

Short Report

FAMILY PLANNING IN RURAL ADANA, TURKEY

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Summary. This study of family planning in rural Adana, Turkey, collected data from 519 women aged between 16 and 55. Questionnaires were distributed in different districts during February 2006. The results showed that 81.3% of women used a contraceptive method. The IUD was the most widely used modern contraceptive method. There is a decrease in the average number of births per woman as the educational level of women increases.

Turkey has a young population with 29% being under 15 years old. People older than 64 constitute 5% of the total population. The average Turkish family size is four. This value is 3.9 in cities and 4.5 in rural areas.

Approximately one-third of the respondents had graduated from secondary school or a higher-grade form. Almost twice as many men (23%) had graduated from high school as women (14%). Studies on the education of this society have shown that the educational level of people is continuously increasing generation by generation (Hacettepe Üniversitesi Nüfus Etütleri Enstitüsü, 2003).

According to the results of a study performed by Turkish Population and Health in 1998, 64% of reproductive-age married women in Turkey use a contraceptive method. A quarter (24.4%) of respondents used withdrawal. Among those using modern methods, the most common was the IUD (19.8%). Eight per cent used condoms and 4.4% the pill (Ocaktan *et al.*, 2003).

Adana is the fifth most populous province of Turkey with a population of 1,849,473, of which 1,397,853 (64.9%) live in cities and 451,620 (35.1%) in rural areas. This study was done in rural Adana, where the birth rates of women are higher than those of women living in cities (Table 1).

The aim of this survey was to describe the general situation of women in terms of average number of pregnancies, births, rate of abortion, education level and contraceptive methods used (Table 2).

Three other results obtained from the survey are: the number of pregnancies, number of births and number of abortions for each woman. From these values the average number of pregnancies, average number of births and rate of abortion are

Table 1. The distribution of respondent women's ages

Age interval (years)	Number of women	Percentage
16–25	161	31%
26–35	226	44%
36–45	110	21%
46–55	22	4%

Table 2. Proportions of contraceptive methods used by respondents

Contraceptive method	Number of women	Proportion
Pill	45	8.67%
IUD	106	20.42%
Condom	87	16.76%
Injection	19	3.66%
Other methods	165	31.79%
Don't use	97	18.69%

Table 3. Relationship between education levels of women and birth, pregnancy, abortion and successful birth rates

Education level	Number of women	Proportion of successful births	Average number of pregnancies	Average number of births	Ratio of abortion
Illiterate	73	84%	4.5	3.8	6.4%
Literate	126	84%	4.8	4.0	5.5%
Primary school	270	84%	3.2	2.7	6.9%
Secondary school	23	94%	2.2	2.0	4.0%
High school and university	27	84%	2.1	1.8	10.5%
Total	519	84%	3.7	3.1	6.4%

calculated for each education level. In addition, rate of pregnancies that ended with a successful birth are calculated (Table 3).

The survey showed that both average number of pregnancies and average number of births decreased with level of education. The proportion of successful births seems to stay constant for the lowest three education levels (~84%). It then increases to 94% for women with secondary education, but goes down to 84% as a consequence of the high abortion rate among high school and university graduates (10.5%).

References

- Hacettepe Üniversitesi Nüfus Etütleri Enstitüsü** (2003) Türkiye Nüfus ve Sağlık Arastirmasi. Hacettepe Üniversitesi Nüfus Etütleri Enstitüsü, Sağlık Bakanligi Ana Çocuk Sağligi va Aile Planlamasi Genel Müdürlüğü, Devlet Planlama Teskilati ve Avrupa Birligi, Ankara, Turkey. <http://www.hips.hacettepe.edu.tr/tnsa2003/data/ozetrapor.pdf>.
- Ocaktan, M. E., Ozdemir, O., Çaliskan, D., Özyurda, F., Çöl, M. & Tümay, E.** (2003) Ankara Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Halk Sağligi Anabilim Dalı'nda Yürütölmekte Olan Aile Planlamasi Danismanligi ve Rahim İçi Araç Uygulama Kursunun Değerlendirilmesi. *Ankara Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Mecmuasi* **56**(3), 141–146. http://www.medicine.ankara.edu.tr/fakulte/files/20033_1.