### Contraceptive prevalence and need for family planning

#### Introduction

At the 2005 World Summit, Governments committed to take action to reverse trends in maternal mortality and achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning. At the same time, the need to develop and implement family planning policies and programmes at national levels has never been greater. This report provides the most recent data available and is intended to serve as an essential reference document for all those who are interested in issues related to the use of contraceptives for family planning.

#### Data sources

Data on contraceptive prevalence and unmet need for family planning are collected through surveys of household or individual members. The data are compiled and disseminated by a variety of organizations, including the United Nations, international agencies, non-governmental organizations, and national governments.

#### Data limitations

In all regions of the developing world, contraceptive prevalence (the proportion of ever-married women who use any method of contraception) is still low, with the exception of East Asia and the Pacific. In all regions, the prevalence of contraceptive use is lowest in the least developed regions, and highest in the more developed regions. The prevalence of contraceptive use is also highest in Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Sudan, where it is over 60 per cent. The prevalence of contraceptive use is lowest in the least developed regions, and lowest in the more developed regions.

#### Data coverage

Information on contraceptive prevalence is available for all developing regions, but data on unmet need for family planning are available only for 17 developing regions. The data on unmet need for family planning are not available for all developing regions.

### Methods of contraception used

The most common methods of contraception used in developing regions are the pill, condoms, and female sterilization. In all regions of the world, the pill is the most popular method of contraception, followed by condoms and female sterilization. In all regions of the world, the pill is used by a higher proportion of women in developing regions than in developed regions.

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### What is the use of contraceptives for family planning?

Contraceptives are used for a variety of reasons, including spacing or limiting births, avoiding pregnancy and promoting reproductive health. The use of contraceptives is also increasing in developing regions, with the highest prevalence of contraceptive use in East Asia and the Pacific.

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### Contraceptive prevalence by method for each of the world regions

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### Percentage of users of contraception by method for each of the world regions

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### Notes

The data presented in this report are based on the most recent available estimates. The data are based on surveys conducted in the past 5 years, and are considered to be the most up-to-date estimates available. The data are collected through a variety of methods, including household surveys, individual interviews, and data from national and international organizations.

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