

This chapter focuses on women who are sexually active because these women have the greatest risk of exposure to pregnancy and need for regulating their fertility. However, the results of interviews with men are presented alongside those with women because men play an equally important role in the realisation of reproductive health and family planning decision behaviour.

Family planning methods are grouped into two broad categories, namely modern methods and traditional methods. Modern family planning methods are further categorised into three subgroups, that is, short-term methods (oral contraceptive pills, condoms, the lactational amenorrhoea method [LAM], and emergency contraception), long-term methods (injectables, implants, and intrauterine devices or IUDs), and permanent methods (female and male sterilisation). Traditional methods consist of periodic abstinence, withdrawal, and various folk methods such as strings and herbs.

## 5.1 KNOWLEDGE OF CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS

Information on the knowledge of contraceptive methods was collected by asking respondents to name the various methods that a couple can use to delay or avoid a pregnancy. A respondent who could not name any method(s) spontaneously was prompted by the interviewer mentioning and describing each of the methods that had not been mentioned spontaneously and asking whether the respondent had ever heard about it.

Knowledge of family planning methods is almost universal in Zimbabwe, meaning that men and women in the country have information about the options available for regulating births and planning their families (Table 5.1). The level of knowledge of at least one modern method of family planning among all women age 15-49 years is also almost universal at 98 percent, and for currently married women it is 99 percent. Similarly, the level of knowledge of at least one modern method of family planning is very high among all men aged 15-49 years (99 percent). Virtually all currently married men know at least one method of family planning (100 percent). Virtually all sexually active women and 99 percent of sexually active men know of at least one method of family planning.

Women in Zimbabwe know an average of seven family planning methods, the same as in 1999. Oral contraceptives, injectables, and condoms are the family planning methods most widely known by women in Zimbabwe. For all women age 15-49 years, the proportion who know about the pill is 95 percent, 94 percent know about the male condom, and 89 percent know about injectables. Knowledge of the female condom among women increased by 12 percentage points from 57 percent in 1999 to 69 percent in 2006. However, knowledge of implants registered the highest increase of 19 percentage points from almost 25 percent in 1999 to 44 percent in 2006.

**Table 5.1 Knowledge of contraceptive methods**

Percentage of all respondents, currently married respondents, and sexually active unmarried respondents who know any contraceptive method, by specific method, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Method	Women			Men		
	All women	Currently married women	Sexually active unmarried women <sup>1</sup>	All men	Currently married men	Sexually active unmarried men <sup>1</sup>
<b>Any method</b>	97.8	99.3	99.7	99.1	99.8	99.3
<b>Any modern method</b>	97.7	99.2	99.7	99.0	99.8	99.3
Female sterilisation	46.6	50.0	55.6	49.1	55.7	50.8
Male sterilisation	33.3	34.7	40.7	42.8	48.1	49.8
Pill	94.7	98.4	97.2	90.7	97.7	90.1
IUD	56.5	61.2	63.3	40.6	48.2	44.5
Injectables	89.1	94.6	94.9	77.6	89.4	78.2
Implants	43.6	47.9	54.5	26.4	32.4	30.9
Male condom	94.0	95.6	98.1	98.3	98.9	98.2
Female condom	69.4	70.5	81.1	75.9	78.7	76.9
Lactational amenorrhoea method (LAM)	24.5	28.9	24.0	13.7	18.0	10.3
Emergency contraception	15.1	15.8	21.7	25.3	27.2	19.1
<b>Any traditional method</b>	56.1	63.6	59.3	62.0	71.4	66.3
Periodic abstinence	26.7	27.7	33.2	39.2	45.0	43.8
Withdrawal	50.8	58.8	54.6	56.3	66.1	58.9
Folk method	6.8	8.3	9.1	4.1	5.5	4.4
Mean number of methods known	6.5	6.9	7.3	6.4	7.1	6.6
Number	8,907	5,143	191	6,863	3,132	185

<sup>1</sup> Had last sexual intercourse within 30 days preceding the survey

The most well-known methods of contraception among all men are the male condom and the pill (98 percent and 91 percent, respectively). Knowledge of other modern methods of contraception is high among men, particularly men who are married. For example, 89 percent of married men know about injectables, and 79 percent of married men also know about the female condom. The lactational amenorrhoea method (LAM) is the least-known modern contraceptive method among married men (18 percent), while emergency contraception is the least-known modern family planning method among married women (16 percent).

## 5.2 KNOWLEDGE OF CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS BY BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS

Knowledge of family planning methods among women is almost universal and there are no significant variations across subgroups (Table 5.2). For all age groups, at least 98 percent of currently married women know about a modern family planning method. For men in all age groups, the percentage who know at least one modern family planning method is or is nearly 100 percent.

Table 5.2 Knowledge of contraceptive methods by background characteristics

Percentage of currently married women and currently married men who know at least one contraceptive method and who know at least one modern method, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Women			Men		
	Heard of any method	Heard of any modern method <sup>1</sup>	Number	Heard of any method	Heard of any modern method <sup>1</sup>	Number
<b>Age</b>						
15-19	97.9	97.6	448	*	*	8
20-24	98.9	98.8	1,200	100.0	100.0	311
25-29	99.7	99.7	1,125	99.9	99.9	692
30-34	99.8	99.7	933	99.7	99.6	755
35-39	100.0	99.7	556	99.7	99.5	581
40-44	99.0	98.8	485	99.9	99.9	414
45-49	99.6	98.9	396	99.8	99.8	369
<b>Residence</b>						
Urban	99.8	99.8	1,742	99.9	99.9	1,271
Rural	99.1	98.8	3,401	99.8	99.7	1,861
<b>Province</b>						
Manicaland	99.1	98.5	599	100.0	100.0	335
Mashonaland Central	99.2	99.1	572	100.0	99.8	342
Mashonaland East	99.5	99.2	442	99.5	99.5	259
Mashonaland West	99.2	99.0	514	99.7	99.7	348
Matabeleland North	99.8	99.8	323	99.7	99.7	194
Matabeleland South	97.8	97.6	208	98.3	98.3	99
Midlands	99.0	98.9	728	100.0	100.0	446
Masvingo	99.7	99.6	697	99.8	99.5	352
Harare	99.6	99.6	760	100.0	100.0	574
Bulawayo	99.7	99.7	301	100.0	100.0	183
<b>Education</b>						
No education	98.6	97.9	276	98.9	98.9	61
Primary	98.9	98.5	1,910	99.8	99.7	874
Secondary	99.7	99.7	2,788	99.9	99.8	1,941
More than secondary	100.0	100.0	169	99.6	99.6	255
<b>Wealth quintile</b>						
Lowest	98.6	98.3	1,034	99.2	98.9	526
Second	99.5	99.0	998	99.9	99.9	539
Middle	99.6	99.3	906	100.0	100.0	424
Fourth	99.3	99.3	1,183	100.0	100.0	948
Highest	99.8	99.8	1,023	99.8	99.8	695
Total 15-49	99.3	99.2	5,143	99.8	99.8	3,132
Total 15-54	na	na	na	99.8	99.7	3,419

Note: An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

na = Not applicable

<sup>1</sup> Female sterilisation, male sterilisation, pill, IUD, injectables, implants, male condom, female condom, diaphragm, foam or jelly, lactational amenorrhoea method (LAM), and emergency contraception

There is little variation in knowledge of modern methods of contraception among currently married women and men by age group, urban-rural residence, and province. Knowledge of family planning methods is at least 99 percent for both rural and urban areas. Similarly, knowledge of any modern family planning method for currently married women and men is almost universal across all education categories and wealth quintiles.

Surveys have documented a steady increase in the knowledge of family planning methods among all women in Zimbabwe since 1984 (Table 5.3). Knowledge of family planning methods became nearly universal in 1988, and the high level of knowledge of contraceptive methods has been maintained over the past 12 years. With respect to the trends in knowledge of specific methods, marked increases in levels of knowledge of family planning methods occurred between 1984 and 2006 for male condoms (from 48 percent to 94 percent), the pill (from 81 percent to 95 percent), and injectables (from 63 percent to 89 percent). Knowledge about implants increased from 14 percent in 1994 to 44 percent in 2006. It should be noted that the knowledge of some modern methods of contraception (IUD, male and female sterilisation) reached a peak in 1994 and started to decline thereafter.

Method	Knowledge of contraception				
	1984 ZDHS	1988 ZDHS	1994 ZDHS	1999 ZDHS	2005-06 ZDHS
<b>Any method</b>	82.8	96.3	97.8	96.9	97.8
<b>Any modern method</b>	u	95.4	97.5	96.7	97.7
Female sterilisation	40.0	49.7	69.7	58.1	46.6
Male sterilisation	10.8	16.4	42.5	38.8	33.3
Pill	80.5	93.6	96.0	94.3	94.7
IUD	40.2	51.6	67.6	63.8	56.5
Injectables	62.6	62.2	79.7	86.4	89.1
Implants	u	u	13.8	24.8	43.6
Male condom	48.3	76.7	93.7	92.2	94.0
Female condom	u	u	u	u	69.4
Lactational amenorrhoea method (LAM)	u	u	u	u	24.5
Emergency contraception	u	u	u	u	15.1
Diaphragm	u	14.0	u	20.2	na
Foam/jelly/foaming tablets	17.4 <sup>a</sup>	13.5	21.1 <sup>a</sup>	11.9	na
<b>Any traditional method</b>	u	75.3	67.8	58.8	56.1
Periodic abstinence	20.4	28.1	33.2	27.1	26.7
Withdrawal	56.1	63.4	56.8	51.7	50.8
Folk/other method	u	34.2	u	12.2	6.8
Number	2,123	2,643	6,128	5,907	8,907

u = Unknown (not available)  
na = Not applicable  
<sup>a</sup> Includes diaphragm  
Source: ZNFPC and WPAS, 1985; CSO and IRD, 1989; CSO and MI, 1995; ZDHS 1988-2006

### 5.3 EVER USE OF CONTRACEPTION

All women and men interviewed in the 2005-06 ZDHS who knew at least one family planning method were asked whether they had ever used any method to regulate their fertility. Table 5.4.1 shows the percentage of women who have ever used a family planning method. The top panel presents the figures for all women, the second panel the figures for currently married women, and the third panel the figures for sexually active unmarried women. The results for men are shown in Table 5.4.2.

Table 5.4.1 Ever use of contraception: women

Percentage of all women, currently married women, and sexually active unmarried women who have ever used any contraceptive method, by specific method and age, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Age	Modern method												Traditional method			Number of women	
	Any method	Any modern method	Female sterilisation	Male sterilisation	Pill	IUD	Injectables	Implants	Male condom	Female condom	LAM	Emergency contraception	Any traditional method	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal		Folk method
ALL WOMEN																	
15-19	16.9	16.5	0.0	0.0	10.7	0.0	1.6	0.2	8.6	0.7	0.7	0.2	1.9	0.4	1.5	0.2	2,152
20-24	67.8	66.6	0.0	0.0	56.3	0.3	17.1	1.2	21.7	2.2	2.6	1.4	10.4	2.4	8.5	0.8	1,952
25-29	89.7	89.1	0.3	0.1	79.9	1.0	34.1	2.4	26.9	3.2	4.5	2.6	15.7	2.4	13.9	0.8	1,466
30-34	93.2	91.5	1.0	0.1	83.8	1.9	35.7	2.8	29.7	2.9	5.5	1.8	17.6	2.6	14.6	1.8	1,216
35-39	90.5	89.0	2.4	0.2	81.0	2.4	36.6	1.9	25.7	3.7	5.6	1.9	17.3	2.6	15.0	1.2	834
40-44	88.0	84.7	5.5	0.5	76.8	3.2	36.2	2.4	19.7	1.7	6.4	1.6	22.2	3.2	18.4	5.2	699
45-49	79.3	73.4	9.4	0.3	63.5	2.3	31.5	0.6	12.7	1.9	8.0	2.2	25.7	2.9	21.6	4.4	589
Total	67.0	65.6	1.5	0.1	57.3	1.1	23.0	1.5	20.1	2.2	3.8	1.5	12.8	2.1	10.8	1.4	8,907
CURRENTLY MARRIED WOMEN																	
15-19	51.9	50.7	0.0	0.0	41.6	0.0	5.4	0.2	18.9	0.7	3.0	0.9	6.8	1.2	6.1	0.4	448
20-24	84.9	83.5	0.0	0.0	76.1	0.4	20.8	1.6	21.7	2.9	3.7	1.5	13.2	2.9	10.7	1.1	1,200
25-29	94.0	93.3	0.3	0.1	86.6	1.2	34.9	2.6	23.1	2.9	4.7	2.9	17.4	2.5	15.5	1.0	1,125
30-34	95.8	93.9	1.2	0.2	87.0	2.0	36.3	3.5	28.6	2.1	5.9	2.0	18.8	2.5	16.0	1.9	933
35-39	92.5	90.8	2.6	0.2	84.2	2.9	40.0	1.8	23.4	3.2	6.0	2.1	17.1	2.7	14.8	1.1	556
40-44	90.6	87.1	6.9	0.7	80.2	3.9	38.6	2.6	17.7	1.6	6.6	2.2	24.1	3.9	20.4	4.9	485
45-49	82.5	75.3	10.6	0.4	66.8	2.6	31.5	0.8	11.4	1.3	9.0	3.1	26.9	3.1	22.8	5.0	396
Total	87.2	85.2	2.0	0.2	77.9	1.6	29.9	2.1	22.0	2.4	5.2	2.1	17.1	2.7	14.6	1.8	5,143
SEXUALLY ACTIVE UNMARRIED WOMEN <sup>1</sup>																	
15-24	68.8	66.0	0.0	0.0	22.0	0.0	15.7	0.0	55.1	8.1	0.0	4.5	13.7	3.1	10.6	0.0	78
25-49	94.5	94.5	2.6	0.0	76.9	0.3	49.6	0.4	71.8	14.5	8.0	4.0	18.9	4.9	10.8	6.1	113
Total	84.0	82.9	1.5	0.0	54.5	0.2	35.8	0.3	65.0	11.9	4.7	4.2	16.8	4.1	10.7	3.6	191

LAM = Lactational amenorrhoea method

<sup>1</sup> Women who had sexual intercourse in the one month preceding the survey

Of currently married women, 87 percent reported having ever used a family planning method and 85 percent have used a modern method. Comparison with the 1999 ZDHS results shows that ever use of modern family planning methods among currently married women increased by six percentage points from 79 percent in 1999 to 85 percent in 2006.

Sixty-six percent of all women have used a modern method of contraception at some point. Pills are the most common form of contraception (57 percent), followed by injectables (23 percent) and male condoms (20 percent).

The pill is also the method most commonly ever used by most currently married women (78 percent), followed by injectables (30 percent) and male condoms (22 percent). Ever use of all other modern methods by married women is very low (5 percent or less).

More than eight in ten sexually active unmarried women have used a method of family planning at some time, with virtually all of them using a modern method. The male condom is the method most widely used (65 percent). Other popular methods are the pill (55 percent) and injectables (36 percent). Sexually active unmarried women are much more likely than their married counterparts to have ever used the male condom (65 percent compared with 22 percent) or the female condom (12 percent compared with 2 percent). However, currently married women are more likely to have ever used the pill than sexually active unmarried women (78 percent compared with 55 percent).

Table 5.4.2 Ever use of contraception: men									
Percentage of all men, currently married men, and sexually active unmarried men who have ever used any contraceptive method, by specific method and age, Zimbabwe 2005-2006									
Age	Any method	Any modern method	Modern method			Any traditional method	Traditional method		Number of men
			Male sterilisation	Male condom	Female condom		Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	
ALL MEN									
15-19	17.2	16.6	0.2	16.3	1.0	2.3	0.8	1.8	1,899
20-24	61.1	58.7	0.0	58.7	3.7	15.8	7.7	10.7	1,459
25-29	73.2	68.5	0.0	68.1	5.0	23.6	10.0	18.8	1,082
30-34	76.0	69.4	0.2	69.2	6.2	26.8	13.5	20.3	882
35-39	74.1	66.9	0.4	66.7	5.6	29.8	14.1	23.7	663
40-44	72.2	64.3	0.6	63.7	5.8	30.0	11.8	24.8	469
45-49	65.1	52.5	0.3	51.6	4.8	32.7	13.4	26.2	409
Total 15-49	55.0	50.8	0.2	50.5	3.9	18.0	8.1	13.9	6,863
Total men 15-54	55.2	50.5	0.2	50.2	3.8	18.7	8.3	14.5	7,175
CURRENTLY MARRIED MEN									
15-19	75.9	75.9	0.0	75.9	7.9	*	*	*	8
20-24	70.6	65.1	0.0	65.1	5.9	27.2	17.0	16.3	311
25-29	73.5	66.7	0.0	66.5	4.4	27.0	11.2	21.3	692
30-34	75.2	67.6	0.2	67.4	6.5	28.8	14.5	22.0	755
35-39	74.7	66.7	0.5	66.5	5.9	31.7	14.8	25.4	581
40-44	71.6	62.6	0.7	62.0	6.2	30.8	11.7	26.2	414
45-49	66.2	52.9	0.4	51.8	5.3	34.2	13.8	27.7	369
Total 15-49	72.7	64.6	0.3	64.3	5.7	29.6	13.6	23.1	3,132
Total men 15-54	71.7	62.9	0.3	62.6	5.4	30.0	13.6	23.7	3,419
SEXUALLY ACTIVE UNMARRIED MEN <sup>1</sup>									
15-24	82.5	82.0	0.5	81.4	12.2	22.5	7.9	18.5	277
25-49	85.7	84.9	0.0	84.9	9.9	27.2	10.1	24.1	138
Total 15-49	83.6	83.0	0.3	82.6	11.4	24.1	8.6	20.3	415
Total men 15-54	83.7	83.1	0.3	82.7	11.3	23.9	8.5	20.2	417

Note: An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.  
<sup>1</sup> Men who had sexual intercourse in the one month preceding the survey

Fifty-one percent of all men age 15-49 have used a modern family planning method at some time. The same proportion of all men report that they have used a male condom and 4 percent have used a female condom at some time. Among currently married men, 65 percent have used a modern method of contraception, with 64 percent having used male condoms and 6 percent having used female condoms. Sexually active unmarried men are more likely to have ever used the male condom than currently married men (83 percent compared with 64 percent) and the female condom (11 percent compared with 6 percent).

## 5.4 CURRENT USE OF CONTRACEPTION

This section presents information on the prevalence of contraceptive use among women and men in Zimbabwe at the time of the survey. These results provide insight into one of the principal determinants of fertility that also serve to assess the success of family planning programmes.

Contraceptive use among all women and men, currently married women and men, and sexually active unmarried women and men, is presented in Table 5.5. The contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR), or the percentage of currently married women who are using a family planning method, in Zimbabwe is 60 percent, while the CPR for modern family planning methods in the country is 58 percent. Figure 5.1 shows the methods currently used by married women. The family planning method most commonly used is the pill (43 percent). The other modern methods that are used by currently married women are injectables (10 percent), female sterilisation (2 percent), male condoms (1 percent), implants (1 percent), and LAM (less than 1 percent).

The use of modern family planning methods among currently married women increases with age from 36 percent of women age 15-19 to 69 percent of women age 25-29, after which it falls to 34 percent of women age 45-49. An increase in the use of oral contraceptives is also evident in the younger age groups, from 32 percent of married women aged 15-19 years to a peak of 53 percent in the age group 25-29 years.

The pattern of distribution of current use of modern contraceptives is similar to that observed in 1999, except that in the 2005-06 ZDHS contraceptive use rates are higher. A comparison between the 1999 and the 2005-06 use rates shows that the highest gains in current use of modern family planning methods were realised in the age groups 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, and 35-39 years.

The overall level of use of modern family planning methods is slightly higher for sexually active unmarried women than for currently married women. The most striking differences are that, while 26 percent of sexually active unmarried women use condoms, only 1 percent of currently married women use them, and 21 percent of sexually active unmarried women use the pill versus 43 percent of currently married women. Differences in the use rates of other modern contraceptive methods between the two population subgroups are similar. The female condom is virtually unused by both sexually active unmarried women and married women. Compared with the 1999 ZDHS results, use of the male condom is higher among sexually active unmarried women.

Table 5.5 Current use of contraception by age

Percent distribution of all women, currently married women, sexually active unmarried women, and totals for men who are currently using a contraceptive method, by specific method and age, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Age	Any method	Any modern method	Modern method									Any traditional method	Traditional method			Not currently using	Total	Number of women
			Female sterilisation	Male sterilisation	Pill	IUD	Injectables	Implants	Male condom	Female condom	LAM		Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Folk method			
ALL WOMEN/MEN																		
15-19	9.7	9.5	0.0	0.0	7.2	0.0	0.8	0.1	1.3	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	90.3	100.0	2,152
20-24	43.8	43.1	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	7.0	0.6	1.9	0.0	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.2	56.2	100.0	1,952
25-29	62.0	61.1	0.3	0.0	44.8	0.2	12.0	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.5	0.9	0.0	0.7	0.2	38.0	100.0	1,466
30-34	58.5	57.1	1.0	0.0	39.5	0.4	10.3	1.9	3.2	0.1	0.8	1.4	0.1	0.9	0.3	41.5	100.0	1,216
35-39	49.7	47.7	2.4	0.1	29.9	0.5	10.8	0.6	2.6	0.0	0.6	2.0	0.4	1.4	0.1	50.3	100.0	834
40-44	43.1	40.3	5.5	0.1	20.4	0.4	9.4	1.2	3.2	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.5	1.3	1.0	56.9	100.0	699
45-49	29.8	27.7	9.4	0.2	10.8	0.5	4.9	0.2	1.2	0.4	0.1	2.1	0.0	0.9	1.2	70.2	100.0	589
Total women 15-49	40.1	39.1	1.5	0.0	26.9	0.2	7.2	0.8	2.0	0.1	0.4	1.1	0.1	0.7	0.3	59.9	100.0	8,907
Total men 15-49	40.6	39.4	0.4	0.2	24.8	0.2	3.7	0.5	9.5	0.0	0.1	1.2	0.3	0.7	0.3	59.4	100.0	6,849
Total men 15-54	41.2	39.8	0.6	0.2	25.1	0.2	3.8	0.5	9.4	0.0	0.1	1.4	0.3	0.8	0.4	58.8	100.0	7,175
CURRENTLY MARRIED WOMEN/MEN																		
15-19	36.7	35.7	0.0	0.0	31.7	0.0	2.9	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.6	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	63.3	100.0	448
20-24	61.6	60.4	0.0	0.0	50.1	0.0	8.3	0.8	0.8	0.1	0.4	1.1	0.1	0.7	0.3	38.4	100.0	1,200
25-29	70.3	69.1	0.3	0.0	53.1	0.3	12.0	1.8	1.0	0.0	0.6	1.2	0.1	1.0	0.2	29.7	100.0	1,125
30-34	68.1	66.4	1.2	0.0	47.8	0.5	11.2	2.2	2.3	0.1	1.0	1.8	0.1	1.2	0.4	31.9	100.0	933
35-39	64.1	61.3	2.6	0.2	40.6	0.6	13.4	0.7	2.5	0.0	0.8	2.8	0.6	2.1	0.1	35.9	100.0	556
40-44	54.9	51.3	6.9	0.2	28.1	0.6	11.6	1.3	2.5	0.0	0.0	3.7	0.7	1.9	1.1	45.1	100.0	485
45-49	36.6	33.9	10.6	0.2	15.3	0.4	5.9	0.3	1.0	0.0	0.2	2.7	0.0	1.4	1.4	63.4	100.0	396
Total women 15-49	60.2	58.4	2.0	0.1	43.0	0.3	9.9	1.2	1.4	0.0	0.5	1.8	0.2	1.2	0.4	39.8	100.0	5,143
Total men 15-49	71.3	69.1	0.9	0.3	53.8	0.5	8.1	1.0	4.3	0.0	0.2	2.2	0.5	1.3	0.4	28.7	100.0	3,067
Total men 15-54	69.9	67.6	1.1	0.3	52.0	0.5	8.0	0.9	4.5	0.0	0.2	2.4	0.4	1.5	0.5	30.1	100.0	3,367
SEXUALLY ACTIVE UNMARRIED WOMEN/MEN <sup>1</sup>																		
15-19	36.8	36.8	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0	1.9	0.0	33.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	63.2	100.0	34
20-24	57.1	55.0	0.0	0.0	13.0	0.0	10.1	0.0	32.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0	2.1	0.0	42.9	100.0	44
25-29	71.5	71.5	0.0	0.0	38.8	0.0	16.2	0.0	16.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.5	100.0	39
30-34	75.3	75.3	2.2	0.0	32.9	0.0	14.4	0.0	25.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.7	100.0	37
35-39	72.1	72.1	0.0	0.0	36.2	0.0	23.0	0.0	13.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.9	100.0	14
40-44	55.5	55.5	8.6	0.0	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	32.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	44.5	100.0	16
45-49	65.2	51.9	9.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.8	0.0	24.8	0.0	0.0	13.2	0.0	0.0	13.2	34.8	100.0	8
Total women 15-49	61.2	60.2	1.5	0.0	21.3	0.0	11.1	0.0	26.3	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.5	0.6	38.8	100.0	191
Total men 15-49	42.9	42.2	0.2	0.2	4.4	0.0	0.0	0.5	36.8	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.5	57.1	100.0	427
Total men 15-54	42.6	41.9	0.2	0.2	4.4	0.0	0.0	0.5	36.5	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.5	57.4	100.0	430

Note: If more than one method is used, only the most effective method is considered in this tabulation.

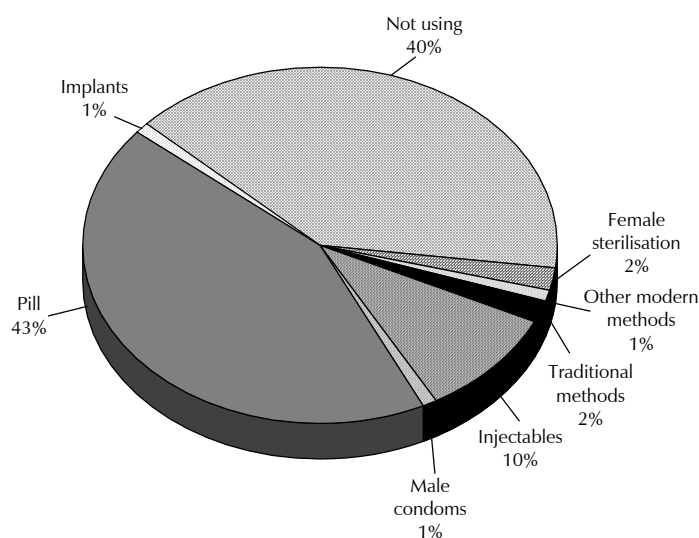
LAM = Lactational amenorrhoea method

<sup>1</sup> Women and men who have had sexual intercourse in the one month preceding the survey



Table 5.5 also presents totals for men age 15-49 and age 15-54 by all men, currently married men, and sexually active unmarried men. The patterns for men are similar to those of women. Forty-two percent of all men age 15-49 currently use some form of contraception, and 41 percent use a modern method with their partner. As with women, the majority of all men 15-49 reported that they and their partners use the pill (26 percent), 10 percent use the male condom, and 4 percent use injectables. Seventy percent of married men age 15-49 reported that they use a modern method of contraception with their partners. More than half of married men and their partners rely on the pill (54 percent), 8 percent use injectables, and 5 percent use the male condom. Among sexually active unmarried men age 15-49, 45 percent reported they use a modern method of contraception with their partners. As with unmarried sexually active women, the majority of men in this category rely on male condoms (38 percent).

**Figure 5.1 Use of Specific Contraceptive Methods among Currently Married Women**



ZDHS 2005-2006

Table 5.6 indicates that current use of contraceptive methods among married women has risen steadily since 1984. Overall, the contraceptive prevalence rate has increased from 38 percent in 1984 to 60 percent in 2005-06. The use of modern family planning methods among currently married women has more than doubled from 27 percent in 1984 to 58 percent in 2005-06. Use of male condoms, IUD, and female sterilisation showed small declines between 1999 and 2005-06. The use of traditional methods of contraception also declined from about 12 percent in 1984 to just below 2 percent in 2005-06.

Table 5.6 Trends in current use of contraceptive					
Percentage of currently married women who were using specific contraceptive methods at the time of the survey, Zimbabwe 1984-2006					
Method	Use of contraception				
	1984 ZDHS	1988 ZDHS	1994 ZDHS	1999 ZDHS	2005-06 ZDHS
<b>Any method</b>	38.4	43.1	48.1	53.5	60.2
<b>Any modern method</b>	26.6	36.1	42.2	50.4	58.4
Female sterilisation	1.6	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.0
Male sterilisation	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Pill	26.6	36.1	42.2	50.4	43.0
IUD	0.7	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.3
Injectables	0.8	0.3	3.2	8.1	9.9
Implants	na	na	0.2	0.5	1.2
Male condom	0.7	1.2	2.3	1.8	1.4
LAM	na	na	na	na	0.5
<b>Any traditional method</b>	11.8	7.0	6.0	3.2	1.8
Periodic abstinence	2.1	na	na	0.2	0.2
Withdrawal	6.5	5.1	4.2	2.6	1.2
Folk/other method	2.6	1.5	1.7	0.4	0.4
Number	2,123	2,643	3,788	3,609	5,143

na = Not applicable  
LAM = Lactational amenorrhoea method  
Source: ZNFPC and WPAS, 1985; CSO and IRD, 1989; CSO and MI, 1995; ZDHS 1988-2006

## 5.5 CURRENT USE OF CONTRACEPTION BY BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS

Table 5.7.1 for women and Table 5.7.2 for men present analysis of current use of contraceptives by background characteristics. These results enable us to examine differences in the method mix among current users in the different subgroups. Table 5.7.1 shows that few married women who are childless use family planning methods (5 percent), but more than half of women with one or more children use contraception. Contraceptive use rises with an increase in the number of living children up to four and declines thereafter.

Currently married women in rural areas are less likely to use family planning methods than their counterparts in urban areas (55 percent compared with 70 percent). This trend is observed across all modern methods of contraception except LAM. Use of family planning methods is highest in the urban provinces of Harare (72 percent) and Bulawayo (67 percent). Matabeleland North has the lowest contraceptive prevalence rate among currently married women (46 percent).

Contraceptive use is positively associated with women's level of education. While 35 percent of currently married women with no education use contraceptives, more than double the proportion, 78 percent, of those with higher than secondary education use contraceptives.

Table 5.7.1 Current use of contraception by background characteristics: women

Percent distribution of currently married women by contraceptive method currently used, according to background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Modern method											Traditional method			Not currently using	Total	Number of women		
	Any method	Any modern method	Fe-male sterilisation	Male sterilisation	Pill	IUD	Injectables	Im-plants	Male condom	Fe-male condom	LAM	Any traditional method	Periodic abstinence	With-drawal				Folk method	
<b>Number of living children</b>																			
0	4.5	3.9	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.4	0.2	95.5	100.0	463	
1-2	67.4	66.3	0.5	0.1	53.4	0.3	8.8	1.6	1.2	0.0	0.4	1.1	0.1	0.8	0.2	32.6	100.0	2,422	
3-4	69.8	67.7	3.4	0.1	46.6	0.6	13.2	1.3	1.6	0.1	0.9	2.1	0.4	1.2	0.5	30.2	100.0	1,363	
5+	55.1	51.2	5.1	0.0	30.2	0.1	12.2	0.8	2.0	0.0	0.8	3.9	0.1	2.7	1.1	44.9	100.0	896	
<b>Residence</b>																			
Urban	69.8	68.3	3.4	0.1	47.7	0.8	11.2	2.8	1.9	0.0	0.5	1.5	0.2	0.9	0.4	30.2	100.0	1,742	
Rural	55.3	53.4	1.3	0.0	40.6	0.0	9.2	0.4	1.2	0.0	0.6	2.0	0.2	1.3	0.4	44.7	100.0	3,401	
<b>Province</b>																			
Manicaland	52.4	51.0	1.3	0.0	37.7	0.4	10.2	0.3	1.0	0.0	0.1	1.4	0.1	1.1	0.2	47.6	100.0	599	
Mashonaland Central	61.4	59.8	1.1	0.0	48.8	0.0	7.1	0.7	1.8	0.0	0.3	1.6	0.4	0.6	0.6	38.6	100.0	572	
Mashonaland East	64.0	63.4	0.8	0.0	45.9	0.3	11.7	1.4	2.6	0.0	0.7	0.6	0.0	0.6	0.0	36.0	100.0	442	
Mashonaland West	62.0	60.6	1.1	0.0	48.5	0.0	9.4	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.2	1.4	0.1	0.9	0.4	38.0	100.0	514	
Matabeleland North	45.7	43.0	3.9	0.6	24.4	0.6	12.0	0.3	1.3	0.0	0.0	2.6	0.0	1.8	0.9	54.3	100.0	323	
Matabeleland South	47.2	42.6	3.1	0.0	21.1	0.0	13.3	1.4	2.6	0.0	1.1	4.6	0.0	3.1	1.5	52.8	100.0	208	
Midlands	63.4	61.1	2.7	0.0	44.9	0.2	10.1	0.8	0.9	0.0	1.5	2.3	0.6	1.4	0.3	36.6	100.0	728	
Masvingo	54.1	52.0	1.1	0.0	39.0	0.0	10.0	0.4	0.6	0.0	0.9	2.1	0.0	1.7	0.4	45.9	100.0	697	
Harare	71.9	70.2	1.8	0.0	53.8	0.8	8.6	2.9	2.2	0.0	0.2	1.7	0.3	1.0	0.4	28.1	100.0	760	
Bulawayo	67.0	66.0	6.9	0.3	40.8	0.9	10.2	4.2	2.2	0.3	0.3	1.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	33.0	100.0	301	
<b>Education</b>																			
No education	34.7	30.3	1.7	0.0	22.8	0.0	5.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	4.5	0.7	2.9	0.9	65.3	100.0	276	
Primary	53.9	52.0	2.1	0.0	37.9	0.0	9.7	0.3	1.3	0.0	0.7	1.9	0.1	1.1	0.7	46.1	100.0	1,910	
Secondary	66.0	64.6	1.5	0.1	48.7	0.4	10.4	1.6	1.3	0.0	0.5	1.4	0.2	1.1	0.2	34.0	100.0	2,788	
More than secondary	78.4	75.6	10.3	0.6	38.1	2.7	10.5	6.6	6.7	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.9	1.3	0.7	21.6	100.0	169	
<b>Wealth quintile</b>																			
Lowest	48.0	45.2	0.5	0.0	34.6	0.0	8.5	0.1	0.5	0.0	1.0	2.8	0.0	2.0	0.7	52.0	100.0	1,034	
Second	57.1	55.0	1.0	0.0	43.4	0.0	8.4	0.3	1.3	0.1	0.5	2.2	0.2	1.4	0.5	42.9	100.0	998	
Middle	56.1	54.4	1.6	0.0	42.1	0.0	9.1	0.5	0.8	0.0	0.3	1.7	0.4	0.9	0.4	43.9	100.0	906	
Fourth	66.5	65.5	2.2	0.1	49.3	0.2	10.3	0.7	1.9	0.0	0.8	1.0	0.2	0.6	0.1	33.5	100.0	1,183	
Highest	72.1	70.6	4.8	0.2	44.5	1.2	12.9	4.4	2.4	0.1	0.1	1.6	0.1	1.0	0.4	27.9	100.0	1,023	
Total	60.2	58.4	2.0	0.1	43.0	0.3	9.9	1.2	1.4	0.0	0.5	1.8	0.2	1.2	0.4	39.8	100.0	5,143	

Note: If more than one method is used, only the most effective method is considered in this tabulation.

LAM = Lactational amenorrhoea method

Contraceptive use patterns among men are generally similar to those observed among women. Prevalence is higher among urban men; those living in Harare, Mashonaland West, and Masvingo; higher educated men; and men in the highest wealth quintile. It is interesting to note that 71 percent of married men with no living children, one to two children, and three to four children all reported that they were using a contraceptive method. Sixty-six percent of married men with five or more children reported that they were using a contraceptive method.

Table 5.7.2 Current use of contraception by background characteristics: men

Percent distribution of currently married men by contraceptive method currently used, according to background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Modern method											Traditional method				Not currently using	Total	Number of men
	Any method	Any modern method	Fe-male sterilisation	Male sterilisation	Pill	IUD	Injectables	Implants	Male condom	Fe-male condom	LAM	Any traditional method	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Folk method			
<b>Number of living children</b>																		
0	70.8	68.3	1.1	0.4	51.4	0.4	7.2	1.6	6.0	0.0	0.2	2.5	0.3	2.0	0.1	29.2	100.0	1,073
1-2	71.4	69.5	1.4	0.3	52.1	0.6	9.5	0.7	4.5	0.2	0.1	2.0	0.4	1.1	0.4	28.6	100.0	1,424
3-4	70.5	68.0	1.2	0.3	55.2	0.3	6.2	1.1	3.7	0.0	0.0	2.6	0.4	1.4	0.8	29.5	100.0	645
5+	65.5	63.0	1.0	0.6	52.0	0.0	5.8	0.0	3.3	0.0	0.4	2.6	0.3	1.3	1.0	34.5	100.0	2776
<b>Residence</b>																		
Urban	76.1	74.1	1.7	0.6	53.5	0.7	8.6	2.5	6.4	0.1	0.1	2.0	0.5	1.2	0.3	23.9	100.0	1,271
Rural	68.8	66.7	0.4	0.2	54.6	0.3	7.5	0.1	3.2	0.1	0.2	2.2	0.3	1.5	0.3	31.2	100.0	1,861
<b>Province</b>																		
Manicaland	70.5	66.0	1.4	1.1	49.0	0.1	9.5	0.3	4.2	0.0	0.4	4.5	0.9	3.0	0.7	29.5	100.0	335
Mashonaland Central	70.0	68.9	0.9	0.2	60.3	0.0	5.3	0.2	1.7	0.0	0.2	1.1	0.5	0.6	0.0	30.0	100.0	342
Mashonaland East	59.2	58.9	0.0	0.0	45.5	1.2	8.6	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	40.8	100.0	259
Mashonaland West	78.8	77.1	0.5	1.4	64.2	0.2	7.0	0.4	3.3	0.0	0.1	1.7	0.2	0.4	1.0	21.2	100.0	348
Matabeleland North	60.2	58.8	0.9	0.0	42.1	0.0	9.9	1.3	4.6	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.4	0.8	0.3	39.8	100.0	194
Matabeleland South	55.6	54.9	0.0	0.0	38.8	0.0	4.6	1.0	10.5	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.7	44.4	100.0	99
Midlands	67.9	65.9	0.7	0.0	52.8	0.3	7.2	1.5	3.4	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.2	1.5	0.3	32.1	100.0	446
Masvingo	79.5	75.6	1.3	0.3	61.1	0.0	8.3	0.2	3.7	0.4	0.2	3.9	0.3	3.2	0.3	20.5	100.0	352
Harare	81.3	79.6	0.5	0.1	61.1	1.1	9.6	1.8	5.1	0.1	0.0	1.7	0.5	1.2	0.0	18.7	100.0	574
Bulawayo	67.9	65.3	3.7	0.4	34.6	1.3	6.6	4.9	13.9	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.8	1.3	0.4	32.1	100.0	183
<b>Education</b>																		
No education	55.3	43.6	1.9	0.0	34.6	0.0	4.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	2.1	11.8	0.0	11.8	0.0	44.7	100.0	61
Primary	66.5	64.2	0.8	0.3	51.5	0.1	7.7	0.1	3.5	0.2	0.0	2.3	0.2	1.7	0.4	33.5	100.0	874
Secondary	74.1	72.5	0.6	0.4	56.6	0.6	8.1	1.3	4.8	0.0	0.2	1.6	0.5	0.9	0.3	25.9	100.0	1,941
More than secondary	76.0	73.3	3.4	0.9	49.6	0.6	8.7	3.2	6.6	0.3	0.0	2.7	0.5	1.9	0.3	24.0	100.0	255
<b>Wealth quintile</b>																		
Lowest	64.5	61.6	0.3	0.0	52.3	0.2	6.5	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.4	2.9	0.5	1.7	0.8	35.5	100.0	527
Second	69.9	68.4	0.2	0.1	57.3	0.2	7.2	0.2	3.2	0.1	0.0	1.5	0.3	1.0	0.2	30.1	100.0	539
Middle	69.7	68.4	0.5	0.0	54.5	0.3	8.8	0.0	3.7	0.2	0.3	1.2	0.2	1.1	0.0	30.3	100.0	424
Fourth	74.6	71.9	0.7	0.6	56.1	0.6	7.8	0.7	5.3	0.0	0.2	2.7	0.3	2.0	0.4	25.4	100.0	948
Highest	76.1	74.5	2.5	0.8	50.2	0.7	9.4	3.8	6.9	0.1	0.0	1.7	0.7	0.9	0.1	23.9	100.0	695
Total 15-49	71.8	69.7	0.9	0.4	54.2	0.4	8.0	1.1	4.5	0.1	0.2	2.1	0.4	1.4	0.3	28.2	100.0	3,132

Note: If more than one method is used, only the most effective method is considered in this tabulation.

LAM = Lactational amenorrhoea method

## 5.6 NUMBER OF CHILDREN AT FIRST USE OF CONTRACEPTION

Couples use family planning methods to time births or to completely avoid pregnancy. An examination of first use of contraception among women interviewed in the 2005-06 ZDHS by the number of living children shows that younger women (15-34 years of age) initiated contraceptive use at lower parities than older women (Table 5.8). In general, the data show that few women began to use contraceptives before they had a child (5 percent).

Table 5.8 Number of children at first use of contraception

Percent distribution of women who have ever used contraception by number of living children at the time of first use of contraception, according to current age, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Current age	Never used	Number of living children at time of first use of contraception						Total	Number of women
		0	1	2	3	4+	Missing		
15-19	83.1	6.0	10.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	100.0	2,152
20-24	32.2	8.9	53.9	4.0	0.7	0.0	0.2	100.0	1,952
25-29	10.3	5.6	74.3	7.8	1.6	0.2	0.2	100.0	1,466
30-34	6.8	4.3	75.2	9.6	2.6	1.4	0.1	100.0	1,216
35-39	9.5	2.1	63.4	13.8	6.2	4.6	0.4	100.0	834
40-44	12.0	2.9	52.1	14.5	8.5	9.1	0.8	100.0	699
45-49	20.7	1.5	40.2	11.3	9.1	16.7	0.6	100.0	589
Total	33.0	5.4	49.5	6.7	2.6	2.5	0.3	100.0	8,907

## 5.7 USE OF SOCIAL MARKETING BRAND PILLS

Women who were currently using oral contraceptives were asked for the brand name of the pills they last used. This information is useful in monitoring the success of social marketing programmes that promote a specific brand. Table 5.9 presents information on the percentage of pill users using social marketing brands by background characteristics. The public sector distributes Ovrette and LoFemenal, while Micronor, Marvellon, Duofem, and Excluton are marketed by the private sector.

The majority of the 2,362 women who knew the brand name of the pill they were using used oral contraceptive pills distributed by the public sector (90 percent). Among these women, 52 percent used LoFemenal and the remaining 38 percent used Ovrette. Almost all the remaining women (10 percent) used oral contraceptives marketed by the private sector. Of these women, 5 percent used Duofem, 3 percent used Marvellon, and 2 percent used Excluton.

Table 5.9 Use of social marketing brand pills

Percent distribution of pill users by brand of pill used, according to background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Brand of pill used							Total	Number of pill users
	Ovrette	Lo-Femenal	Micronor	Marvellon	Duofem	Excluton	Other		
<b>Age</b>									
15-19	74.8	18.3	0.0	0.4	4.5	2.0	0.0	100.0	151
20-24	45.6	43.2	0.2	1.6	5.2	4.0	0.2	100.0	637
25-29	34.2	53.2	0.2	4.0	6.1	1.5	0.8	100.0	651
30-34	33.2	57.7	0.2	3.2	4.0	0.6	1.2	100.0	474
35-39	27.3	67.7	0.3	2.6	1.2	0.9	0.0	100.0	245
40-44	25.3	67.7	0.6	2.9	3.0	0.0	0.5	100.0	141
45-49	20.0	77.1	1.8	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	100.0	63
<b>Residence</b>									
Urban	28.6	52.0	0.0	6.0	9.3	3.6	0.5	100.0	910
Rural	44.0	52.3	0.4	0.5	1.5	0.7	0.6	100.0	1,452
<b>Province</b>									
Manicaland	38.8	53.8	0.0	1.4	4.5	1.0	0.5	100.0	232
Mashonaland Central	42.6	53.9	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.4	100.0	283
Mashonaland East	41.8	54.8	0.0	1.2	0.6	1.1	0.5	100.0	219
Mashonaland West	39.9	55.0	0.0	1.4	3.1	0.6	0.0	100.0	270
Matabeleland North	41.7	42.7	6.8	2.9	3.7	2.3	0.0	100.0	89
Matabeleland South	28.1	61.5	0.0	3.9	5.2	0.0	1.4	100.0	47
Midlands	36.8	56.5	0.0	2.5	2.6	0.9	0.8	100.0	350
Masvingo	50.4	47.8	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.8	100.0	289
Harare	30.4	47.6	0.0	6.6	10.4	4.6	0.4	100.0	443
Bulawayo	21.3	52.1	0.0	7.2	11.5	7.0	1.0	100.0	141
<b>Education</b>									
No education	33.3	62.4	1.3	1.4	0.0	0.0	1.8	100.0	65
Primary	44.5	51.4	0.3	0.4	2.5	0.4	0.5	100.0	770
Secondary	35.7	52.3	0.2	3.7	5.5	2.3	0.4	100.0	1,459
More than secondary	19.8	49.8	0.0	7.1	10.7	9.7	2.9	100.0	68
<b>Wealth quintile</b>									
Lowest	55.3	42.9	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.0	100.0	381
Second	43.6	53.7	0.5	0.0	1.5	0.2	0.5	100.0	452
Middle	42.2	52.2	0.3	1.3	2.3	1.1	0.6	100.0	398
Fourth	30.6	57.6	0.0	2.3	5.9	3.0	0.5	100.0	632
Highest	25.9	50.9	0.0	8.0	10.6	3.6	0.9	100.0	499
Total	38.0	52.2	0.3	2.6	4.5	1.8	0.5	100.0	2,362

Note: Table excludes pill users who do not know the brand name.

## 5.8 USE OF SOCIAL MARKETING BRAND CONDOMS

Women and men who were currently using condoms were asked for the brand name of the condoms they last used. Out of the 137 women interviewed in the 2005-06 ZDHS that knew the brand name of the condom that they were currently using, the majority (96 percent) were using the male condom (Table 5.10). Among women, Protector Plus is the most commonly used male condom brand (52 percent), followed by an unbranded condom distributed by the public sector that was used by 12 percent of the women. Of the women that were using female condoms (4 percent of all women reporting use of condoms), just over half reported that they were using the Care brand of the female condom.

Among the 499 men who knew the brand name of the condom, 83 percent reported using Protector Plus, and 12 percent used the unbranded condoms distributed by the public sector. Three percent of these men reported using Durex.

**Table 5.10 Use of social marketing brand condoms**

Percent distribution of condom users by brand of condom used with last sexual partner, according to urban-rural residence, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Condom brand	Women			Men		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
<b>Male condom</b>						
Choice assorted	3.2	1.6	2.6	0.6	0.8	0.7
Durex	2.7	0.0	1.7	3.3	2.0	2.8
Ecstasy	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.5
Protector Plus	52.3	50.4	51.6	88.5	76.7	83.0
Rough Rider	0.8	4.9	2.3	0.5	0.0	0.3
Public sector distributed	14.4	8.5	12.2	5.1	19.4	11.8
Other male condom	1.0	0.0	0.6	0.5	0.0	0.2
Don't know brand	20.9	30.7	24.5	0.7	0.4	0.5
<b>Female condom</b>						
Care	2.8	1.9	2.4	0.0	0.2	0.1
Other	0.9	2.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Don't know brand	1.1	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.4	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of users	86	51	137	267	215	499

Note: Total represents sexually active respondents who reported condoms as a current method of contraception and used a condom with the last sexual partner within 12 months preceding the survey. Condom use is based on respondents' reports.

## 5.9 KNOWLEDGE OF THE FERTILE PERIOD

An elementary knowledge of reproductive physiology provides a useful background for successful practice of coitus-associated methods such as withdrawal and condoms. Such knowledge is particularly critical in the use of periodic abstinence. The 2005-06 ZDHS included a question designed to obtain information on the respondent's understanding of when a woman is most likely to become pregnant during the menstrual cycle. Responses from female and male respondents to this inquiry show that few people correctly identified that a woman is most fertile halfway between two menstrual periods. Table 5.11 indicates that knowledge of the fertile period is minimal among women and men in Zimbabwe. Only 10 percent of the women and 6 percent of men were able to correctly identify the fertile period.

**Table 5.11 Knowledge of fertile period**

Percent distribution of women and men by knowledge of the fertile period during the ovulatory cycle, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Perceived fertile period	All women	All men
Just before her period begins	12.1	24.3
During her period	1.9	3.5
Right after her period has ended	35.0	20.9
Halfway between two periods	10.1	5.7
Other	0.3	0.1
No specific time	19.6	20.9
Don't know	20.8	24.4
Missing	0.3	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0
Number of respondents	8,907	7,175

## 5.10 TIMING OF STERILISATION

Women who reported that they use female sterilisation as a contraceptive method were asked additional questions about how old they were when the procedure was performed. The results indicate that around two-thirds (66 percent) of women who adopted female sterilisation had the procedure done when they were in their thirties while 17 percent were under age 30 and 18 percent were age 40 or older at the time of the sterilisation (not shown in table). The median age at the time the sterilisation was done was 33.9 years.

## 5.11 SOURCE OF SUPPLY

To obtain information on sources of modern contraceptives, all women who reported using modern methods of contraception were asked to state where they obtained their current method(s) the last time. Detailed information on the source of the family planning methods by each method is complicated by the fact that some respondents do not know for sure the name of the source. The data on this indicator should therefore be used with some caution.

Table 5.12 shows that the majority of contraceptive users obtained contraceptives from the public sector (68 percent). Twenty-two percent obtained their contraceptives from the private medical sector. There has been continued increase in the participation of the private medical sector in family planning service delivery from 12 percent in 1994 to 22 percent in 2005-06.

The public sector supplies the majority of injectables (78 percent), female sterilisation (71 percent), and oral contraceptives (68 percent). The main source of supply for male condoms is retail outlets (49 percent).

Within the public sector, central hospitals are reported as the main source of female sterilisation (69 percent) and implants (30 percent). Also within the public sector, provincial hospitals are the major source for the pill (34 percent) and injectables (42 percent). The most common source of the male condom is the supermarket (36 percent).



Table 5.12 Source of modern contraceptive methods

Percent distribution of current users of modern contraceptive methods by most recent source of method, according to method, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Most recent source of method	Female sterilisation	Pill	Injectables	Implants	Male condom	Total
<b>Public sector</b>	70.6	68.3	78.4	59.2	29.7	67.8
Central hospital	69.4	15.3	17.9	29.8	5.8	17.7
Provincial hospital	0.0	33.6	42.0	11.6	12.9	32.1
District/rural hospital	0.0	9.6	15.5	1.3	2.9	9.8
ZNFPC clinic	0.6	1.2	1.1	15.0	1.0	1.5
MOH mobile clinic	0.0	1.5	0.9	0.0	4.6	1.5
ZNFPC CBD/depot holder	0.0	6.1	0.6	1.4	0.6	4.4
Other public	0.5	1.0	0.4	0.0	2.0	0.9
<b>Mission facility</b>	7.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
<b>Private medical sector</b>	21.5	23.5	15.2	35.3	13.3	21.8
Private hospital/clinic	19.0	2.2	4.1	5.0	0.6	3.2
Pharmacy	0.0	16.8	2.6	1.9	10.0	12.8
Private doctor	2.5	2.0	7.8	28.4	1.9	3.8
CBD	0.0	2.5	0.1	0.0	0.8	1.8
Other private medical	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.2
<b>Retail outlet</b>	0.0	5.7	6.1	5.6	49.2	7.8
General dealer	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	6.2	0.6
Supermarket	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	36.2	2.2
Truck stop	0.0	4.5	6.1	5.6	6.8	4.8
Service station	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other retail	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
<b>Other private source</b>	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	3.6	1.6
Friends/relatives	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	3.6	1.6
Other	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.0	1.4	0.4
Missing	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	2.8	0.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of users	130	2,398	639	76	177	3,446

Note: Total includes other modern methods but excludes lactational amenorrhoea method (LAM). Total includes 17 IUD users, 3 male sterilisation users, and 5 female condom users who are not shown separately.

CBD = Community-based distribution

## 5.12 INFORMED CHOICE

Women who are currently using a modern method and who started the last episode of use within five years of the survey were asked whether they were informed about the side effects or problems of the method, what to do if they experienced side effects, and other methods that they could use. This is a measure of the quality of family planning service provision. Table 5.13 shows the results from the 2005-06 ZDHS by method and the source of the current episode of use.

Half or more of contraceptive users were informed about side effects and what to do if they experienced them. At least 6 in 10 women were informed of other methods they could use. Of all the women who obtained their current family planning methods from the public and the private medical sector, the Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council (ZNFPC) has the highest proportion (76 percent) of women who were informed about side effects or method-related problems. Private doctors have the highest proportion of women who were informed about what to do if they experienced side effects (62 percent) and the highest proportion of women who were informed about other methods that they could use apart from the method that they are currently using (86 percent). Fifty-two percent of women who obtained their current methods from a ZNFPC community-based distribution (CBD) or depot holder were informed about other methods that they could use.

Table 5.13 Informed choice

Among current users of modern methods who started the last episode of use within the five years preceding the survey, percentage who were informed about possible side effects or problems of that method, the percentage who were informed about what to do if they experienced side effects, and the percentage who were informed about other methods they could use, by method and source; and among sterilised women, the percentage who were informed that the method is permanent, by initial source of method, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Method/ source	Percentage who were informed about side effects or problems of method used	Percentage who were informed about what to do if experienced side effects	Percentage who were informed by a health or family planning worker of other methods that could be used <sup>1</sup>	Number of women
<b>Method</b>				
Female sterilisation	63.8	50.4	75.9	47
Pill	49.4	44.6	63.1	2,038
Injectables	53.1	45.8	59.2	553
Implants	62.8	50.4	66.8	72
<b>Initial source of method<sup>1,2</sup></b>				
<b>Public sector</b>				
Government hospital/clinic	48.8	43.3	60.7	2,048
Rural/municipal clinic	57.7	51.3	66.8	479
Rural health centre	44.4	38.8	59.5	1,050
ZNFPC clinic	51.7	48.3	59.5	297
ZNFPC clinic	(76.1)	(61.0)	(65.6)	44
MOH mobile clinic	(37.8)	(36.6)	(55.7)	37
ZNFPC CBD/depot holder	42.6	38.6	52.2	127
Other public	24.9	11.1	55.1	10
Mission facility	*	*	*	3
<b>Private medical sector</b>				
Private hospital/clinic	64.2	57.1	74.5	448
Private hospital/clinic	63.3	53.1	75.6	68
Pharmacy	62.2	56.7	70.7	285
Private doctor	72.3	62.1	85.8	89
Other private medical	*	*	*	6
Other private sector	34.8	33.3	41.2	59

Note: Table excludes users who obtained their method from friends/relatives. 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.

CBD = Community-based distribution

<sup>1</sup> Includes users of the IUD, female condom, diaphragm, and foam or jelly for whom informed choice information is not presented separately

<sup>2</sup> Source at start of current episode of use

### 5.13 REASONS FOR DISCONTINUING CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS

Couples can realise their reproductive goals only when they consistently use reliable methods of contraception. Of particular concern to family planning programmes is the rate at which users discontinue contraceptive methods and the reasons for such discontinuation. Table 5.14 shows the distribution of discontinuation among all ever users during the five years preceding the 2005-06 ZDHS.

Among 4,356 discontinuations that occurred within the five years preceding the survey, the most common reason for discontinuing use is the desire to become pregnant (40 percent). This applies to all methods except for the male condom and the female condom for which the users most often cited infrequent sex or husband away. The desire to become pregnant is expressed by 46 percent of pill users, while infrequent sex or husband away is cited by 30 percent of male condom users.

Table 5.14 Reasons for discontinuation

Among all discontinuations of methods in the five years preceding the survey the percent distribution by main reason for discontinuation, according to method, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Reason	Pill	Injectable	Condom	LAM	With- drawal	All methods
Became pregnant while using	13.2	6.0	9.2	14.6	31.2	12.2
Wanted to become pregnant	46.2	28.0	20.4	28.9	23.6	40.0
Husband disapproved	1.5	1.8	6.9	0.0	2.7	2.0
Side effects	7.9	21.3	1.5	1.5	0.8	9.1
Health concerns	3.5	8.4	1.6	1.3	1.3	4.0
Access/availability	3.1	7.5	1.6	0.0	0.0	3.4
Wanted a more effective method	3.0	2.2	8.3	15.6	2.7	3.6
Inconvenient to use	4.5	7.2	3.2	4.9	6.6	5.0
Infrequent sex/husband away	5.6	5.9	29.9	1.8	4.9	7.7
Costs too much	0.5	1.6	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.6
Fatalistic	1.6	1.0	1.5	0.7	2.5	1.5
Difficult to get pregnant/ menopausal	0.4	0.6	0.1	1.1	3.2	0.5
Marital dissolution/separation	5.1	3.7	3.8	2.6	0.7	4.5
Other	0.6	1.3	1.9	5.3	3.6	1.1
Don't know	0.2	0.4	2.5	0.0	1.7	0.5
Missing	3.2	3.1	7.3	21.8	14.5	4.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of discontinuations	2,994	685	358	86	124	4,356

Note: The total includes the number of users that are not shown: 1 male sterilisation, 19 implant, 14 IUD, 16 female condom, 3 diaphragm, and 17 periodic abstinence. Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.  
LAM = Lactational amenorrhoea method

Across all family planning methods, a significant proportion of women discontinued use because of method failure (12 percent) or method-related side effects and health concerns (a combined percentage of 13 percent). It is noteworthy that nearly three in ten women who discontinued use of injectables stopped because of either side effects (21 percent) or health concerns (8 percent). Withdrawal has the highest failure rate with 31 percent of users who became pregnant while using the method. Other modern methods also have relatively high discontinuation rates attributable to method failure, notably LAM (15 percent), the pill (13 percent), and the condom (9 percent).

## 5.14 FUTURE USE OF CONTRACEPTION

An important indicator of the changing demand for family planning is the extent to which nonusers plan to use family planning methods in the future, as this is a forecast of potential demand for services.

Currently married women who were not using contraceptives at the time of the survey were asked about their intention to use family planning in the future. Table 5.15 shows that 69 percent of the currently married nonusers indicated that they intend to use family planning methods in the future, while 28 percent said they do not intend to use a method. The proportion of women who intend to use a method is highest among women with none to three children and lowest among those with at least four children.

Table 5.15 Future use of contraception

Percent distribution of currently married women who are not using a contraceptive method by intention to use in the future, according to number of living children, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Intention	Number of living children <sup>1</sup>					Total
	0	1	2	3	4+	
Intends to use	78.8	80.0	75.7	75.0	51.1	69.4
Unsure	2.7	2.7	1.1	2.5	2.7	2.4
Does not intend to use	18.5	16.2	22.0	22.5	46.1	27.7
Missing	0.0	1.0	1.2	0.0	0.1	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of women	256	480	414	262	633	2,045

<sup>1</sup> Includes current pregnancy

## 5.15 REASONS FOR NOT INTENDING TO USE CONTRACEPTION IN THE FUTURE

Table 5.16 presents the main reasons why some currently married women who are not using a method do not intend to use one in the future. The results show that most of the women (54 percent) do not intend to use a method in the future due to fertility-related reasons. The second largest category is that of women who do not intend to use because of method-related reasons (24 percent), and the third category comprises women who are not willing to use due to opposition to use (16 percent). Almost 7 percent of the women did not intend to use because they wanted as many children as possible.

## 5.16 PREFERRED METHOD OF CONTRACEPTION FOR FUTURE USE

Future demand for specific methods of family planning can be assessed by asking nonusers which method they intend to use. Table 5.17 presents information on method preference for married women who are not using contraceptives, but say that they intend to use them in the future. A majority of these women (63 percent) intend to use the pill, 22 percent intend to use injectables, and 4 percent intend to use implants.

Compared with the 1999 ZDHS, there is a slight decrease in the proportion of women that intend to use injectables, and an increase in those intending to use the pill and implants.

Table 5.16 Reason for not intending to use contraception in the future

Percent distribution of currently married women 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, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Reason	Percent
<b>Fertility-related reasons</b>	54.2
Infrequent sex/no sex	11.2
Menopausal/had hysterectomy	18.5
Subfecund/infecund	17.8
Wants as many children as possible	6.7
<b>Opposition to use</b>	15.6
Respondent opposed	1.5
Husband/partner opposed	2.6
Others opposed	0.2
Religious prohibition	11.3
<b>Lack of knowledge</b>	1.4
Knows no method	0.8
Knows no source	0.6
<b>Method-related reasons</b>	23.8
Health concerns	6.0
Fear of side effects	9.1
Lack of access/too far	0.1
Costs too much	0.8
Inconvenient to use	4.2
Interferes with body's normal processes	3.5
Other	3.3
Don't know	1.8
Total	100.0
Number of women	567

**Table 5.17 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 age, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Method	Percent
Female sterilisation	2.3
Male sterilisation	0.0
Pill	63.2
IUD	1.4
Injectables	22.4
Implants	4.0
Condom	1.9
Female condom	0.6
Diaphragm	0.1
Lactational amenorrhoea method	0.2
Periodic abstinence	0.1
Withdrawal	0.7
Other	0.7
Unsure	2.4
Total	100.0
Number of women	1,420

## 5.17 EXPOSURE TO FAMILY PLANNING MESSAGES IN THE MEDIA

Radio, television, and newspapers and/or magazines are the major sources of information about family planning in the media in Zimbabwe. Information on the level of public exposure to a particular type of media allows policymakers to ensure the use of the most effective media for the various target groups. To assess the effectiveness of such media on the dissemination of family planning information, all female and male respondents in the 2005-06 ZDHS were asked whether they had heard messages about family planning on the radio or seen them on television or in newspapers and magazines during the few months preceding the survey (Table 5.18).

Overall, 26 percent of women reported that they had recently heard a family planning message on the radio, 19 percent had seen a message on television, and 15 percent saw messages in newspapers and magazines. These proportions do not vary significantly by the woman's age. However, sharp contrasts in access to media messages are observed between women in urban areas and those in rural areas. Women in urban areas are about three times as likely as those in rural areas to have access to family planning messages on the radio, six times as likely as those in rural areas to have access to family planning messages broadcast on television, and five times more likely to have access to family planning messages through newspapers and magazines.

The proportion of women who were exposed to family planning messages on the radio varies among provinces from 14 percent in Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South to 58 percent in Bulawayo. Similarly, the proportion exposed to family planning information through television ranges from 7 percent in Masvingo to 54 percent in Bulawayo, and through newspapers and magazines, from 6 percent in Masvingo and Mashonaland Central to 46 percent in Bulawayo. Exposure to family planning messages increases as the respondent's education level and wealth status increases.

Table 5.18 Exposure to family planning messages

Percentage of women and men who heard or saw a family planning message on the radio or television or in a newspaper/magazine in the past few months, according to background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Women					Men				
	Radio	Television	Newspaper/ magazine	None of these three media sources	Number of women	Radio	Television	Newspaper/ magazine	None of these three media sources	Number of men
<b>Age</b>										
15-19	22.1	16.6	13.6	72.0	2,152	25.5	18.3	18.2	66.6	1,899
20-24	25.3	20.2	17.1	67.8	1,952	36.8	25.8	29.2	54.6	1,459
25-29	31.5	21.6	17.1	63.9	1,466	39.8	26.9	30.3	51.3	1,082
30-34	29.6	21.5	16.0	65.1	1,216	42.5	30.3	33.5	47.7	882
35-39	26.6	20.6	15.2	67.5	834	41.8	29.9	36.2	48.9	663
40-44	25.7	18.2	11.2	70.8	699	42.6	31.8	36.1	50.4	469
45-49	20.6	14.3	9.2	76.3	589	40.7	25.5	25.8	52.9	409
<b>Residence</b>										
Urban	42.1	39.2	29.5	47.0	3,502	51.4	48.2	49.3	34.3	2,767
Rural	15.5	6.3	5.5	82.6	5,405	25.6	9.8	13.3	70.0	4,096
<b>Province</b>										
Manicaland	24.0	15.9	13.2	72.3	1,043	32.7	23.0	27.2	56.8	793
Mashonaland Central	19.8	10.2	5.9	78.6	825	29.9	14.7	16.3	64.5	681
Mashonaland East	25.7	14.7	13.3	71.0	714	36.3	19.4	25.7	58.1	570
Mashonaland West	19.9	16.3	10.2	75.6	829	25.4	16.6	18.2	70.3	691
Matabeleland North	13.6	8.1	8.2	81.8	536	24.8	11.0	17.9	69.0	416
Matabeleland South	14.4	11.5	10.5	79.7	439	29.7	21.6	21.6	67.0	306
Midlands	22.7	13.5	6.5	75.2	1,193	31.4	18.8	16.7	66.0	956
Masvingo	16.6	7.1	5.5	80.4	1,137	33.8	16.5	17.9	58.3	771
Harare	37.1	34.3	27.7	50.0	1,492	49.6	45.6	50.2	34.1	1,219
Bulawayo	57.8	53.9	46.0	32.4	697	57.3	54.3	56.8	26.1	460
<b>Education</b>										
No education	7.1	3.9	1.4	92.0	380	21.9	4.0	1.1	76.9	88
Primary	15.5	6.9	4.0	82.7	2,902	21.0	8.0	7.9	76.3	1,782
Secondary	31.9	25.2	20.1	61.0	5,355	40.3	29.4	32.7	49.8	4,588
More than secondary	47.5	56.4	48.5	34.8	270	56.4	58.9	66.1	24.7	405
<b>Wealth quintile</b>										
Lowest	6.7	1.6	1.6	92.7	1,552	16.6	3.2	7.3	80.3	1,042
Second	12.9	3.5	3.3	85.9	1,500	23.4	5.7	8.0	73.3	1,137
Middle	17.2	7.2	7.3	80.3	1,546	26.0	10.4	14.7	69.4	1,194
Fourth	34.3	23.1	17.3	59.7	2,006	46.0	32.9	34.7	44.4	1,892
Highest	46.1	46.2	34.6	40.9	2,304	53.1	55.7	57.1	29.8	1,599
Total 15-49	26.0	19.2	14.9	68.6	8,907	36.0	25.3	27.8	55.6	6,863
Total 15-54	na	na	na	na	na	36.4	25.6	27.9	55.4	7,175

In general, men seem to have had more exposure to family planning messages through the media than their female counterparts. Like women, however, exposure to family planning messages on the radio, television, and newspapers and magazines varies among provinces. Men in Harare and Bulawayo have the highest level of exposure to family planning messages in all three media. Exposure to family planning messages varies with men's education; men with at least a secondary school level of education are more exposed to family planning messages through the media than those with a primary school level of education or no education at all. Men's exposure to family planning messages through the media also increases with wealth.

## **5.18 CONTACT OF NONUSERS WITH FAMILY PLANNING PROVIDERS**

Given the importance of family planning services to the improvement of women's and children's health, it is critical to make use of opportunities to inform potential users. There are also missed opportunities to inform nonusers. Information on missed opportunities was gathered by asking female nonusers if they had visited a health facility in the 12 months preceding the survey. Nonusers were also asked whether anyone at the health facility had discussed family planning with them during their visit. Community-based distribution (CBD) workers, who are largely based in rural areas, are expected to visit women and men of reproductive age who are nonusers of modern family planning methods to discuss options and, when indicated, motivate them to adopt a method of family planning. To obtain an indication of the frequency of such visits, women were asked whether a CBD worker visited them within the past 12 months. Women who visited a health facility in the past 12 months for personal care or care of their children were also asked whether health providers at the facility spoke to them about family planning methods.

The data in Table 5.19 show that family planning workers visited 3 percent of nonusers to discuss family planning. Overall, 92 percent of nonusers did not discuss family planning with a CBD worker or a service provider at a health facility in the 12 months before the survey. This represents a large pool of potential users of family planning who could be targeted for family planning counselling. A more vigorous outreach programme will be needed to reach these women.

Eighteen percent of nonusers visited a health facility in the past 12 months but did not discuss family planning with a service provider at the health facility. This is a significant fraction of nonusers and represents missed opportunities to motivate them to adopt family planning.

Table 5.19 Contact of nonusers with family planning providers

Percentage of women who are not using contraception who were visited by a fieldworker who discussed family planning, who visited a health facility and discussed family planning, and who visited a health facility but did not discuss family planning, in the 12 months preceding the survey, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Women who were visited by fieldworker who discussed family planning	Women who visited health facility and discussed family planning	Women who visited health facility, did not discuss family planning	Women who did not discuss family planning with fieldworker or at a health facility	Number of women
<b>Age</b>					
15-19	2.4	1.7	13.2	95.9	1,942
20-24	2.1	6.6	19.9	91.4	1,096
25-29	4.2	9.3	23.7	87.7	557
30-34	4.3	9.6	22.3	87.5	505
35-39	3.2	9.6	18.3	88.3	420
40-44	3.8	4.9	19.8	92.1	398
45-49	2.7	4.8	17.3	93.5	413
<b>Residence</b>					
Urban	1.8	4.7	15.2	93.8	2,034
Rural	3.6	5.7	19.4	91.3	3,297
<b>Province</b>					
Manicaland	1.7	2.6	7.4	95.8	699
Mashonaland Central	4.5	11.5	31.0	85.6	448
Mashonaland East	3.7	2.8	10.9	93.8	400
Mashonaland West	1.7	7.5	9.2	91.2	457
Matabeleland North	3.8	8.4	43.8	88.3	367
Matabeleland South	4.1	6.8	46.4	89.4	306
Midlands	2.2	4.6	21.8	93.8	680
Masvingo	5.1	5.1	8.2	90.6	702
Harare	1.4	4.7	11.3	94.1	839
Bulawayo	2.6	2.8	15.4	95.0	432
<b>Education</b>					
No education	2.6	5.8	13.1	92.4	269
Primary	3.3	4.7	18.7	92.6	1,733
Secondary	2.8	5.6	17.6	92.0	3,215
More than secondary	1.2	7.2	19.6	91.6	114
<b>Wealth quintile</b>					
Lowest	4.0	6.6	19.6	90.4	996
Second	3.2	5.4	20.9	92.2	872
Middle	3.2	5.6	19.6	91.7	973
Fourth	3.3	5.4	15.8	91.8	1,081
Highest	1.5	4.3	14.7	94.3	1,410
Total	2.9	5.3	17.8	92.2	5,331

## 5.19 HUSBAND OR PARTNER'S KNOWLEDGE OF WOMAN'S USE OF CONTRACEPTION

Table 5.20 shows that almost all of the currently married women who were interviewed in the 2005-06 ZDHS who were using a contraceptive method reported that their husbands or partners knew that they were using a family planning method (97 percent). There were only minor variations in this proportion across population subgroups.



Table 5.20 Husband/partner's knowledge of woman's use of contraception

Among currently married women who are using a method, percent distribution by whether they report that their husbands/partners know about their use, according to background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Knows <sup>1</sup>	Does not know	Unsure whether knows/missing	Total	Number of women
<b>Age</b>					
15-19	97.4	1.7	0.9	100.0	164
20-24	96.2	2.8	1.0	100.0	739
25-29	97.6	1.8	0.6	100.0	791
30-34	97.3	2.3	0.4	100.0	636
35-39	96.4	3.0	0.6	100.0	357
40-44	95.0	4.5	0.6	100.0	267
45-49	93.9	4.7	1.4	100.0	145
<b>Residence</b>					
Urban	96.9	2.3	0.8	100.0	1,216
Rural	96.5	2.9	0.6	100.0	1,882
<b>Province</b>					
Manicaland	96.8	2.1	1.1	100.0	314
Mashonaland Central	98.6	1.4	0.0	100.0	351
Mashonaland East	95.5	3.5	1.1	100.0	283
Mashonaland West	96.9	2.5	0.6	100.0	319
Matabeleland North	94.7	5.3	0.0	100.0	147
Matabeleland South	91.5	6.6	2.0	100.0	98
Midlands	96.8	2.7	0.4	100.0	461
Masvingo	97.5	2.2	0.3	100.0	377
Harare	96.9	1.9	1.2	100.0	546
Bulawayo	95.3	3.5	1.2	100.0	202
<b>Education</b>					
No education	93.9	6.1	0.0	100.0	96
Primary	96.0	3.3	0.8	100.0	1,030
Secondary	97.0	2.3	0.7	100.0	1,840
More than secondary	99.1	0.0	0.9	100.0	133
<b>Wealth quintile</b>					
Lowest	96.6	3.0	0.4	100.0	496
Second	97.0	2.5	0.5	100.0	570
Middle	94.2	4.7	1.1	100.0	508
Fourth	97.7	1.6	0.8	100.0	786
Highest	97.0	2.3	0.8	100.0	738
Total	96.6	2.6	0.7	100.0	3,098

<sup>1</sup> Includes women who report use of male sterilisation or male condoms