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The World Fertility Survey is an international research programme whose purpose is to assess the current state of human fertility throughout the world. This is being done principally through promoting and supporting nationally representative, internationally comparable, and scientifically designed and conducted sample surveys of fertility behaviour in as many countries as possible.

The WFS is being undertaken, with the collaboration of the United Nations, by the International Statistical Institute in cooperation with the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population. Financial support is provided principally by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the United States Agency for International Development. Substantial support is also provided by the U.K. Overseas Development Administration.

This summary is one of a series containing the salient findings of the First Country Reports of the countries participating in the WFS programme. A copy of the report itself: *Jamaica Fertility Survey 1975/1976, Country Report, Volumes I and II* is available for reference at all WFS depository libraries, or may be obtained from the International Statistical Institute, 428 Prinses Beatrixlaan, P.O. Box 950, 2270 AZ Voorburg, Netherlands, on payment of U.S. \$10 postage.

For information on Country Reports, WFS publications, and WFS depository libraries, write to the Publications Office, International Statistical Institute, 428 Prinses Beatrixlaan, P.O. Box 950, 2270 AZ Voorburg, Netherlands. For information on the WFS, generally, write to the Information Office, World Fertility Survey, International Statistical Institute, 35-37 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0BS, U.K.

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THE JAMAICA FERTILITY SURVEY 1975-76

A SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. THE SETTING

Jamaica is an island in the northwest sector of the Caribbean sea, situated 90 miles south of Cuba and 100 miles west of Haiti, and covers 4,243 square miles (11,030 square kilometers). The population as of 31 December 1976 was estimated at 2,084,200, implying an overall density of 491 persons per square mile, but much of the country is mountainous or has low rainfall and is sparsely occupied. In 1970, Jamaica was 34 per cent urban with 26 per cent of the total population in and around Kingston, the capital city.

The inhabitants are English speaking, Jamaica having been a British colony between 1655 and 1962, when the island achieved independence. The people of Jamaica are largely of African descent, with about 10 per cent of the population belonging to other groups at the time of the 1970 census. The majority of the population belongs to various Christian Protestant denominations.

Since 1844, when the first Census counted 377,433 people, Jamaica's population has increased more than fivefold. During the course of the 20th century, Jamaica's pattern of population growth has shown no steady trend. Population growth has occurred at intercensal rates varying between 0.3 and 1.7 per cent annually, but has been retarded substantially by emigration. The sharp variation observed in population growth rates has been produced by widely fluctuating levels of fertility and sharply oscillating currents of international migration, conjoined with a relative steady mortality decline. Crude death rates have fallen from 32 per thousand in 1844-1861 to 8.2 per thousand in 1960-1970 to 7.1 per thousand in 1976, a fall in mortality that has exerted a steadily growing and powerful upward pressure on rates of population growth. On the other hand, crude birth rates have fallen, risen, then fallen again; the 1891-1911 period saw an intercensal crude birth rate of 39.5 per thousand, declining to 27.9 during 1911-1921, rising to 39.1 during the 1960-1970 decade, then falling to a crude birth rate of 29.3 for the year 1976. Against this backdrop of declining mortality and fluctuating fertility, international migration rates have oscillated sharply; there has been heavy net emigration in some periods, and moderate immigration in others. Between 1970 and 1976, emigration has varied between 16.8 and 5.3 per thousand, with concomitant variation in annual population growth rates between 12 and 20 per thousand. In the absence of heavy migratory outflows, Jamaica's population would have grown much more rapidly--and in the 1960-1970 decade would have grown at 3 per cent per year instead of the recorded 1.2 per cent, had it not been for emigration.

The Government of Jamaica is committed at present to a population policy aimed at shifting preferences for large families to more limited numbers, relying upon general improvements in social and economic life and also upon the effects of an active family planning programme. Private efforts at encouraging fertility limitation date back to 1939, and official governmental sponsorship for family planning activities date back to 1967, when the Government formed the Jamaica National Family Planning Board.

2. THE SURVEY

The Jamaica Fertility Survey (JFS) was undertaken by the Department of Statistics, with collaboration during the design stages from a National Advisory Committee that included representatives of the National Planning Agency, National Family Planning Board, Ministry of Health, and the Department of Sociology at University of the West Indies. Financial support was provided by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. Professional and technical co-operation were provided by the World Fertility Survey secretariat, including the Caribbean Office.

The JFS employed a stratified two-stage probability sample of 1 per cent of all Jamaican households, where stratification was on a rural-urban basis. In each selected household, all women aged 15-49 were interviewed except those aged 15-19 who were attending school on a full-time basis. Several subsequent fertility related surveys conducted in 1978 and 1979 have included women aged 15-19 attending school in their samples, and may usefully complement the JFS information. Out of 428 primary sampling units selected in the Jamaica Fertility Survey, enumeration was completed in 426, but was halted in two because of civil disturbances. Out of 5,654 dwellings listed, 4,613 were enumerated; of the 1,054 non-enumerated dwellings, 686 proved either to be vacant, closed or demolished, 174 could not be contacted, and 181 refused to be enumerated. The enumerated households contained 3,308 eligible females, of whom 3,102 provided complete interviews a response rate of 93.8 per cent, while 3.7 per cent refused interview, 2.2 per cent could not be contacted after repeated visits, and 0.3 per cent were too ill to be interviewed. Six interviews were discarded, resulting in 3,096 "complete and satisfactory questionnaires

The field work was carried out over an 89-day period between 3 November 1975 to 31 January 1976, by 53 interviewers, 12 field editors, and 12 field supervisors. Except for one field editor, all field staff were women, and all underwent a special training programme.

The WFS household schedule was adapted for the purpose of listing household members in order to identify all eligible women in each household. Two additional household characteristics questions were asked, on type of water supply and whether the household had electricity.

The seven section WFS core individual questionnaire was modified to become a WFS Caribbean core, with 6 standard Caribbean sections and one section local to Jamaica. The Caribbean sections on Birth History, Marriage History and Work History differed from the WFS core in several respects. The Birth History was modified to include both live births and other pregnancies in a single integrated history. The marriage history section was radically expanded to collect detailed data on the history of partners and union types; this new Union Status and Partners History was placed before the Contraceptive Knowledge and Use section so that women never in a union were not asked about contraception. The Respondent's Work History phrased questions on work in terms of the timing of the first birth rather than time of marriage. The Partner's Work History for Jamaica placed less emphasis on income earned. The questionnaire was field tested before being finalized, resulting in relatively minor changes in phrasing and ordering of questions.

Data preparation and processing were carried out by the Department of Statistics.

The present document summarises the main findings of the Country Report No. 1, which was published in October 1979. The Report itself contains 163 pages of text and 473 pages of tables. It is expected that additional analysis will be conducted and that further reports will be issued.

3. FINDINGS

3.0 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE POPULATION

Of 3,096 women for whom satisfactory questionnaires were completed, 331 (11 per cent) had never been in a union. Respondents who had never been in a union were questioned only concerning their background characteristics, and, except for the section dealing with characteristics of the sample, were excluded from the analysis, thus leaving a study population of 2,765 women who had ever been in unions.

Characteristics of the 2,765 Ever-in-Union Women

In the 1975 JFS, 48 per cent of the ever-in-union women aged 15-49 were living in 8 areas classified as urban. This compares with a projected percentage of 49.6 per cent of all women aged 15-49 living in the 8 areas in December 1975.¹

Educationally, 23 per cent of the ever-in-union women had some secondary schooling, 63 per cent had four or more years in primary school, and 14 per cent had less than 4 years of primary education -- including about 2 per cent with no schooling at all. When broken down by age, considerable education progress is evident; nearly 50 per cent of ever-mated 15-19 year olds have some secondary education, compared to 10 per cent among the 40-49 age group.

The religious composition of the sample is almost entirely Protestant Christian, except for 8 per cent who reported no religion, and 8 per cent who were Catholic.

Characteristics of the 331 Never-in-Union Women

In the Final Report, the characteristics of the 331 never-in-union women are briefly discussed, and reveal that apart from being on the average much younger, never-in-union women are highly similar to the ever-in-union group on the two characteristics on which they are compared, namely education (once age is controlled) and religion. All subsequent discussion in this summary will pertain only to the 2,765 ever-in-union women, and will exclude the 331 never-in-union respondents from the analysis. The sole exception to this rule will be the section headed "Current Union Status" on page 5.

¹ *In the April 1960 Census, 29.9 per cent of all women aged 15-49 were comparably urban, and in 1970 the comparable percentage urban was 41.3, implying annual exponential growth of 3.23 per cent between 1960 and 1970 in the percentage "urban". Continuation of growth at 3.23 per cent between April 1970 and December 1975 would imply 49.6 per cent "urban" at the latter date.*

3.1 Mating Patterns and Exposure to Childbearing

With an illegitimacy rate that has long been about 70 per cent, Jamaican childbearing occurs more frequently outside marriage than within it. Researchers have found it useful to construct a specialised typology of conjugal statuses that includes i) *legal marriage*, ii) *common law unions*, in which man and woman live together but are not legally married, iii) the *visiting union*, in which a couple does not live together but has a regular sexual relationship, iv) *single* status in which a previously mated individual is currently without a partner. A fifth possible status is described as *never-in-a-union*. From the perspective of fertility, married and common-law unions have historically evinced the highest natality while visiting unions have had much lower natality. From the perspective of union duration, married unions have been the most long-lived, common-law unions less so, with visiting unions the shortest in average duration.

Age at Initial Union

Entry into some kind of union is almost universal and takes place at relatively young ages. The age at first entering a union is young, and only 4 per cent and 1 per cent of women 25 to 29 and 30 to 34, respectively, have never been in a union. To correct for exclusion of women never-in-a-union, we discuss the mean ages at initiation of first union for women currently aged 25 to 49 who entered their first union before age 25. The overall mean age at entry for these women is 18.3, and there is a slight apparent trend of declining age at entry from 19.1 years for women aged 45-49, decreasing steadily to 17.9 years for women aged 25-29. There is a possibility, however, that older women may have overstated their ages at initial entry. The mean age at entry is higher for women who are more educated and urban, but there are no systematic differentials in age at first union between the different religious denominations.

Union and Relationship Change

Earlier Caribbean studies have established specialised frames of reference for analysing durations spent in different union types and for examining transitions between the union types. The JFS sought information on each respondent's full union history, including all changes in partners and union types.

In the data analysis, a "partnership" was counted each time a woman commenced relations with a different man. A "relationship" was counted each time a woman commenced relations with a new partner *and also* each time she shifted union status with a particular partner; for example, a woman who was visiting and common-law with a first partner and who was visiting and married with a second partner would thus be counted as experiencing two partners and four relationships.

Among women whose first union had begun 25 or more years before the time of the survey, those commencing first unions before the eighteenth birthday were recorded as averaging 2.2 partners and 3.2 relationships, while those entering a first union at age 18 or later averaged 1.9 partners and 2.8 relationships.

Change from Initial to Current Union Type

Only 6.5 per cent of the 2,765 ever-mated women reported their initial union was married, and of these, 88 per cent were still married at time of interview. Thirteen per cent started in common-law unions, out of whom 48 per cent were still common-law at time of interview, 33 per cent had married, 13 per cent were single, and 6 per cent were currently in a visiting union. The preponderance of women -- 80 per cent -- started in a visiting union, of whom 26 per cent were in visiting unions at time of survey, while 27 per cent were married, 28 per cent common-law, and 19 per cent were single. The analysis supports past findings showing that most women begin mating in a visiting union, then shift to more stable common-law and married unions, but with many women reverting, at least temporarily to the single state. A smaller number begin common-law unions, with a tendency to either shift to marriage or to remain common-law. Only a small number start out as married, and these typically remain married.

Percentage of Time in Unions

Ever-mated respondents in the JFS spent an average of 84 per cent of time in unions since their initial entry into a first union. The average proportion of time spent in unions ranged most according to "pattern of union history", between a maximum of 98 per cent for those whose initial union was common-law or married and whose current union is married, and a minimum of 61 per cent, for those whose current union status is single. Average time spent in unions ranged much less -- in a band of 80 to 90 per cent -- when analysed by rural versus urban residence, by education, by age at entry to initial union, and by current age.

Current Union Status -- The Total Sample of 3,096 Women

Current union status reveals much about nuptiality and mating, and Jamaica has an unusual nuptiality pattern. At the time of the survey, 29 per cent of the 3,096 women aged 15 to 49 were married, 26 per cent were common-law, 20 per cent were visiting, 15 per cent were "single" (previously in a union but currently separated), and 11 per cent said they had never been in a union. Thus, 26 per cent were not currently in a union at time of survey, and 20 per cent were in visiting unions, which typically exhibit lower fertility, so that only 54 per cent of the sample were in the theoretically most fertile union types, namely the common-law and the married.

Table 1 shows clearly the association between union type and age, the percentage never in a union or in a visiting union falls steadily with increasing age, while the reverse is true for legal marriage. Common-law unions are the most prevalent in the intermediate age range.

TABLE 1
PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF ALL WOMEN ACCORDING TO UNION STATUS, BY AGE

Age	Union Status					Total	Number
	Never in a Union	Single (Separated)	Visiting	Common -law	Married		
All Women	11	15	20	26	29	100	3,096
15 - 19 ¹	40	11	33	14	1	100	505
20 - 24	12	13	33	29	12	100	650
25 - 29	4	16	17	35	28	100	505
30 - 34	2	14	11	33	40	100	391
35 - 39	2	15	12	26	46	100	378
40 - 44	1	17	10	22	51	100	336
45 - 49	2	25	7	18	48	100	331

¹ Percentages for the 15 - 19 age group possibly understate percentages of those never in a union since 15 - 19 year olds who were enrolled full-time in school were excluded from the sample.

Exposure Status

Of 2,765 ever-mated women, 17 per cent were not currently in a union, 7 per cent were currently pregnant, and 13 per cent were sterilized or believed themselves to be infecund when asked whether they thought they could have more children. On this basis, 63 per cent of respondents were adjudged as at risk of pregnancy at the time of survey (i.e. exposed to the risk of childbearing). The distribution by age is as follows:

	<u>15-24</u>	<u>25-34</u>	<u>35-44</u>	<u>45-49</u>
Percent "at risk" of pregnancy	71	68	59	40

The percentage classified as "at risk of pregnancy" at age 45-49 is definitely higher than is suggested by research on sterility, which implies substantially higher rates of fecundity impairment than do the JFS data on exposure status. This is undoubtedly because JFS relies on self-report data, whereas studies of sterility have typically relied on different informational sources.

3.2 FERTILITY

Cumulative fertility

The term "cumulative fertility" refers simply to average number of live-births among a particular group of women. The highly detailed analysis of cumulative fertility presented in the Final Report examines differentials in average live-births by age, education, present union status, place of residence, religion, number of partners, most recent occupation, pattern of work history, and "pattern of union history". A comprehensive synopsis of findings is beyond the scope of this summary, so that the review given below presents only a selection of highlights.

Overall, ever-mated women average 3.6 live-births. Classified by age group, average number of live-births are as follows:

	Current Age						
	<u>15-19</u>	<u>20-24</u>	<u>25-29</u>	<u>30-34</u>	<u>35-39</u>	<u>40-44</u>	<u>45-49</u>
Average live-births	0.9	1.8	2.9	4.1	5.2	5.4	5.6

When classified by initial and current union statuses, women initially married and still married had consistently fewer births than any other group (3.9 among those aged 35-44), while women initially in visiting unions and currently married or common-law had rather higher fertility (5.7 - 5.8 births among those aged 35-44), while those initially common-law and currently married had the highest number of live-births (6.6).

Substantial differences in number of live-births were revealed according to number of partners. Overall, women with one partner averaged 3.0 live-births, while women with two or more partners averaged 4.1.

When time since entry to initial union is partially controlled, it appears that the effect of number of partners on number of live-births is most positive among women with less than 10 years elapsed since the beginning of their initial union; women with 1 partner averaged 1.5 births, while those with 2 or more partners averaged 2.0 live-births, or 33 per cent more. The effect of number of partners is more weakly positive in women with 10-19 years elapsed since initial union; those with 1 partner average 4.0 children and those with two or more average 4.4 children. Among women with a duration of 20 or more years since initial union, however, women with only 1 partner have slightly more births (6.0) than do those with two or more partners, who averaged 5.8 births.

In contrast to these findings from the 1975 Jamaica Fertility Survey, research based on Jamaican data from the 1940s and 1950s clearly showed very low prevalence of contraceptive use and much higher fertility among stably mated couples. The 1975 JFS data, therefore, indicates a sharply changed situation--much higher prevalence of contraceptive use and substantially lower fertility among stably mated women.

Other variables that are frequently related to cumulative fertility are education and residence. When considered by education, average number of births for women of nearly completed fertility (aged 45-49) is 5.9 for women with less than 4 years of primary schooling, 5.8 for those with 4 years or more of primary school, and substantially fewer, 3.7, for women with secondary or higher education. Substantial differentials by educational group persist when age at first union, union type, and rural versus urban residence are separately controlled for, leading to the conclusion that education appears to have a genuinely independent effect on fertility.

Rural women have appreciably more births than do their urban counterparts, and in all age groups have about 20 per cent more births than do urban women, with an average of 4.8 births to urban women aged 45-49, and 6.1 to rural women of similar age. When education is controlled for, the rural-urban fertility gap narrows appreciably.

Much research has revealed a negative association between births and employment of women. Among women in a union for more than 10 years the JFS results are consistent with this, with those who never worked averaging markedly more births (6.2) than women who ever worked (4.9 births).

There are also substantial differences in number of births by women's occupation. Comparing respondents in unions for 15 or more years, women in the professional, technical, clerical and sales groups average 3.8 births, as compared to 6.3 among women in the unskilled occupation group.

Age Specific Fertility Rates

Age specific fertility rates, presented below, were calculated for each year in the period 1963-1975 from JFS fertility histories. The denominators for the rates were adjusted in two respects. Never-in-union women were distributed by single years of age and added into the relevant age groups, and the age group 15-19 was inflated to account for girls who were full-time students and therefore excluded from the JFS sample.

TABLE 2
AGE SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES BASED ON JAMAICA FERTILITY SURVEY

Year	Age							Total Fertility Rate
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
1973-1975	137	236	201	150	94	54	'9'	4.40
1970-1972	182	272	253	204	129	56	'9'	5.52
1967-1969	165	271	257	223	158	'52'	'9'	5.68
1964-1966	196	295	284	235	'183'	'52'	'9'	6.26

Apostrophized rates were assigned on the assumption that the rate was the same as in the most recent single year for which data were available; the data presented above are for 3 year periods.

Until a full evaluation of the data has been completed, the JFS age specific fertility rates presented above should be regarded as provisional. Nevertheless, it may be noted that the rates shown above indicate a general trend of decreasing natality between 1963 and 1975, from a total fertility rate (TFR) of 6.26 in 1964-66 to 4.40 in 1973-75. Comparing rates for 1973-1975 with those for 1964-1966, substantial declines at all ages between 15 and 34 are evident -- of 30 per cent at age 15-19, 20 per cent at age 20-24, 29 per cent at age 25-29, and 37 per cent at age 30-34. The sharpest observed decline is for the 35-39 age group, whose fertility decreased 41 per cent between 1967-1969 and 1973-1975.

It is noted that in 1964 the Registrar General's Department ceased tabulating birth certificates by age of mother. Thus, comparisons between age specific fertility rates based on vital registration and those estimated from JFS data are restricted to the year 1963, as shown below:

	Age							Total Fertility Rate
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
JFS Rates(1963)	161	291	358	266	'188'	'52'	'9'	6.63
Vital Statistics Rates (1963)	149	188	271	227	150	52	8	5.73

If the JFS 1963 age specific fertility rates are reasonably correct, this comparison suggests substantial underregistration of births. Vital statistics rates are appreciably lower at all ages below 40, and the total fertility rate estimated by JFS for 1963 is 6.63, compared to the figure of 5.73 derived from vital registration.

Child Mortality

While the mean number of children ever born is 3.6, the mean number of living children is 3.3. Of all children born to respondents, 7.5 per cent had died by the time of the survey.

Annual infant mortality rates derived from the survey for the 1970-1975 period range between 33 and 63 per thousand. Comparable infant mortality rates from national vital statistics are significantly lower, ranging from 23.2 in 1975 to 32.2 in 1970, suggesting substantial underregistration.

3.3 FERTILITY PREFERENCES

The analysis of fertility preferences in the First Country Report includes only "fecund" women currently in a union; it excludes women not currently in a union and women who believed themselves to be infecund, because questions on desire for more children were not asked of these groups. Women sterilized for contraceptive purposes are included, however, as "wanting no more children", since sterilization is taken to imply this attitude. The findings summarized below, then, pertain only to fecund women currently in a union.¹

Desire To Cease Childbearing

Slightly more than 5 out of every 10 fecund women currently in a union -- 51 per cent -- said they wanted no more children, or implied this preference by having been sterilized for contraceptive purposes. Percentages not wanting another child increase with number of living children and with age, though even among older women and among those with large families, between 12 per cent and 18 per cent still appear to want more children or are undecided:

	Current Age ¹						
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
Percent Not Wanting More Children	23	30	39	62	71	75	82

	Number of Living Children ¹						
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+
Percent Not Wanting More Children	4	23	41	53	64	78	88

Women were also asked whether they wanted their last pregnancy. The proportion of women saying they did not want their last or current pregnancy is surprisingly high -- 48 per cent.²

Total Number of Children Desired

All 2,765 ever-in-union women were asked "If you could choose exactly the number of children to have in your whole life, how many would that be?" The overall mean number desired was 4.2. Classified by age, the mean was 3.5 for 15-24 year olds, rising to 5.1 among women aged 45-49. Classified by number of living children, the mean was 3.3 among childless women, and 6.4 among women with 8+ children.

¹ The percentages not wanting more children presented in this summary differ from those in the First Country Report, owing to a recoding error in this variable which was found after publication of the First Country Report.

² This is a corrected figure which differs from the percentage shown in the First Country Report, owing to a recode error in the "Whether last birth wanted" variable, which was discovered subsequent to publication.

3.4 CONTRACEPTIVE KNOWLEDGE AND USE

Knowledge of Contraception

Nearly all ever-mated women -- 98 per cent -- knew one or more contraceptive methods. The pill, condom, injections, female sterilization and IUD were known by 85 to 95 per cent of the women.

Ever Use of Contraception

Of the 2,765 ever-in-union women, 56 per cent had at some time used an efficient contraceptive. A further 10 per cent had at some time used an inefficient method, leaving 34 per cent as never-users. In discussing never-users of contraception, section 3.4.5 of the Final Report reveals that of 504 never-users currently exposed to the risk of conception, 73 per cent declared they never intend to use contraception in the future. In other words, 14 per cent of the entire sample of 2,765 ever-in-union women declared they never intend to use contraception, and this percentage varies surprisingly little (8 to 26 per cent) according to age, family size, and education.

The proportions ever using various contraceptive methods were as follows:

Per cent	Method	Per cent	Method	Per cent	Method
30	Pill	11	Abstinence	5	Rhythm
25	Condom	11	Other Scientific*	4	Douche
22	Withdrawal	9	Female Sterilization	3	Other
12	Injection	8	Intra Uterine Device	0	Male Sterilization

* "Other scientific" includes creams, jellies, foams, diaphragm

Classified by age, proportions never using contraception varied between 42 per cent for women 15-19, decreasing to 27 per cent of those 25-29, then increasing again to 66 per cent of those aged 45-49. Classified by number of living children, never-users were 38 per cent of women with 0-3 children, and 28 per cent of those with 4 or more children. Never use varies substantially by education, from 47 per cent among the least educated to 24 per cent among the most educated, and also by place of residence, from 27 per cent among the urban to 41 per cent among the rural.

Current Use of Contraception

Of 1,938 women adjudged to be "at risk of pregnancy" (i.e. non-pregnant, currently mated, believing themselves to be fecund) 43 per cent were currently using efficient contraception, and 3 per cent were using inefficient contraception. Thus, 55 per cent of those at risk of childbearing at survey time were not using any contraception (figures add to 101 per cent because of rounding).

Among at risk women the most popular method being currently used is the pill (14 per cent) followed by female sterilization (10):

Per Cent	Method	Per Cent	Method	Per Cent	Method
14.0	Pill	2.4	IUD	0.1	Other Methods
9.6	Female Sterilization	1.8	Female Scientific ¹	54.5	No Method
7.8	Condom	1.7	Withdrawal		
7.3	Injection	0.5	Abstention	100.0	TOTAL

¹ "Female Scientific" includes diaphragm, douche, creams, jellies

When subdivided according to *number of living children* the percentage currently using contraception follows the increasing pattern observed in most countries for women who have between 0 and 2 living children -- rising from 32 per cent among childless women to 50 per cent among women with two children:

	Number of Living Children										
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9+	All
Per Cent Using Contraception	32	34	50	45	52	57	55	54	59	43	45

But then, as shown above, the percentage currently using contraception fails to increase in any orderly (linear) pattern among women with 3 or more children, which is somewhat unusual, since in most countries, the percentage using contraception tends to increase more steadily with increasing family size. This result is consistent with Jamaica's highly unstable mating system, in which large proportions of women enter new partnerships after bearing several children for previous partners, and may be constrained to bear children for each new partner.

When women are classified by place of residence, a moderate rural-urban differential in the percentage currently using contraception is revealed, with urban women currently using somewhat more (51 per cent) than rural women (40 per cent). When women are classified by level of education, a slightly larger differential emerges; 37 per cent of the least educated women (those with less than 4 years primary schooling) are current users of contraception, while 53 per cent of the most educated (secondary or higher education) are current users.

Contraception and Fertility Preferences

Section 3.5 of the Final Report analyses current contraceptive use in relation to whether respondents want more children, restricting the analysis to women who were exposed to risk of conception. There was astonishingly little relationship between contraceptive use and women's desire for more children. Among women who did want more children, 36 percent were current users of contraception, presumably because the woman wanted to space the next birth or else because her partner wished her to postpone childbearing or to cease childbearing. Among women who said they were "undecided" whether to have more children, the percentage currently using contraception was just minimally higher, at 44 per cent. Surprisingly, only 55 per cent of those who said they *wanted no more children* were current users;¹ there are thus large number of "exposed" women who say they wish to cease childbearing, believe themselves fecund, and yet who are not current users of contraception. This failure to use contraception among those who said they wish to cease childbearing varies surprisingly little among women with two or more living children, between 44 per cent (those with 2 children) and 41 per cent (those with 5 or more children).² Failure to use contraception despite the desire to cease childbearing varies somewhat more according to place of residence, 43 per cent among urban women versus 57 per cent among rural women, but fails to vary significantly between more educated women with secondary education (43 per cent) and those with less education (44 per cent).

It is surmised that this failure to use contraception among women who say they want to stop childbearing may very often result because their partners positively desire more children, especially new partners for whom they have borne no children.

A further area which was explored among exposed women who said they wished to stop childbearing was contraceptive discontinuance, which revealed contraceptive cessation by 40 per cent of such women. This high proportion discontinuing may also be partially explained by entry into new partnerships in which the male wants several additional children.

Breastfeeding Practices

Section 3.4.1 of the Final Report examines the extent of breastfeeding in the last "closed" interval between pregnancies. Mean duration of breast-feeding was calculated either for the period between the last two live births (for women currently not pregnant), or for the period between the last live birth and the beginning of the current pregnancy. The calculation is thus limited to the 1,967 women either with at least two live births or at least one live birth and a current pregnancy. Only 6 per cent did not breastfeed, and the mean duration for all women was 7.6 months. Duration increased monotonically with current age, from 7.3 months for women under 25 to 8.8 months for women aged 45-49. It also varied somewhat by number of children, lengthening from 6.9 months for those with two children to 8.5 months among women with 5+ children. Among never-users of contraception breastfeeding was positively related to the length of the last closed interval. This observed breastfeeding pattern undoubtedly has contributed to significantly reducing age specific fertility rates could rise by as much as perhaps 10 per cent.

¹ *This figure differs from the First Country Report. See footnote 1 on page 10.*

² *Figures differ from the First Country Report. See footnote 1 on page 10.*