

4 Knowledge of a Source for Modern Methods

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Awareness of modern methods is an essential first step in the process of contraceptive innovation, but to use a modern method a woman must also know where to obtain it. This section examines levels of and differentials in knowledge of a source.

4.2 KNOWLEDGE OF SOURCES

Table 4.1 presents the percentage of currently married women age 15-49 who reported that they know a source for any modern method and for each individual method. The

percentage of women who know a source for a modern method ranges from under 30 percent in Burkina Faso and Yemen to over 97 percent in Colombia and the Dominican Republic. The regional patterns in knowledge of a source for a modern method follow the same patterns observed for knowledge of the methods themselves, but they are even more pronounced. More than 89 percent of married women in all the surveys in the Latin America/Caribbean and Asia/Near East/North Africa regions (except Pakistan and Yemen) reported that they know where they could obtain a modern method of contraception. The countries in sub-Saharan Africa are more heterogeneous and can be split broadly into two groups—those in which knowledge of a source for modern contraceptives is quite high (Malawi, Namibia,

Table 4.1 Knowledge of sources for modern contraceptive methods

Percentage of currently married women 15-49 who know any source for specific modern methods, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1990-1993

Country	Any modern method	Pill	IUD	Injection	Vaginal methods	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Norplant
Sub-Saharan Africa									
Burkina Faso	28.4	22.8	16.2	16.1	9.5	17.3	12.0	4.6	0.0
Cameroon	48.4	27.3	20.8	23.5	10.1	25.2	39.6	5.1	U
Madagascar	45.4	29.0	12.2	33.4	5.6	19.6	28.8	4.4	0.0
Malawi	83.3	72.8	39.6	61.1	39.9	61.9	53.5	15.3	U
Namibia	81.8	72.7	34.9	76.2	12.1	52.2	52.3	23.9	U
Niger	32.9	26.1	14.6	22.4	6.9	11.3	17.9	3.3	U
Nigeria	31.2	24.1	15.6	24.8	9.3	15.9	14.9	4.9	U
Rwanda	91.0	87.7	58.9	87.9	23.1	75.2	61.8	32.0	31.2
Senegal	40.8	34.4	27.3	20.4	8.4	21.7	29.0	3.0	5.7
Tanzania	71.1	65.6	32.7	40.7	20.4	48.3	50.8	10.5	U
Zambia	87.2	79.0	44.0	39.0	24.6	64.4	66.0	19.7	U
Asia/Near East/ North Africa									
Egypt	92.9	90.4	87.5	60.1	30.0	46.9	60.6	9.7	30.3
Indonesia	92.8	88.5	78.8	85.0	5.1	54.7	50.5	27.6	61.4
Jordan	94.2	88.6	87.7	39.8	49.7	46.8	85.3	20.9	U
Morocco	93.8	92.4	73.8	39.2	23.8	58.8	69.9	3.3	U
Pakistan	44.9	30.1	25.1	30.1	7.0	19.3	37.0	11.5	0.0
Yemen	27.0	24.5	15.3	12.8	3.3	5.0	U	U	U
Latin America/ Caribbean									
Brazil (NE)	93.3	83.9	24.2	59.2	21.3	69.4	80.5	33.0	U
Colombia	97.8	93.1	84.2	81.5	78.6	80.7	87.3	56.6	U
Dominican Republic	97.1	90.6	71.5	51.8	50.0	79.7	92.4	39.5	39.2
Paraguay	89.8	83.9	65.9	78.9	39.0	54.5	54.6	10.7	U
Peru	89.1	80.4	79.3	74.6	60.5	71.3	75.4	45.2	U

U = Unknown (not available)

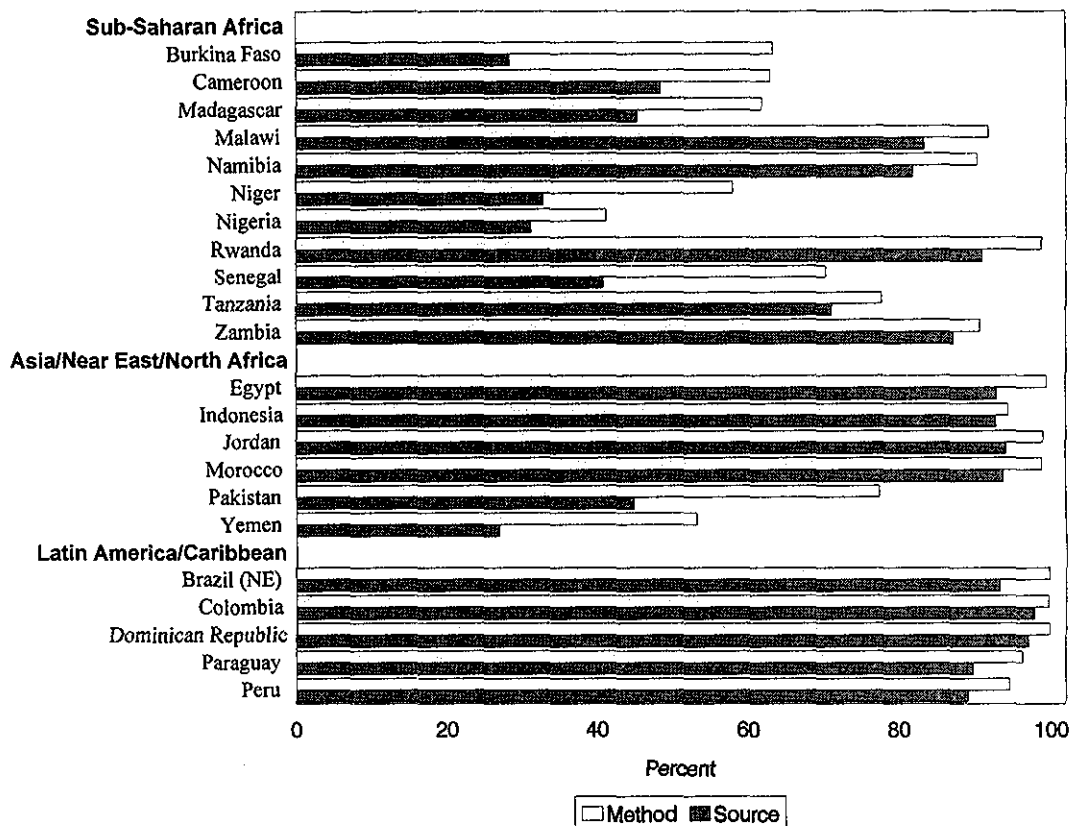
Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zambia), and those in which fewer than half of currently married women know where to obtain modern contraception (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal). Pakistan and Yemen also belong with the latter group of countries; only 45 percent of married women in Pakistan and 27 percent in Yemen know where they could get a modern method of contraception.

In several countries, however, a pronounced difference is observed between the percentage of married women who know at least one modern method and the percentage who know where to obtain one (Figure 4.1). In Burkina Faso, where 63 percent of married women reported knowing at least one modern method, only 28 percent said they know of

a source. Large differences between knowledge of a modern method and knowledge of a source are seen also in Niger, Senegal, Pakistan, and Yemen. At least part of the large difference in Yemen may reflect the fact that women were not asked if they knew of a source for male or female sterilization. In Cameroon, Madagascar, and Nigeria between 70 and 77 percent of women who know a modern method also know a source. In the other surveys, more than 90 percent of women who know a modern method also know where to obtain one.

For individual methods, the patterns in knowledge of a source are similar to the patterns in knowledge of a method. In all surveys except Nigeria, the modern method most

Figure 4.1 Percentage of currently married women 15-49 who know any modern contraceptive method and the percentage who know the source for any modern method, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1990-1993



widely known is also the one for which a source is most widely known. In most countries, this method is the pill. Similarly, the least widely known method (male sterilization or vaginal methods) is usually the one for which a source is also least widely known.

4.3 DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC DIFFERENTIALS

Table 4.2 presents the percentage of married women age 15-49 who know a source for any modern method by their current age, number of living children, area of residence, and level of education. The demographic and socioeconomic differentials in knowledge of a source of modern contraception mirror those already discussed for knowledge of contraceptive methods. Differentials tend to be small in populations with high levels of knowledge but more pronounced where knowledge levels are lower.

The percentage of married women who know a source for modern contraception is largely independent of age. However, in every survey except Morocco, Pakistan, and the Dominican Republic, women age 25-34 are the most likely to know a source. In Morocco and the Dominican Republic, the level of knowledge of where to obtain a modern method is virtually the same in all three age groups. In Pakistan, knowledge of where to obtain modern contraception increases with age, as does knowledge of contraceptive methods.

The relationship between knowledge of a modern contraceptive source and the number of living children a woman has is generally weak, particularly in countries with high levels of knowledge. In most surveys, women with no living children are the least likely to know where to obtain modern contraceptives. Notable exceptions are Namibia, Northeast Brazil, and Peru, where women with five or more living children are the least likely to know a source for modern contraception.

Socioeconomic differentials in knowledge of where to obtain modern contraception are stronger than demographic differentials. In all surveys, married women in urban areas are far more likely than married women in rural areas to know of a source for modern contraception, although the differential is much smaller in populations with high levels of knowledge. The urban/rural differential is particularly wide in Burkina Faso, where the proportion of married women who know a source of modern contraception is 72 percent in urban areas but only 19 percent in rural areas.

Knowledge of a source for modern contraceptives is strongly related to education. In all countries except Madagascar, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Yemen, more than 90 percent of married women with secondary or higher education know a source for modern contraception. However, the proportion of married women with no education who know where to obtain a modern method exceeds 90 percent only in Morocco, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic. The level of knowledge of a source for modern contraception among women with primary education is particularly low (only 40 percent) in Madagascar.

Table 4.2 Differentials in knowledge of sources for modern contraceptives

Percentage of currently married women 15-49 who know any source for modern contraceptive methods by age, number of living children, residence, and education, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1990-1993

Country	Age group			Number of living children				Residence		Education			Total
	15-24	25-34	35-49	0	1-2	3-4	5+	Urban	Rural	No educa- tion	Primary	Second- ary or higher	
	Sub-Saharan Africa												
Burkina Faso	28.9	32.1	23.3	27.4	29.5	28.6	27.4	71.7	19.4	22.0	60.6	91.2	28.4
Cameroon	49.2	52.7	42.5	48.3	46.2	49.2	50.3	66.6	37.1	19.5	65.3	92.2	48.4
Madagascar	39.0	49.2	46.0	37.5	45.6	47.9	46.0	80.6	38.0	22.5	39.6	80.0	45.4
Malawi	81.6	88.7	79.1	71.0	82.6	88.6	85.5	91.4	82.2	77.3	89.2	98.9	83.3
Namibia	84.5	85.5	77.5	84.8	85.6	84.4	74.5	94.0	74.1	67.3	78.9	96.1	81.8
Niger	29.1	37.0	31.7	23.4	31.4	33.8	39.7	76.8	25.6	30.5	55.2	91.3	32.9
Nigeria	29.0	33.2	30.6	22.6	29.4	30.9	37.9	58.9	23.7	18.3	48.7	75.2	31.2
Rwanda	89.5	93.1	89.2	82.5	91.0	93.0	91.3	92.4	90.9	87.1	93.8	98.6	91.0
Senegal	32.4	46.1	41.7	29.6	37.2	40.6	47.6	67.5	28.1	32.7	76.9	95.9	40.8
Tanzania	68.6	76.6	67.2	54.6	73.7	72.7	72.3	88.0	66.4	56.2	80.9	98.9	71.1
Zambia	85.0	91.6	83.9	74.5	88.7	89.3	88.5	94.1	81.2	70.5	89.2	97.9	87.2
Asia/Near East/ North Africa													
Egypt	89.4	94.5	92.9	87.3	92.7	94.7	92.7	97.9	88.5	87.7	95.8	99.3	92.9
Indonesia	94.0	95.1	89.8	86.1	94.1	94.1	91.4	96.6	91.3	80.9	94.4	98.8	92.8
Jordan	93.4	95.7	93.3	88.9	95.0	96.2	94.1	96.0	89.2	87.3	95.1	96.8	94.2
Morocco	93.9	93.8	93.9	90.4	94.5	95.2	93.5	98.2	90.5	92.2	99.1	99.3	93.8
Pakistan	37.2	45.7	48.8	27.3	42.1	47.8	51.3	69.9	34.0	37.7	64.3	78.3	44.9
Yemen	26.4	29.3	24.9	23.1	24.5	24.7	30.6	67.3	18.3	22.0	58.5	84.3	27.0
Latin America/ Caribbean													
Brazil (NE)	94.6	94.9	91.4	94.5	95.6	94.9	88.3	97.4	87.0	83.8	95.5	100.0	93.3
Colombia	96.7	99.3	96.8	95.1	98.5	97.7	97.3	98.6	95.8	94.7	96.7	99.2	97.8
Dominican Republic	96.3	97.3	97.4	95.2	96.9	98.1	96.9	98.6	94.5	90.6	96.7	99.2	97.1
Paraguay	86.9	92.5	88.6	83.2	92.4	92.7	85.2	95.1	83.7	65.4	87.5	97.9	89.8
Peru	84.7	92.3	88.1	86.5	92.5	91.1	81.3	96.3	71.1	56.8	83.5	98.4	89.1