

Data on fertility preferences is used to evaluate the effectiveness of couples' efforts to control their own fertility and to assess Rwanda's future contraceptive needs not only for birth spacing, but to limit the total number of births.

To obtain information about fertility preferences, the RDHS-III asked women how many additional children they wanted to have in the future, how long they wanted to wait before having their next child, and the total number of children desired.

Data on attitudes and opinions about procreation have always been somewhat controversial. Some researchers believe responses to questions about fertility preferences are subject to three potential flaws: first, they represent viewpoints that are subject to change rather than firm convictions; second, they do not take into account the effects of social pressure and the attitudes of other family members, particularly the husband, who can have enormous influence over reproductive decisions; and third, the data are obtained from a sample of women of differing ages with differing birth histories. Their responses relate to medium- or long-term goals that may change over time or be of limited predictive value for young and/or recently-married women. The responses of older women and/or women at the end of their childbearing years are inevitably influenced by their birth histories.

Despite possible problems of interpretation, the data on fertility preferences can assist in understanding the factors affecting fertility in Rwanda, where contraceptive prevalence remains low and fertility levels remain high. This analysis covers only men and women who were married at the time of the survey.

7.1 DESIRE FOR (MORE) CHILDREN

The desire to have (more) children in the future generally correlates with a woman's age and the number of living children she and/or her husband have.

The RDHS-III asked currently married women a series of questions designed to discern their desire to delay the next birth or to stop having children. The results are presented in Table 7.1 by number of living children (including the current pregnancy) at the time of the survey. A little more than two in five women (42 percent) reported wanting no more children, while more than half (52 percent) wanted to have another child. Among the women who wanted (more) children in the future, 12 percent wanted another child within two years, 39 percent wanted to delay the next birth by two or more years, and 2 percent wanted to have another child but were uncertain as to when. In general, over three-quarters of married women in Rwanda (83 percent) can be considered potential candidates for family planning: those who do not want any more children (42 percent), and those who want to delay their next birth (41 percent). The percentage of women who want no more children has increased compared with the previous survey (RDHS-II), from 33 percent in 2000 to 42 percent in 2005.

Table 7.1 Fertility preferences by number of living children								
Percent distribution of currently married women and currently married men by desire for children, according to number of living children, Rwanda 2005								
Desire for children	Number of living children ¹							Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+	
WOMEN								
Have another soon ²	85.4	20.2	13.7	10.0	5.0	4.0	1.1	11.8
Have another later ³	3.9	69.1	59.7	49.1	31.6	21.8	7.1	38.8
Have another, undecided when	2.6	2.7	1.6	1.9	1.4	1.2	0.4	1.6
Undecided	0.4	0.7	2.0	1.5	2.0	2.8	3.2	2.0
Want no more	1.1	6.0	21.3	34.8	56.8	64.3	81.1	42.2
Sterilized ⁴	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.5
Declared infecund	6.5	1.4	1.0	1.8	2.6	5.0	6.3	3.1
Missing	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of women	195	809	1,046	982	830	589	1,060	5,510
MEN								
Have another soon ²	46.1	18.8	13.9	8.7	7.9	6.5	2.8	10.7
Have another later ³	43.5	72.8	59.9	52.1	34.4	28.3	12.7	39.7
Have another, undecided when	5.3	2.8	1.9	2.1	2.0	1.2	1.4	2.0
Undecided	0.0	0.0	0.6	1.5	2.1	1.6	0.5	0.9
Want no more	2.3	5.2	20.9	34.3	51.3	59.3	77.2	43.7
Sterilized ⁴	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Declared infecund	2.8	0.4	2.0	1.2	1.2	1.7	5.0	2.4
Missing	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.2	1.1	1.5	0.4	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of men	127	313	393	393	325	243	706	2,500
¹ Includes current pregnancy (for women) ² Wants next birth within 2 years ³ Wants to delay next birth for 2 or more years ⁴ Includes both female and male sterilization								

Unlike most countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion of men in Rwanda who want no more children (44 percent) is similar to that of women (42 percent). The same is true for the proportion of men who want (more) children later (52 percent for men and women). Like women, the proportion of men who want (more) children soon decreases as parity increases, and the proportion of men who want no more children increases as parity increases (Figure 7.1). In fact, the percentage of men who want more children ranges from 76 percent among those with two children to 44 percent among those with four children, to 17 percent among those who have six children or more. It should be noted that at each parity level (Table 7.1) the differences between men and women who want more children are minimal.

As expected, the proportion of women who want no more children increases considerably with the number of living children, from 1 percent for women with no children, to 35 percent for women with three children, to 81 percent for those with six children or more. Women who want no more children have presumably reached their desired family size, or cumulative fertility, and should be using a contraceptive method to avoid unwanted pregnancies. Finally, the data show that 92 percent of women with no children would like to have a child, and the majority of these women (85 percent) would like to have one soon.

Figure 7.1 Proportion of Currently Married Women and Men Who Want No More Children, by Number of Living Children

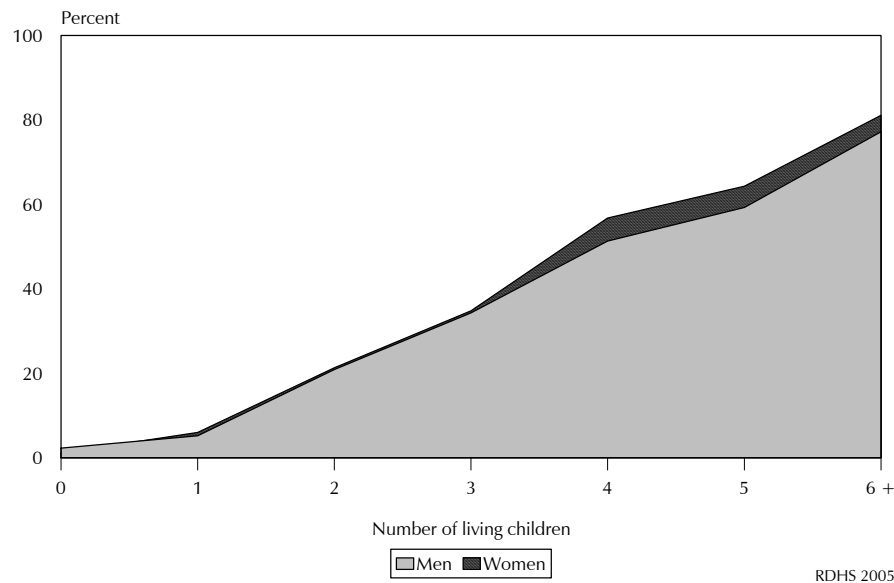


Table 7.2 shows the percentages of women and men who want no more children by background characteristics. Results by residence show that the proportions of women and men who want no more children are somewhat higher in urban areas (49 percent for women; 48 percent for men) than in rural areas (42 percent for women; 43 percent for men).

By province, the proportion of women who want no more children ranges from a low of 40 percent in the West province to a high of 52 percent in the City of Kigali. Results by level of education show that women with no education are more likely to want to limit births (48 percent) than women with primary (40 percent) or secondary education (46 percent). In addition, with respect to wealth quintile, only the richest quintile stands out with a significantly higher proportion of women wanting no more children (47 percent) than the other quintiles (38 to 44 percent).

Unlike women, higher levels of education for men correlate with higher proportions wanting no more children (47 percent, compared to 43 percent among men with a primary education).

The results according to province for men are similar to those for women: the City of Kigali has the highest proportion of men who have reached their desired number of children (50 percent). In addition, for men, the desire to limit births correlates closely with household standard of living: the proportion of men who want no more children increases from the poorest quintile (41 percent) to the richest quintile (52 percent).

Married women who do not use contraception and who reported not wanting any more children (desiring, therefore, to limit births) or who reported wanting to wait two or more years before their next birth (desiring, therefore, to space births) are considered to have unmet family planning need. Women who reported having unmet need and women currently using contraception make up the total potential demand for family planning.

Table 7.2 Desire to limit childbearing

Percentage of currently married women who want no more children, by number of living children and the percentage of currently married women and currently married men who want no more children by background characteristics, Rwanda 2005

Background characteristic	Number of living children ¹							Women	Men
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+		
Residence									
Urban	(3.5)	11.2	26.5	49.9	68.4	73.6	86.3	49.3	47.6
Rural	0.8	5.3	20.9	33.0	55.6	64.0	81.2	41.7	43.1
Province									
Kigali city	*	15.2	33.4	55.0	80.1	(91.4)	92.2	52.0	50.2
South	(1.7)	2.5	16.6	33.8	55.1	71.8	88.4	40.7	42.0
West	(0.0)	5.7	19.7	28.6	56.1	53.2	70.3	39.5	43.7
North	(0.0)	3.9	26.3	30.8	49.3	59.7	83.5	44.1	47.9
East	(2.7)	8.5	21.6	42.4	62.7	69.4	88.7	44.6	39.5
Education									
No education	(2.1)	10.2	23.3	36.9	58.9	60.2	78.8	48.3	44.2
Primary	1.0	5.0	20.8	33.9	55.6	65.6	82.8	40.3	43.0
Secondary or higher	*	4.2	26.8	43.0	65.6	79.6	90.7	45.6	47.3
Wealth quintile									
Lowest	(0.0)	6.8	21.0	35.4	57.5	67.4	82.2	42.7	40.7
Second	(0.0)	5.8	22.6	33.3	55.1	67.3	83.7	43.7	43.8
Middle	*	3.3	24.0	39.3	54.7	57.8	77.8	42.3	41.9
Fourth	(0.0)	5.2	14.9	26.8	57.2	61.2	82.7	38.2	41.3
Highest	(1.9)	9.6	26.8	45.6	63.3	73.4	82.5	47.4	52.2
Total	1.1	6.0	21.8	35.5	57.5	65.2	81.8	42.7	43.7

Note: Women and men who have been sterilized are considered to want no more children. An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed. Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

¹ Includes current pregnancy

7.2 NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES

Table 7.3 presents estimates for unmet need, met need, and total demand for family planning for currently married women by background characteristics.

Unmet need for family planning remains high: nearly two in five married women (38 percent) have expressed need for family planning. The majority of these women would be using contraception to space births (25 percent), while 13 percent would use contraception to limit births.

If married women with unmet need for contraception were able to satisfy this need, that is, if they were to use contraception, contraceptive prevalence would reach 55 percent. This is approximately three times the current rate. By way of comparison, the expressed need for contraception in the RDHS-II survey of 2000 was 49 percent. The total potential demand for family planning—the proportion of women with unmet need plus women who are already using contraception—is broken down into two categories: need for birth spacing (32 percent), and need for limiting births (23 percent). Among currently married women, only 31 percent of the total potential demand for family planning is being met. However, this is an increase from 27 percent in the RDHS-II.

Table 7.3 Need for family planning among currently married women

Percentage of currently married women with unmet need for family planning, and with met need for family planning, and the total demand for family planning, by background characteristics, Rwanda 2005

Background characteristic	Unmet need for family planning ¹			Met need for family planning (currently using) ²			Total demand for family planning ³			Percentage of demand satisfied	Number of women
	For spacing	For limiting	Total	For spacing	For limiting	Total	For spacing	For limiting	Total		
Age											
15-19	18.7	3.2	21.9	1.1	2.2	3.2	19.8	5.4	25.1	12.9	65
20-24	33.0	3.0	36.0	9.8	2.9	12.7	42.8	5.9	48.7	26.0	980
25-29	34.4	5.9	40.3	10.8	6.6	17.3	45.2	12.5	57.6	30.1	1,254
30-34	30.9	9.9	40.8	9.9	10.4	20.3	40.8	20.3	61.1	33.3	1,112
35-39	20.1	21.6	41.7	6.3	14.2	20.4	26.4	35.7	62.1	32.9	807
40-44	8.5	31.3	39.8	2.1	17.6	19.7	10.6	48.9	59.4	33.1	739
45-49	2.4	21.4	23.8	0.4	13.7	14.1	2.8	35.1	37.9	37.1	554
Residence											
Urban	20.5	13.9	34.4	13.5	18.1	31.6	34.0	32.0	66.0	47.9	744
Rural	25.1	13.3	38.4	6.5	8.7	15.2	31.6	22.0	53.6	28.3	4,766
Province											
Kigali city	16.8	14.1	30.9	14.3	21.2	35.5	31.1	35.3	66.4	53.5	407
South	24.5	13.0	37.5	6.9	8.0	14.8	31.4	21.0	52.4	28.3	1,411
West	25.4	13.2	38.7	6.9	7.5	14.5	32.4	20.8	53.2	27.3	1,427
North	26.1	13.9	40.1	6.4	9.6	16.0	32.6	23.5	56.0	28.5	1,058
East	24.4	13.4	37.8	7.3	11.6	18.9	31.8	25.0	56.8	33.3	1,208
Education											
No education	22.1	17.9	40.0	2.8	7.3	10.1	24.9	25.2	50.1	20.1	1,359
Primary	26.0	12.3	38.3	7.8	9.3	17.1	33.8	21.6	55.4	30.9	3,672
Secondary or higher	19.4	9.2	28.6	18.1	22.3	40.4	37.4	31.5	68.9	58.5	479
Wealth quintile											
Lowest	26.0	14.0	40.0	4.1	6.9	11.0	30.1	20.9	51.1	21.6	1,136
Second	24.5	13.0	37.5	5.3	9.9	15.2	29.8	22.9	52.7	28.9	1,123
Middle	24.8	14.7	39.5	8.0	7.7	15.7	32.8	22.4	55.2	28.5	1,112
Fourth	25.6	12.5	38.1	7.2	7.6	14.8	32.8	20.1	52.9	28.0	1,144
Highest	21.1	12.8	33.9	13.3	18.6	31.8	34.4	31.4	65.8	48.4	995
Total	24.5	13.4	37.9	7.4	9.9	17.4	31.9	23.3	55.3	31.4	5,510

¹ *Unmet need for spacing* includes pregnant women whose pregnancy was mistimed; amenorrheic women who are not using family planning and whose last birth was mistimed, or whose last births was unwanted but now say they want more children; and fecund women who are neither pregnant nor amenorrheic, who are not using any method of family planning, and say they want to wait 2 or more years for their next birth. Also included in *unmet need for spacing* are fecund women who are not using any method of family planning and say they are unsure whether they want another child or who want another child. *Unmet need for limiting* refers to pregnant women whose pregnancy was unwanted; amenorrheic women who are not using family planning, whose last child was unwanted and who do not want any more children; and fecund women who are neither pregnant nor amenorrheic, who are not using any method of family planning, and who want no more children. Excluded from the unmet need category are pregnant and amenorrheic women who became pregnant while using a method (these women are in need of a better method of contraception).

² *Using for spacing* is defined as women who are using some method of family planning and say they want to have another child or are undecided whether to have another. *Using for limiting* is defined as women who are using and who want no more children. Note that the specific methods used are not taken into account here.

³ Nonusers who are pregnant or amenorrheic whose pregnancy was the result of a contraceptive failure are *not* included in the category of unmet need, but are included in total demand for contraception (since they would have been using had their method not failed).

The need for family planning varies according to background characteristic. With respect to age, unmet need is lower among younger women age 20-24 (36 percent) and among older women age 45-49 (24 percent). In the other age groups, the proportions are approximately 40 percent. Up until the age of 34, unmet need for family planning relates essentially to birth spacing while, after age 40, women express greater need for contraception to limit births.

Results by residence show that the proportion of women with unmet need is somewhat higher in rural areas (38 percent) than urban areas (34 percent). Because women in rural areas use contraception far less, the total demand for family planning services satisfied is much higher in urban areas (48 percent)

than rural areas (28 percent). The need for contraception to space births is always much greater than the need for contraception to limit births, regardless of residence. The total potential demand has risen, regardless of residence, compared with 2000 RDHS-II levels, which were 61 percent for urban areas (66 percent in 2005) and 47 percent for rural areas (53 percent in 2005).

By province, the proportion of women with unmet need for family planning ranges from a low of 31 percent in the City of Kigali to a high of 40 percent in the North province. The City of Kigali also has the highest total potential demand (66 percent); the South province has the lowest (52 percent).

With respect to level of education, unmet need for family planning is greater among women with no education (40 percent) than among women with a primary education (38 percent) and women with a secondary education or higher (29 percent). Because of the positive correlation between family planning and level of education, the total demand for family planning services satisfied is much higher among women with a secondary education or higher (59 percent) than among women with a primary education (31 percent) or women with no education (20 percent).

According to wealth quintile, unmet need seems to be especially higher for women in the lowest four quintiles (around 40 percent). The total potential demand, however, is greater among women in the richest households (66 percent) and is 48 percent satisfied. The lowest demand satisfied is found among women in the poorest households (22 percent).

7.3 IDEAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN

Women's reproductive behavior can be influenced by the ideal number of children they would like to have and the ideal number their husband/partner would like to have. In order to determine this ideal number, the RDHS-III asked all women surveyed one of the following two questions:

- To women with no living children: *If you could choose the exact number of children you would like to have in your lifetime, how many would you have?*
- To women with living children: *If you could go back to the time when you had no children and choose the exact number of children you would like to have in your lifetime, how many would you have chosen?*

These seemingly simple questions may be embarrassing, particularly for women with living children who may specify an ideal number that differs from the number of children they already have. It may also be difficult for a woman to specify an ideal number that is lower than her current cumulative fertility.

The responses to these questions are presented in Table 7.4. Four percent of women did not give a numeric response, giving instead a general answer such as "However many God gives me," "I don't know," or "any number." The proportion of women who gave this type of response varies between 3 and 6 percent. The average ideal number of children for all women and for married women at the time of the survey was 4.3 and 4.5, respectively.

This ideal number of children lower than the TFR (6.1), which means that women would like to have a lower cumulative fertility. An examination of the distribution of reported ideal family size shows that the ideal number of children for 40 percent of women is 4. However, 16 percent of women have an ideal number of 6 or more. This proportion ranges from 14 percent among women with no living children to 20 percent among women with 4 living children, to 29 percent among those with at least 6 living children.

In general, there is a positive correlation between current family size and ideal family size, which ranges from 4 children for all women with no children, to 4.8 for those with 6 children or more. Among women who were married at the time of the survey, ideal family size varies inconsistently from 4.4 children for women with no children to 4.9 for women with 6 or more children.

The ideal number of children for men is approximately 4 (all men and married men). As with women, men's ideal number of children is lower than the TFR.

Table 7.4 Ideal number of children								
Percent distribution of all women and all men by ideal number of children, and mean ideal number of children for all women and currently married women and for all men and currently married men, according to the number of living children, Rwanda 2005								
Ideal number of children	Number of living children ¹							Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+	
WOMEN								
0	1.4	1.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	1.1	1.0	1.0
1	0.6	1.9	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.7
2	9.3	11.6	11.4	6.9	6.6	7.4	6.9	8.9
3	13.9	20.0	13.2	13.2	5.3	8.0	7.4	12.5
4	38.4	38.7	49.8	40.7	48.0	33.0	35.3	40.3
5	18.2	13.7	11.9	18.9	17.0	21.2	14.6	16.7
6+	14.1	9.7	9.7	16.2	19.6	25.6	28.8	16.3
Non-numeric responses	4.0	3.3	3.3	2.9	2.7	3.5	5.6	3.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of women	4,201	1,312	1,395	1,282	1,070	781	1,280	11,321
Mean ideal number of children² for:								
All women	4.2	3.9	4.0	4.3	4.5	4.7	4.8	4.3
Currently married women	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.6	4.8	4.9	4.5
MEN								
0	8.1	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.7	4.2
1	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.0	1.5	0.6	0.4	0.5
2	10.6	12.1	11.6	8.9	10.0	10.6	11.0	10.7
3	18.7	25.0	18.9	14.7	8.5	14.6	14.6	17.3
4	34.9	41.0	48.7	42.1	41.8	31.0	43.2	38.7
5	15.6	12.3	12.4	19.3	18.4	14.4	10.2	14.7
6+	11.2	7.8	7.3	13.0	18.2	25.8	18.5	13.1
Non-numeric responses	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.5	1.2	2.4	1.4	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of men	2,317	366	415	409	338	255	721	4,820
Mean ideal number of children² for:								
All men	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.0
Currently married men	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.2
¹ Includes current pregnancy								
² Means are calculated excluding respondents who gave non-numeric responses.								

Table 7.5 shows the mean ideal number of children for all women and all men according to current age and background characteristics. The ideal number of children does not vary much by age: for women age 20 to 29 it is 4.1 children and for women age 40 to 49 it is 4.5 children.

However, this ideal number varies significantly by residence, province, level of education, and household standard of living. For women in rural areas, the ideal family size is larger (4.4) than for women in urban areas (3.8).

With respect to province, the mean ideal number of children is lower among women in the City of Kigali (3.7) than among those in the other provinces, where it ranges from 4.2 in the East province to 4.6 in the West province. Also, the higher the level of education, the lower the mean ideal number of children: 4.6 for women with no education, compared with 3.6 for women with a secondary education or higher. As with level of education, the desired cumulative fertility decreases as household wealth increases, from 4.5 children in the poorest households to 3.9 in the richest.

Table 7.5 Mean ideal number of children

Mean ideal number of children for all women and all men, by age and background characteristics, Rwanda 2005

Background characteristic	Age							All women	All men
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49		
Residence									
Urban	3.9	3.6	3.6	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.3	3.8	3.7
Rural	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.0
Province									
Kigali city	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.8	4.5	3.9	3.7	3.2
South	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.6	4.3	4.2
West	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.4
North	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.8	4.7	4.3	3.8
East	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	3.7
Education									
No education	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.3
Primary	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.0
Secondary or higher	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.8	4.0	(4.1)	3.6	3.5
Wealth quintile									
Lowest	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.7	4.4	4.5	4.1
Second	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.4	4.1
Middle	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.0
Fourth	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.3	4.1
Highest	3.9	3.7	3.7	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.3	3.9	3.6
All women	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.3	na
All men	4.0	3.7	3.7	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.1	na	4.0

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

na = Not applicable

7.4 FERTILITY PLANNING STATUS

For each child born in the five years preceding the survey and for the current pregnancy (if the respondent was pregnant), each mother was asked if she had wanted to be pregnant at that time, if she would have preferred to be pregnant later, or had if she not wanted to become pregnant at all. The responses to these questions are used to measure couples' effectiveness in controlling their fertility. Such questions require a woman to concentrate in order to remember her desires accurately at one or more specific times during the past five years. The data may be subject to rationalization, as an undesired pregnancy often results in the birth of a child to which the mother has become attached.

Table 7.6 shows that more than four in five births (84 percent) were wanted. Most of these births (60 percent) occurred at the desired time; 24 percent occurred earlier than the women would have liked. Unwanted pregnancies represented approximately 15 percent of the births.

The great majority of births are desired and arrive according to the desired timing, regardless of birth order. However, first births are better planned than births 2, 3, 4, or higher. In the RDHS-III, 82 percent of first births arrived according to the desired timing, compared with 63 percent of second births, and 50 percent of births 4 or higher.

With respect to age of the mother, the best planned births occurred among women who had their children before the age of 20 and between the age of 20 and 29. Conversely, births among women who had children when they were older (age 45 to 49) seem to be less well planned: 37 percent arrived according to the desired timing, 8 percent arrived later, and 56 percent were unwanted.

Table 7.6 Fertility planning status					
Percent distribution of births in the five years preceding the survey (including current pregnancy), by planning status of the birth, according to birth order and mother's age at birth, Rwanda 2005					
Birth order and mother's age at birth	Planning status of birth			Total ¹	Number of births
	Wanted then	Wanted later	Wanted no more		
Birth order					
1	82.3	4.5	12.8	100.0	1,755
2	63.1	28.4	8.2	100.0	1,665
3	60.0	30.0	9.8	100.0	1,548
4+	50.1	28.6	20.9	100.0	4,648
Mother's age at birth					
<20	67.6	11.4	20.9	100.0	559
20-24	67.4	22.7	9.5	100.0	2,609
25-29	60.4	30.1	9.3	100.0	2,545
30-34	56.9	29.1	13.5	100.0	1,905
35-39	50.4	22.4	27.1	100.0	1,254
40-44	50.3	12.6	36.7	100.0	668
45-49	36.8	7.5	55.7	100.0	76
Total	59.8	24.4	15.4	100.0	9,615
¹ Includes those with missing information					

Table 7.7 compares the total wanted fertility rate (TWFR) with the current total fertility rate (TFR) for the five years preceding the survey. Calculation of the TWFR is the same as for the TFR, except that unwanted births are omitted. If all unwanted births were eliminated, the TFR for Rwandan women would be 4.6 children, rather than 6.1 children.

The TWFR is higher in rural areas (4.8) than in urban areas (3.6) and, in particular, the City of Kigali (3.4). It decreases as level of education and wealth quintile increase. The lowest TWFRs are found among women with the highest levels of education (3.3 compared with 5.4 for women with no education) and the greatest household wealth (3.6 for the richest quintile; 4.7 to 5.0 for the other quintiles).

<u>Table 7.7 Wanted fertility rates</u>		
Total wanted fertility rates and total fertility rates for the three years preceding the survey, by background characteristics, Rwanda 2005		
Background characteristic	Total wanted fertility rate	Total fertility rate
Residence		
Urban	3.6	4.9
Rural	4.8	6.3
Province		
Kigali city	3.4	4.3
South	4.4	5.6
West	4.9	6.6
North	4.8	6.4
East	4.8	6.5
Education		
No education	5.4	7.0
Primary	4.6	6.1
Secondary or higher	3.3	4.3
Wealth quintile		
Lowest	4.8	6.1
Second	4.7	6.3
Middle	5.0	6.7
Fourth	4.8	6.4
Highest	3.6	5.0
Total	4.6	6.1
Note: Rates are calculated based on births to women age 15-49 in the period 1-36 months preceding the survey. The total fertility rates are the same as those presented in Table 4.2.		