

3 Knowledge and Use of Contraception

Most of the men's surveys gathered detailed information about contraceptive knowledge, ever and current use, and intentions to use contraception in the future. The contraceptive table in the male questionnaire is modeled after the one in the female questionnaire. The table lists nine or ten methods as well as a residual "other" category. These methods are generally divided into two types: modern and traditional methods. Modern methods include the pill, IUD, injectables, spermicide, condom, female and male sterilization, and Norplant.³ Traditional methods include periodic abstinence or rhythm, withdrawal, and folk methods (plants, charms, etc.). Some countries include other methods such as prolonged abstinence, prolonged breastfeeding, Billings (or mucus/natural family planning). These methods, however, are excluded in the analysis of contraceptive knowledge and use.

3.1 KNOWLEDGE OF CONTRACEPTION

The surveys gathered information on both spontaneous and probed knowledge of contraceptive methods. Interviewers first asked respondents which methods they had ever heard of. Then they probed for further knowledge by describing each of the methods not mentioned spontaneously by the respondent and asking if he had ever heard of that method. This analysis, however, does not distinguish between spontaneous and probed knowledge. A respondent is classified as knowing a method whether he reported it on his own or after probing. Knowledge of a method simply means that a respondent has heard of it; it does not imply that the respondent approves of the method, knows how to use it, or knows where to obtain it.

Contraceptive knowledge is high among currently married men (Table 3.1). In East Africa, North Africa, and Asia, more than 90 percent of men know at least one contraceptive method, with the exception of Pakistan and Tanzania where only 79 and 86 percent of the men, respectively, know of a method. Knowledge is somewhat lower in West Africa; in that region, the proportion of men who know at least one method exceeds 90 percent only in Ghana. In the

other West African countries surveyed, knowledge of a contraceptive method ranges from 66 percent in Mali to 85 percent in Niger. In all but two countries, Burundi and Mali, a greater percentage of men know of a modern method than a traditional method.

The pill is the most widely known method, followed by the condom and female sterilization. In 10 of the 17 surveys, more men know of the pill than any other method; in 5 surveys, the condom is the best known method. Female sterilization is far more widely known than male sterilization, with a 30-percentage-point or larger gap in the proportion of men reporting knowledge of female and male sterilization in 13 of the 17 surveys. In Morocco, for example, 78 percent of the men know of female sterilization, but less than 10 percent know of male sterilization. In most countries, vaginal methods are also less well known than other methods.

Periodic abstinence is the most widely known of the traditional methods. Knowledge of traditional methods, especially periodic abstinence, is generally higher in East Africa than in other regions. Between 63 and 89 percent of men in this region report knowledge of periodic abstinence, except in Tanzania where only 45 percent of the men know of the method. Less than 60 percent of men elsewhere know of periodic abstinence, with the exception of Bangladesh and Ghana where 69 and 64 percent of men, respectively, know of periodic abstinence.

Sociodemographic Differentials in Contraceptive Knowledge

Table 3.2 shows that men's knowledge of modern contraceptive methods varies little by age in most countries. In the few countries where substantial differences in knowledge exist by age, older men generally are less knowledgeable than younger men.

Knowledge of modern methods is much higher among urban men than among rural men, and these urban-rural differences are most pronounced in West Africa. In the West African countries surveyed (except for the 1993 Ghana survey), the proportion of urban residents who know a modern method exceeds the proportion of rural residents by at least

³ Taking into account its newness, Norplant has only recently been added to the contraceptive table in the core questionnaire.

Table 3.1 Knowledge of contraceptive methods

Percentage of currently married men by knowledge of specific methods, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1987-1993

Country	Any method	Any modern method	Pill	IUD	Injectable	Vaginal method	Condom	Sterilization		Nor-plant	Any traditional method	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Other traditional	Number
								Female	Male						
West Africa															
Burkina Faso	84.4	80.0	54.1	37.1	53.6	21.9	73.3	49.0	18.9	0.3	67.2 ^a	50.5	26.5	43.4	1346
Cameroon	73.9	65.2	44.0	26.4	34.2	16.5	50.3	47.4	10.4	0.0	63.2 ^a	47.3	38.8	48.5	814
Ghana (1988)	79.0	76.4	63.0	38.5	39.8	40.7	59.5	58.1	17.6	0.0	55.5	44.9	40.7	4.5	943
Ghana (1993)	94.0	92.9	79.6	44.3	74.2	62.1	86.8	70.4	32.4	5.5	77.7	64.0	65.4	7.3	749
Mali	66.4	53.5	36.9	28.5	32.8	17.5	28.7	31.6	17.8	NA	56.2	25.2	16.0	52.9	764
Niger	85.4	74.0	56.7	36.9	56.7	19.4	50.7	56.0	24.2	NA	70.5	30.6	27.4	67.4	1570
Senegal	79.7	73.9	61.5	39.2	37.8	13.2	53.8	52.0	14.9	4.9	54.3	31.1	29.6	31.2	941
East Africa															
Burundi	91.6	75.2	47.8	20.2	60.5	8.3	35.1	23.5	9.7	NA	85.3	74.2	37.6	68.2	542
Kenya (1989)	94.7	93.1	87.5	67.4	79.8	29.2	81.5	83.0	34.8	NA	82.8	76.8	47.4	18.1	1170
Kenya (1993)	98.8	97.3	93.9	70.8	87.6	33.4	92.8	87.5	56.2	13.9	89.9	85.3	42.7	44.4	1664
Malawi	97.3	94.6	72.1	43.6	59.0	45.6	89.7	66.2	27.7	NA	80.7	62.7	55.7	37.6	866
Rwanda	98.2	97.4	90.7	62.0	91.9	29.9	93.5	80.0	58.1	34.0	93.6	89.3	80.3	1.2	598
Tanzania	85.8	84.2	76.0	34.9	38.8	37.1	71.2	60.4	27.7	NA	60.1	44.8	46.3	31.6	1184
North Africa															
Egypt	96.7	96.7	96.3	95.0	66.1	30.2	68.7	64.1	25.2	35.1	75.2	37.9	47.2	59.4	2311
Morocco	97.7	97.4	97.3	72.7	47.0	14.3	79.9	77.6	8.5	NA	69.4	57.4	50.4	5.1	939
Asia															
Bangladesh	99.7	99.6	99.1	70.6	90.0	0.0	94.6	97.6	89.3	NA	75.6	68.6	41.9	10.4	3284
Pakistan	79.3	77.7	54.9	28.6	50.0	12.6	58.8	65.7	31.7	NA	49.4	38.9	39.9	1.6	1354

NA = Not applicable

^a Excludes prolonged abstinence

15 percentage points. In most other countries, this difference is less than 5 percentage points; Burundi, Pakistan, and Tanzania are the exceptions.

No matter what the overall level of contraceptive knowledge in a country, knowledge of modern methods increases with education. Only in Bangladesh, where knowledge of modern methods is virtually universal, are there no variations by education. The largest gap is between uneducated men and those with some education. The difference between men with only a primary education and those with secondary education or more is generally small except in Mali and Pakistan. Knowledge of modern methods is virtually universal among men who have attended secondary school; in every country but Burundi, at least 95 percent of these better educated men know of one or more modern contraceptive methods. Even in Burundi, 92 percent of men with secondary education or more know of a modern method. Regional variations in the knowledge of modern methods essentially mirror regional differences in educational levels.

Differences in knowledge by type of union are small, but consistent: in nearly every country surveyed, a larger proportion of monogamously married men know of a modern contraceptive method than polygamously married men. Only in Cameroon, Kenya, Senegal, and Tanzania, however, does the difference reach 5 percentage points. As for family size, knowledge generally does not vary by number of surviving children. In a few countries, however, men with no children and those with five or more children report less knowledge of modern contraceptive methods than men with one to four children.

Table 3.3 shows similar patterns in men's knowledge of traditional contraceptive methods. Knowledge of traditional methods is higher among urban than rural men, increases with education, and is higher for monogamous than polygamous men. It does not, however, vary by age or number of living children in most countries.

Table 3.2 Knowledge of modern contraceptive methods by background characteristics

Percentage of currently married men who know any modern method by age, residence, education, type of union and number of children, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1987-1993

Country	Age group					Residence		Education			Type of union		Number of children				Total	Number
	<30	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Urban	Rural	None	Primary	Secondary or higher	Monogamy	Polygyny	0	1-2	3-4	5+		
West Africa																		
Burkina Faso	92.7	90.6	85.0	80.2	53.9	94.2	77.4	76.9	96.6	99.2	80.4	79.2	76.0	85.0	81.5	77.5	80.0	1346
Cameroon	70.1	75.4	61.3	64.2	35.0	80.3	56.3	34.1	82.6	97.5	67.5	58.5	58.5	65.5	66.3	65.3	65.2	814
Ghana (1988)	86.5	82.7	77.2	63.3	48.6	88.1	72.7	53.3	90.0	94.6	77.9	71.8	80.4	77.7	80.2	73.0	76.4	943
Ghana (1993)	94.3	94.0	95.8	85.8	NA	96.4	91.2	81.5	96.8	99.4	93.2	91.0	91.8	93.8	93.6	91.8	92.9	749
Mali	64.6	61.7	46.5	39.7	NA	66.0	49.5	48.4	66.8	98.9	53.1	54.4	57.9	60.4	54.1	49.4	53.5	764
Niger	78.7	77.3	73.8	69.3	61.5	86.5	71.9	72.1	86.5	98.1	74.4	72.8	79.7	73.9	70.7	74.8	74.0	1570
Senegal	81.5	88.5	83.4	63.9	53.1	83.9	68.5	67.3	96.3	97.9	77.7	67.4	76.7	80.6	74.9	70.6	73.9	941
East Africa																		
Burundi	74.0	82.5	75.8	61.3	56.7	93.8	74.6	70.5	80.8	92.1	75.3	74.2	76.7	76.4	71.6	76.1	75.2	542
Kenya (1989)	92.5	97.3	95.4	89.5	75.4	95.5	92.7	82.7	93.4	98.9	95.1	85.0	91.8	90.8	96.7	92.2	93.1	1170
Kenya (1993)	98.4	97.8	96.9	94.1	NA	99.6	96.6	82.2	98.9	99.3	97.9	92.8	98.7	98.7	97.1	96.6	97.3	1664
Malawi	97.5	96.0	92.0	89.2	NA	U	U	90.1	95.2	100.0	94.6	94.9	93.2	94.2	93.4	96.5	94.6	866
Rwanda	96.8	99.4	96.9	97.8	87.8	98.6	97.3	96.4	97.6	100.0	97.5	96.6	100.0	98.4	97.1	96.6	97.4	598
Tanzania	86.1	89.4	82.8	76.9	56.8	96.3	80.1	64.5	89.6	99.4	85.2	78.7	82.6	86.3	86.4	81.6	84.2	1184
North Africa																		
Egypt	94.5	98.4	97.2	95.4	91.8	98.4	95.3	93.0	96.8	99.3	96.8	93.9	96.2	96.8	97.0	96.5	96.7	2311
Morocco	100.0	98.8	98.0	94.4	94.5	97.9	97.1	96.2	99.0	100.0	97.4	100.0	100.0	98.4	98.2	96.0	97.4	939
Asia																		
Bangladesh	100.0	99.8	99.6	99.1	99.4	99.7	99.6	99.4	99.8	99.9	99.7	96.6	100.0	99.7	99.6	99.5	99.6	3284
Pakistan	79.8	81.2	79.2	65.0	69.1	87.2	73.3	68.6	75.1	94.9	77.7	79.3	71.2	79.9	80.2	76.7	77.7	1354

NA = Not applicable

U = Unknown (not available)

Table 3.3 Knowledge of traditional contraceptive methods by background characteristics

Percentage of currently married men who know any traditional method by age, residence, education, type of union and number of children, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1987-1993

Country	Age group					Residence		Education			Type of union		Number of children				Total	Number
	<30	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Urban	Rural	None	Primary	Secondary or higher	Monogamy	Polygyny	0	1-2	3-4	5+		
	West Africa																	
Burkina Faso	92.4	88.6	88.3	85.1	84.3	92.0	86.9	85.9	96.4	98.5	86.6	89.5	81.8	89.8	88.5	87.4	67.2	1346
Cameroon	68.4	71.2	61.1	57.1	45.2	72.5	57.7	38.0	73.9	94.1	64.9	58.4	47.5	64.4	62.9	64.9	63.2	814
Ghana (1988)	65.2	61.1	55.1	43.9	31.9	68.1	51.5	31.2	68.7	82.3	57.0	51.0	63.0	55.9	59.9	51.9	55.5	943
Ghana (1993)	79.5	77.0	80.4	73.8	NA	85.9	73.9	51.4	85.4	95.1	79.7	65.8	78.7	81.8	75.0	76.1	77.7	749
Mali	56.4	62.9	51.8	50.6	NA	66.8	52.8	51.2	70.7	94.5	57.1	54.1	69.3	59.6	53.1	54.1	56.2	764
Niger	71.3	71.4	70.0	71.3	65.6	74.5	69.9	69.3	79.8	83.9	71.0	69.0	66.9	70.5	69.1	72.6	70.5	1570
Senegal	58.0	60.0	60.9	45.8	46.4	65.0	48.5	46.8	68.8	94.8	54.7	53.5	56.7	55.6	51.9	54.2	54.3	941
East Africa																		
Burundi	84.1	88.5	85.7	74.5	83.7	90.8	85.1	83.1	87.6	88.5	85.4	84.0	84.8	84.8	83.0	88.1	85.3	542
Kenya (1989)	82.1	86.5	85.4	77.3	72.5	89.3	81.8	70.3	83.2	90.0	85.5	72.2	77.4	83.1	85.9	81.6	82.8	1170
Kenya (1993)	92.5	89.7	88.6	88.8	NA	92.9	89.0	81.9	87.3	96.2	90.8	83.2	90.3	91.0	93.5	87.4	89.9	1664
Malawi	78.6	86.2	75.8	82.1	NA	U	U	77.5	79.7	92.5	80.2	85.1	75.3	80.6	77.5	84.8	80.7	866
Rwanda	91.4	95.8	96.6	92.0	78.6	95.8	93.5	88.9	95.3	100.0	93.9	91.6	89.8	93.8	94.9	93.2	93.6	598
Tanzania	53.1	68.4	56.0	60.1	54.8	68.4	57.2	43.3	62.5	88.7	60.7	56.8	44.9	61.4	60.3	62.2	60.1	1184
North Africa																		
Egypt	66.7	81.5	76.4	71.7	56.6	83.9	67.8	59.3	73.3	88.1	75.4	68.0	71.7	79.8	76.9	70.5	75.2	2311
Morocco	67.5	75.2	73.9	62.1	53.1	81.9	59.4	60.0	79.8	91.0	69.5	66.4	74.8	71.7	72.9	65.4	69.4	939
Asia																		
Bangladesh	71.8	76.2	79.2	75.1	72.2	78.7	75.2	68.0	76.2	86.9	75.7	70.0	68.2	74.6	79.5	75.0	75.6	3284
Pakistan	49.4	55.5	42.6	47.4	42.1	61.7	43.6	36.0	48.7	72.2	49.7	43.2	40.4	51.3	52.4	48.5	49.4	1354

NA = Not applicable

U = Unknown (not available)

3.2 EVER USE OF CONTRACEPTION

All respondents who knew of a contraceptive method were asked if they had ever used that method. The question usually was worded to include use by either the man or his wife. Table 3.4 shows large variations in the proportion of currently married men who have ever used a method. Ghana is the only country in West Africa where at least half the men report ever using a contraceptive method. Elsewhere in this region, proportions range from 10 percent of men in Mali to 40 percent in Cameroon for having ever used a method. The East African surveys found much higher rates of contraceptive use. The proportion of currently married men who have ever used a method ranges from 43 percent in Burundi to 72 percent in Kenya. About two-thirds of men in Egypt and Morocco have ever used a method compared with three-quarters in Bangladesh and one-quarter in Pakistan.

In most countries, the pill and condom are the two most widely used modern methods (Table 3.4). Substantial variations exist, however, in the proportion of currently married men who have ever used these methods both within and across regions. In West Africa, the proportion of men whose partners have ever used the pill is generally under 5 percent except in Senegal (7 percent) and in Ghana (19 percent). There are only three countries outside West Africa (Burundi, Malawi, and Pakistan) where less than 10 percent of the men report ever using the pill. Pill use is highest in Bangladesh and Morocco, where over half the men report ever using the pill. Among traditional methods, periodic abstinence is the most widely used—2 percent of men in Niger to 50 percent in Kenya report ever using the method. Outside West Africa, more than 10 percent of men have ever used periodic abstinence in every country but Egypt. Rates are generally lower in West Africa, where only in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, and Ghana did more than 10 percent of the men report ever using this method.

Table 3.4 Ever use of contraception

Percentage of currently married men by ever use of specific contraceptive methods, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1987-1993

Country	Any method	Any modern method	Pill	IUD	Injectable	Vaginal method	Condom	Female sterilization	Other modern ^a	Any traditional method	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Other traditional	Number
West Africa														
Burkina Faso	33.5	15.6	4.9	1.5	0.8	1.5	12.4	0.6	0.1	26.6	21.0	4.9	4.6	1346
Cameroon	39.6	17.1	4.0	1.0	1.2	1.6	11.0	2.6	0.0	33.5	28.0	17.4	0.3	814
Ghana (1988)	41.0	26.4	13.1	1.6	0.5	13.0	11.9	1.3	0.0	30.0	23.9	14.1	1.6	943
Ghana (1993)	59.1	46.3	18.8	3.1	3.2	19.2	35.1	0.9	0.0	40.9	27.5	23.2	2.7	749
Mali	10.3	3.6	1.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	2.2	0.2	0.1	8.5	4.9	1.2	3.6	764
Niger	13.3	5.8	3.7	0.2	0.7	0.2	2.5	0.2	0.0	9.0	2.2	0.9	7.0	1570
Senegal	21.8	15.0	6.9	2.9	0.7	1.7	9.9	0.7	0.0	12.8	7.7	3.3	5.4	941
East Africa														
Burundi	42.6	2.3	0.2	0.6	1.1	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	42.0	37.9	12.9	1.1	542
Kenya (1989)	65.0	34.9	16.9	8.8	6.3	2.4	16.7	7.1	0.8	54.7	48.4	15.3	8.2	1170
Kenya (1993)	71.8	48.3	24.2	7.3	10.3	2.5	27.0	5.7	0.3	54.8	49.5	10.0	11.9	1664
Malawi	57.1	30.4	9.2	1.6	4.6	0.7	22.1	1.6	0.2	42.5	30.0	22.3	10.7	866
Rwanda	51.7	25.7	13.1	0.6	15.3	0.4	5.0	0.6	0.9	39.3	33.9	16.7	0.2	598
Tanzania	45.0	23.5	10.7	1.3	1.0	0.4	14.4	3.2	0.0	35.4	22.9	19.3	11.2	1184
North Africa														
Egypt	67.3	65.2	44.6	41.8	2.5	2.7	8.6	0.8	0.2	12.5	5.8	4.0	6.0	2311
Morocco	62.5	59.0	53.8	7.5	1.0	1.2	12.4	4.3	0.0	18.1	13.2	7.5	1.4	939
Asia														
Bangladesh	77.8	68.5	54.3	7.4	12.6	0.0	27.5	9.1	2.1	40.1	34.5	12.8	3.2	3284
Pakistan	24.7	18.2	4.6	2.9	2.9	0.4	12.1	4.0	0.1	15.7	11.7	8.3	0.3	1354

^a Other modern methods include male sterilization and Norplant

Overall, more men in West and East Africa report ever using a traditional method than ever using a modern method, except in Ghana and Senegal. In contrast, men in North Africa and Asia are far more likely to report ever using a modern method than a traditional method, especially in Egypt and Morocco.

3.3 CURRENT USE OF CONTRACEPTION

All men who reported ever using a contraceptive method were asked if they or their wives were currently using a method to delay or avoid pregnancy. When a respondent reported currently using two or more methods (for instance, the condom and pill), interviewers were instructed to record only the more effective method. The proportion currently using a contraceptive method, often referred to as the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR), is an important demographic parameter that is strongly related to fertility levels. More than half of all currently married men in Bangladesh,

Egypt, and Kenya, and more than a third in Ghana, Morocco, and Rwanda, currently use a contraceptive method (Table 3.5). Men in Mali and Niger report the lowest levels of current contraceptive use, at 2 and 7 percent, respectively. Regional variations in current use of contraception parallel those in ever use, with the lowest levels, below 20 percent, reported in West Africa (except Ghana) and in Pakistan.

In most countries, the pill and condom are the most widely used methods, often accounting for more than 90 percent of all current modern method use. In Cameroon and Pakistan, however, female sterilization is the most widely used modern method, while in Bangladesh and Morocco female sterilization is second after the pill. In Egypt, the IUD is by far the most commonly reported method, followed by the pill. In Rwanda, injectables account for more than 60 percent of all current modern method use. Periodic abstinence is the most widely used of the traditional methods in every country but Niger.

Table 3.5 Current use of contraception

Percent distribution of currently married men by current use of specific contraceptive methods, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1987-1993

Country	Any method	Any modern method	Pill	IUD	Condom	Female sterilization	Other modern ^a	Any traditional method	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Other traditional	Not using	Number
West Africa													
Burkina Faso	12.1	7.0	1.8	0.9	3.7	0.2	0.3	5.1	4.5	0.1	0.5	87.9	1346
Cameroon	15.1	5.8	1.1	0.3	1.6	2.5	0.4	9.3	6.6	2.6	0.1	84.1	814
Ghana (1988)	19.6	9.3	4.2	0.6	1.8	1.2	1.5	10.3	8.3	1.7	0.3	80.4	943
Ghana (1993)	33.5	19.9	4.7	1.1	10.4	0.7	3.0	13.6	9.1	4.0	0.5	66.5	749
Mali	1.8	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	1.4	1.0	0.1	0.3	97.9	764
Niger	6.7	2.6	1.5	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.5	4.1	0.8	0.2	3.1	93.3	1570
Senegal	10.3	6.5	2.9	1.4	1.5	0.6	0.1	3.8	1.9	0.4	1.5	89.6	941
East Africa													
Burundi	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Kenya (1989) ^b	49.3	24.7	7.8	5.3	3.2	6.3	4.7	28.9	25.6	2.5	2.8	50.7	1170
Kenya (1993)	54.4	31.9	10.6	3.0	6.8	5.4	6.0	22.6	18.9	0.5	3.2	45.6	1664
Malawi	25.1	12.5	3.0	0.5	6.3	1.1	1.5	12.6	7.9	2.2	2.5	74.9	866
Rwanda	34.5	12.7	3.2	0.2	0.2	0.8	8.4 ^c	21.8	17.9	3.7	0.2	65.5	598
Tanzania	21.8	10.4	4.2	0.2	4.1	1.9	0.0	11.4	7.7	2.5	1.2	78.2	1184
North Africa													
Egypt	50.3	47.6	13.8	30.0	2.3	0.6	0.8	2.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	49.7	2311
Morocco	39.2	34.5	27.8	2.4	0.6	3.4	0.3	4.7	3.0	1.3	0.4	60.5	939
Asia													
Bangladesh	55.2	43.9	22.8	1.9	4.0	8.5	6.6	11.3	7.9	2.1	1.3	44.8	3284
Pakistan	15.1	10.1	0.8	1.4	3.6	3.7	0.6	5.0	3.2	1.7	0.2	84.7	1354

U = Unknown (not available)

^a Other modern methods include injectables, vaginal methods, male sterilization and Norplant.

^b Can use more than one method at the same time

^c 7.8 percent use injections making this the most frequently used modern method in Rwanda.

In most countries, as Table 3.5 shows, men are more likely to currently be using a modern rather than a traditional method. In Burkina Faso and Kenya, 58 percent of men who are currently using contraception rely on a modern method; this proportion reaches a high of 95 percent in Egypt. In Malawi and Tanzania, however, current users are equally divided between modern and traditional methods, while in Cameroon, Mali, Niger, and Rwanda, traditional methods are more widely used than modern methods.

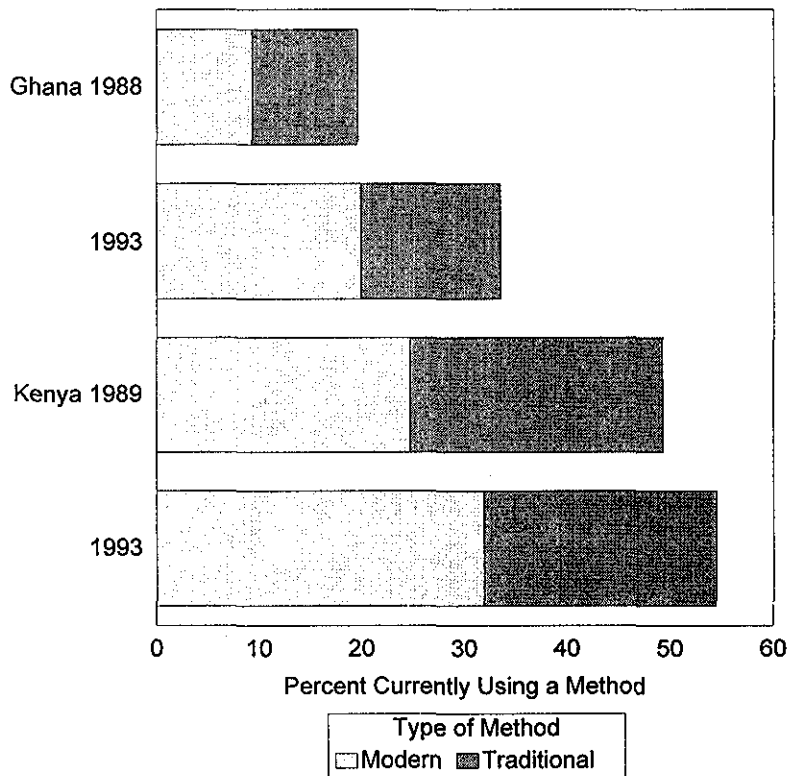
Two successive men's surveys in Ghana and Kenya make it possible to examine changes in contraceptive use over time. Figure 3.1 and Table 3.5 show that contraceptive use among currently married men rose over a five- or six-year period in both countries. In Ghana, every method except female sterilization shows an increase in use, but the greatest increases took place in the use of modern methods, especially the condom. Fewer than 2 percent of men reported currently using the condom in 1988, compared with more than 10 percent in 1993. In contrast, while the use of mod-

ern contraceptives increased in Kenya between the surveys, the use of traditional methods declined. Overall, there was only a slight rise in contraceptive use, largely due to increased use of the pill, condom, and injectables. The use of female sterilization declined as did use of the IUD.

Sociodemographic Differentials in Contraceptive Use

By identifying the characteristics of male contraceptive users, these DHS surveys may help family planning program managers develop effective ways to reach male populations. Overall, the characteristics of male users correspond to the image of typical female users—middle-aged, educated, urban dwellers with four children or fewer. Table 3.6 shows that contraceptive use by married men declines with age, especially after age 49. In most countries, contraceptive use peaks between ages 30 and 49. In a few countries, such as Kenya, contraceptive prevalence does not vary much by age.

Figure 3.1 Trends in contraceptive use among currently married men, Ghana and Kenya, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1988-1993



Note: Use of traditional methods in Kenya (1989) excludes men who use both modern and traditional methods.

Table 3.6 Current use of contraception by background characteristics

Percentage of current use of any contraceptive method among currently married men by age, residence, education, type of union and number of children, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1987-1993

Country	Age group					Residence		Education			Type of union		Number of children				Total	Number
	<30	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Urban	Rural	None	Primary	Secondary or higher	Monogamy	Polygyny	0	1-2	3-4	5+		
West Africa																		
Burkina Faso	14.6	20.6	17.6	5.6	1.7	36.9	7.8	7.5	24.1	65.4	14.3	8.1	8.8	15.4	15.9	9.2	12.1	1346
Cameroon	17.1	18.7	17.0	14.6	5.7	24.4	10.9	1.3	18.5	38.8	17.4	11.7	5.7	14.2	14.4	18.9	15.1	814
Ghana (1988)	24.8	21.9	19.8	13.7	11.1	28.8	16.7	7.5	25.3	39.2	20.1	18.3	6.5	17.7	23.1	20.0	19.6	943
Ghana (1993)	38.2	31.1	40.5	24.8	NA	46.6	27.0	10.2	35.1	60.7	33.9	30.6	34.4	31.6	36.4	32.5	33.5	749
Mali	2.2	3.0	1.7	0.8	NA	8.0	0.2	0.4	6.6	16.6	2.7	0.7	1.8	2.3	3.1	1.7	1.8	764
Niger	7.0	8.9	6.6	4.9	3.2	18.7	4.6	5.1	11.7	38.2	5.7	9.9	3.0	5.6	6.7	8.6	6.7	1570
Senegal	11.1	12.3	17.0	6.6	3.6	19.8	5.2	4.6	20.2	42.3	10.4	10.2	5.0	9.7	13.7	10.0	10.3	941
East Africa																		
Burundi	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Kenya (1989)	44.4	52.9	56.9	44.1	27.2	55.7	48.4	38.5	46.0	63.1	51.9	38.9	0.0	48.4	51.9	50.0	49.3	1170
Kenya (1993)	50.5	56.9	57.3	43.5	0.0	60.5	52.5	32.0	50.9	66.2	56.1	41.9	24.6	52.2	64.0	54.2	54.4	1664
Malawi	20.5	29.9	28.2	15.9	NA	U	U	15.1	25.0	44.3	23.8	38.1	8.3	20.4	29.2	30.7	25.1	866
Rwanda	27.3	35.7	41.0	39.9	21.4	32.4	34.6	29.8	34.9	54.1	33.5	43.0	0.0	35.4	31.8	40.0	34.5	598
Tanzania	18.3	28.1	22.8	14.6	16.9	26.4	20.2	7.5	23.1	51.7	21.8	21.7	1.1	19.8	27.7	23.7	21.8	1184
North Africa																		
Egypt	25.5	54.1	60.5	49.5	38.7	60.5	41.7	38.8	49.9	58.9	50.7	35.3	0.7	47.7	61.3	54.5	50.3	2311
Morocco	28.2	50.6	47.8	29.9	7.3	51.4	30.0	31.0	47.6	60.4	39.7	37.8	2.3	48.1	48.9	38.2	39.2	939
Asia																		
Bangladesh	43.7	57.5	68.9	50.2	38.5	62.9	54.1	49.2	54.4	65.3	55.1	59.9	22.1	55.8	64.7	54.7	55.2	3284
Pakistan	10.2	16.6	18.9	17.5	0.0	27.0	9.8	8.2	13.7	28.2	15.7	6.2	2.0	12.3	16.0	20.7	15.1	1354

NA = Not applicable

U = Unknown (not available)

In all countries except Rwanda, urban men are more likely to use contraception than rural men. In Mali, for instance, nearly all current contraceptive users reside in urban areas, while in Burkina Faso, 37 percent of urban residents currently use a method compared with 8 percent of rural residents. Rwanda is the only country where the proportion of users in rural areas exceeds that in urban areas. In Bangladesh, Kenya, and Tanzania, however, the level of contraceptive use among urban residents does not far outweigh use among rural residents.⁴

Current contraceptive use increases with education in all countries, but educational differentials are more pronounced in West Africa than in the other regions (Table 3.6). Ten percent or less of uneducated men in the West African countries surveyed are current users. In contrast, current use among those with secondary or higher education ranges from 17 percent in Mali to 65 percent in Burkina Faso. Elsewhere, the proportion of uneducated men currently using contraception ranges from 8 percent in Tanzania to 49 percent in Bangladesh, with levels in most countries exceeding 30 percent. Outside of West Africa, more than half of men with secondary or higher education currently use contraceptives everywhere but Pakistan (28 percent) and Malawi (44 percent).

In most countries, there is a greater difference in contraceptive use between men with primary education and those with secondary or higher education than there is between men with no formal education and those with primary education. Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, and Morocco are exceptions to this pattern, and in these countries, education appears to have a linear relationship with contraceptive use. In some countries, such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Rwanda, current use does not differ much between men with no education and those with only primary education. Thus, in most countries, having a secondary or higher education may be a more important predictor of contraceptive use for men than having ever attended school.

In most of the countries surveyed, monogamously married men are more likely to be current users than polygynously married men. In Morocco, Senegal, and Tanzania, there is little difference by type of union, and in Niger, Malawi, and Rwanda, polygynous men more often report using contraception than do monogamous men.

Men with no living children and those with five or more children are much less likely to be current users than those with one to four children. In a few countries such as Cameroon and Ghana, the proportion of men using contraception did not vary much by the number of surviving children, especially among men with at least one surviving child.

As Table 3.7 demonstrates, the background characteristics of men currently using modern contraceptive methods follow the same patterns as those for men using any type of contraception. This is not surprising since the use of modern methods predominates in most countries. Overall, middle-aged, educated, monogamous men with one to four children residing in urban areas are more likely to currently use a modern method than other men.

In the four countries where the use of traditional methods outweighs the use of modern methods—Cameroon, Mali, Niger, and Rwanda—the characteristics of modern users differ from the pattern observed elsewhere. (Mali is excluded from this discussion, since only three men in the sample reported currently using a modern method.) In Cameroon and Rwanda, the proportion of men using a modern method increases with age, peaking in the age group 50-59. In most other countries, this proportion declines with age, especially after age 39. Rwanda is also the only country where urban residents and men with a secondary or higher education report less use of modern methods than rural residents and men with primary or no education. Niger and Rwanda are the only countries where polygynous men are almost twice as likely to be using modern methods as monogamous men. In most countries, monogamous men generally report more use of modern methods than polygynous men, although the proportions are similar in Malawi, Morocco, Senegal, and Tanzania. As for the number of surviving children, in Cameroon, Niger, and Rwanda, men with at least five children are most likely to use modern methods. The only other country displaying this pattern is Pakistan. In most other countries, men with three or four children report more use of modern methods than those at other parities.

In addition to these sociodemographic characteristics, other factors may affect the use of contraception among men. These include the age of a man's wife, her pregnancy and breastfeeding status, both the man's and woman's fecundity status, and the couple's living arrangements (whether they are living together, are temporarily separated, etc.). These factors are outside the scope of the present paper but will be examined in a comparative analysis of couples.

⁴ Current use was not asked in Burundi, and data on urban-rural residence are not available for Malawi.

Table 3.7 Current use of modern contraceptive methods by background characteristics

Percentage of current use of any modern contraceptive method among currently married men by age, residence, education, type of union and number of children, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1987-1993

Country	Age group					Residence		Education			Type of union		Number of children				Total	Number
								None	Primary	Second-ary or higher	Monog-amy	Polygyny	0	1-2	3-4	5+		
	<30	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Urban	Rural											
West Africa																		
Burkina Faso	9.0	11.8	9.9	4.0	0.2	25.7	3.7	3.8	15.3	43.9	8.5	4.2	5.4	8.6	10.1	4.9	7.0	1346
Cameroon	3.7	4.7	6.3	10.1	4.0	9.1	3.8	0.3	8.0	12.5	6.4	3.9	0.0	4.3	2.6	8.8	5.8	814
Ghana (1988)	12.7	12.1	8.4	5.0	2.8	14.2	7.8	1.1	13.9	17.7	10.1	7.1	4.3	9.1	10.9	9.1	9.3	943
Ghana (1993)	26.8	19.1	20.2	13.5	NA	29.7	15.0	3.2	21.9	37.4	20.7	14.4	23.0	18.7	20.9	19.3	19.9	749
Mali	0.0	0.8	0.5	0.0	NA	1.8	0.0	0.0	1.6	4.4	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.8	0.2	0.4	764
Niger	2.8	4.2	2.4	1.6	0.0	14.0	0.7	1.3	7.1	28.7	2.3	3.9	0.6	2.6	2.9	3.1	2.6	1570
Senegal	4.9	8.5	11.1	4.8	1.3	14.0	2.5	1.9	14.7	32.0	6.3	6.8	1.7	5.1	9.8	6.4	6.5	941
East Africa																		
Burundi	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Kenya (1989)	13.7	25.7	23.0	18.6	4.7	34.0	18.3	10.9	15.8	36.3	22.3	12.9	0.0	20.1	25.7	19.1	24.7	1170
Kenya (1993)	28.6	33.2	34.2	26.1	NA	42.4	28.6	11.4	27.1	44.9	33.5	19.3	11.8	32.5	40.8	29.2	31.9	1664
Malawi	11.9	15.1	12.9	5.3	NA	U	U	5.1	12.3	27.5	12.5	12.2	4.4	12.0	14.4	13.5	12.5	866
Rwanda	8.3	12.8	16.9	15.9	6.1	11.3	12.7	11.1	13.6	9.2	11.8	20.1	0.0	11.0	10.8	16.5	12.7	598
Tanzania	6.8	14.0	12.5	5.8	12.3	18.1	7.8	1.6	10.9	30.6	10.2	11.1	1.1	6.5	15.3	11.9	10.4	1184
North Africa																		
Egypt	24.4	51.3	57.9	44.8	36.4	57.0	39.7	37.3	47.8	54.8	47.9	35.3	0.7	45.3	57.8	51.6	47.6	2311
Morocco	24.9	44.6	40.9	25.9	7.3	45.1	26.0	28.2	41.6	48.7	34.6	32.4	1.1	43.6	42.8	32.7	34.5	939
Asia																		
Bangladesh	35.1	47.6	54.5	36.1	28.5	51.1	42.9	39.8	41.8	52.6	43.7	56.5	14.9	45.8	51.3	42.7	43.9	3284
Pakistan	5.8	11.2	13.0	11.7	0.0	18.9	5.9	5.4	6.9	20.0	10.2	5.7	0.0	5.3	11.1	15.2	10.1	1354

NA = Not applicable

U = Unknown (not available)

3.4 COMPARING MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CONTRACEPTIVE KNOWLEDGE AND USE

Since data regarding the knowledge and use of family planning were collected in the same manner for men and women, they can be compared by gender within countries. Table 3.8 presents contraceptive knowledge and use among currently married men and women by type of method. Overall, men report greater knowledge of contraceptive methods than women, especially in West and East Africa (Figure 3.2). In Burkina Faso and Mali, for example, the proportion of men knowing at least one contraceptive method is 17

and 23 percentage points, respectively, higher than the proportion of women with that level of knowledge. In only two countries of sub-Saharan Africa, Kenya and Rwanda, is the difference between men's and women's knowledge of any contraceptive method less than 2 percentage points. In contrast, levels of contraceptive knowledge are similar for men and women in North Africa and Asia. Knowledge of any method exceeds 96 percent for both men and women in every country in these two regions, with the exception of Pakistan, where only 79 and 78 percent of men and women, respectively, report knowledge of any method.

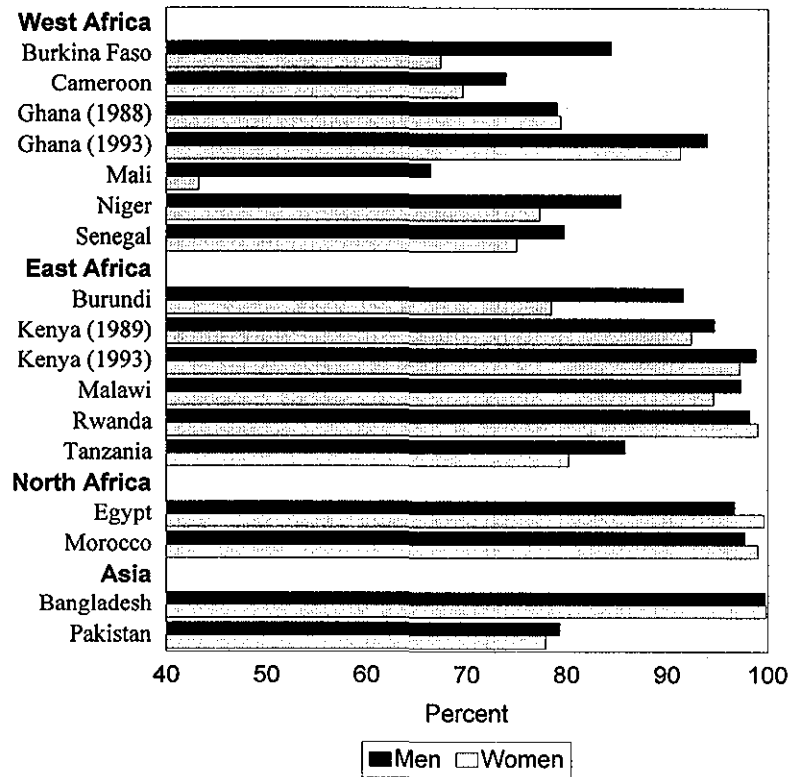
Table 3.8 Knowledge and use of contraception by type of method

Percentage of knowledge and use of contraception among currently married men and women by type of method, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1987-1993

Country	Knowledge of contraception						Use of contraception						Number of men	Number of women
	Modern		Traditional		Any		Modern		Traditional		Any			
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women		
West Africa														
Burkina Faso	80.0	63.3	67.2	42.8	84.4	67.4	7.0	4.2	5.1	3.7	12.1	7.9	1346	5326
Cameroon	65.2	62.9	63.2	58.1	73.9	69.6	5.8	4.3	9.3	8.9	15.1	13.2	814	2868
Ghana (1988)	76.4	76.5	55.5	51.9	79.0	79.4	9.3	5.2	10.3	7.7	19.6	12.9	943	3156
Ghana (1993)	92.9	90.7	77.7	68.6	94.0	91.3	19.9	10.1	13.6	10.1	33.5	20.3	749	3204
Mali	53.5	28.6	56.2	37.1	66.4	43.2	0.4	1.3	1.4	1.9	1.8	3.2	764	2948
Niger	74.0	58.0	70.5	67.4	85.4	77.3	2.6	2.3	4.1	2.2	6.7	4.4	1570	5561
Senegal	73.9	70.3	54.3	49.6	79.7	75.0	6.5	4.8	3.8	2.7	10.3	6.7	941	4505
East Africa														
Burundi	75.2	63.8	85.3	63.1	91.6	78.5	U	1.2	U	5.5	U	6.7	542	2669
Kenya (1989)	93.1	91.3	82.8	55.8	94.7	92.4	20.5	17.9	28.9	9.0	49.3	26.9	1170	4764
Kenya (1993)	97.3	96.9	89.9	75.9	98.8	97.2	31.9	27.3	22.6	5.5	54.4	32.7	1664	4629
Malawi	94.6	91.8	80.7	76.5	97.3	94.6	12.5	7.4	12.6	5.6	25.1	13.0	866	3492
Rwanda	97.4	98.8	93.6	84.4	98.2	99.0	12.7	12.9	21.8	8.3	34.5	21.2	598	3785
Tanzania	84.2	77.6	60.1	48.9	85.8	80.2	10.4	6.6	11.4	3.9	21.8	10.4	1184	6038
North Africa														
Egypt	96.7	99.5	75.2	77.6	96.7	99.6	47.6	44.8	2.7	2.3	50.3	47.1	2311	9133
Morocco	97.4	98.9	69.4	73.1	97.7	99.0	34.5	35.5	4.7	6.0	39.2	41.5	939	5118
Asia														
Bangladesh	99.6	99.8	75.6	76.1	99.7	99.8	43.9	36.2	11.3	8.4	55.2	44.6	3284	8980
Pakistan	77.7	77.2	49.4	25.7	79.3	77.9	10.1	9.0	5.0	2.8	15.1	11.8	1354	6364

U = Unknown (not available)

Figure 3.2 Knowledge of any contraceptive method among currently married men and women, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1987-1993



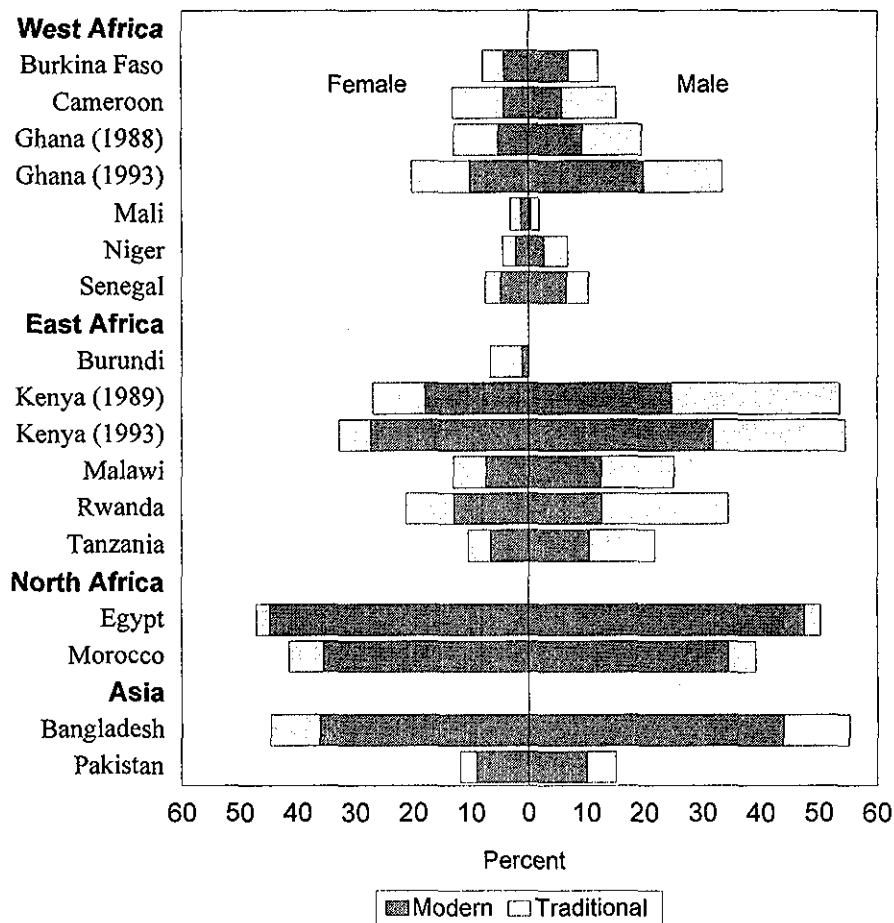
Knowledge of traditional methods varies more widely by gender than does knowledge of modern methods (Table 3.8). More men than women know of a traditional method in every country except Bangladesh, Egypt, and Morocco, where gender differences are quite small. In contrast, knowledge of modern methods is quite similar for men and women in most countries outside West Africa; Burundi and Tanzania are the exceptions. In West Africa, however, there are wide disparities in the knowledge of modern methods in some countries; there is a 25-percentage point difference, for example, in the proportions of men and women in Mali who know of a modern method.

Current contraceptive use among both men and women is lowest in West Africa and highest in North Africa and Asia, except for Pakistan which has levels similar to those observed in West Africa. Men generally reported higher levels of contraceptive use than women, especially in East Africa (Figure 3.3 and Table 3.8). In some countries, such as Tanzania, twice as many men as women report currently using a method. Only in Mali and Morocco do more women than men report currently using a method, and the differences are slight. There are gender differences in the use of both modern and traditional methods, but traditional meth-

ods exhibit the greatest disparities. Men are more likely than women to report using a modern method in all but three countries (Mali, Morocco, and Rwanda) and to report using a traditional method in all but two countries (Mali and Morocco). In East Africa, where traditional methods show the greatest gender differences, men are about three times as likely as women to report using a traditional method.

Since the questions on contraceptive use refer to use by either the man or his partner, these large disparities in the responses of men and women are generally unexpected. It is not clear whether the gender disparities found in the DHS surveys result from men overreporting the use of contraception or from women underreporting its use. One frequently proposed explanation for the gender gap is differences in condom use: it is assumed that married men report greater use of condoms than married women because the men use condoms during extramarital relations to protect against sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Ezeh (1995) questions this assumption, however, because women are as likely to underreport other male methods (male sterilization and withdrawal) as they are to underreport the use of condoms. Polygyny is a second explanation frequently put forward for the higher reporting of contraceptive use among men. The

Figure 3.3 Current contraceptive use among currently married men and women, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1987-1993



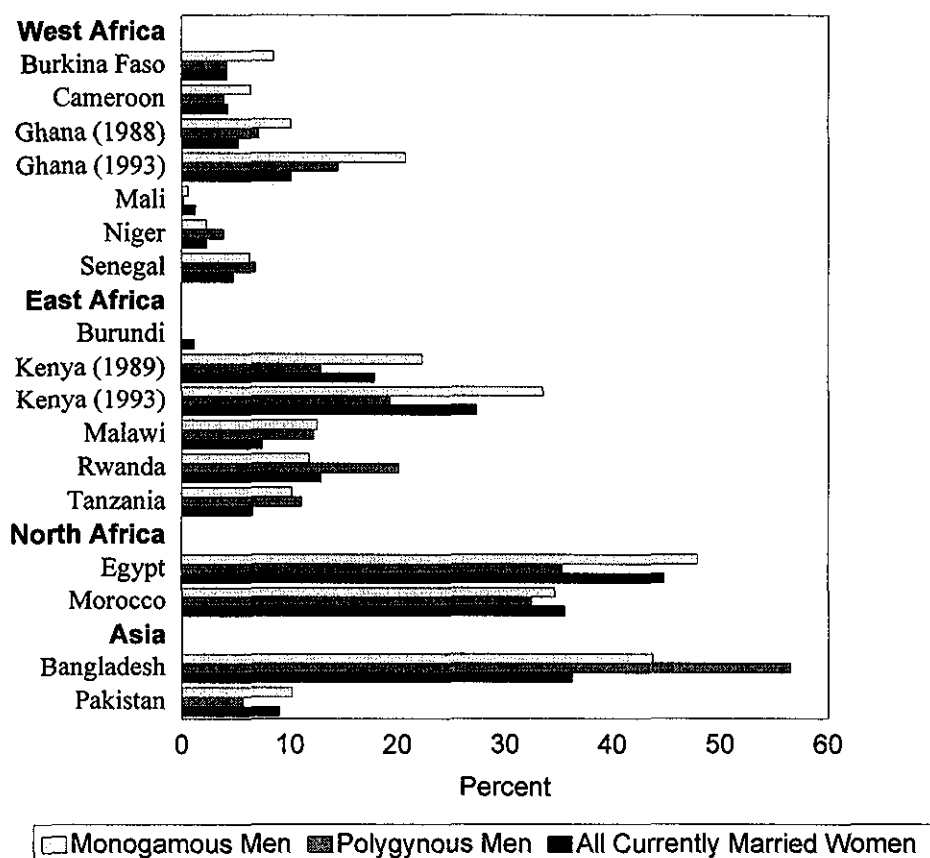
Note: There is no information on current contraceptive use among currently married men in the Burundi survey.

argument is that a polygynous man is classified as a user even if only one of his wives is currently using a method. The fact that, in most countries, current use is higher among monogamous men than polygynous men invalidates this assumption. Further research is needed to establish the direction and extent of under- or overreporting of current contraceptive use by men and women.

By comparing the levels of current contraceptive use reported by monogamous men, polygynous men, and women, Figure 3.4 confirms that polygyny cannot explain higher contraceptive prevalence among men. With the exception of Rwanda, polygynous men in every country report lower lev-

els of modern contraceptive use than do monogamous men. In more than half of the surveys with complete information on current use and type of union, polygynous men also report lower levels of contraceptive use than women. Even in countries with high levels of polygyny, such as Burkina Faso, there is no difference in the current use of modern methods reported by polygynous men and by currently married women. When women are compared to monogamous men, the women generally report much lower levels of modern method use; the exceptions are Mali, Morocco, Niger, and Rwanda where prevalence is similar among women and monogamous men.

Figure 3.4 Current use of modern contraceptive methods among currently married men and women, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1987-1993



Note: There is no information on this topic among currently married men in the Burundi survey.

3.5 INTENTION TO USE CONTRACEPTION IN THE FUTURE

Data on the intentions of nonusers to use contraception in the future furnishes essential information on possible changes in family planning behavior in the years to come. This permits planners to evaluate future demand for contraceptives and to put in place a distribution system to facilitate access to services and supplies. It must be remembered, however, that intention to use may not be translated into actual use.

Table 3.9 presents the percentage of currently married men who are not currently using contraception but intend to do so in the future and their background characteristics. In most countries of East Africa, more than half of male

nonusers say they intend to use contraception in the future; this proportion reaches 65 percent in Malawi. The exception is Tanzania, where only 30 percent of nonusers intend to use contraception in the future—a level closer to that observed in West Africa, where the majority of nonusers have no intention of ever using family planning. Aside from Ghana, where half the nonusers intend to use contraception one day, from 6 percent (in Mali) to 28 percent (in Niger) of nonusers in West Africa say they intend to use contraception in the future. In North Africa, a little more than one-third of the male nonusers intend to use a method, compared with 18 percent in Pakistan and 62 percent in Bangladesh.

Contraceptive intentions vary greatly by sociodemographic characteristics, but the differences are less pronounced than those observed for actual contraceptive use,

Table 3.9 Intention to use contraception in the future by background characteristics

Percentage of intention to use contraception in the future among nonusers by age, residence, education, type of union and number of children, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1987-1993

Country	Currently married men																	Currently married women Total
	Age group					Residence		Education			Type of union		Number of children				Total	
	<30	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Urban	Rural	None	Primary	Secondary or higher	Monog-amy	Polygyny	0	1-2	3-4	5+		
West Africa																		
Burkina Faso	49.0	42.1	34.6	12.8	4.2	36.7	24.6	23.9	43.0	49.8	25.8	26.5	33.6	40.1	19.0	20.1	26.1	30.4
Cameroon	30.1	25.9	16.7	13.9	1.8	23.6	17.6	9.0	26.6	39.0	21.5	14.3	7.1	19.5	20.7	21.2	19.6	23.2
Ghana (1988)	41.9	44.8	37.9	19.2	14.1	43.5	33.7	24.8	44.3	45.8	35.5	36.5	20.9	34.3	41.1	35.5	35.8	37.3
Ghana (1993)	59.8	57.9	48.0	28.3	NA	57.1	47.4	33.0	62.5	54.7	50.8	45.5	47.5	58.4	50.0	42.7	50.0	50.9
Mali	10.2	8.7	3.6	0.8	NA	12.6	4.0	4.7	7.1	27.8	6.7	4.3	1.9	5.6	11.8	4.3	5.9	12.9
Niger	43.6	33.6	26.2	13.9	9.1	29.0	28.2	26.9	39.5	48.8	29.6	23.7	25.7	34.9	24.8	26.4	28.3	20.4
Senegal	19.7	20.1	13.9	6.5	NA	18.7	8.3	7.9	23.3	39.3	14.4	6.6	14.3	18.2	12.3	8.5	11.6	28.3
East Africa																		
Burundi	59.4	65.8	34.7	29.6	22.3	61.5	51.8	50.1	57.5	71.7	54.8	29.1	54.0	60.0	52.5	43.5	52.1	31.7
Kenya (1989)	65.6	68.1	46.4	26.4	7.3	49.1	47.2	26.7	48.5	65.8	52.6	31.7	46.6	57.7	61.6	39.2	47.4	53.2
Kenya (1993)	69.9	62.0	38.6	17.8	NA	54.3	51.8	30.6	51.3	67.0	53.3	47.0	67.6	63.1	51.3	43.8	52.3	58.2
Malawi	80.7	71.7	58.4	23.2	NA	U	U	62.5	66.7	61.3	65.5	62.6	73.5	70.7	65.9	55.9	65.3	57.8
Rwanda	69.3	68.3	49.3	33.7	31.2	58.3	59.3	50.4	64.8	42.2	59.5	56.9	44.3	72.1	64.3	50.1	59.3	62.1
Tanzania	37.4	40.7	26.9	9.7	0.0	42.6	25.5	14.3	34.6	51.9	31.6	19.2	27.4	39.2	26.8	24.6	29.6	27.3
North Africa																		
Egypt	56.2	51.0	30.0	11.2	1.4	38.4	38.5	25.6	37.4	53.3	39.2	15.2	41.9	47.5	37.4	28.8	38.5	45.4
Morocco	49.9	59.5	42.4	10.0	1.2	33.4	35.7	27.9	37.5	74.4	35.5	24.1	33.7	41.2	48.7	26.7	34.9	45.3
Asia																		
Bangladesh	85.5	79.9	61.4	16.4	10.9	68.8	61.6	60.8	61.5	66.9	62.4	50.9	83.0	77.8	59.0	32.9	62.3	66.4
Pakistan	18.0	25.5	14.1	8.8	3.6	28.5	13.8	11.5	20.1	29.7	18.2	10.0	8.6	14.8	20.4	21.3	17.9	15.7

NA = Not applicable

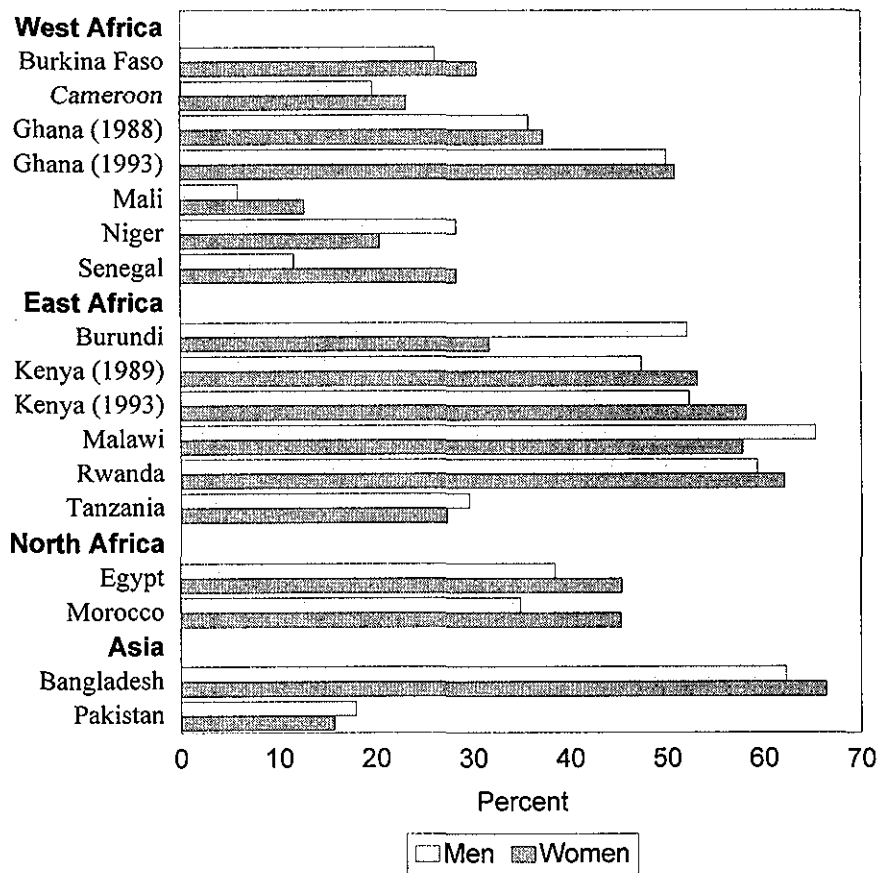
U = Unknown (not available)

particularly in West Africa. Younger men are more likely than older men in every country to intend to use a contraceptive method. Urban dwellers are consistently more likely to intend to use a method than are rural inhabitants, although these differences only exceed 10 percentage points in Burkina Faso, Pakistan, and Tanzania. Contraceptive intentions also rise with education, most notably in West Africa where nonusers with at least primary education are two to three times as likely as uneducated nonusers to intend to use a method. Type of union makes little difference, although, overall, monogamous nonusers are more likely than polygynous ones to intend to use a contraceptive method. Men with many children, especially five or more, are less

likely than men with fewer children to say that they intend to use a method in the future.

Figure 3.5 and the last columns in Table 3.9 compare men's and women's intentions to use contraception in the future. Overall, there is a high correlation between the percentages of male and female nonusers in each country who intend to use contraception. In 12 of the 17 surveys, a higher percentage of women than men say that they intend to use contraception in the future, but the differences are generally small. Only in Burundi, Morocco, and Senegal do they exceed 10 percentage points.

Figure 3.5 Intention to use contraception among nonusers, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1987-1993



3.6 PREFERRED METHOD FOR FUTURE USE

Table 3.10 examines which contraceptive methods nonusers say they would prefer to use in the future. With a few exceptions, the most popular method among female nonusers in West Africa is the pill, while among female nonusers in East Africa it is injectables. In Bangladesh and Morocco, most of these women prefer the pill. In Pakistan female sterilization is the method most frequently mentioned by female nonusers, followed by injectables. Kenya and Morocco are the only other countries where female sterilization is mentioned by more than 10 percent of women who do not currently use contraception but intend to do so. The IUD is the leading choice in Egypt, where it is preferred by 43 percent of female and 32 percent of male nonusers, but the method is not significant elsewhere.

When only female methods are considered, the preferences of male nonusers generally follow the same sequence as do those of female nonusers, that is, the pill, injectables, IUD, and female sterilization in that order. Men, however, mention the condom more frequently than women in all 17 surveys. Never do more than 10 percent of female nonusers express a preference for the condom, and in over half the surveys less than 1 percent of women select the condom. In contrast, over 10 percent of male nonusers choose the condom in eight of the surveys; for men in Malawi, it is the overwhelming favorite, mentioned by 40 percent of male nonusers.

There is substantial support for traditional methods in many countries. Male nonusers generally are more likely than female nonusers to express a preference for periodic abstinence, which is important to both sexes only in Burundi, Cameroon, and Rwanda. Other traditional methods are preferred by 10 to 38 percent of male and female nonusers in Burundi, Egypt, and all the countries of West Africa but Ghana.

3.7 REASONS FOR NOT INTENDING TO USE CONTRACEPTION

DHS-II and DHS-III surveys asked nonusers who did not intend to use contraception in the future to give the main reason for their decision; Table 3.11 displays the results. The data must be interpreted with caution, however, since it is possible that some respondents may never have even thought about using contraception. In Morocco, Pakistan, Tanzania, and the countries of West Africa, both male and female nonusers say they do not intend to use contraception because they want children. In Bangladesh, Egypt, Kenya, Malawi, and Rwanda, the leading reason is sterility, that is, difficulty in conceiving or the inability to conceive.⁵ At least 12 percent of women in every country cite sterility, and the proportion of men who mention sterility falls below 10 percent only in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Pakistan, and Tanzania. While not a single man in Tanzania reports sterility as his main reason for not intending to use contraception, almost one-quarter of the women cite sterility-related factors.

Men are more likely than women to give religious reasons for not intending to use contraceptives. Religion is especially important in Rwanda and among the Muslim populations of Bangladesh, Egypt, Pakistan, and Senegal. In contrast, women mention health concerns more often than men, and health issues are most frequently cited in Egypt, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, and Rwanda. Opposition to family planning is mentioned by less than 10 percent of nonusers in each country, with the exception of men in Kenya. The reason least often cited is the cost or availability of contraceptives.

⁵ This response includes two different types of sterility: primary sterility due to menopause or hysterectomy, and partial or secondary sterility.

Table 3.10 Preferred method of contraception for future use

Percent distribution of preferred contraceptive method among currently married men (M) and women (W) nonusers who intend to use a method in the future, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1987-1993

Country	Pill		IUD		Injectable		Condom		Female sterilization		Other modern ^a		Periodic abstinence		Other traditional methods		Don't know/unsure		Total ^b		Number	
	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W
West Africa																						
Burkina Faso	20.8	38.1	3.2	5.1	7.8	15.6	13.1	1.2	0.9	1.3	1.6	1.9	5.1	2.7	37.5	10.4	9.4	23.1	100.0	100.0	208	1216
Cameroon	14.9	21.1	0.4	5.0	9.6	14.2	9.3	3.9	15.8	8.3	1.5	1.4	13.5	11.9	16.7	10.5	18.2	23.5	100.0	100.0	128	559
Ghana (1988)	12.9	22.6	1.8	2.2	14.8	19.3	5.2	0.7	10.7	10.0	8.2	1.6	10.3	8.3	7.4	8.2	28.8	27.1	100.0	100.0	271	1026
Ghana (1993)	15.7	20.2	2.8	3.3	24.1	31.8	16.1	4.2	3.2	3.6	4.0	5.5	6.0	7.3	1.2	1.2	24.5	25.3	100.0	100.0	249	1300
Mali	28.5	51.6	7.7	2.1	15.7	9.4	1.9	0.2	1.9	1.9	0.0	1.5	17.6	3.9	21.8	23.7	4.8	5.7	100.0	100.0	44	362
Niger	55.7	53.1	0.9	2.5	21.0	23.0	3.6	0.0	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.0	1.6	0.2	15.5	19.4	0.1	1.3	100.0	100.0	414	1082
Senegal	25.8	30.1	9.3	6.5	6.2	6.8	14.4	0.7	0.0	1.4	3.1	3.3	7.2	1.3	10.3	15.9	21.6	33.2	100.0	100.0	97	1180
East Africa																						
Burundi	12.8	22.2	4.0	3.0	26.6	38.2	11.1	0.7	1.2	2.2	1.6	0.2	16.7	18.8	26.1	12.0	0.0	2.7	100.0	100.0	282	788
Kenya (1989)	20.2	24.4	3.1	7.1	23.1	37.0	6.1	0.9	20.2	12.7	0.8	0.5	11.6	4.3	6.4	1.8	7.1	11.2	100.0	100.0	281	1852
Kenya (1993)	14.8	21.3	2.9	3.3	19.0	40.6	13.9	1.4	12.9	12.5	1.4	1.8	10.6	2.9	5.8	2.8	18.0	13.3	100.0	100.0	397	1812
Malawi	28.0	51.4	1.1	1.2	5.8	16.3	40.2	6.6	6.2	4.8	1.4	1.6	10.0	5.6	5.2	6.1	1.8	6.2	100.0	100.0	423	1757
Rwanda	17.0	22.2	0.5	1.3	29.7	41.4	6.3	0.9	8.6	5.1	8.3	3.9	23.7	17.6	3.1	5.1	2.8	2.4	100.0	100.0	232	1854
Tanzania	40.2	53.4	1.8	4.7	9.4	12.2	12.8	1.4	9.9	8.5	0.5	1.5	18.5	3.8	2.8	6.7	3.0	7.7	100.0	100.0	274	1475
North Africa																						
Egypt	16.7	20.4	31.8	42.7	5.2	4.4	1.2	0.5	1.5	1.0	2.0	0.7	0.6	0.3	24.3	14.7	16.7	15.2	100.0	100.0	442	2199
Morocco	61.3	67.7	6.5	11.5	4.9	3.5	3.2	0.7	14.6	10.9	0.0	0.4	6.0	2.8	0.9	1.4	1.4	0.7	100.0	100.0	199	1355
Asia																						
Bangladesh	33.9	47.0	2.1	2.0	21.7	20.4	4.3	2.5	8.2	3.1	0.2	0.0	2.6	1.8	2.8	2.2	23.8	20.8	100.0	100.0	917	3307
Pakistan	7.8	13.0	0.9	6.8	13.6	15.7	18.9	9.5	19.5	17.1	0.0	0.2	8.9	2.1	8.9	9.5	21.5	24.4	100.0	100.0	205	878

^a Other modern methods include: vaginal methods, male sterilization and Norplant.

^b Missing responses included

Table 3.11 Reasons for not using contraception in the future

Percent distribution of currently married men (M) and women (W) nonusers not intending to use a method by reason, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1987-1993

Country	Want children		Lack of knowledge		Health concerns ^a		Opposition to family planning ^b		Cost/availability		Religion ^c		Sterility ^d		Not sexually active		Other		Don't know		Total	
	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W
West Africa																						
Burkina Faso	32.7	40.5	5.3	17.4	0.7	2.4	8.9	3.9	1.0	2.1	2.4	4.0	7.1	16.8	0.2	3.7	40.0	2.3	1.1	7.0	100.0	100.0
Cameroon	71.7	64.1	3.5	3.6	2.5	2.5	3.9	2.7	1.0	2.7	9.2	6.8	4.8	13.7	0.5	0.7	1.1	0.9	2.2	2.3	100.0	100.0
Ghana (1988)	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Ghana (1993)	35.0	32.8	14.2	13.0	4.5	9.1	7.6	6.2	0.5	0.8	11.2	5.5	12.2	23.7	6.6	3.2	4.0	2.1	3.0	3.7	100.0	100.0
Mali	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Niger	56.1	50.8	8.0	14.9	0.6	1.5	1.7	3.5	0.9	2.7	10.9	5.1	14.2	12.8	2.0	0.8	4.4	7.0	0.4	0.9	100.0	100.0
Senegal	28.4	40.7	10.3	9.4	0.5	3.4	6.0	5.7	1.4	0.5	34.7	18.3	10.5	13.3	1.1	2.0	5.4	2.1	1.6	1.1	100.0	100.0
East Africa																						
Burundi	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Kenya (1989)	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Kenya (1993)	25.7	22.1	10.0	5.3	5.5	15.7	14.2	8.0	1.3	0.2	6.8	7.8	31.4	34.0	0.6	1.5	2.9	4.0	1.5	1.3	100.0	100.0
Malawi	24.6	30.3	11.1	9.4	5.7	9.8	2.1	4.2	1.6	0.2	2.8	4.8	46.7	35.5	2.6	1.2	0.8	1.5	2.0	3.0	100.0	100.0
Rwanda	23.8	35.7	8.4	3.2	3.3	11.3	4.6	3.1	0.8	0.3	20.0	7.4	27.3	29.5	1.5	3.1	7.3	4.8	1.5	1.3	100.0	100.0
Tanzania	64.9	36.4	10.5	9.0	1.7	4.8	5.9	10.9	0.3	2.2	4.1	5.7	0.0	23.3	4.1	2.2	5.8	1.9	2.8	3.5	100.0	100.0
North Africa																						
Egypt	27.1	26.9	0.3	0.3	6.5	11.0	3.4	4.0	0.6	0.2	23.0	10.4	31.0	36.4	3.2	7.1	3.4	2.2	1.7	1.4	100.0	100.0
Morocco	35.9	46.2	6.0	3.0	3.7	16.7	7.3	8.1	1.2	0.4	7.2	2.9	30.4	16.0	5.8	6.4	1.5	0.3	0.3	0.1	100.0	100.0
Asia																						
Bangladesh	6.0	24.7	3.0	2.2	4.7	7.5	2.8	5.0	0.4	1.0	22.8	4.4	46.7	17.6	10.8	10.6	2.1	26.4	0.0	0.4	100.0	100.0
Pakistan	46.8	42.7	10.6	10.5	2.9	4.3	2.1	8.2	1.5	1.4	23.2	16.3	6.2	11.8	3.2	11.0	2.8	2.1	0.7	1.6	100.0	100.0

U = Unknown (not available)

^a Includes side effects

^b Includes opposition by other people such as spouse, family members, etc.

^c Includes fatalistic beliefs

^d Includes difficulty to get pregnant and menopausal