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Trends in Contraceptive Use Among Catholics in the United States: 1988-1995

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by

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National surveys to determine trends in contraceptive use in the United States have occurred every 6 to 10 years since 1955.^{1,2,3} Since that time, there has been a rapid decline in the use of natural methods of family planning, a sharp rise and slow decline in the use of oral contraceptives and, in the past ten years, a major reliance on surgical sterilization for contraception. Information from these national surveys has provided useful information for contraceptive providers, policy makers, and religious groups.

The method of avoiding and achieving pregnancy that is promoted and encouraged by the Roman Catholic Church is natural family planning. Since natural methods are the only methods sanctioned by the Catholic Church, an assumption could be made that contraceptive practices among Roman Catholics in the United States would substantially differ from contraceptive use by the general population. The purpose of this article is to describe the use of contraceptives by Roman Catholic women between 1988 and 1995 and to compare contraceptive use by Catholics with national trends. Information on trends in contraceptive use among Catholic women is of interest to Catholic health care providers and policy makers, natural

family planning service providers, Catholic Church officials and leaders in church policy and teaching.

Of note is that the authors of this article do not view methods of natural family planning as being contraceptives. Contraceptive methods, such as the pill, condoms, IUD, etc., work by either suppressing, blocking, or destroying a person's fertility, or in some cases aborting the early human embryo. Methods of natural family planning, on the other hand, do not interfere with fertility, but rather utilize natural biological indicators that tell a woman when she is fertile or not. Methods of natural family planning can be used to both achieve or to avoid pregnancy

Data Source and Methods

The National Center for Health Statistics periodically conducts surveys to collect nationally representative data on factors related to childbearing, including data on contraception, sterilization and infertility. These surveys are known as the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG). The primary sources of data for this article are the 1988 and 1995 rounds of the NSFG. These two national surveys included women between the ages of 15-44 of all marital statuses. The data from both of these sets were collected through personal face-to-face interviews.

The nationally representative sample size from the 1988 survey was 8,450 and the 1995 sample size was substantially increased to 10,847. The response rates from both of these surveys were about 80%. In 1988, 2,112 (24.9%) women considered themselves Roman Catholic compared to 3,130 (28.8%) of the total sample in the 1995 survey. The mean age of the Roman Catholic sample was 29.2 years in 1988 and 30.8 years in 1995. In 1988, 49.7% of the Catholic sample were married at the time of interview, 33.9% were never married, and 10.1% were divorced or separated. In 1995, 54.3% of the Catholic sample was married, 33.8% were never married and 11.3 were divorced or separated.

The projected number of Catholic women who use various forms of contraception provided in this article are proportional statistics determined from the national sample. The trends in the use of various contraceptive methods reported in this article are raw percent changes and were not determined for their statistical significance. The article "Trends in Contraceptive Use In the United States: 1982-1995" by Linda J. Piccinino and William D. Mosher published in the January/February, 1998 issue of *Family Planning Perspectives* was used as the source for national comparisons.²

Contraceptive Use (See Table One, Page 182)

The percentage of the NSFG sample of women between the ages of 15-44 who indicated that they were currently using some form of contraception in 1988 was 60%. This percent increased to 64% in 1995 (Table 1). The percent increase occurred in all age groups and among Hispanics, non-Hispanic Black (i.e., African-Americans) and non-Hispanic White (European-Americans). In comparison, the percentage of Catholic women who were currently using some form of contraception in 1988 was 73% compared to 70% in 1995. On a percent basis, more Catholic women are using some form of contraception than women as a whole. Although there was a small decrease in contraceptive use among Catholics from 1988 to 1995, the percent use of some form of contraception among Catholic women is more than the percent use of contraception among the total sample of women in all age and ethnic groups.

In 1995, 30% of Catholic women were not using a method of contraception in the month of interview. This compares with 36% of the total sample of women. Of the 30% of Catholics who were not using some form of contraception, 4% were pregnant, 4% were seeking pregnancy, 1% were postpartum, 9% were never sexually active, 6% did not have sex in the three months prior to interview, and about 5% were sexually active in the month prior to interview but were not using some form of contraception, increased in the younger age groups (e.g., 2.8% to 7.5%) and decreased in the older age groups (e.g., 9.7% to 4.4%) from 1988 to 1995. The percent of those women who are sexually active but not using any form of contraception, however, also decreased in percent among all ethnic groups.

Overall Trends (See Table Two, Page 183)

Almost 11 million Roman Catholic women between the ages of 15 and 44 were using some form of contraception in 1988 and this number increased to close to 12 million in 1995. The number one method of contraception among Catholics in terms of raw numbers was oral contraception (OC), i.e., "the pill" in 1988. This group of Catholic OC users represents about 3.8 million women. The second most frequent method reported was the male condom which was used by about 2.6 million male partners of Catholic women. The use of sterilization was next with about 2.1 million Catholics, of which 1.6 million were female sterilization and about one half million the male partner of the Catholic women. These figures do not include sterilizations for medical purposes. Only about 317,000 women were using some form of natural methods

(rhythm, basal body temperature or NFP) for spacing or avoiding pregnancy in 1988. Approximately 470 thousand Catholic women were using withdrawal as a method of birth control in 1988.

By 1995, the overall trend in contraceptive use among Catholic women changed dramatically. Sterilization was by far the most frequent method of contraception reported by Catholic women in the 1995 survey. Over 40% of the total of Catholic respondents reported the use of sterilization, which represents over 4.8 million Catholic women between the ages of 14 and 45. Of this total, about 3.5 million were female sterilization and about 1.4 million women reported a male partner being sterilized. Therefore, the rate of sterilization among Catholics doubled from 1988 to 1995. The second most frequent method of contraception among Catholic women in 1995 was the Pill which was used by about 2.8 million Catholic women. The next most frequent method was the male condom which was used by over 2.5 million male partners of Catholic women. In 1995, the use of natural methods increased slightly from 317,000 in 1988 to about 381,000 Catholic women users. About one half million Catholic women used either the newly developed or approved implants or injections as their method of contraception in 1995.

Race and Ethnicity (See Table 3, Page 183)

Understanding trends in contraceptive use among special sub-groups of Catholic women between the ages of 15-44 is of interest to Catholic health care workers and Catholic church officials. Of particular interest are the trends among Hispanic and Black Catholic women. Hispanics are one of the fastest growing minorities in the United States and the majority are of the Catholic faith. African-American (Black) Catholic women are an important sub-population that needs more attention and resources especially in the area of reproductive health. Other minority Catholic women populations, such as Native Americans and Asian Americans are also important but are not specifically addressed in this report because of the small number represented.

In 1988 about 18% of the total group of Catholic women who were sampled in the NSFG and who were using some form of contraception were Hispanic Catholic women. This percent increased to over 33% in 1995. The three most common forms of contraception in both years of interview among Hispanic Catholic women were OCs, female sterilization and male condom. The most dramatic change from 1988 to 1995 among Hispanic Catholic women was the increased use of female sterilization from 25% in 1988 to 40% in 1995 and the decrease in the use of the Pill from 33% in

1988 to 20% in 1995. The use of modern methods of NFP among Hispanic Catholics remained less than 1% in both 1988 and 1995.

There were some remarkable differences in the Catholic Hispanic sample compared to the total Hispanic sample. In 1988, only 2 percent of Catholic Hispanic women were using the IUD as compared to 19% in the total Hispanic sample. By the 1995 interviews, however, the use of the IUD was down to 2% in both the total Hispanic sample and in the Catholic Hispanic sample. The other remarkable difference was that 20% of the Catholic Hispanic sample reported male condom use in 1988 as compared to only 7% of the total Hispanic group.

In 1988, non-Hispanic Whites were by far the largest sub-group of the total Catholic sample with a representation of 70% of the sample but by 1995 that percent decreased to about 58%. The most remarkable change in the White sample of Catholic women was the increase in the percent of female sterilization from 11% in 1988 to 22% in 1995 and in the sterilization of the male partner from 6% in 1988 to 16%. Unlike their Hispanic counterparts, non-Hispanic White male partners of Catholic women contribute to a greater portion of the total number of sterilizations. In 1988, 25% of Catholic Hispanic women reported the use of sterilization and this increased to 40% in 1995. Whereas, in 1988 only 2% of Catholic Hispanic male partners used sterilization and this increased to 4% in 1995.

Among the White Catholic sample, the use of OCs decreased by 7% from 34% in 1988 to 27% in 1995 and in the same time period the use of the male condom decreased by 5%. This contrasts with the total non-Catholic White sample that increased in the use of the pill from 26% to 29% and in the use of the male condom from 13% to 20% from 1988 to 1995. Only about 1% of White Catholic females report the use of a modern method of NFP.

Although the non-Hispanic Black Catholic population was small, 8.9% of the total in 1988 and 5.7% in 1995, the Black Catholic sample reflects the trend of the total sample of Black women. The three biggest trends in both the total and the Catholic sub-sample was the increase in female sterilization, the decreases in the use of the pill, and the increase in the use of male condoms. The Black Catholic women sub-group increased in the reported amount of sterilization from 24% in 1988 to 37% in 1995, decreased in the use of the pill from 45% in 1988 to 18% in 1995, and increased in the use of the male condom from 11% in 1988 to 31% in 1995.

Marital Status, Ethnicity, and Parity (See Table Four, Page 184)

Marital status and parity (i.e., the number of children) are two factors that influence decision-making on the use of contraception among

Catholic women. A person in a non-marital relationship, and therefore a less committed relationship, will probably opt for a less permanent method of contraception than sterilization, but one that is still perceived to be very effective in avoiding pregnancy. Married persons would probably opt for a less permanent contraception in the early years of marriage and more permanent and more effective methods in avoiding pregnancy in the later years as a couple has completed their family in regard to the number of children desired.

The percent use of various contraceptive methods among Hispanic, White and Black Catholic women by marital status and number of births is depicted in Table Four. In 1988, the use of the pill was the most common form of contraception among the Hispanic, White, and Black Catholic women who were currently married. By 1995, the use of sterilization was the number one most frequently used method of contraception among all three groups of currently married women. In 1988, the male condom was the most frequent form of contraception among never-married White Catholic women and the pill the most frequent among never-married Black Catholic women. Those methods reversed order in 1995, with the pill number one for never-married White Catholic women and the male condom for Black Catholic women. The male condom was the most frequently used form of contraception among never-married Catholic Hispanic women in both 1988 and 1995. Finally, male and female sterilization was the most frequently used method of contraception among formerly married Hispanic and Black Catholic women in 1988 and in 1995. Among formerly married White Catholic women, the pill was the most frequently used method in 1988 and sterilization the most frequent in 1995. These figures reflect the NSFG sample of all women, i.e., by 1988 sterilization was the number one method among all currently married and formerly married women and the pill was the most frequently used method among all women who were never married both for 1988 and 1995.

In 1988 and 1995, the NSFG sample of all women between the ages of 15 and 44 showed that if they had one child or less the most frequent method of contraception was the pill. However, if they had two or more children sterilization was by far (between 60 and 70% of the total) the number one method. The frequency of contraceptive use by Catholic women in relation to parity is somewhat different than the total NSFG sample. In 1988, the pill was the most frequent method among the NSFG sample and the sub-sample of Catholic women with one child or less. Catholic Hispanic women reported male condom use as the most frequent method of contraception in 1988 when they had no children. By 1995, however, Catholic women in all three ethnic/racial groups used sterilization as the number one method of contraception even if they had one child or

less. White Catholic women still used OCs as the most frequent method if they did not have any children. Similar to the total NSFG sample, sterilization was the number one method among Catholic women of all ethnic/racial groups with two or more children.

Age, Education and Income (Table Five, Page 185)

A number of other factors, such as age, education and income might also influence a woman's contraceptive choice (Table Five). As Catholic women age they rely less on the use of the pill and condom as their means of contraception and more on sterilization. This is the same pattern that is found among all women in the total national sample. There are, however, some remarkable age related trends in contraceptive use among Roman Catholic women from 1988 to 1995. In 1988, the use of female sterilization was 22% in the 36-39 and 40-45 age groups. By 1995 these percentages increased to 39% in the 35-39 age group and to 52% in the 40-45 age group. The other remarkable and expected trend is in the dramatic decline from 1988 to 1995 in the use of the pill as women age. In 1988, 22% of Catholic women were still using the pill as their main form of contraception in the 35-39 age group and 25% in the 40-45 age group. By 1995, only 11% of the 35-39 age group and 6% of the 40-45 age group listed the pill as their main form of contraception. Although the use of natural forms of birth control is very small in all age groups, there is a small percent increase in natural methods in the later age groups.

The trends in contraceptive use among Catholic women in relation to education is similar to national trends. There is a tendency for less educated Catholic women (and women in general) to use sterilization as their method of contraception. Twenty-seven percent of Catholic women who reported sterilization in 1988 and 38% of Catholic women who reported sterilization in 1995 had less than a high school education. This compares to only 18% of Catholic women who had more than a high school education in 1988 and 18% in 1995, who reported the use of female sterilization. Another remarkable trend from 1988 to 1995 is that the use of male sterilization was reported more frequently among Catholic women with more than a high school education compared to those with less than a high school education. Although, as women age, there is a percent decrease in the use of the pill, there is an increase in the reported use of the pill among women with more formal education both among Catholic women and with women in general. With regards to the use of natural methods, there seems to be a small trend in an increase of these methods among more educated Catholic women. Of note, is that the trends in education and contraceptive use only refers to women in the 20-44 age

range. As reported by 1998 Piccinino and Mosher,³ most adolescents in the 15-19 age range have not as yet completed their education.

As with education, the trend in contraceptive use in relation to reported income level among Catholic women reflects national trends. There is a decrease in the reported use of female sterilization as income levels increase, there is an increase in the reported use of male sterilization as income increases and there is an increase in the use of the pill and male condom as income increases. These trends are similar in 1988 as in 1995, except that in 1988 Catholic women with higher incomes reported less frequent use of the pill than those with less income. There seems to be a slightly increased use of natural methods among women with more income. Income levels in this article are reported as percentages of the federal poverty level. As with education, adolescent women were not reported with this variable.

Discussion

In 1980, Most Reverend John Quinn, the former Archbishop of San Francisco, reported on a Princeton study that showed about 76.5% of U.S. Catholic women used contraception and that only about 4% were using a natural form of family planning.⁴ Although the pool of women for that study is different from the 1988 and 1995 NSFG, the trend among Catholic women reflects decreased use of contraception, i.e., 76.5% in 1980, 73% in 1988 and 70% in 1995. This is the opposite of the national trend which shows an overall increase in the use of contraception among U.S. women, i.e., 56% in 1982, 60% in 1988, and 64% in 1995.^{2,3}

The use of natural methods of family planning among Catholic women in the U.S., on the other hand, seems to be leveling off or slightly increasing at around 2-3%. This is reflective of the National trend which shows that 3.9% of U.S. women used a natural method in 1982, and about 2.3% in 1988 and 1995.^{2,3} This is a far cry from the 22% of all U.S. White married women who reported the use of Rhythm in 1955 and the 36% in 1965.⁵

Probably the most startling trend in contraceptive use among Roman Catholic women between the ages of 15 and 44 is the doubling of the rate of sterilization from about 20% in 1988 to just over 40% in 1995. The biggest decrease in a contraceptive method used by Roman Catholic women is in the use of OCs, from 35% in 1988 to 24% in 1995. These trends in contraceptive use among Roman Catholic women pretty much reflect the national trend. In 1995, the three most common methods of contraception in order of frequency among Roman Catholic women and

among all women between the ages of 15 and 45 were sterilization (male and female combined), the pill and the male condom.

Of concern and interest is the increase in the percent of Catholic Hispanic women using contraception. In 1988 the Hispanic group represented 18% of the total of Catholic women using some form of contraception. By 1995 this group increased to over 33% of the total of Catholic women who were using contraception. Other trends of importance are that Catholic women of all ethnic and racial groups use the pill as their most frequent method of contraception if they have one child or less, but the use of sterilization jumps to 50-60% among Catholic women when they report having two or more children. Sterilization is also used more frequently among formerly married, less educated and poorer Catholic women, i.e., as compared to those Catholic women who are married, have more than a high school education and who are at least 300% above the Federal poverty level in income.

Although natural family planning is the only method of birth control promoted and sanctioned by the Catholic church, very few Catholic women (about 3% report the use of some natural method of family planning) or in raw numbers about 300 to 400 thousand Catholic women. About half of the Roman Catholic women who report the use of natural methods (periodic abstinence) list the use of calendar rhythm and not one of the modern methods of natural family planning. Therefore, only about 150 to 200 thousand Roman Catholic women use a modern method of natural family planning in the United States. The percent use of modern methods of NFP has increased only marginally since 1988.

What implications do these contraceptive trends among Catholic women have with Catholic health care workers, natural family teachers, diocesan leaders and church officials? If about 68% of all Catholic women between the ages of 15 and 44 are using some form of contraception not sanctioned by the Church and if the majority are using sterilization and if the rate of sterilization increases dramatically with being over 35 and having two children, then one could safely assume that most Catholic women are not following Catholic teaching on family planning. This is not new or surprising, but what is new is that most Catholic women are now using an essentially permanent method of contraception, i.e., sterilization. Women who are sterilized are probably decreased use of contraception, i.e., 76.5% in 1980, 73% in 1988 and 70% in 1995. This is the opposite of the national trend which shows an overall increase in the use of contraception among U.S. women, i.e., 56% in 1982, 60% in 1988, and 64% in 1995.^{2,3}

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Given that women of the baby boom generation are essentially a sterile population entering menopause, the efforts and resources in teaching about human sexuality and natural family planning should be with the young. More efforts and resources in teaching about human sexuality and natural family planning should be with the young. More efforts and resources need to take place to integrate NFP into marriage preparation in Catholic dioceses and into Catholic health care facilities. Pope John Paul II has constantly been reminding United States Catholic bishops about the need for integrating NFP into marriage preparation. So too, the next generation of Catholic priests, physicians, and nurses need to be trained in, and knowledgeable about, the modern scientific methods of natural family planning. This responsibility lies with Catholic medical and nursing schools, Catholic hospitals and seminaries. Even before young men and women get to marriage age, however, they need to be familiar with, appreciate and understand the beauty of the Church's teaching on human sexuality, marriage and the transmission of life. Therefore, the importance of good catechesis in Church teaching in grade school through college and in chastity based sexuality programs is extremely important. Finally – not to completely write off the baby boom generation – they too, with God's grace and much prayer, might realize that contraception and sterilization were not the answer. Their wounds and suffering through divorce, abortion and other loss might make them powerful witnesses of God's forgiveness and eternal love.

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Tables on Pages Following

Table 1. Percentage of U.S. Women and Catholic Women Age 15-44 Currently Using Contraception

	U.S. 1988 N=8,450	Catholic 1988 N=2,112	U.S. 1995 N=10,847	Catholic 1995 N=3,130
Using a Method	60.3	73.0	64.2	70.0
<i>Age</i>				
15-19	32.1	35.7	29.8	31.0
20-24	59.0	69.0	63.5	64.6
25-29	64.5	80.0	69.2	73.3
30-34	68.0	82.1	72.8	74.9
35-39	70.2	84.0	73.1	81.3
40-45	66.0	83.2	71.4	82.0
<i>Race/ethnicity</i>				
Hispanic	50.4	63.1	59.0	68.5
Non-His, White	62.9	76.2	66.1	71.2
Non-His, Black	56.8	72.3	62.1	75.4
SexuallyActive	6.7		5.2	
Not Using				
<i>Age</i>				
15-19	7.6	2.8	7.1	13.5
20-24	8.1	4.2	6.0	16.1
25-29	7.5	5.9	4.7	20.7
30-34	5.4	9.3	4.4	18.7
35-39	4.6	7.3	4.3	11.3
40-45	5.5	9.7	5.1	7.9
<i>Race/ethnicity</i>				
Hispanic	9.6	9.1	5.6	15.2
Non-His, White	5.5	5	5.0	14.4
Non-His, Black	10.3	11	7.0	13.8

Table 2. Percentage Distribution and Number (in 000s) of U.S. and Catholic Contraceptive Users Aged 15-44, by Current Method, 1988-1995.

Method	U.S. 1988		Catholic 1988		U.S. 1995		Catholic 1995	
	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Sterilization	39.2	13,686	19.9	2,175	38.6	14,942	40.7	4,852
Female	27.5	9,614	14.7	1,606	27.7	10,727	29.1	3,469
Male	11.7	4,069	5.2	568	10.9	4,215	11.3	1,347
Pill	30.7	10,734	35.0	3,825	26.9	10,410	24.0	2,862
Implant	na	na	0.0	na	1.3	515	1.6	191
Injectable	na	na	0.0	na	3.0	1,146	2.6	310
IUD	2.0	703	4.2	459	0.8	310	0.8	95
Diaphragm	5.7	2,000	6.0	656	1.9	720	2.1	250
Male Condom	14.6	5,093	23.5	2,568	20.4	7,889	20.8	2,479
Foam	1.1	371	1.9	208	0.4	161	0.2	24
Periodic Abstinence	2.3	806	2.9	317	2.3	883	3.2	381
Withdrawal	2.2	778	4.3	470	3.0	1,178	3.4	405
Other	2.1	733	2.3	251	1.3	508	0.9	107
Total	100.0	34,912	100.0	10,928	100.0	38,663	100.0	11,921
Sample n	na	4,242	1,538		na	7,145	2,203	

Table 3 Percentage Distribution of Catholic Contraceptive Users Aged 15-44, by Current Method, According to Race and Ethnicity, 1988-1995

Method	Non-Hispanic		Non-Hispanic White		Non-Hispanic Black		Non-Hispanic White	
	1988	1995	1988	1995	1988	1995	1988	1995
Female Sterilization	25	40	11	22	24	37	19	29
Male Sterilization	2	4	6	16	1	1	7	12
Pill	33	20	34	27	45	18	23	19
Implant	na	2	na	1	na	4	na	0
Injectable	na	5	na	1	na	2	na	0
IUD	4	2	4	1	6	0	5	0
Diaphragm	4	1	7	4	6	1	2	0
Male Condom	20	18	26	21	11	31	14	25
Temp/cervical	<1	<1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Rhythm/safe pd by Other	2	3	2	2	4	1	7	3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 4. Percentage Distribution of Catholic Contraceptive Users Aged 15-44, by Current Contraceptive Method, According to Ethnicity/Race, Marital Status, and Parity, 1988-1995

Race and Method

	Marital Status								Number of Births			
	Currently Married		Never Married		Formerly Married		0		1		≥2	
	1988	1995	1988	1995	1988	1995	1988	1995	1988	1995	1988	1995
Non-Hispanic White												
Female Sterilization	13	23	<1	4	21	36	<1	10	4	21	22	28
Male Sterilization	10	25	0	2	4	13	1	8	4	18	12	27
Pill	31	28	41	53	42	25	48	44	41	24	22	13
Implant	na	1	na	2	na	1	na	1	na	2	na	1
Injectable	na	1	na	2	na	1	na	2	na	2	na	1
IUD	4	1	1	0	9	0	2	<1	3	<1	6	1
Diaphragm	8	4	4	2	5	4	3	3	11	2	8	4
Male Condom	23	19	42	28	8	18	35	26	23	23	19	16
Rhythm	2	3	10	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	7	3
NFP	1	1	1	0	0	0	<1	<1	2	<1	2	2
Other	8	4	0	5	9	1	10	4	11	5	1	5
Non-Hispanic Black												
Female Sterilization	23	42	15	21	44	45	0	22	12	18	43	52
Male Sterilization	2	0	0	8	0	15	0	8	0	7	2	2
Pill	42	19	55	19	27	15	62	20	58	25	27	13
Implant	na	2	na	5	na	5	na	2	na	11	na	2
Injectable	na	2	na	3	na	0	na	2	na	0	na	4
IUD	6	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	7	0	8	0
Diaphragm	6	2	5	0	4	0	3	2	12	0	4	0
Male Condom	10	28	16	37	7	20	29	35	5	39	9	22
Rhythm	4	2	3	0	11	0	3	0	5	0	6	2
NFP	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Other	6	2	2	7	0	0	3	10	1	0	0	2
Hispanic												
Female Sterilization	27	37	0	25	38	58	2	24	2	23	40	47
Male Sterilization	3	10	0	3	2	2	2	6	2	7	3	6
Pill	32	20	43	24	30	15	38	15	60	30	24	15
Implant	0	2	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	3
Injectable	0	4	0	8	0	3	0	2	0	8	0	5
IUD	4	2	0	1	6	1	0	3	5	2	6	1
Diaphragm	4	<1	3	1	0	2	2	0	5	0	3	1
Male Condom	18	16	47	28	10	12	46	27	10	16	12	16
Rhythm	3	3	0	2	0	0	2	3	2	3	2	3
NFP	1	<1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0
Other	8	5	7	4	14	6	6	6	14	8	10	3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table. 5 Percentage of Catholic Contraceptive Users Aged 15-44, by Age, Education and Income, According to Method, 1988-1995.

	1988	1995	1988	1995	1988	1995	1988	1995	1988	1995	1988	1995	1988	1995	1988	1995
	15	29	5	11	35	24	23	21	6	2	4	1	2	3	1	1
Total																
Age																
15-19	0	4	0	0	33	40	52	39	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
20-24	2	6	0	1	53	46	32	26	2	1	1	1	1	1	<1	0
25-29	10	18	2	4	48	38	21	24	4	1	3	<1	1	3	1	<1
30-34	22	26	5	10	28	27	20	24	10	2	3	1	3	2	1	1
35-39	22	39	10	19	22	11	17	17	8	4	9	1	2	2	2	1
40-45	22	52	12	19	25	6	17	11	8	3	7	2	3	3	1	1
Education																
≤11 years	27	38	4	4	36	15	18	18	0	<1	4	1	1	2	0	<1
12 years	17	33	5	13	40	20	20	15	4	1	4	<1	1	2	1	<1
≥13 years	10	18	5	11	32	27	27	23	9	3	4	1	3	3	1	1
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not ascertained	33	0	0	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	33	0	0	0	0	0
Income																
≤149%	24	45	2	3	41	21	19	18	2	1	4	1	1	2	0	<1
150-299%	21	30	6	10	29	25	25	18	5	1	4	1	2	3	0	1
≥300%	9	22	6	16	35	25	25	24	7	3	4	<1	3	3	2	1