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CONTRACEPTIVE PREVALENCE SURVEYS II

PROGRESS REPORT

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 1979

Contract No. AID/DSPE - C - 0052



Westinghouse Health Systems
Post Office Box 866
Columbia, Maryland 21044
U.S.A.

THE CONTRACEPTIVE PREVALENCE SURVEYS

II

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JANUARY 31, 1980

A. INTRODUCTION

The following report covers the period from September 30 through December 31, 1979 for the second phase of the Contraceptive Prevalence Surveys Project (CPS II). It summarizes the major areas of project activity undertaken during this period and when necessary refers to activities carried out under the first phase of the CPS Project and covered in a separate report for the same period.

The CPS II Project was initiated to continue and expand the program developed during the first phase of the CPS Project. This project was designed to provide assistance to countries that wish to conduct a national or sub-national survey in order to obtain information on current levels (or prevalence) of contraceptive use. In each country scientifically selected samples of women between the ages of 15 and 49 years are asked questions about their background, knowledge, use of contraception, and other relevant information which could prove helpful to planners, policy makers and administrators.

The information collected through CPS can be used to:

- o Assist in setting national population policy and goals;
- o Assist in selecting approaches which will result in maximizing acceptance and continued use of family planning;
- o Assist program planners to derive the maximum benefit from the limited resources available for family planning;
- o Review and modify the family planning program, policy, goals and administrative procedures;
- o Identify target populations which require expanded family planning services;
- o Recognize geographic and administrative areas that are functioning efficiently in providing family planning services or conversely identify those areas with problems that require remedial action.
- o Provide "feedback" on existing operational family planning activities.

The three months covered by this report represent the initial start-up phase of the CPS II Project. CPS II represents a continuation and a broad expansion of the scope of work carried out under previous CPS contract. As a result many of the activities are renewals of efforts started under the earlier contract, or are adaptations of procedures and capabilities, to match the expanded responsibilities of CPS II.

B. STAFFING

Since the awarding of the CPS II contract in September 1979, Westinghouse has been actively recruiting new staff members to augment the current staff of Lawrence Smith, Jr., Sushil Kumar, Gary Lewis, and Ann Way. The new staff members recruited to date are as follows:

Gerald Karush (Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania) - Dr. Karush comes to Westinghouse from the facility of University of Maine. He has worked in domestic population research and in family planning studies in El Salvador.

John Novak (Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University) - Dr. Novak is trained as a geographer. He has done extensive work on accessibility to family planning services in the Dominican Republic.

N. K. Nair (Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University) - Dr. Nair has a broad range of experience in fertility, mortality, migration research. He has also considerable experience working with data from developing nations.

Alfredo Aliaga (Ph.D., University of Michigan) - Dr. Aliaga is a biostatistician with highly specialized training in sampling procedures. Dr. Aliaga will be working on improving and developing new sampling techniques for the CPS project.

Michele Liroy (Ph.D., University of British Columbia) - Dr. Liroy is a native French speaker who has recently come to the United States from Canada. Dr. Liroy's background is in sociology and she has a broad range of experience in research project management.

The recruitment of the new staff is continuing, in an effort to bring a the CPS staff up to the level required by the project.

C. COUNTRY RECRUITMENT

The process of recruiting countries to be involved in CPS II has already begun. Most of the countries which carried out a CPS during the first phase of the project have expressed an interest in being involved in CPS II. A schedule of second round surveys based on the interval since the last CPS and the specific country needs, is now being prepared.

In order to recruit countries for first or second round CPS, AID has sent a cable to all Missions informing them of the expanded scope of the project. To date, the following countries have responded positively and preliminary site visits have been planned, or in the case of Honduras, carried out.

Egypt
Zaire
Peru
Indonesia
Nepal
Honduras
Barbados

Honduras was visited in early December by Dr. Smith to ascertain the level of interest and local capability. The results were very positive. The Ministry of Health requested, in writing, a CPS Project for Honduras, and several organizations that are individually or collectively capable of implementing the survey were identified. Several questions still are to be resolved but further visits are planned in January and February to resolve any problems and negotiate a sub-contract. The Ministry is hoping to start fieldwork in April, 1980.

A preliminary site visit to Egypt is planned for January. Nepal, Indonesia and Peru are scheduled for a first visit in February.

Several other countries have also expressed an interest in having a CPS at a later date. These countries will be kept informed of the activities of the project and will be contacted at a time appropriate for the actual implementation.

D. ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

During the first phase of the CPS Project, Westinghouse began the development of a mailing list to maximize the distribution of survey materials and findings. This activity has increased in importance for CPS II as more surveys and consequently more materials are being completed. Currently discussions are going on with AID and various other population related organizations to use already developed mailing lists. These lists will be merged into one hierarchical list of recipients of CPS materials. The computerized mailing lists will be grouped by - type of document, language of document, and area of the recipient (country and region).

In order to maximize the distribution and minimize printing and mailing costs Westinghouse is planning to put all country reports on microfilm. Bids for microfilming services are now being accepted.

The beginning of CPS II is the logical point at which to review the experience of the first phase of the project and begin modification and refinement of the various survey documents. All CPS documentation is currently under review, with some undergoing major revisions and others only minimal rewriting.

Westinghouse has been working to upgrade its computer capability in order to do in-house data analysis. The means of expanding this capability is the acquisition of three terminals (two CRTs and one printer/terminal) and the negotiation of time sharing contracts with several organizations, each of which has some special capability required for the processing of CPS data. Also Westinghouse is actively recruiting a full time staff programmer.

A major goal of the CPS Project is to provide useful management information in a format which is easily understood by program personnel. However the data available from any CPS far exceeds the local capability

for utilization. For this reason the CPS II contract calls for further analysis to be carried out by qualified researchers. To this end Westinghouse has begun developing procedures for reviewing and approving requests for funding of further analysis of CPS data. The CPS project staff has already begun working with the computer tapes of survey data to prepare a special set of tabulation on contraceptive availability. This work was undertaken at the request of AID. As more data sets become available and the procedures for providing this service are refined, it is anticipated that Westinghouse CPS data will be more widely used in policy, management, and planning decision making, both locally and internationally.