COMPARATIVE STUDIES

CROSS NATIONAL SUMMARIES

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Family Size Preferences

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The World Fertility Survey (WFS) 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.

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Preface

The first issues of the Cross National Summaries in the Comparative Studies series provide basic information, documentation and results of the World Fertility Survey for the 19 countries which had their First Country Reports and Standard Recode Tapes available at the beginning of 1980.

Despite the efforts made by WFS to maintain comparability of question wording and content, field procedures and specifications of the tabulations and analysis included in the First Country Reports, it was inevitable that differences would arise as a result of the importance attached to meeting specific requirements of the countries themselves. A major attempt to enhance and facilitate comparability has been the production of Standard Recode Tapes for each country, with all the core information coded and stored in a consistent order, together with the dictionaries which provide detailed specifications for all variables.

Several of the Cross National Summaries are concerned solely with providing detailed and systematized information on the comparability (or lack thereof) of the field procedures, survey characteristics, questionnaire content and wording and content of the First Country Reports. Such detailed appraisals constitute an essential reference base for anyone using WFS data for comparative analysis.

Other volumes of the Cross National Summaries present comparable results from as many surveys as possible. These volumes present the basic data from the surveys over a wide range of specific topics. In addition to the tabular material, there is a brief accompanying text, which draws attention primarily to any noncomparability of the data and to any obvious interpretational pitfalls to which the tables may be subject: for example many summary indices are subject to compositional differences, which are often reduced by standardization. Finally, although these volumes are not intended to be analytic in their orientation, some brief highlighting of the major noteworthy differences and similarities is included.

We hope that these Cross National Summaries will be widely used, especially by persons in the international community who are making cross national comparisons. We also hope that the sub-series will help users to avoid assuming too much comparability when this is not the case and to avoid interpretational mistakes which can easily arise when data are presented without qualification.

HALVOR GILLE
Project Director

1 Introduction

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This monograph describes fertility preference data for 19 countries participating in the World Fertility Survey (WFS), emphasizing simple preliminary tabulations.

Outline of Topics Discussed

Sections 1.1 and 1.2 below discuss some of the controversies and difficulties that arise from the concept of preferred family size, including 'rationalization effects'. Section 1.3 summarizes the preference questions asked in WFS questionnaires, while section 1.4 provides a summary of the five preference variables for which tabulations are provided in appendix A.

Section 2 defines each variable, discusses sources of non-comparability between countries, and also discusses translation problems, non-response, non-numerical response, and other methodological issues. Section 2 also describes how the desired family size distribution was standardized for age and for number of living children, so as to prevent anyone being misled into ascribing differences (or similarities) between countries when these are purely artifacts of differing population composition.

Section 3 offers a commentary on the data, noting regularities and discussing alternative interpretations of the data.

Section 4 presents a summary of the more striking results and our conclusions about what the data imply.

Appendix A presents the detailed tables which are the principal focus of this report and figure 2 presents graphs based on some of the tables.

Since the placement of preference questions may have some effect on the responses, and since some readers may wish to examine the approach taken, the questionnaire segments containing the fertility preference items are reproduced as appendix B for the core questionnaire, section 5, and as appendix C for the alternative fertility regulation module.

Why We Are Interested in Preferences

Fertility preferences, when implemented, are potentially very important in shaping fertility. From a strictly applied point of view, information on reproductive motivation may be useful to population policy makers, with possible significant practical implications for action programmes. In countries where the aim is to reduce fertility, the most critical issue is whether existing preferences are compatible with a substantial fertility reduction; in some countries the data may indicate that a simple contraceptive distribution programme by itself is likely to be successful in reducing fertility, while in others the data may strongly suggest that a substantial reduction in fertility preferences is a prerequisite to significant fertility decline. From a more theoretical viewpoint, information on reproductive motivation may be helpful in understanding the forces that affect fertility, and in increasing general knowledge about the relationship between attitudes and behaviour.

1.1 PROBLEMS OF CONCEPTUALIZATION

The term 'fertility preferences' covers a wide range of different measurement approaches, and there is no standard methodology for measuring them. The literature includes various conceptualizations, of preferred number of children, including 'ideal family size', 'desired family size', 'intended family size' and 'expected family size', and in practice, surveys have varied widely in the question wording used to measure these concepts.

Some demographers and social scientists have argued that the concept of family size preferences, especially ideal family size, is a meaningless notion in developing countries, lacking in validity and reliability (Hauser 1967; Kirk 1972). According to this line of argument, many non-Western societes are non-numerate and fatalistic, so that respondents are unable to give meaningful quantitative answers concerning how many children they want. Indeed, some researchers argue that to many respondents in non-Western societies, the concept of choosing to have a particular number of children is an alien and meaningless idea that they have never thought of before the interview, which they do not hold as a planning target or guideline to action. In other words, it is claimed that for such respondents, fertility preferences have no salience, and are not defined as personal goals. Other writers, however, have argued that with adequate probing and careful rephrasing of questions, even non-literate respondents can be guided into giving more meaningful numerical answers, albeit often in terms of a preferred range (Gay 1971; Morgan 1973). It is noted that in nearly all WFS surveys, only female respondents were interviewed, so that the fertility preference data in this report pertain to female respondents only, and say nothing about husbands' preferences.

1.2 RATIONALIZATION EFFECTS

Survey data almost invariably show that the average number of children desired tends to increase quite noticeably with almost every increase in the number of children living, which typically produces a very high correlation between the actual number of children and the preferred number of children. To date four factors have been identified that should explain most or all of the correlation.

First, in countries where women 'implement their preferences' by actually trying to restrict fertility once they reach the parity where they want no more children, part or all of the correlation could be produced by the simple fact

that women who want small families are successful in restricting their fertility, while women who want large families tend to go ahead and have them (Knodel and Prachuabmoh 1973).

Secondly, it may also often be true that many women go on childbearing after they stop actively wanting further children, and that such women will tend to report their current family size as their wanted family size, in order to avoid implying that any of their children are unwanted. Such upward revisions in response to increases in actual number of children are called 'rationalization effects' (Knodel and Prachuabmoh 1973; Pullum 1980). Indeed, few if any researchers believe that 'desired family size' is fixed at time of marriage and retained as a goal throughout a woman's reproductive career. It is clearly more reasonable to presume that actual childbearing experience, as well as other changing circumstances, will lead to a continuing revision of fertility preferences as time passes.

A third factor that may influence the correlation between number of living children and desired number of children is the tendency of women with relatively few children to understate the number of children they will ultimately want, perhaps partly out of inexperience, partly because some may wish to keep on childbearing until they have at least one or two children of a given sex, or perhaps partly because of a disinclination to think far into the future.

A fourth factor that may increase the correlation between preferred family size and number of living children is the effect of modernization. In countries which are undergoing, or have recently undergone, a substantial decline in fertility, younger women may quite possibly come to have lower average desired family size than older women, not just because of rationalization effects, but also because desired family size is really declining, in response to such forces as urbanization, declining child mortality, improvements in education, changes in the occupational structure away from occupations in which children are economic assets to parents, and rises in housing costs. Such changes between age cohorts would help to strengthen the association between mean desired family size and parity.

1.3 SUMMARY OF WFS QUESTIONS ON FERTILITY PREFERENCES

For readers who wish to see the preference questions and the question ordering employed, English language versions of the relevant parts of the WFS standard questionnaires are shown in appendices B and C.

Appendix B displays section 5 of the WFS core questionnaire, which uses various phrasings adapted to suit respondents' pregnancy status and number of births, with the goal of getting answers to four underlying questions:

(i) Whether respondent wants more children (Q514, Q517, Q520);
(ii) Does the respondent want next child to be a girl, or a boy, or is there no gender preference? (Q515, Q518; note that pregnant women are asked Q223 'Would you prefer to have a boy or girl?');
(iii) How many more children are wanted, in addition to any current pregnancy? (Q516, Q521);
(iv) Total number of children desired (Q531).

Appendix C displays the 'fertility regulation module', which was used by most of the 19 countries discussed, which contains a fifth question, that was not asked in the core:

(v) Whether the last live birth (i.e. the most recent birth or the current pregnancy) was wanted at the time it was conceived (see appendix C for this item, Q513, Q533, Q550, Q562, Q588, Q595, for the various parallel phrasings).

As can be seen, the fertility regulation module duplicates all questions contained in the WFS core, section 5, while asking for substantially more detail about contraception. The module was offered as an option for countries which wanted this greater detail.

1.4 A SUMMARY OF PREFERENCE VARIABLES

This monograph is restricted to tabulations based on four of the five preference questions outlined in 1.3. The question on whether respondent would prefer her next birth to be male, female or either sex is not explored here, but will be explored in a forthcoming Cross National Summary.

Data are presented for five variables, four of them constructed from responses to several questions, and one of them taken direct from the questionnaire.

Variables involving some element of construction are:

- Whether more children are desired (see section 2.6);
- Whether last live birth or current pregnancy was wanted prior to the time it was conceived (see section 2.7);
- 'Wanted family size', of which there are two variants (see 2.8.2 for discussion);
- Whether 'total number of children desired' exceeds, equals or is less than actual number of living children (see section 2.10).

Only one variable is taken direct from the questionnaire, namely:

- Total number of children desired (see section 2.9).

This summary is intended only as a brief overview of the variables used. For a detailed definition of each variable, and for description of countries that used non-standard phrasing, see sections 2.6 to 2.9.

2 Definitions and Comparability of Preference Variables Used

2.1 VARIATIONS IN QUESTIONNAIRE CONTENT: A SUMMARY

In developing questionnaires adapted to local conditions in consultation with WFS Central Staff, countries participating in the World Fertility Survey were encouraged to avoid deleting or substantially amending the standard questions used in the WFS core questionnaire or the fertility regulation module; at the same time they were not discouraged from adding questions of special interest to the particular country.

Because of special national socio-cultural circumstances, however, several countries chose to modify certain of the standard questions, thereby causing some departure from the standard meaning. These departures have been described for the entire questionnaire by Singh (1980). Departures from standard meaning that affect fertility preference variables tabulated in this report are summarized in figure 1 and described in detail in sections 2.6 to 2.9.

Figure 1 below offers an overview both of departures from standard meaning and also of variables that are not available because the country used the WFS core questionnaire (shown in appendix B) rather than the WFS fertility regulation module (shown in appendix C). Cells that conform to standard meaning are left empty.

As can be seen from figure 1, there are only a few departures from standard in the preference variables discussed in the present report.

We note that several countries asked additional questions concerning fertility preferences, notably Fiji (desired

Figure 1 Summary of departures from standard, for relevant variables

Country	Total number of children desired	Wanted family size	Whether more children desired	Whether last birth wanted	How many more children wanted	Age range[a]
Asia and Pacific						
Bangladesh			See 2.6	NA	See 2.8.3	
Fiji	See 2.9	NA			NA	
Indonesia						
Jordan						
Korea, Rep. of						
Malaysia	See 2.9			NA		
Nepal				NA		
Pakistan	See 2.9			NA		
Philippines						
Sri Lanka						
Thailand				NA		
Caribbean and Latin America						
Colombia						
Costa Rica						20–49
Dominican Rep.						
Guyana						See 2.5
Jamaica						See 2.5
Mexico			See 2.6	NA		See 2.5
Panama						20–49
Peru						
Total Departures	3	2	2	0	2	5
Section where variable is described	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.8.1	2.5

[a]Age range is 15–19 unless noted otherwise.
NOTE: Cells with NA denote that the variable is unavailable for this country because it did not use the Fertility Regulation Module, except Thailand, which varied from the Fertility Regulation Module.

spacing interval, salience of preferences, wife's report of husband's preferences), Malaysia (desired spacing interval, reasons for wanting to stop childbearing, perceptions of what constitutes a small family), Philippines (abortion attitudes), Thailand (husband's preferences), and Korea (wife's report of husband's preferences, desired spacing interval). The current document does not cover these.

2.2 TRANSLATION PROBLEMS

Major efforts were made to obtain correct translation of WFS questionnaires into languages well understood by all respondents in every locality surveyed. While it is difficult to assess the effects of non-comparability with any precision, a finding of similar relationships between variables across different surveys and across different linguistic groups within the same survey would suggest minimal effects, though such an assessment has yet to be explicitly undertaken. The extent to which translation problems may affect the fertility preference variables is to date unknown. The issues raised by the problem of translating questionnaires into many languages have been explored by Ware (1977).

2.3 TREATMENT OF NON-RESPONSE

Problems of interpretation are greatly increased when large numbers of respondents fail to answer a particular question, and in such cases, tabulations based on that question should show the proportion not answering, in order to guard against misinterpretation. Table A19 indicates that non-response is not a problem for any of the four fertility preference variables considered in this report, indicating that the proportion coded as 'not stated' varied between 0.0 and 4.2 per cent for the *total number of children desired* variable, between 0.0 and 4.4 per cent for the *additional number of children wanted* variable, between 0.0 and 0.9 per cent for the *whether more wanted* variable, and between 0.0 and 1.7 per cent for the *whether last birth wanted* variable.

This allows simplification of the other tables, excluding respondents who were coded as 'not stated'.

2.4 NUMERIC RESPONSE

2.4.1 Probing for Numeric Responses

As has been mentioned earlier, some researchers have claimed that many respondents in non-Western societies are incapable of providing numerical answers when pressed to state how many children they want. Much depends, however, on the way the interview is conducted, in terms of probing to obtain numerical answers from respondents who initially give a non-numeric response. The WFS 'Interviewer's Instructions' document – recommended for use in all countries – directs interviewers to press for a numeric response regarding total number of children desired and regarding additional number of children wanted, and to record the lowest and highest number wanted if respondent felt unable to provide a single number.

For the question 'How many more children do you want?' described in section 2.8, the interviewers were instructed as follows:

> Some respondents may not have a very clear idea of the number of children they want. You should try to help them to give a proper answer to the question. It may help in such a case to say: 'Take your time, think about it', and wait for her to give an answer. If that fails you may say 'Well, would you like many children, or only a few' . . . If you cannot obtain a precise answer, you may be able to get a range like '3 or 4'. Sometimes you may be able to do no better than a vague answer like 'Not too many', or 'As many as possible', 'It depends upon what God gives', etc. In such cases, record the complete answers, using respondent's own words as far as possible.

For the question described in 2.9, 'If you could choose exactly the number of children to have in your whole life, how many would that be?', interviewers were informed that this question is not the same as the 'How many more children do you want?' question, although the questions might sometimes yield the same answer. Interviewers were instructed: 'Here you are asking what is the total number of children she would ideally like to have "if she could choose exactly", irrespective of whether she can accomplish it, and irrespective of the number of children she already has. If she enquires what you mean by "choose exactly the number of children", you simply say what she likes it to mean. If she wishes, she can take it to mean if she were younger and just married, or her husband did not have any trouble with his job which he may be having, or she or her husband's health were better, etc; she can take it to mean whatever she likes, but you yourself must not suggest anything. You must always try to get as precise an answer as possible. If she cannot give a precise answer, write down the range, or other answer in her words.' (WFS 1975b: 66–7.)

Reinforcing these instructions to interviewers, the 'Supervisors' Instructions' specifically instructs field supervisors to scrutinize all questionnaires, and to 'note the quality of the answers the interviewer has been able to obtain where the question concerned preferred number of children. If an interviewer is not able to obtain precise answers to these questions in too many cases, you should discuss the matter with her.' (WFS 1975a: 30.)

2.4.2 The Incidence of Non-Numeric Answers

If large proportions of respondents give non-numeric answers, this may bias the mean, particularly if respondents giving non-numeric answers want relatively large numbers of children. Table A19 presents the percentages of respondents giving non-numeric answers for the *total number of children desired* variable and for the *additional number of children desired* variable.

For the question on *total number of children desired*, table A19 shows that the percentage of respondents giving non-numeric answers is negligible in 18 of the countries (falling below 5 per cent), but is non-negligible in the case of Bangladesh, where 29 per cent of the respondents gave non-numeric answers

For the question on *number of additional children wanted*, table A19 indicates that the percentage of respondents giving non-numeric answers is a negligible 4 per cent or less in 17 of the countries, but was 14 per cent in Bangladesh and 8 per cent in Pakistan.

The high frequency of non-numeric answers in Bangladesh occurred even though the interviewer instructions for Bangladesh conformed precisely to the recommended

guidelines described above. Clues as to the reasons for high non-numeric response in Bangladesh have been given in an analysis of the transcripts of tape recorded interviews in Bangladesh (Thompson, Ali and Casterline, forthcoming). It is apparent that the interviewers did probe for numeric answers, but that many respondents felt their ultimate number of offspring was up to fate and not a matter for personal choice. When classified by respondent's age, the proportion of non-numeric responses to the *total number of children desired* question in Bangladesh varies comparatively little:

Per cent giving non-numeric response, by age of respondent

Age group	<20	20–29	30–39	40–49
Response rate	29.9	26.5	29.8	37.8

Source: Bangladesh Fertility Survey Report, 1978: A197.

On the basis of answers to the *whether last birth wanted* question, there is evidence which suggests that the underlying preferences of Bangladeshi respondents who declined to provide a numeric response to the total number desired question were not much different from the preferences of respondents who did provide a numeric response. The table below shows that when classified by number of living children, proportions wanting the last birth are remarkably similar for women who did and who did not provide a numeric answer. This strongly suggests that their numeric preferences are likely to be similar and that the high level of non-numeric response in Bangladesh will not substantially bias the mean for the *total number of children desired* variable.

Per cent saying last birth unwanted: Bangladesh

Number of living children[a]	Per cent among respondents who gave numeric answer	Per cent among respondents who gave non-numeric answer
1	14 (759)	14 (280)
2	25 (684)	23 (260)
3	35 (638)	38 (227)
4	52 (547)	36 (249)
5	60 (466)	56 (212)
6	68 (288)	64 (166)
7	70 (162)	74 (103)
8	78 (106)	61 (59)
9	73 (52)	76 (42)

[a]'Number of living children' counts current pregnancy as a living child. Parenthesized numbers are denominators.

Treatment of Numeric Ranges

In cases where a range was reported for either the *number wanted* or *number desired* variables described in 2.8.2 and 2.9 respectively, the mean of the range was subsequently imputed, rounded down to the nearest integer. The exception to this was Fiji, where the higher number was taken.

2.5 ELIGIBILITY FOR PREFERENCE QUESTIONS

The question on total number of children desired (described in section 2.9) and the question on whether the last birth was wanted (described in section 2.7) were asked of all 'ever-married' women, but the questions on whether more children were wanted and, if so, how many more were wanted (described in 2.6 and 2.8.1 respectively) were restricted to 'currently married and fecund' women. Respondents were considered 'fecund' if they replied 'Yes' or 'Uncertain' to a question on whether they believed that they and their current husband or partner could have more children.

Definition of 'Marriage'

The detailed WFS fertility questionnaire was designed for use in interviewing 'ever-married' women in the childbearing years, but the concept of 'ever-married' was interpreted broadly so as to include the great majority of women ever exposed to the risk of childbearing. In some societies virtually all children are born in legally sanctioned or formal marriages; in others, substantial numbers are born in common law unions as well as in legal marriages; and in yet others, much childbearing occurs outside of any formal or co-residential union, occurring within what have been termed 'visiting' or 'extraresidential' unions (the terms refer to women in a 'more or less regular' sexual relationship with a male partner that does not involve living in the same household). Because of this, women in consensual and extraresidential unions are included in the tables for those countries which included such women in the detailed interview.[1]

Age Range

The age range of respondents in the tables presented here is 15–49 except for Costa Rica and Panama where the age range is 20–49, probably upwardly biasing preferences. Guyana and Jamaica excluded from their samples women 15–19 attending school, regardless of their marital status. Mexico excluded 15–19 year olds unless they had children.

2.6 WHETHER MORE CHILDREN DESIRED

The variable *whether more children desired* places respondents in five groups, with WFS Standard Recode categories as follows: (1) Wants to have at least one more child; (2) No more children wanted; (3) Undecided or uncertain whether to have more children; (88) Inapplicable (ie not currently in a union or self-reported infecund on Core Q509); and (99) Not specified.

In the tables presented in this report, respondents who gave an 'undecided' response are classified as wanting more children, so that undecided respondents are included in the denominator when calculating proportions wanting no more children.

[1] The sample was restricted to *legally married only* for Bangladesh, Indonesia, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand; the sample included *legally married and common law* in Fiji, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama and Peru; the sample included *legally married, common law and visiting* in Guyana and Jamaica.

Standard Wording

The standard question wording depended on number of births and on whether respondent was pregnant, as shown below:

Phrasings used for *whether more desired* variable in core questionnaire

NOT PREGNANT AND FECUND*	No births	Core Q514 Do you want to have any children?
	1+ births	Core Q517 Do you want to have another child sometime?
PREGNANT		Core Q520 Do you want to have another child sometime in addition to the one you are expecting?
CONTRACEPTIVELY STERILIZED		ASSUMED THAT NO MORE WANTED
REPORTED SELF AS INFECUND (NO TO CORE Q509)		INAPPLICABLE
CURRENTLY WITHOUT HUSBAND OR SPOUSE		INAPPLICABLE

*Respondent was counted 'fecund' if she replied YES or DON'T KNOW to Core Q509, 'As far as you know, is it physically possible for you and your husband to have a child, supposing you wanted one?'
(Questions shown above are from the core questionnaire, shown as appendix B; the same questions were asked in the fertility regulation module, but with more complex filters.)

Respondents who were contraceptively sterilized (a 'yes' response to Core Q511) are assumed to want no more children, as evidently at some point in time they decided they wanted no more, even though some may have subsequently changed their minds.

Note that in the fertility regulation module, self-reported infecund women who had not been contraceptively sterilized were asked whether they had wanted more children after having the last birth, (FRM Q583, Q594) but that such women are treated as 'inapplicable' on the *whether more wanted* variable, so that the variable measures current desire for future births.

The only country where the question on whether more children are desired was asked in a non-standard way is Bangladesh. In all other countries, non-pregnant women with one or more live births were asked, 'Do you want to have another child sometime?', but in Bangladesh the word 'soon' was substituted for the word 'sometime', so the wording became, 'Do you want to have another child soon?' But it is emphasized that the question wording was standard for Bangladesh women with zero births (ie 'Do you want to have any children?') and those who were pregnant (ie 'Do you want to have any more children, in addition to the one you are expecting?'). This insertion of the word 'soon' means that the Bangladesh version of the variable '*whether more children desired*' is extremely non-comparable with the standard version.

All countries except Mexico provided a code for 'undecided' on the *whether more wanted* variable. Mexican respondents were thus presented with a forced choice between 'Yes' or 'No' to the *whether more wanted* question.

2.7 WANTED STATUS OF MOST RECENT LIVE BIRTH OR CURRENT PREGNANCY

For non-pregnant respondents, the *wanted status of most recent live birth* variable is intended to measure whether the respondent had wanted to have any more children at the time when she conceived her most recent live birth; for respondents who were pregnant at time of interview, the variable instead measures whether or not the respondent had wanted to have any more children at the time when the current pregnancy was conceived. For respondents with no current pregnancy and no live births the variable is undefined.

This variable is available only for countries which used the fertility regulation module shown as appendix C. It is therefore unavailable for five out of the nineteen countries considered in the present monograph, namely Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand and Mexico.

The WFS Standard Recode data tapes classify women into five categories of this variable, coded as follows: (1) Yes, wanted last live birth (or current pregnancy) at time it was conceived; (2) No, had wanted no more children; (3) Undecided; (88) Not applicable (ie no births and no current pregnancy); and (99) Not specified. In the tables in this report that present proportions not wanting the most recent birth, women classified as undecided are included in the denominator but not the numerator.

Respondents who said they wanted more children in response to the *whether more children desired* question described in 2.6 are imputed to have wanted the last live birth or current pregnancy at the time of conception, and were not asked any direct question on whether the last birth was wanted at the time it was conceived. But respondents who answered 'No' or 'Undecided' to the *whether more children desired* question were asked a direct question with wording depending on number of live births and time-of-interview pregnancy status, worded as follows:

NOT PREGNANT, 2+ LIVE BIRTHS

Thinking back to the time before you became pregnant with your last child, had you wanted to have any more children?
(FRM-Q513, Q533, Q588, Q595)

NOT PREGNANT, 1 LIVE BIRTH

Thinking back to the time before you became pregnant with your child, had you wanted to have any children?
(FRM-Q513, Q533, Q599, Q595)

PREGNANT

Before you became pregnant this time, had you wanted to have any (more) children?
(FRM-Q550, Q552, Q562)

Unlike the *whether more children wanted* variable discussed in 2.6, this *whether last live birth wanted* variable is

defined for currently infecund women and also for separated, widowed and divorced women.

2.8 THE *WANTED FAMILY SIZE* VARIABLE

2.8.1 The *Number of Additional Children Wanted* Variable

As a prelude to discussing the constructed *wanted family size* variable it is necessary to describe the *number of additional children wanted* variable.

The *number of additional children wanted* variable is defined for currently married and self-reported fecund women who replied 'Yes' or 'No' to the question whether they wanted more children, but the variable is undefined if the respondent said she was uncertain whether she wanted more.

Respondents saying they wanted no more were coded as wanting zero additional children. Those wanting more were asked, 'How many more children do you want?', except in cases where they were childless or pregnant. If the respondent was childless the question was rephrased, 'How many children in all do you want to have?', and if the respondent was pregnant, the question was rephrased, 'How many more children do you want to have, after the one you are expecting?' The wording was slightly different in Fiji, where women who wanted no more were asked, 'How many children in all did you really want?'

2.8.2 Defining 'Wanted Family Size'; Two Variants

Variant 1 of the variable called *wanted family size* is constructed by adding (1) the number of living children (counting a current pregnancy as a living child), and (2) the number of additional children wanted, as defined above in 2.8.1. Variant 2 is the same as Variant 1 except that 1.0 is subtracted if the most recent birth or current pregnancy was unwanted.

Of these two versions, Variant 2 evidently makes fullest use of the available information, for countries which asked the question on desire for last birth, but Variant 1 allows comparisons between a greater number of countries; both variants are presented.

2.8.3 Comparability of *Wanted Family Size* Variable

The *wanted family size* variable is comparable for all countries except Bangladesh, where only women who wanted another child soon were asked how many more they wanted, with the consequence that those who wanted to delay the next birth were not asked, and are unavoidably miscoded as wanting zero additional children; Bangladesh figures for this variable are therefore italicized, since they evidently contain a strong bias toward underestimating the mean for the *number wanted* variable.

2.8.4 Criticisms of *Wanted Family Size* Variable

There have been several criticisms of the constructed *wanted family size* variable. Firstly, Ryder (1973) has argued that this variable is indeterminate in meaning because it combines a varying factual component (actual number of children living) with a varying attitudinal component (number of further children wanted). For example, a woman coded as wanting three children may have zero living and want three additional, or have three living and want zero additional, with varying combinations in between. Secondly, this variable is undefined for women who reported themselves as 'undecided' on the *whether more children wanted* variable. A third though not insuperable objection is that the constructed variable has some inbuilt elements of upward bias. Women who want more children have the additional number of children they want added to the ones they already have, but among women who deny wanting more, no adjustments are made for those who have exceeded their desired family size, who are counted as wanting the actual number of living children. The solution to this latter difficulty is to restrict the analysis to selected parities, where few women have exceeded their desired family size.

Taken together, these difficulties suggest that results based on this variable must be interpreted with some care.

2.9 THE *TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN DESIRED* VARIABLE

The variable *total number of children desired* is defined quite differently than the *wanted family size* variable whose construction is described in section 2.8.2. This *total number of children desired* variable is measured in 16 out of the 19 countries by the following question: 'If you could choose exactly the number of children to have in your whole life, how many would that be?' Unlike the *whether more wanted* question, and the *additional number wanted* question, this question was asked of all ever-married women.

There are three countries in which this variable is measured somewhat differently, namely Fiji, Malaysia and Pakistan.

In Fiji, questions about total number of children desired were restricted to currently married and fecund women, and the questioning depended on responses to the question on whether more children were wanted. Those who wanted another child were asked, 'How many children in all do you really want?' Those who did not want the last child were asked 'How many children in all did you really want?' Those who wanted the last child but did not want any more children were assumed to want the current number, counting a current pregnancy as an existing child. The remainder of the sample (respondents who were infecund or not currently married, plus those who were undecided whether they wanted more children) were not asked how many children they wanted and are therefore excluded from tabulation. If the answer given was a range rather than a single number, the *higher* value was taken, rather than following the practice used in the other 18 countries, where the *mean* of the range was taken.

In Malaysia, the phrasing recommended by WFS was changed slightly to, 'If you were just married and could have just the number of children you want, how many would you want by the time you were 50?' While the wording is different, the intent and meaning is similar.

In Pakistan, the intent and meaning are somewhat different, referring to a generalized ideal family size rather than a personal preferred family size: 'In your opinion, how many children should a married couple have?'

Because of these divergences in question wording, the Pakistan and Fiji data on number of children desired are regarded as non-comparable with the other countries.

Child Mortality and the Number of Children Desired

The question, 'If you could choose exactly the number of children to have in your whole life, how many would that be?', does not explicitly ascertain whether the respondent is referring to the number of children she wants surviving to adulthood or to the desired number of live births, though it is perhaps more plausible that most if not all women would think in terms of children surviving rather than number of live births.

If respondents answered in terms of number of surviving children, the *number of children desired* variable may provide a misleadingly low estimate of the total number of live births that women desire, in countries where child mortality is high.

If, on the other hand, women intuitively adjusted for child mortality, and state the desired number of live births, the estimate may be less misleading, though they could possibly either underestimate or overestimate the number.

2.10 TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN DESIRED COMPARED TO ACTUAL NUMBER OF LIVING CHILDREN

A number of variables can be constructed from the contrast between the *total number of children desired* and the actual number living. Tables resulting from three such variables are presented in this report. Table A9 presents percentages desiring more than N children among women with 0, 1, . . ., N living children, with results discussed in section 3.1. Table A12 presents percentages of respondents whose actual number of living children exceeds the total number desired (which may be argued to be an alternative way of estimating the proportion not desiring the most recent birth), while table A13 presents percentages of respondents whose actual number of living children exceeds or equals the total number desired (which may be argued to be an alternative way of estimating the proportion wanting no more children). The results in tables A12 and A13 are discussed in section 3.3.

2.11 TEST–RETEST STABILITY OF THE PREFERENCE VARIABLES

Twelve of the 42 WFS surveys in developing countries provide for reinterviewing a subsample of respondents within a period that in practice has ranged from several weeks to several months after the main survey, in a 'post-enumeration survey' (PES) which has the objective of measuring response reliability. As fertility preferences are attitudes that can legitimately change over quite short time periods, differences between test and retest are not necessarily explained entirely by response error, and may contain some component of genuine shift or instability of attitude, though over so short a period of time one is tempted to regard instability in answers as reflecting uncertainty concerning the exact number of children wanted, or regarding whether more children are wanted.

Among the 19 countries considered in this report, post-enumeration surveys were conducted in 7, including Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Dominican Republic and Peru, but available results concerning the *number of children desired* question are limited to published results for three countries.

Stability of 'Number Desired' in Retests

A simple but perhaps somewhat severe criterion for judging the stability of responses to a many-valued variable such as number of children desired is to consider the proportion giving identical responses in both interviews, shown below for Fiji, Indonesia and Peru:

Country	Per cent giving identical responses ('number of children desired')
Fiji	60
Indonesia	54
Peru	40

Source: O'Muircheartaigh and Marckwardt 1980: 29

The percentages giving identical responses range between 60 per cent for Fiji and 40 per cent for Peru, which indicates that preferences for an exact number of children are not strongly fixed, even over a short time period. But it is unreasonable to think that all respondents should have a fixed desire for a single number and much more plausible that many may have been thinking in terms of a range like '3 or 4', so that a discrepancy of one child is well within the bounds of the kind of range that it is reasonable to expect. It is therefore probably overly severe to judge the quality of the data on number preferences solely on the proportion giving identical responses.

Perhaps a more revealing way of looking at the test–retest stability is to consider how much the responses differed. In the case of Indonesia, 54 per cent of the respondents gave identical answers, 27 per cent differed by one child between test and retest, 9 per cent differed by two children, 7 per cent differed by three children, and the remaining 2 per cent gave a numeric response in one interview and then in the other interview gave a response coded as 'other' (ie non-numeric or a numeric range).[2] These results indicate that the numeric preferences of 81 per cent of the respondents differed by no more than one child between the two interviews, which leads to the conclusion that while the desired number of living children was subject to some amount of change, most of the Indonesian respondents were reasonably consistent in their statements. At the aggregate level, the mean total number of children desired was 4.07 at first interview and 4.17 in the second, based on a sample of 497 respondents included in the reinterview, indicating a fairly high degree of consistency at the group level.

Stability of Other Preference Variables

Data on the stability of other preference variables discussed in this report are available only for Fiji, where the proportions giving identical responses are 65 per cent for the *number of additional children wanted* variable, 77 per cent for the *whether more children wanted* variable, and 71 per cent for *last pregnancy wanted* variable (Srikantan 1979: 25).

For the *whether more wanted* variable, it is important to

[2] MacDonald, Simpson and Whitfield 1978: 68.

consider not only overall stability, but the specific nature of the shifts taking place. Such data on shifts between specific categories are available for Fiji. Of those who said they wanted no more children at first interview, 81 per cent gave the same answer on second interview, while 8 per cent shifted to the 'undecided' category and 11 per cent shifted to saying they wanted more children (Fiji Fertility Survey First Report, p. 32). On the other hand, among those who said they wanted more children in the first interview, 90 per cent wanted more at second interview, while 4 per cent shifted to 'undecided', and 6 per cent shifted to wanting no more. As might be expected, those classified as undecided at the first interview were the least stable group of all, with only 31 per cent remaining in the undecided category at second interview, with 35 per cent shifting to wanting more, and 35 per cent shifting to wanting no more.

Unfortunately, comparisons with the other post-enumeration surveys are currently unavailable. But if the Fiji experience is reasonably typical, it implies that about one-tenth of the women who say they want no more are in fact at the margin between wanting to cease childbearing and wanting to continue. While the aggregate proportion wanting no more remained virtually constant, being 35 per cent at first interview and 36 per cent at the second, 11 per cent of those saying 'want no more' at first interview shifted to saying 'want more' at second, so that it would be appropriate to adjust downwardly the Fijian proportion wanting no more children from the observed 35 per cent to (0.89)(35) or 31 per cent, if the position is taken that we are interested in estimating the proportion who in the long run want to cease childbearing, rather than in a purely cross-sectional measurement. (It is quite possible that substantial numbers of those who shift from wanting no more to wanting more are nevertheless motivated to space the next birth, and may while in the process of childspacing revert to the desire to stop childbearing. It is evidently only through long run monitoring of both reproductive motivation and reproductive behaviour that the real meaning of such shifts can be understood.)

2.12 A NOTE ON STANDARDIZATION

The research literature generally indicates that the total number of children that women desire is related to their age and to the number of living children they already have. To verify whether the intercountry differences in the mean number of children desired are attributable to differences in age structure, or to differential composition according to number of living children, standardized means were calculated. Distributions from the Fiji Fertility Survey by age and by number of living children were used as the standard distributions (the standard distributions are shown in Lightbourne 1980: Appendix II.3).

Standardized means are presented for the *total number of children desired* variable in tables A5, A6 and A7, and for the constructed *wanted family size* variable in tables A10 and A11. The effect of standardizing on the *total number of children desired* variable is not always negligible. In table A5, the unstandardized mean total number of children desired is as much as 0.4 of a child lower than the mean standardized for number of living children in the cases of Nepal and Indonesia, and is as much as half a child higher than the standardized mean in the case of Jordan.

2.13 OVERALL COMMENTS ON COMPARABILITY

While the above differences among countries do introduce elements of non-comparability, the data are nevertheless relatively complete and comparable for the variables treated in this report. Except for a few countries, the questions recommended by WFS were used. Five out of the 19 countries did not use the Fertility Regulation Module, and hence lack data on the wanted status of the last pregnancy.

3 Commentary on the Data

Appendix A contains the detailed tables that are the focus of this report. This section will comment on outstanding features of the data, discussing the main points arising, and will present some summary tables.

3.1 TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN DESIRED

Table A5 presents percentage distributions of ever-married women by total number of children desired, and also shows the mean total number of children desired standardized for age and standardized for number of living children. In 17 out of 19 countries, the mean number of children desired falls in the fairly narrow range 3.7 to 4.7, but in Jordan the mean is much higher (6.3), and in Republic of Korea it is somewhat lower (3.2).

This relative uniformity in average number of children desired among the countries is, in a sense, remarkable, because the countries considered cover a wide range of socio-economic development and cultural settings and actual fertility levels. Because the mean is subject to substantial fluctuation owing to extreme values, the median and the mode are presented in table 1. The median and the mode lead to much the same conclusion. In the majority of countries the average woman desired – or at least said she desired – somewhere between three and five children.

Judging from the final column of table 1, few respondents wish to be childless. The percentage reporting they want no children ranges between zero per cent (Philippines and Thailand) and 1.9 per cent (Jamaica).

The comparison between table A1, which shows means for ever-married women classified by number of living children, and table A8, which shows comparable means for currently married and fecund women, indicates slightly higher means in table A8, which leads to the conclusion that women who are infecund or no longer married tend to report a lower number of children desired.

The mean number of children desired is seen to vary strongly with number of living children (see table A1) and less strongly with age (see table A2). Table A4 shows that once number of living children is held constant, the difference between age groups in mean number of children desired either evaporates entirely or becomes negligible. It is thus clear that in the cross-sectional data, it is parity[3] and not age that is critical in affecting women's reports of total number of children desired. Since the mean total number of children desired is so similar for older and younger women once number of living children is controlled, there is no evidence *in the cross-sectional data* at hand that modernization causes women to lower their number of children desired. But it is clear from *time series* on preferences from a limited number of countries, notably Taiwan (Jejeebhoy 1981), that the mean number of children desired can indeed decline substantially in quite short time periods. This leads us to hypothesize that when number preferences do change, the amount of change is, holding parity constant, about equal in all age groups. An alternative hypothesis, however, is that preferences have not changed sufficiently in any of the 18 countries at hand in order for the contrast to be detected in table A4. While preferred family size in Thailand declined from 3.8 in 1969–70 to 3.3 in a 1979 survey, the decline between 1969–70 and the 1975 WFS survey was only from 3.8 to 3.6 (Knodel *et al* 1980: 90).

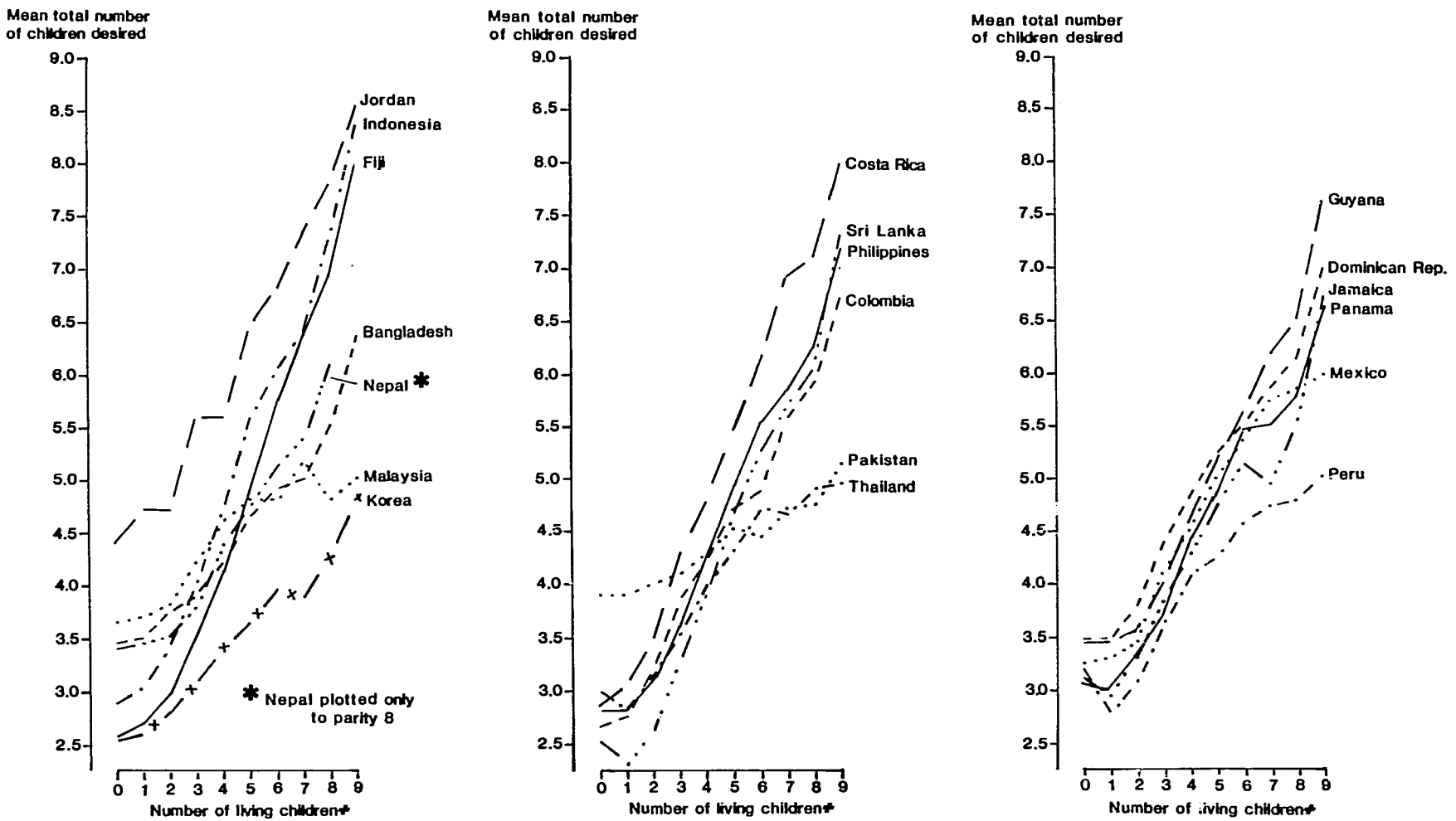
To give some appreciation both of the regularity and the strength of the association between total number of children desired and number of living children, figure 2 plots the data for all countries. In figure 2 it is apparent that while each increment in number of living children is almost always accompanied by an increment in mean total number of

Table 1 Mean, median and modal values of total number of children desired, and percentage desiring zero children, ever-married women aged 15–49

Country	Mean	Median	Mode	Percentage desiring zero children
Asia and Pacific[a]				
Bangladesh	4.1	3.8	4	0.5
Fiji[b]	4.2	3.9	4	0.2
Indonesia	4.1	3.9	4	0.3
Jordan	6.3	5.7	4	0.1
Korea, Rep. of	3.2	3.1	3	0.4
Malaysia[b]	4.4	4.1	4	0.2
Nepal	3.9	3.7	3	0.2
Pakistan[b]	4.2	4.0	4	0.0
Philippines	4.4	4.0	4	0.0
Sri Lanka	3.8	3.4	3	0.1
Thailand	3.7	3.5	4	0.0
Caribbean and Latin America				
Colombia	4.1	3.4	3	0.6
Costa Rica[c]	4.7	3.0	3	0.6
Dominican Rep.	4.6	3.9	4	1.2
Guyana	4.6	4.0	4	0.8
Jamaica	4.0	3.8	4	1.9
Mexico	4.5	3.8	3	0.9
Panama[c]	4.2	3.7	3	0.7
Peru	3.8	3.4	4	1.2

[a]Including West Asia.
[b]Data are not comparable with those of other countries.
[c]Age range is 20–49.
Source: Table A5

[3] While the term 'parity' is usually reserved to denote 'number of live births' the present document will use 'parity' to denote 'number of living children', for the sake of brevity in discussion.



+ A current pregnancy is counted as a living child

Figure 2 Mean total number of children desired by number of living children for ever-married women (counting a current pregnancy as a living child)

children desired, the amount of increment is far from uniform between countries. The increment is weakest for Malaysia and Korea (figure 2, left hand panel), for Thailand (mid panel) and for Peru and Mexico (right hand panel). Pakistan also has a relatively weak relationship, but the Pakistan questionnaire rephrased the question to refer to a generalized ideal family size rather than a personal ideal.

It has already been pointed out in section 1.2 that rationalization effects do not necessarily account for all of the strong association observed between number of living children and mean number of children desired, and that three other factors are possibly implicated. Table A9 provides evidence that in many countries, part of the association is explained by a tendency for low parity women to understate the total number of children they will ultimately desire. Table 2 draws from table A9 the averaged percentages wanting more than N children for women who have N or fewer living children.

The data in table 2, confined to currently married and non-pregnant women, indicate that as parity increases from 0 to N, the percentage saying they desire more than N children increases substantially. For example, as number of living children increases from 0 to 3, the percentage wanting more than 3 children is 34 per cent at parities 0 and 1, 43 per cent at parity 2, and 55 per cent at parity 3. Table 2 shows that the same pattern is repeated for the percentage desiring more than 2 children, which increases from 61 per cent among women with zero children to 73 per cent among women with 2 living children. The effect is stronger for the percentage desiring more than 4 children, which rises from 12 per cent for women with zero living children to 33 per cent among women with 4 living children, nearly tripling. In some countries, such as Indonesia, table A9 shows that the effect is even stronger, with the percentage wanting more than 4 children almost quadrupling from 11 per cent at parity zero to 43 per cent at parity 4. Some part of this apparent understatement may be explained by the selection to low parities of women who want only 1 or 2 children, though possibly the largest part may be attributed to a tendency to underestimate the ultimate number of children desired among women who have not yet attained their desired number of children.

To provide what are probably minimum and maximum estimates of total number of children desired, table 2 presents summary data on mean number of children desired by women with 0, 2, 4 and 6 living children. These choices as parities of interest are based on several considerations.

Some analysts might argue that childless women provide some indication of the preferences of the youngest cohort of women, though the preceding discussion has already provided grounds for believing that in many countries women who have zero children will tend to raise their desired number after having 1 or 2 children. Women with 2 children are of interest because this may be a particularly crucial parity, though again the data for some countries suggest that women with 2 children are also apt to understate the total number of children they will ultimately desire. Four children, on the other hand, is the modal desired family size in most countries, while 6 children exceeds the mode in all cases, which probably provides us with a maximum estimate of the total number desired.

Table 3 shows that the mean number of children desired by women with 2 children, who are usually recently married and probably provide the minimum realistic estimate of the average number of children desired, averages 3.5 children and is usually substantially in excess of 2 children.

Although rationalization effects and selection effects may in some countries upwardly bias the reported number of children desired by parity 4 women, table 3 indicates that the reported mean for women with 4 children is in most countries appreciably greater than 4.0, with the exceptions of Korea (3.4), Sri Lanka (3.9), Thailand (4.0), and Peru (4.1). Among women with 6 children, the mean is less than 6 in all cases except for Jordan and Indonesia.

Table 2 Percentages desiring more than N children among women at parities zero to N: averages for 19 countries

	Parity (number of living children)				
	0	1	2	3	4
Percentages desiring more than 2 children	61	64	73	*	*
Percentages desiring more than 3 children	34	34	43	55	*
Percentages desiring more than 4 children	12	12	14	23	33

*No percentage is shown in this cell because table is restricted to showing percentages wanting more than N children among women with N or fewer living children.
Source: Table A9

Table 3 Mean total number of children desired among currently married and fecund women aged 15–49, by number living (counting a current pregnancy as a living child)

Country	Number of living children				Total
	0	2	4	6	
Asia and Pacific[a]					
Bangladesh	3.5	3.8	4.3	4.9	4.1
Fiji[b]	2.6	3.0	4.2	5.8	4.2
Indonesia	3.0	3.5	4.8	6.0	4.2
Jordan	4.3	4.6	5.6	6.8	6.2
Korea, Rep. of	2.4	2.8	3.4	4.0	3.1
Malaysia[b]	3.6	3.8	4.6	4.8	4.3
Nepal	3.5	3.6	4.4	5.1	3.9
Pakistan[b]	3.9	4.0	4.4	4.5	4.3
Philippines	2.8	3.1	4.3	5.6	4.3
Sri Lanka	2.6	2.7	3.9	5.2	3.7
Thailand	3.0	3.1	4.0	4.7	3.6
Caribbean and Latin America					
Colombia	2.6	3.2	4.3	4.8	4.1
Costa Rica[c]	2.8	3.6	4.8	5.8	4.7
Dominican Rep.	3.5	3.8	5.0	5.7	4.7
Guyana	3.5	3.6	4.6	5.6	4.6
Jamaica	3.2	3.4	4.3	4.9	4.1
Mexico	3.2	3.5	4.6	5.3	4.4
Panama[c]	3.1	3.4	4.4	5.5	4.3
Peru	3.2	3.1	4.1	4.5	3.8

[a]Including West Asia.
[b]Data are not comparable with those of the other countries.
[c]Age range is 20–49.
Source. Table A8

For countries where there is little effective contraceptive use, it is clear that the rise in the mean total number desired from parity 5 and thereon is due largely to rationalization effects, since the mean increases with each increase in number of living children, and since, as we have seen, increasing age does not explain the increase in number of children desired once parity is controlled for.

The above discussion suggests that the tendency for the number of children desired to rise as number of living children increases from 0 to 4 is not just a product of rationalization effects or selection effects, but also in some countries is the product of underestimation by low parity women of the number of children they will ultimately want. This makes it difficult to single out the mean for any particular parity as being the least biased. We therefore conclude that the average number of children desired lies somewhere between 3.5 and 4.5 in most of the countries, depending on whether we place more credence on the lowest parity women, the younger women, on women with 4 living children, or on the overall mean.

3.2 *WANTED FAMILY SIZE*

Attention now turns to summarizing findings for the constructed variable called *wanted family size*, obtained by adding the number of additional children desired to the number of children the woman already has. Some of the methodological deficiencies of this variable were discussed in section 2.8.3.

Tables A10 and A11 present means for variants 1 and 2 of the constructed *wanted family size* variable, cross-classified by number of living children.

Table 4 compares means for the constructed variable (variant 1) with means for the *total number desired* variable, restricting the comparison to currently married fecund women with 0, 2 and 4 living children.

Among women with 4 children, table 4 indicates that the mean number 'wanted' is frequently higher than the mean number 'desired'. This undoubtedly is an artifact of the rules employed in constructing variant 1, which assumes that women 'want' all their existing children.

Among women with 2 children, however, table 4 indicates that the mean number wanted is lower than the mean number desired in 14 out of 17 available countries, averaging

Table 4 Mean wanted family size and mean total number of children desired by currently married fecund women aged 15–49, by number of living children (counting a current pregnancy as a living child)

	Number of living children							
	0		2		4		Total	
Country	Mean number wanted[b]	Mean number desired[c]	Mean number wanted[b]	Mean number desired[c]	Mean number wanted[b]	Mean number desired[c]	Mean number wanted[b]	Mean number desired[c]
Asia and Pacific[a]								
Bangladesh[d]	2.8	3.5	–	3.8	–	4.3	–	4.1
Fiji[e]	–	2.6	–	3.0	–	4.2	–	4.2
Indonesia	2.7	3.0	3.3	3.5	4.6	4.8	4.1	4.2
Jordan	4.1	4.3	4.6	4.6	5.8	5.6	6.7	6.2
Korea, Rep. of	2.0	2.4	2.5	2.8	4.1	3.4	3.6	3.1
Malaysia[e]	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.8	4.7	4.6	5.0	4.3
Nepal	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.6	4.7	4.4	4.1	3.9
Pakistan[e]	3.7	3.9	3.6	4.0	4.7	4.4	4.8	4.3
Philippines	2.2	2.8	3.1	3.1	4.3	4.3	4.8	4.3
Sri Lanka	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.7	4.1	3.9	4.1	3.7
Thailand	2.8	3.0	2.8	3.1	4.2	4.0	4.1	3.6
Caribbean and Latin America								
Colombia	2.4	2.6	2.7	3.2	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.1
Costa Rica[f]	2.5	2.8	3.1	3.6	4.5	4.8	4.7	4.7
Dominican Rep.	2.9	3.5	3.1	3.8	4.5	5.0	4.8	4.7
Guyana	2.8	3.5	3.1	3.6	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.6
Jamaica	2.5	3.2	2.9	3.4	4.6	4.3	4.3	4.1
Mexico	2.9	3.2	3.0	3.5	4.5	4.6	4.9	4.4
Panama[f]	2.3	3.1	2.8	3.4	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.3
Peru	2.9	3.2	2.8	3.1	4.3	4.1	4.4	3.8

[a]Including West Asia.
[b]Based on variant 1, *wanted family size* (constructed variable); see section 2.8.2 for definition.
[c]Based on *total number of children desired* (direct question); see section 2.9 for definition.
[d]Data on *mean number wanted* is not comparable for Bangladesh, except among childless women, as women not wanting another child 'soon' are ascribed a desire for zero additional children.
[e]Data on *mean number desired* for Fiji, Malaysia and Pakistan are not precisely comparable with data for other countries.
[f]Age range is 20–49.

about 0.1 of a child lower in the 9 available Asian–Pacific countries, and 0.5 lower in the 8 Latin–Caribbean countries. The mean number wanted equals or exceeds the mean number desired in only 3 of the 17 countries, these being Jordan, Nepal and Philippines.

Among women with zero children, table 4 indicates that the mean number *wanted* is in all of the countries lower than the mean number of children *desired*.

The question arises why such a systematic difference should emerge at both parities 0 and 2. One possible reason is that the wordings on which the constructed *wanted family size* variable is based are more direct, more anchored in the present, and less hypothetical (ie 'How many more children do you want to have?', 'How many children in all do you want to have?') than the wording of the *total number desired* question (ie 'If you could choose exactly the number of children to have in your whole life, how many would that be?'). Indeed, in designing the WFS core questionnaire it was surmised that the *total number of children desired* question reflects to some extent the personal ideal number of children that women would have if there were no economic constraints on having children, while the additional number wanted question reflects more closely the number that women actually want given the real world costs of childbearing. (Revised guidelines issued in June 1977 (Modifications to the WFS Core Questionnaire) have deleted the *How many children in all do you want to have?* question on the grounds that it is too similar to the *If you could choose exactly* question, and since some respondents were reported to find the distinction hard to grasp. It is nevertheless interesting that the second question had a higher mean in all of the countries.)

The chief conclusion to be drawn from the comparisons is that it is reasonable to regard the mean number wanted among women with two children as a *minimum* estimate of the number of children that women will ultimately *want*.

3.3 WHETHER ACTUAL FAMILY SIZE EXCEEDS OR EQUALS NUMBER OF CHILDREN DESIRED

Another possible approach to measuring fertility preferences is to compare the respondent's actual number of living children with her total number of children desired.

Table A12 presents proportions of currently married and fecund women whose actual number of living children exceeds their desired number, classified according to number of living children, while table A13 gives the proportions whose number of living children exceeds or equals their desired number, again classified according to number of living children.

The proportion of women whose number of living children exceeds their desired number might seem to be a reasonable estimate of the proportion with at least one unwanted birth. To investigate this first proposition, table 5 compares the percentage of women whose number living

Table 5 Comparing estimated and actual proportions not wanting last birth with estimated and actual proportions wanting no more children

Country	Estimated proportion not wanting last birth: Actual > Desired (1)	Actual percentage reporting last birth not wanted (2)	Estimated proportion not wanting more children: Actual ≧ desired (3)	Actual percentage reporting no more children wanted (4)
Asia and Pacific[a]				
Bangladesh	19	41	44	NA
Fiji	11	14	53	50
Indonesia	7	17	36	39
Jordan	17	30	40	42
Korea, Rep. of	34	44	63	72
Malaysia	27	NA	43	43
Nepal	10	NA	34	30
Pakistan	26	NA	44	42
Philippines	18	27	57	54
Sri Lanka	15	36	60	61
Thailand	22	NA	54	61
Caribbean and Latin America				
Colombia	25	43	50	62
Costa Rica	18	30	38	52
Dominican Rep.	22	34	38	52
Guyana	17	46	42	55
Jamaica	20	48	41	51
Mexico	25	NA	48	57
Panama	22	34	47	63
Peru	33	46	56	62

[a]Including West Asia.
NOTES: Proportions in columns 1 to 3 pertain to currently married and fecund women; proportions in column 4 refer to ever married women.
Sources: Tables A12, A13, A14, A17

exceeds the desired number (column 1) and the percentage who declared their last birth was unwanted (column 2). The evident conclusion is that the contrast between living children and desired children tends substantially to underestimate the percentage with at least one unwanted birth in the 14 countries available.

The proportion of women whose number of living children is equal to or greater than the number desired might seem to be a reasonable alternative way of estimating the percentage wanting no more children. To investigate this second proposition, table 5 compares the percentage of women for whom the number of living children exceeded or equalled the number desired (column 3) with percentages wanting no more children (column 4). The correspondence is quite close (ie within plus or minus 4 percentage points) for 8 of the 10 available Asian–Pacific countries, and thus arguably provides approximate estimates for Bangladesh, for which direct estimation of proportion wanting no more children is unavailable. But the correspondence is poor for all the Latin–Caribbean countries, where the percentage wanting no more children is typically 10 to 14 points higher than the percentage for whom living children equals or exceeds the number desired. The reason for this is that especially in the Latin–Caribbean countries, the desired number of children is often 1, 2 or 3 children higher than the actual number of children among women who want to stop childbearing. While some analysts might be inclined to regard this as an inconsistency, our view is that for some Latin–Caribbean respondents, the desired number of children question tends to be interpreted as ideal family size in the absence of real world constraints, rather than the family size at which women actually want to terminate childbearing. This view is consistent with the conclusions drawn in section 3.2 concerning discrepancies between *total number of children desired* and the constructed *wanted family size* variable.

Overall, these results indicate that the contrast between actual and desired fertility tends greatly to underestimate the prevalence of unwanted fertility. This result is of interest because there are a number of WFS countries which did not ask any question on whether the last birth was unwanted. On the other hand, the contrast between number living and number desired seems to estimate proportions wanting no more children reasonably well in the Asian–Pacific countries (thereby allowing approximation of Bangladesh proportions wanting no more); but the same approach did not work well in the Latin–Caribbean countries and is therefore not a generally reliable estimation approach.

3.4 PROPORTIONS WANTING NO MORE CHILDREN

The percentage of women who do not want more children provides a useful indicator of how widespread is the desire to stop childbearing. Data on proportions not wanting more children are available for 18 of the 19 countries considered in this report, except for Bangladesh, where the data refer to proportions not wanting another child 'soon'. Since only currently married self-reportedly fecund women were asked whether they wanted more children, the data pertain to this group rather than to all currently married women. The exclusion of currently married infecund women probably reduces the percentage wanting no more, as self-reportedly infecund women tend to be older and therefore more likely to wish to stop childbearing, so that the proportions wanting no more children presented in this report will tend to be slightly lower than if data were available for all currently married women. Respondents who gave 'Yes' or 'Undecided' responses are classified as wanting more children, while those who said 'No' are classified as wanting no more. Respondents who chose to be sterilized for contraceptive reasons are counted as fecund and wanting no more children. Section 2.6 provides details on question phrasing.

Column 4 of table 5 indicates that the proportion wanting no more children ranges between 30 per cent (Nepal) and 72 per cent (Korea), with the remaining 16 countries falling within the range 30 to 63 per cent. To provide a wider perspective, roughly comparable figures for Czechoslovakia (1977), Hungary (1977) and Japan (1974) were 78, 63 and 73 per cent respectively. Nevertheless, it is of importance that very substantial numbers of women in the countries at hand reported that they wanted no further children, even though the proportions are lower than those in developed countries.

International comparisons of proportions wanting no more children can be somewhat misleading, however, since two populations with identical desired family size distributions could have substantially different proportions wanting no more children, if in one population women bear children less quickly or later in life as a consequence of such causes as later marriage or longer breastfeeding or more use of contraception for childspacing purposes, thereby producing a lower proportion wanting to stop with no real difference in underlying preferences. The contrast between Jordan and Nepal provides an extreme illustration of this phenomenon. The mean number of children desired, standardized for number of living children, is much higher in Jordan (5.8 children) than in Nepal (4.3 children), which would lead us to expect a higher proportion wanting to stop childbearing in Nepal, because mean desired family size is lower. Yet the figures show that the proportion wanting no more children is substantially lower in Nepal (30 per cent) than in Jordan (42 per cent). This can be largely attributed to the faster tempo of childbearing in Jordan, and shows that uncontrolled comparisons of proportions wanting no more children do not provide an adequate basis for ranking countries with respect to fertility preferences.

Proportions Wanting No More Children, by Age

Table A14 presents proportions of currently married and fecund women who do not want more children, subdivided by age of respondent. As might be expected, the proportion wanting no more children increases regularly with age. But, just as with total proportions wanting no more children, such proportions are likely to be influenced by age at marriage and speed of reproduction. Indonesia, for example, has almost exactly the same age specific percentages wanting no more children as Jordan in table A14, yet has a mean desired number of children that is substantially lower than Jordan's, and substantially higher proportions wanting no more children when the data are classified by number of living children, in table A15.

While these considerations should inhibit analysts from placing too much reliance on international comparisons by age, the data in table A14 nonetheless provide valuable information on individual countries.

Proportions Wanting No More Children, by Number of Living Children

Table A15 classifies proportions wanting no more children among currently married, fecund women according to number of living children. (A current pregnancy is counted as a living child because pregnant women were asked whether they wanted a child in addition to their pregnancy.)

The chief generalization that can be made about table A15 is that the proportion wanting no more children increases markedly with each increase in number of living children between parities 0 and 5 in all the countries, and that the proportion then reaches a plateau at parities 6 to 9 in some of the countries, but keeps on increasing in others.

The reader should note that when the proportion wanting no more children is classified by number of living children, international comparisons are potentially misleading if the countries being compared are markedly different in the amount of successful contraceptive use for: (a) purposes of stopping childbearing; (b) purposes of increasing the interval between births. Consider two countries, X and Y, with identical desired family size distributions. If in country X women are successful in stopping at their desired parity, while in country Y they are not, the proportion wanting no more children at each parity will be substantially higher in country X than in country Y, despite their identical desired family size distributions, purely and simply because in country X women who want no more children at a particular parity will collect at that parity, increasing only the denominator, and hence producing a higher proportion wanting no more children (Lightbourne 1977; Rodríguez and Trussell 1981).

That the effect is potentially non-trivial has been illustrated in a detailed simulation of proportions at each parity wanting no more children, that assumed an identical desired family size distribution (taken from Japan, 1950), but which sought to see how much proportions wanting no more children would have differed: (a) if women adopt highly effective contraception on reaching the parity where they wanted to stop childbearing; (b) if women never adopt any contraception. The results were as follows:

Number of living children i (parity i)	% wanting no more children		Desired family size distribution[a]
	Effective contraception	No contraception	
0	28	4	4
1	32	9	5
2	62	31	21
3	81	64	34
4	84	84	20
5	100	100	16

[a]Percentages wanting exactly i children.
Source: Lightbourne 1977: 71

We have seen that a greater amount of effective contraception for stopping purposes will produce a higher proportion wanting no more children at each parity. On the other hand, effective contraception for purposes of childspacing should in theory have precisely the reverse effect, tending to produce lower proportions wanting no more children at each parity, because then the numerator of the proportion wanting no more children at each parity will be increased by contraceptors who want more children and are pausing for longer at that parity than they would if they were not using contraception. In the absence of reliable data showing how much longer 'spacers' stay at each parity than do women who employ no contraception, it is very difficult to quantify the impact of spacing on proportions wanting no more children. Simulations that assume 'spacers' stay 20 per cent longer at each parity than women who do not employ contraception for spacing purposes indicate that even if 30 per cent of women who want more children space at every parity, the percentage wanting no more children at each parity is reduced only one or two percentage points. But if 'spacers' were to stay say twice as long as women who did not employ contraception for spacing purposes, the proportion wanting no more would be reduced by as much as 10 to 15 per cent, if 30 per cent of women who want more children were to employ contraception for spacing purposes.

Because of these two effects, countries with underlying identical preference distributions may have dissimilar proportions wanting no more children at each parity, if the countries differ markedly with respect to the amount of contraceptive use for spacing or stopping purposes. Analysts making international comparisons of parity specific proportions wanting no more children should bear these two effects in mind.

With these caveats in mind, we now turn to examining the proportions wanting no more children among childless women, among those with two living children, and among those with four living children.

Table A15 indicates that the proportion of childless women who stated they did not want any children at all in response to the *whether more wanted* question varies from 0.0 per cent in Pakistan to an astonishing 12.3 per cent in Bangladesh and 12.4 per cent in Republic of Korea. It is intriguing that in 9 of the 19 available countries, the proportion of childless women not wanting any children exceeded 5 per cent, since, taken at face value, the data imply a surprisingly large proportion wanting to remain childless. The issue arises, however, whether this represents the desires of a typical cohort of women entering reproduction, or whether the high proportions observed are inflated by the retention at parity 0 of subfecund and infecund women, and those who have had a series of miscarriages and stillbirths. In an effort to throw some light on this issue, table 6 presents percentages not wanting any children among all childless women (column 2), among childless women married less than 12 months (column 3), and among those married 12 months or more (column 4); the comparison indicates that in most cases there is a substantially higher proportion not wanting any children among women married for 12 months or longer than among those married less than 12 months; the exceptions are Bangladesh, Korea, Thailand and Peru. Further to illuminate the situation, column 1 of table 6 presents percentages of childless women who, in answering the question 'If you could choose exactly the number of children to have . . .', said they wanted zero children, which provides one independent cross check. A second cross check is provided by column 5 of table 6 which presents percentages not wanting their current pregnancy among childless women (based on the *desire for last birth* question). These comparisons cast considerable doubt on the notion that substantial numbers

of Bangladeshi or Korean women really wanted to remain childless, since the data both from the *total number of children desired* question in column 1 and from the *whether the current pregnancy is wanted* variable in column 5 indicate very much more modest proportions wanting to remain childless. Similarly, the finding that 6 per cent of childless Thai women wanted no more children (sustained in columns 2, 3, 4 of table 6) is called in question because when asked how many children in all they wanted, none of them reported wanting zero children (column 1).

For two additional countries, Guyana and Jamaica, the desire-to-be childless indicators in columns 1, 3 and 5 contain noticeable inconsistencies, as the proportion not desiring the first pregnancy among currently pregnant women in column 5 is much higher than the proportion reporting a desire for zero children in column 1. One plausible explanation is that those with undesired pregnancies may want children eventually, but not at the present, and that the undesired pregnancies are predominantly of unmarried women who do not want children until they enter more durable unions.

Out of the remaining 14 countries, the indicators in columns 1, 3, 5 are 'highly consistent' (ie within 1 per cent of one another) in five of the countries (Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka), and 'moderately consistent' (ie differences of between 1 and 4 per cent between indicators 1, 3 and 5) in 9 of the countries (Fiji, Indonesia, Jordan, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama and Peru).

The chief conclusion to be drawn is that there are no countries in which the data consistently point to a widespread desire to be childless, but there are a few cases with anomalies worthy of detailed exploration.

Women with Two Living Children

The percentage wishing to cease childbearing among women with two living children provides one approach to assessing how far the two child norm has become established. To provide a broader comparative perspective, we note that in three available developed countries, the proportions wanting no more children among women with two living children were 90 per cent in a 1977 survey of Czechoslovakia, 86 per cent in a 1977 survey of Hungary, and 89 per cent in a 1974 survey of Japan, though of course these proportions are likely to be increased by extensive contraceptive use for stopping purposes. By contrast, the proportions wanting no more among women with two children in the 18 developing countries at hand were substantially lower, exceeding 50 per cent in only two countries, these being Republic of

Table 6 Data on desire to remain childless, among women with zero living children

Country	Percentage of childless women stating a desire for zero children[a]	Percentage not wanting any children[b]			Per cent not wanting their current pregnancy among childless women[c]
		All childless women	Childless women married for		
			less than 12 months	12 months or more	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Asia and Pacific[d]					
Bangladesh	0.4	12.3	15.5	11.0	3.7 (133)
Fiji	2.2	2.1	1.7	2.4	0.0 (146)
Indonesia	0.9	4.0	0.8	5.5	3.6 (257)
Jordan	1.3	4.2	1.1	7.5	0.0 (93)
Korea, Rep. of	1.0	12.4	14.5	10.5	1.3 (150)
Malaysia	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.8	–
Nepal	0.6	1.4	0.0	1.9	–
Pakistan	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	–
Philippines	0.0	0.7	0.0	1.0	0.5 (159)
Sri Lanka	0.6	2.1	0.0	3.7	0.7 (178)
Thailand	0.0	6.3	6.1	6.6	–
Caribbean and Latin America					
Colombia	1.2	8.6	1.5	15.3	2.4 (84)
Costa Rica	0.0	4.3	3.1	6.3	0.0 (54)
Dominican Rep.	0.0	4.6	2.5	5.5	4.0 (76)
Guyana	1.8	8.9	6.2	9.8	10.6 (85)
Jamaica	3.0	3.8	2.8	3.9	16.7 (36)
Mexico	2.4	8.8	5.8	14.0	–
Panama	0.0	7.7	3.2	9.6	2.1 (47)
Peru	1.3	6.3	6.1	6.4	6.0 (116)

[a]Based on responses to 'If you could choose exactly the number of children to have in your whole life, how many would that be?'
[b]Based on 'No' responses to 'Do you want to have any children?'
[c]Based on responses to whether current pregnancy is wanted, among women with zero live births who were pregnant at time of interview. Parenthesized numbers are denominators on which the proportions are based.
[d]Including West Asia.

Korea (66 per cent) and Colombia (52 per cent). But as the foregoing discussion has indicated, the intercountry differences may well be exaggerated by widespread successful contraceptive use in some countries though not in others, so that the underlying structure of preferences may be less different than is implied by the very large differences observed in proportions wanting no more children.

Women with Four Living Children

Among women with four living children, on the other hand, the percentage wanting no more children exceeds 50 per cent in all the countries except Jordan, where only 38 per cent of parity 4 women wish to stop childbearing, helping to confirm that the high mean desired family size observed for Jordan is real and not an artifact.

Proportions Undecided

Table A16 presents data on the proportions undecided whether to have more children, classified by number of living children. The proportion undecided varies between 1.2 per cent in Korea to 10.2 per cent in Indonesia. Indecision is usually lowest at parities 0 and 1, rises to a maximum between parity 2 and parity 6, and then falls off at parities 7, 8 and 9, though several exceptions to this observation can be found. From one point of view, women undecided whether they want more children could be viewed as wishing to space the next birth until they make up their minds, and the numbers of such women are sizeable enough in several of the countries to make this an issue worthy of exploration.

The Case of Bangladesh

As noted above, the data for Bangladesh in tables A14, A15 and A16 are not comparable with other countries, because non-pregnant women with one or more live births were asked whether they wanted another child soon. But the Bangladesh questionnaire is directly comparable for women who were pregnant (asked the standard question on whether they would want any further children in addition to the current pregnancy) and is also comparable for those with zero live births (asked the standard question on whether they wanted any live births at all). Table 7 takes advantage of these similarities, presenting in columns 2 to 5 comparable proportions wanting no more children for Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Thailand, for pregnant women at parities 1 to 9+, and for non-pregnant women with zero live births at parity 0. The comparison indicates that proportions wanting no more children are, when classified by number of living children, fairly similar in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan, though those for Thailand are substantially higher. Also of interest is that three fourths of Bangladeshi women at parities 5 and above expressed a desire to cease childbearing.

The comparison between columns 1 and 2 of table 7 allows us to estimate the extent of motivation to space the next child in Bangladesh. Among women with two children, for example, only 23 per cent wanted to stop childbearing, but 64 per cent did not want another 'soon'. This clearly suggests that about 40 per cent of parity 2 women wanted to postpone the next pregnancy. More detailed tabulations (not shown here) indicated that the proportion wanting to postpone the next birth is substantial not just among women with a very recent birth, but also among those

Table 7 Percentages not wanting another child soon among non-pregnant Bangladesh women (column 1); percentages wanting no more children among pregnant or nulliparous women, by number of living children. for Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Thailand (columns 2–5)

Number of living children[a]	Bangladesh: per cent not wanting another child *soon* (non-pregnant women)	Percentages wanting no more children among pregnant women (and among non-pregnant women with zero live births)			
		Bangladesh	Nepal	Pakistan	Thailand
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
0	18.4 (102)[b]	10.8 (425)[c]	1.6 (838)	0.1 (425)	6.7 (163)
1	49.6 (729)	5.8 (133)	2.3 (152)	1.9 (165)	15.6 (88)
2	63.7 (694)	22.5 (151)	15.6 (129)	19.0 (130)	50.3 (80)
3	71.3 (653)	37.6 (112)	34.7 (117)	35.5 (131)	64.3 (52)
4	82.7 (560)	44.4 (103)	50.6 (91)	58.9 (100)	79.1 (37)
5	85.7 (482)	75.4 (80)	57.4 (49)	67.4 (97)	88.3 (43)
6	91.9 (334)	80.4 (51)	66.9 (22)	78.7 (77)	100.0 (24)
7	94.5 (201)	74.0 (24)	94.3 (13)	87.1 (40)	81.8 (14)
8	94.0 (126)	73.8 (24)	100.0 (3)	94.2 (24)	88.9 (19)
9+	96.7 (108)	90.3 (12)	100.0 (2)	91.6 (22)	100.0 (6)
Total	73.7 (3887)	40.2 (691)	29.5 (578)	42.8 (786)	58.9 (364)

[a]A pregnancy is counted as a living child.
[b]In Bangladesh there were 102 non-pregnant women with zero living children but who had one or more live births. Such women were asked whether they wanted another child *soon*.
[c]In Bangladesh there were 425 non-pregnant women with zero living children who had had zero live births. Such women were asked whether they wanted to have any children at all.
NOTE: Parenthesized numbers are denominators on which the percentages are based.

whose last birth occurred more than 4 years prior to the survey, suggesting the existence of widespread motivation for really long spacing intervals in excess of five years.

3.5 PROPORTIONS NOT WANTING LAST LIVE BIRTH

Fourteen of the 19 countries included a direct question on whether the most recent live birth (or current pregnancy) was wanted, asking respondents to think back to the time before they got pregnant, and to say whether they had at that time wanted more children (see section 2.7 for detailed definition).

The total proportions not wanting the most recent birth or current pregnancy range between a low of 14 per cent for Fiji and a high of 48 per cent for Jamaica (see table A17), and in 10 of the 14 countries the proportion exceeded 30 per cent, implying widespread prevalence of unwanted childbearing.

Not surprisingly, the percentage not wanting the last birth or current pregnancy increases sharply with number of living children (see table A17) and with age (see table A18). The case of Bangladesh in table A17 is particularly interesting, indicating both a high overall proportion of 40 per cent not wanting the most recent birth, and also indicating that parity specific percentages not wanting the most recent birth are markedly higher than in the other countries of the Asia and Pacific group except Korea, which suggests that economic pressures can exert a sharp braking effect on preferences even in a predominantly rural setting.

3.6 THE EFFECT ON FERTILITY OF PREVENTING UNWANTED BIRTHS

Data on the proportion not wanting the most recent birth can also be used to estimate the effect on the crude birth rate if all unwanted births were prevented. The total number of births to respondents in the year preceding survey is shown for each available country in column 1 of table 7 while the percentage of these births that were unwanted is presented in column 2. It is emphasized that the proportion of last year's births that were unwanted provides a direct estimate of the proportional amount by which the crude birth rate would be reduced if all unwanted births were prevented.

The estimated number of points by which the crude birth rate would fall if all unwanted births were prevented is shown in column 4 of the table, and is estimated through multiplying the proportion of last year's births that are unwanted (column 2) by the crude birth rate 0–3 years before the survey.

If this estimation procedure is correct, it implies that crude birth rates would decline very sharply in many of the countries, if all unwanted births were prevented. The estimated birth rate reductions are especially large in Bangladesh, Jordan, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Peru, exceeding 10 points off the crude birth rate in all cases. The reduction is smallest in Fiji and Indonesia, but exceeds 5 points in all the remaining cases.

In several countries, especially Fiji, Indonesia and Republic of Korea, the estimation technique probably underestimates the amount by which fertility would fall if all women implemented their preferences by using 100 per cent effective contraception. This is because the proportions not wanting the last birth are quite possibly substantially underestimated in these countries (Lightbourne 1981).

While Nepal and Pakistan did not ask the question on whether the last birth was wanted, their parity specific proportions wanting more children among pregnant women are similar to those for Bangladesh (see table 7), which tentatively suggests that elimination of unwanted fertility could bring their crude birth rates down to the 25 per thousand level.

Table 8 Estimating the reduction to the crude birth rate if all unwanted births prevented

Country	Number of births to currently married respondents in year preceding survey (1)	Percentage of births in col. 1 that were not wanted (2)	Crude birth rate 0–3 years before survey (3)	Estimated reduction in CBR = col. 2 X col. 3 (4)	'Wanted Birth Rate' = col. 3 minus col. 4 (5)
Asia and Pacific[a]					
Bangladesh	1247	37.56	40	15.0	25.0
Fiji	894	9.51	31	2.9	28.1
Indonesia	2516	13.79	32	4.4	27.6
Jordan	1009	21.60	45	9.7	35.3
Korea, Rep. of	919	22.20	29	6.4	22.6
Philippines	2233	22.69	34	7.7	26.3
Sri Lanka	1249	28.17	28	7.9	20.1
Caribbean and Latin America					
Colombia	651	39.48	34	13.4	20.6
Costa Rica	414	26.57	27	7.2	19.8
Dominican Rep.	467	36.40	40	14.6	25.4
Guyana	639	34.27	29	9.9	19.1
Jamaica	457	43.98	28	12.3	15.7
Panama	526	31.56	28	8.8	19.2
Peru	1365	42.61	36	15.3	20.7

[a]Including West Asia.

4 Conclusions

This cross national summary presents data for 19 countries which have already published their First Country Reports, and presents only descriptive findings.

Although family size preferences have been widely studied in many surveys there has been a dearth of comparative studies employing comparable definitions. Also, there is no generally accepted standard set of conventions for measuring or interpreting fertility preferences. The WFS surveys ask a number of standardized questions concerning fertility preferences, with exceptions summarized in figure 1, which makes it possible to analyse fertility preferences using the following concepts:

- Total Number of Children Desired
- Wanted Family Size
- Comparison of Actual Number of Children with Number Desired
- Whether More Children Wanted
- Wanted Status of Last Pregnancy

There is no general agreement on the usefulness of the concepts of fertility preference, especially ideal family size. There are some who consider it meaningless, whereas other researchers consider the concept to be useful provided special care is taken to ensure that the questions are properly asked.

For all countries the expected positive correlation is found between total number of children desired and number of living children, though the strength of the association varies markedly between countries. Section 1.2 identifies four factors that, acting singly or in combination, could produce such a correlation, including: (i) upward revision of desired family size by women who overshoot the point where they wish to cease childbearing (ie rationalization effects); (ii) underestimation of the number ultimately desired by low parity women; (iii) selection to desired parity owing to successful use of contraception or abortion; (iv) 'modernization' effects where younger women implement lower preferences. It is beyond the scope of the present summary to attempt a thorough disentangling of these effects, but certain tentative conclusions may nevertheless be drawn. The negligible differences in mean total number of children desired between younger and older women once number of living children is held constant indicate that very little of the correlation is explained by 'modernization' effects. It also is evident from cases such as Nepal and Bangladesh that even in the absence of widespread contraceptive use, the correlation between desired and actual number of children is quite strong, which suggests that rationalization effects and underestimation effects are by themselves sufficient to produce a fairly large correlation between the number living and the number desired, though there are some countries such as Costa Rica and Fiji where contraception is sufficiently widespread to strengthen substantially the correlation between parity and the mean number desired.

We note that if selection effects of contraception or modernization were the only factors producing the correlation between parity and the mean number desired, then the overall mean number desired (ie the mean for all women) would correctly reflect the mean number of children desired, undistorted by rationalization or underestimation effects. If, on the other hand, rationalization effects were the only force producing the correlation, then the mean for lower parity women would provide the least distorted estimate of the mean. And if underestimation by low parity women were the only factor producing the correlation, then the mean for higher parity women would be the least distorted estimate of the mean. Since selection, rationalization and underestimation effects are all probably to some extent operating, it follows that the best estimate of the 'true mean' (ie the mean undistorted by rationalization and underestimation effects) is probably either (i) the overall mean or (ii) to be on the safe side, the mean for parity 2 women which would provide a 'minimum' estimate, and the mean for parity 4 or parity 5 women, which would provide a 'maximum' estimate of the mean.

It is emphasized that male fertility preferences are unavailable for nearly all WFS surveys, and in some countries may be more important as determinants of behaviour, though one would expect some correlation between wives' and husbands' preferences.

There are a number of substantive conclusions that can be drawn. Major conclusions are as follows:

(1) The mean total number of children desired lies somewhere between 3.5 and 4.5 in most of the countries. Pinpointing the mean number of children ultimately desired for a particular country with any exactitude is difficult because in most countries there are the competing factors of understatement by low parity women, probable overstatement by high parity women, and some degree of selectivity. It is therefore safer to think in terms of a range rather than in terms of a single number. For example, the mean for Indonesia lies somewhere between 3.5 children desired among women with two children and 4.8 children among women with four children, and it is safer to conclude that the 'true' mean lies somewhere in this range (not necessarily in the centre of the range) than to seize on the mean for any particular subgroup as offering the most satisfactory and least distorted estimate of the mean.

(2) The mean total number of children desired is substantially lower among younger women, among women with few children, and among recently married women. But there are two reasons for questioning the conclusion that the lower means among these groups represent any true decline in fertility preferences. In the first place, in nearly all of the countries the mean number of children desired is extremely similar in the different age groups once number

of living children is controlled, casting doubt on the notion that the preferences of younger women are fundamentally different. And in the second place, there is evidence in most countries that low parity women tend to underestimate the number of children they will ultimately want.

(3) Section 3.1 established that once number of living children is controlled, there is only negligible variation in the mean total number of children desired between younger and older women. This led us to hypothesize that when number preferences do change, the amount of change is, holding parity constant, about equal in all age cohorts, which, if true, implies that there is little or no 'fixing' of desired number of offspring during childhood or adolescence, and that instead, number preferences are much more the product of the immediate and recent economic and socio-cultural environment and of current parity.

An alternative hypothesis is that there has been insufficient change in family size preferences in any of the 18 countries at hand for the change to be detected in table A4. There is thus a clear need for the assembling of a carefully documented and properly controlled time series of comparisons of desired family size for as many countries as possible in order to assess the direction of preferences over time. Such a comparison should evidently include controls not only for age but also for parity, with due consideration to be given to the selection effects of contraceptive use.

(4) It is our conclusion that proportions wanting no more children do not offer a particularly good basis for precise comparisons of reproductive motivation between countries, especially when classified by age or by number of living children, since the proportions are then extremely vulnerable to distortion owing to differing levels of contraceptive use for stopping or spacing purposes, and to differing speeds of reproduction.

This conclusion should not be allowed to obscure the very substantial value of these proportions from the standpoint of estimating the potential demand for contraception in countries. When viewed from this perspective, it is clear that very large numbers of women want to stop childbearing, ranging between a low of 30 per cent in Nepal and a high of 72 per cent in Republic of Korea.

(5) Fourteen countries have data on the wanted status of the last live birth or the current pregnancy, and the results indicate that very substantial numbers of women said they had already wanted to stop childbearing before they had their last birth, ranging between 15 per cent in Fiji and 48 per cent in Jamaica. These results indicate that there is a very high prevalence of unwanted fertility in most of the countries for which data are available.

(6) The data on desire for last live birth can also be used to estimate what the crude birth rate would have been 0–3 years before the survey had all unwanted births been prevented. The resulting estimates, presented in section 3.6, imply the existence of two groups of countries. In one group, containing 12 of the 14 countries for which estimates are available, it is estimated that preferences are compatible with a substantial decline in fertility exceeding 5 points per thousand off the crude birth rate, if all women were to implement 100 per cent effective contraception on reaching desired family size; in five of these countries the crude birth rate would decline by more than 10 per thousand, and in two, Bangladesh and Peru, the crude birth rate would fall by as much as 15 per thousand, if all unwanted births were prevented. In the second group, containing 2 of the 14 available countries, the estimates indicate only a minor decrease in the crude birth rate if unwanted births were prevented, but the possibility exists that the amount of potential decline is underestimated because of a reluctance to state the last birth was unwanted.

(7) Overall, the data imply that in many countries, fertility would decline substantially if women were to act consistently with their stated preferences. But on the other hand, the data also indicate that in most countries the achievement of very low rates of population growth would require a marked lowering of the preferences reported at time of survey.

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Appendix A Detailed Tables

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Table A1 Mean total number of children desired[a] among all ever-married women aged 15–49, by number of living children (counting a current pregnancy as a living child)

Country	Number of living children										Total	Number of cases
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9+		
Asia and Pacific[b]												
Bangladesh	3.45	3.50	3.73	3.90	4.22	4.66	4.92	5.04	5.57	6.37	4.08	4214
Fiji	2.57	2.69	2.98	3.54	4.14	4.91	5.75	6.39	6.93	8.02	4.16	4021
Indonesia	2.88	3.04	3.42	4.02	4.75	5.57	6.04	6.41	7.28	8.36	4.14	8630
Jordan	4.42	4.70	4.71	5.58	5.59	6.44	6.80	7.34	7.79	8.53	6.31	3607
Korea, Rep. of	2.54	2.62	2.79	3.10	3.42	3.65	3.96	3.88	4.28	4.85	3.19	5373
Malaysia	3.64	3.71	3.83	4.22	4.62	4.81	4.80	5.19	4.80	5.01	4.36	6094
Nepal	3.42	3.47	3.52	3.81	4.37	4.75	5.14	5.38	6.19	[c]	3.91	5914
Pakistan	3.89	3.89	3.99	4.12	4.32	4.54	4.46	4.70	4.74	5.16	4.21	4776
Philippines	2.81	2.81	3.14	3.59	4.30	4.94	5.53	5.84	6.25	7.21	4.42	9256
Sri Lanka	2.50	2.29	2.65	3.31	3.94	4.69	5.24	5.69	6.07	7.29	3.79	6788
Thailand	2.99	2.82	3.18	3.57	4.00	4.32	4.73	4.65	4.90	4.95	3.71	3678
Caribbean and Latin America												
Colombia	2.67	2.75	3.17	3.84	4.25	4.72	4.87	5.58	5.89	6.71	4.08	3278
Costa Rica[d]	2.85	3.04	3.49	4.30	4.80	5.47	6.12	6.92	7.18	7.99	4.72	3024
Dominican Rep.	3.47	3.48	3.79	4.39	4.84	5.27	5.53	5.89	6.15	7.01	4.61	2252
Guyana	3.44	3.44	3.56	4.05	4.65	5.18	5.64	6.21	6.51	7.66	4.60	3585
Jamaica	3.13	2.96	3.36	3.84	4.28	4.75	5.14	4.95	5.33	6.73	4.00	2714
Mexico	3.26	3.29	3.43	4.11	4.55	5.03	5.38	5.74	5.83	5.99	4.45	6111
Panama[d]	3.08	3.01	3.37	3.75	4.44	4.88	5.48	5.52	5.82	6.69	4.24	3199
Peru	3.22	2.78	3.09	3.66	4.10	4.25	4.61	4.75	4.80	5.03	3.78	5418

[a]For definition of this variable see section 2.9.
[b]Including West Asia.
[c]Base less than 20 cases.
[d]Age range for Costa Rica and Panama is 20–49.
NOTE: Data for Fiji, Malaysia and Pakistan are not strictly comparable with data for other countries. See section 2.9 for explanation.

Table A2 Mean total number of children desired[a] among all ever-married women, classified by age

Country	Age 15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49	All ages	Total number of cases
Asia and Pacific[b]									
Bangladesh	3.64	3.77	4.06	4.24	4.56	4.73	4.62	4.06	4368
Fiji	2.67	3.07	3.60	4.48	4.92	5.55	5.87	4.16	4021
Indonesia	3.19	3.59	3.87	4.19	4.65	4.76	4.77	4.13	8670
Jordan	4.85	5.55	5.89	6.38	6.80	7.44	7.50	6.31	3612
Korea, Rep. of	2.75	2.72	2.82	3.10	3.36	3.56	3.71	3.19	5373
Malaysia	3.94	3.98	4.17	4.40	4.54	4.59	4.66	4.37	6250
Nepal	3.60	3.61	3.85	4.12	4.21	4.14	4.12	3.91	5922
Pakistan	4.07	4.05	4.20	4.21	4.27	4.47	4.36	4.22	4806
Philippines	3.04	3.27	3.66	4.37	4.99	5.22	5.40	4.42	9256
Sri Lanka	2.54	2.76	3.19	3.69	4.28	4.42	4.66	3.79	6791
Thailand	2.87	3.11	3.39	3.83	3.91	4.14	4.48	3.71	3682
Caribbean and Latin America									
Colombia	2.73	3.22	3.64	4.09	4.50	4.91	5.51	4.08	3278
Costa Rica[c]	NA	3.39	3.69	4.52	5.26	6.05	6.15	4.67	3017
Dominican Rep.	3.32	3.76	4.24	4.79	5.44	5.56	5.95	4.61	2252
Guyana	3.44	3.72	4.15	4.89	5.19	5.78	5.79	4.60	3585
Jamaica	3.20	3.49	3.78	4.23	4.31	4.72	4.71	4.01	2693
Mexico	3.72	3.62	4.10	4.52	4.88	5.20	5.41	4.45	6111
Panama[c]	NA	3.32	3.71	4.29	4.54	5.03	5.19	4.22	3196
Peru	3.04	3.09	3.51	3.72	4.03	4.42	4.50	3.78	5418

[a]For definition of this variable see section 2.9.
[b]Including West Asia.
[c]Age range for Costa Rica and Panama is 20–49.
NOTE: Data for Fiji, Malaysia and Pakistan are not strictly comparable with data for other countries. See section 2.9 for explanation.

Table A3 Mean total number of children desired,[a] among currently married and fecund women, classified by age

Country	Age 15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49	All ages 15–49	Number of cases
Asia and Pacific[b]									
Bangladesh	3.67	3.82	4.15	4.32	4.66	5.01	4.88	4.10	3645
Fiji	2.68	3.08	3.61	4.50	4.98	5.63	6.14	4.15	3888
Indonesia	3.28	3.67	3.99	4.41	4.95	5.25	5.38	4.21	6225
Jordan	4.92	5.58	5.88	6.41	6.90	7.70	7.52	6.24	3069
Korea, Rep. of	2.75	2.72	2.81	3.12	3.40	3.59	3.83	3.12	4367
Malaysia	3.90	3.98	4.18	4.44	4.63	4.61	4.59	4.34	5098
Nepal	3.67	3.63	3.90	4.20	4.29	4.35	4.35	3.94	4883
Pakistan	4.11	4.09	4.25	4.28	4.38	4.59	4.60	4.27	4006
Philippines	3.05	3.29	3.69	4.39	5.03	5.26	5.60	4.35	7858
Sri Lanka	2.58	2.82	3.22	3.75	4.33	4.61	4.77	3.73	5317
Thailand	2.88	3.10	3.40	3.90	3.90	4.09	4.37	3.60	2857
Caribbean and Latin America									
Colombia	2.73	3.26	3.69	4.21	4.57	4.89	5.71	4.05	2651
Costa Rica[c]	–	3.45	3.71	4.61	5.41	6.32	6.05	4.64	2431
Dominican Rep.	3.41	3.87	4.29	4.91	5.50	5.93	6.05	4.65	1669
Guyana	3.43	3.76	4.22	4.98	5.28	5.82	5.91	4.58	3014
Jamaica	3.33	3.56	3.85	4.24	4.46	5.03	4.78	4.07	2072
Mexico	3.82	3.68	4.18	4.64	5.02	5.38	5.78	4.44	4823
Panama[c]	–	3.38	3.78	4.40	4.69	5.24	5.10	4.25	2520
Peru	3.13	3.15	3.56	3.84	4.10	4.47	4.58	3.78	4341

[a]For definition of this variable see section 2.9.
[b]Including West Asia.
[c]Age range for Costa Rica and Panama is 20–49.
NOTE: Data for Fiji, Malaysia and Pakistan are not strictly comparable with data for other countries. See section 2.9 for explanation.

Table A4 Mean total number of children desired[a] among currently married women, by age and number of living children (counting a current pregnancy as a living child)

Country	Number of living children														
	0			1			2			3			4		
	15–24	25–34	35–49	15–24	25–34	35–49	15–24	25–34	35–49	15–24	25–34	35–49	15–24	25–34	35–49
Asia and Pacific[b]															
Bangladesh	3.5	2.9[c]	3.5[c]	3.6	3.3	3.1[c]	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.3	4.1	4.3
Fiji	2.7	2.5	2.2[c]	2.7	2.7	2.4[c]	3.1	3.0	2.6	3.7	3.6	3.2	4.3	4.2	4.1
Indonesia	3.2	2.6	2.6	3.3	2.9	2.8	3.7	3.3	3.2	4.0	4.0	4.1	5.0	4.7	4.8
Jordan	4.2	3.8[c]	4.5[c]	4.7	3.8	3.8[c]	4.9	4.2	3.6[c]	5.7	5.1	4.9[c]	5.9	5.3	5.0
Korea, Rep. of	2.5	2.3	2.9[c]	2.6	2.4	2.9	3.1	2.7	2.9	2.7[c]	3.1	3.1	3.3[d]	3.4	3.5
Malaysia	3.8	3.3	3.8	3.7	3.4	3.9	4.0	3.7	3.6	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.6	4.7	4.5
Nepal	3.5	3.5	2.7	3.6	3.5	3.0	3.6	3.7	3.2	3.9	3.9	3.7	4.7[e]	4.4	4.3
Pakistan	4.0	3.8	3.5	4.0	3.7	3.6	4.1	4.0	3.8	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.8[c]	4.4	4.1
Philippines	2.8	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.6	3.6	3.5	4.5	4.2	4.3
Sri Lanka	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.1	2.8	2.7	2.6	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.9[c]	3.9	4.0
Thailand	3.0	2.9	2.9[c]	2.8	2.7	3.0	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.8[e]	4.1	4.0
Caribbean and Latin America															
Colombia	2.7	2.5[c]	2.5[c]	2.7	2.7	3.1[c]	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.7	3.6	4.0[c]	4.4	4.2	4.2
Costa Rica[f]	2.7[c]	2.7[c]	3.2[b]	3.0	2.9	3.8[c]	3.6	3.5	3.6	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.8[c]	4.6	4.8
Dominican Rep.	3.3	3.6[c]	3.9[c]	3.4	3.3	4.7[c]	3.6	3.8	4.0[c]	4.3	4.1	4.4	4.5[c]	4.9	5.2
Guyana	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.8	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.9	4.0	4.3	4.7	4.6	4.6
Jamaica	3.2	3.0[c]	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.4	3.3	3.5	4.0	3.8	3.9	4.5[c]	4.5	4.1
Mexico	3.3	3.0	3.6	3.4	3.0	3.6	3.5	3.3	3.6	4.2	4.0	3.9	4.7	4.5	4.6
Panama[f]	2.9	3.1[c]	3.4[c]	2.9	2.9	3.7[c]	3.4	3.2	3.9	3.7	3.7	4.0	4.4[c]	4.4	4.4
Peru	3.2	2.9[c]	3.3	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.8	4.2	3.9	4.2

[a]For definition of this variable see section 2.9.
[b]Including West Asia.
[c]Mean based on 20–49 cases.
[d]Mean based on fewer than 10 cases.
[e]Mean based on 10–19 cases.
[f]Age range for Costa Rica and Panama is 20–49.
NOTES: Respondents desiring more than 10 children were counted as desiring 10, in order to reduce 'swamping' of cells with small denominators.
Data for Fiji, Malaysia and Pakistan are not strictly comparable with data for other countries. See section 2.9 for explanation.

Table A5 Percentage distribution of all ever-married women aged 15–49 according to total number of children desired[a]

Country	Number of children desired										Number of cases	Mean	Mean standardized for:		Non-numeric answers (per cent)	Total number of cases
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9+			No. of living children	Age		
Asia and Pacific[b]																
Bangladesh	0.5	1.4	12.9	24.6	32.4	13.8	7.1	2.2	2.4	2.5	4215	4.08	4.24	4.23	29.9	6009
Fiji[c]	0.2	1.7	17.5	22.3	22.9	15.0	9.5	4.8	3.4	2.8	4021	4.16	4.17	4.27	[c]	4878
Indonesia	0.3	3.8	15.4	22.0	23.2	15.7	8.9	4.5	2.9	3.3	8631	4.14	4.57	4.16	4.4	9027
Jordan	0.1	0.5	5.6	8.1	20.7	12.3	15.1	8.3	8.5	20.8	3607	6.31	5.79	6.34	0.0	3607
Korea, Rep. of	0.1	1.8	24.6	41.2	19.0	10.9	1.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	5373	3.19	3.27	3.10	1.0	5427
Malaysia	0.2	0.6	8.9	11.3	46.3	14.3	11.1	2.8	2.5	2.0	6094	4.36	4.31	4.32	0.8	6142
Nepal	0.2	1.2	13.9	29.8	28.5	13.9	6.7	2.2	2.0	1.7	5922	3.91	4.28	3.96	0.2	5933
Pakistan	0.0	0.4	9.4	17.3	40.6	17.6	9.3	2.0	2.1	1.3	4777	4.21	4.25	4.23	2.9	4918
Philippines	0.0	1.5	12.9	23.6	25.5	13.2	9.2	4.8	3.6	5.7	9256	4.42	4.16	4.24	0.0	9256
Sri Lanka	0.1	3.4	22.0	27.7	19.0	12.7	6.3	3.7	2.4	2.7	6789	3.79	3.81	3.62	0.2	6803
Thailand	0.0	3.2	20.6	25.0	27.1	12.8	6.8	2.0	0.9	1.6	3679	3.71	3.75	3.67	2.9	3790
Caribbean and Latin America																
Colombia	0.6	3.3	22.8	25.6	19.3	9.5	6.6	2.5	2.8	7.0	3278	4.08	4.02	4.06	0.6	3297
Costa Rica[d]	0.6	2.2	16.9	23.8	20.7	9.8	9.2	2.5	3.0	11.3	3024	4.67	4.58	4.59	0.0	3024
Dominican Rep.	1.2	1.0	12.3	24.7	25.6	12.2	8.3	2.4	2.9	9.2	2252	4.61	4.62	4.71	0.0	2252
Guyana	0.8	1.3	14.4	18.9	26.8	12.3	11.2	3.7	2.6	8.0	3585	4.60	4.68	4.56	0.0	3585
Jamaica	1.9	3.6	21.6	18.1	28.6	6.5	9.3	2.4	2.6	5.3	2714	4.00	4.06	4.10	0.1	2718
Mexico	0.9	2.0	19.3	21.8	21.8	9.8	9.6	2.9	3.4	8.5	6111	4.45	4.33	4.45	0.0	6111
Panama[d]	0.7	1.5	15.5	27.1	24.5	10.0	9.6	3.1	2.4	5.6	3199	4.22	4.18	4.03	0.0	3199
Peru	1.2	4.0	23.4	22.5	24.8	7.9	9.0	1.2	2.2	3.6	5419	3.78	3.76	3.73	1.8	5519

[a]For definition of this variable see section 2.9.
[b]Including West Asia.
[c]The percentage giving non-numeric answers is not available as a separate category on the Standard Recode tape, being combined with the 'Not Applicable' cases.
[d]Age range for Costa Rica and Panama is 20–49.
NOTE: Data for Fiji, Malaysia and Pakistan are not strictly comparable with data for other countries. See section 2.9 for explanation.

Table A6 Percentage distribution of ever-married women aged 15–24 according to total number of children desired[a]

Country	Number of children desired 0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9+	Number of cases	Means: Non standardized	Standardized for no. of living children	Standardized for age
Asia and Pacific[b]														
Bangladesh	0.5	1.7	16.0	30.8	33.7	9.0	5.0	0.9	1.1	1.3	1799	3.71	3.67	3.74
Fiji	0.2	3.7	32.1	34.9	20.9	6.5	1.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	1034	2.99	2.98	2.99
Indonesia	0.2	4.0	22.2	29.6	25.6	12.5	3.2	1.0	0.6	1.0	2436	3.44	3.50	3.51
Jordan	0.5	0.9	7.2	10.2	30.7	12.2	17.0	5.3	5.9	9.9	922	5.30	5.03	5.41
Korea, Rep. of	0.5	2.3	41.6	41.4	8.8	5.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	611	2.72	2.74	2.72
Malaysia	0.3	0.6	12.1	14.3	49.1	13.8	7.0	1.2	1.1	0.4	1164	3.97	3.92	3.97
Nepal	0.3	1.0	15.2	37.2	28.0	12.2	3.3	0.8	0.8	1.2	1962	3.61	3.66	3.61
Pakistan	0.0	0.4	11.4	19.2	41.2	16.1	7.3	1.4	1.8	1.1	1404	4.06	4.06	4.06
Philippines	0.0	2.7	24.5	37.6	24.5	6.5	3.0	0.5	0.2	0.4	1496	3.23	3.12	3.22
Sri Lanka	0.0	5.6	40.3	36.2	13.1	4.1	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	1084	2.72	2.70	2.72
Thailand	0.0	6.4	32.7	29.6	20.0	7.4	2.7	0.3	0.3	0.6	800	3.05	3.08	3.06
Caribbean and Latin America														
Colombia	0.1	5.0	34.7	31.1	17.6	6.5	2.2	0.9	0.9	1.0	803	3.09	3.00	3.12
Costa Rica[c]	0.2	3.5	21.9	35.9	22.1	8.5	5.2	1.5	0.6	0.7	543	3.39	3.28	3.39
Dominican Rep.	0.4	1.4	19.6	34.0	26.1	9.7	4.1	1.0	1.4	2.4	714	3.62	3.57	3.68
Guyana	0.3	2.0	22.2	26.6	30.0	9.4	6.4	1.0	0.3	1.9	1073	3.63	3.56	3.66
Jamaica	1.0	4.1	27.5	23.9	28.9	5.8	6.1	0.6	0.8	1.4	863	3.39	3.32	3.43
Mexico	0.4	1.6	26.4	27.5	23.3	7.8	7.4	1.0	2.6	2.0	1558	3.65	3.54	3.64
Panama[c]	0.4	1.2	26.2	33.9	24.6	7.4	5.3	0.7	0.2	0.4	570	3.32	3.14	3.32
Peru	0.8	7.1	33.4	27.2	19.6	4.6	5.3	0.2	0.9	0.9	1193	3.08	3.04	3.08

[a]For definition of this variable see section 2.9. [b]Including West Asia. [c]Age range for Costa Rica and Panama is 20–49.
NOTE: Data for Fiji, Malaysia and Pakistan are not strictly comparable with data for other countries. See section 2.9 for explanation.

Table A7 Percentage distribution of ever-married women whose duration since first marriage is less than ten years according to total number of children desired[a]

Country	Number of children desired 0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9+	Number of cases	Means: Non standardized	Standardized for no. of living children	Standardized for age
Asia and Pacific[b]														
Bangladesh	0.6	1.6	16.7	31.5	33.2	8.4	5.1	0.8	1.2	1.0	1434	3.66	3.74	3.60
Fiji	0.2	2.7	28.9	33.2	23.9	8.4	2.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	1811	3.14	3.14	3.15
Indonesia	0.2	4.3	21.6	30.6	25.3	12.6	3.2	1.2	0.4	0.7	2935	3.42	3.59	3.47
Jordan	0.3	0.7	7.6	11.3	30.0	13.6	16.1	6.2	4.9	9.4	1416	5.25	5.02	5.30
Korea, Rep. of	0.3	3.0	37.2	41.9	12.4	4.9	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	2218	2.79	2.74	2.76
Malaysia	0.2	0.6	12.0	14.7	51.4	11.7	6.9	1.1	0.9	0.4	2350	3.93	3.89	3.96
Nepal	0.3	0.9	15.5	37.0	28.6	11.4	3.4	0.9	0.9	1.0	2254	3.60	3.68	3.61
Pakistan	0.0	0.5	12.0	20.0	40.7	15.7	7.2	1.6	1.5	0.8	1791	4.01	4.02	3.97
Philippines	0.0	2.4	21.6	35.0	28.6	7.7	3.2	0.5	0.2	0.7	3661	3.36	3.22	3.32
Sri Lanka	0.1	5.0	37.9	36.5	15.3	4.2	0.9	0.3	0.0	0.0	2503	2.79	2.83	2.77
Thailand	0.0	5.2	29.5	30.5	23.8	7.1	2.9	0.3	0.1	0.5	1512	3.12	3.15	3.13
Caribbean and Latin America														
Colombia	0.2	4.4	31.9	30.7	19.4	7.6	3.1	0.7	0.9	1.0	1437	3.19	3.13	3.21
Costa Rica[c]	0.5	2.9	21.9	32.5	24.0	8.6	6.5	0.8	0.7	1.7	1285	3.52	3.45	3.48
Dominican Rep.	0.3	1.4	17.5	32.0	28.9	10.0	5.2	1.0	1.2	2.4	968	3.71	3.75	3.80
Guyana	0.8	2.1	19.3	25.6	31.1	10.7	7.3	1.2	0.3	1.5	1556	3.68	3.65	3.72
Jamaica	1.1	4.3	26.7	24.0	28.9	5.7	6.4	0.6	0.7	1.6	1180	3.41	3.42	3.44
Mexico	0.4	1.9	25.2	26.9	24.0	8.3	7.9	1.1	2.1	2.2	2629	3.68	3.59	3.68
Panama[c]	0.4	1.6	23.1	35.9	25.4	6.6	5.3	0.8	0.4	0.4	1217	3.36	3.26	3.35
Peru	0.8	5.8	31.2	25.7	23.8	5.3	5.4	0.2	0.8	1.0	2226	3.18	3.14	3.18

[a]For definition of this variable see section 2.9. [b]Including West Asia. [c]Age range for Costa Rica and Panama is 20–49.
NOTE: Data for Fiji, Malaysia and Pakistan are not strictly comparable with data for other countries. See section 2.9 for explanation.

Table A8 Mean total number of children desired[a] among currently married, fecund women aged 15–49, by number of living children (counting a current pregnancy as a living child)

Country	Number of living children 0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9+	Total	Number of cases
Asia and Pacific[b]												
Bangladesh	3.51	3.62	3.80	3.87	4.25	4.69	4.89	5.04	5.53	6.28	4.12	3497
Fiji	2.57	2.71	3.00	3.57	4.16	4.94	5.81	6.52	7.11	8.42	4.15	3888
Indonesia	3.02	3.24	3.52	3.99	4.79	5.58	6.04	6.34	7.25	8.05	4.22	6194
Jordan	4.26	4.74	4.63	5.56	5.61	6.49	6.80	7.39	7.80	8.49	6.24	3065
Korea, Rep. of	2.38	2.54	2.75	3.09	3.39	3.61	3.99	3.94	4.40[c]	[d]	3.12	4367
Malaysia	3.60	3.64	3.80	4.22	4.63	4.81	4.77	5.20	4.83	5.11	4.34	5060
Nepal	3.52	3.57	3.61	3.91	4.43	4.78	5.05	5.31	6.22[c]	[d]	3.93	4878
Pakistan	3.94	3.93	4.04	4.18	4.40	4.51	4.45	4.72	4.85	5.24	4.26	3978
Philippines	2.84	2.84	3.13	3.59	4.29	4.94	5.57	5.84	6.41	7.36	4.34	7887
Sri Lanka	2.55	2.40	2.68	3.32	3.93	4.72	5.22	5.74	5.99	7.34	3.73	5314
Thailand	2.96	2.78	3.12	3.49	3.99	4.24	4.69	4.54	4.95	4.77	3.60	2855
Caribbean and Latin America												
Colombia	2.64	2.76	3.16	3.71	4.26	4.63	4.78	5.52	5.85	6.67	4.05	2651
Costa Rica[e]	2.78	3.07	3.56	4.16	4.75	5.58	5.84	6.90	7.18	8.14	4.67	2435
Dominican Rep.	3.45	3.48	3.77	4.29	4.95	5.24	5.70	6.05	5.66	7.05	4.65	1669
Guyana	3.51	3.44	3.60	4.04	4.64	5.14	5.56	6.28	6.40	7.58	4.58	3014
Jamaica	3.21	3.02	3.39	3.88	4.34	4.78	4.94	5.01	5.68	6.63	4.05	2085
Mexico	3.20	3.30	3.46	4.12	4.62	5.02	5.32	5.83	5.74	5.99	4.44	4823
Panama[e]	3.05	3.02	3.36	3.75	4.39	4.89	5.47	5.53	5.84	6.77	4.28	2523
Peru	3.18	2.86	3.10	3.64	4.05	4.23	4.46	4.70	4.84	5.30	3.78	4340

[a]For definition of this variable see section 2.9.
[b]Including West Asia.
[c]Mean based on fewer than 50 cases and more than 19 cases.
[d]Mean based on 10–19 cases.
[e]Age range for Costa Rica and Panama is 20–49.
NOTE: Data for Fiji, Malaysia and Pakistan are not strictly comparable with data for other countries. See section 2.9 for explanation.

Table A9 Percentages desiring more than two, three and four children, among currently married non-pregnant women with varying numbers of living children

Country	Percentage desiring more than two children			Percentage desiring more than three children				Percentage desiring more than four children				
	Number of living children			Number of living children				Number of living children				
	0	1	2	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	4
Asia and Pacific[a]												
Bangladesh	76	77	78	48	45	51	55	16	17	17	24	23
Fiji	43	54	65	17	19	31	48	4	4	5	13	26
Indonesia	55	65	72	30	34	42	57	11	13	15	27	43
Jordan	79	84	89	60	71	71	80	27	37	34	57	60
Korea, Rep. of	47	50	59	13	9	16	25	3	3	5	8	10
Malaysia	77	81	86	61	62	70	82	18	17	20	30	39
Nepal	80	81	71	42	42	46	48	15	17	18	23	27
Pakistan[b]	83	86	84	65	62	67	67	26	22	28	29	29
Philippines	57	57	69	20	22	32	47	6	5	7	12	29
Sri Lanka	41	38	49	13	8	13	30	4	2	3	7	14
Thailand	55	50	66	29	24	36	41	8	8	10	18	20
Regional Average	63	66	72	36	36	43	53	13	13	15	22	29
Caribbean and Latin America												
Colombia	42	50	70	19	20	31	51	6	9	10	23	30
Costa Rica[b]	51	65	81	21	23	48	62	10	9	16	31	41
Dominican Rep.	65	79	86	37	47	49	67	17	14	18	39	52
Guyana	74	71	74	46	41	49	59	15	16	16	27	45
Jamaica	56	59	75	33	35	46	64	13	10	12	20	36
Mexico	59	60	72	33	30	42	57	16	15	16	26	40
Panama[b]	62	65	80	30	25	42	54	10	9	11	21	36
Peru	53	53	63	30	26	35	48	12	9	11	19	30
Regional average	58	63	75	31	31	43	58	12	11	14	26	39
All countries	61	64	73	34	34	43	55	12	12	14	23	33

[a]Including West Asia.
[b]Age range for Costa Rica and Panama is 20–49.
NOTE: Data for Fiji, Malaysia and Pakistan are not strictly comparable with data for other countries. See section 2.9 for explanation.

Table A10 Mean *wanted family size* (variant 1),[a] among currently married, fecund women, classified by number of living children (a current pregnancy is counted as a living child)

Country	Number of living children										Means for all women		
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9+	Non-standard-ized	Standard-ized[b]	Number of cases
Asia and Pacific[c]													
Bangladesh[d]	2.81	*2.18*	*2.63*	*3.38*	*4.17*	*5.13*	*6.07*	*7.04*	*8.01*	*9.55*	*4.06*	*4.13*	*4340*
Fiji	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Indonesia	2.71	3.12	3.32	3.71	4.59	5.32	6.19	7.17	8.08	9.56	4.13	4.50	5782
Jordan	4.06	4.67	4.60	5.56	5.84	6.54	7.16	7.88	8.83	10.48	6.66	5.81	2985
Korea, Rep. of	2.03	2.46	2.45	3.17	4.08	5.06	6.06	7.01	(8.00)	9.29*	3.61	3.99	4336
Malaysia	3.40	3.42	3.55	4.06	4.74	5.50	6.30	7.19	8.06	9.99	4.98	4.78	5026
Nepal	3.39	3.62	3.67	4.05	4.66	5.41	6.20	7.07	(8.15)	9.36*	4.12	4.76	4421
Pakistan	3.73	3.76	3.64	4.16	4.65	5.43	6.19	7.10	8.04	9.74	4.83	4.85	3655
Philippines	2.17	2.76	3.07	3.60	4.34	5.31	6.20	7.10	8.12	10.02	4.81	4.32	7043
Sri Lanka	2.41	2.32	2.61	3.27	4.10	5.08	6.04	7.04	8.02	9.70	4.05	4.07	5092
Thailand	2.76	2.58	2.83	3.43	4.19	5.13	6.12	7.07	8.14	9.48	4.07	4.23	2821
Caribbean and Latin America													
Colombia	2.40	2.36	2.73	3.44	4.33	5.24	6.15	7.16	8.12	10.30	4.49	4.21	2659
Costa Rica[e]	2.46	2.65	3.09	3.61	4.51	5.40	6.33	7.32	8.15	10.74	4.69	4.42	2376
Dominican Rep.	2.86	3.07	3.08	3.73	4.49	5.30	6.38	7.37	8.27	10.60	4.79	4.53	1599
Guyana	2.78	2.72	3.05	3.57	4.43	5.24	6.19	7.18	8.08	10.09	4.63	4.38	2873
Jamaica	2.53	2.46	2.86	3.51	4.56	5.31	6.16	7.06	8.08	9.87	4.33	4.28	1980
Mexico	2.90	2.85	3.04	3.76	4.47	5.37	6.27	7.20	8.13	10.16	4.86	4.47	4695
Panama[e]	2.29	2.50	2.84	3.34	4.26	5.15	6.13	7.18	8.16	10.22	4.48	4.20	2521
Peru	2.92	2.45	2.76	3.46	4.31	5.20	6.13	7.13	8.13	10.06	4.37	4.27	4472

[a]See section 2.8.2 for definition of *wanted family size* variable.
[b]Standardized for number of living children. See section 2.12.
[c]Including West Asia.
[d]Bangladesh data are comparable only at parity 0, and not comparable at parities 1 to 9+, since desire for zero additional children is ascribed to women who did not want an additional child soon.
[e]Age range is 20–49 for Costa Rica and Panama.
NOTES: Dash (–) indicates the variable was not available. Asterisk symbol (*) denotes less than 20 unweighted cases. Parentheses ( ) denote between 20–49 unweighted cases. The means shown are based on weighted cases.

Table A11 Mean *wanted family size* (variant 2),[a] among currently married, fecund women, classified by number of living children (a current pregnancy is counted as a living child)

Country	Number of living children										Means for all women		
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9+	Non-standard-ized	Standard-ized[b]	Number of cases
Asia and Pacific[c]													
Bangladesh[d]	2.80	*2.00*	*2.32*	*2.97*	*3.60*	*4.48*	*5.30*	*6.26*	*7.23*	*8.74*	*3.62*	*3.69*	*4340*
Fiji	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Indonesia	2.71	3.11	3.26	3.58	4.38	4.97	5.75	6.68	7.49	8.89	3.97	4.30	5782
Jordan	4.06	4.66	4.54	5.46	5.60	6.22	6.78	7.40	8.32	9.80	6.37	5.62	2985
Korea, Rep. of	2.03	2.41	2.24	2.75	3.55	4.39	5.32	6.20	(7.07)	8.47*	3.22	3.58	4336
Malaysia	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Nepal	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Pakistan	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Philippines	2.17	2.76	3.02	3.43	4.07	4.94	5.73	6.55	7.54	9.38	4.54	4.10	7043
Sri Lanka	2.41	2.30	2.47	3.00	3.64	4.54	5.40	6.38	7.22	8.99	3.73	3.75	5092
Thailand	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Caribbean and Latin America													
Colombia	2.40	2.32	2.49	3.10	3.77	4.66	5.48	6.43	7.40	9.55	4.09	3.84	2659
Costa Rica[e]	2.46	2.62	2.96	3.37	4.13	4.96	5.84	6.96	7.54	10.17	4.42	4.16	2376
Dominican Rep.	2.86	3.02	2.92	3.45	4.13	4.77	5.85	6.76	7.67	9.99	4.48	4.24	1599
Guyana	2.78	2.65	2.75	3.15	3.89	4.48	5.49	6.48	7.28	9.25	4.19	3.96	2873
Jamaica	2.53	2.35	2.57	3.08	4.04	4.62	5.41	6.27	7.30	8.98	3.91	3.86	1980
Mexico	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Panama[e]	2.29	2.50	2.84	3.34	4.26	5.15	6.13	7.18	8.16	10.22	4.48	4.20	2521
Peru	2.91	2.37	2.53	3.07	3.78	4.51	5.46	6.42	7.41	9.26	3.94	3.88	4472

[a]See section 2.8.2 for definition of *wanted family size* variable.
[b]Standardized for number of living children. See section 2.12.
[c]Including West Asia.
[d]Bangladesh data are comparable only at parity 0, and not comparable at parities 1 to 9+, since desire for zero additional children is ascribed to women who did not want an additional child soon.
[e]Age range is 20–49 for Costa Rica and Panama.
NOTES: Dash (–) indicates the variable was not available. Asterisk symbol (*) denotes less than 20 unweighted cases. Parentheses ( ) denote between 20–49 unweighted cases. The means shown are based on weighted cases.

Table A12 Percentage of currently married, fecund women whose actual number of living children (counting a current pregnancy as a living child) is more than total number of children desired, by number of living children

Country	Number of living children 0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9+	Total	Number of cases
Asia and Pacific[a]												
Bangladesh	0.0	0.2	0.6	5.9	19.4	42.8	60.2	69.8	73.1	70.7	18.5	3498
Fiji	0.0	0.0	1.0	6.0	14.1	19.1	21.6	27.6	33.1	40.6	11.1	3888
Indonesia	0.0	0.0	0.4	2.5	7.2	11.7	24.5	37.2	33.8	47.5	6.6	6194
Jordan	0.0	0.3	0.6	4.3	8.4	15.1	22.8	30.9	36.0	43.7	16.5	3065
Korea, Rep. of	0.0	0.2	1.7	23.6	57.1	74.4	90.7	98.1	95.0[b]	[c]	33.5	4367
Malaysia	0.0	0.0	0.4	5.1	8.8	50.2	65.2	78.1	86.7	91.9	26.5	5060
Nepal	0.0	0.0	0.5	5.4	16.0	38.2	47.3	69.0	48.4[b]	[c]	9.6	4879
Pakistan	0.0	0.0	0.2	5.9	16.6	53.0	77.0	85.3	87.3	90.6	25.8	3979
Philippines	0.0	0.0	0.6	6.0	12.6	26.1	31.4	48.7	49.0	56.8	17.7	7888
Sri Lanka	0.0	0.0	0.2	4.7	18.7	25.3	39.1	48.6	56.3	51.3	15.1	5314
Thailand	0.0	0.0	1.5	12.5	18.1	48.0	63.0	79.1	79.2	90.1	22.2	2855
Caribbean and Latin America												
Colombia	0.0	0.0	2.1	11.2	30.8	45.1	57.7	60.6	57.1	69.7	25.3	2651
Costa Rica[d]	0.0	0.0	1.2	10.5	18.2	28.8	45.9	44.3	45.7	56.8	17.9	2435
Dominican Rep.	0.0	0.0	1.9	5.9	16.3	42.0	49.2	63.2	71.6	65.2	21.9	1669
Guyana	0.0	0.4	1.1	6.7	10.5	30.2	39.3	44.4	55.2	56.4	16.9	3014
Jamaica	0.0	0.8	1.6	9.4	23.8	45.3	52.6	61.6	58.0	62.2	20.2	2085
Mexico	0.0	0.1	0.6	8.7	19.0	39.0	50.0	57.5	67.0	74.2	24.5	4823
Panama[d]	0.0	0.0	1.6	9.8	19.2	37.5	44.1	60.4	67.7	67.1	22.4	2523
Peru	0.0	0.6	4.1	19.5	32.9	61.7	68.5	79.9	81.3	83.6	32.5	4341

[a]Including West Asia. [b]Based on 20–49 cases. [c]Based on less than 20 cases. [d]Age range for Costa Rica and Panama is 20–49.
NOTE: Data for Fiji, Malaysia and Pakistan are not strictly comparable with data for other countries. See section 2.9 for explanation.

Table A13 Percentage of currently married, fecund women whose number of living children (including any current pregnancy) is more than or equal to the total number of children desired, by number of living children

Country	Number of living children 0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9+	Total	Number of cases
Asia and Pacific[a]												
Bangladesh	0.7	3.0	20.9	46.0	75.9	83.5	87.5	92.2	94.3	90.5	44.2	3498
Fiji	2.2	7.0	37.1	53.2	73.7	83.1	87.2	92.5	98.0	98.1	53.4	3888
Indonesia	0.5	6.9	24.2	42.2	56.5	66.2	75.4	88.1	76.9	78.1	35.9	6194
Jordan	1.3	2.8	10.3	19.3	40.4	44.7	57.3	65.3	72.5	76.9	40.3	3065
Korea, Rep. of	1.2	4.9	42.8	74.4	91.1	97.7	97.7	99.1	97.5[b]	[c]	62.9	4367
Malaysia	0.4	1.4	14.4	18.9	59.9	72.2	87.5	86.5	95.2	95.6	43.4	5060
Nepal	0.6	2.8	25.1	47.5	70.3	80.2	89.3	88.5	93.7[b]	[c]	33.5	4879
Pakistan	0.0	1.1	14.1	31.1	68.2	83.4	95.5	93.0	97.5	93.4	43.6	3979
Philippines	0.0	5.1	31.6	53.8	73.8	78.2	83.4	86.3	86.4	89.1	56.8	7888
Sri Lanka	0.1	10.1	48.3	70.6	86.2	88.0	92.5	92.0	93.9	92.8	59.5	5314
Thailand	0.0	10.3	35.6	61.3	80.8	90.2	91.7	96.0	94.9	97.2	54.2	2855
Caribbean and Latin America												
Colombia	1.4	8.4	32.6	50.5	69.2	72.9	78.9	73.7	81.6	82.3	49.6	2651
Costa Rica[d]	0.0	3.9	20.3	39.0	58.0	56.3	71.3	59.8	67.0	71.4	38.2	2435
Dominican Rep.	0.0	1.9	17.1	35.4	45.8	66.2	67.2	69.7	77.6	76.1	37.6	1669
Guyana	1.5	3.8	27.0	41.1	55.8	68.4	79.9	79.3	76.0	76.3	42.2	3014
Jamaica	2.1	9.7	27.1	36.8	63.3	68.0	76.7	86.0	86.4	86.6	41.4	2085
Mexico	2.2	3.3	29.4	41.4	60.6	67.1	78.5	77.0	78.3	84.9	47.8	4823
Panama[d]	0.0	2.5	21.0	47.1	64.7	67.7	78.2	80.5	82.3	79.2	47.4	2523
Peru	1.7	9.2	39.1	51.7	71.9	78.9	87.5	86.5	91.5	89.6	55.9	4341

[a]Including West Asia. [b]Based on 20–49 cases. [c]Based on less than 20 cases. [d]Age range for Costa Rica and Panama is 20–49.
NOTE: Data for Fiji, Malaysia and Pakistan are not strictly comparable with data for other countries. See section 2.9 for explanation.

Table A14 Percentage of currently married, fecund women who want no more children,[a] by age

Country	Current age 15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49	Total	Number of cases
Asia and Pacific[b]									
Bangladesh[c]	*35.2*	*52.2*	*65.6*	*77.7*	*87.0*	*90.6*	*93.1*	*62.8*	*5104*
Fiji	9.9	20.4	39.3	58.4	72.6	84.3	88.8	49.5	4159
Indonesia	6.3	15.7	32.9	50.4	62.0	74.3	84.1	38.9	6534
Jordan	7.1	15.4	32.2	50.9	66.0	77.2	75.6	41.7	3069
Korea, Rep. of	5.5	24.4	54.6	83.4	92.5	97.2	97.4	71.6	4395
Malaysia	4.1	11.4	27.7	51.0	67.3	79.4	82.1	44.9	5102
Nepal	2.0	12.4	28.0	41.8	56.2	66.2	71.9	30.2	4879
Pakistan	3.5	16.2	36.7	58.2	72.2	83.2	85.9	43.0	4090
Philippines	11.1	25.9	42.4	56.9	71.4	76.3	79.3	54.3	7889
Sri Lanka	12.4	29.4	45.9	68.3	79.9	85.9	94.2	61.4	5326
Thailand	15.8	35.0	53.8	71.3	81.5	88.5	91.1	61.0	2924
Caribbean and Latin America									
Colombia	32.2	38.4	53.7	72.5	78.1	80.2	82.7	61.5	2667
Costa Rica[d]	–	21.1	38.1	54.6	72.0	78.8	78.0	52.0	2446
Dominican Rep.	19.4	33.4	52.8	62.9	68.6	69.4	72.9	51.9	1673
Guyana	26.2	32.4	45.6	66.1	76.9	83.4	87.0	55.0	3029
Jamaica	22.8	29.7	39.0	63.2	71.4	75.5	83.1	50.5	2099
Mexico	21.4	31.6	54.6	68.0	78.9	83.8	81.6	57.1	4883
Panama[d]	–	28.2	55.2	70.9	78.8	83.7	87.9	63.0	2525
Peru	30.8	41.5	53.7	68.0	75.2	79.3	80.1	61.4	4512

[a]For definition of variable, see section 2.6.
[b]Including West Asia.
[c]Bangaldesh figures refer to 'wanting another child soon' (if non-pregnant and has one or more live births); see section 2.6.
[d]Age range for Costa Rica and Panama is 20–49.

Table A15 Percentage of currently married, fecund women who want no more children,[a] by number of living children (counting a current pregnancy as a living child)

Country	Number of living children 0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9+	Total	Number of cases
Asia and Pacific[b]												
Bangladesh[c]	*12.3*	*42.8*	*56.3*	*66.4*	*76.7*	*84.2*	*90.4*	*92.3*	*90.8*	*96.0*	*62.8*	*5104*
Fiji	2.1	6.7	34.1	48.4	66.7	75.6	79.5	83.6	94.9	93.7	49.5	4159
Indonesia	4.2	9.0	28.5	44.8	57.4	68.5	77.6	87.0	84.3	93.9	38.9	6534
Jordan	4.2	4.5	15.2	24.5	38.3	47.2	54.5	68.4	69.3	78.3	41.8	3065
Korea, Rep. of	12.4	13.0	65.6	85.9	92.0	95.3	96.2	99.1	100.0[d]	100.0[e]	71.6	4395
Malaysia	0.4	4.0	22.2	32.1	54.2	65.2	78.9	87.1	93.5	93.1	44.9	5102
Nepal	1.4	5.4	23.9	40.5	59.1	66.1	81.1	89.6	89.9[d]	87.4[e]	30.2	4879
Pakistan	0.1	3.4	22.7	38.9	60.6	71.4	87.4	89.4	93.8	87.7	43.0	4090
Philippines	0.7	6.9	32.6	51.2	68.3	73.4	76.4	86.3	81.4	84.9	54.3	7889
Sri Lanka	2.1	14.2	49.5	72.5	87.1	89.5	94.3	94.5	90.8	96.5	61.4	5326
Thailand	6.3	19.1	49.1	69.6	85.3	92.0	91.6	95.7	93.0	100.0	61.0	2924
Caribbean and Latin America												
Colombia	8.6	18.6	52.1	64.5	79.0	78.2	85.1	92.5	89.1	90.1	61.5	2667
Costa Rica[f]	5.3	13.0	35.2	58.9	68.4	74.7	77.8	77.3	86.7	85.0	52.0	2446
Dominican Rep.	4.6	11.2	38.5	61.8	69.6	78.3	73.6	75.0	83.6	78.3	51.9	1673
Guyana	8.9	17.0	41.6	57.0	64.5	83.6	89.8	88.8	91.2	94.9	55.0	3029
Jamaica	3.8	23.2	41.5	53.4	63.8	77.2	79.3	91.9	86.8	94.3	50.5	2099
Mexico	9.8	10.0	42.4	53.5	69.4	77.2	81.6	86.3	89.0	91.1	57.1	4883
Panama[d]	7.7	12.0	42.0	72.6	81.7	85.1	86.7	86.4	86.6	88.6	63.0	2525
Peru	6.3	19.9	48.2	62.2	74.2	80.1	80.7	87.2	88.1	94.7	61.4	4512

[a]For definition of variable, see section 2.6.
[b]Including West Asia.
[c]Bangladesh figures refer to 'wanting another child soon' (if non-pregnant and has one or more live births); see section 2.6 for explanation.
[d]Based on 20–49 cases.
[e]Based on less than 20 cases.
[f]Age range for Costa Rica and Panama is 20–49.

Table A16 Percentage of currently married, fecund women who are undecided whether they want more children,[a] by number of living children (counting a current pregnancy as a living child)

Country	Number of living children										Total	Number of cases
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9+		
Asia and Pacific[b]												
Bangladesh[c]	*6.7*	*9.3*	*10.6*	*9.6*	*8.2*	*8.1*	*4.0*	*6.2*	*5.8*	*0.0*	*8.1*	*5104*
Fiji	1.8	3.3	6.2	6.1	7.4	7.2	7.5	8.6	3.2	3.4	5.7	4159
Indonesia	2.5	7.8	10.2	14.6	14.1	14.7	12.0	9.4	8.6	5.5	10.4	6534
Jordan	0.0	1.0	2.8	3.6	5.3	5.3	6.4	3.9	3.0	4.2	3.8	3065
Korea, Rep. of	0.0	0.9	2.3	2.1	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0[d]	0.0[e]	1.2	4395
Malaysia	0.8	0.6	0.6	1.8	1.8	2.0	1.4	1.8	0.9[d]	1.4[e]	1.3	5102
Nepal	4.2	4.8	10.0	13.9	13.7	15.8	9.6	7.1	3.9	8.5	9.2	4879
Pakistan	0.2	1.0	3.5	4.2	4.7	3.7	2.0	2.1	1.5	5.7	2.8	4090
Philippines	4.9	4.7	8.2	9.9	11.2	9.0	10.6	8.0	12.2	9.9	9.0	7889
Sri Lanka	0.6	4.1	9.4	6.4	5.1	4.6	2.8	2.5	7.0	2.5	5.2	5326
Thailand	1.8	3.4	3.6	2.4	3.0	1.0	1.9	1.9	1.1	0.0	2.6	2924
Caribbean and Latin America												
Colombia	0.0	2.0	1.7	4.0	1.0	5.8	2.6	0.6	3.0	0.5	2.3	2667
Costa Rica[f]	2.1	2.5	3.7	2.4	3.0	2.3	3.2	0.0	4.1	2.3	2.7	2446
Dominican Rep.	1.5	2.3	4.1	4.7	7.9	7.0	7.0	10.5	7.5	5.8	5.2	1673
Guyana	3.4	7.0	12.4	10.8	10.7	6.2	3.6	7.1	2.4	4.2	7.6	3029
Jamaica	2.9	7.6	11.0	14.0	9.0	7.6	8.1	3.5	5.5	5.0	8.2	2099
Mexico	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Panama[f]	0.0	1.6	2.5	1.2	1.4	2.8	2.7	1.3	2.1	1.3	1.8	2525
Peru	0.0	7.3	6.0	6.9	6.4	6.8	8.3	6.3	2.9	3.0	6.3	4512

[a]For definition of variable, see section 2.6.
[b]Including West Asia.
[c]Bangladesh figures refer to 'wanting another child soon' (if non-pregnant and has one or more livebirths); see section 2.6 for explanation.
[d]Based on 20–49 cases.
[e]Based on less than 20 cases.
[f]Age range for Costa Rica and Panama is 20–49.
NOTE: Dash (–) indicates not available; the questionnaire for Mexico did not contain a code for 'undecided'.

Table A17 Percentage of women who did not desire last live birth[a] (or, if pregnant, the current pregnancy), by number of living children

Country	Number of living children										Total	Number of cases
	0[b]	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9+		
Asia and Pacific[c]												
Bangladesh	9.1	14.4	25.1	36.7	48.8	61.4	69.9	73.9	72.4	76.3	41.4	5629
Fiji	0.0	0.8	3.2	8.4	16.3	21.2	24.8	27.4	37.7	42.9	14.5	4567
Indonesia	5.0	2.2	7.2	12.8	19.5	30.9	38.3	45.8	50.3	64.2	16.8	8131
Jordan	0.0[d]	1.4	6.1	9.5	23.2	30.9	36.4	45.2	50.8	61.8	30.0	3415
Korea, Rep. of	12.5[e]	5.7	20.9	42.0	54.9	69.5	76.9	84.2	89.7	88.9[e]	43.7	5179
Malaysia	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Nepal	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Pakistan	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Philippines	3.4[e]	1.0	6.1	16.1	24.6	37.1	44.7	51.8	52.9	60.0	27.4	8964
Sri Lanka	2.7	3.7	15.7	27.4	46.4	54.4	63.0	65.5	73.6	71.7	36.2	6401
Thailand	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Caribbean and Latin America												
Colombia	8.7[e]	8.0	26.9	36.1	54.8	59.6	67.5	71.8	69.4	72.7	43.0	3130
Costa Rica[f]	0.0[d]	6.7	15.6	26.6	38.6	43.6	47.5	39.6	53.5	56.8	30.2	2905
Dominican Rep.	4.2[e]	7.7	20.8	29.3	38.0	49.0	55.2	52.8	58.8	59.9	33.5	2072
Guyana	10.0[e]	8.8	27.7	37.7	50.4	73.8	68.0	70.9	81.0	79.2	46.1	3242
Jamaica	0.0[e]	15.5	31.3	45.2	54.3	71.7	74.6	79.0	76.6	87.5	47.7	2417
Mexico	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Panama[f]	14.3[d]	3.3	12.9	31.1	38.5	50.6	53.9	68.0	65.1	68.1	34.4	3063
Peru	12.6[e]	12.2	25.7	40.8	53.3	68.6	67.6	72.3	74.0	80.8	46.1	5477

[a]For definition of variable see section 2.7.
[b]Women with zero living children consist of non-pregnant women with one or more births which all died.
[c]Including West Asia.
[d]Based on less than 20 cases.
[e]Based on 20–49 cases.
[f]Age range for Costa Rica and Panama is 20–49.
NOTE: Dash (–) indicates the variable is not available for the country.

Table A18 Percentage of women who did not desire last live birth[a] (or, if pregnant, the current pregnancy), by age

Country	Current age 15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49	Total	Number of cases
Asia and Pacific[b]									
Bangladesh	18.7	25.9	38.3	54.7	60.7	57.6	57.9	41.4	5629
Fiji	0.7	3.4	8.1	15.8	22.3	24.1	25.4	14.5	4567
Indonesia	2.7	3.6	9.2	18.0	25.0	30.0	27.6	16.8	8130
Jordan	5.3	10.3	22.8	36.0	43.1	47.1	41.3	30.0	3415
Korea, Rep. of	2.6	9.9	21.0	40.5	56.9	64.3	68.2	43.7	5179
Malaysia	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Nepal	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Pakistan	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Philippines	1.8	6.9	16.0	24.8	36.8	42.0	43.1	27.4	8964
Sri Lanka	8.5	11.2	22.3	37.7	45.0	49.5	52.3	36.2	6401
Thailand	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Caribbean and Latin America									
Colombia	19.7	22.5	36.0	49.6	54.3	58.5	54.3	43.0	3130
Costa Rica[c]	–	21.1	38.1	54.6	72.0	78.8	78.0	52.0	2446
Dominican Rep.	16.7	19.6	34.9	39.3	44.3	41.3	39.7	33.5	2072
Guyana	22.7	27.2	36.3	54.4	62.6	62.5	59.8	46.1	3242
Jamaica	27.6	34.8	39.5	51.5	61.3	56.6	64.6	47.7	2417
Mexico	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Panama[c]	–	16.9	27.1	35.2	44.2	47.4	44.4	34.4	3063
Peru	16.1	27.1	39.3	48.1	56.5	58.1	61.4	46.1	5477

[a]For definition of variable see section 2.7.
[b]Including West Asia.
[c]Age range for Costa Rica and Panama is 20–49.
NOTE: This variable is unavailable for Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand and Mexico.

Table A19 Percentages of respondents giving non-numeric and 'not stated' responses

Country	Total number of children desired: Numeric answers	Non-numeric answers	Not stated	Number of additional children wanted: Numeric answers	Non-numeric answers	Not stated	Whether more children wanted: Valid responses	Not stated	Whether last live birth or current pregnancy wanted: Valid responses	Not stated
Asia and Pacific[a]										
Bangladesh	67.1	28.8	4.2	83.6	13.8	2.6	99.8	0.2	99.5	0.5
Fiji	98.8	0.0	1.2	NA	NA	NA	100.0	0.0	99.9	0.1
Indonesia	94.7	4.4	0.9	97.1	2.0	0.9	100.0	0.0	99.8	0.2
Jordan	100.0	0.0	0.0	99.9	0.0	0.1	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Korea, Rep. of	98.9	1.0	0.1	99.2	0.1	0.7	99.8	0.2	99.1	0.9
Malaysia	98.9	0.8	0.3	99.8	0.1	0.1	99.9	0.1	NA	NA
Nepal	99.7	0.2	0.1	99.4	0.2	0.4	99.6	0.4	NA	NA
Pakistan	97.0	2.9	0.1	92.0	8.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	NA	NA
Philippines	99.9	0.0	0.1	95.6	0.0	4.4	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Sri Lanka	99.7	0.2	0.1	99.7	0.0	0.3	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Thailand	96.4	2.9	0.7	98.7	0.5	0.8	99.7	0.3	NA	NA
Caribbean and Latin America										
Colombia	99.2	0.6	0.2	99.5	0.1	0.4	100.0	0.0	99.9	0.1
Costa Rica	99.6	0.0	0.4	99.8	0.0	0.2	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Dominican Rep.	99.8	0.0	0.2	99.2	0.0	0.8	100.0	0.0	99.4	0.6
Guyana	99.1	0.0	0.9	99.4	0.0	0.6	99.9	0.1	99.8	0.2
Jamaica	97.4	0.1	2.5	96.5	0.2	3.3	99.1	0.9	98.3	1.7
Mexico	97.7	0.0	2.3	96.2	3.7	0.1	99.2	0.8	NA	NA
Panama	99.9	0.0	0.1	99.7	0.0	0.3	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Peru	96.1	1.8	2.1	98.4	0.7	0.9	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0

[a]Including West Asia.

Appendix B Core Questionnaire, Section 5: Fertility Regulation

Note: The following extract, and the extract given in appendix C showing the fertility regulation module, are both taken from Core Questionnaires, *Basic Documentation* no 1, available from WFS.

SECTION 5. FERTILITY REGULATION

501. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 401, 405)*

MARRIED AND LIVING WITH HUSBAND [1]

SEPARATED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED [2] (SKIP TO 524)

502. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 221)*

CURRENTLY PREGNANT [1] (SKIP TO 520)

NOT CURRENTLY PREGNANT, OR D.K. [2]

503. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 315, 316)*

HAS USED A CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD [1]

HAS NEVER USED A CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD [2] (SKIP TO 509)

504. Are you or your husband currently using a method to keep you from getting pregnant?

YES [1]

NO [2] (SKIP TO 506)

505. What method are you using?

_____

(SKIP TO 513)

IF STERILIZATION MENTIONED IN 504 OR 505, PROBE:

You or your husband?

WIFE [ ] (SKIP TO 511)

HUSBAND [ ] (SKIP TO 531)

506. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 211)*

NO LIVE BIRTH [1]

ONE OR MORE LIVE BIRTHS [2]

507. Have you or your husband used a method since your (last) child's birth?

YES [1]

NO [2] (SKIP TO 509)

508. What was the last method you used?

_____

8 [1] [ ][ ][ ] [4]

[ ][ ] [5] [ ][ ] [7]

[ ] 9

[ ] 10

[ ] 11

[ ] 12

[ ][ ] 13

[ ] 15

[ ] 16

[ ][ ] 17

509. As far as you know, is it physically possible for you and your husband to have a child, supposing you wanted one?

YES [1] (SKIP TO 513)

NO [2]

D.K. [3] (SKIP TO 513)

510. Have you had an operation that makes it impossible for you to have any (more) children?

YES [1]

NO [2]

511. Was one purpose of that operation to prevent you having any (more) children?

YES [1] (SKIP TO 531)

NO [2] (SKIP TO 531)

512. Has your husband had an operation that makes it impossible to have children?

YES [1] (SKIP TO 531)

NO [2] (SKIP TO 531)

513. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 211)*

NO LIVE BIRTH [1]

ONE OR MORE LIVE BIRTHS [2] (SKIP TO 517)

514. Do you want to have any children?

YES [1]

NO [2] (SKIP TO 522)

UNDECIDED [3] (SKIP TO 522)

515. Would you prefer your first child to be a boy or a girl?

BOY [1]

GIRL [2]

EITHER [3]

OTHER ANSWER _____ (SPECIFY)

516. How many children in all do you want to have?

_____ (NUMBER)

(SKIP TO 522)

[ ] 19

[ ] 20

[ ][ ] 21 22

[ ] 23

[ ] 24

[ ] 25

[ ][ ] 26

517. Do you want to have another child sometime?

YES [1] NO [2] (SKIP TO 522) UNDECIDED [3] (SKIP TO 522)

28

518. Would you prefer your next child to be a boy or a girl?

BOY [1] GIRL [2] EITHER [3]

OTHER ANSWER _____ (SPECIFY)

29

519. How many more children do you want to have?

_____ (NUMBER)

(SKIP TO 522)

30

520. Do you want to have another child sometime, in addition to the one you are expecting?

YES [1] NO [2] (SKIP TO 522) UNDECIDED [3] (SKIP TO 522)

32

521. How many more children do you want to have, after the one you are expecting?

_____ (NUMBER)

33

522. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 315, 316)*

HAS USED A CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD [1] (SKIP TO 531)

HAS NEVER USED A CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD [2]

35

523. Do you think you and your husband may use any method at any time in the future so that you will not become pregnant?

YES [1] (SKIP TO 531) NO [2] (SKIP TO 531) UNDECIDED [3] (SKIP TO 531)

36

524. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 221)*

CURRENTLY PREGNANT [1] (SKIP TO 531)

NOT CURRENTLY PREGNANT [2]

D.K. WHETHER PREGNANT [3] (SKIP TO 527)

37

525. Have you had an operation that makes it impossible for you to have any (more) children?

YES [1] NO [2] (SKIP TO 527)

38

526. Was one purpose of that operation to prevent you having any (more) children?

YES [1] (SKIP TO 531) NO [2] (SKIP TO 531)

39

527. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 315, 316)*

HAS USED A CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD [1]

HAS NEVER USED A CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD [2] (SKIP TO 531)

40

528. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 211)*

NO LIVE BIRTH [1]

ONE OR MORE LIVE BIRTHS [2]

41

529. Did you or your husband use any method at any time after the birth of your (last) child, so that you would not become pregnant?

YES [1] NO [2] (SKIP TO 531)

42

530. What was the last method you used so that you would not become pregnant?

_____

43

531. If you could choose exactly the number of children to have in your whole life, how many children would that be?

_____ (NUMBER)

45

Appendix C Fertility Regulation Module

(Replaces section 5 of core questionnaire)

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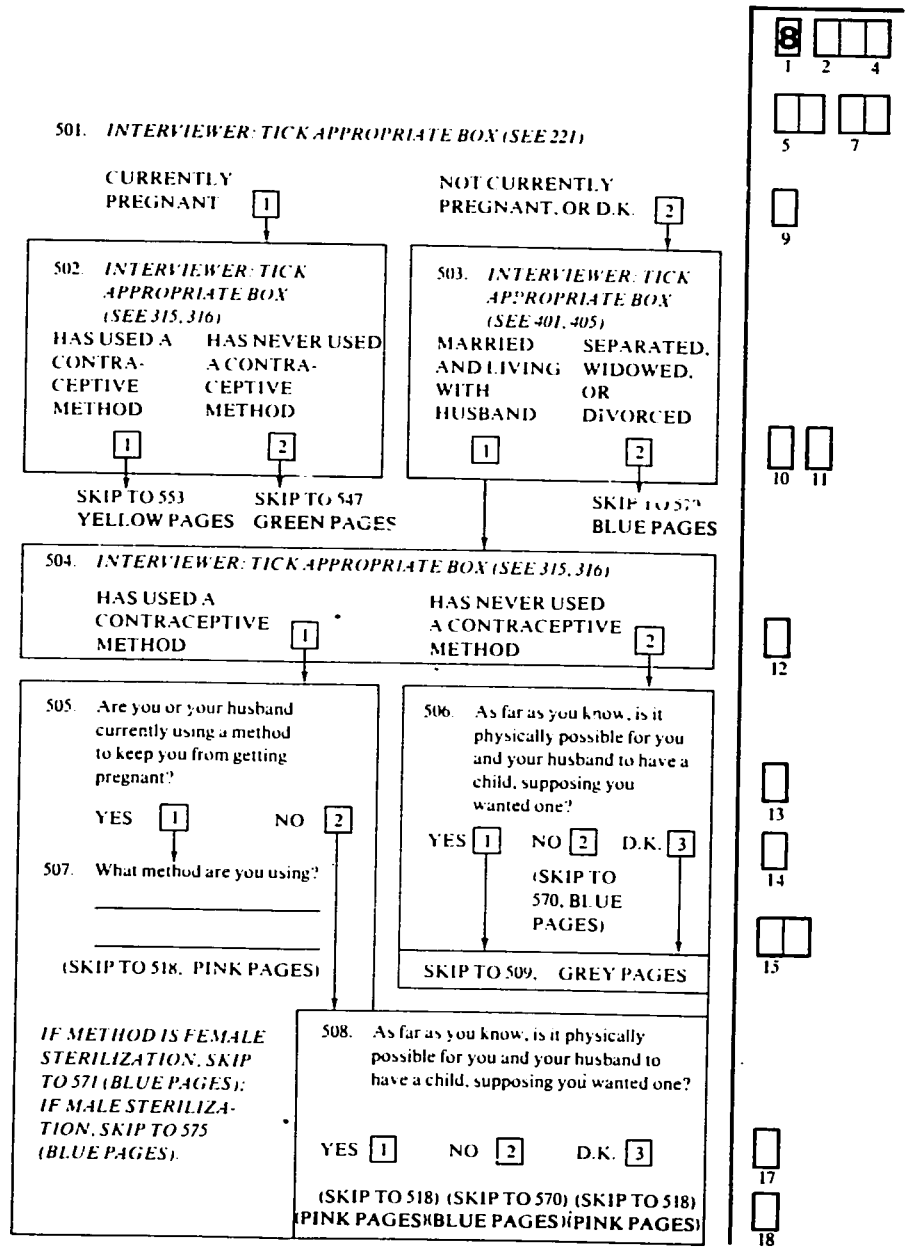
501. INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 221)
CURRENTLY PREGNANT 1
NOT CURRENTLY PREGNANT, OR D.K. 2
502. INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 315, 316)
HAS USED A CONTRA-CEPTIVE METHOD 1
HAS NEVER USED A CONTRA-CEPTIVE METHOD 2
SKIP TO 553 YELLOW PAGES
SKIP TO 547 GREEN PAGES
503. INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 401, 405)
MARRIED AND LIVING WITH HUSBAND 1
SEPARATED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED 2
SKIP TO 570 BLUE PAGES
504. INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 315, 316)
HAS USED A CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD 1
HAS NEVER USED A CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD 2
505. Are you or your husband currently using a method to keep you from getting pregnant?
YES 1
NO 2
507. What method are you using?
(SKIP TO 518, PINK PAGES)
IF METHOD IS FEMALE STERILIZATION, SKIP TO 571 (BLUE PAGES); IF MALE STERILIZATION, SKIP TO 575 (BLUE PAGES).
506. As far as you know, is it physically possible for you and your husband to have a child, supposing you wanted one?
YES 1
NO 2
D.K. 3
(SKIP TO 570, BLUE PAGES)
SKIP TO 509, GREY PAGES
508. As far as you know, is it physically possible for you and your husband to have a child, supposing you wanted one?
YES 1
NO 2
D.K. 3
(SKIP TO 518) (PINK PAGES)
(SKIP TO 570) (BLUE PAGES)
(SKIP TO 518) (PINK PAGES)
1 2 4
5 7
9
10 11
12
13
14
15
17
18

GREY

NOTE: 509-517 ARE ONLY FOR THOSE NOT CURRENTLY PREGNANT, LIVING WITH HUSBAND, FECUND, WHO HAVE NEVER USED A CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD.

509. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 211)*

NO LIVE BIRTH [1] (SKIP TO 514) — ONE OR MORE LIVE BIRTHS [2] — 19

510. Do you want to have another child sometime? — 20

YES [1] — NO [2] (SKIP TO 513) — UNDECIDED [3] (SKIP TO 513)

511. Would you prefer your next child to be a boy or a girl? — 21

BOY [1] — GIRL [2] — EITHER [3]

OTHER ANSWER _____ (SPECIFY)

512. How many more children do you want to have? — 22

_____ (NUMBER)

(SKIP TO 517)

513. *IF ONE LIVE BIRTH, ASK:* Thinking back to the time before you became pregnant with your child, had you wanted to have any children? — 24

IF TWO OR MORE LIVE BIRTHS, ASK: Thinking back to the time before you became pregnant with your last child, had you wanted to have any more children?

YES [1] (SKIP TO 517) — NO [2] (SKIP TO 517) — UNDECIDED [3] (SKIP TO 517)

GREY

514. Do you want to have any children? — 25

YES [1] — NO [2] (SKIP TO 517) — D.K. [3] (SKIP TO 517)

515. Would you prefer your first child to be a boy or a girl? — 26

BOY [1] — GIRL [2] — EITHER [3]

OTHER ANSWER _____ (SPECIFY)

516. How many children in all do you want to have? — 27

_____ (NUMBER)

517. Do you think you and your husband may use any method at any time in the future so that you will not become pregnant? — 29

YES [1] — NO [2] — UNDECIDED [3]

599. If you could choose exactly the number of children to have in your whole life, how many children would that be? — 30

_____ (NUMBER)

(SKIP TO SECTION 6)

PINK

NOTE: 518-546 ARE ONLY FOR THOSE NOT CURRENTLY PREGNANT, LIVING WITH HUSBAND, FECUND, WHO HAVE USED A CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD.

518. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 211)*

NO LIVE BIRTH [1] (SKIP TO 539)

ONE OR MORE LIVE BIRTHS [2] 19

519. Do you want to have another child sometime?

YES [1] 20

NO [2] (SKIP TO 530)

UNDECIDED [3] (SKIP TO 530)

520. Would you prefer your next child to be a boy or a girl?

BOY [1] 21

GIRL [2]

EITHER [3]

OTHER ANSWER _____ (SPECIFY)

521. How many more children do you want to have?

_____ (NUMBER) 22

522. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 505)*

CURRENTLY CONTRACEPTING [1] (SKIP TO 526) 24

NOT CURRENTLY CONTRACEPTING [2]

523. Have you or your husband used a method to keep you from getting pregnant since the time of your (last) child's birth?

YES [1] 25

NO [2] (SKIP TO 526)

524. What was the last method you used?

_____ 26

(IF METHOD WAS ABSTINENCE, SKIP TO 526)

525. Did you stop because you wanted to become pregnant?

YES [1] 28

NO [2]

PINK

526. *IF ONE LIVE BIRTH, ASK:*

Think back to the time before you became pregnant with your child. Was there any time when you or your husband were using a method to keep you from getting pregnant?

YES [1] 29

NO [2] (SKIP TO 599)

IF TWO OR MORE LIVE BIRTHS, ASK:

Think back to the interval between your (last) two births. Was there any time during that interval when you or your husband were using a method to keep you from getting pregnant?

YES [1]

NO [2] (SKIP TO 599)

527. What method were you using? 30

_____

(IF METHOD WAS ABSTINENCE, SKIP TO 599)

528. Did you become pregnant while using that method, or had you stopped using before becoming pregnant?

WHILE USING [1] (SKIP TO 599) 32

HAD STOPPED [2]

D.K. [3] (SKIP TO 599)

529. Did you stop because you wanted to become pregnant?

YES [1] (SKIP TO 599) 33

NO [2] (SKIP TO 599)

530. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 505)*

CURRENTLY CONTRACEPTING [1] (SKIP TO 533) 34

NOT CURRENTLY CONTRACEPTING [2]

531. Have you or your husband used a method to keep you from getting pregnant since the time of your (last) child's birth?

YES [1] 35

NO [2] (SKIP TO 533)

532. What was the last method you used? 36

_____

PINK

533. *IF ONE LIVE BIRTH, ASK:*

Thinking back to the time before you became pregnant with your child, had you wanted to have any children?

YES [1] NO [2] UNDECIDED [3]

IF TWO OR MORE LIVE BIRTHS, ASK:

Thinking back to the time before you became pregnant with your last child, had you wanted to have any more children?

YES [1] NO [2] UNDECIDED [3]

38

534. Was there any time before the birth of your child when you or your husband were using a method to keep you from getting pregnant?

YES [1] NO [2] (SKIP TO 599)

Was there any time in the interval between your (last) two births when you or your husband were using a method to keep you from getting pregnant?

YES [1] NO [2] (SKIP TO 599)

39

535. What method were you using?

_____

(IF METHOD WAS ABSTINENCE, SKIP TO 599)

40

536. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 533)*

"YES" TO 533 [1] "NO" OR "UNDECIDED" TO 533 [2] (SKIP TO 599)

42

537. Did you become pregnant while using that method, or had you stopped using before becoming pregnant?

WHILE USING [1] (SKIP TO 599) HAD STOPPED [2] D.K. [3] (SKIP TO 599)

43

538. Did you stop because you wanted to become pregnant?

YES [1] (SKIP TO 599) NO [2] (SKIP TO 599)

44

PINK

539. Do you want to have any children?

YES [1] NO [2] (SKIP TO 545) UNDECIDED [3] (SKIP TO 545)

45

540. Would you prefer your first child to be a boy or a girl?

BOY [1] GIRL [2] EITHER [3]

OTHER ANSWER _____ (SPECIFY)

46

541. How many children in all do you want to have?

_____ (NUMBER)

47

542. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 505)*

CURRENTLY CONTRACEPTING [1] (SKIP TO 599) NOT CURRENTLY CONTRACEPTING [2]

49

543. What was the last method you or your husband used to keep you from getting pregnant?

_____

(IF METHOD WAS ABSTINENCE, SKIP TO 599)

50

544. Did you stop because you wanted to become pregnant?

YES [1] (SKIP TO 599) NO [2] (SKIP TO 599)

52

545. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 505)*

CURRENTLY CONTRACEPTING [1] (SKIP TO 599) NOT CURRENTLY CONTRACEPTING [2]

53

546. What was the last method you or your husband used to keep you from getting pregnant?

_____

54

599. If you could choose exactly the number of children to have in your whole life, how many children would that be?

_____ (NUMBER)

(SKIP TO SECTION 6)

56

GREEN

NOTE: 547-552 ARE ONLY FOR THOSE CURRENTLY PREGNANT WHO HAVE NEVER USED A CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD.

547. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 401, 405)*

MARRIED AND LIVING WITH HUSBAND [1]

SEPARATED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED [2] (SKIP TO 552)

548. Do you want to have another child sometime, in addition to the one you are expecting?

YES [1] NO [2] UNDECIDED [3]

549. How many more children do you want to have, after the one you are expecting?

_____ (NUMBER)

550. Before you became pregnant this time, had you wanted to have any (more) children?

YES [1] NO [2] UNDECIDED [3]

551. Do you think you and your husband may use any method at any time in the future so that you will not become pregnant?

YES [1] (SKIP TO 599) NO [2] (SKIP TO 599) UNDECIDED [3] (SKIP TO 599)

552. Before you became pregnant this time, had you wanted to have any (more) children?

YES [1] NO [2] UNDECIDED [3]

599. If you could choose exactly the number of children to have in your whole life, how many children would that be?

_____ (NUMBER)

(SKIP TO SECTION 6)

19 20 21 23 24 25 26

YELLOW

NOTE: 553-569 ARE ONLY FOR THOSE CURRENTLY PREGNANT WHO HAVE USED A CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD

553. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 401, 405)*

MARRIED AND LIVING WITH HUSBAND [1]

SEPARATED, OR DIVORCED [2] (SKIP TO 562)

554. Do you want to have another child sometime, in addition to the one you are expecting?

YES [1] NO [2] (SKIP TO 562) UNDECIDED [3] (SKIP TO 562)

555. How many more children do you want to have, after the one you are expecting?

_____ (NUMBER)

556. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 211)*

NO LIVE BIRTH [1]

557. What was the last method you or your husband used to keep you from getting pregnant?

_____

_____

_____

_____

(IF ABSTINENCE, SKIP TO 599)

ONE OR MORE LIVE BIRTHS [2]

558. Think back to the interval between your (last) birth and your current pregnancy. Was there any time during that interval when you or your husband were using a method to keep you from getting pregnant?

YES [1] NO [2] (SKIP TO 599)

559. What was the last method you used?

_____

(IF ABSTINENCE, SKIP TO 599)

560. Did you become pregnant while using that method, or had you stopped using before becoming pregnant?

WHILE USING [1] (SKIP TO 599) HAD STOPPED [2] D.K [3] (SKIP TO 599)

561. Did you stop because you wanted to become pregnant?

YES [1] (SKIP TO 599) NO [2] (SKIP TO 599)

19 20 21 23 24 26 27 29 30

YELLOW

562 Before you became pregnant this time, had you wanted to have any (more) children?

YES [1] NO [2] UNDECIDED [3]

31

563 *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 211)*

NO LIVE BIRTH [1] ONE OR MORE LIVE BIRTHS [2]

32

564 What was the last method you or your husband used to keep you from getting pregnant?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

(IF ABSTINENCE, SKIP TO 599)

565 Think back to the interval between your (last) birth and your current pregnancy. Was there any time during that interval when you or your husband were using a method to keep you from getting pregnant?

YES [1] NO [2] (SKIP TO 599)

33

35

566 What was the last method you used?

_____

(IF ABSTINENCE, SKIP TO 599)

36

567 *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 562)*

"YES" TO 562 [1] "NO" OR "UNDECIDED" TO 562 [2] (SKIP TO 599)

38

568. Did you become pregnant while using that method, or had you stopped using before becoming pregnant?

WHILE USING [1] (SKIP TO 599) HAD STOPPED [2] D.K. [3] (SKIP TO 599)

39

569. Did you stop because you wanted to become pregnant?

YES [1] NO [2]

40

599. If you could choose exactly the number of children to have in your whole life, how many children would that be?

_____

(NUMBER)

41

(SKIP TO SECTION 6)

BLUE

NOTE: 570-595 ARE FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT HAVE (MORE) CHILDREN AS WELL AS FOR THOSE WHO ARE SEPARATED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED.

570 Have you had an operation that makes it impossible for you to have any (more) children?

YES [1] NO [2] (SKIP TO 573)

19

571 In what month and year did that operation take place?

_____, 19____

(MONTH) (YEAR)

20 22

572. Was one purpose of that operation to prevent you having any (more) children?

YES [1] (SKIP TO 576) NO [2] (SKIP TO 576)

24

573. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 401, 405)*

MARRIED AND LIVING WITH HUSBAND [1] SEPARATED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED [2] (SKIP TO 576)

25

574. Has your husband had an operation that makes it impossible to have children?

YES [1] NO [2] (SKIP TO 576)

26

575. In what month and year did that operation take place?

_____, 19____

(MONTH) (YEAR)

27 29

576. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 315, 316)*

HAS USED A CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD [1] HAS NEVER USED A CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD [2]

31

577. *TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 211)*

NO LIVE BIRTH [1] (SKIP TO 579) ONE OR MORE LIVE BIRTHS [2] (SKIP TO 581)

578. *TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 211)*

NO LIVE BIRTH [1] (SKIP TO 580) ONE OR MORE LIVE BIRTHS [2] (SKIP TO 594)

32 33

BLUE

579. What was the last method you or your husband used to keep you from becoming pregnant? _____ [34]

580. Since you were first married, have you ever wanted to have any children? [36]

YES [1] (SKIP TO 599) NO [2] (SKIP TO 599) UNDECIDED [3] (SKIP TO 599)

581. Did you or your husband use any method at any time after the birth of your (last) child, to keep you from becoming pregnant? [37]

YES [1] NO [2] (SKIP TO 583)

582. What was the last method you used? _____ [38]

583. At any time after the birth of your (last) child, did you want to have any more children? [40]

YES [1] NO [2] (SKIP TO 588) UNDECIDED [3] (SKIP TO 588)

584. *IF ONE LIVE BIRTH, ASK:*

Think back to the time before you became pregnant with your child. Was there any time when you or your husband were using a method to keep you from getting pregnant? [41]

YES [1] NO [2] (SKIP TO 599)

IF TWO OR MORE LIVE BIRTHS, ASK:

Think back to the interval between your (last) two births. Was there any time during that interval when you or your husband were using a method to keep you from getting pregnant?

YES [1] NO [2] (SKIP TO 599)

585. What method were you using? _____ [42]

(IF ABSTINENCE, SKIP TO 599)

586. Did you become pregnant while using that method, or had you stopped using before becoming pregnant? [44]

WHILE USING [1] (SKIP TO 599) HAD STOPPED [2] D.K. [3] (SKIP TO 599)

587. Did you stop because you wanted to become pregnant? [45]

YES [1] (SKIP TO 599) NO [2] (SKIP TO 599)

BLUE

588. *IF ONE LIVE BIRTH, ASK*

Thinking back to the time before you became pregnant with your child, had you wanted to have any children? [46]

YES [1] NO [2] UNDECIDED [3]

IF TWO OR MORE LIVE BIRTHS ASK:

Thinking back to the time before you became pregnant with your last child, had you wanted to have any more children? [47]

YES [1] NO [2] UNDECIDED [3]

589. Was there any time before the birth of your child when you or your husband were using a method to keep you from getting pregnant? [48]

YES [1] NO [2] (SKIP TO 599)

Was there any time in the interval between your (last) two births when you or your husband were using a method to keep you from getting pregnant? [50]

YES [1] NO [2] (SKIP TO 599)

590. What method were you using? _____ [51]

(IF METHOD WAS ABSTINENCE, SKIP TO 599)

591. *INTERVIEWER: TICK APPROPRIATE BOX (SEE 588)* [52]

"YES" TO 588 [1] "NO" OR "UNDECIDED" TO 588 [2] (SKIP TO 599)

592. Did you become pregnant while using that method, or had you stopped using before becoming pregnant?

WHILE USING [1] (SKIP TO 599) HAD STOPPED [2] D.K. [3] (SKIP TO 599)

593. Did you stop because you wanted to become pregnant?

YES [1] (SKIP TO 599) NO [2] (SKIP TO 599)

BLUE

594. At any time after the birth of your (last) child, did you want to have any more children?

YES [1] NO [2] UNDECIDED [3] — 53

(SKIP TO 599)

595. *IF ONE LIVE BIRTH, ASK:* Thinking back to the time before you became pregnant with your child, had you wanted to have any children?

IF TWO OR MORE LIVE BIRTHS, ASK: Thinking back to the time before you became pregnant with your last child, had you wanted to have any more children?

YES [1] NO [2] UNDECIDED [3] — 54

599. If you could choose exactly the number of children to have in your whole life, how many children would that be? — 55

_____ (NUMBER)

(GO ON TO SECTION 6)