduce such nonsampling errors to a minimum.

Interview nonresponse.—Interview nonresponse occurs when no part of an interview is obtained. It can result from failures at any of three principal steps: (1) failing to list all households in sample segments, (2) failing to screen all listed households, and (3) failing to interview an eligible woman in each screened household. A discussion of these steps follows.

The completeness of listing cannot be tested directly because it requires an independent, accurate enumeration of the households that should have been listed. In the NSFG, listing completeness and accuracy were tested indirectly in two ways. First, an independent relisting of about 20 percent of the segments was performed, and any differences between the two lists were pointed out to listers by supervisory staff and reconciled. Second, listing accuracy was tested by the missed dwelling unit (DU) procedure at the time of screening: if the first structure in a segment was included in the sample, the whole segment was checked to see if any structures had been missed in the listing process; if the first structure was a multiple-DU structure, the entire structure was checked for missed DU's. About 700 dwelling units, or about 2 percent of the sample of DU's designated for screening, were included in the sample as a result of the missed DU procedure.

Of the original sample of 32,653 DU's screened, 5,490 were found vacant, not DU's, or group quarters. Of the remaining DU's, 6.2 percent were not screened successfully. This figure included 2.5 percent refusals to have household members listed, 0.4 percent with language problems, 1.7 percent where no one could be found at home, and 1.7 percent for other reasons such as being refused access to the unit or because of illness.

Of the 25,480 households for which screening was completed, 10,202 were found to contain an eligible respondent. However, interviews were not completed in 11.8 percent of these cases because of refusals by the eligible respondents (5.8 percent), language problems (0.6 percent), no contact after repeated calls (1.8 percent), or other problems (3.6 percent).

The nonresponse adjustment for interview nonresponse described earlier imputes the characteristics of responding women of the same age group, race, marital status, and geographic area to nonresponding women.

Item nonresponse.—Item nonresponse may have occurred when a respondent refused to answer a question or did not know the answer to a question, when the question was erroneously not asked or the answer was not recorded by the interviewer, or where the answer was not codable. Nonresponse to individual questions was very low in Cycle II, as in Cycle I. Some examples of item nonresponse among a total of 8,611 respondents are number of pregnancies, 3 cases; religion of respondent, 17 cases; religion

of husband, 232 cases; education, 14 cases; occupation, 185 cases; and poverty level income, 1,348 cases. Most of the items with relatively high levels of missing data were characteristics of the respondent's current or last husband, and the sources and amount of income.

Unlike Cycle I of the NSFG, missing data items were not imputed in Cycle II, except for a few respondents with missing information on age and race, which were required for the nonresponse and poststratification adjustments. A small amount of missing data was tolerated in Cycle II to facilitate faster release of data and data tapes from the NSFG. Assignment of missing data codes and editing of selected variables was performed by the NSFG staff when necessary or desirable for analysis, as explained in the appropriate section of the definitions.

As with all survey data, responses to the NSFG are subject to possible deliberate misreporting by the respondent. Such misreporting cannot be detected directly, but it can be detected indirectly by the extensive computer "cleaning" and editing procedures used in the NSFG.

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APPENDIX II

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

CONTRACEPTIVE STATUS

As noted previously, data on contraceptive status in this report differ slightly from those in *Advance Data* Nos. 36 and 40.[1,2] The data in this report were revised in 2 ways: the amount of missing data on contraceptive status was reduced (from 307 to 14 sample cases) by further analysis of cases with missing data; and priority was given to the woman's sterilization when both husband and wife had been surgically sterilized (on this latter point, see *Advance Data* No. 55, page 10[16]).

Sterile

Sterile.—A woman (or couple) was classified as "sterile" if she reported that it was impossible for her to have a baby.

Nonsurgical.—A woman (or couple) was classifed as "nonsurgically sterile" if she reported that it was impossible for her to have a baby for any reason other than a surgical sterilization. Reported nonsurgical reasons for sterility included menopause and sterility because of accident, illness, or congenital causes.

Surgical.—A woman (or couple) was classified as "surgically sterile" if she or her husband was completely sterile because of an operation.

Because surgical sterilizations are frequently obtained exclusively or partly as methods of contraception, that is, because of their complete effectiveness against conception rather than for therapeutic reasons, they have been further classified as "contraceptive" and "noncontraceptive" operations. In Cycle I, a surgical sterilization was contraceptive if the respondent answered "yes" to the question "Was the operation done at least partly so that you would not have any more children?" Because the avoidance of another pregnancy could itself be for therapeutic reasons, the question was reworded in Cycle II to "Was one reason for the operation because you had all the children you wanted?" This change in wording was expected to yield a lower percent of operations reported for contraceptive reasons than would have been reported previously. As a result, the percents of couples with contraceptive and noncontraceptive sterilization shown in this report are not completely comparable between the two surveys. Also, evidence suggests that surgical sterilizations classified as "noncontraceptive" may include some operations that actually were partly contraceptive in intent. The percent of operations classified as "contraceptive" in Cycle II should therefore be regarded as a minimum estimate.

Noncontraceptors

Pregnant.—A woman (or couple) was classified 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 30 days prior to the interview was automatically considered not pregnant.

Seeking pregnancy.—A woman (or couple) was classified as "seeking pregnancy" if she re-

NOTE: A list of references follows the text.

ported she was not using a contraceptive method at the time of interview because she wanted to become pregnant. Never-married mothers (tables 21-22) and widowed, divorced, and separated women (tables 19-20) were not asked if they were trying to become pregnant.

Post partum.—A woman (or couple) was classified as "post partum" if she reported that she was not currently using a contraceptive method, was not seeking a pregnancy, and her last pregnancy had terminated within 2 months before her interview date.

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 women are those who were indifferent to the chances of pregnancy, had a very low risk of pregnancy because of a fecundity impairment, or objected to contraceptive methods for personal or religious reasons. Among those widowed, divorced, or separated, infrequent intercourse or complete abstinence probably accounts for a significant proportion of nonusers. Women who used the douche following intercourse, but who did not report this as a method of contraception, were also classified here, although douching has a very modest contraceptive effect when performed very soon after intercourse.

Contraceptors

Surgical.—Surgical contraceptors are women (or their husbands) who obtained a surgical sterilization at least partly because they had all the children they wanted.

Nonsurgical.—Nonsurgical contraceptors, or contraceptive method users, are women (or couples) who reported using a contraceptive method other than surgical sterilization at the interview date. Nonsurgical contraceptors are 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.

Age.—Age was classified by the age of the respondent at her last birthday before the interview date.

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

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

In tables where data are presented for women according to race and Hispanic origin, those of Hispanic origin are included in the statistics for white and black women if they were identified as such by the interviewer.

Marital status.—Persons were classified by marital status as "married," "widowed," "divorced," "separated," or "never married." Married persons included those who reported themselves as married or as informally married (living with a partner or common-law spouse). Persons who were temporarily separated for reasons other than marital discord such as vacation, illness, or Armed Forces were classified as "married."

Household population.—The household population consists of persons living in households. A household is a person or a group of persons, where no more than five persons are unrelated to the head of the household, who occupy a room or group of rooms intended as separate living quarters; that is, the occupants do not live and eat with any other persons in the structure. Either direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall, or complete kitchen facilities for the exclusive use of the occupants of the household must be present.

Region of residence.—Data are classified by region of residence into the four major Census regions: Northeast, North Central, South, and West. Sample size greatly restricts the possibility of meaningful analyses by social characteristics among smaller geographic divisions. The areas

comprising these four major geographic regions are:

Geographic region and division	*States included*
Northeast	
New England	Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut
Middle Atlantic	New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania
North Central	
East North Central	Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin
West North Central	Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas
South	
South Atlantic	Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida
East South Central	Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi
West South Central	Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas
West	
Mountain	Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada
Pacific	Washington, Oregon, Alaska, California, Hawaii

Education.—Education was classified according to the highest grade or year of regular school or college that was completed. Determination of the highest year of regular school or college completed by the respondent was based on responses to a series of questions concerning (a) the last grade or year of school attended, (b) whether that grade was completed, (c) whether any other vocational or nonacademic schooling was obtained, and (d) whether such other schooling was included in the years of regular school or college reported in (a).

Religion.—Women were classified by religion in response to the question, "Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, or something else?" In addition to the three major religious groupings, two other categories—other and none—were used. Because the category of Protestant includes numerous individual denominations, these respondents were further asked to identify the denomination to which they belonged. Those who answered "other" to the original question and named a Protestant denomination were included with their own groups. Although specific denominational names were obtained and recorded, the numbers of cases for most denominations were too few to produce reliable estimates, therefore they were combined in larger categories.

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

Labor force status.—A woman was categorized as being "in the labor force" if she was working full time; 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 income.—The poverty index ratio was calculated by dividing the total family income by the weighted average threshold income of nonfarm families with the head of household under 65 years of age based on the poverty levels shown in U.S. Bureau of the Census *Current Population Reports,* Series P-60, No. 106, "Money Income in 1975 of Families and Persons in the United States," table A-3.[17] This definition accounts for 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.

Poverty level income was not ascertained for 1,348 of 8,611 sampled women (16 percent), including 23 percent of sampled black women and 12 percent of sampled white women. Therefore, special care should be taken in interpreting small differences by poverty level income.

NOTE: A list of references follows the text.

APPENDIX III

SELECTED SECTIONS OF THE CURRENTLY MARRIED WOMEN QUESTIONNAIRE OF THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF FAMILY GROWTH

OPEN INTERVAL CONTINUE DECK C 6

Box 23. If Currently Pregnant, Go To C-43. Otherwise, continue.

C-34. Since your (last) pregnancy, have there been periods of one month or more in which you were not having intercourse, such as after your pregnancy ended , when one of you was away or sick, or for any other reason?

Yes . . . . . 1 *(C-35)*
No . . . . . 2 *(C-36)*

C-35. What months and years were those?
PROBE: What other months?

FROM MO./YR.	TO MO./YR.

C-36. Please look again at the card. Since (your [last] pregnancy/January, 1973), have you ever used any method for one month or more to delay or prevent a pregnancy?

HAND CARD 1

Yes . . . . . 1 *(C-37)*
No . . . . . 2 *(C-43)*

BEGIN DECK 07

C-37. Starting with the earliest method you used during this period, please tell me all the methods you used for one month or more in the order you used them. PROBE: What other methods? (ENTER IN ORDER IN ANSWER AREA.)

1st METHOD	2nd METHOD	3rd METHOD	LAST METHOD

(Ask C-38 Through C-42 Sequentially For Each Method.)

C-38. In what month and year did you start to use *(METHOD)*?

MO./YR.	MO./YR.	MO./YR.	MO./YR.

Box 24. If the Method Is Sterilization ('J' or 'K' Above) Go To Box 26. Otherwise, Continue.

C-39. While you were using *(METHOD)* during this time, were there times when you skipped using any method at all?

	1st METHOD	2nd METHOD	3rd METHOD	LAST METHOD
Yes	1 *(C-40)*	1 *(C-40)*	1 *(C-40)*	1 *(C-40)*
No	2 *(Box 25)*	2 *(Box 25)*	2 *(Box 25)*	2 *(Box 25)*

C-40. Would you say you skipped using all methods often, sometimes, or only once or twice?

	1st METHOD	2nd METHOD	3rd METHOD	LAST METHOD
Often	1	1	1	1
Sometimes	2	2	2	2
Once/Twice	3	3	3	3

Box 25. If Last Method, Ask C-41. Otherwise, C-42.

C-41. Are you and your husband still using *(METHOD)*?

	1st METHOD	2nd METHOD	3rd METHOD	LAST METHOD
Yes	1 *(C-43)*	1 *(C-43)*	1 *(C-43)*	1 *(C-43)*
No	2 *(C-42)*	2 *(C-42)*	2 *(C-42)*	2 *(C-42)*

C-42. In what month and year did you stop using *(METHOD)*?

MO./YR.	MO./YR.	MO./YR.	MO./YR.

Box 26. Go To Next Method (C-38), If Any. Otherwise, Go To C-43.

SECTION D

BEGIN DECK 15

We are talking with women about children they may have in the future, as well as about those they already have. (IF "R" HAS ALREADY MENTIONED STERILITY, MENOPAUSE, ETC.: I think we have already covered some of these next questions, but I'd better go through them with you to be sure that I record the answers correctly.)

D-1. It is physically impossible for some couples to have children. As far as you know, is it possible or impossible for you and your husband to conceive a(nother) baby, that is, to get pregnant (again)?

Possible. . . . . 1 *(D-6)*
Impossible. . . . . 2 *(D-2)* 13
Don't Know, Not Sure. . . . . 8 *(D-6)*

D-2. What is the reason that you are unable to have a(nother) baby? (RECORD VERBATIM ON LINES AT LEFT, CODE ALL THAT APPLY, THEN FOLLOW SKIP INSTRUCTION FOR SMALLEST CODE NUMBER. IF RESPONSE INDICATES A PROBLEM OTHER THAN STERILITY, CHANGE D-1 TO "POSSIBLE" AND GO TO D-6.)

14 15 16 17

"R" has had sterilizing operation. . . . . .01 *(D-3)*
Impossible for "R" due to accident or illness . . .02 *(D-3)*
"R" sterile for other reasons. . . . . .03 *(D-3)*
"R" has reached menopause . .04 *(D-14)*
Husband has had sterilizing operation. . . .05 *(D-3)*
Impossible for husband due to accident or illness .06 *(D-3)*
Husband sterile for other reasons. . . . . .07 *(D-3)*
Couple unable to conceive, don't know reason. . . . . .08 *(Probe)*

PROBE: How many years altogether have you gone without using any birth control method and still not become pregnant? (RECORD VERBATIM ON LINES AT LEFT AND ENTER NUMBER OF YEARS.)

NO. OF YRS. *(Box 27A)*

18 19

Box 27A. IF 3 YEARS OR LESS, SAY: I know that you've talked about the reasons that you haven't become pregnant but could you tell me a little bit more your difficulty in getting pregnant?

THEN CODE "YES" IN D-6 AND RECORD RESPONSE IN D-7.

IF MORE THAN 3 YEARS, CODE 6 IN D-3 AND CONTINUE.

D-3.	D-4.	D-5.
(ASK QUESTION ONLY IF D-2 IS FEMALE OPERATION; OTHERWISE, CODE WITHOUT ASKING.) What kind of operation was it?	CHOOSE APPROPRIATE QUESTION: (A) When was the operation done? (B) When did (you/your husband) become sterile? (If D.K., PROBE:. . . learn of the sterility)	Was one reason for the operation because you had all the children you wanted?
One ovary removed ("R" not sterile) . . . ○	→ CHECK THE APPROPRIATE CIRCLE IN D-3 AND PROBE TO FIND OUT IF SHE IS SURE THAT SHE IS STERILE. If she is sure, circle Code "6 - other reasons" in D-3 and follow the appropriate skip instruction for that category. If she is not sure, record her answer verbatim and skip to D-8.	
One tube tied or removed ("R" not sterile) . . . ○		
Both ovaries removed. . . . . 1 *(D-4A)*	MONTH / YEAR *(D-5)*	Yes . . . 1 *(D-76)* No. . . . 2 *(D-14)*
Both tubes tied or removed . . . . 2 *(D-4A)*	MONTH / YEAR *(D-5)*	Yes . . . 1 *(D-76)* No. . . . 2 *(D-14)*
Hysterectomy (Removal of uterus). . . . . 3 *(D-4A)*	MONTH / YEAR *(D-5)*	Yes . . . 1 *(D-76)* No. . . . 2 *(D-14)*
Vasectomy (cutting male sperm ducts) . . . 4 *(D-4A)*	MONTH / YEAR *(D-5)*	Yes . . . 1 *(D-76)* No. . . . 2 *(D-14)*
Other operation or type unknown . . . 5 *(D-4A)*	MONTH / YEAR *(D-5)*	Yes . . . 1 *(D-76)* No. . . . 2 *(D-14)*
Accident, illness or other reasons. . . 6 *(D-4B)*	MONTH / YEAR *(D-14)*	

20 ☐ 21—24 ☐☐☐☐ 25 ☐

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