

1 Introduction

Survey activities over the past two decades have documented basic demographic indicators in many developing countries, thus permitting cross-country comparisons. Data from the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) program alone has led to over 15 published comparative reports involving more than three dozen countries. These reports cover a wide range of topics ranging from household characteristics to women's reproductive preferences to children's health. Despite the awareness of reproductive patterns created by these surveys, little is known about the reproductive preferences of men and how they affect reproductive patterns in different societies. As evidence increasingly points to the importance of men in reproductive decisions, however, researchers, policy makers, and program managers are turning their attention to male reproductive preferences and behavior. Surveys of male populations may provide useful information on how men perceive or define their role in family planning issues, fertility, AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. This understanding may increase the efficiency of programs by elucidating ways in which existing programs could be modified to include men (or couples).

This report documents male attitudes, preferences, and behaviors relating to contraception and fertility in 15 countries of Africa and Asia. Data are drawn from 17 DHS surveys conducted over a seven-year period. While both women and men were interviewed for these surveys, this report focuses on the information provided by male respondents who were currently married at the time of the survey. To put these findings in perspective, observed levels among men are contrasted with levels among currently married women in the same country. The first section of the report describes the design and implementation of male surveys in the DHS program, focusing particularly on the selection procedures for the male sample and the differences between a survey of men and a survey of husbands. The second section discusses the background characteristics of the men surveyed and how different selection criteria for male respondents affects the sociodemographic makeup of each sample. Knowledge and use of contraception, intentions to use contraception in the future, and the preferred method for future use are the subjects of the third section. The fourth and fifth sections examine fertility desires and preferences among men. The focus here is on ideal family size, desire for additional children, approval of family planning, and discussion of family planning with wives. Differences in these indicators are exam-

ined among currently married men controlling for differences in their background characteristics. The report concludes with a summary of the major findings.

1.1 SAMPLING

DHS surveys usually are based on a representative sample of households at the national level. The sample is drawn after mapping and household listing operations in the survey areas. All women age 15-49 years who are usual residents of a household or who slept there the night before the survey are eligible for the individual survey. These procedures are modified slightly for men. Generally, a subsample of selected households is drawn, and men residing in these households are interviewed if they meet certain eligibility criteria. The DHS program has undertaken two types of surveys involving men: *male surveys*, which include all eligible men in the selected households, and *husband surveys*, which include only husbands of eligible women in the selected households. In male surveys, the selection criteria for respondents depend solely on age and membership in the household. All male members of the selected households who are the appropriate age are interviewed regardless of the outcome of the women's individual interviews. In contrast, the selection criteria for husband surveys draw on supplementary questions in the household questionnaire that determine each woman's marital status. If a woman is in union and her partner lives in the same household as she does, then the partner is retained for an individual male interview. There is no age limit imposed on husbands, however, they are not interviewed if they are married to an ineligible woman (i.e., a woman under age 15 or over age 49). Husbands of eligible women usually are interviewed no matter what the result of their wives' interviews.

Table 1.1 lists the 17 DHS surveys of male populations that are analyzed in this report. For each survey, the table shows the year in which the fieldwork was conducted (1987 to 1993), the phase in the DHS program to which it belongs (I, II, or III), the type of survey (male or husband), the proportion of selected households retained for male interviews, and the eligibility criteria. The first men's surveys were conducted in 1987 in Burundi and Mali as part of the DHS-I program. Ghana and Kenya followed in 1988 and 1989, respectively. Ten others were undertaken during the second phase of the program (1988-1993), and three male surveys

Table 1.1 Characteristics of male and husband surveys

Characteristics of male and husband surveys, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1987-1993

| Country | Year of fieldwork | DHS phase | Type of survey | Proportion of households | Criteria for eligibility | Response rate | Number of men | Number of men in union | Number of couples |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| West Africa | | | | | | | | | |
| Burkina Faso | 1993 | II | Male | 1/3 | 18 years and over | 82.7 | 1845 | 1346 | 1489 |
| Cameroon | 1991 | II | Husband | 1/2 | Eligible wife | 81.6 | 814 | 814 | 977 |
| Ghana (1988) | 1988 | I | Husband | 1/2 | Wife interviewed | 94.6 | 943 | 943 | 1010 |
| Ghana (1993) | 1993 | III | Male | 1/3 ^a | 15-59 years | 96.2 | 1302 | 749 | 510 |
| Mali | 1987 | I | Male | 2/3 | 20-54 years | 97.5 | 970 | 764 | 653 |
| Niger | 1991 | II | Husband | 1/2 | Eligible wife | 85.2 | 1570 | 1570 | 1862 |
| Senegal | 1992/93 | II | Male | 1/3 | 20 years and over | 84.8 | 1436 | 941 | 802 |
| East Africa | | | | | | | | | |
| Burundi | 1987 | I | Husband | 1/4 | Eligible wife | 92.3 | 542 | 542 | 542 |
| Kenya (1989) | 1989 | I | Husband | 1/2 | Eligible wife | 80.8 | 1170 | 1170 | 1189 |
| Kenya (1993) | 1993 | III | Male | 1/2 | 20-54 years | 84.6 | 2336 | 1664 | 1265 |
| Malawi | 1992 | II | Male | 1/3 | 20-54 years | 89.4 | 1151 | 866 | 740 |
| Rwanda | 1992 | II | Husband | 1/5 | Eligible wife | 83.6 | 598 | 598 | 588 |
| Tanzania | 1992 | II | Male | 1/4 | 15-60 years | 88.3 | 2114 | 1184 | 955 |
| North Africa | | | | | | | | | |
| Egypt | 1993 | II | Husband | 1/3 | Eligible wife | 81.5 | 2311 | 2311 | 2406 |
| Morocco | 1992 | II | Male | 1/3 | 20 years and over | 63.0 | 1336 | 939 | 747 |
| Asia | | | | | | | | | |
| Bangladesh | 1993 | III | Husband | 1/2 | Eligible wife | 84.8 | 3284 | 3284 | 3327 |
| Pakistan | 1990/91 | II | Husband | 1/3 | Eligible wife | 78.0 | 1354 | 1354 | 1354 |

^a One in every three clusters was selected for the male survey

from the DHS-III program (1992-1997) are so far complete. Several others are underway (in the Central African Republic, the Ivory Coast, and Zimbabwe), but the data are not yet available for incorporation in this report. All but two of the men's surveys have been conducted in Africa; there are seven from West Africa, six from East Africa, two from North Africa, and two from Asia. In both Ghana and Kenya, there have been two successive men's surveys, the first as part of DHS-I and the second as part of DHS-III.¹ Of the 17 surveys undertaken, 8 were male surveys and 9 were husband surveys.

The number of men or husbands interviewed in each country depends on the number of households included in the main survey, the proportion of those households retained

for male interviews, and the eligibility criteria for male respondents. One-fifth to two-thirds of the households selected for the main survey were retained for the male or husband survey in each country. In most countries, however, men were interviewed in one-third to one-half of the households that participated in the main survey.

Eligibility criteria for the men depend on the type of survey conducted. For all but one of the husband surveys, the only criteria were being in union with an eligible woman and living in the same household with her. The exception was the 1988 Ghana survey which posed an additional requirement: husbands were interviewed only if their wives had been successfully interviewed. Male surveys use age rather than marital status as the primary criterion for eligibility. As a result, husband surveys include only currently married men, while male surveys also include single, widowed, and divorced men. To make the different data sets comparable, this analysis is restricted to currently married

¹ Data from both surveys are presented here, but the discussion largely focuses on the more recent data set from each country.

men only. Thus, only a subsample of respondents in the male surveys are included, while all respondents in the husband surveys are retained.

The age limits for male surveys vary from one country to another. In Burkina Faso, for instance, all men aged 18 years and over who lived in the selected households were eligible for an interview, while in Malawi only men aged 20-54 years were eligible. Overall, the male and husband surveys fall into three categories depending on their age requirements:

- Surveys with no lower or upper age limits, which include Bangladesh, Burundi, Cameroon, Egypt, the 1988 Ghana survey, the 1989 Kenya survey, Niger, Pakistan, and Rwanda. These are all husband surveys, and the only age limits for men are those imposed by the age eligibility criteria for women.
- Surveys with both lower and upper age limits, which include the 1993 Ghana survey, the 1993 Kenya survey, Malawi, Mali, and Tanzania.
- Surveys with only a lower age limit, which include Burkina Faso, Morocco, and Senegal.

In countries with no age limits or only a lower limit, the male population surveyed generally will be older than that in countries with both lower and upper age limits. No adjustments are made for differences in the age limits in different surveys, and this may affect the comparison of aggregate measures.

As Table 1.1 shows, the response rate for male and husband surveys varies greatly, ranging from 63 percent in Morocco to 98 percent in Mali, and so does the total number of currently married men interviewed. This latter figure ranges from less than 600 in Burundi and Rwanda to more than 3,000 in Bangladesh. The last column in Table 1.1 presents the number of couples formed by linking the individual interviews of men to the individual interviews of their wives. For husband surveys, the number of couples often exceeds the number of currently married men because polygynous men form a couple with each of their successfully interviewed wives. Thus, a polygynous man's information is repeated for each of his wives who was interviewed. For male surveys, however, the number of couples frequently is less than the number of currently married men because eligible men are interviewed even if their wives reside elsewhere, are unavailable for individual interviews, or have incomplete interviews.

1.2 QUESTIONNAIRES

The male questionnaires used in DHS surveys are similar to those used for female interviews, but shorter. Usually, men's questionnaires do not include birth histories, questions on child health, or anthropometric measures. Table 1.2 summarizes the content of the male questionnaire for each survey.

The male questionnaires determine fertility with a set of questions on the number of sons and daughters rather than through birth histories. In more recent surveys (Bangladesh, Egypt, the 1993 Ghana survey, and Tanzania), the fertility section asks detailed questions on the number of children ever born and the number surviving by sex and residence. While some earlier surveys specifically asked men for the number of their surviving sons and daughters, others simply asked, "How many own sons (daughters) do you have?" without clarifying whether the respondent was reporting the number of surviving children or children ever born. This analysis treats responses to such questions as referring to the number of surviving children, but this ambiguity may make male fertility levels less comparable across countries.

The male questionnaire includes an entire section on the knowledge and use of family planning, although it is frequently less detailed than the equivalent section in the female questionnaire. Most of the men's surveys use the same list of contraceptive methods as the female questionnaire. Only the surveys in Egypt, Ghana (1988), Kenya (1989 and 1993), Malawi, and Tanzania asked men if they knew a source for family planning methods. In this report, knowledge of a contraceptive method refers both to spontaneously reported knowledge and to knowledge that resulted from probes by the interviewer. Questions on ever use and current use of a contraceptive method refer to use by either member of a couple. Thus, a man is recorded as currently using the pill if he reported that his wife is currently using the pill.

The section on fertility preferences in the male questionnaire is similar to that used in the woman's questionnaire. In Burkina Faso, Kenya (1993), Malawi, Senegal, and Tanzania, the male questionnaire also included a module on knowledge and behavior related to AIDS; it includes questions on condom use and on sexually transmitted diseases other than AIDS.² In Egypt, the male questionnaire also included questions on condom use, while in Malawi, a module on maternal mortality was added.

² This section is now part of the individual core questionnaires for men and women in DHS-III.

Table 1.2 Modules included in male and husband surveys

Modules included in male and husband surveys, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1987-1993

| Country | Background characteristics | Fertility | Family planning | Fertility preferences | AIDS | Maternal mortality |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| West Africa | | | | | | |
| Burkina Faso | X | LC | X | X | X +Condom | |
| Cameroon | X | LC | X | X | | |
| Ghana (1988) | X | LC | X +Sources | X | | |
| Ghana (1993) | X | LC | X | X | | |
| Mali | X | CEB | X | X | | |
| Niger | X | LC | X | X | | |
| Senegal | X | LC | X | X | X +STD | |
| East Africa | | | | | | |
| Burundi ^a | X | LC | X | X | | |
| Kenya (1989) | X | LC | X +Sources | X | | |
| Kenya (1993) | X | LC | X +Sources | X | X +Condom | |
| Malawi ^b | X | LC | X +Sources | X | X +Condom | X |
| Rwanda | X | LC | X | X | | |
| Tanzania | X | LC | X +Sources | X | X +Condom | |
| North Africa | | | | | | |
| Egypt | X | LC | X +Sources | X | Condom | |
| Morocco | X | LC | X | X | | |
| Asia | | | | | | |
| Bangladesh | X | LC | X | X | | |
| Pakistan | X | LC | X | X | | |

LC = Living children

CEB = Children ever born

^a No education level background characteristics

^b No urban/rural background characteristics

1.3 FIELDWORK PROCEDURES

In countries with no male interviews, DHS survey teams usually consist solely of female interviewers. In countries with male or husband surveys, a male interviewer is added to the field team to interview the men. Since the male questionnaire usually is shorter than the female question-

naire and only a fraction of the selected households are retained for male interviews, one male interviewer per team is generally sufficient to interview all eligible men. Other field procedures applicable to individual interviews with women, such as maintaining confidentiality for respondents' answers and ensuring the privacy of individual interviews, also apply to individual interviews with men.