

## CHAPTER 4

### CONTRACEPTION

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A primary function of family planning programs is to advocate conscious entry into parenthood for both men and women, i.e., to grant families the right to define their desired number of children and provide them the means to achieve that goal. Family planning involves the control of reproductive behavior, including conception, preservation of the fetus, and childbearing, as well as prevention of conception and interruption of pregnancy. Family planning not only helps couples to avoid undesired pregnancies, but also allows them to control the timing of their childbearing. By controlling the time they enter into parenthood, the time they stop childbearing, and the intervals between births, couples can achieve their ultimate desired family size. Family planning has positive effects on the overall health of both mother and child, and is also a contributing factor in the reduction of maternal and infant mortality, and secondary sterility. The efficacy of family planning depends on people's knowledge of methods and on the availability of methods to meet the varying needs of a wide spectrum of potential users. Availability of methods, in turn, depends on the quality and quantity of service providers and on the availability of financial and technical resources.

Family planning topics addressed in this chapter include knowledge of contraceptive methods, sources of supply, use of methods in the past and present, reasons for nonuse, desire to use in the future, and attitudes and exposure to family planning messages. These data can serve as an information base for the Ministry of Health and family planning organizations to better define the need for contraceptives and better define the allocation of resources.

#### 4.1 Knowledge of Contraceptive Methods

Determining levels of knowledge and use of contraceptive methods was one of the major objectives of the KRDHS. Data on contraceptive knowledge were collected by asking the respondent to name ways or methods by which a couple could delay or avoid pregnancy. If the respondent failed to mention a particular method spontaneously, the interviewer described the method and asked if she recognized it. The respondent was also asked whether she had ever used each method. Current use of contraception was determined by asking whether the respondent (or her partner) was currently using a method, and if so, which one.

Contraceptive methods include both modern and traditional methods. Modern methods include the pill, IUD, injectables, female sterilization, and the barrier methods (diaphragm, foam, jelly, and condom). Traditional methods include periodic abstinence (rhythm method), withdrawal, and vaginal douching.

Information on knowledge of contraceptive methods is presented in Table 4.1 for all women, for currently married women,<sup>1</sup> and for women who have never had sexual intercourse. Knowledge of at least one method of contraception is nearly universal (97 percent). Also, 97 percent of respondents know at least one modern method and 69 percent know at least one traditional method. Women know, on average, five methods of contraception. Currently married women know an average of six methods, while women who have never had sex know an average of three methods.

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<sup>1</sup> The currently married category includes women in both formal unions (civil or religious) and informal unions (living together).

<b>Table 4.1 Knowledge of contraceptive methods</b>			
Percentage of all women, of currently married women, and of women who have never had sex who know specific contraceptive methods, Kyrgyz Republic 1997			
Contraceptive method	All women	Currently married women	Women who never had sex
<b>Any method</b>	97.1	99.8	87.6
<b>Any modern method</b>	97.1	99.8	87.3
Pill	67.7	73.3	49.0
IUD	95.6	99.6	81.5
Injectables	58.0	67.1	29.6
Diaphragm/Foam/Jelly	25.8	29.9	11.2
Condom	81.1	85.2	65.8
Female sterilization	51.2	59.3	23.6
<b>Any traditional method</b>	68.9	80.8	26.6
Periodic abstinence	52.8	60.8	22.2
Withdrawal	56.3	67.5	15.8
Douche	11.8	14.9	2.1
Other methods	1.5	1.7	0.4
<b>Any traditional/folk method</b>	69.0	80.8	26.6
Number of respondents	3,848	2,675	814
Mean number of methods	5.0	5.6	3.0
Note: All women includes 7 unmarried sexually active women.			

The most commonly known method is the IUD (known by 96 percent of women). The condom and the pill are the next most commonly known methods, known by 81 and 68 percent of women, respectively. The lesser known modern methods are still known by a significant proportion of women—58 percent have knowledge of injectables, 51 percent have knowledge of female sterilization, and 26 percent know of vaginal barrier methods such as the diaphragm, foam or jelly. The data in Table 4.1 show that knowledge of all methods is higher among currently married women than among women who have never had sex. Eighty-two percent of women who have never had sex know of the IUD and two-thirds know of the condom. For purposes of communicating family planning information, women of reproductive age who have not yet engaged in sexual intercourse are as important an audience as sexually active women because these women are certain to engage in sexual relations in the near future.

Periodic abstinence and withdrawal are traditional methods known by 61 and 68 percent of currently married women, respectively. Traditional methods are not as commonly known among women who have never had sex (22 percent have heard of periodic abstinence and 16 percent have heard of withdrawal).

Table 4.2 presents the percentage of currently married women who know of at least one method of contraception (modern or traditional) and the percentage who know of at least one modern method, by background characteristics. Virtually all currently married women know of at least one modern method of contraception. This level of knowledge includes women of all ages, all regions of the country, all educational levels, and all ethnicities.

**Table 4.2 Knowledge of contraceptive methods by background characteristics**

Percentage of currently married women who reported having heard of at least one contraceptive method and at least one modern method, by selected background characteristics, Kyrgyz Republic 1997

Background characteristic	Knowledge of contraception		Number of women
	Knows any method	Knows modern method	
<b>Age</b>			
15-19	99.1	97.4	91
20-24	100.0	100.0	460
25-29	99.3	99.3	458
30-34	99.8	99.8	557
35-39	100.0	100.0	511
40-45	100.0	100.0	342
45-49	100.0	100.0	256
<b>Residence</b>			
Urban	99.9	99.9	856
Rural	99.8	99.7	1,819
<b>Region</b>			
Bishkek City	99.8	99.8	349
North	99.9	99.9	836
East	99.8	99.8	152
South	99.8	99.7	1,338
<b>Education</b>			
Primary/Secondary	99.7	99.6	1,314
Secondary-special	99.8	99.8	908
Higher	100.0	100.0	452
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
Kyrgyz	99.8	99.8	1,632
Russian	100.0	100.0	300
Uzbek	100.0	99.7	504
Other	99.1	99.1	240
Total	99.8	99.8	2,675

## 4.2 Ever Use of Contraception

All respondents who had heard of a method of contraception were asked whether they (or a partner) had ever used the method; each method was inquired about separately. Results are presented in Table 4.3 for all women and for currently married women by five-year age groups.

Overall, 83 percent of currently married women have used a method of contraception at some time in their life. Sixty-four percent of all women age 15-49 have used a method at some time. Levels of ever-use among all women are somewhat lower than among currently married women because the former includes women who are not sexually active; the most significant differential is among 15-19 year-old women. While 39 percent of currently married 15-19 year-olds have used a method at some time, only 6 percent of all 15-19 year-olds have done so; however, only 14 percent of all 15-19 year-olds have ever had sex.

Table 4.3 Ever use of contraception

Percentage of all women and of currently married women who have ever used any contraceptive method, by specific method and age, Kyrgyz Republic, 1997

Age	Modern method					Traditional method					Any trad./folk method	Number of women		
	Any method	Any modern method	Pill	IUD	Injectables	Con-dom	Female sterilization	Other modern method						
								Any traditional method	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal			Douche	
ALL WOMEN														
15-19	6.3	4.4	1.2	1.8	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	3.6	1.6	3.0	0.1	3.6	743
20-24	51.8	43.5	5.8	32.5	1.2	19.9	0.0	0.9	26.5	6.6	20.3	5.7	26.5	649
25-29	78.7	68.7	13.6	55.6	4.2	29.2	0.6	0.5	41.5	16.6	27.9	9.0	41.7	530
30-34	86.1	81.2	12.0	74.6	3.6	27.1	0.6	1.1	42.2	15.7	29.2	9.9	42.2	630
35-39	87.9	84.0	14.5	76.4	5.4	23.9	1.7	2.4	40.9	16.9	26.1	10.4	40.9	579
40-44	85.3	80.7	13.4	70.4	3.8	20.4	5.3	5.5	43.3	21.3	26.0	15.9	44.3	410
45-49	81.9	76.3	12.2	63.8	3.2	25.7	4.7	3.5	45.8	18.0	26.6	17.9	46.6	307
Total	63.7	58.3	9.6	49.8	2.9	20.1	1.4	1.6	32.2	12.5	21.5	8.5	32.4	3,848
CURRENTLY MARRIED WOMEN														
15-19	39.2	26.5	4.8	14.9	0.3	12.2	0.0	0.0	22.3	7.8	17.0	1.2	22.3	91
20-24	66.6	56.0	7.4	42.5	1.7	25.0	0.0	1.3	33.3	8.1	25.6	7.7	33.3	460
25-29	84.4	73.9	14.7	61.5	4.8	31.4	0.6	0.6	45.1	17.0	31.4	9.8	45.3	458
30-34	90.5	86.5	12.9	80.9	4.1	28.5	0.5	1.1	44.5	16.4	30.6	10.9	44.5	557
35-39	91.8	87.9	14.9	80.2	6.0	25.5	1.8	2.5	43.3	17.3	28.4	10.8	43.3	511
40-44	90.5	85.8	15.7	74.9	4.0	21.7	6.1	5.4	47.2	23.0	28.7	17.1	48.3	342
45-49	85.0	80.7	12.9	68.6	3.7	26.8	5.4	4.2	46.5	19.2	27.7	16.5	47.0	256
Total	83.3	76.7	12.7	66.7	4.0	26.2	1.8	2.1	42.2	16.1	28.5	11.2	42.5	2,675

The women most likely to have used a modern method of contraception at sometime are those age 30-44 (among both currently married and all women). By far the most widely used method is the IUD. Overall, 50 percent of all women age and 67 percent of currently married women have used an IUD at some time. Among currently married women in their thirties, 80 percent have used an IUD. Condoms are the next most commonly used modern method with 26 percent of currently married women having used a condom. Pills are the third most commonly used modern method with 13 percent of currently married women having used them at some time. Other modern methods (injectables, diaphragm and female sterilization) have been used by only 4 percent of married women.

While more women have used modern methods than traditional methods, many women have in fact used a traditional method at some time. Overall, 42 percent of currently married women have used a traditional method at some time in their life, while 32 percent of all women have done so.

Withdrawal and periodic abstinence are the traditional methods most likely to have been used by women at some time in their life. Twenty-nine percent of married women have used withdrawal, and 16 percent have used periodic abstinence. Eleven percent of currently married women have used vaginal douching as a method of contraception.

### **4.3 Current Use of Contraception**

Table 4.4 presents levels of current use of contraception for all women and for currently married women by five-year age groups. Figure 4.1 shows the distribution of currently married women by method currently used.

One out of every three women of reproductive age (35 percent) is currently using a modern method of contraception, while 8 percent are using a traditional method. Among currently married women, half (49 percent) are using modern methods of contraception and 11 percent are using traditional methods.

The IUD is by far the most commonly used method—38 percent of currently married women are using the IUD. Other modern methods of contraception account for only a small amount of use among currently married women: condoms (6 percent), and pills, injectables and female sterilization (each 2 percent or less). Thus, the practice of family planning in the Kyrgyz Republic places high reliance on a single method, the IUD, although the pill, condoms, injectables and female sterilization are widely known (known to at least half of all women). As the goal of the family planning program is to provide each woman with a choice of safe and effective methods, more effort should be made to provide information and access to the range of methods. For example, women who want no more children and want to avoid any risk of childbearing may want to use female sterilization rather than the IUD.

Use of modern methods of contraception increases steadily by age, peaking at age 35-39 (59 percent of currently married women) and then declines. Use of traditional methods remains relatively constant over all ages. Of course, the desire to avoid pregnancy varies greatly over the course of a woman's reproductive life; use of contraception in relation to age and in the context of fertility preferences is discussed in Chapter 7.

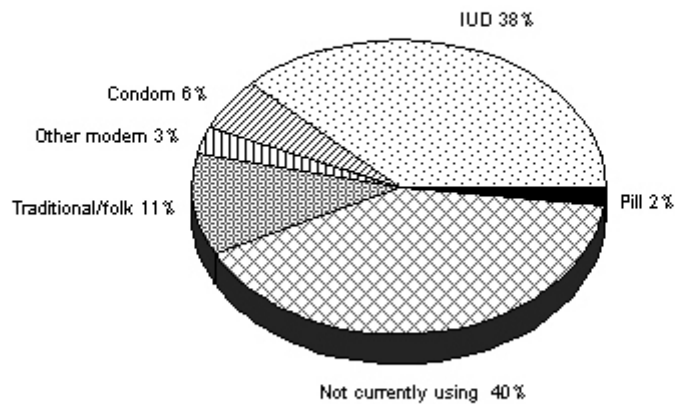
Levels of contraceptive use by background characteristics of respondents are presented in Table 4.5 and Figure 4.2 for currently married women. While there is some variation in levels of use, Table 4.5 shows that the level of modern contraceptive use observed for the population as a whole (49 percent) is generally maintained across background characteristics of respondents. The most notable variations in usage of modern methods are the higher levels seen among urban women, women in Bishkek City, and Russian women.

Table 4.4 Current use of contraception

Percent distribution of all women and of currently married women who are currently using a contraceptive method by specific method, according to age, Kyrgyz Republic 1997

Age	Modern method					Traditional method					Total	Number of women			
	Any method	Any modern method	Pill	IUD	Injectables	Con-dom	Female sterilization method	Any traditional method							
								Other modern method	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal			Douche		
ALL WOMEN															
15-19	3.9	2.9	0.1	1.8	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.5	0.6	0.0	96.1	100.0	743
20-24	35.7	28.9	0.9	22.5	0.2	5.2	0.0	0.0	6.8	1.6	4.2	1.1	64.3	100.0	649
25-29	50.3	41.2	1.4	33.4	0.4	5.1	0.6	0.3	9.0	2.5	5.6	1.0	49.7	100.0	530
30-34	63.5	52.7	2.4	41.8	2.0	5.7	0.6	0.2	10.8	2.7	5.7	2.4	36.5	100.0	630
35-39	64.1	54.8	2.3	43.8	2.1	4.8	1.7	0.0	9.3	2.6	6.0	0.8	35.9	100.0	579
40-44	55.5	45.0	0.7	34.1	1.0	3.8	5.3	0.0	10.5	5.4	3.8	1.3	44.5	100.0	410
45-49	38.8	31.8	0.6	22.7	1.1	2.8	4.7	0.0	7.0	1.4	4.5	1.1	61.2	100.0	307
Total	42.8	35.3	1.2	27.6	0.9	4.1	1.4	0.1	7.5	2.2	4.2	1.1	57.2	100.0	3,848
CURRENTLY MARRIED WOMEN															
15-19	29.3	20.5	0.0	14.9	0.3	5.4	0.0	0.0	8.8	4.1	4.6	0.0	70.7	100.0	91
20-24	48.7	39.2	1.3	30.4	0.3	7.3	0.0	0.0	9.5	2.1	5.9	1.5	51.3	100.0	460
25-29	56.9	46.5	1.6	37.6	0.5	5.9	0.6	0.4	10.3	2.8	6.3	1.2	43.1	100.0	458
30-34	69.9	57.7	2.7	45.9	2.2	6.2	0.5	0.2	12.2	3.1	6.4	2.7	30.1	100.0	557
35-39	69.5	59.0	2.6	46.8	2.4	5.5	1.8	0.0	10.5	2.8	6.8	0.9	30.5	100.0	511
40-44	64.2	51.6	0.8	38.9	1.2	4.6	6.1	0.0	12.6	6.5	4.6	1.5	35.8	100.0	342
45-49	45.8	37.4	0.7	26.7	1.3	3.3	5.4	0.0	8.5	1.7	5.4	1.3	54.2	100.0	256
Total	59.5	48.9	1.7	38.2	1.3	5.7	1.8	0.1	10.7	3.2	6.0	1.5	40.5	100.0	2,675

**Figure 4.1**  
**Use of Specific Contraceptive Methods**  
**Among Currently Married Women**



KRDHS 1997

A majority of women in Bishkek City report themselves to be using a modern method of contraception (60 percent). Women in Bishkek City also exhibit the lowest fertility levels. Levels of contraceptive use in the other regions of the country do not vary to the degree that might be expected from the fertility differentials by region. A more complete investigation of regional fertility differentials would have to consider factors such as age at marriage, breastfeeding practices, and induced abortion, in addition to the use of contraception.

Unlike many other countries, women with less education are no less likely to be using a method of contraception than women with more education. Women of Kyrgyz, Uzbek and other ethnicities are all equally likely to be using a modern method of contraception (48 percent). Women of Russian ethnicity are somewhat more likely than other women to be using a modern method (58 percent). The level of contraceptive use does increase with an increasing number of living children, but reaches its maximum fairly quickly. Women with four or more children are as likely to be using a modern method as women with two or three children.

Differentials in the method mix are largely overshadowed by heavy reliance on the IUD among women of all background characteristics (with the exception of those with one or no children). However, women with higher than average levels of use (urban women, women in Bishkek City, and Russian women) exhibit the broadest method mix. It is these women who show higher levels of condom and pill use. Sixteen percent of currently married women in Bishkek City report that they are currently using condoms, compared with 5 percent or less in other regions. Another 5 percent of women in Bishkek City report that they are currently using the pill, compared with 1-2 percent in other regions. The method mix among women of Russian ethnicity and urban women is similar to that of women in Bishkek City.

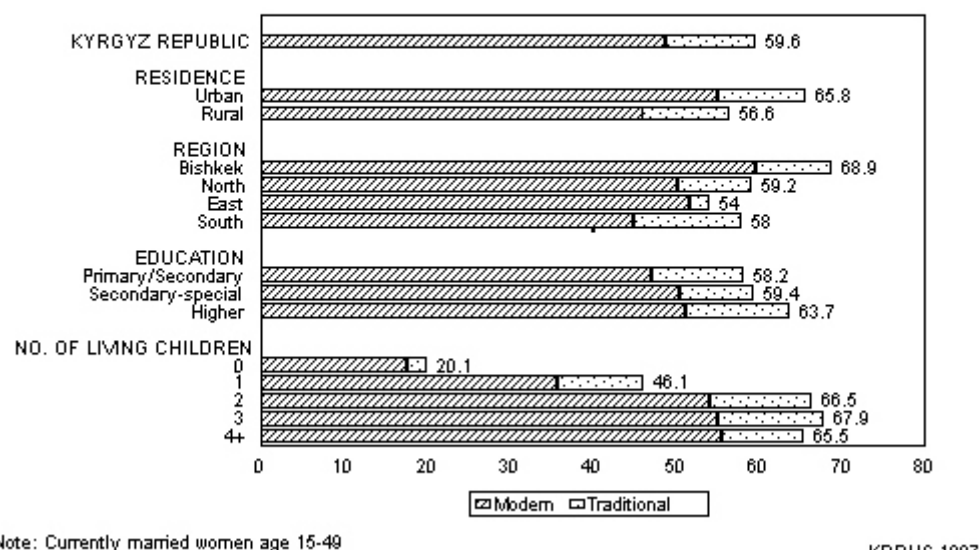
Table 4.5 Current use of contraception by background characteristics

Percent distribution of currently married women by contraceptive method currently used, according to selected background characteristics, Kyrgyz Republic 1997

Age	Modern method					Traditional method					Total	Number of women			
	Any method	Any modern method	Pill	IUD	Injectables	Con-dom	Female sterilization	Other modern method	Any traditional method	Periodic abstinence			Withdrawal	Douche	Not currently using
Residence	65.8	55.0	3.0	37.6	1.1	10.6	2.4	0.2	10.8	5.4	3.7	1.7	34.2	100.0	856
	56.6	46.0	1.2	38.4	1.5	3.4	1.5	0.1	10.6	2.1	7.1	1.4	43.4	100.0	1,819
Region	68.9	59.6	5.0	33.3	1.2	15.8	3.8	0.5	9.3	6.5	1.0	1.8	31.1	100.0	349
	59.2	50.3	1.6	40.5	1.6	4.5	1.9	0.1	8.9	3.4	2.8	2.7	40.8	100.0	836
	54.0	51.6	0.9	43.5	3.3	2.0	1.8	0.0	2.4	1.8	0.2	0.4	46.0	100.0	152
	58.0	44.9	1.1	37.4	1.0	4.2	1.2	0.0	13.1	2.3	9.9	0.9	42.0	100.0	1,338
Education	58.2	47.0	1.1	39.4	1.3	3.6	1.6	0.0	11.2	1.7	8.1	1.4	41.8	100.0	1,314
	59.4	50.5	1.7	39.4	1.7	6.1	1.5	0.1	8.9	3.5	4.0	1.4	40.6	100.0	908
	63.7	51.2	3.9	32.4	0.5	11.0	3.0	0.4	12.5	6.6	4.0	1.9	36.3	100.0	452
Ethnicity	55.8	47.0	1.1	39.2	1.4	3.4	1.8	0.0	8.7	2.7	4.6	1.4	44.2	100.0	1,632
	71.8	58.1	5.6	31.5	0.8	17.8	2.0	0.4	13.8	9.7	2.7	1.3	28.2	100.0	300
	62.7	49.5	1.5	41.1	1.2	4.6	1.2	0.0	13.2	0.3	12.3	0.6	37.3	100.0	504
	63.2	48.7	1.4	33.5	2.0	8.3	3.0	0.5	14.5	3.8	6.5	4.2	36.8	100.0	240
No. of living children	20.1	17.5	3.1	3.1	0.6	10.0	0.6	0.0	2.6	1.9	0.3	0.4	79.9	100.0	196
	46.1	35.7	1.7	26.2	0.3	6.9	0.4	0.3	10.4	5.1	4.5	0.8	53.9	100.0	464
	66.5	54.0	2.3	41.0	0.7	7.7	2.1	0.1	12.5	3.5	5.9	3.0	33.5	100.0	660
	67.9	55.1	1.3	44.6	1.5	4.9	2.5	0.2	12.8	3.3	7.6	1.9	32.1	100.0	533
	65.5	55.6	1.3	46.8	2.4	2.8	2.3	0.0	9.9	2.0	7.2	0.7	34.5	100.0	823
Total	59.5	48.9	1.7	38.2	1.3	5.7	1.8	0.1	10.7	3.2	6.0	1.5	40.5	100.0	2,675



**Figure 4.2**  
**Current Use of Family Planning by**  
**Background Characteristics**



In order to gather data on pill brands, users of the pill were asked to show their pill packet to the interviewer, who then recorded the brand name of the pills. Overall, 80 percent of pill users were able to show their packets to the interviewer. Respondents who were unable to show their packet were asked to report the brand name of their pills. In total, brand information was obtained from 47 respondents. Table 4.6 presents the distribution of pill users by brand of pills. The table presents data for all pill users, regardless of marital status. Eleven brands of pills were reported as being used, with the most commonly used brand being Rigevidon (33 percent).

#### 4.4 Number of Children at First Use of Contraception

To make some assessment of the motivations behind using family planning methods, women were asked how many living children they had at the time they first used a method of family planning. Women who use a method before ever having a child presumably want to delay their childbearing to some time in the future. Women who first employ a method after they have had one or two children may either want to delay the next child or limit their childbearing to one or two children. Women who use a method for the first time after having several children are more likely to be using family planning to stop childbearing, rather than simply spacing their childbearing. Table 4.7 presents the percent distribution of all ever-married women by the number of living children they had at the time they first used a method of family planning.

**Table 4.6 Use of pill brands**

Percent distribution of pill users by the brand of pills used, Kyrgyz Republic 1997

Pill brand	Total
Diane-35	1.2
Marvelon	4.5
Microgynon	12.1
Postinor	6.7
Rigevidon	33.1
Triziston	1.2
Triquilar	5.7
Triquilar ED Gy	3.3
Tri-regol	7.4
Mini-pills	1.2
Atsovin	15.2
Don't know	8.4
Total	100.0
Number	47

**Table 4.7 Number of children at first use of contraception**

Percent distribution of ever-married women by number of living children at the time of first use of contraception, and median number of children at first use, according to current age, Kyrgyz Republic 1997

Current age	Never used contraception	Number of living children at time of first use of contraception						Total	Number of women	Median number of children at first use <sup>1</sup>
		0	1	2	3	4+	Missing			
15-19	57.8	21.5	20.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	102	0.0
20-24	35.7	9.9	38.9	12.5	2.3	0.3	0.4	100.0	521	1.6
25-29	18.0	9.0	38.8	27.1	5.4	1.4	0.3	100.0	506	1.8
30-34	11.8	4.2	27.2	29.1	17.9	9.9	0.0	100.0	614	2.4
35-39	11.5	2.5	19.2	27.3	18.2	21.1	0.2	100.0	574	2.8
40-44	13.7	2.6	19.7	19.4	14.5	30.2	0.0	100.0	404	3.1
45-49	16.8	2.0	15.9	17.6	12.1	35.5	0.2	100.0	302	3.5
Total	19.2	5.8	27.3	22.1	11.5	13.9	0.2	100.0	3,021	2.3

<sup>1</sup> Median number of children at first use of contraception among those who have ever used contraception

Use of family planning to delay the first pregnancy is uncommon in the Kyrgyz Republic (6 percent of women have done so). Older women (over the age of 39) had a median of three or more children before they first used contraception; younger women have a median of fewer than two children at first use of contraception.

Overall, 27 percent of ever-married women of reproductive age had one living child at the time they first used a method of contraception, and the likelihood of using a method after having just one child has been increasing over time. Up to 40 percent of women in their twenties first used a method of contraception after having one child.

#### 4.5 Knowledge of the Fertile Period and of the Contraceptive Effect of Breastfeeding

Knowledge of reproductive physiology is an important prerequisite for effective use of traditional contraceptive methods. To successfully practice periodic sexual abstinence, a woman must know at which point during the ovulation cycle she is most likely to become pregnant. All women were asked whether they thought there was a time during their monthly cycle that they were more likely to become pregnant, and if so, to identify when that was. Table 4.8 presents the percent distribution of all women, women who are currently using any form of periodic abstinence, and women who are currently using the calendar rhythm method, by knowledge of the fertile period.

**Table 4.8 Knowledge of fertile period**

Percent distribution of all women and of women who are currently using periodic abstinence or the calendar rhythm method by knowledge of the fertile period during the ovulatory cycle, Kyrgyz Republic 1997

Perceived fertile period	All women	Current users of:	
		Periodic abstinence	Calendar rhythm
During her period	0.3	0.0	0.0
After period ended	12.0	5.1	3.9
Middle of the cycle	19.0	83.8	84.8
Before period begins	1.0	3.8	3.9
At any time	19.1	3.1	3.2
Other	0.1	0.0	0.0
Don't know	48.5	4.2	4.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,848	86	84

Note: Two respondents reported using the symptothermal method.

One out of five women properly identified the middle of the cycle as the most likely time to become pregnant. Most respondents said either that they did not know which time is more likely than another (49 percent), or that no time is more likely than another (19 percent). On the other hand, most women who are using either periodic abstinence or the calendar rhythm method know about the varying likelihood of becoming pregnant. Eighty-four percent of women who are using periodic abstinence and 85 percent of women who are using the calendar method could properly identify the time during which they are most fertile.

Exclusive and frequent breastfeeding can prolong the period of time following a birth during which a woman is amenorrheic (not menstruating) and anovulatory (not ovulating). It has also been shown that even after the resumption of menstruation the probability of pregnancy is lower among women who continue to breastfeed than among women who have stopped (Hobcraft and Guz, 1991; Potts et al., 1985).

Women were asked what effect, if any, breastfeeding has on the risk of pregnancy. Women were also asked whether they have ever relied on breastfeeding as a method of contraception and whether they are currently doing so. These data are shown in Table 4.9 for currently married women.

Overall, about one in three currently married women (36 percent) report that breastfeeding reduces the risk of becoming pregnant. This level of perception is generally maintained across most background characteristics. The most notable deviation is that women of Russian ethnicity are less inclined to believe that breastfeeding has any contraceptive effectiveness (27 percent).

Twenty-nine percent of currently married women have used breastfeeding as a means of contraception at some time in their lives, and 14 percent of women report they are currently doing so. Women of Kyrgyz and Uzbek ethnicity are the most likely to have used breastfeeding for family planning purposes (32 and 30 percent, respectively) and are also the most likely to be current users (16 and 17 percent, respectively).

Table 4.9 also presents the proportion of currently married women who meet the lactational amenorrheic method (LAM) criteria. In order to meet these criteria, a woman must be fully breastfeeding a child who is less than six months old, and she must also be amenorrheic. Two percent of women meet the LAM criteria.

## **4.6 Source of Family Planning Methods**

All women currently using a modern method were asked where they most recently obtained their method.<sup>2</sup> Table 4.10 shows the percent distribution of current users of modern contraceptives by the source from which they most recently obtained their method.

The vast majority of women obtained their contraceptives through the public sector (97 percent). Thirty-five percent of users obtained their method from a hospital, and 36 percent from a family planning clinic (women counseling centers). The source of supply is related to the method used. For example, most women using IUDs obtain them at hospitals (39 percent) or family planning clinics (42 percent). Government pharmacies supply 46 percent of pill users and 75 percent of condom users. Pill users also go to family planning clinics to obtain their pills (33 percent). Figure 4.3 summarizes the distribution of current users of modern methods by source of method.

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<sup>2</sup> Data collection included recording of the name of the source so that team supervisors and editors could verify the type of source.

**Table 4.9 Perceived contraceptive effect of breastfeeding**

Percent distribution of currently married women by perceived risk of pregnancy associated with breastfeeding, percentage who previously relied or who currently rely on breastfeeding to avoid pregnancy, and percentage who meet lactational amenorrheic method (LAM) criteria, according to selected background characteristics, Kyrgyz Republic 1997

Background characteristic	Perceived risk of pregnancy associated with breastfeeding					Total	Reliance on breastfeeding to avoid pregnancy		Meet LAM criteria <sup>1</sup>	Number of women
	Un-changed	In-creased	De-creased	Depends	Don't know/ Missing		Previ-ously	Cur-rently		
<b>Age</b>										
15-19	58.6	14.2	17.5	9.4	0.3	100.0	10.5	8.8	10.2	91
20-24	44.0	14.7	35.5	4.6	1.2	100.0	25.8	16.0	6.2	460
25-29	42.6	13.1	36.7	6.9	0.6	100.0	31.2	12.8	2.6	458
30-34	37.0	20.2	36.4	6.3	0.2	100.0	29.6	15.7	1.8	557
35-39	37.0	19.1	39.1	4.8	0.0	100.0	30.0	15.2	0.7	511
40-44	44.5	16.8	32.2	6.5	0.0	100.0	30.3	14.5	0.0	342
45-49	39.0	17.6	35.2	8.1	0.0	100.0	28.9	10.5	0.0	256
<b>Residence</b>										
Urban	45.0	15.3	34.4	5.1	0.2	100.0	23.6	9.9	2.5	856
Rural	39.2	17.7	36.0	6.6	0.4	100.0	31.1	16.3	2.3	1,819
<b>Region</b>										
Bishkek City	54.4	8.0	32.8	4.7	0.2	100.0	22.1	6.2	1.5	349
North	47.0	6.8	40.3	5.1	0.7	100.0	24.4	12.6	3.2	836
East	50.5	8.6	36.8	3.8	0.2	100.0	28.2	13.8	1.5	152
South	32.8	26.5	33.1	7.4	0.2	100.0	33.1	17.5	2.2	1,338
<b>Education</b>										
Primary/Secondary	38.2	20.1	34.6	6.6	0.6	100.0	30.6	15.5	2.3	1,314
Secondary-special	43.2	13.6	37.5	5.5	0.3	100.0	27.6	14.4	1.8	908
Higher	45.2	14.6	34.0	6.2	0.0	100.0	25.2	10.6	3.7	452
<b>Ethnicity</b>										
Kyrgyz	38.4	16.7	37.3	7.1	0.5	100.0	32.2	15.9	2.9	1,632
Russian	59.9	8.7	27.2	4.2	0.0	100.0	15.0	4.3	1.0	300
Uzbek	38.1	24.0	32.4	5.5	0.0	100.0	30.3	17.4	1.9	504
Other	42.0	14.0	40.2	3.4	0.5	100.0	18.7	9.2	1.8	240
Total	41.1	16.9	35.5	6.1	0.4	100.0	28.7	14.3	2.4	2,675

1 Currently fully breastfeeding, child is less than 6 months old and mother is postpartum amenorrheic

<sup>1</sup> Currently fully breastfeeding, child is less than 6 months old and mother is postpartum amenorrheic

All current users of modern methods were asked whether they know a source for family planning other than the source from which they most recently obtained their method. Women who know an alternative source were asked to explain the main reason they went to their most recent source instead of the alternative source. Results are presented in Table 4.11 by background characteristics of respondents.

Seventy percent of women who were using modern methods at the time of the survey reported knowing of more than one place to obtain their method. Among those who knew of an alternative place, half chose their current source of supply because it was closer to home. Other reasons for choosing the place they did included the quality of the staff and the fact that they went to that source for other services as well.

Table 4.10 Source of supply for modern contraceptive methods

Percent distribution of current users of modern contraceptive methods by most recent source of supply, according to specific methods, Kyrgyz Republic 1997

Source of supply	Modern method						All modern methods
	Pill	IUD	Inject-ables	Con-dom	Female sterilization	Other	
<b>Public</b>	90.1	98.8	(99.2)	85.5	100.0	40.7	96.9
Hospital	7.1	38.6	(15.4)	2.9	98.4	0.0	35.0
Polyclinic	2.9	14.4	(39.4)	2.4	1.1	0.0	12.7
Women counseling center	33.3	41.7	(44.4)	4.7	0.5	20.4	35.6
Public pharmacy	46.1	3.9	(0.0)	74.8	0.0	20.4	13.3
Community health worker	0.6	0.2	(0.0)	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.2
Other public	0.0	0.1	(0.0)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Private medical</b>	0.0	0.2	(0.8)	3.9	0.0	0.0	0.6
Private hosp, clinic	0.0	0.0	(0.8)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Private pharmacy	0.0	0.0	(0.0)	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.4
Private doctor	0.0	0.1	(0.0)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Private mobile clinic	0.0	0.1	(0.0)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Other private	0.0	0.0	(0.0)	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Other source</b>	7.0	0.0	(0.0)	9.7	0.0	20.4	1.4
Shop	1.2	0.0	(0.0)	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.5
Friends, relatives	2.5	0.0	(0.0)	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.6
Other	3.3	0.0	(0.0)	1.0	0.0	20.4	0.3
Missing	3.0	0.9	(0.0)	0.9	0.0	38.9	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	47	1,063	36	156	53	3	1,358

Note: Total includes four (unweighted) women using other modern methods. Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted women.

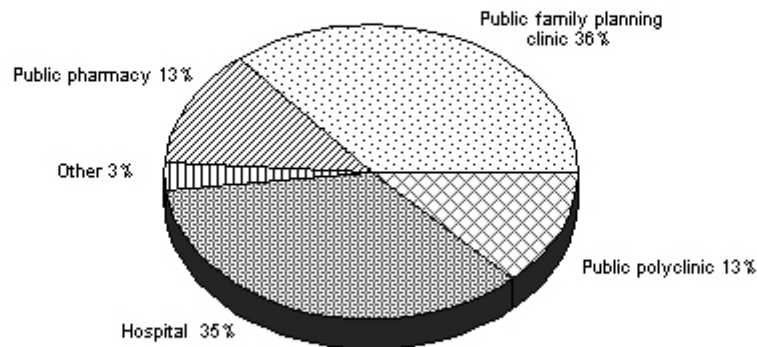
Whether or not users of modern methods know of more than one place to obtain methods varies by background characteristics of respondents. Rural women are more likely than urban women to know of only one source of supply (34 and 24 percent, respectively). Women in the East and South Regions are more likely than women in Bishkek City and the North Region to know of only one source of supply (43 and 38 percent versus 19 and 23 percent, respectively).

#### 4.7 Intention to Use Family Planning Among Nonusers

Intentions of women to use family planning methods in the future provide a basis for forecasting potential requirements of family planning services. The KRDHS asked nonusers of contraception whether they intend to use a method at some time in the future, and more specifically, whether they intend to do so within the next 12 months. Table 4.12 presents the results for currently married women according to their past experience with contraception and by the number of living children they have.

Overall, 66 percent of currently married nonusers intend to use a method of family planning at some time in the future; 40 percent intend to use within the next 12 months, 22 percent at some more distant time in the future, and 4 percent are unsure as to when they would use a method. The majority of nonusers who say they intend to use a method at some time in the future are women who have used a method at some time in the past.

**Figure 4.3**  
**Distribution of Current Users of Contraception**  
**by Source of Supply**



KRDHS 1997

Not surprisingly, women who intend to use a method later in the future (rather than sooner) tend to be women with no children. Most nonusers with children who intend to use a method say they intend to do so within the next 12 months. There still remain 29 percent of all currently married nonusers of contraception who do not intend to use a method of family planning at any time in the future. The women least likely to intend to use family planning are those who already have four or more children; 43 percent of nonusers with four or more children say they do not intend to use contraception.

The KRDHS results (data not shown) reveal that 31 percent of all nonusers of contraception<sup>3</sup> visited a health facility at some time in the 12 months prior to the survey but were not spoken to about family planning. This represents a significant lost opportunity on the part of the health community to impart knowledge about family planning to the population. In addition, 56 percent of nonusers did not visit a health facility within the 12 months prior to the survey; this translates to 86 percent of all nonusers having had no contact with a health professional regarding family planning in the previous 12 months.

#### **4.8 Reasons for Nonuse of Contraception**

The KRDHS asked all nonusers who do not intend to use a method of family planning in the future their reason for not intending to use. The results are presented in Table 4.13 for all women, and for women age 30-49. Ninety-four percent of women who are not currently using and who do not intend to use are over the age of 30 and the most common reasons given for not intending to use are related to perceived low risk of conception. Thirty-three percent of women reported themselves to be menopausal, and 30 percent reported themselves to be subfecund or infecund. Few women reported themselves to be opposed to family planning (5 percent).

<sup>3</sup> These data, which are not presented, refer to all nonusers regardless of marital status.

Table 4.11 Reasons for using current source of supply for contraceptive methods

Percent distribution of current users of modern contraceptive methods by main reason for using most recent source of supply, according to selected background characteristics, Kyrgyz Republic 1997

Background characteristic	Reason for using current source of supply														Number of users
	Knows no other source	Closer to home	Closer to work	Transport available	Staff competent/friendly	Cleaner facility	Offers more privacy	Shorter waiting time	Long hours of operation	Use other services there	Lower cost, cheaper	Wanted anonymity	Other	Don't know	
<b>Residence</b>															
Urban	23.7	34.8	5.8	3.5	14.5	1.6	3.1	1.0	1.7	5.4	2.0	0.2	1.2	1.6	100.0
Rural	34.3	33.6	1.9	3.7	8.9	0.8	0.9	1.1	3.2	5.8	2.6	0.1	2.1	1.0	100.0
<b>Region</b>															
Bishkek City	19.4	28.3	6.5	5.1	24.3	2.7	4.6	0.3	1.9	3.2	0.8	0.5	1.1	1.3	100.0
North	22.7	45.5	3.2	7.0	11.2	0.2	1.1	0.0	1.7	1.6	1.3	0.0	2.3	2.1	100.0
East	42.8	18.8	4.5	1.7	15.8	0.0	4.4	0.0	1.4	8.4	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.0	100.0
South	38.3	29.6	2.1	1.0	5.5	1.4	0.8	2.2	3.7	9.1	3.8	0.0	1.9	0.6	100.0
<b>Education</b>															
Primary/Secondary	37.2	32.5	1.6	3.6	9.4	1.0	1.2	1.1	2.9	6.3	1.9	0.0	0.5	0.8	100.0
Secondary-special	26.1	37.4	5.9	2.9	10.3	0.2	1.7	1.1	2.3	4.7	2.7	0.1	3.4	1.4	100.0
Higher	20.7	31.5	3.1	5.3	16.6	3.2	3.1	0.6	2.6	5.8	2.9	0.5	2.2	1.8	100.0
<b>Ethnicity</b>															
Kyrgyz	33.0	32.5	3.2	3.0	11.1	1.1	1.7	1.3	3.0	5.6	1.7	0.1	2.0	0.7	100.0
Russian	15.6	39.8	6.7	6.7	16.4	1.9	3.1	0.0	2.1	2.8	0.9	0.3	1.2	2.6	100.0
Uzbek	38.9	28.9	1.9	2.0	7.3	0.6	0.2	1.2	2.6	9.7	3.8	0.0	1.7	1.1	100.0
Other	18.3	45.6	2.1	7.1	9.6	0.9	2.8	0.5	1.4	1.9	5.4	0.5	1.7	2.3	100.0
<b>Reason for using</b>															
To space	24.7	37.4	3.6	3.6	12.8	1.1	1.9	1.8	3.4	4.7	1.9	0.1	2.0	1.0	100.0
To limit	34.8	31.4	3.1	3.7	9.5	1.1	1.6	0.5	2.1	6.4	2.7	0.1	1.6	1.3	100.0
Total	30.4	34.0	3.3	3.7	11.0	1.1	1.7	1.0	2.6	5.6	2.3	0.1	1.8	1.2	100.0
															1,358

Table 4.12 Future use of contraception

Percent distribution of currently married who are not using a contraceptive method by past experience with contraception and intention to use in the future, according to number of living children, Kyrgyz Republic 1997

Past experience with contraception and future intention	Number of living children <sup>1</sup>					Total
	0	1	2	3	4+	
<b>Never used contraception</b>						
Intend to use in next 12 months	4.2	29.5	16.8	10.9	6.1	14.1
Intend to use later	32.7	15.7	9.6	4.7	1.9	10.1
Unsure as to timing	9.6	4.9	0.4	0.8	0.1	2.2
Unsure as to intention	12.1	6.0	1.8	2.0	0.0	3.2
Do not intend to use	22.5	9.1	7.6	11.7	12.3	11.5
Missing	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.3
<b>Previously used contraception</b>						
Intend to use in next 12 months	3.2	10.2	33.0	34.7	34.7	26.1
Intend to use later	10.0	12.9	13.0	11.0	11.6	11.9
Unsure as to timing	1.3	1.9	2.8	1.9	0.1	1.5
Unsure as to intention	0.5	0.6	1.4	4.9	1.9	1.9
Do not intend to use	2.7	8.5	13.2	17.4	31.1	17.1
Missing	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>All currently married nonusers</b>						
Intend to use in next 12 months	7.4	39.6	49.8	45.6	40.8	40.2
Intend to use later	42.7	28.6	22.6	15.7	13.6	22.0
Unsure as to timing	10.9	6.8	3.2	2.7	0.2	3.8
Unsure as to intention	12.6	6.6	3.2	6.9	1.9	5.1
Do not intend to use	25.2	17.6	20.8	29.1	43.4	28.5
Never had sex	1.1	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.4
Missing						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of women	107	224	249	190	311	1,082

<sup>†</sup> Includes current pregnancy

Table 4.13 Reasons for not using contraception

Percent distribution of all women and women age 30-49 who are not using a contraceptive method and who do not intend to use in the future, by main reason for not intending to use, according to age, Kyrgyz Republic 1997

Reason for not using contraception	Women age 30-49	All women
Not married	1.7	1.6
Infrequent sex	13.8	13.0
Menopausal, hysterectomy	33.9	32.5
Subfecund, infecund	30.0	29.7
Wants more children	8.3	9.8
Respondent opposed	5.1	5.4
Husband opposed	0.3	0.3
Others opposed	0.5	0.5
Religious prohibit	0.4	0.4
Health concerns	2.2	2.6
Fear side effects	1.1	1.0
Inconvenient to use	0.0	0.5
Other	1.7	1.9
Don't know	1.0	0.9
Total	100.0	100.0
Number of women	290	309

## 4.9 Preferred Method of Contraception for Future Use

Nonusers of contraception who intend to use at some time in the future were asked which method they would prefer to use. Data are presented for currently married women in Table 4.14 according to whether the nonusers intend to use within the next 12 months or later.

Overall, about three-quarters (73 percent) of nonusers who intend to use report the IUD to be the method they would use. The pill is the second most commonly reported method of choice (6 percent). Among women who intend to use after 12 months, condoms and withdrawal are the most commonly reported methods after the IUD (mentioned by 8 and 7 percent, respectively). Other methods are mentioned by less than 5 percent of women.



**Table 4.14 Preferred method of contraception for future use**

Percent distribution of currently married women who are not using a contraceptive method but who intend to use in the future by preferred method, according to whether they intend to use in the next 12 months or later, Kyrgyz Republic 1997

Preferred method of contraception	Timing of intended use			Total
	In next 12 months	After 12 months	Unsure as to timing	
Pill	7.3	4.9	(2.7)	6.2
IUD	76.2	65.6	(75.6)	72.6
Injectables	4.9	5.1	(3.4)	4.9
Condom	2.1	7.6	(4.3)	4.1
Female sterilization	0.3	0.9	(0.0)	0.5
Periodic abstinence	1.3	1.1	(1.4)	1.3
Withdrawal	2.0	7.2	(0.0)	3.7
Folk method	2.8	4.4	(5.9)	3.5
Douche	0.8	0.7	(0.0)	0.7
Missing	2.3	2.4	(6.6)	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of women	435	238	41	714

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted women

#### **4.10 Exposure to Family Planning Messages in the Electronic Media**

The mass media provides an opportunity to communicate family planning information to a broad spectrum of the population. Forty-one percent of households in the Kyrgyz Republic own a radio and 85 percent own a television; rural and urban households have similar levels of ownership of these two items (see Chapter 2). All KRDHS respondents were asked whether they had heard a family planning message on the radio or television in the last few months prior to the interview. Results are presented in Table 4.15 by background characteristics of respondents.

Overall, about one in two women (54 percent) has recently heard a family planning message on the radio and/or television. Television is the more common source for having heard a message; 51 percent of women have seen a television message and 23 percent have heard a radio message. Urban dwellers are more likely than rural dwellers to have seen a television message (60 and 46 percent, respectively), even though urban and rural households are about equally likely to own a television (88 and 83 percent, respectively), and urban and rural dwellers are about equally likely to report watching television at least once a week (93 and 88 percent, respectively). Nearly everyone who hears a radio message about family planning has also seen a television message.

As many as 71 percent of women in Bishkek City report having recently seen or heard a family planning message on radio or television; only 45 percent of women in the East Region have seen or heard such a message. While television messages can be aimed at viewers of all educational levels, the likelihood that a respondent has in fact recently seen a television message or heard a radio message increases with increasing education. Forty-five percent of women with primary/secondary education have seen or heard a message, while 72 percent of women with higher education have done so. Russian women are the most likely to have seen or heard a family planning message (80 percent).

**Table 4.15 Exposure to family planning messages on radio and television**

Percent distribution of women by whether they have heard a radio and/or television message about family planning in the last few months prior to the interview, according to selected background characteristics, Kyrgyz Republic 1997

Background characteristic	Heard family planning message on radio or television				Total	Number of women
	Heard on neither	Radio only	Television only	Heard on both radio and TV		
<b>Residence</b>						
Urban	37.5	2.1	40.4	20.0	100.0	1,290
Rural	50.1	3.5	26.0	20.4	100.0	2,558
<b>Region</b>						
Bishkek City	29.1	1.5	46.1	23.3	100.0	518
North	41.7	2.9	25.6	29.8	100.0	1,188
East	55.0	2.9	28.6	13.5	100.0	215
South	51.9	3.6	30.2	14.3	100.0	1,926
<b>Education</b>						
Primary/Secondary	54.8	3.2	26.2	15.9	100.0	2,053
Secondary-special	39.8	2.8	33.0	24.4	100.0	1,151
Higher	28.3	3.0	41.9	26.8	100.0	643
<b>Ethnicity</b>						
Kyrgyz	53.2	3.9	26.3	16.6	100.0	2,380
Russian	20.4	1.2	45.0	33.4	100.0	412
Uzbek	42.4	2.4	33.6	21.6	100.0	691
Other	33.1	0.9	39.1	26.9	100.0	364
<b>Total</b>	<b>45.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,848</b>

#### 4.11 Acceptability of Use of Electronic Media to Disseminate Family Planning Messages

The KRDHS asked all respondents whether they find it acceptable or not acceptable for family planning messages to be broadcast over the radio or television. Results are presented in Table 4.16 by background characteristics of respondents.

The vast majority of women (91 percent) find it acceptable for family planning messages to be broadcast over the radio and television. The youngest women (age 15-19) are somewhat less likely than older women to say they find broadcast messages acceptable, 9 percent believe such messages are not acceptable, and 8 percent are unsure. Urban and rural women have nearly identical levels of approval; attitudinal variations across regions and ethnic groups are not great. Overall, 6 percent of women feel that broadcasting of family planning messages is not acceptable.

#### 4.12 Exposure to Family Planning Messages in Print Media

The high level of literacy in the Kyrgyz Republic makes the print media a viable mechanism for communicating family planning information. Sixty-nine percent of all respondents reported that they read a newspaper at least once a week. The KRDHS asked women whether they saw a message about family planning in a newspaper or magazine, a poster, or a leaflet or brochure in the last few months preceding the interview. Results are presented in Table 4.18 by background characteristics of respondents.

**Table 4.16 Acceptability of media messages on family planning**

Percent distribution of women by acceptability of messages about family planning on the radio and television, by selected background characteristics, Kyrgyz Republic 1997

Background characteristic	Acceptability of family planning messages on radio or television			Total	Number of women
	Acceptable	Not acceptable	Unsure		
<b>Age</b>					
15-19	83.0	8.9	7.9	100.0	743
20-24	95.1	2.7	2.2	100.0	649
25-29	93.2	5.4	1.4	100.0	530
30-34	93.3	4.3	2.4	100.0	630
35-39	92.1	5.1	2.8	100.0	579
40-44	92.0	6.5	1.5	100.0	410
45-49	86.6	10.8	2.6	100.0	307
<b>Residence</b>					
Urban	90.8	5.9	3.3	100.0	1,290
Rural	90.7	6.0	3.3	100.0	2,558
<b>Region</b>					
Bishkek City	93.1	3.9	3.0	100.0	518
North	87.7	7.8	4.4	100.0	1,188
East	84.2	6.9	8.9	100.0	215
South	92.8	5.2	2.0	100.0	1,926
<b>Education</b>					
Primary/Secondary	88.2	6.7	5.1	100.0	2,053
Secondary-special	94.1	4.8	1.1	100.0	1,151
Higher	93.1	5.5	1.4	100.0	643
<b>Ethnicity</b>					
Kyrgyz	90.8	5.7	3.5	100.0	2,380
Russian	90.5	7.0	2.5	100.0	412
Uzbek	92.3	4.8	2.9	100.0	691
Other	88.1	8.5	3.4	100.0	364
<b>Total</b>	<b>90.8</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,848</b>

About half (53 percent) of all respondents have recently seen information about family planning in the print media. Sixty-six percent of urban women and 46 percent of rural women have recently seen a family planning message in print. Three-quarters of the women in Bishkek City (74 percent) have recently read a printed family planning message, while 65, 40, and 41 percent of women living in the North, East and South Region, respectively, have read such a message.

The likelihood that a respondent has recently seen or read a message increases steadily with increasing education. Thirty-eight percent of respondents with primary or secondary education have recently read a message, while 65 and 79 percent, respectively, of women with secondary-special and higher education have seen such a message. Women of Russian ethnicity are more likely than women of Kyrgyz ethnicity to have recently seen printed information on family planning (82 and 53 percent, respectively).

Newspapers and magazines are the most commonly seen printed source of family planning information (seen by 48 percent of respondents), although respondents also receive messages from leaflets and brochures (26 percent) and posters (19 percent). Each of the print media presented in the table display the same patterns by background characteristics of respondents as the overall patterns for all print material combined.

**Table 4.17 Exposure to family planning messages in print media**

Percentage of women who received a message about family planning through the print media in the last few months prior to the interview, according to selected background characteristics, Kyrgyz Republic 1997

Background characteristic	Type of print media containing family planning message				Number of women
	No source	Newspaper/magazine	Poster	Leaflet/brochure	
<b>Residence</b>					
Urban	33.8	62.7	24.7	31.6	1,290
Rural	54.1	40.6	16.7	23.4	2,558
<b>Region</b>					
Bishkek City	25.8	70.4	29.0	30.9	518
North	35.1	62.4	26.5	37.1	1,188
East	60.2	33.9	8.0	9.5	215
South	59.2	34.6	13.7	19.9	1,926
<b>Education</b>					
Primary/Secondary	62.5	33.3	12.1	15.0	2,053
Secondary-special	34.9	59.5	25.8	36.9	1,151
Higher	20.8	74.3	31.3	42.3	643
<b>Ethnicity</b>					
Kyrgyz	47.5	47.5	16.9	24.6	2,380
Russian	18.3	77.2	32.3	43.3	412
Uzbek	69.9	24.7	12.1	15.5	691
Other	36.1	62.3	34.6	36.5	364
Total	47.3	48.0	19.4	26.1	3,848

### 4.13 Attitudes of Couples Toward Family Planning

Married women were asked how often they had discussed contraception with their husband or partner in the previous year. Data are presented by age in Table 4.18 for currently married women who know of at least one contraceptive method.

Overall, nearly one-third of married women (31 percent) have not discussed family planning with their husbands at all in the previous year, 39 percent have discussed the topic once or twice, and 30 percent have discussed the topic more often. Younger women are more likely than older women to have recently discussed family planning with their husbands; four out of five women in their twenties have discussed family planning with their husbands. Women over the age of 30 are increasingly less likely to have recently discussed family planning with their husbands, steadily increasing from 23 percent of 30-34 year-olds to 58 percent of 45-49 year-olds.

Currently married women were asked whether they thought their husband approved or disapproved of couples using family planning to avoid pregnancy. Table 4.19 presents the results of the wives' perceptions of their husbands' attitudes, by background characteristics of respondents.

Perhaps the most interesting finding in Table 4.19 is the fact that women report a lower approval level for their husbands than for themselves across all background characteristics. Overall, 97 percent of women report that they approve of contraception, and 85 percent report that their husbands approve; this translates to 84 percent of all married couples in which both the husband and wife approve of contraception. Only 1 percent of women report that both they and their husbands disapprove of family planning.

Table 4.18 Discussion of family planning by couples

Percent distribution of currently married women who know a contraceptive method by the number of times family planning was discussed with husband in the year preceding the survey, according to current age, Kyrgyz Republic 1997

Background characteristic	Number of times family planning discussed			Total	Number of women
	Never	Once or twice	More often		
15-19	41.3	38.3	20.4	100.0	90
20-24	23.5	41.5	35.0	100.0	460
25-29	20.3	38.7	41.0	100.0	452
30-34	23.2	42.9	33.9	100.0	554
35-39	31.2	41.1	27.7	100.0	502
40-44	44.2	34.6	21.2	100.0	321
45-49	58.1	31.9	10.0	100.0	242
Total	30.7	39.4	29.9	100.0	2,621

Table 4.19 Wives' perceptions of their husbands' attitudes toward family planning

Percent distribution of currently married women who know of a contraceptive method by wife's attitude toward family planning and wife's perception of her husband's attitude toward family planning (FP), according to selected background characteristics, Kyrgyz Republic 1997

Background characteristic	Wife approves of couples using FP			Wife disapproves of couples using FP			Wife unsure	Missing	Total	Husband approves <sup>1</sup>	Wife approves	Number of women
	Both approve	Husband disapproves	Husband's attitude unknown	Both disapprove	Husband approves	Husband's attitude unknown						
<b>Age</b>												
15-19	53.4	26.1	15.6	1.2	0.0	1.2	2.4	0.0	100.0	53.4	95.2	90
20-24	83.1	9.2	5.0	0.9	0.7	0.1	1.0	0.0	100.0	84.3	97.3	460
25-29	84.7	9.5	2.5	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.9	0.5	100.0	86.0	96.7	452
30-34	89.5	6.0	3.3	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.0	100.0	89.9	98.8	554
35-39	86.9	5.1	5.3	1.0	0.3	0.3	1.1	0.0	100.0	87.6	97.3	502
40-44	83.2	4.9	7.0	0.6	0.5	2.1	1.7	0.0	100.0	84.1	95.1	321
45-49	74.3	9.6	11.9	1.2	0.1	0.4	2.0	0.6	100.0	76.0	95.8	242
<b>Residence</b>												
Urban	86.8	6.0	4.9	0.7	0.1	0.7	0.8	0.0	100.0	87.4	97.6	834
Rural	82.2	8.8	5.8	0.9	0.5	0.4	1.2	0.2	100.0	83.3	96.8	1,787
<b>Region</b>												
Bishkek City	87.5	4.5	5.7	0.2	0.3	0.5	1.2	0.0	100.0	88.2	97.7	335
North	80.4	10.8	4.9	1.4	0.4	0.4	1.3	0.3	100.0	81.7	96.2	819
East	78.8	5.8	6.8	1.1	1.7	0.4	5.4	0.0	100.0	83.3	91.4	149
South	85.2	7.2	5.7	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.1	100.0	85.6	98.0	1,318
<b>Education</b>												
Primary/Secondary	79.7	9.4	7.1	1.2	0.3	0.5	1.6	0.2	100.0	80.6	96.2	1,289
Secondary-special	86.2	6.9	4.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.1	100.0	87.2	97.5	893
Higher	90.1	5.6	2.9	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.0	100.0	90.7	98.6	439
<b>Ethnicity</b>												
Kyrgyz	82.5	8.4	5.6	1.1	0.5	0.4	1.5	0.0	100.0	83.6	96.5	1,599
Russian	89.9	5.2	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.7	0.0	100.0	90.6	98.5	294
Uzbek	85.1	6.8	6.6	0.0	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.3	100.0	85.5	98.5	498
Other	80.3	10.5	5.3	2.1	0.0	0.5	0.3	1.0	100.0	81.3	96.1	230
Total	83.6	7.9	5.5	0.8	0.4	0.5	1.1	0.1	100.0	84.6	97.0	2,621

<sup>1</sup> Includes cases in which the wife is unsure about her own attitude but knows her husband's