

# **Determinants of Levels of Contraceptive Need in Jamaica**

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE 1989 AND THE 1993  
CONTRACEPTIVE PREVALENCE SURVEYS**

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**ABSTRACT****Determinants of Levels of Contraceptive Need in Jamaica****AN ANALYSIS OF THE 1989 AND THE 1993  
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Jamaica has experienced a demographic transition and fertility levels have declined to 2.5 births in 2003, from 5.6 births in 1970. In spite of the strides that have been made program planners and policy makers have expressed concern about the unpredictable pattern in fertility rates over the years. This study analyzes the level of contraceptive use among women in the reproductive ages 15-49 grouping, then divides the women into those who have a met and unmet need for contraception, but isolates the factors that distinguish these groups, and identifies the most important factors for policy and programs geared to further reduction in fertility.

Using multivariate statistical techniques, the study explores the contraceptive status of women and a number of independent variables such as their age, employment status, educational status, educational attainment, union status, number of children ever born, time since last birth, residence, decision making and frequency of church attendance.

Logistic regression analysis results showed significant differences between the two groups of women (met and unmet groups) with respect to the following variables: educational attainment, boyfriend/girlfriend relationships compared to married women, times since last birth, number of children ever born and frequency of church attendance. When the groups were separated and compared within each group the data showed the following results. Among the met limiters and spacers there were

significant differences in relation to: age, common-law relationships compared to married women, boyfriend/girlfriend relationships compared to married women, number of children ever born and time since last birth. However with respect to the unmet limiters and spacers the results indicated significant differences among the variables; age, number of children ever born and time since last birth. There were no significant differences in residence, employment status or visiting union compared to married.

Both international and Jamaican data on the contraceptive behavior of women focuses on their unmet need for contraception. This study advances the field by analyzing both their met as well as unmet need for contraception, comparing within group differences among these women who are spacing and limiting their births, and identifying important variables among these groups that impact on the reduction of fertility.

There is an obvious need to continue to track these women and to conduct further studies to ascertain additional information on the sociological parameters as well as cultural dimensions of these women and the effects of these parameters on the fertility of these women.