

# FERTILITY PREFERENCES

**Table 6.1 Fertility preferences by number of living children**

Percent distribution of currently married women and currently married men age 15-49 by desire for children, according to number of living children, Model DHS 6 data

Desire for children	Number of living children							Total	Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+	15-49	15-59
WOMEN <sup>1</sup>									
Have another soon <sup>2</sup>	69.4	36.0	28.0	20.8	15.5	9.6	4.8	23.1	na
Have another later <sup>3</sup>	8.9	49.8	49.4	40.3	31.2	21.4	8.8	34.5	na
Have another, undecided when	7.2	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.8	2.0	2.7	3.6	na
Undecided	8.2	3.9	6.6	9.7	10.8	9.4	6.1	7.8	na
Want no more	0.4	1.8	8.9	22.4	37.2	53.5	70.3	27.2	na
Sterilized <sup>4</sup>	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5	2.0	0.4	na
Declared infecund	5.8	2.8	1.9	3.3	2.0	3.0	4.8	3.0	na
Missing	0.0	1.2	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.6	na
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	na
Number	274	835	1,073	1,010	773	672	636	5,273	na
MEN <sup>2</sup>									
Have another soon <sup>2</sup>	73.4	46.5	42.7	33.9	32.0	28.9	21.8	36.5	34.4
Have another later <sup>3</sup>	9.3	42.4	36.8	32.3	29.8	29.6	24.3	31.5	28.4
Have another, undecided when	1.5	0.9	3.8	4.8	3.2	5.2	2.7	3.3	3.4
Undecided	5.0	7.9	6.0	11.2	10.6	10.8	11.6	9.4	9.9
Want no more	0.3	1.1	8.2	16.5	23.5	25.0	39.0	17.7	22.1
Sterilized <sup>4</sup>	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Declared infecund	1.4	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.4
Missing	9.1	1.2	2.0	1.4	0.0	0.6	0.3	1.4	1.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	83	260	316	314	252	170	301	1,696	2,000

na = Not applicable

<sup>1</sup> The number of living children includes the current pregnancy

<sup>2</sup> Wants next birth within 2 years

<sup>3</sup> Wants to delay next birth for 2 or more years

<sup>4</sup> Includes both female and male sterilization

<sup>5</sup> The number of living children includes one additional child if respondent's wife is pregnant (or if any wife is pregnant for men with more than one current wife).

**Table 6.2.1 Desire to limit childbearing: Women**

Percentage of currently married women age 15-49 who want no more children, by number of living children, according to background characteristics, Model DHS 6 data

Background characteristic	Number of living children							Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+	
<b>Residence</b>								
Urban	0.0	0.6	14.8	28.0	49.3	67.2	81.7	29.4
Rural	0.8	2.6	5.2	18.9	31.9	48.8	69.2	26.5
<b>Region</b>								
Region 1	1.2	2.5	6.6	20.2	34.3	51.8	66.5	26.9
Region 2	0.0	1.8	4.2	23.2	32.5	46.6	71.7	26.7
Region 3	(0.0)	0.6	15.3	33.9	57.6	73.5	(88.3)	29.5
Region 4	(0.0)	1.9	9.8	14.0	34.6	51.8	77.8	27.5
<b>Education</b>								
No education	0.8	2.4	7.5	19.1	35.4	52.5	72.0	29.7
Primary	(0.0)	1.3	3.1	25.5	34.3	59.3	74.6	22.7
Secondary or higher	0.0	1.0	16.9	39.9	54.7	(62.4)	(73.2)	22.5
<b>Wealth quintile</b>								
Lowest	0.0	2.9	5.5	15.7	31.1	58.2	69.1	27.6
Second	0.0	2.0	6.1	18.2	36.6	53.2	69.0	26.6
Middle	1.7	2.2	6.0	20.6	34.5	41.7	71.6	25.9
Fourth	0.7	0.8	8.5	20.0	39.2	51.4	78.1	27.4
Highest	(0.0)	1.1	17.9	38.6	51.7	73.1	80.3	30.6
Total	0.4	1.8	9.0	22.5	37.4	54.0	72.3	27.5

Note: Women who have been sterilized are considered to want no more children. Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

<sup>1</sup> The number of living children includes the current pregnancy

**Table 6.2.2 Desire to limit childbearing: Men**

Percentage of currently married men age 15-49 who want no more children, by number of living children, according to background characteristics, Model DHS 6 data

Background characteristic	Number of living children							Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+	
<b>Residence</b>								
Urban	(0.7)	1.6	14.6	25.5	42.8	31.4	48.9	22.0
Rural	(0.0)	0.7	2.9	10.1	16.2	23.0	35.6	15.3
<b>Region</b>								
Region 1	(1.1)	0.7	2.4	12.1	14.6	14.7	27.2	12.6
Region 2	*	0.0	3.8	17.7	23.0	38.3	49.8	21.0
Region 3	*	(1.2)	19.7	24.9	*	*	*	20.6
Region 4	*	(3.5)	2.0	12.9	26.0	(32.1)	49.0	20.1
<b>Education</b>								
No education	(0.0)	0.0	3.7	11.1	16.0	21.2	38.1	16.4
Primary	*	(1.9)	(1.8)	(10.8)	(37.7)	(33.8)	(34.2)	15.9
Secondary or higher	(0.7)	1.6	14.1	27.4	35.2	(32.1)	42.1	20.3
<b>Wealth quintile</b>								
Lowest	*	0.7	2.9	11.5	19.2	30.0	42.0	17.9
Second	*	0.0	2.1	7.9	(14.2)	(24.1)	36.1	13.4
Middle	*	0.8	2.9	10.5	(19.8)	(23.3)	39.6	17.0
Fourth	*	5.5	9.9	17.9	29.4	(26.8)	(39.1)	19.4
Highest	*	(0.0)	19.2	(34.0)	(44.2)	*	(37.5)	21.5
Total 15-49	0.3	1.1	8.4	16.5	23.7	25.0	39.0	17.7
50-59	*	*	*	(43.7)	(36.4)	(37.4)	54.8	46.7
Total 15-59	0.3	1.2	10.9	18.9	25.7	27.7	44.3	22.2

Note: Men who have been sterilized or who state in response to the question about desire for children that their wife has been sterilized are considered to want no more children. Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

<sup>1</sup> The number of living children includes one additional child if respondent's wife is pregnant (or if any wife is pregnant for men with more than one current wife).

**Table 6.3 Ideal number of children by number of living children**

Percent distribution of women and men 15-49 by ideal number of children, and mean ideal number of children for all respondents and for currently married respondents, according to the number of living children, Model DHS 6 data

Ideal number of children	Number of living children							Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+	
WOMEN <sup>1</sup>								
0	1.2	0.0	0.2	0.5	1.1	1.5	1.8	0.8
1	0.7	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.5
2	13.8	8.8	5.9	1.6	1.8	1.0	1.1	6.6
3	27.1	21.5	12.1	6.9	2.2	1.6	1.2	14.1
4	37.5	41.4	42.7	32.2	24.4	17.5	12.6	33.1
5	7.4	12.1	15.4	21.5	14.9	18.4	11.1	13.4
6+	9.2	12.3	20.8	32.4	48.7	49.5	61.8	26.7
Non-numeric responses	3.1	2.8	2.5	4.6	6.7	10.4	10.2	4.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,172	1,444	1,301	1,135	876	725	694	8,348
Mean ideal number of children for: <sup>2</sup>								
All women	3.7	4.0	4.5	5.1	5.7	6.0	6.8	4.7
Number women	2,105	1,403	1,268	1,083	818	650	623	7,949
Currently married women	4.4	4.3	4.6	5.1	5.8	6.0	6.9	5.3
Number of currently married women	254	799	1,041	964	720	601	574	4,953
MEN <sup>3</sup>								
0	2.6	0.0	0.6	0.3	1.8	1.3	3.3	1.8
1	0.7	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.5
2	17.4	11.6	6.5	2.2	1.8	2.4	0.4	10.4
3	20.3	20.8	13.5	8.6	2.0	2.4	1.0	14.3
4	29.2	31.0	34.0	27.4	24.5	9.2	10.0	26.6
5	11.9	13.5	14.7	20.0	13.4	11.5	3.4	12.5
6+	15.0	20.2	26.1	39.2	52.4	66.2	74.7	30.4
Non-numeric responses	2.8	1.9	4.5	2.4	4.0	6.9	7.1	3.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,458	405	377	325	255	177	302	3,299
Mean ideal number of children for: <sup>2</sup>								
All men	3.9	4.5	4.9	5.6	6.2	7.5	9.2	5.1
Number men	1,417	397	360	317	245	165	280	3,182
Currently married men	4.4	4.8	5.1	5.6	6.2	7.5	9.2	6.2
Number of currently married men	83	253	305	306	242	158	279	1,626
Mean ideal number of children for men 15-59: <sup>2</sup>								
All men	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.7	6.3	7.3	9.3	5.4
Number of men	1,424	402	379	351	293	210	421	3,481
Currently married men	4.5	4.8	5.1	5.7	6.4	7.3	9.4	6.5
Number of currently married men	86	256	324	336	287	203	418	1,909

<sup>1</sup> The number of living children includes current pregnancy for women

<sup>2</sup> Means are calculated excluding respondents who gave non-numeric responses.

<sup>3</sup> The number of living children includes one additional child if respondent's wife is pregnant (or if any wife is pregnant for men with more than one current wife).

**Table 6.4 Mean ideal number of children**

Mean ideal number of children for all women age 15-49  
by background characteristics, Model DHS 6 data

Background characteristic	Mean	Number of women <sup>1</sup>
<b>Age</b>		
15-19	3.8	1,906
20-24	4.2	1,392
25-29	4.6	1,375
30-34	5.2	1,037
35-39	5.5	1,023
40-44	5.5	608
45-49	6.1	609
<b>Residence</b>		
Urban	4.0	3,652
Rural	5.3	4,297
<b>Region</b>		
Region 1	5.3	2,724
Region 2	5.0	1,493
Region 3	3.8	2,253
Region 4	4.9	1,478
<b>Education</b>		
No education	5.5	4,085
Primary	4.6	1,092
Secondary or higher	3.6	2,771
<b>Wealth quintile</b>		
Lowest	5.4	1,409
Second	5.4	1,436
Middle	5.0	1,471
Fourth	4.4	1,676
Highest	3.7	1,957
Total	4.7	7,949

<sup>1</sup> Number of women who gave a numeric response

**Table 6.5 Fertility planning status**

Percent distribution of births to women age 15-49 in the five years preceding the survey (including current pregnancies), by planning status of the birth, according to birth order and mother's age at birth, Model DHS 6 data

Birth order and mother's age at birth	Planning status of birth				Total	Number of births
	Wanted then	Wanted later	Wanted no more	Missing		
<b>Birth order</b>						
1	71.6	25.7	1.4	1.3	100.0	1,486
2	90.5	7.6	0.9	1.1	100.0	1,285
3	92.0	6.5	0.8	0.8	100.0	1,024
4+	87.4	6.4	5.5	0.7	100.0	2,792
<b>Mother's age at birth</b>						
<20	70.9	27.0	1.0	1.1	100.0	1,233
20-24	88.3	9.8	1.4	0.5	100.0	1,701
25-29	89.8	7.5	1.2	1.5	100.0	1,568
30-34	88.5	6.1	4.6	0.8	100.0	1,119
35-39	87.9	4.0	7.3	0.7	100.0	665
40-44	82.9	4.5	11.8	0.8	100.0	251
45-49	81.4	2.2	16.4	0.0	100.0	50
Total	85.2	11.0	2.9	0.9	100.0	6,587

**Table 6.6 Wanted fertility rates**

Total wanted fertility rates and total fertility rates for the three years preceding the survey, by background characteristics, Model DHS 6 data

Background characteristic	Total wanted fertility rates	Total fertility rate
<b>Residence</b>		
Urban	3.2	3.5
Rural	5.1	5.7
<b>Region</b>		
Region 1	4.8	5.3
Region 2	4.7	5.3
Region 3	2.9	3.1
Region 4	5.0	5.5
<b>Education</b>		
No education	5.0	5.6
Primary	4.7	5.0
Secondary or higher	2.7	2.9
<b>Wealth quintile</b>		
Lowest	5.4	6.0
Second	5.0	5.7
Middle	4.9	5.3
Fourth	4.0	4.4
Highest	2.7	2.9
Total	4.3	4.7

Note: Rates are calculated based on births to women age 15-49 in the period 1-36 months preceding the survey. The total fertility rates are the same as those presented in Table 5.2.