

5 Covariates of Unmet Need

5.1 AGE

There is little overall relationship between current age and total unmet need (Table 5.1) because of the offsetting negative and positive associations between age and the need for spacing (which declines with age, Table 5.2) and the need for limiting (which increases with age, Table 5.3). The need for spacing begins to decline after age 30, whereas the need for limiting peaks at ages 35-44.

5.2 NUMBER OF CHILDREN

The pattern of association with the number of living children is similar. The proportion with a need for limiting is mostly under 10 percent up to women with four or more children where it rises sharply, while the need for spacing declines after three children. Although there is some evidence of an unmet need for spacing among women with no children, the need begins mainly after the birth of the first child. Bolivia and Peru are the only apparent exceptions where the highest proportion (13 and 14 percent, respectively) appears before the first child.

Table 5.1 Total unmet need by age and number of children

Total unmet need for family planning among currently married women by age and number of children, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1990-1994

Country	Age						Number of children					
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	0	1	2	3	4+
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA												
Burkina Faso	29.1	29.9	33.2	31.9	36.4	41.0	28.0	14.8	27.6	30.2	34.4	40.6
Cameroon	21.1	25.3	20.6	22.8	27.9	15.2	10.2	9.3	17.8	23.4	17.9	28.3
Ghana	46.9	40.4	35.2	34.5	29.8	29.4	12.1	14.2	32.5	34.6	33.2	36.1
Kenya	41.9	40.2	39.6	35.0	38.9	26.9	14.0	15.9	35.8	37.0	36.1	37.5
Madagascar	24.2	31.4	32.7	32.8	40.6	35.2	20.4	5.2	20.4	26.9	32.0	42.0
Malawi	33.0	34.7	37.3	38.9	37.2	35.0	28.3	21.9	29.1	33.7	38.6	43.2
Namibia	31.9	22.5	24.6	23.1	20.1	20.6	15.3	15.7	17.9	22.1	21.8	24.4
Niger	17.4	18.9	22.6	18.2	19.1	17.4	9.9	10.2	14.7	18.8	18.1	24.1
Nigeria	24.1	21.4	20.5	22.5	25.7	21.1	14.5	12.3	18.8	19.5	18.1	25.7
Rwanda	29.6	28.2	41.5	41.1	43.7	35.3	22.4	7.5	27.7	36.2	40.8	41.5
Senegal	28.0	30.0	27.5	33.2	33.6	27.8	17.5	11.8	22.5	24.5	27.3	37.0
Sudan (Northern)	21.5	24.7	28.5	27.1	29.3	21.9	13.0	8.0	19.2	25.9	27.3	29.1
Tanzania	20.3	27.0	31.5	29.9	29.6	26.9	18.1	8.3	18.4	26.7	29.3	32.8
Zambia	27.8	29.2	30.8	31.3	36.1	32.3	26.8	15.1	23.7	27.5	31.2	38.7
NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA												
Egypt	24.1	23.8	23.5	21.1	23.5	20.6	15.1	7.3	23.4	21.7	21.4	24.8
Jordan	17.2	18.7	24.1	23.0	23.8	22.7	19.1	2.2	23.0	18.7	22.6	25.1
Morocco	16.6	20.4	20.4	19.2	21.1	22.9	13.9	7.9	13.4	14.7	17.9	26.3
Turkey	20.2	16.3	10.5	10.3	9.2	10.7	5.3	9.3	12.8	7.7	10.1	15.6
ASIA												
Bangladesh	22.7	21.5	18.7	18.3	16.3	8.9	5.3	15.0	20.5	17.6	18.1	18.1
Indonesia	18.5	15.8	14.6	16.0	14.8	12.4	6.1	9.8	13.3	12.8	14.8	16.7
Pakistan	33.6	30.7	34.9	33.4	38.5	28.8	14.1	15.5	30.2	29.5	32.2	37.0
Philippines	31.1	35.2	32.3	27.9	23.5	21.2	8.4	11.8	28.8	26.3	21.7	28.7
LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN												
Bolivia	30.6	25.3	25.8	24.1	27.0	21.1	9.4	14.3	19.3	19.8	21.2	29.5
Colombia	22.8	21.4	12.8	10.6	8.0	6.2	5.4	8.8	12.2	11.8	10.3	12.6
Dominican Republic	36.6	27.3	19.7	13.4	11.3	6.9	4.8	16.4	22.3	18.1	11.5	18.1
Paraguay	19.5	19.5	15.8	16.3	14.1	12.1	10.9	4.5	11.9	12.7	12.0	21.7
Peru	32.7	24.0	17.6	13.5	13.6	12.6	7.0	16.0	13.5	13.6	13.9	18.9

Table 5.2 Unmet need for spacing by age and number of children

Unmet need for spacing among currently married women by age and number of children, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1990-1994

Country	Age							Number of children				
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	0	1	2	3	4+
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA												
Burkina Faso	28.8	29.1	30.6	25.5	19.0	13.0	4.4	14.8	26.9	28.6	30.5	21.7
Cameroon	21.1	24.4	17.7	18.2	14.7	7.7	4.6	9.3	17.7	22.5	15.3	18.7
Ghana	45.6	37.1	30.2	22.8	16.1	9.8	3.6	14.2	31.2	29.4	25.6	18.7
Kenya	40.8	35.8	29.2	19.4	12.0	5.2	2.8	15.3	33.6	31.9	27.4	16.0
Madagascar	23.6	26.8	22.5	15.4	10.7	8.3	2.3	5.0	18.5	22.6	25.2	16.0
Malawi	31.6	32.8	30.9	27.5	21.6	17.2	8.8	21.0	27.2	29.9	33.0	23.8
Namibia	24.2	18.6	20.4	17.6	12.5	11.1	4.4	13.8	14.2	17.0	17.1	14.2
Niger	17.3	18.6	22.0	16.1	14.7	8.9	4.0	10.1	14.2	18.4	17.2	18.7
Nigeria	23.8	20.4	17.5	17.3	17.3	10.9	5.5	11.9	18.6	17.0	16.9	17.3
Rwanda	28.1	26.1	35.4	28.4	21.2	10.2	2.6	7.4	26.6	33.8	34.1	21.0
Senegal	27.1	29.6	25.7	28.2	21.0	10.6	4.1	11.3	21.8	23.6	25.5	24.0
Sudan (Northern)	20.4	22.8	24.4	19.2	14.9	9.2	2.9	7.6	18.2	22.3	21.5	16.8
Tanzania	19.2	25.7	26.9	21.7	13.3	7.3	3.4	7.3	18.1	24.9	26.4	17.8
Zambia	27.4	28.7	27.2	24.1	18.4	10.9	6.7	14.9	22.5	26.0	28.3	22.8
NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA												
Egypt	22.3	17.1	10.7	4.2	3.8	1.1	0.4	6.7	20.9	10.9	6.0	2.7
Jordan	15.7	14.7	14.4	10.8	7.8	4.2	0.6	2.0	20.6	14.3	14.7	8.2
Morocco	16.2	17.0	12.9	8.4	5.6	3.1	1.3	7.3	12.7	11.2	11.1	6.5
Turkey	17.6	9.7	4.0	1.6	0.7	0.3	0.0	8.9	10.0	2.3	1.7	0.9
ASIA												
Bangladesh	21.9	15.9	9.9	4.7	2.5	0.3	0.5	14.8	19.5	10.5	8.4	3.7
Indonesia	18.0	14.4	10.1	7.4	4.8	1.9	0.5	9.4	12.2	8.0	6.7	4.9
Pakistan	32.3	25.8	22.3	15.4	12.9	5.8	2.5	14.7	29.1	23.1	19.5	11.9
Philippines	27.4	28.3	19.9	12.7	6.6	2.6	0.5	11.4	25.1	18.0	9.32	7.2
LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN												
Bolivia	16.8	12.6	8.7	5.2	2.6	1.2	0.2	12.9	10.6	7.8	5.0	3.0
Colombia	19.3	12.6	4.0	2.6	0.8	0.2	0.1	8.2	9.3	4.1	1.9	1.0
Dominican Republic	28.6	18.4	9.8	6.2	1.4	0.2	0.0	15.6	17.0	12.5	4.7	2.4
Paraguay	15.8	14.6	11.9	8.6	4.7	1.7	0.7	4.1	10.9	9.3	7.2	7.4
Peru	21.0	11.8	5.3	2.6	0.9	0.5	0.2	14.3	8.4	5.3	2.5	1.4

Table 5.3 Unmet need for limiting by age and number of children

Unmet need for limiting among currently married women by age and number of children, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1990-1994

Country	Age							Number of children				
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	0	1	2	3	4+
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA												
Burkina Faso	0.3	0.8	2.6	6.4	17.3	28.0	23.6	0.0	0.7	1.7	3.9	18.9
Cameroon	0.0	0.9	2.9	4.5	13.2	7.4	5.6	0.0	0.1	0.9	2.7	9.6
Ghana	1.2	3.3	5.0	11.7	13.7	19.6	8.6	0.0	1.2	5.3	7.6	17.4
Kenya	1.1	4.4	10.5	15.6	26.9	21.7	11.2	0.6	2.2	5.1	8.7	21.6
Madagascar	0.6	4.6	10.2	17.4	29.9	26.9	18.2	0.2	1.9	4.3	6.8	26.0
Malawi	1.4	1.9	6.4	11.4	15.6	17.8	19.4	0.8	1.9	3.8	5.6	19.4
Namibia	7.8	4.0	4.2	5.4	7.6	9.4	10.8	1.8	3.7	5.1	4.7	10.2
Niger	0.1	0.3	0.6	2.1	4.4	8.5	6.0	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.9	5.4
Nigeria	0.3	1.1	3.0	5.2	8.4	10.2	9.0	0.3	0.2	2.5	1.2	8.4
Rwanda	1.5	2.1	6.1	12.7	22.5	25.0	19.8	0.1	1.1	2.4	6.7	20.5
Senegal	1.0	0.4	1.9	4.9	12.6	17.1	13.4	0.5	0.8	0.9	1.8	13.0
Sudan (Northern)	1.1	1.9	4.2	7.9	14.4	12.7	10.1	0.3	1.0	3.4	5.8	12.2
Tanzania	1.2	1.3	4.6	8.2	16.3	19.6	14.7	1.0	0.3	1.7	2.9	15.0
Zambia	0.4	0.4	3.6	7.2	17.8	21.4	20.1	0.2	1.2	1.5	2.9	15.9
NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA												
Egypt	1.9	6.8	12.8	16.8	19.7	19.4	14.7	0.7	2.5	10.7	15.4	22.1
Jordan	1.5	4.0	9.6	12.2	16.0	18.4	18.6	0.2	2.4	4.4	7.9	16.9
Morocco	0.4	3.4	7.5	10.8	15.5	19.8	12.7	0.7	0.7	3.5	6.8	19.8
Turkey	2.6	6.6	6.4	8.7	8.5	10.4	5.3	0.4	2.8	5.4	8.4	14.7
ASIA												
Bangladesh	0.8	5.6	8.8	13.5	13.8	8.6	4.7	0.2	1.0	7.1	9.8	14.4
Indonesia	0.5	1.4	4.5	8.6	10.0	10.5	5.6	0.5	1.0	4.8	8.1	11.8
Pakistan	1.3	4.9	12.6	18.0	25.6	23.1	11.6	0.7	1.1	6.4	12.7	25.2
Philippines	3.7	6.9	12.3	15.2	16.9	18.6	7.9	0.4	3.7	8.4	12.4	21.5
LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN												
Bolivia	13.9	12.7	17.1	18.9	24.4	19.9	9.2	1.4	8.7	12.0	16.2	26.5
Colombia	3.6	8.7	8.7	8.0	7.3	6.1	5.3	0.6	2.9	7.7	8.4	11.5
Dominican Republic	8.0	8.9	9.9	7.2	9.8	6.7	4.8	0.9	5.3	5.6	6.8	15.7
Paraguay	3.8	4.9	3.9	7.6	9.4	10.4	10.2	0.4	1.1	3.5	4.9	14.3
Peru	11.6	12.1	12.3	10.9	12.6	12.1	6.8	1.7	5.0	8.3	11.4	17.5

5.3 USE OF CONTRACEPTION

The question here is whether the likelihood of being in need of family planning is related to prior experience with contraception. To some extent, the answer depends upon the level of contraceptive prevalence in the population. In most low prevalence countries, which are concentrated largely in sub-Saharan Africa, there is little difference in the proportions classified in need by whether or not the women had ever used contraception (Table 5.4). In countries with high prevalence rates, prior use of a method makes a big difference in the determination of unmet need. In Latin American countries, women who had never used a method are several times more likely to be in need than women with some contraceptive experience. A similar pattern is evident for the higher prevalence Asian countries. One implication of these differences is that the program focus in the high prevalence areas might be most efficiently directed toward the never users. Since

most of the women in need in the low prevalence countries have never used a method (see Table 6.1), such a focus seems appropriate.

5.4 RESIDENCE

As observed in the earlier comparative report, unmet need outside of sub-Saharan Africa is higher in rural than in urban areas except in Pakistan where there is little difference (Table 5.4). In sub-Saharan Africa, on the other hand, there is a mixture; no consistent pattern exists and there is very little difference in unmet need between rural and urban areas.

5.5 EDUCATION

Three general observations can be made about the association between women's education and unmet need (Table 5.4): (1) in

the countries outside of sub-Saharan Africa, unmet need declines with increasing level of schooling; (2) within sub-Saharan Africa, the highest proportion with unmet need typically is among women with primary school education; and (3) in most countries, the general magnitude of the association is quite low. The pattern

within sub-Saharan Africa probably relates to literacy and awareness of the possibility of regulating fertility. The need for limiting in that region follows the negative association in other countries (not shown).

Table 5.4 Unmet need by residence and education

Total unmet need for family planning among currently married women by contraceptive use, residence and education, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1990-1994

Country	Use of contraception		Residence		Level of education		
	Never used	Ever used	Urban	Rural	None	Primary	Secondary+
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA							
Burkina Faso	23.6	39.1	33.8	32.4	32.7	35.9	25.3
Cameroon	19.3	25.4	23.7	20.5	18.7	27.0	20.1
Ghana	34.7	31.0	30.5	34.2	30.8	36.6	33.9
Kenya	46.7	26.4	24.8	37.4	35.1	39.1	26.5
Madagascar	37.0	21.0	25.5	33.9	27.8	38.1	23.8
Malawi	35.5	35.8	U	U	35.0	37.0	26.3
Namibia	25.3	18.7	17.9	24.3	23.5	23.1	20.0
Niger	18.6	19.5	22.5	18.0	18.0	28.2	23.0
Nigeria	21.6	22.0	22.1	21.5	20.1	26.4	21.8
Rwanda	42.6	30.3	30.8	37.2	40.3	34.8	26.4
Senegal	29.6	27.6	33.4	27.3	28.5	34.3	31.2
Sudan (Northern)	20.6	26.0	28.8	23.8	22.2	30.9	29.9
Tanzania	27.3	27.5	30.6	26.4	25.7	28.9	20.0
Zambia	30.3	31.1	31.8	29.7	29.4	32.3	26.1
NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA							
Egypt	34.8	15.5	18.2	25.1	26.0	21.0	13.9
Jordan	30.0	17.5	19.9	27.4	27.1	23.3	19.0
Morocco	29.7	14.6	12.4	25.3	22.7	10.6	9.1
Turkey	29.2	6.8	8.9	15.3	20.2	8.8	5.1
ASIA							
Bangladesh	26.6	13.6	15.0	18.4	18.1	18.7	16.8
Indonesia	23.2	10.1	11.8	15.1	15.7	14.7	11.2
Pakistan	32.9	27.3	32.5	31.4	32.0	32.6	29.6
Philippines	42.0	15.8	23.4	28.7	33.2	29.2	23.3
LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN							
Bolivia	49.1	10.1	17.6	32.2	33.3	28.2	14.8
Colombia	34.7	7.9	9.0	15.0	18.5	13.8	8.5
Dominican Republic	34.5	11.7	13.7	22.9	29.6	18.8	11.7
Paraguay	28.7	8.7	10.5	20.6	20.3	18.1	7.8
Peru	51.1	8.4	11.4	26.5	28.9	19.6	10.9

U = Unknown (not available)