

IFSS_JELCRMSUP: Ever used jelly, cream, suppository, insert?

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_JELCRMSUP

Ever used jelly, cream, suppository, insert?

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

[1976 NSFG: Interval File](#)

[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)

[1973 NSFG](#)

[1973 NSFG](#)

[1970 NFS](#)

[1965 NFS](#)

[1960 GAF](#)

[1955 GAF](#)

Source Variables

[SUPPOSIT](#)

[JELCRMAL](#)

[SUPPOSIT](#)

[JELCRMAL](#)

[E59C](#)

[E58C](#)

[C_39](#)

[CMETHL](#)

[CMETHG](#)

[C40L](#)

[C40G](#)

[MC_E](#)

[MC_D](#)

[C47_3](#)

[C47_2](#)

[C47_1](#)

[C46](#)

[C34](#)

[C17_4](#)

[C17_3](#)

[C17_2](#)

[C17_1](#)

Source Questions

EA-15

EA-13

EA-15

EA-13

E-59

E-58

C-39

Computed

Computed

C-40

C-40

Computed

Computed

C-47

C-47

C-47

C-46

C-34

C-17

C-17

C-17

C-17

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1982 NSFG

1982 NSFG

1982 NSFG

1982 NSFG

1982 NSFG

1982 NSFG

1982 NSFG

1976 NSFG: Interval File

1976 NSFG: Interval File

1976 NSFG: Interval File

1976 NSFG: Interval File

C16	C-16	1976 NSFG: Interval File
METH 173	Computed	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C45 4	C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C45 3	C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C45 2	C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C45 1	C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C44	C-44	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C37 LM	C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C37 3	C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C37 2	C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C37 1	C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C36	C-36	1976 NSFG: Couple File
PREG MTHDUSE	50	1973 NSFG
PREG 4THMTHD	51	1973 NSFG
PREG 3RDMTHD	51	1973 NSFG
PREG 2NDMTHD	51	1973 NSFG
PREG 1STMTHD	51	1973 NSFG
PREG701 MTHDUSE	37	1973 NSFG
PREG701 MTHDINT4	37	1973 NSFG
PREG701 MTHDINT3	37	1973 NSFG
PREG701 2NDMTHD	37	1973 NSFG
PREG701 1STMTHD	37	1973 NSFG
BC 770	Computed	1973 NSFG
PREG4 FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG3 FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG2 FP 6	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2 FP 5	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2 FP 4	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2 FP 3	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2 FP 2	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2 FP 1	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG1 FP 6	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1 FP 5	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1 FP 4	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1 FP 3	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1 FP 2	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1 FP 1	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1 FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG0 METH 3	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0 METH 2	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0 METH 1	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0 METHLAST	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0 METH	CM136/PM113	1970 NFS
METH EVERUSE	CM224	1970 NFS
PREG1 METH1 10	100	1965 NFS
PREG1 METH1 10	100	1965 NFS
PREG0 METH1 9	113	1965 NFS
PREG0 METH1 9	113	1965 NFS
METH USE	65a	1960 GAF
VAGSUPP USE	44	1955 GAF
JELLY USE	44	1955 GAF

Description

IFSS_JELCRMSUP measures whether the respondent has ever used contraceptive jelly, cream, suppositories, or inserts.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: In some surveys, this measure is taken directly from questions about lifetime use. In other years, it is constructed based on contraceptive use histories. In addition, in the 1973 National Survey of Family Growth, this variable only describes usage in the past three years.

The primary difference in this variable across survey years is whether IFSS_JELCRMSUP is derived from a direct question about lifetime use, constructed based on contraceptive use history, or some combination of information from both sources. IFSS_JELCRMSUP is based on a direct question in the National Surveys of Family Growth in 1995 and 2002 and the Growth of American Families Surveys in 1955 and 1960, constructed based on contraceptive use history in the 1973 NSFG and the 1965 and 1970 National Fertility Surveys, and created using a combination of both questions in the 1976, 1982, and 1988 NSFGs. There is also some minor variation in question wording across surveys; in particular, some surveys ask specifically about the use of jellies, cream, suppositories, or inserts to prevent sexually transmitted diseases.

IFSS_JELCRMSUP provides information specifically about using jellies, creams, suppositories, or inserts. In some years, the question text refers only to use without another method, such as a diaphragm, while in others any use is included. In years where combinations were listed, IFSS coded all mentions of jelly, cream, suppository or insert as "Yes" for IFSS_JELCRMSUP. . In all years except for the 1973 and 1976 NSFGs, IFSS_JELCRMSUP is created based on separate variables for jellies or creams and for suppositories or inserts.

In all years, IFSS_JELCRMSUP exists for all women who were eligible to be asked about contraceptive use. In most surveys, this universe is defined as women who had ever had sex; for the GAF and NFS surveys and the 1973 and 1976 NSFGs, in which the sample is limited to married women or ever married women, virtually all women are included in this universe. There are some small variations in question universe across surveys.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, all respondents who had ever had sex were asked whether they had ever used jelly or cream and whether they had ever used a suppository or insert.

For the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, the NSFG staff produced a recoded variable summarizing method use across the interval described by the method use calendar (see IFSS_CCMETH and related variables). IFSS_JELCRMSUP was created based on this variable where possible. However, the method use calendar only covers a limited time period (since January, 1979 for the 1982 NSFG; since January 1984 for the 1988 NSFG). In addition to the calendar, respondents who had had sex at least once since they started menstruating were asked, "Have you or your partner ever used a method of birth control or family planning, even if it was only one time?" They were presented with a list of methods to refer to when they answered the question. Women who reported having ever used a method were then asked to circle all methods on the list that they had ever used. In 1982, one of the response options was "Diaphragm with or without jelly/cream;" those responses are not included in IFSS_JELCRMSUP, so 1982 may undercount jelly or cream use relative to other years. Finally, in the 1988 NSFG, women were also asked, "To keep you or your partner from catching diseases such as genital herpes, chlamydia, or AIDS, do you use any of the methods listed on Card 26?" "Spermicidal jelly, foam, or cream" was a response option for this question. Women who reported using jelly, cream, suppositories, or inserts in the method calendar or in the direct questions are coded as yes for IFSS_JELCRMSUP. Women who did not report using these methods in any question are coded as no. Women who had not yet menstruated or had not had sex since their first menstruation are excluded from the question universe in addition to women who had never had sex.

The variable in the 1976 NSFG is structured roughly similarly to those in 1982 and 1988, except that there is no existing summary variable for the method use calendar, and the additional methods question does not include methods mentioned in the pregnancy interval file. Thus, IFSS created a summary variable reflecting whether the respondent reporting using jelly, cream, suppositories, or inserts, alone or in combination with another method, during any month covered by the method use calendar (since January, 1973). This is combined with variables measuring contraceptive use in the intervals between pregnancies and the open interval (the period since the respondent's last pregnancy or first sex). Respondents were also asked, "Have you or your husband ever used any (other) method to delay or prevent a pregnancy?" As in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, information from this question is used to supplement information from the method calendar and pregnancy interval file in constructing IFSS_JELCRMSUP.

The 1973 NSFG includes no summary questions on lifetime use of contraception. Information for IFSS_JELCRMSUP is derived from the contraceptive calendar and variables measuring use of contraception in the interval between pregnancies (IFSS_JELINT). The 1973 NSFG contains information on contraceptive use in pregnancy intervals that ended since July, 1970 and the open interval, defined as the period since the respondent's last pregnancy, or July, 1970 if she has never been pregnant or her last pregnancy ended prior to July, 1970. Thus, IFSS_JELCRMSUP covers only the period since July, 1970 and understates lifetime

use of jellies, creams and suppositories; this error is likely greater for older women, for whom the period not covered by the contraceptive calendar represents a larger proportion of their lifespan.

In the National Fertility Surveys in 1965 and 1970, IFSS_JELCRMSUP is derived from questions about method use in each pregnancy interval. For each pregnancy, and for the open interval (time between the most recent pregnancy and the survey, or since first intercourse for respondents who had never been pregnant), respondents were asked to report all contraceptive methods used for any period of time (see IFSS_JELINT and related interval variables for a full description of these measures). The 1970 response option specifies that it refers exclusively to "Jelly or cream (alone)" resulting in a probable undercount of jelly or cream use in 1970 relative to other years.

The Growth of American Families surveys in 1955 and 1960 asked respondents about their lifetime use of contraception. In 1955, respondents were first asked "Now in your own case, have you or your husband ever done anything to limit the number of your children or to keep from having them at certain times?" Women who said yes were asked to list the methods they had used, referring to a provided list. In the 1960 survey, women were provided with a list of "methods some married couples use to avoid getting pregnant" and asked to identify which, if any, they had used. (Women were also asked to specify methods not listed.) The question indicated that it referred to methods used with a previous husband as well as the current husband. For both years, respondents who indicated that they had used jelly, cream, suppositories, or inserts are coded yes for IFSS_JELCRMSUP and those who did not were coded no. Respondents who reported using jelly, cream, suppository, or insert together with another method are also coded yes for IFSS_JELCRMSUP.

See Also:

[IFSS_JELINT](#)
[IFSS_CERVLCAP](#)
[IFSS_CONDOM](#)
[IFSS_DIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FEMSTER](#)
[IFSS_FOAMALON](#)
[IFSS_INJECTABLES](#)
[IFSS_IUD](#)
[IFSS_MORNPILL](#)
[IFSS_NORPLANT](#)
[IFSS_OTHRMETH](#)
[IFSS_PATCH](#)
[IFSS_PILL](#)
[IFSS_RHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_TEMPSAFE](#)
[IFSS_TODAYSPG](#)
[IFSS_VASECTMY](#)
[IFSS_WIDRAWAL](#)
[IFSS_WOCONDOM](#)

IFSS_FOAMALON: Ever used foam?

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

BC_770	Computed	1973 NSFG
PREG4_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG3_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_6	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_5	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_4	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_3	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_2	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_1	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_6	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_5	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_4	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_3	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_2	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_1	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH_3	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH_2	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH_1	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METHLAST	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH	CM136/PM113	1970 NFS
METH_EVERUSE	CM224	1970 NFS
PREG3_METH1_11	100	1965 NFS
PREG2_METH1_11	100	1965 NFS
PREG1_METH1_11	100	1965 NFS
PREG0_METH1_11	113	1965 NFS
METH_USE	65	1960 GAF
FOAMTAB_USE	44	1955 GAF

Description

IFSS_FOAMALON measures whether the respondent has ever used contraceptive foam, either alone or with another method.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: In some surveys, this measure is taken directly from questions about lifetime use. In other years, it is constructed based on contraceptive use histories. In addition, in the 1973 National Survey of Family Growth, this variable only describes usage in the past three years.

The primary difference in this variable across survey years is whether IFSS_FOAMALON is derived from a direct question about lifetime use, constructed based on contraceptive use history, or some combination of information from both sources. IFSS_FOAMALON is based on a direct question in the National Surveys of Family Growth in 1995 and 2002 and the Growth of American Families Surveys in 1955 and 1960, constructed based on contraceptive use history in the 1973 NSFG and the 1965 and 1970 National Fertility Surveys, and created using a combination of both questions in the 1976, 1982, and 1988 NSFGs. There is also some minor variation in question wording across surveys; in particular, some surveys ask specifically about the use of contraceptive foam to prevent sexually transmitted diseases. Despite the name, use of contraceptive foam together with another method (primarily condoms or the diaphragm) is included in IFSS_FOAMALON in all surveys.

In all years, IFSS_FOAMALON exists for all women who were eligible to be asked about contraceptive use. In most surveys, this universe is defined as women who had ever had sex; for the GAF and NFS surveys and the 1973 and 1976 NSFGs, in which the sample is limited to married women or ever married women, virtually all women are included in this universe. There are some small variations in question universe across surveys.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, all respondents who had ever had sex were asked whether they had ever used foam.

For the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, the NSFG staff produced a recoded variable summarizing method use across the interval described by the method use calendar (see IFSS_CCMETH and related variables). IFSS_FOAMALON was created based on this variable where possible. However, the method use calendar

only covers a limited time period (since January, 1979 for the 1982 NSFG; since January, 1984 for the 1988 NSFG). In addition to the calendar, respondents who had had sex at least once since they started menstruating were asked, "Have you or your partner ever used a method of birth control or family planning, even if it was only one time?" They were presented with a list of methods to refer to when they answered the question. Women who reported having ever used a method were then asked to circle all methods on the list that they had ever used. Finally, in the 1988 NSFG, women were asked, "To keep you or your partner from catching diseases such as genital herpes, chlamydia, or AIDS, do you use any of the methods listed on Card 26?" "Spermicidal jelly, foam, or cream" was a response option for this question. Women who reported using foam, either alone or in combination with another method, in the method calendar or in the direct questions are coded as yes for IFSS_FOAMALON. Women who did not report using foam in any question are coded as no. Women who had not yet menstruated or had not had sex since their first menstruation are excluded from the question universe in addition to women who had never had sex.

The variable in the 1976 NSFG is structured roughly similarly to those in 1982 and 1988, except that there is no existing summary variable for the method use calendar, and the additional methods question does not include methods mentioned in the pregnancy interval file. Thus, IFSS created a summary variable reflecting whether the respondent reporting using contraceptive foam, alone or in combination with another method, during any month covered by the method use calendar (since January, 1973). This is combined with variables measuring contraceptive use in the intervals between pregnancies and the open interval (the period since the respondent's last pregnancy or first sex). Respondents were also asked, "Have you or your husband ever used any (other) method to delay or prevent a pregnancy?" As in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, information from this question was used to supplement information from the method calendar and pregnancy interval file in constructing IFSS_FOAMALON.

The 1973 NSFG includes no summary questions on lifetime use of contraception. Information for IFSS_FOAMALON is derived from the contraceptive calendar and variables measuring use of contraception in the intervals between pregnancies (IFSS_FOAMINT). The 1973 NSFG contains information on contraceptive use in pregnancy intervals that ended since July, 1970 and the open interval, defined as the period since the respondent's last pregnancy, or July, 1970 if she has never been pregnant or her last pregnancy ended prior to July, 1970. Thus, IFSS_FOAM covers only the period since July, 1970 and understates lifetime use of foam; this error is likely greater for older women, for whom the period not covered by the contraceptive calendar represents a larger proportion of their lifespan.

In the National Fertility Surveys in 1965 and 1970, IFSS_FOAMALON is derived from questions about method use in each pregnancy interval. For each pregnancy, and for the open interval (time between the most recent pregnancy and the survey, or since first intercourse for respondents who had never been pregnant), respondents were asked to report all contraceptive methods used for any period of time (see IFSS_FOAMINT and related interval variables for a full description of these measures).

The Growth of American Families surveys in 1955 and 1960 asked respondents about their lifetime use of contraception. In 1955, respondents were first asked "Now in your own case, have you or your husband ever done anything to limit the number of your children or to keep from having them at certain times?" Women who said yes were asked to list the methods they had used, referring to a provided list. In the 1960 survey, women were provided with a list of "methods some married couples use to avoid getting pregnant" and asked to identify which, if any, they had used. (Women were also asked to specify methods not listed.) The question indicated that it referred to methods used with a previous husband as well as the current husband. For both years, respondents who indicated that they had used foam are coded yes for IFSS_FOAMALON and those who did not are coded no. In the 1960 survey, respondents who reported using "suppository, foam, or other artificial method" together with another method are also coded yes for IFSS_FOAMALON.

See Also:

[IFSS_FOAMINT](#)
[IFSS_CERVLCAP](#)
[IFSS_CONDOM](#)
[IFSS_DIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FEMSTER](#)
[IFSS_INJECTABLES](#)
[IFSS_IUD](#)
[IFSS_JELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_MORNPILL](#)
[IFSS_NORPLANT](#)
[IFSS_OTHRMETH](#)
[IFSS_PATCH](#)
[IFSS_PILL](#)

[IFSS_RHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_TEMPSAFE](#)
[IFSS_TODAYSPG](#)
[IFSS_VASECTMY](#)
[IFSS_WIDRAWAL](#)
[IFSS_WOCONDOM](#)

IFSS_IUD: Ever used an IUD, coil or loop?

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_IUD

Ever used an IUD, coil or loop?

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1995 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)
[1982 NSFG](#)
[1976 NSFG: Interval File](#)
[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)
[1973 NSFG](#)
[1973 NSFG](#)
[1970 NFS](#)
[1965 NFS](#)

Source Variables

[IUD](#)
[IUD](#)
[C_39](#)
[CMETHF](#)
[C40F](#)
[MC_H](#)
[C47_3](#)
[C47_2](#)
[C47_1](#)
[C46](#)
[C34](#)
[C17_4](#)
[C17_3](#)
[C17_2](#)
[C17_1](#)
[C16](#)
[METH_173](#)

Source Questions

EA-17
EA-17
C-39
Computed
C-40
Computed
C-47
C-47
C-47
C-47
C-46
C-34
C-17
C-17
C-17
C-17
C-16
Computed
2002 NSFG
1995 NSFG
1988 NSFG
1988 NSFG
1988 NSFG
1982 NSFG
1982 NSFG
1982 NSFG
1982 NSFG
1982 NSFG
1982 NSFG
1976 NSFG: Interval File
1976 NSFG: Interval File
1976 NSFG: Interval File
1976 NSFG: Interval File
1976 NSFG: Interval File
1976 NSFG: Couple File

C45_4	C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C45_3	C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C45_2	C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C45_1	C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C44	C-44	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C37_LM	C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C37_3	C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C37_2	C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C37_1	C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C36	C-36	1976 NSFG: Couple File
PREG_MTHDUSE	50	1973 NSFG
PREG_4THMTHD	51	1973 NSFG
PREG_3RDMTHD	51	1973 NSFG
PREG_2NDMTHD	51	1973 NSFG
PREG_1STMTHD	51	1973 NSFG
PREG701_MTHDUSE	37	1973 NSFG
PREG701_MTHDINT4	38	1973 NSFG
PREG701_MTHDINT3	38	1973 NSFG
PREG701_2NDMTHD	38	1973 NSFG
PREG701_1STMTHD	38	1973 NSFG
BC_770	Computed	1973 NSFG
PREG4_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG3_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_6	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_5	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_4	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_3	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_2	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_1	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_6	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_5	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_4	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_3	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_2	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_1	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH_3	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH_2	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH_1	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METHLAST	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH	CM136/PM113	1970 NFS
IUD_EVERUSE	CM87/PM80	1970 NFS
PREG3_METH1_14	100	1965 NFS
PREG2METH1_14	100	1965 NFS
PREG1_METH1_14	100	1965 NFS
PREG0_METH1_14	113	1965 NFS

Description

IFSS_IUD measures whether the respondent has ever used the IUD.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: In some surveys, this measure is taken directly from questions about lifetime use. In other years, it is constructed based on contraceptive use histories. In addition, in the 1973 National Survey of Family Growth, this variable only describes usage in the past three years.

The primary difference in this variable across survey years is whether IFSS_IUD is derived from a direct question about lifetime use, constructed based on contraceptive use history, or some combination of information from both sources. IFSS_IUD is based on a direct question in the National Surveys of Family Growth in 1995 and 2002, constructed based on contraceptive use history in the 1973 NSFG and the 1965

and 1096 National Fertility Surveys, and created using a combination of both questions in the 1976, 1982, and 1988 NSFGs. There is also some minor variation in question wording across surveys.

In all years, IFSS_IUD exists for all women who were eligible to be asked about contraceptive use. In most surveys, this universe is defined as women who had ever had sex; for the GAF and NFS surveys and the 1973 and 1976 NSFGs, in which the sample is limited to married women or ever married women, virtually all women are included in this universe. There are some small variations in question universe across surveys.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, all respondents who had ever had sex were asked whether they had ever used "an IUD, coil, or loop."

For the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, the NSFG staff produced a recoded variable summarizing method use across the interval described by the method use calendar (see IFSS_CCMETH and related variables). IFSS_IUD was created based on this variable where possible. However, the method use calendar only covers a limited time period (since January, 1979 for the 1982 NSFG; since January, 1984 for the 1988 NSFG). In addition to the calendar, respondents who had had sex at least once since they started menstruating were asked "Have you or your partner ever used a method of birth control or family planning, even if it was only one time?" They were presented with a list of methods to refer to when they answered the question. Women who reported having ever used a method were then asked to circle all methods on the list that they had ever used. Women who reported using the IUD either in the method calendar or in the direct question are coded as yes for IFSS_IUD. Women who did not report using the IUD in either question are coded as no. Women who had not yet menstruated or had not had sex since their first menstruation are excluded from the question universe in addition to women who had never had sex.

The variable in the 1976 NSFG is structured roughly similarly to those in 1982 and 1988, except that there is no existing summary variable for the method use calendar, and the additional methods question does not include methods mentioned in the pregnancy interval file. Thus, IFSS created a summary variable reflecting whether the respondent reporting using the IUD, alone or in combination with another method, during any month covered by the method use calendar (since January, 1973). This is combined with variables measuring contraceptive use in the intervals between pregnancies and the open interval (the period since the respondent's last pregnancy or first sex). Respondents were also asked, "Have you or your husband ever used any (other) method to delay or prevent a pregnancy?" As in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, information from this question is used to supplement information from the method calendar and pregnancy interval file in constructing IFSS_IUD.

The 1973 NSFG includes no summary questions on lifetime use of contraception. Information for IFSS_IUD is derived from the contraceptive calendar and variables measuring use of contraception in the intervals between pregnancies (IFSS_IUDINT). The 1973 NSFG contains information on contraceptive use in pregnancy intervals that ended since July, 1970 and the open interval, defined as the period since the respondent's last pregnancy, or July, 1970 if she has never been pregnant or her last pregnancy ended prior to July, 1970. Thus, IFSS_IUD covers only the period since July, 1970 and understates lifetime use of IUDs; this error is likely greater for older women, for whom the period not covered by the contraceptive calendar represents a larger proportion of their lifespan.

In the National Fertility Surveys in 1965 and 1970, IFSS_IUD is derived from questions about method use in each pregnancy interval. For each pregnancy, and for the open interval (time between the most recent pregnancy and the survey, or since first intercourse for respondents who had never been pregnant), respondents were asked to report all contraceptive methods used for any period of time (see IFSS_IUDINT and related interval variables for a full description of these measures). Respondents who reported using the IUD in any interval are coded as yes for IFSS_IUD, and those who did not report IUD use in any interval are coded as no.

See Also:

[IFSS_IUDINT](#)
[IFSS_CERVLCAP](#)
[IFSS_CONDOM](#)
[IFSS_DIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FEMSTER](#)
[IFSS_FOAMALON](#)
[IFSS_INJECTABLES](#)
[IFSS_JELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_MORNPILL](#)
[IFSS_NORPLANT](#)
[IFSS_OTHRMETH](#)
[IFSS_PATCH](#)

[IFSS_PILL](#)
[IFSS_RHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_TEMPSAFE](#)
[IFSS_TODAYSPG](#)
[IFSS_VASECTMY](#)
[IFSS_WIDRAWAL](#)
[IFSS_WOCONDOM](#)

IFSS_OTHRMETH: Ever used other method?

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_OTHRMETH

Ever used other method?

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1995 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)
[1982 NSFG](#)
[1976 NSFG: Interval File](#)
[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)
[1973 NSFG](#)
[1973 NSFG](#)
[1970 NFS](#)
[1965 NFS](#)
[1960 GAF](#)
[1955 GAF](#)

Source Variables

[OTHRMETH](#)
[OTHRMETH](#)
[C_39](#)
[CMETHQ](#)
[CMETHD](#)
[C40Q](#)
[C40D](#)
[MC_P](#)
[MC_G](#)
[C47_3](#)
[C47_2](#)
[C47_1](#)
[C46](#)
[C34](#)

Source Questions

EA-20	2002 NSFG
EA-20	1995 NSFG
C-39	1988 NSFG
Computed	1988 NSFG
Computed	1988 NSFG
C-40	1988 NSFG
C-40	1988 NSFG
Computed	1982 NSFG
Computed	1982 NSFG
C-47	1982 NSFG
C-47	1982 NSFG
C-47	1982 NSFG
C-46	1982 NSFG
C-34	1982 NSFG

C17 4	C-17	1976 NSFG: Interval File
C17 3	C-17	1976 NSFG: Interval File
C17 2	C-17	1976 NSFG: Interval File
C17 1	C-17	1976 NSFG: Interval File
C16	C-16	1976 NSFG: Interval File
METH 173	Computed	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C45 4	C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C45 3	C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C45 2	C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C45 1	C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C44	C-44	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C37 LM	C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C37 3	C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C37 2	C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C37 1	C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C36	C-36	1976 NSFG: Couple File
PREG MTHDUSE	50	1973 NSFG
PREG 4THMTHD	51	1973 NSFG
PREG 3RDMTHD	51	1973 NSFG
PREG 2NDMTHD	51	1973 NSFG
PREG 1STMTHD	51	1973 NSFG
PREG701 MTHDUSE	37	1973 NSFG
PREG701 MTHDINT4	38	1973 NSFG
PREG701 MTHDINT3	38	1973 NSFG
PREG701 2NDMTHD	38	1973 NSFG
PREG701 1STMTHD	38	1973 NSFG
BC 770	Computed	1973 NSFG
PREG4 FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG3 FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG2 FP 6	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2 FP 5	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2 FP 4	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2 FP 3	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2 FP 2	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2 FP 1	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2 FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG1 FP 6	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1 FP 5	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1 FP 4	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1 FP 3	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1 FP 2	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1 FP 1	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1 FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG0 METH 3	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0 METH 2	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0 METH 1	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0 METHLAST	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0 METH	CM136/PM113	1970 NFS
METH EVERUSE	CM224	1970 NFS
BC 770	Computed	1970 NFS
PREG1 METH1 16	100	1965 NFS
PREG1 METH1 15	100	1965 NFS
PREG1 METH1 13	100	1965 NFS
PREG1 METH1 12	100	1965 NFS
PREG0 METH1 16	113	1965 NFS
PREG0 METH1 15	113	1965 NFS
PREG0 METH1 13	113	1965 NFS
PREG0 METH1 12	113	1965 NFS
METH USE	60	1960 GAF
TAMPON USE	44	1955 GAF

OTHRMETH_USE	44	1955 GAF
LACT_USE	44	1955 GAF
DOU_USE	44	1955 GAF
ABS_USE	44	1955 GAF

Description

IFSS_OTHRMETH measures whether the respondent has ever used a method of contraception other than ones listed in specific questions.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: In some surveys, this measure is taken directly from questions about lifetime use. In other years, it is constructed based on contraceptive use histories. In addition, in the 1973 National Survey of Family Growth, this variable only describes usage in the past three years. Because the methods listed in specific questions varied across surveys, the methods included under the umbrella "other method" likely varied as well.

The primary difference in this variable across survey years is whether IFSS_OTHRMETH is derived from a direct question about lifetime use, constructed based on contraceptive use history, or some combination of information from both sources. IFSS_OTHRMETH is based on a direct question in the National Surveys of Family Growth in 1995 and 2002 and the Growth of American Families Surveys in 1955 and 1960, constructed based on contraceptive use history in the 1973 NSFG and the 1965 and 1970 National Fertility Surveys, and created using a combination of both questions in the 1976, 1982, and 1988 NSFGs.

The list of methods specified in questions about contraception varied across surveys. Some early surveys included methods not mentioned in later surveys (e.g., douching after intercourse, abstinence, tampon or pessary, etc.). These methods are incorporated in IFSS_OTHRMETH in the harmonized data. Users interested in these specific methods can refer to the original source data.

In addition, some surveys only measure contraceptive methods used for at least one month, while other surveys measure any use. There is also some minor variation in question wording across surveys.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, after a series of questions about particular methods, respondents were asked, "Have you used any other methods?" In the 2002 NSFG, this question was asked of all respondents; in 1995 only respondents who had ever had sex were asked about other methods.

For the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, the NSFG staff produced a recoded variable summarizing method use across the interval described by the method use calendar (see IFSS_CCMETH and related variables). IFSS_OTHRMETH was created based on this variable where possible. However, the method use calendar only covers a limited time period (since January 1979 for the 1982 NSFG; since January 1984 for the 1988 NSFG). In addition to the calendar, respondents who had had sex at least once since they started menstruating were asked, "Have you or your partner ever used a method of birth control or family planning, even if it was only one time?" They were presented with a list of methods to refer to when they answered the question; an option for "other method" was included on the list. Women who reported having ever used a method were then asked to circle all methods on the list that they had ever used. Women who circled the "other method" option in the method calendar or in the direct questions were coded as yes for IFSS_OTHRMETH. In addition, douching after intercourse was included as a method in both 1982 and 1988, and women who chose that option were included in IFSS_OTHRMETH. Women who did not select either douching or "other method" in any question were coded as no.

The variable in the 1976 NSFG is structured similarly to those in 1982 and 1988, except that there is no existing summary variable for the method use calendar. Thus, IFSS created a summary variable reflecting whether the respondent reporting using another method during any month covered by the method use calendar (since January 1973). Respondents were also asked, "Have you or your husband ever used any (other) method to delay or prevent a pregnancy?" to elicit methods used before the time period covered by the method use calendar. As in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, information from this question was used to supplement information from the method calendar in constructing IFSS_OTHRMETH. In the 1976 NSFG, the specific response options douching, abortion, and abstinence were incorporated in IFSS_OTHRMETH.

The 1973 NSFG includes no summary questions on lifetime use of contraception. Information for IFSS_OTHRMETH is derived from the contraceptive calendar and variables measuring use of contraception in the interval between pregnancies (IFSS_OTHINT). Both of these sources cover only the period since July 1970. Thus, IFSS_OTHRMETH understates lifetime use of other methods in the 1973 NSFG; this error is likely greater for older women, for whom the period not covered by the contraceptive calendar represents a

larger proportion of their lifespan. In the 1973 NSFG, the specific response options douching, abortion, and abstinence were incorporated in IFSS_OTHRMETH.

In the National Fertility Surveys in 1965 and 1970, IFSS_OTHRMETH is derived from questions about method use in each pregnancy interval. For each pregnancy, and for the open interval (time between the most recent pregnancy and the survey, or since first intercourse for respondents who had never been pregnant), respondents were asked to report all contraceptive methods used for any period of time (see IFSS_OTHINT and related interval variables for a full description of these measures). In both NFS, the specific response options douching and abstinence were incorporated in IFSS_OTHRMETH.

The Growth of American Families surveys in 1955 and 1960 asked respondents about their lifetime use of contraception. In 1955, respondents were first asked "Now in your own case, have you or your husband ever done anything to limit the number of your children or to keep from having them at certain times?" Women who said yes were asked to list the methods they had used, referring to a provided list. In the 1960 survey, women were provided with a list of "methods some married couples use to avoid getting pregnant" and asked to identify which, if any, they had used. (Women were also asked to specify methods not listed.) The question indicated that it referred to methods used with a previous husband as well as the current husband. For both years, respondents who indicated that they had used another method were coded yes for IFSS_OTHRMETH and those who did not were coded no. In the 1955 GAF, the specific response options douching, abstinence, lactation, and "tampon, vaginal cap, or stem pessary" were incorporated in IFSS_OTHRMETH. In the 1960 GAF, the specific response options douche, abstinence, and "appliance methods", reported alone or in combination with other methods, were incorporated in IFSS_OTHRMETH.

See Also:

[IFSS_NEWMETH](#)
[IFSS_CERVLAP](#)
[IFSS_CONDOM](#)
[IFSS_DIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FEMSTER](#)
[IFSS_FOAMALON](#)
[IFSS_INJECTABLES](#)
[IFSS_IUD](#)
[IFSS_JELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_MORNPILL](#)
[IFSS_NORPLANT](#)
[IFSS_PATCH](#)
[IFSS_PILL](#)
[IFSS_RHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_TEMPSAFE](#)
[IFSS_TODAYSPG](#)
[IFSS_VASECTMY](#)
[IFSS_WIDRAWAL](#)
[IFSS_WOCONDOM](#)

IFSS_NONSURG: R ever used non-surgical birth control method

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_NONSURG

R ever used non-surgical birth control method

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

[1976 NSFG: Interval File](#)

[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)

[1973 NSFG](#)

[1973 NSFG](#)

[1970 NFS](#)

[1965 NFS](#)

[1960 GAF](#)

[1955 GAF](#)

Source Variables

[WOCONDOM](#)

[WIDRAWAL](#)

[TODAYSPG](#)

[TEMPSAFE](#)

[SUPPOSIT](#)

[RHYTHM](#)

[PILL](#)

[PATCH](#)

[OTHRMETH](#)

[NORPLANT](#)

[MORNPILL](#)

[LUNELLE](#)

[JELCRMAL](#)

[IUD](#)

[FOAMALON](#)

[DIAFRAGM](#)

[DEPOPROV](#)

[CONDOM](#)

[CERVLCAP](#)

[WOCONDOM](#)

[WIDRAWAL](#)

[TODAYSPG](#)

[TEMPSAFE](#)

[SUPPOSIT](#)

[RHYTHM](#)

[PILL](#)

[OTHRMETH](#)

[NORPLANT](#)

[MORNPILL](#)

[JELCRMAL](#)

[IUD](#)

[FOAMALON](#)

[DIAFRAGM](#)

[DEPOPROV](#)

[CONDOM](#)

[CERVLCAP](#)

[E59D](#)

[E59C](#)

[E59B](#)

[E59A](#)

Source Questions

EA-11

EA-4

EA-16

EA-8

EA-15

EA-7

EA-1

EA-19

EA-20

EA-6

EA-9

EA-18

EA-13

EA-17

EA-12

EA-10

EA-5

EA-2

EA-14

EA-11

EA-10

EA-16

EA-9

EA-15

EA-8

EA-3

EA-20

EA-4

EA-19

EA-13

EA-17

EA-12

EA-7

EA-18

EA-5

EA-14

E-59

E-59

E-59

E-59

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

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2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

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1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

E58D	E-58	1988 NSFG
E58C	E-58	1988 NSFG
E58B	E-58	1988 NSFG
E58A	E-58	1988 NSFG
C_39	C-39	1988 NSFG
CMETHQ	Computed	1988 NSFG
CMETHP	Computed	1988 NSFG
CMETHM	Computed	1988 NSFG
CMETHL	Computed	1988 NSFG
CMETHJ	Computed	1988 NSFG
CMETHI	Computed	1988 NSFG
CMETHH	Computed	1988 NSFG
CMETHG	Computed	1988 NSFG
CMETHF	Computed	1988 NSFG
CMETHE	Computed	1988 NSFG
CMETHD	Computed	1988 NSFG
CMETHC	Computed	1988 NSFG
CMETHB	Computed	1988 NSFG
CMETHA	Computed	1988 NSFG
C40Q	C-40	1988 NSFG
C40P	C-40	1988 NSFG
C40M	C-40	1988 NSFG
C40L	C-40	1988 NSFG
C40J	C-40	1988 NSFG
C40I	C-40	1988 NSFG
C40H	C-40	1988 NSFG
C40G	C-40	1988 NSFG
C40F	C-40	1988 NSFG
C40E	C-40	1988 NSFG
C40D	C-40	1988 NSFG
C40C	C-40	1988 NSFG
C40B	C-40	1988 NSFG
C40A	C-40	1988 NSFG
MC_P	Computed	1982 NSFG
MC_M	Computed	1982 NSFG
MC_L	Computed	1982 NSFG
MC_K	Computed	1982 NSFG
MC_H	Computed	1982 NSFG
MC_G	Computed	1982 NSFG
MC_F	Computed	1982 NSFG
MC_E	Computed	1982 NSFG
MC_D	Computed	1982 NSFG
MC_C	Computed	1982 NSFG
MC_B	Computed	1982 NSFG
MC_A	Computed	1982 NSFG
C47_3	C-47	1982 NSFG
C47_2	C-47	1982 NSFG
C47_1	C-47	1982 NSFG
C46	C-46	1982 NSFG
C34	C-34	1982 NSFG
BOX31	BOX31	1982 NSFG
C17_4	C-17	1976 NSFG: Interval File
C17_3	C-17	1976 NSFG: Interval File
C17_2	C-17	1976 NSFG: Interval File
C17_1	C-17	1976 NSFG: Interval File
C16	C-16	1976 NSFG: Interval File
METH_173	Computed	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C45_4	C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C45_3	C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C45_2	C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File

C45_1	C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C44	C-44	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C37_LM	C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C37_3	C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C37_1	C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C37_1	C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C36	C-36	1976 NSFG: Couple File
PREG_MTHDUSE	50	1973 NSFG
PREG_4THMTHD	51	1973 NSFG
PREG_3RDMTHD	51	1973 NSFG
PREG_2NDMTHD	51	1973 NSFG
PREG_1STMTHD	51	1973 NSFG
PREG701_MTHDUSE	37	1973 NSFG
PREG701_MTHDINT4	38	1973 NSFG
PREG701_MTHDINT3	38	1973 NSFG
PREG701_2NDMTHD	38	1973 NSFG
PREG701_1STMTHD	38	1973 NSFG
BC_770	Computed	1973 NSFG
PREG4_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG3_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_6	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_5	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_4	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_3	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_2	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_1	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_6	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_5	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_4	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_3	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_2	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_1	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH_3	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH_2	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH_1	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METHLAST	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH	CM136/PM113	1970 NFS
METH_EVERUSE	CM224	1970 NFS
PREG3_METH1_5	100	1965 NFS
PREG2_METH1_5	100	1965 NFS
PREG1_METH1_5	100	1965 NFS
PREG0_METH1_5	113	1965 NFS
METH_USE	65a	1960 GAF
CON_USE	44	1955 GAF

Description

IFSS_NONSURG measures whether the respondent has ever used a contraceptive method aside from surgical sterilization (female or male).

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is constructed based on questions about individual method use. In some surveys, questions about lifetime use of individual methods are asked directly, while in other years method use is constructed based on contraceptive use histories. In the 1973 National Survey of Family Growth, contraceptive use is only recorded for the past three years or the time since the most recent pregnancy. The methods included in this variable vary across surveys.

In all years, IFSS_NONSURG is constructed based on measures of past use of individual contraceptive methods. Users are encouraged to read the comparability notes for these variables (variable group Method

Ever Use) for detailed information about how the underlying variables are derived. Respondents who reported "yes" for any non-surgical method (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; Norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, calendar or temperature; the sponge; withdrawal; or any other method; not all methods are included in all IFSS surveys) are coded as "yes" for IFSS_NONSURG. Respondents who did not report using any non-surgical method are coded as "no."

A constructed variable exists in the original data in the 1982, 1988, and 1995 National Surveys of Family Growth. To maintain comparability with other surveys, IFSS recreated IFSS_NONSURG in those survey years rather than using the existing variable.

The primary difference in measures of contraceptive use across survey years is whether the measure is derived from a direct question about lifetime use, constructed based on contraceptive use history, or some combination of information from both sources. Contraceptive use variables are based on a direct question in the National Surveys of Family Growth in 1995 and 2002 and the Growth of American Families Surveys in 1955 and 1960, constructed based on contraceptive use history in the 1973 NSFG and the 1965 and 1970 National Fertility Surveys, and created using a combination of both questions in the 1976, 1982, and 1988 NSFGs. There are also minor variations in question wording across surveys.

In most survey years, IFSS_NONSURG is defined for all women in the survey. In the 1982 and 1988 National Surveys of Family Growth, only women who had ever had sex are included in the question universe.

See Also:

[IFSS_CERVLAP](#)
[IFSS_CONDOM](#)
[IFSS_DIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FEMSTER](#)
[IFSS_FOAMALON](#)
[IFSS_INJECTABLES](#)
[IFSS_IUD](#)
[IFSS_JELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_MORNPILL](#)
[IFSS_NORPLANT](#)
[IFSS_OTHRMETH](#)
[IFSS_PATCH](#)
[IFSS_PILL](#)
[IFSS_RHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_TEMPSAFE](#)
[IFSS_TODAYSPG](#)
[IFSS_VASECTMY](#)
[IFSS_WIDRAWAL](#)
[IFSS_WOCONDOM](#)

IFSS_LMCERV: Method used at last intercourse - cervical cap

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTSX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill

she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_LMCERV

Method used at last intercourse - cervical cap

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[LSTMTHP11](#)

[MTHLSTS0](#)

Source Questions

EF-2

2002 NSFG

EI-6

1995 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the last time they had sex, IFSS_LMCERV records whether they used a cervical cap.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: There are differences in question universe across surveys.

In both the 1995 and the 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked to identify the method of contraception they used the last time they had sex from a list provided by the interviewer. Respondents could report up to five methods in 1995 and four methods in 2002. If the cervical cap was mentioned in any report, IFSS_LMCERV is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_LMCERV is coded as "no."

Question wording is essentially the same across surveys. However, question universe varies substantially across surveys, and caution should be used in comparing responses. IFSS_TYPALLM can be used to identify respondents with a valid response for IFSS_LMCERV.

In all years, IFSS_LMCERV is defined only if the respondent reported using a valid method the last time she had sex (IFSS_TYPALLM coded 1). In the 2002 NSFG, IFSS_LMCERV is defined if the respondent had sex at least once in the past 12 months and reported using a contraceptive method the last time she had sex.

The 1995 NSFG asked about method use at last sex only for respondents who reported having sex in the three months prior to the survey, who have ever used a contraceptive method, and who reported using a method in the past three months. However, respondents who used a method in the past three months, but only used coitus-independent methods (pill, Norplant, Depo-Provera, IUD, vasectomy/male sterilization) were not asked which method they used the last time they had sex and so are not included in the question universe. In addition, women who are sterile for surgical or other reasons are excluded from IFSS_LMCERV in 1995.

See Also:

[IFSS_USELSTX](#)

[IFSS_TYPALLM](#)

[IFSS_LMCONDOM](#)

[IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM](#)

[IFSS_LMFEMCON](#)

[IFSS_LMFOAM](#)

[IFSS_LMINJECT](#)

[IFSS_LMIUD](#)

[IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP](#)

[IFSS_LMMORN](#)

[IFSS_LMMULT](#)

[IFSS_LMNORP](#)

[IFSS_LMOTHER](#)

[IFSS_LMPATCH](#)

[IFSS_LMPILL](#)

[IFSS_LMRHYTHM](#)

[IFSS_LMSPONGE](#)

[IFSS_LMSTERILOP](#)

IFSS_LMCONDOM: Method used at last intercourse - condoms

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTSX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_LMCONDOM

Method used at last intercourse - condoms

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[LSTMTHP11](#)

[MTHLSTS0](#)

[C_45](#)

Source Questions

EF-2

EI-6

C-45

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the last time they had sex, IFSS_LMCONDOM records whether they used a condom.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: There are differences in question universe across surveys.

In the 1988, 1995, and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked to identify the method of contraception they used the last time they had sex from a list provided by the interviewer. Respondents could report up to five methods in 1995 and four methods in 2002. In 1988, combinations of up to two methods were recorded. If condoms were mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_LMCONDOM is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_LMCONDOM is coded as no.

Question wording is essentially the same across surveys. However, question universe varies substantially across surveys, and caution should be used in comparing responses. IFSS_TYPALLM can be used to identify respondents with a valid response for IFSS_LMCONDOM.

In all years, IFSS_LMCONDOM is defined only if the respondent reported using a valid method the last time she had sex (IFSS_TYPALLM coded 1). In the 2002 NSFG, IFSS_LMCONDOM is defined if the respondent had sex at least once in the past 12 months and reported using a contraceptive method the last time she had sex.

The 1995 NSFG asked about method use at last sex only for respondents who reported having sex in the three months prior to the survey, who have ever used a contraceptive method, and who reported using a method in the past three months. However, respondents who used a method in the past three months, but only used coitus-independent methods (pill, Norplant, Depo-Provera, IUD, vasectomy/male sterilization) were not asked which method they used the last time they had sex and so are not included in the question universe. In addition, women who are sterile for surgical or other reasons are excluded from IFSS_LMCONDOM in 1995.

In the 1988 NSFG, the question universe excludes respondents who had not had sex since their first period, had only had sex once, had never used a method, or reported sterilization as their only current method.

See Also:

[IFSS_USELSTSX](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLLM](#)
[IFSS_LMCERV](#)
[IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_LMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_LMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_LMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_LMIUD](#)
[IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_LMMORN](#)
[IFSS_LMMULT](#)
[IFSS_LMNORP](#)
[IFSS_LMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_LMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_LMPILL](#)
[IFSS_LMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_LMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_LMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_LMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_LMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM: Method used at last intercourse - diaphragm

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTSX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM

Method used at last intercourse - diaphragm

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[LSTMTHP11](#)
[MTHLSTS0](#)
[C_45](#)

Source Questions

EF-2 2002 NSFG
EI-6 1995 NSFG
C-45 1988 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the last time they had sex, IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM records whether they used a diaphragm.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: There are differences in question universe across surveys.

In the 1988, 1995, and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked to identify the method of contraception they used the last time they had sex from a list provided by the interviewer. Respondents could report up to five methods in 1995 and four methods in 2002. In 1988, combinations of up to two methods were recorded. If the diaphragm was mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM is coded as "no."

Question wording is essentially the same across surveys. However, question universe varies substantially across surveys, and caution should be used in comparing responses. IFSS_TYPALLLM can be used to identify respondents with a valid response for IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM.

In all years, IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM is defined only if the respondent reported using a valid method the last time she had sex (IFSS_TYPALLLM coded 1). In the 2002 NSFG, IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM is defined if the respondent had sex at least once in the past 12 months and reported using a contraceptive method the last time she had sex.

The 1995 NSFG asked about method use at last sex only for respondents who reported having sex in the three months prior to the survey, who have ever used a contraceptive method, and who reported using a method in the past three months. However, respondents who used a method in the past three months, but only used coitus-independent methods (pill, Norplant, Depo-Provera, IUD, vasectomy/male sterilization) were not asked which method they used the last time they had sex and so are not included in the question universe. In addition, women who are sterile for surgical or other reasons are excluded from IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM in 1995.

In the 1988 NSFG, the question universe excludes respondents who had not had sex since their first period, had only had sex once, had never used a method, or reported sterilization as their only current method.

See Also:

[IFSS_USELSTX](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLLM](#)
[IFSS_LMCERV](#)
[IFSS_LMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_LMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_LMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_LMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_LMIUD](#)
[IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_LMMORN](#)
[IFSS_LMMULT](#)
[IFSS_LMNORP](#)
[IFSS_LMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_LMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_LMPILL](#)
[IFSS_LMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_LMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_LMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_LMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_LMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_LMFEMCON: Method used at last intercourse - female condom

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTSX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_LMFEMCON

Method used at last intercourse - female condom

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[LSTMTHP11](#)

[MTHLSTS0](#)

Source Questions

EF-2

EI-6

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the last time they had sex, IFSS_LMFEMCON records whether they used a female condom.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: There are differences in question universe across surveys.

In both the 1995 and the 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked to identify the method of contraception they used the last time they had sex from a list provided by the interviewer. Respondents could report up to five methods in 1995 and four methods in 2002. If the female condom was mentioned in any report, IFSS_LMFEMCON is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_LMFEMCON is coded as "no."

Question wording is essentially the same across surveys. However, question universe varies substantially across surveys, and caution should be used in comparing responses. IFSS_TYPALLM can be used to identify respondents with a valid response for IFSS_LMFEMCON.

In all years, IFSS_LMFEMCON is defined only if the respondent reported using a valid method the last time she had sex (IFSS_TYPALLM coded 1). In the 2002 NSFG, IFSS_LMFEMCON is defined if the respondent had sex at least once in the past 12 months and reported using a contraceptive method the last time she had sex.

The 1995 NSFG asked about method use at last sex only for respondents who reported having sex in the three months prior to the survey, who have ever used a contraceptive method, and who reported using a method in the past three months. However, respondents who used a method in the past three months, but only used coitus-independent methods (pill, Norplant, Depo-Provera, IUD, vasectomy/male sterilization) were not asked which method they used the last time they had sex and so are not included in

the question universe. In addition, women who are sterile for surgical or other reasons are excluded from IFSS_LMFEMCON in 1995.

See Also:

[IFSS_USELSTSX](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLLM](#)
[IFSS_LMCERV](#)
[IFSS_LMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_LMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_LMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_LMIUD](#)
[IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_LMMORN](#)
[IFSS_LMMULT](#)
[IFSS_LMNORP](#)
[IFSS_LMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_LMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_LMPILL](#)
[IFSS_LMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_LMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_LMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_LMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_LMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_LMFOAM: Method used at last intercourse - foam

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTSX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_LMFOAM

Method used at last intercourse - foam

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1995 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[LSTMTHP11](#)
[MTHLSTS0](#)
[C_45](#)

Source Questions

EF-2	2002 NSFG
EI-6	1995 NSFG
C-45	1988 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the last time they had sex, IFSS_LMFOAM records whether they used contraceptive foam.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: There are differences in question universe across surveys.

In the 1988, 1995, and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked to identify the method of contraception they used the last time they had sex from a list provided by the interviewer. Respondents could report up to five methods in 1995 and four methods in 2002. In 1988, combinations of up to two methods were recorded. If contraceptive foam was mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_LMFOAM is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_LMFOAM is coded as "no."

Question wording is essentially the same across surveys. However, question universe varies substantially across surveys, and caution should be used in comparing responses. IFSS_TYPALLM can be used to identify respondents with a valid response for IFSS_LMFOAM.

In all years, IFSS_LMFOAM is defined only if the respondent reported using a valid method the last time she had sex (IFSS_TYPALLM coded 1). In the 2002 NSFG, IFSS_LMFOAM is defined if the respondent had sex at least once in the past 12 months and reported using a contraceptive method the last time she had sex.

The 1995 NSFG asked about method use at last sex only for respondents who reported having sex in the three months prior to the survey, who have ever used a contraceptive method, and who reported using a method in the past three months. However, respondents who used a method in the past three months, but only used coitus-independent methods (pill, Norplant, Depo-Provera, IUD, vasectomy/male sterilization) were not asked which method they used the last time they had sex and so are not included in the question universe. In addition, women who are sterile for surgical or other reasons are excluded from IFSS_LMFOAM in 1995.

In the 1988 NSFG, the question universe excludes respondents who had not had sex since their first period, had only had sex once, had never used a method, or reported sterilization as their only current method.

See Also:

[IFSS_USELSTX](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLM](#)
[IFSS_LMCERV](#)
[IFSS_LMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_LMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_LMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_LMIUD](#)
[IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_LMMORN](#)
[IFSS_LMMULT](#)
[IFSS_LMNORP](#)
[IFSS_LMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_LMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_LMPILL](#)
[IFSS_LMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_LMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_LMSTERIOP](#)
[IFSS_LMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_LMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_LMINJECT: Method used at last intercourse - injectables (Depo-provera, Lunelle)

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLM is a summary variable

that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_LMINJECT

Method used at last intercourse - injectables (Depo-provera, Lunelle)

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[LSTMTHP11](#)

[MTHLSTS0](#)

Source Questions

EF-2

EI-6

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the last time they had sex, IFSS_LMINJECT records whether they used injectable contraception (Depo-Provera, Lunelle).

General Comparability Notes

Summary: There are differences in question universe across surveys that lead to underestimation of use of injectables in the 1995 survey.

In both the 1995 and the 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked to identify the method of contraception they used the last time they had sex from a list provided by the interviewer. Respondents could report up to five methods in 1995 and four methods in 2002. If injectables were mentioned in any report, IFSS_LMINJECT is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_LMINJECT is coded as no.

Question wording is essentially the same across surveys. However, question universe varies substantially across surveys, and caution should be used in comparing responses. IFSS_TYPALLM can be used to identify respondents with a valid response for IFSS_LMINJECT.

In all years, IFSS_LMINJECT is defined only if the respondent reported using a valid method the last time she had sex (IFSS_TYPALLM coded 1). In the 2002 NSFG, IFSS_LMINJECT is defined if the respondent had sex at least once in the past 12 months and reported using a contraceptive method the last time she had sex.

The 1995 NSFG asked about method use at last sex only for respondents who reported having sex in the three months prior to the survey, who have ever used a contraceptive method, and who reported using a method in the past three months. However, respondents who used a method in the past three months, but only used coitus-independent methods (pill, Norplant, Depo-Provera, IUD, vasectomy/male sterilization) were not asked which method they used the last time they had sex and so are not included in the question universe. As a result, IFSS_LMINJECT takes the value "yes" in 1995 only if women used at least one other method in addition to Depo-Provera over the three months before the survey. In addition, women who are sterile for surgical or other reasons are excluded from IFSS_LMINJECT in 1995.

See Also:

[IFSS_USELSTX](#)

[IFSS_TYPALLM](#)

IFSS_LMCERV
IFSS_LMCONDOM
IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM
IFSS_LMFEMCON
IFSS_LMFOAM
IFSS_LMIUD
IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP
IFSS_LMMORN
IFSS_LMMULT
IFSS_LMNORP
IFSS_LMOTHER
IFSS_LMPATCH
IFSS_LMPILL
IFSS_LMRHYTHM
IFSS_LMSPONGE
IFSS_LMSTERILOP
IFSS_LMVASECT
IFSS_LMWITHDR

IFSS_LMIUD: Method used at last intercourse - IUD, coil, loop

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTSX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_LMIUD

Method used at last intercourse - IUD, coil, loop

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[LSTMTHP11](#)

[MTHLSTS0](#)

[C_45](#)

Source Questions

EF-2

EI-6

C-45

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the last time they had sex, IFSS_LMIUD records whether they used an IUD.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: There are differences in question universe across surveys that lead to underestimation of IUD use in the 1995 survey.

In the 1988, 1995, and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked to identify the method of contraception they used the last time they had sex from a list provided by the interviewer. Respondents could report up to five methods in 1995 and four methods in 2002. In 1988, combinations of up to two methods were recorded. If the IUD was mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_LMIUD is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_LMIUD is coded as no.

Question wording is essentially the same across surveys. However, question universe varies substantially across surveys, and caution should be used in comparing responses. IFSS_TYPALLLM can be used to identify respondents with a valid response for IFSS_LMIUD.

In all years, IFSS_LMIUD is defined only if the respondent reported using a valid method the last time she had sex (IFSS_TYPALLLM coded 1). In the 2002 NSFG, IFSS_LMIUD is defined if the respondent had sex at least once in the past 12 months and reported using a contraceptive method the last time she had sex.

The 1995 NSFG asked about method use at last sex only for respondents who reported having sex in the three months prior to the survey, who have ever used a contraceptive method, and who reported using a method in the past three months. However, respondents who used a method in the past three months, but only used coitus-independent methods (pill, Norplant, Depo-Provera, IUD, vasectomy/male sterilization) were not asked which method they used the last time they had sex and so are not included in the question universe. As a result, IFSS_LMIUD takes the value "yes" in 1995 only if women used at least one other method in addition to the IUD over the three months before the survey. In addition, women who are sterile for surgical or other reasons are excluded from IFSS_LMIUD in 1995.

In the 1988 NSFG, the question universe excludes respondents who had not had sex since their first period, had only had sex once, had never used a method, or reported sterilization as their only current method.

See Also:

[IFSS_USELSTX](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLLM](#)
[IFSS_LMCERV](#)
[IFSS_LMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_LMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_LMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_LMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_LMMORN](#)
[IFSS_LMMULT](#)
[IFSS_LMNORP](#)
[IFSS_LMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_LMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_LMPILL](#)
[IFSS_LMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_LMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_LMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_LMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_LMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP: Method used at last intercourse - jelly, cream, suppository, or insert

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method)

and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP

Method used at last intercourse - jelly, cream, suppository, or insert

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[LSTMTHP11](#)

[MTHLSTS0](#)

[C_45](#)

Source Questions

EF-2

EI-6

C-45

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the last time they had sex, IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP records whether they used contraceptive jelly, cream, suppositories, or inserts.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: There are differences in question universe across surveys.

In the 1988, 1995, and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked to identify the method of contraception they used the last time they had sex from a list provided by the interviewer. Respondents could report up to five methods in 1995 and four methods in 2002. In 1988, combinations of up to two methods were recorded. If contraceptive jelly, cream, suppositories, or inserts were mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP is coded as no. Note that in all three surveys, "jelly or cream" and "suppository or insert" are separate response categories in the original variables. They are combined into IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP in the harmonized variable to create consistency with other contraceptive use variables.

Question wording is essentially the same across surveys. However, question universe varies substantially across surveys, and caution should be used in comparing responses. IFSS_TYPALLM can be used to identify respondents with a valid response for IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP.

In all years, IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP is defined only if the respondent reported using a valid method the last time she had sex (IFSS_TYPALLM coded 1). In the 2002 NSFG, IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP is defined if the respondent had sex at least once in the past 12 months and reported using a contraceptive method the last time she had sex.

The 1995 NSFG asked about method use at last sex only for respondents who reported having sex in the three months prior to the survey, who have ever used a contraceptive method, and who reported using a method in the past three months. However, respondents who used a method in the past three months, but only used coitus-independent methods (pill, Norplant, Depo-Provera, IUD, vasectomy/male sterilization) were not asked which method they used the last time they had sex and so are not included in the question universe. In addition, women who are sterile for surgical or other reasons are excluded from IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP in 1995.

In the 1988 NSFG, the question universe excludes respondents who had not had sex since their first period, had only had sex once, had never used a method, or reported sterilization as their only current method.

See Also:

[IFSS_USELSTSX](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLLM](#)
[IFSS_LMCERV](#)
[IFSS_LMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_LMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_LMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_LMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_LMIUD](#)
[IFSS_LMMORN](#)
[IFSS_LMMULT](#)
[IFSS_LMNORP](#)
[IFSS_LMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_LMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_LMPILL](#)
[IFSS_LMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_LMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_LMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_LMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_LMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_LMMORN: Method used at last intercourse - morning after pill, emergency contraception

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTSX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_LMMORN

Method used at last intercourse - morning after pill, emergency contraception

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[LSTMTHP11](#)

[MTHLSTS0](#)

Source Questions

EF-2

EI-6

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the last time they had sex, IFSS_LMMORN records whether they used emergency contraception (the morning after pill).

General Comparability Notes

Summary: There are differences in question universe across surveys.

In both the 1995 and the 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked to identify the method of contraception they used the last time they had sex from a list provided by the interviewer. Respondents could report up to five methods in 1995 and four methods in 2002. If emergency contraception was mentioned in any report, IFSS_LMMORN is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_LMMORN is coded as no.

Question wording is essentially the same across surveys. However, question universe varies substantially across surveys, and caution should be used in comparing responses. IFSS_TYPALLM can be used to identify respondents with a valid response for IFSS_LMMORN.

In all years, IFSS_LMMORN is defined only if the respondent reported using a valid method the last time she had sex (IFSS_TYPALLM coded 1). In the 2002 NSFG, IFSS_LMMORN is defined if the respondent had sex at least once in the past 12 months and reported using a contraceptive method the last time she had sex.

The 1995 NSFG asked about method use at last sex only for respondents who reported having sex in the three months prior to the survey, who have ever used a contraceptive method, and who reported using a method in the past three months. However, respondents who used a method in the past three months, but only used coitus-independent methods (pill, Norplant, Depo-Provera, IUD, vasectomy/male sterilization) were not asked which method they used the last time they had sex and so are not included in the question universe. In addition, women who are sterile for surgical or other reasons are excluded from IFSS_LMMORN in 1995.

See Also:

[IFSS_USELSTX](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLM](#)
[IFSS_LMCERV](#)
[IFSS_LMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_LMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_LMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_LMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_LMIUD](#)
[IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_LMMULT](#)
[IFSS_LMNORP](#)
[IFSS_LMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_LMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_LMPILL](#)
[IFSS_LMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_LMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_LMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_LMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_LMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_LMMULT: Method used at last intercourse - multiple methods

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_LMMULT

Method used at last intercourse - multiple methods

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[LSTMTHP11](#)

[MTHLSTS0](#)

[C_45](#)

Source Questions

EF-2

EI-6

C-45

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the last time they had sex, IFSS_LMMULT records whether they used multiple methods.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: There are differences in question universe across surveys.

In the 1988, 1995, and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked to identify the method of contraception they used the last time they had sex from a list provided by the interviewer. Respondents could report up to five methods in 1995 and four methods in 2002. In 1988, combinations of up to two methods were recorded. If more than one method was mentioned in 1995 or 2002, or a combination was mentioned in 1988, IFSS_LMMULT is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_LMMULT is coded as "no."

Question wording is essentially the same across surveys. However, question universe varies substantially across surveys, and caution should be used in comparing responses. IFSS_TYPALLLM can be used to identify respondents with a valid response for IFSS_LMMULT.

In all years, IFSS_LMMULT is defined only if the respondent reported using a valid method the last time she had sex (IFSS_TYPALLLM coded 1). In the 2002 NSFG, IFSS_LMMULT is defined if the respondent had sex at least once in the past 12 months and reported using a contraceptive method the last time she had sex.

The 1995 NSFG asked about method use at last sex only for respondents who reported having sex in the three months prior to the survey, who have ever used a contraceptive method, and who reported using a method in the past three months. However, respondents who used a method in the past three months, but only used coitus-independent methods (pill, Norplant, Depo-Provera, IUD, vasectomy/male sterilization) were not asked which method they used the last time they had sex and so are not included in the question universe. In addition, women who are sterile for surgical or other reasons are excluded from IFSS_LMMULT in 1995.

In the 1988 NSFG, the question universe excludes respondents who had not had sex since their first period, had only had sex once, had never used a method, or reported sterilization as their only current method.

See Also:

[IFSS_USELSTX](#)

[IFSS_TYPALLLM](#)

[IFSS_LMCERV](#)

[IFSS_LMCONDOM](#)

[IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM](#)

[IFSS_LMFEMCON](#)

[IFSS_LMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_LMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_LMIUD](#)
[IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_LMMORN](#)
[IFSS_LMNORP](#)
[IFSS_LMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_LMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_LMPILL](#)
[IFSS_LMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_LMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_LMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_LMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_LMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_LMOTHER: Method used at last intercourse - Other, not listed separately

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTSX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_LMOTHER

Method used at last intercourse - Other, not listed separately

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[LSTMTHP11](#)

[MTHLSTS0](#)

[C_45](#)

Source Questions

EF-2

EI-6

C-45

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the last time they had sex, IFSS_LMOTHER records whether they used a method not listed on response cards, including douching after intercourse in 1988.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: There are differences in question universe across surveys.

In the 1988, 1995, and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked to identify the method of contraception they used the last time they had sex from a list provided by the interviewer. Respondents could report up to five methods in 1995 and four methods in 2002. In 1988, combinations of up to two methods were recorded. If an "other"/unspecified method was mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_LMOTHER is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_LMOTHER is coded as "no." In addition, because douche is listed as a method in 1988 but not in 1995 or 2002, douche is included in "other methods" in 1988. Therefore, women who mentioned using douche as a contraceptive method alone or in combination were coded as "yes" for IFSS_LMOTHER.

Question wording is essentially the same across surveys. However, question universe varies substantially across surveys, and caution should be used in comparing responses. IFSS_TYPALLM can be used to identify respondents with a valid response for IFSS_LMOTHER.

In all years, IFSS_LMOTHER is defined only if the respondent reported using a valid method the last time she had sex (IFSS_TYPALLM coded 1). In the 2002 NSFG, IFSS_LMOTHER is defined if the respondent had sex at least once in the past 12 months and reported using a contraceptive method the last time she had sex.

The 1995 NSFG asked about method use at last sex only for respondents who reported having sex in the three months prior to the survey, who have ever used a contraceptive method, and who reported using a method in the past three months. However, respondents who used a method in the past three months, but only used coitus-independent methods (pill, Norplant, Depo-Provera, IUD, vasectomy/male sterilization) were not asked which method they used the last time they had sex and so are not included in the question universe. In addition, women who are sterile for surgical or other reasons are excluded from IFSS_LMOTHER in 1995.

In the 1988 NSFG, the question universe excludes respondents who had not had sex since their first period, had only had sex once, had never used a method, or reported sterilization as their only current method.

See Also:

[IFSS_USELSTX](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLM](#)
[IFSS_LMCERV](#)
[IFSS_LMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_LMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_LMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_LMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_LMIUD](#)
[IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_LMMORN](#)
[IFSS_LMMULT](#)
[IFSS_LMNORP](#)
[IFSS_LMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_LMPILL](#)
[IFSS_LMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_LMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_LMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_LMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_LMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_LMNORP: Method used at last intercourse - Norplant

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_LMNORP

Method used at last intercourse - Norplant

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[LSTMTHP11](#)

[MTHLSTS0](#)

Source Questions

EF-2

EI-6

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the last time they had sex, IFSS_LMNORP records whether they used contraceptive implants (Norplant).

General Comparability Notes

Summary: There are differences in question universe across surveys that lead to underestimation of use of Norplant in the 1995 survey.

In both the 1995 and the 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked to identify the method of contraception they used the last time they had sex from a list provided by the interviewer. Respondents could report up to five methods in 1995 and four methods in 2002. If Norplant was mentioned in any report, IFSS_LMNORP is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_LMNORP is coded as "no."

Question wording is essentially the same across surveys. However, question universe varies substantially across surveys, and caution should be used in comparing responses. IFSS_TYPALLM can be used to identify respondents with a valid response for IFSS_LMNORP.

In all years, IFSS_LMNORP is defined only if the respondent reported using a valid method the last time she had sex (IFSS_TYPALLM coded 1). In the 2002 NSFG, IFSS_LMNORP is defined if the respondent had sex at least once in the past 12 months and reported using a contraceptive method the last time she had sex.

The 1995 NSFG asked about method use at last sex only for respondents who reported having sex in the three months prior to the survey, who have ever used a contraceptive method, and who reported using a method in the past three months. However, respondents who used a method in the past three months, but only used coitus-independent methods (pill, Norplant, Depo-Provera, IUD, vasectomy/male sterilization) were not asked which method they used the last time they had sex and so are not included in the question universe. As a result, IFSS_LMNORP takes the value "yes" in 1995 only if women used at least one other method in addition to Norplant over the three months before the survey. In addition, women who are sterile for surgical or other reasons are excluded from IFSS_LMNORP in 1995.

See Also:

[IFSS_USELSTX](#)

[IFSS_TYPALLM](#)

[IFSS_LMCERV](#)

[IFSS_LMCONDOM](#)

[IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM](#)

[IFSS_LMFEMCON](#)

[IFSS_LMFOAM](#)

[IFSS_LMINJECT](#)

[IFSS_LMIUD](#)

IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP
IFSS_LMMORN
IFSS_LMMULT
IFSS_LMOTHER
IFSS_LMPATCH
IFSS_LMPILL
IFSS_LMRHYTHM
IFSS_LMSPONGE
IFSS_LMSTERILOP
IFSS_LMVASECT
IFSS_LMWITHDR

IFSS_LMPATCH: Method used at last intercourse - contraceptive patch

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTSX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_LMPATCH

Method used at last intercourse - contraceptive patch

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[LSTMTHP11](#)

Source Questions

EF-2

2002 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the last time they had sex, IFSS_LMPATCH records whether they used a contraceptive patch.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_LMPATCH is only available in a single survey.

In the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, respondents were asked to identify the method of contraception they used the last time they had sex from a list provided by the interviewer. Respondents could report up to four methods. If the patch was mentioned in any report, IFSS_LMPATCH is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_LMPATCH is coded as "no."

IFSS_LMPATCH is defined if the respondent had sex at least once in the past 12 months and reported using a contraceptive method the last time she had sex. IFSS_TYPALLM can be used to identify respondents with a valid response for IFSS_LMPATCH.

See Also:

IFSS_USELSTSX
IFSS_TYPALLLM
IFSS_LMCERV
IFSS_LMCONDOM
IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM
IFSS_LMFEMCON
IFSS_LMFOAM
IFSS_LMINJECT
IFSS_LMIUD
IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP
IFSS_LMMORN
IFSS_LMMULT
IFSS_LMNORP
IFSS_LMOTHER
IFSS_LMPILL
IFSS_LMRHYTHM
IFSS_LMSPONGE
IFSS_LMSTERILOP
IFSS_LMVASECT
IFSS_LMWITHDR

IFSS_LMPILL: Method used at last intercourse - birth control pills

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTSX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_LMPILL

Method used at last intercourse - birth control pills

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[LSTMTHP11](#)

[MTHLSTS0](#)

[C_45](#)

Source Questions

EF-2

EI-6

C-45

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the last time they had sex, IFSS_LMPILL records whether they used the pill

General Comparability Notes

Summary: There are differences in question universe across surveys that lead to underestimation of pill use in the 1995 survey.

In the 1988, 1995, and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked to identify the method of contraception they used the last time they had sex from a list provided by the interviewer. Respondents could report up to five methods in 1995 and four methods in 2002. In 1988, combinations of up to two methods were recorded. If the pill was mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_LMPILL is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_LMPILL is coded as "no."

Question wording is essentially the same across surveys. However, question universe varies substantially across surveys, and caution should be used in comparing responses. IFSS_TYPALLLM can be used to identify respondents with a valid response for IFSS_LMPILL.

In all years, IFSS_LMPILL is defined only if the respondent reported using a valid method the last time she had sex (IFSS_TYPALLLM coded 1). In the 2002 NSFG, IFSS_LMPILL is defined if the respondent had sex at least once in the past 12 months and reported using a contraceptive method the last time she had sex.

The 1995 NSFG asked about method use at last sex only for respondents who reported having sex in the three months prior to the survey, who have ever used a contraceptive method, and who reported using a method in the past three months. However, respondents who used a method in the past three months, but only used coitus-independent methods (pill, Norplant, Depo-Provera, IUD, vasectomy/male sterilization) were not asked which method they used the last time they had sex and so are not included in the question universe. As a result, IFSS_LMPILL takes the value "yes" in 1995 only if women used at least one other method in addition to the pill over the three months before the survey. In addition, women who are sterile for surgical or other reasons are excluded from IFSS_LMPILL in 1995.

In the 1988 NSFG, the question universe excludes respondents who had not had sex since their first period, had only had sex once, had never used a method, or reported sterilization as their only current method.

See Also:

[IFSS_USELSTX](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLLM](#)
[IFSS_LMCERV](#)
[IFSS_LMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_LMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_LMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_LMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_LMIUD](#)
[IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_LMMORN](#)
[IFSS_LMMULT](#)
[IFSS_LMNORP](#)
[IFSS_LMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_LMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_LMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_LMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_LMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_LMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_LMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_LMRHYTHM: Method used at last intercourse - rhythm (temperature or calendar)

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam,

injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_LMRHYTHM

Method used at last intercourse - rhythm (temperature or calendar)

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[LSTMTHP11](#)

[MTHLSTS0](#)

[C_45](#)

Source Questions

EF-2

EI-6

C-45

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the last time they had sex, IFSS_LMRHYTHM records whether they used the rhythm method.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: There are differences in question universe across surveys.

In the 1988, 1995, and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked to identify the method of contraception they used the last time they had sex from a list provided by the interviewer. Respondents could report up to five methods in 1995 and four methods in 2002. In 1988, combinations of up to two methods were recorded. If rhythm mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_LMRHYTHM is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_LMRHYTHM is coded as "no." Note that in all three surveys, temperature and calendar methods are listed as separate response categories in the original variables. They are combined into IFSS_LMRHYTHM in the harmonized variable for consistency with other contraceptive use variables.

Question wording is essentially the same across surveys. However, question universe varies substantially across surveys, and caution should be used in comparing responses. IFSS_TYPALLLM can be used to identify respondents with a valid response for IFSS_LMRHYTHM.

In all years, IFSS_LMRHYTHM is defined only if the respondent reported using a valid method the last time she had sex (IFSS_TYPALLLM coded 1). In the 2002 NSFG, IFSS_LMRHYTHM is defined if the respondent had sex at least once in the past 12 months and reported using a contraceptive method the last time she had sex.

The 1995 NSFG asked about method use at last sex only for respondents who reported having sex in the three months prior to the survey, who have ever used a contraceptive method, and who reported using a method in the past three months. However, respondents who used a method in the past three months, but only used coitus-independent methods (pill, Norplant, Depo-Provera, IUD, vasectomy/male sterilization) were not asked which method they used the last time they had sex and so are not included in the question universe. In addition, women who are sterile for surgical or other reasons are excluded from IFSS_LMRHYTHM in 1995.

In the 1988 NSFG, the question universe excludes respondents who had not had sex since their first period, had only had sex once, had never used a method, or reported sterilization as their only current method.

See Also:

[IFSS_USELSTSX](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLLM](#)
[IFSS_LMCERV](#)
[IFSS_LMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_LMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_LMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_LMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_LMIUD](#)
[IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_LMMORN](#)
[IFSS_LMMULT](#)
[IFSS_LMNORP](#)
[IFSS_LMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_LMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_LMPILL](#)
[IFSS_LMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_LMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_LMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_LMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_LMSPONGE: Method used at last intercourse - Today sponge

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTSX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_LMSPONGE

Method used at last intercourse - Today sponge

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1995 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[LSTMTHP11](#)
[MTHLSTS0](#)
[C_45](#)

Source Questions

EF-2	2002 NSFG
EI-6	1995 NSFG
C-45	1988 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the last time they had sex, IFSS_LMSPONGE records whether they used a contraceptive sponge.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: There are differences in question universe across surveys.

In the 1988, 1995, and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked to identify the method of contraception they used the last time they had sex from a list provided by the interviewer. Respondents could report up to five methods in 1995 and four methods in 2002. In 1988, combinations of up to two methods were recorded. If the sponge was mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_LMSPONGE is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_LMSPONGE is coded as "no."

Question wording is essentially the same across surveys. However, question universe varies substantially across surveys, and caution should be used in comparing responses. IFSS_TYPALLLM can be used to identify respondents with a valid response for IFSS_LMSPONGE.

In all years, IFSS_LMSPONGE is defined only if the respondent reported using a valid method the last time she had sex (IFSS_TYPALLLM coded 1). In the 2002 NSFG, IFSS_LMSPONGE is defined if the respondent had sex at least once in the past 12 months and reported using a contraceptive method the last time she had sex.

The 1995 NSFG asked about method use at last sex only for respondents who reported having sex in the three months prior to the survey, who have ever used a contraceptive method, and who reported using a method in the past three months. However, respondents who used a method in the past three months, but only used coitus-independent methods (pill, Norplant, Depo-Provera, IUD, vasectomy/male sterilization) were not asked which method they used the last time they had sex and so are not included in the question universe. In addition, women who are sterile for surgical or other reasons are excluded from IFSS_LMSPONGE in 1995.

In the 1988 NSFG, the question universe excludes respondents who had not had sex since their first period, had only had sex once, had never used a method, or reported sterilization as their only current method.

See Also:

[IFSS_USELSTX](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLLM](#)
[IFSS_LMCERV](#)
[IFSS_LMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_LMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_LMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_LMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_LMIUD](#)
[IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_LMMORN](#)
[IFSS_LMMULT](#)
[IFSS_LMNORP](#)
[IFSS_LMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_LMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_LMPILL](#)
[IFSS_LMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_LMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_LMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_LMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_LMSTERILOP: Method used at last intercourse - female sterilization

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLLM is a summary variable

that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_LMSTERIOP

Method used at last intercourse - female sterilization

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[LSTMTHP11](#)

[C_45](#)

Source Questions

EF-2

C-45

2002 NSFG

1988 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the last time they had sex, IFSS_LMSTERIOP records whether they reported surgical sterilization.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: There are differences in question universe across surveys that lead to underestimation of surgical sterilization in the 1988 survey.

In the 1988 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked to identify the method of contraception they used the last time they had sex from a list provided by the interviewer. Respondents could report up four methods in 2002. In 1988, combinations of up to two methods were recorded. If surgical sterilization was mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_LMSTERIOP is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_LMSTERIOP is coded as "no."

Question wording is essentially the same across surveys. However, question universe varies substantially across surveys, and caution should be used in comparing responses. IFSS_TYPALLM can be used to identify respondents with a valid response for IFSS_LMSTERIOP.

In all years, IFSS_LMSTERIOP is defined only if the respondent reported using a valid method the last time she had sex (IFSS_TYPALLM coded 1). In the 2002 NSFG, IFSS_LMSTERIOP is defined if the respondent had sex at least once in the past 12 months and reported using a contraceptive method the last time she had sex.

In the 1988 NSFG, the question universe excludes respondents who had not had sex since their first period, had only had sex once, had never used a method, or reported sterilization as their only current method. Thus, in the 1988 survey women are coded "yes" for IFSS_LMSTERIOP only if they used another method in addition to surgical sterilization.

See Also:

[IFSS_USELSTX](#)

[IFSS_TYPALLM](#)

[IFSS_LMCERV](#)

[IFSS_LMCONDOM](#)

[IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM](#)

IFSS_LMFEMCON
IFSS_LMFOAM
IFSS_LMINJECT
IFSS_LMIUD
IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP
IFSS_LMMORN
IFSS_LMMULT
IFSS_LMNORP
IFSS_LMOTHER
IFSS_LMPATCH
IFSS_LMPILL
IFSS_LMRHYTHM
IFSS_LMSPONGE
IFSS_LMVASECT
IFSS_LMWITHDR

IFSS_LMVASECT: Method used at last intercourse - partner's vasectomy

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTSX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_LMVASECT

Method used at last intercourse - partner's vasectomy

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1995 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[LSTMTHP11](#)
[MTHLSTS0](#)
[C_45](#)

Source Questions

EF-2
EI-6
C-45

2002 NSFG
1995 NSFG
1988 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the last time they had sex, IFSS_LMVASECT records whether partner's vasectomy was a method used.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: There are differences in question universe across surveys that lead to underestimation of vasectomies in the 1995 survey.

In the 1988, 1995, and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked to identify the method of contraception they used the last time they had sex from a list provided by the interviewer. Respondents could report up to five methods in 1995 and four methods in 2002. In 1988, combinations of up to two methods were recorded. If partner's vasectomy was mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_LMVASECT is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_LMVASECT is coded as "no."

Question wording is essentially the same across surveys. However, question universe varies substantially across surveys, and caution should be used in comparing responses. IFSS_TYPALLLM can be used to identify respondents with a valid response for IFSS_LMVASECT.

In all years, IFSS_LMVASECT is defined only if the respondent reported using a valid method the last time she had sex (IFSS_TYPALLLM coded 1). In the 2002 NSFG, IFSS_LMVASECT is defined if the respondent had sex at least once in the past 12 months and reported using a contraceptive method the last time she had sex.

The 1995 NSFG asked about method use at last sex only for respondents who reported having sex in the three months prior to the survey, who have ever used a contraceptive method, and who reported using a method in the past three months. However, respondents who used a method in the past three months, but only used coitus-independent methods (pill, Norplant, Depo-Provera, IUD, vasectomy/male sterilization) were not asked which method they used the last time they had sex and so are not included in the question universe. As a result, IFSS_LMVASECT takes the value "yes" in 1995 only if women used at least one other method in addition to vasectomy over the three months before the survey. In addition, women who are sterile for surgical or other reasons are excluded from IFSS_LMVASECT in 1995.

In the 1988 NSFG, the question universe excludes respondents who had not had sex since their first period, had only had sex once, had never used a method, or reported sterilization as their only current method.

See Also:

[IFSS_USELSTX](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLLM](#)
[IFSS_LMCERV](#)
[IFSS_LMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_LMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_LMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_LMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_LMIUD](#)
[IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_LMMORN](#)
[IFSS_LMMULT](#)
[IFSS_LMNORP](#)
[IFSS_LMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_LMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_LMPILL](#)
[IFSS_LMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_LMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_LMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_LMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_LMWITHDR: Method used at last intercourse - withdrawal

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_LMWITHDR

Method used at last intercourse - withdrawal

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[LSTMTHP11](#)

[MTHLSTS0](#)

[C_45](#)

Source Questions

EF-2

EI-6

C-45

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the last time they had sex, IFSS_LMWITHDR records whether they used withdrawal.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: There are differences in question universe across surveys.

In the 1988, 1995, and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked to identify the method of contraception they used the last time they had sex from a list provided by the interviewer. Respondents could report up to five methods in 1995 and four methods in 2002. In 1988, combinations of up to two methods were recorded. If withdrawal was mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_LMWITHDR is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_LMWITHDR is coded as "no."

Question wording is essentially the same across surveys. However, question universe varies substantially across surveys, and caution should be used in comparing responses. IFSS_TYPALLLM can be used to identify respondents with a valid response for IFSS_LMWITHDR.

In all years, IFSS_LMWITHDR is defined only if the respondent reported using a valid method the last time she had sex (IFSS_TYPALLLM coded 1). In the 2002 NSFG, IFSS_LMWITHDR is defined if the respondent had sex at least once in the past 12 months and reported using a contraceptive method the last time she had sex.

The 1995 NSFG asked about method use at last sex only for respondents who reported having sex in the three months prior to the survey, who have ever used a contraceptive method, and who reported using a method in the past three months. However, respondents who used a method in the past three months, but only used coitus-independent methods (pill, Norplant, Depo-Provera, IUD, vasectomy/male sterilization) were not asked which method they used the last time they had sex and so are not included in the question universe. In addition, women who are sterile for surgical or other reasons are excluded from IFSS_LMWITHDR in 1995.

In the 1988 NSFG, the question universe excludes respondents who had not had sex since their first period, had only had sex once, had never used a method, or reported sterilization as their only current method.

See Also:

[IFSS_USELSTX](#)

[IFSS_TYPALLLM](#)

[IFSS_LMCERV](#)

[IFSS_LMCONDOM](#)

[IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM](#)

IFSS_LMFEMCON
IFSS_LMFOAM
IFSS_LMINJECT
IFSS_LMIUD
IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP
IFSS_LMMORN
IFSS_LMMULT
IFSS_LMNORP
IFSS_LMOTHER
IFSS_LMPATCH
IFSS_LMPILL
IFSS_LMRHYTHM
IFSS_LMSPONGE
IFSS_LMSTERILOP
IFSS_LMVASECT

IFSS_MEDPILL: R used BC pill in past three years for medical reasons only?

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_MEDPILL

R used BC pill in past three years for medical reasons only?

Availability

[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)

[1973 NSFG](#)

[1970 NFS](#)

Source Variables

[E22](#)

[FP_PILLMED](#)

[BCP_MEDICAL](#)

Source Questions

M_E-22

127

CM74/PM67

1976 NSFG: Couple File

1973 NSFG

1970 NFS

Description

IFSS_MEDPILL specifies whether respondents used birth control pills exclusively for medical reasons, rather than for contraception.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is highly comparable across the 1976 NSFG and the 1973 NSFG, but there are substantial differences in the respondent universe and question text in the 1970 NFS.

The respondent universe differs greatly across all three surveys. In the 1970 National Fertility Survey, this variable applies to respondents who had ever used the Pill, were not currently using the Pill, and had not used the Pill at least partly to prevent pregnancy. This is a vastly smaller universe than that in the later years. In the 1973 National Survey of Family Growth, this variable applies to all respondents who were not sterile before July 1970. In the 1976 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who were not sterile before January 1973 and whose husbands were also not sterile before January 1973. Because of the dramatically different respondent universes, users should exercise extreme caution when comparing the 1970 NFS to the 1973 and 1976 NSFGs.

The question wording differs between the surveys. In the 1973 and 1976 NSFGs, respondents were asked: "In the past three years, have you used the pill for medical reasons only#not for delaying or preventing pregnancy?" By contrast, in the 1970 NFS, respondents were first asked "Were you using the pill at least partly to delay or prevent pregnancy?" Those who responded no were then asked: "Does that mean you were taking the pill for medical reasons only?" Here again, users should exercise caution comparing 1970 to the other years. The 1970 question excludes all current users of the pill, but refers to any past use. The 1973 and 1976 questions refer exclusively to use within the past 3 years but do not exclude current pill users.

The response format is highly comparable across all three surveys. Respondents in all three surveys could answer "Yes" or "No." In the 1976 NSFG and 1970 NFS, some responses could not be ascertained, which are flagged accordingly and imputed.

See Also:

[IFSS_PILL](#)

[IFSS_PILLBRAND](#)

[IFSS_PILLDUR](#)

IFSS_MORNPILL: Ever used emergency contraception?

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_MORNPILL

Ever used emergency contraception?

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[MORNPILL](#)

[MORNPILL](#)

Source Questions

EA-9

EA-19

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

Description

IFSS_MORNPILL measures whether the respondent has ever used emergency contraception or the 'morning after pill.'

General Comparability Notes

Summary: Question wording, structure, and universe are highly similar in the two surveys.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, all respondents who had ever had sex were asked whether they had ever used emergency contraceptives. The 2002 survey asked about "'morning after' pills or emergency contraception," while the 1995 survey asked about "'morning after' pills" only.

See Also:

[IFSS_CERVLCAP](#)

[IFSS_CONDOM](#)

IFSS_DIAFRAGM
IFSS_FEMSTER
IFSS_FOAMALON
IFSS_INJECTABLES
IFSS_IUD
IFSS_JELCRMSUP
IFSS_NORPLANT
IFSS_OTHMETH
IFSS_PATCH
IFSS_PILL
IFSS_RHYTHM
IFSS_TEMPSAFE
IFSS_TODAYSPG
IFSS_VASECTMY
IFSS_WIDRAWAL
IFSS_WOCONDOM

IFSS_MTHFSTX2: Method used at first sex, 2nd mention

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_MTHFSTX2

Method used at first sex, 2nd mention

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1995 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)
[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[MTHFSTX02](#)
[MTHFST1](#)
[C_43](#)
[C_41](#)
[C50](#)
[C48](#)

Source Questions

Computed (EB-8)	2002 NSFG
EB-7	1995 NSFG
C-43	1988 NSFG
C-41	1988 NSFG
C-50	1982 NSFG
C-48	1982 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the first time they had sex, IFSS_MTHFSTX2 contains the second method they reported using.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_MTHFSTX2 is largely comparable across surveys. In some surveys the variable is taken directly from survey questions, while in other years it is a calculated variable. In addition, response categories vary slightly.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, IFSS_MTHFSTX2 is based on a computed variable that exists in the original data. In the original question, respondents could list up to five methods (in 1995) or four methods (in 2002) used the first time they had sex; IFSS_MTHFSTX2 contains the second response provided. In 1995, for respondents whose first sexual experience was involuntary and who have ever had voluntary sex, the question specifies method use at first voluntary sex.

In the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, IFSS_MTHFSTX2 is coded based on a set of variables asking about the relative timing of first method use (at or after first sex) and the first contraceptive method used. If respondents reported that their first method use was at first sex, then IFSS_MTHFSTX2 is defined as the first method used. If a respondent's first method use was after the first time she had sex, IFSS_MTHFSTX2 is missing (no method used at first sex). If the respondent reported that her first method use was at first sex but she had only used one contraceptive method in her lifetime, she was not asked which method she used first. Instead IFSS_MTHFSTX2 is taken from measures of lifetime use of contraceptive methods. In both 1982 and 1988, the original questions ask about methods used by "you or your partner"; reporting of methods used by men (condoms, vasectomy, withdrawal) may be more complete in these surveys than in the 1995 and 2002 NSFGs.

The 1982 and 1988 NSFGs coded only a single response for the method used at first sex, but this response could include combinations of up to two methods. The second method used is determined by the order in which methods are listed in the response category and may not reflect the order in which the respondent reported the methods.

In all four surveys, IFSS_MTHFSTX2 is defined for women who have ever had sex and who reported using a contraceptive method the first time they had sex. In the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, women who had not had sex since their first period are also excluded from the question universe.

In all four surveys, respondents chose among methods listed on a card. They could also respond that they used another method not listed. The methods listed varied across surveys. In some cases variation is due to changes in the availability of contraceptive methods. Depo-Provera, Norplant, emergency contraception, and the female condom were not available in the 1980s and so were provided as a response option only in the 1995 and 2002 surveys. In other cases, the methods listed varied because of changes in how "contraceptive method" was defined. For example, douching was listed as a method in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs but not in the other surveys, and abstinence was listed as a method only in 1982. If these methods were reported in other years, they were coded as "other."

In most survey years, response options distinguished between respondents who were surgically sterile and respondents who were sterile for other reasons. In the 1995 NSFG, however, only a single response was available for sterile respondents. In the harmonized variable, respondents were coded as surgically sterile if they reported being sterile and had ever reported a sterilizing operation and non-surgically sterile if they reported being sterile but did not report a sterilizing operation.

In all four surveys, rhythm method based on calendar and rhythm methods based on temperature were listed as separate methods in the original data but combined into a single response in the harmonized variable. Similarly, contraceptive jelly or cream and suppositories or inserts were listed as two categories in the original variables but combined in IFSS_MTHFSTX2. These categories are combined for comparability with other measures of contraceptive use.

See Also:

[IFSS_USEFSTX](#)
[IFSS_MTHFSTX1](#)
[IFSS_MTHFSTX3](#)
[IFSS_MTHFSTX4](#)

IFSS_MTHFSTX1: Method used at first sex, 1st mention

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female

condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_MTHFSTSX1

Method used at first sex, 1st mention

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[MTHFSTSX01](#)

[MTHFST0](#)

[C_43](#)

[C_41](#)

[C50](#)

[C48](#)

Source Questions

Computed (EB-8)

EB-7

C-43

C-41

C-50

C-48

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1982 NSFG

1982 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the first time they had sex, IFSS_MTHFSTSX1 contains the first method they reported using.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_MTHFSTSX1 is largely comparable across surveys. In some surveys the variable is taken directly from survey questions, while in other years it is a calculated variable. In addition, response categories vary slightly.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, IFSS_MTHFSTSX1 is based on a computed variable that exists in the original data. In the original question, respondents could list up to five methods (in 1995) or four methods (in 2002) used the first time they had sex; IFSS_MTHFSTSX1 contains the first response provided. In 1995, for respondents whose first sexual experience was involuntary and who have had voluntary sex, the question specifies method use at first voluntary sex.

In the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, IFSS_MTHFSTSX1 is coded based on a set of variables asking about the relative timing of first method use (at or after first sex) and the first contraceptive method used. If respondents reported that their first method use was at first sex, then IFSS_MTHFSTSX1 is defined as the first method used. If a respondent's first method use was after the first time she had sex, IFSS_MTHFSTSX1 is missing (no method used at first sex). If the respondent reported that her first method use was at first sex but she had only used one contraceptive method in her lifetime, she was not asked which method she used first. Instead IFSS_MTHFSTSX1 is taken from measures of lifetime use of contraceptive methods. In both 1982 and 1988, the original questions ask about methods used by "you or your partner"; reporting of methods used by men (condoms, vasectomy, withdrawal) may be more complete in these surveys than in the 1995 and 2002 NSFGs.

The 1982 and 1988 NSFGs coded only a single response for the method used at first sex, but this response could include combinations of up to two methods. The first method used is determined by the order in which

methods are listed in the response category and may not reflect the order in which the respondent reported the methods.

In all four surveys, IFSS_MTHFSTX1 is defined for women who have ever had sex and who reported using a contraceptive method the first time they had sex. In the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, women who had not had sex since their first period are also excluded from the question universe.

In all four surveys, respondents chose among methods listed on a card. They could also respond that they used another method not listed. The methods listed varied across surveys. In some cases variation is due to changes in the availability of contraceptive methods. Depo-Provera, Norplant, emergency contraception, and the female condom were not available in the 1980s and so were provided as a response option only in the 1995 and 2002 surveys. In other cases, the methods listed varied because of changes in how "contraceptive method" was defined. For example, douching was listed as a method in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs but not in the other surveys, and abstinence was listed as a method only in 1982. If these methods were reported in other years, they were coded as "other."

In all four surveys, rhythm method based on calendar and rhythm methods based on temperature were listed as separate methods in the original data but combined into a single response in the harmonized variable. Similarly, contraceptive jelly or cream and suppositories or inserts were listed as two categories in the original variables but combined in IFSS_MTHFSTX1. These categories are combined for comparability with other measures of contraceptive use.

In most survey years, response options distinguished between respondents who were surgically sterile and respondents who were sterile for other reasons. In the 1995 NSFG, however, only a single response was available for sterile respondents. In the harmonized variable, respondents were coded as surgically sterile if they reported being sterile and had ever reported a sterilizing operation and non-surgically sterile if they reported being sterile but did not report a sterilizing operation.

See Also:

[IFSS_USEFSTX](#)

[IFSS_MTHFSTX2](#)

[IFSS_MTHFSTX3](#)

[IFSS_MTHFSTX4](#)

IFSS_MTHFSTX3: Method used at first sex, 3rd mention

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_MTHFSTX3

Method used at first sex, 3rd mention

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[MTHFSTSX03](#)
[MTHFST2](#)
[C_43](#)
[C_41](#)

Source Questions

Computed (EB-8)	2002 NSFG
EB-7	1995 NSFG
C-43	1988 NSFG
C-41	1988 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the first time they had sex, IFSS_MTHFSTSX3 contains the third method they reported using.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_MTHFSTSX3 is largely comparable across surveys. In some surveys the variable is taken directly from survey questions, while in other years it is a calculated variable. In addition, response categories vary slightly.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, IFSS_MTHFSTSX3 is based on a computed variable that exists in the original data. In the original question, respondents could list up to five methods (in 1995) or four methods (in 2002) used the first time they had sex; IFSS_MTHFSTSX3 contains the third response provided. In 1995, for respondents whose first sexual experience was involuntary and who have ever had voluntary sex, the question specifies method use at first voluntary sex.

In the 1988 NSFG, IFSS_MTHFSTSX3 is coded based on a set of variables asking about the relative timing of first method use (at or after first sex) and the first contraceptive method used. If respondents reported that their first method use was at first sex, then IFSS_MTHFSTSX3 is defined as the first method used. If a respondent's first method use was after the first time she had sex, IFSS_MTHFSTSX3 is missing (no method used at first sex). If the respondent reported that her first method use was at first sex but she had only used one contraceptive method in her lifetime, she was not asked which method she used first. Instead IFSS_MTHFSTSX3 is taken from measures of lifetime use of contraceptive methods. In 1988, the original questions ask about methods used by "you or your partner"; reporting of methods used by men (condoms, vasectomy, withdrawal) may be more complete in these surveys than in the 1995 and 2002 NSFGs.

The 1988 NSFG coded only a single response for the method used at first sex, but this response could include combinations of up to two methods. Three methods could be reported in 1988 only if the first method reported was "condom and foam," which was treated as two methods. Thus, IFSS_MTHFSTSX3 likely underestimates the number of respondents who used three methods.

In all three surveys, IFSS_MTHFSTSX3 is defined for women who have ever had sex and who reported using a contraceptive method the first time they had sex. In the 1988 NSFG, women who had not had sex since their first period are also excluded from the question universe.

In all three surveys, respondents chose among methods listed on a card. They could also respond that they used another method not listed. The methods listed varied across surveys. In some cases variation is due to changes in the availability of contraceptive methods. Depo-Provera, Norplant, emergency contraception, and the female condom were not available in the 1980s and so were provided as a response option only in the 1995 and 2002 surveys. In other cases, the methods listed varied because of changes in how "contraceptive method" was defined. For example, douching was listed as a method in the 1988 NSFG but not in the other surveys. If these methods were reported in other years, they were coded as "other."

In all three surveys, rhythm method based on calendar and rhythm methods based on temperature were listed as separate methods in the original data but combined into a single response in the harmonized variable. Similarly, contraceptive jelly or cream and suppositories or inserts were listed as two categories in the original variables but combined in IFSS_MTHFSTSX3. These categories are combined for comparability with other measures of contraceptive use.

In most survey years, response options distinguished between respondents who were surgically sterile and respondents who were sterile for other reasons. In the 1995 NSFG, however, only a single response was available for sterile respondents. In the harmonized variable, respondents were coded as surgically sterile if they reported being sterile and had ever reported a sterilizing operation and non-surgically sterile if they reported being sterile but did not report a sterilizing operation.

See Also:

[IFSS_USEFSTSX](#)
[IFSS_MTHFSTSX1](#)
[IFSS_MTHFSTSX2](#)

IFSS_MTHFSTSX4: Method used at first sex, 4th mention

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_MTHFSTSX4

Method used at first sex, 4th mention

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[MTHFSTSX04](#)

[MTHFST3](#)

Source Questions

Computed (EB-8)

EB-7

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

Description

For respondents who used a contraceptive method the first time they had sex, IFSS_MTHFSTSX4 contains the fourth method they reported using.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_MTHFSTSX4 is largely comparable across surveys.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, IFSS_MTHFSTSX4 is based on a computed variable that exists in the original data. In the original question, respondents could list up to five methods (in 1995) or four methods (in 2002) used the first time they had sex; IFSS_MTHFSTSX4 contains the fourth response provided. In 1995, for respondents whose first sexual experience was involuntary and who had ever had voluntary sex, the question specifies method use at first voluntary sex.

In both surveys, IFSS_MTHFSTSX4 is defined for women who have ever had sex and who reported using a contraceptive method the first time they had sex.

In both surveys, respondents chose among methods listed on a card. They could also respond that they used another method not listed. The methods listed varied across surveys. In 2002, response options distinguished between respondents who were surgically sterile and respondents who were sterile for other reasons. In the 1995 NSFG, only a single response was available for sterile respondents. In the harmonized variable, respondents were coded as surgically sterile if they reported being sterile and had ever reported a sterilizing operation and non-surgically sterile if they reported being sterile but did not report a sterilizing operation.

In both surveys, rhythm method based on calendar and rhythm methods based on temperature were listed as separate methods in the original data but combined into a single response in the harmonized variable. Similarly, contraceptive jelly or cream and suppositories or inserts were listed as two categories in the

original variables but combined in IFSS_MTHFSTX4. These categories are combined for comparability with other measures of contraceptive use.

See Also:

[IFSS_USEFSTX](#)
[IFSS_MTHFSTX1](#)
[IFSS_MTHFSTX2](#)
[IFSS_MTHFSTX3](#)

IFSS_EVERUSED: Ever used any birth control method?

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_EVERUSED

Ever used any birth control method?

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1995 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)
[1982 NSFG](#)
[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)
[1973 NSFG](#)
[1973 NSFG](#)
[1970 NFS](#)
[1965 NFS](#)
[1960 GAF](#)
[1955 GAF](#)

Source Variables

[EVERUSED](#)
[EVERUSED](#)
[ANYMTHD](#)
[ANYMTHD](#)
[USE1INT](#)
[PREG_MTHDUSE](#)
[PREG701_MTHDUSE](#)
[FP_OTHER](#)
[BC_770](#)
[PREG4_FP](#)
[PREG3_FP](#)
[PREG2_FP](#)
[PREG1_FP](#)
[PREG0_METH](#)

Source Questions

Computed	2002 NSFG
Computed	1995 NSFG
Recode	1988 NSFG
Recode	1982 NSFG
Recode	1976 NSFG: Couple File
50	1973 NSFG
37	1973 NSFG
129a	1973 NSFG
Computed	1973 NSFG
CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
CM136/PM113	1970 NFS

METH_EVERUSE	CM224	1970 NFS
IUD_EVERUSE	CM87/PM80	1970 NFS
FP_METHNOW	CM123	1970 NFS
DIA_EVERUSE	CM83/PM76	1970 NFS
BCP_EVERUSE	CM67/PM61	1970 NFS
PREG3_METH1_3	100	1965 NFS
PREG2_METH1_3	100	1965 NFS
PREG1_METH1_3	100	1965 NFS
PREG0_METH1_3	113	1965 NFS
BCP_METH	Computed	1965 NFS
METH_EVERUSE	65	1960 GAF
METH_EVERUSE	43	1955 GAF

Description

IFSS_EVERUSED measures whether the respondent has ever used any contraceptive method.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: In some years, this variable is derived based on direct questions about lifetime use of contraception, while in other years it is constructed based on questions about the use of individual methods. Because the underlying contraceptive use history questions vary in their structure and scope, IFSS_EVERUSED varies somewhat over time. In addition, in the 1973 National Survey of Family Growth, this variable only describes usage in the past three years.

IFSS_EVERUSED describes whether the respondent has ever used a contraceptive method, including sterilization. Respondents who had ever used any method or had been surgically sterilized are coded as yes. Respondents who had not ever used any method are coded as no. In some years, respondents who have never had sex or not had sex since their first period were not asked about contraceptive use. These respondents are coded as no for IFSS_EVERUSED.

The primary difference in this variable across survey years is whether the individual method use variables used to compute IFSS_EVERUSED are derived from a direct question about lifetime use, constructed based on contraceptive use history, or some combination of information from both sources. Method use questions are based on a direct question in the National Surveys of Family Growth in 1995 and 2002 and the Growth of American Families Surveys in 1955 and 1960, constructed based on contraceptive use history in the 1973 NSFG and the 1965 National Fertility Survey, and created using a combination of both questions in the 1976, 1982, and 1988 NSFGs and the 1970 NFS. There is also some minor variation in question wording across surveys; in particular, some surveys ask separately about methods used to prevent sexually transmitted diseases. The specific methods included in the list of individual methods vary across surveys; all surveys also ask about the use of other methods not included on the list of individual methods.

In the 1982, 1988, 1995, and 2002 NSFGs, all respondents who had ever had sex were asked about lifetime use of a list of contraceptive methods and were asked if they had ever used any method not on the list. Respondents who said yes for any method (including husband's vasectomy) or who reported having been sterilized are coded as yes for IFSS_EVERUSED. Respondents who said no for all methods were coded as no. In the 1982 and 1988 surveys, women who had never had sex, women who had not yet menstruated, and women who had not had sex since their first menstruation were not asked about contraceptive use. These women are coded as no for IFSS_EVERUSED.

In the 1976 NSFG, as part of a series of questions on contraceptive use, women were asked to report the pregnancy interval during which they first used contraception. Women who had never used a method were coded as zero for this question. These responses were used to create values for IFSS_EVERUSED.

The 1973 NSFG asked women about contraceptive use in pregnancy intervals that ended since July, 1970 and the open interval, defined as the period since the respondent's last pregnancy, or July, 1970 if she has never been pregnant. All women were then asked if they had ever used any other methods (aside from those reported in the specified time period). Women who reported using any contraceptive method in the contraceptive use history questions or who said that they had used another method not mentioned in those questions are coded as yes for IFSS_EVERUSED. Respondents who did not report any method used in any of the contraceptive use history questions, and who responded that they had not ever used any other methods are coded as no for IFSS_EVERUSED. A relatively large proportion of women had responses of "not ascertained" for the question about use of any other methods. These women are coded as yes in IFSS_EVERUSED if they reported any method use for the contraceptive history questions and not ascertained for IFSS_EVERUSED if no method was reported.

In the National Fertility Survey in 1970, IFSS_EVERUSED is constructed based on a series of questions about past and present contraceptive use. Married non-pregnant women were asked if they were currently using any method, currently married women who had been pregnant were asked about the timing of their first contraceptive use, and women who had ever been pregnant were asked about contraceptive methods used in the interval before each pregnancy and since the most recent pregnancy. In addition, all respondents were asked whether they had ever used the pill, the diaphragm, or the IUD. Respondents who reported any method use for any of these questions are coded as yes for IFSS_EVERUSED; those who did not report any method use are coded as no.

In the 1965 NFS, all women were asked about the most recent method they had used, and women who reported using any contraceptive methods for any of these questions are coded as yes for IFSS_EVERUSED, and women who did not report any method are coded as no.

The Growth of American Families surveys in 1955 and 1960 asked respondents about their lifetime use of contraception. In the 1960 survey, women were asked, "Have you or your husband ever used any methods to keep from getting pregnant?" In 1955, the question wording was, "Now in your own case, have you or your husband ever done anything to limit the number of your children or to keep from having them at certain times?" Women who said yes were asked to list the methods they had used, referring to a provided list. Women who reported not using any method, or who reported that the only method they used was douching for cleanliness only, are coded as no for IFSS_EVERUSED. Women who reported using any contraceptive method are coded as yes.

See Also:

[IFSS_CERVLCAP](#)
[IFSS_CONDOM](#)
[IFSS_DIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FEMSTER](#)
[IFSS_FOAMALON](#)
[IFSS_INJECTABLES](#)
[IFSS_IUD](#)
[IFSS_JELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_MORNPILL](#)
[IFSS_NORPLANT](#)
[IFSS_OTHRMETH](#)
[IFSS_PATCH](#)
[IFSS_PILL](#)
[IFSS_RHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_TEMPSAFE](#)
[IFSS_TODAYSPG](#)
[IFSS_VASECTMY](#)
[IFSS_WIDRAWAL](#)
[IFSS_WOCONDOM](#)

IFSS_RHYTHM: Ever used rhythm by calendar or temperature?

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_RHYTHM

Ever used rhythm by calendar or temperature?

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1995 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)
[1982 NSFG](#)
[1976 NSFG: Interval File](#)
[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)
[1973 NSFG](#)
[1973 NSFG](#)
[1970 NFS](#)
[1965 NFS](#)
[1960 GAF](#)
[1955 GAF](#)

Source Variables

[TEMPSAFE](#)
[RHYTHM](#)
[TEMPSAFE](#)
[RHYTHM](#)
[C_39](#)
[CMETHJ](#)
[CMETHI](#)
[C40J](#)
[C40I](#)
[MC_L](#)
[MC_K](#)
[C47_3](#)
[C47_2](#)
[C47_1](#)
[C46](#)
[C34](#)
[C17_4](#)
[C17_3](#)
[C17_2](#)
[C17_1](#)
[C16](#)
[METH_173](#)
[C45_4](#)
[C45_3](#)
[C45_2](#)
[C45_1](#)
[C44](#)
[C37_LM](#)
[C37_3](#)
[C37_2](#)
[C37_1](#)
[C36](#)
[PREG_MTHDUSE](#)
[PREG_4THMTHD](#)
[PREG_3RDMTHD](#)
[PREG_2NDMTHD](#)
[PREG_1STMTHD](#)
[PREG701_MTHDUSE](#)
[PREG701_MTHDINT4](#)
[PREG701_MTHDINT3](#)
[PREG701_2NDMTHD](#)

Source Questions

EA-8 2002 NSFG
EA-7 2002 NSFG
EA-9 1995 NSFG
EA-8 1995 NSFG
C-39 1988 NSFG
Computed 1988 NSFG
Computed 1988 NSFG
C-40 1988 NSFG
C-40 1988 NSFG
Computed 1982 NSFG
Computed 1982 NSFG
C-47 1982 NSFG
C-47 1982 NSFG
C-47 1982 NSFG
C-46 1982 NSFG
C-34 1982 NSFG
M_C-17 1976 NSFG: Interval File
M_C-17 1976 NSFG: Interval File
M_C-17 1976 NSFG: Interval File
M_C-17 1976 NSFG: Interval File
M_C-16 1976 NSFG: Interval File
Computed 1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-45 1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-45 1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-45 1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-45 1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-44 1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-37 1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-37 1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-37 1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-37 1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-36 1976 NSFG: Couple File
50 1973 NSFG
51 1973 NSFG
51 1973 NSFG
51 1973 NSFG
51 1973 NSFG
37 1973 NSFG
38 1973 NSFG
38 1973 NSFG
38 1973 NSFG

PREG701_1STMTHD	38	1973 NSFG
BC_770	Computed	1973 NSFG
PREG4_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG3_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_6	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_5	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_4	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_3	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_2	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_1	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_6	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_5	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_4	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_3	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_2	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_1	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH_3	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH_2	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH_1	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METHLAST	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH	CM136/PM113	1970 NFS
METH_EVERUSE	CM224	1970 NFS
PREG3_METH1_4	100	1965 NFS
PREG2_METH1_4	100	1965 NFS
PREG1_METH1_4	100	1965 NFS
PREG0_METH1_4	113	1965 NFS
METH_USE	65a	1960 GAF
RHY_USE	44	1955 GAF

Description

IFSS_RHYTHM measures whether the respondent has ever used the rhythm method.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: In some surveys, this measure is taken directly from questions about lifetime use. In other years, it is constructed based on contraceptive use histories. In addition, in the 1973 National Survey of Family Growth, this variable only describes usage in the past three years or since the most recent pregnancy. IFSS_RHYTHM captures all use of rhythm, including both temperature and calendar based rhythm methods.

The primary difference in this variable across survey years is whether IFSS_RHYTHM is derived from a direct question about lifetime use, constructed based on contraceptive use history, or some combination of information from both sources. IFSS_RHYTHM is based on a direct question in the National Surveys of Family Growth in 1995 and 2002 and the Growth of American Families Surveys in 1955 and 1960, constructed based on contraceptive use history in the 1973 NSFG and the 1965 and 1970 National Fertility Surveys, and created using a combination of both questions in the 1976, 1982, and 1988 NSFGs. There is also some minor variation in question wording across surveys.

IFSS_RHYTHM includes all mentions of the calendar method, the temperature method, natural family planning, or unspecified "rhythm." Specific mentions of the temperature method are harmonized alone in IFSS_TEMPSAFE; this variable is a subset of IFSS_RHYTHM.

In all years, IFSS_RHYTHM exists for all women who were eligible to be asked about contraceptive use. In most surveys, this universe is defined as women who had ever had sex; for the GAF and NFS surveys and the 1973 and 1976 NSFGs, in which the sample is limited to married women or ever married women, virtually all women are included in this universe. There are some small variations in question universe across surveys.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, all respondents who had ever had sex were asked whether they had ever used rhythm or safe period by calendar, natural family planning, or safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test.

For the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, the NSFG staff produced a recoded variable summarizing method use across the interval described by the method use calendar (see IFSS_CCMETH and related variables). IFSS_RHYTHM was created based on this variable where possible. However, the method use calendar only covers a limited time period (since January, 1979 for the 1982 NSFG; since January, 1984 for the 1988 NSFG). In addition to the calendar, respondents who had had sex at least once since they started menstruating were asked, "Have you or your partner ever used a method of birth control or family planning, even if it was only one time?" They were presented with a list of methods to refer to when they answered the question. Women who reported having ever used a method were then asked to circle all methods on the list that they had ever used. Women who reported using any form of rhythm, natural family planning, or safe period method, either alone or in combination with another method, in the method calendar or in the direct questions are coded as yes for IFSS_RHYTHM. Women who did not report using rhythm in any question are coded as no. Women who had not yet menstruated or had not had sex since their first menstruation are excluded from the question universe in addition to women who had never had sex.

The variable in the 1976 NSFG is structured roughly similarly to those in 1982 and 1988, except that there is no existing summary variable for the method use calendar, and the additional methods question does not include methods mentioned in the pregnancy interval file. Thus, IFSS created a summary variable reflecting whether the respondent reporting using rhythm methods, alone or in combination with another method, during any month covered by the method use calendar (since January, 1973). This is combined with variables measuring contraceptive use in the intervals between pregnancies and the open interval (the period since the respondent's last pregnancy or first sex). Respondents were also asked, "Have you or your husband ever used any (other) method to delay or prevent a pregnancy?" As in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, information from this question was used to supplement information from the method calendar and pregnancy interval file in constructing IFSS_RHYTHM.

The 1973 NSFG includes no summary questions on lifetime use of contraception. Information for IFSS_RHYTHM is derived from the contraceptive calendar and variables measuring use of contraception in the intervals between pregnancies (IFSS_RHYTHMINT). The 1973 NSFG contains information on contraceptive use in pregnancy intervals that ended since July, 1970 and the open interval, defined as the period since the respondent's last pregnancy, or July, 1970 if she has never been pregnant or her last pregnancy ended prior to July, 1970. Thus, IFSS_RHYTHM covers only the period since July, 1970 and understates lifetime use of rhythm; this error is likely greater for older women, for whom the period not covered by the contraceptive calendar represents a larger proportion of their lifespan.

In the National Fertility Surveys in 1965 and 1970, IFSS_RHYTHM is derived from questions about method use in each pregnancy interval. For each pregnancy, and for the open interval (time between the most recent pregnancy and the survey, or since first intercourse for respondents who had never been pregnant), respondents were asked to report all contraceptive methods used for any period of time (see IFSS_RHYTHMINT and related interval variables for a full description of these measures).

The Growth of American Families surveys in 1955 and 1960 asked respondents about their lifetime use of contraception. In 1955, respondents were first asked "Now in your own case, have you or your husband ever done anything to limit the number of your children or to keep from having them at certain times?" Women who said yes were asked to list the methods they had used, referring to a provided list. In the 1960 survey, women were provided with a list of "methods some married couples use to avoid getting pregnant" and asked to identify which, if any, they had used. (Women were also asked to specify methods not listed.) The question indicated that it referred to methods used with a previous husband as well as the current husband. For both years, respondents who indicated that they had used rhythm are coded yes for IFSS_RHYTHM and those who did not are coded no.

See Also:

[IFSS_RHYTHMINT](#)
[IFSS_CERVLCAP](#)
[IFSS_CONDOM](#)
[IFSS_DIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FEMSTER](#)
[IFSS_FOAMALON](#)
[IFSS_INJECTABLES](#)
[IFSS_IUD](#)
[IFSS_JELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_MORNPILL](#)
[IFSS_NORPLANT](#)
[IFSS_OTHRMETH](#)
[IFSS_PATCH](#)

[IFSS_PILL](#)
[IFSS_TEMPSAFE](#)
[IFSS_TODAYSPG](#)
[IFSS_VASECTMY](#)
[IFSS_WIDRAWAL](#)
[IFSS_WOCONDOM](#)

IFSS_TODAYSPG: Ever used Today sponge?

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_TODAYSPG

Ever used Today sponge?

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[TODAYSPG](#)

[TODAYSPG](#)

[E59D](#)

[E58D](#)

[C_39](#)

[CMETHM](#)

[C40M](#)

Source Questions

EA-16

EA-16

E-59

E-58

C-39

Computed

C-40

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

Description

IFSS_TODAYSPG measures whether the respondent has ever used a contraceptive sponge.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: In some surveys, this measure is taken directly from questions about lifetime use. In other years, supplementary information is taken from contraceptive use histories.

IFSS_TODAYSPG is based on a direct question in the National Surveys of Family Growth in 1995 and 2002. In the 1988 NSFG, information is taken from direct questions about contraceptive use, direct questions about prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, and reported contraceptive use history.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, all respondents who had ever had sex were asked whether they had ever used the Today sponge.

For the 1988 NSFGs, the NSFG staff produced a recoded variable summarizing method use across the interval described by the method use calendar (see IFSS_CCMETH and related variables).

IFSS_TODAYSPG was created based on this variable where possible. However, the method use calendar

only covers a limited time period (since January, 1984). In addition to the calendar, respondents who had had sex at least once since they started menstruating were asked, "Have you or your partner ever used a method of birth control or family planning, even if it was only one time?" They were presented with a list of methods to refer to when they answered the question. Women who reported having ever used a method were then asked to circle all methods on the list that they had ever used. Finally, all women who had ever had sex were asked, "To keep you or your partner from catching diseases such as genital herpes, chlamydia, or AIDS, do you use any of the methods listed on Card 26?" The sponge was a response option for this question. Women who reported using a sponge either in the method calendar or in the direct questions were coded as yes for IFSS_TODAYSPG. Women who did not report using a sponge in any question were coded as no.

See Also:

[IFSS_SPONGINT](#)
[IFSS_CERVLCAP](#)
[IFSS_CONDOM](#)
[IFSS_DIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FEMSTER](#)
[IFSS_FOAMALON](#)
[IFSS_INJECTABLES](#)
[IFSS_IUD](#)
[IFSS_JELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_MORNPILL](#)
[IFSS_NORPLANT](#)
[IFSS_OTHMETH](#)
[IFSS_PATCH](#)
[IFSS_PILL](#)
[IFSS_RHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_TEMPSAFE](#)
[IFSS_VASECTMY](#)
[IFSS_WIDRAWAL](#)
[IFSS_WOCONDOM](#)

IFSS_TEMPSAFE: Ever used rhythm by temperature, or natural family planning?

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_TEMPSAFE

Ever used rhythm by temperature, or natural family planning?

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)
[1976 NSFG: Interval File](#)
[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)
[1973 NSFG](#)
[1973 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[TEMPSAFE](#)
[TEMPSAFE](#)
[C_39](#)
[CMETHJ](#)
[C40J](#)
[MC_K](#)
[C47_3](#)
[C47_2](#)
[C47_1](#)
[C46](#)
[C34](#)
[C17_4](#)
[C17_3](#)
[C17_2](#)
[C17_1](#)
[C16](#)
[METH_173](#)
[C45_4](#)
[C45_3](#)
[C45_2](#)
[C45_1](#)
[C44](#)
[C37_LM](#)
[C37_3](#)
[C37_2](#)
[C37_1](#)
[C36](#)
[PREG_MTHDUSE](#)
[PREG_4THMTHD](#)
[PREG_3RDMTHD](#)
[PREG_2NDMTHD](#)
[PREG_1STMTHD](#)
[PREG701_MTHDUSE](#)
[PREG701_MTHDINT4](#)
[PREG701_MTHDINT3](#)
[PREG701_2NDMTHD](#)
[PREG701_1STMTHD](#)
[BC_770](#)

Source Questions

EA-8	2002 NSFG
EA-9	1995 NSFG
C-39	1988 NSFG
Computed	1988 NSFG
C-40	1988 NSFG
Computed	1982 NSFG
C-47	1982 NSFG
C-47	1982 NSFG
C-47	1982 NSFG
C-46	1982 NSFG
C-34	1982 NSFG
M_C-17	1976 NSFG: Interval File
M_C-17	1976 NSFG: Interval File
M_C-17	1976 NSFG: Interval File
M_C-17	1976 NSFG: Interval File
M_C-16	1976 NSFG: Interval File
Computed	1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-44	1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-36	1976 NSFG: Couple File
50	1973 NSFG
51	1973 NSFG
51	1973 NSFG
51	1973 NSFG
51	1973 NSFG
37	1973 NSFG
38	1973 NSFG
38	1973 NSFG
38	1973 NSFG
38	1973 NSFG
Computed	1973 NSFG

Description

IFSS_TEMPSAFE measures whether the respondent has ever used the rhythm method based on temperature or cervical mucus.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: In some surveys, this measure is taken directly from questions about lifetime use. In other years, it is constructed based on contraceptive use histories. In addition, in the 1973 National Survey of Family Growth, this variable only describes usage in the past three years. IFSS_TEMPSAFE includes only mentions of rhythm method based on temperature or cervical mucus. The calendar method and unspecified "rhythm" are harmonized in IFSS_RHYTHM.

The primary difference in this variable across survey years is whether IFSS_TEMPSAFE is derived from a direct question about lifetime use, constructed based on contraceptive use history, or some combination of information from both sources. IFSS_TEMPSAFE is based on a direct question in the National Surveys of

Family Growth in 1995 and 2002, constructed based on contraceptive use history in the 1973 NSFG, and created using a combination of both questions in the 1976, 1982, and 1988 NSFGs. There is also some minor variation in question wording across surveys.

In all years, IFSS_TEMPSAFE exists for all women who were eligible to be asked about contraceptive use. In most surveys, this universe is defined as women who had ever had sex; for the GAF and NFS surveys and the 1973 and 1976 NSFGs, in which the sample is limited to married women or ever married women, virtually all women are included in this universe. There are some small variations in question universe across surveys.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, all respondents who had ever had sex were asked whether they had ever used "natural family planning or safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test."

For the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, the NSFG staff produced a recoded variable summarizing method use across the interval described by the method use calendar (see IFSS_CCMETH and related variables). IFSS_TEMPSAFE was created based on this variable where possible. However, the method use calendar only covers a limited time period (since January, 1979 for the 1982 NSFG; since January, 1984 for the 1988 NSFG). In addition to the calendar, respondents who had had sex at least once since they started menstruating were asked, "Have you or your partner ever used a method of birth control or family planning, even if it was only one time?" They were presented with a list of methods to refer to when they answered the question. Women who reported having ever used a method were then asked to circle all methods on the list that they had ever used. Women who reported using natural family planning or safe period method by temperature or cervical mucus test, either alone or in combination with another method, in the method calendar or in the direct questions are coded as yes for IFSS_TEMPSAFE. Women who did not report using these methods in any question are coded as no. Women who had not yet menstruated or had not had sex since their first menstruation are excluded from the question universe in addition to women who had never had sex.

The variable in the 1976 NSFG is structured roughly similarly to those in 1982 and 1988, except that there is no existing summary variable for the method use calendar, and the additional methods question does not include methods mentioned in the pregnancy interval file. Thus, IFSS created a summary variable reflecting whether the respondent reporting using natural family planning by temperature or cervical mucus test, alone or in combination with another method, during any month covered by the method use calendar (since January, 1973). This is combined with variables measuring contraceptive use in the intervals between pregnancies and the open interval (the period since the respondent's last pregnancy or first sex). Respondents were also asked, "Have you or your husband ever used any (other) method to delay or prevent a pregnancy?" As in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, information from this question is used to supplement information from the method calendar and pregnancy interval file in constructing IFSS_TEMPSAFE.

The 1973 NSFG includes no summary questions on lifetime use of contraception. Information for IFSS_TEMPSAFE is derived from the contraceptive calendar and variables measuring use of contraception in the interval between pregnancies (IFSS_RHYTHMINT). The 1973 NSFG contains information on contraceptive use in pregnancy intervals that ended since July, 1970 and the open interval, defined as the period since the respondent's last pregnancy, or July, 1970 if she has never been pregnant or her last pregnancy ended prior to July, 1970. Thus, IFSS_TEMPSAFE covers only the period since July, 1970 and understates lifetime use of condoms; this error is likely greater for older women, for whom the period not covered by the contraceptive calendar represents a larger proportion of their lifespan.

See Also:

[IFSS_RHYTHMINT](#)
[IFSS_RHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_CERVLCAP](#)
[IFSS_CONDOM](#)
[IFSS_DIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FEMSTER](#)
[IFSS_FOAMALON](#)
[IFSS_INJECTABLES](#)
[IFSS_IUD](#)
[IFSS_JELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_MORNPILL](#)
[IFSS_NORPLANT](#)
[IFSS_OTHRMETH](#)
[IFSS_PATCH](#)
[IFSS_PILL](#)

[IFSS_TODAYSPG](#)
[IFSS_VASECTMY](#)
[IFSS_WIDRAWAL](#)
[IFSS_WOCONDOM](#)

IFSS_CONDOM: Ever used condom, rubber?

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_CONDOM

Ever used condom, rubber?

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1995 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)
[1982 NSFG](#)
[1976 NSFG: Interval File](#)
[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)
[1973 NSFG](#)
[1973 NSFG](#)
[1970 NFS](#)
[1965 NFS](#)
[1960 GAF](#)
[1955 GAF](#)

Source Variables

[CONDOM](#)
[CONDOM](#)
[E59A](#)
[E58A](#)
[C_39](#)
[CMETHB](#)
[CMETHA](#)
[C40B](#)
[C40A](#)
[MC_B](#)
[C47_3](#)
[C47_2](#)
[C47_1](#)
[C46](#)
[C34](#)
[C17_4](#)
[C17_3](#)

Source Questions

EA-2	2002 NSFG
EA-5	1995 NSFG
E-59	1988 NSFG
E-58	1988 NSFG
C-39	1988 NSFG
Computed	1988 NSFG
Computed	1988 NSFG
C-40	1988 NSFG
C-40	1988 NSFG
Computed	1982 NSFG
C-47	1982 NSFG
C-47	1982 NSFG
C-47	1982 NSFG
C-46	1982 NSFG
C-34	1982 NSFG
M_C-17	1976 NSFG: Interval File
M_C-17	1976 NSFG: Interval File

C17_2	M_C-17	1976 NSFG: Interval File
C17_1	M_C-17	1976 NSFG: Interval File
C16	M_C-16	1976 NSFG: Interval File
METH_173	Computed	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C45_4	M_C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C45_3	M_C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C45_2	M_C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C45_1	M_C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C44	M_C-44	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C37_LM	M_C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C37_3	M_C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C37_2	M_C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C37_1	M_C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
C36	M_C-36	1976 NSFG: Couple File
PREG_MTHDUSE	50	1973 NSFG
PREG_4THMTHD	51	1973 NSFG
PREG_3RDMTHD	51	1973 NSFG
PREG_2NDMTHD	51	1973 NSFG
PREG_1STMTHD	51	1973 NSFG
PREG701_MTHDUSE	37	1973 NSFG
PREG701_MTHDINT4	38	1973 NSFG
PREG701_MTHDINT3	38	1973 NSFG
PREG701_2NDMTHD	38	1973 NSFG
PREG701_1STMTHD	38	1973 NSFG
BC_770	Computed	1973 NSFG
PREG4_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG3_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_6	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_5	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_4	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_3	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_2	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_1	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_6	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_5	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_4	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_3	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_2	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_1	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH_3	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH_2	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH_1	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METHLAST	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH	CM136/PM113	1970 NFS
METH_EVERUSE	CM224	1970 NFS
PREG3_METH1_5	100	1965 NFS
PREG2_METH1_5	100	1965 NFS
PREG1_METH1_5	100	1965 NFS
PREG0_METH1_5	113	1965 NFS
METH_USE	65a	1960 GAF
CON_USE	44/45	1955 GAF

Description

IFSS_CONDOM measures whether the respondent has ever used (male) condoms.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: In some surveys, this measure is taken directly from questions about lifetime use. In other years, it is constructed based on contraceptive use histories. In addition, in the 1973 National Survey of Family Growth, this variable only describes usage in the past three years.

The primary difference in this variable across survey years is whether IFSS_CONDOM is derived from a direct question about lifetime use, constructed based on contraceptive use history, or some combination of information from both sources. IFSS_CONDOM is based on a direct question in the National Surveys of Family Growth in 1995 and 2002 and the Growth of American Families Surveys in 1955 and 1960, constructed based on contraceptive use history in the 1973 NSFG and the 1965 and 1970 National Fertility Surveys, and created using a combination of both questions in the 1976, 1982, and 1988 NSFGs. There is also some minor variation in question wording across surveys; in particular, some surveys ask specifically about the use of condoms to prevent sexually transmitted diseases.

In all years, IFSS_CONDOM exists for all women who were eligible to be asked about contraceptive use. In most surveys, this universe is defined as women who had ever had sex; for the GAF and NFS surveys and the 1973 and 1976 NSFGs, in which the sample is limited to married women or ever-married women and single women with own children, virtually all sampled women are included in this universe. There are some small variations in question universe across surveys.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, all respondents who had ever had sex were asked whether they had ever used "condoms or rubbers."

For the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, the NSFG staff produced a recoded variable summarizing method use across the interval described by the method use calendar (see IFSS_CCMETH and related variables). IFSS_CONDOM was created based on this variable where possible. However, the method use calendar only covers a limited time period (since January, 1979 for the 1982 NSFG; since January, 1984 for the 1988 NSFG). In addition to the calendar, respondents who had had sex at least once since they started menstruating were asked, "Have you or your partner ever used a method of birth control or family planning, even if it was only one time?" They were presented with a list of methods to refer to when they answered the question. Women who reported having ever used a method were then asked to circle all methods on the list that they had ever used. Finally, in the 1988 NSFG, women were also asked, "To keep you or your partner from catching diseases such as genital herpes, chlamydia, or AIDS, do you use any of the methods listed on Card 26?" Condoms were a response option for this question. Women who reported using condoms, either alone or in combination with another method, in the method calendar, or in the direct questions are coded as yes for IFSS_CONDOM. Women who did not report using condoms in any question are coded as no. Women who had not yet menstruated or had not had sex since their first menstruation are excluded from the question universe in addition to women who had never had sex.

The variable in the 1976 NSFG is structured roughly similarly to those in 1982 and 1988, except that there is no existing summary variable for the method use calendar, and the additional methods question does not include methods mentioned in the pregnancy interval file. Thus, IFSS created a summary variable reflecting whether the respondent reporting using condoms, alone or in combination with another method, during any month covered by the method use calendar (since January, 1973). This is combined with variables measuring contraceptive use in the intervals between pregnancies and the open interval (the period since the respondent's last pregnancy or first sex). Respondents were also asked, "Have you or your husband ever used any (other) method to delay or prevent a pregnancy?" As in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, information from this question is used to supplement information from the method calendar and pregnancy interval file in constructing IFSS_CONDOM.

The 1973 NSFG includes no summary questions on lifetime use of contraception. Information for IFSS_CONDOM is derived from the contraceptive calendar and variables measuring use of contraception in the intervals between pregnancies (IFSS_CONDINT). The 1973 NSFG contains information on contraceptive use in pregnancy intervals that ended since July, 1970 and the open interval, defined as the period since the respondent's last pregnancy, or July, 1970 if she has never been pregnant or her last pregnancy ended prior to July, 1970. Thus, IFSS_CONDOM covers only the period since July, 1970 and understates lifetime use of condoms; this error is likely greater for older women, for whom the period not covered by the contraceptive calendar represents a larger proportion of their lifespan.

In the National Fertility Surveys in 1965 and 1970, IFSS_CONDOM is derived from questions about method use in each pregnancy interval. For each pregnancy, and for the open interval (time between the most recent pregnancy and the survey, or since first intercourse for respondents who had never been pregnant), respondents were asked to report all contraceptive methods used for any period of time (see IFSS_CONDINT and related interval variables for a full description of these measures).

The Growth of American Families surveys in 1955 and 1960 asked respondents about their lifetime use of contraception. In 1955, respondents were first asked "Now in your own case, have you or your husband ever

done anything to limit the number of your children or to keep from having them at certain times?" Women who said yes were asked to list the methods they had used, referring to a provided list. In the 1960 survey, women were provided with a list of "methods some married couples use to avoid getting pregnant" and asked to identify which, if any, they had used. (Women were also asked to specify methods not listed.) The question indicated that it referred to methods used with a previous husband as well as the current husband. For both years, respondents who indicated that they had used condoms are coded yes for IFSS_CONDOM and those who did not are coded no.

See Also:

[IFSS_CONDINT](#)
[IFSS_CERVLCAP](#)
[IFSS_DIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FEMSTER](#)
[IFSS_FOAMALON](#)
[IFSS_INJECTABLES](#)
[IFSS_IUD](#)
[IFSS_JELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_MORNPILL](#)
[IFSS_NORPLANT](#)
[IFSS_OTHRMETH](#)
[IFSS_PATCH](#)
[IFSS_PILL](#)
[IFSS_RHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_TEMPSAFE](#)
[IFSS_TODAYSPG](#)
[IFSS_VASECTMY](#)
[IFSS_WIDRAWAL](#)
[IFSS_WOCONDOM](#)

IFSS_PILL: Ever used birth control pill?

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_PILL

Ever used birth control pill?

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1995 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)
[1982 NSFG](#)
[1976 NSFG: Interval File](#)
[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)
[1973 NSFG](#)

[PREG1 METH1 8](#)
[PREG0 METH1 8](#)

100
113

1965 NFS
1965 NFS

Description

IFSS_PILL measures whether the respondent has ever used the birth control pill.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: In some surveys, this measure is taken directly from questions about lifetime use. In other years, it is constructed based on contraceptive use histories. In addition, in the 1973 National Survey of Family Growth, this variable only describes usage in the past three years.

The primary difference in this variable across survey years is whether IFSS_PILL is derived from a direct question about lifetime use, constructed based on contraceptive use history, or some combination of information from both sources. IFSS_PILL is based on a direct question in the National Surveys of Family Growth in 1995 and 2002, constructed based on contraceptive use history in the 1973 NSFG, and created using a combination of both questions in the 1976, 1982, and 1988 NSFGs and the National Fertility Surveys in 1965 and 1970. There is also some minor variation in question wording across surveys.

In all years, IFSS_PILL exists for all women who were eligible to be asked about contraceptive use. In most surveys, this universe is defined as women who had ever had sex; for the GAF and NFS surveys and the 1973 and 1976 NSFGs, in which the sample is limited to married women or ever-married women and single women with own children, virtually all sampled women are included in this universe. There are some small variations in question universe across surveys.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, all respondents were asked whether they had ever used birth control pills.

For the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, the NSFG staff produced a recoded variable summarizing method use across the interval described by the method use calendar (see IFSS_CCMETH and related variables). IFSS_PILL was created based on this variable where possible. However, the method use calendar only covers a limited time period (since January, 1979 for the 1982 NSFG; since January, 1984 for the 1988 NSFG). In addition to the calendar, respondents who had had sex at least once since they started menstruating were asked "Have you or your partner ever used a method of birth control or family planning, even if it was only one time?" They were presented with a list of methods to refer to when they answered the question. Women who reported having ever used a method were then asked to circle all methods on the list that they had ever used. Women who reported using the Pill either in the method calendar or in the direct question are coded as yes for IFSS_PILL. Women who did not report using the Pill in either question are coded as no. Women who had never had sex, had not yet menstruated, or had not had sex since their first menstruation are excluded from the question universe.

The variable in the 1976 NSFG is structured roughly similarly to those in 1982 and 1988, except that there is no existing summary variable for the method use calendar, and the additional methods question does not include methods mentioned in the pregnancy interval file. Thus, IFSS created a summary variable reflecting whether the respondent reporting using condoms, alone or in combination with another method, during any month covered by the method use calendar (since January, 1973). This is combined with variables measuring contraceptive use in the intervals between pregnancies and the open interval (the period since the respondent's last pregnancy or first sex). Respondents were also asked, "Have you or your husband ever used any (other) method to delay or prevent a pregnancy?" As in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, information from this question is used to supplement information from the method calendar and pregnancy interval file in constructing IFSS_PILL.

The 1973 NSFG includes no summary questions on lifetime use of contraception. Information for IFSS_PILL is derived from the contraceptive calendar and variables measuring use of contraception in the intervals between pregnancies (IFSS_PILLINT). The 1973 NSFG contains information on contraceptive use in pregnancy intervals that ended since July, 1970 and the open interval, defined as the period since the respondent's last pregnancy, or July, 1970 if she has never been pregnant or the last pregnancy ended prior to July, 1970. Thus, IFSS_PILL covers only the period since July, 1970 and understates lifetime use of the pill; this error is likely greater for older women, for whom the period not covered by the contraceptive calendar represents a larger proportion of their lifespan.

In the National Fertility Surveys in 1965 and 1970, IFSS_PILL is derived from questions about method use in each pregnancy interval along with direct questions about the contraceptive pill. For each pregnancy, and for the open interval (time between the most recent pregnancy and the survey, or since first intercourse for respondents who had never been pregnant), respondents were asked to report all contraceptive methods

used for any period of time (see IFSS_PILLINT and related interval variables for a full description of these measures). In addition, respondents were asked directly about Pill use. In the 1970 NFS, the question specifically asked women to report use for any length of time for either contraceptive reasons or other reasons. In the 1965 NFS, respondents were first asked, "Have you ever heard about the oral contraceptive - the birth control pill?" Women who replied in the affirmative were then asked, "Have you ever used these pills?" As in the 1976, 1982, and 1988 NSFGs, information from these questions about ever use is used to supplement information from the interval variables.

See Also:

[IFSS_PILLINT](#)
[IFSS_CERVLCAP](#)
[IFSS_CONDOM](#)
[IFSS_DIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FEMSTER](#)
[IFSS_FOAMALON](#)
[IFSS_INJECTABLES](#)
[IFSS_IUD](#)
[IFSS_JELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_MORNPILL](#)
[IFSS_NORPLANT](#)
[IFSS_OTHRMETH](#)
[IFSS_PATCH](#)
[IFSS_RHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_TEMPSAFE](#)
[IFSS_TODAYSPG](#)
[IFSS_VASECTMY](#)
[IFSS_WIDRAWAL](#)
[IFSS_WOCONDOM](#)

IFSS_FMSPONGE: First method ever used was Today sponge

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FMSPONGE

First method ever used was Today sponge

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1995 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

Source Questions

FIRSMETH04	EB-1	2002 NSFG
FIRSMETH03	EB-1	2002 NSFG
FIRSMETH02	EB-1	2002 NSFG
FIRSMETH01	EB-1	2002 NSFG
FIRSME04	FB-1	1995 NSFG
FIRSME03	FB-1	1995 NSFG
FIRSME02	FB-1	1995 NSFG
FIRSME01	FB-1	1995 NSFG
FIRSME00	FB-1	1995 NSFG
C_41	C-41	1988 NSFG

Description

For respondents who ever used a contraceptive method, IFSS_FMSPONGE indicates whether the first method used was the contraceptive sponge.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_FMSPONGE is largely comparable across surveys.

Question wording was highly similar across surveys. In both the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked "The very first time you ever used a birth control method, which method did you use?" In 1988, the question was "Thinking back, the very first time you ever used a method of birth control, or had intercourse with a partner who was using a method, which method was that?"

In all three surveys, respondents were asked to choose from a card listing possible methods and could also report "other" if they used a method not listed on the card. Women could report up to four methods in 2002 and up to five methods in 1995. In the 1988 survey, respondents could report using a combination of methods. If the sponge was mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_FMSPONGE is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_FMSPONGE is coded as "no."

The 1988 NSFG only asked about the first method used for respondents who had used more than one method. For respondents who had only used one method, IFSS_SPONGE was used to ascertain whether they had ever used the sponge.

IFSS_FMSPONGE is defined only for women who reported a valid method as their first method (coded 1 in IFSS_TYPALLFM). This includes nearly all women who reported ever using a contraceptive method. Women who had never had sex, or had not had sex since their first period, were not asked about contraceptive use in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs and so were not eligible to be asked questions about the first method used.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMPILL](#)
[IFSS_FMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_TYPALLFM: Any mention of first method ever used (statistical variable)

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_TYPALLFM

Any mention of first method ever used (statistical variable)

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[FIRSMETH04](#)

[FIRSMETH03](#)

[FIRSMETH02](#)

[FIRSMETH01](#)

[FIRSME03](#)

[FIRSME02](#)

[FIRSME01](#)

[FIRSME00](#)

[C_41](#)

[C48](#)

Source Questions

Recode

2002 NSFG

Recode

2002 NSFG

Recode

2002 NSFG

Recode

2002 NSFG

Recode

1995 NSFG

Recode

1995 NSFG

Recode

1995 NSFG

Recode

1995 NSFG

C-41

1988 NSFG

C-48

1982 NSFG

Description

IFSS_TYPALLFM is a variable for statistical use indicating whether the respondent reported any contraceptive method as the first method used.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_TYPALLFM is highly comparable across surveys.

IFSS_TYPALLFM indicates if the respondent has a valid value in at least one of the IFSS_FM* variables. It is a variable meant for use in coding variables rather than substantive analysis. It has a value of 1 if the respondent reported any contraceptive method as the first method she used and a value of system missing for respondents who reported no method or were out of universe. Values of not ascertained, refused, and don't know are also possible for respondents who reported a first method but did not report what that method was.

In the 1982, 1988, 1995, and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents are directly asked about the first contraceptive method they ever used.

In all years, IFSS_TYPALLFM is not defined for women who had never used a contraceptive method. In the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, women who had never had sex, had had sex only once, or had not had sex since their first period are also excluded from the universe.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRSM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMPILL](#)
[IFSS_FMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_TYPALLM: Any mention of method used at last intercourse (statistical variable)

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTSX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_TYPALLM

Any mention of method used at last intercourse (statistical variable)

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1995 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables	Source Questions	
LSTMTHP14	EF-2	2002 NSFG
LSTMTHP13	EF-2	2002 NSFG
LSTMTHP12	EF-2	2002 NSFG
LSTMTHP11	EF-2	2002 NSFG
MTHLSTS4	EI-6	1995 NSFG
MTHLSTS3	EI-6	1995 NSFG
MTHLSTS2	EI-6	1995 NSFG
MTHLSTS1	EI-6	1995 NSFG
MTHLSTS0	EI-6	1995 NSFG
C_45	C-45	1988 NSFG

Description

IFSS_TYPALLLM is a variable for statistical use indicating whether the respondent reported any contraceptive method used the last time she had sex.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: There are differences in question universe across surveys.

IFSS_TYPALLLM indicates if the respondent has a valid value in at least one of the IFSS_LM* variables. It is a variable meant for use in coding variables rather than substantive analysis (IFSS_USELSTSX should be used for substantive analysis). IFSS_TYPALLLM has a value of 1 if the respondent reported any contraceptive method used the last time she had sex and a value of system missing for respondents who reported no method or were not included in the question universe. Values of not ascertained, refused, and don't know are also possible for respondents who reported a method but did not report what that method was.

Question wording is essentially the same across surveys: respondents were asked which method of birth control they used the last time they had intercourse and directed to choose that method from a list provided by the interviewer.

However, question universe varies substantially across surveys, and caution should be used in comparing responses.

In the 2002 NSFG, IFSS_TYPALLLM is defined if the respondent had sex at least once in the past 12 months and reported using a contraceptive method the last time she had sex.

The 1995 NSFG asked about method use at last sex only for respondents who reported having sex in the three months prior to the survey, who have ever used a contraceptive method, and who reported using a method in the past three months. However, respondents who used a method in the past three months, but only used coitus-independent methods (pill, Norplant, Depo-Provera, IUD, vasectomy/male sterilization) were not asked which method they used the last time they had sex and so are not included in the question universe. In addition, women who are sterile for surgical or other reasons are excluded from IFSS_TYPALLLM in 1995.

In the 1988 NSFG, the question universe excludes respondents who had not had sex since their first period, had only had sex once, had never used a method, or reported sterilization as their only current method.

See Also:

[IFSS_USELSTSX](#)
[IFSS_LMCERV](#)
[IFSS_LMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_LMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_LMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_LMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_LMIUD](#)
[IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_LMMORN](#)
[IFSS_LMMULT](#)
[IFSS_LMNORP](#)
[IFSS_LMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_LMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_LMPILL](#)

IFSS_LMRHYTHM
IFSS_LMSPONGE
IFSS_LMSTERILOP
IFSS_LMVASECT
IFSS_LMWITHDR

IFSS_USEFSTSX: R used any method at first sex?

Summary for Variable Group: Sexual history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's sexual experience including whether she has ever had sex (and if not, why not), century month of first sex, age at first sex, the age of her first sexual partner at first sex, her relationship to him, whether she is still having sex with him, the date she last had sex with him, whether she has had sex after her first period (menarche), and century month of and age at her first sex after menarche. It also includes information on the number of male sexual partners she has had in her lifetime, in the last 12 months, and prior to marriage. Additional variables capture her experience with sex education, including whether she ever talked with her parents about how pregnancy occurs, birth control, or sexually transmitted diseases, as well as whether (and in what grade) she received formal education on how pregnancy occurs, how to say no to sex, and STDs.

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_USEFSTSX

R used any method at first sex?

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1995 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)
[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[USEFSTSX](#)
[USEFRSTS](#)
[USEFSTSX](#)
[FIRSTIME](#)
[ATFIRST](#)
[ANYMTHD](#)
[C50](#)
[ANYMTHD](#)

Source Questions

Computed	2002 NSFG
EB-6	2002 NSFG
EB-6	1995 NSFG
EB-2	1995 NSFG
Computed	1995 NSFG
Recode	1988 NSFG
C-50	1982 NSFG
Recode	1982 NSFG

Description

For respondents who have ever had sex, IFSS_USEFSTSX reports whether they used a contraceptive method the first time they had sex.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_USEFSTSX is comparable across surveys. In some surveys the variable is taken directly from survey questions, while in other years it is a calculated variable.

In the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, respondents who had ever had sex and ever used a contraceptive method were asked "Did you use any birth control method the first time you had sex?" Values for IFSS_USEFSTSX were taken from responses to this question.

Question wording was identical in the 1995 NSFG. However, for respondents whose first sexual experience was involuntary and who had ever had voluntary sex, the question specifies method use at first voluntary sex. The question was asked for respondents who had ever had sex and ever used a contraceptive method and who reported that their first method use was before the first time they had sex. For respondents whose first method use was at or after the first time they had sex, IFSS_USEFSTSX is constructed based on a calculated variable present in the survey that combines responses to that question with responses to questions about the relative timing of first sex and first method use (see IFSS_FIRSTIME).

In the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, IFSS_USEFSTSX is coded based on a combination of directly ascertained information about timing of first use relative to first sex (see IFSS_FIRSTIME) and recode variables for ever-use that exist in the original data. The variables related to timing of first use are asked of all women who have had sex since their first period and who have ever used a method (or whose partners ever used a method). In 1988, the recode is applicable if the respondent has ever had intercourse since her first period. In 1982, the recode is applicable if the respondent has ever had intercourse. The harmonized variable is coded "Yes" if the respondent reports that her first method use was the first time she had intercourse. The harmonized variable is coded "No" if the respondent's first method use was after the first time she had intercourse or if the recodes indicate that she has never used a method. The original questions ask about methods used by "you or your partner"; reporting of methods used by men (condoms, vasectomy, withdrawal) may be more complete in these surveys than in the 1995 and 2002 NSFGs.

In some surveys, the original question universe excludes women who have never used a contraceptive method. The harmonized variable includes these women in the universe with the value "no"; that is, all women who have ever had sex (since their first period in some surveys) have a value for IFSS_USEFSTSX.

See Also:

[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_MTHFSTX1](#)
[IFSS_MTHFSTX2](#)
[IFSS_MTHFSTX3](#)
[IFSS_MTHFSTX4](#)
[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRSTM](#)

IFSS_HPPREGQ: Does H/P want R to get pregnant as soon as possible?

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTSX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Birth desires and intentions

This variable group describes the respondent's intended and expected number of additional children, how sure she is of the intended number, when she expects to have her next child, and whether she and her husband want to have additional children. It also includes information on the ideal number of children for the respondent personally as well as for the average American family. Retrospective reports of whether past pregnancies were intended are located in the pregnancy interval file.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_HPPREGQ

Does H/P want R to get pregnant as soon as possible?

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)

[1973 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[HPPREGQ](#)

[HPPREGQ](#)

[C_35](#)

[C41](#)

[D32](#)

[H_BC_ASAP](#)

Source Questions

EH-2

EH-2

C-35

C-41

M_D-32

77

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1982 NSFG

1976 NSFG: Couple File

1973 NSFG

Description

For respondents not currently using a method, IFSS_HPPREGQ describes whether the respondent's husband/partner wants her to become pregnant right away.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: In some surveys, both husbands and cohabiting partners are included in IFSS_HPPREGQ, while in other surveys the variable refers only to husbands. The question universe also varies somewhat. Otherwise, the variable is highly comparable across surveys.

Question wording is nearly identical across surveys. In the 1982, 1988, 1995, and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, the question is "And your partner, does he want you to become pregnant as soon as possible?" In these surveys, "partner" refers to any male sexual partner. In the 1973 and 1976 surveys, the wording is "Does your husband want you to have a(nother) baby as soon as possible?", and only married women are included in the question universe. For all surveys, possible responses are yes, no, don't know, and not ascertained.

This question is asked as part of a series of questions for women who are not currently using a contraceptive method. The wording and ordering of this series of questions varies across surveys, so the question universe for IFSS_HPPREGQ also varies.

In 1995 and 2002, IFSS_HPPREGQ is defined for women who are not using a contraceptive method, had sex at least once in the interview month, and are not sterile or currently pregnant.

In 1982 and 1988, women who are currently pregnant, sterile, or using a contraceptive method are excluded from the question universe. In addition, women who have never had intercourse, have not had sex since their first period, or are currently in a period of non-intercourse are not included in the universe.

The 1976 universe is limited to currently married women who intend more children, are not pregnant, are not currently using a contraceptive method, and are not sterile.

In the 1973 NSFG, only currently married women are included in the universe. Women who are sterile, using a contraceptive method, or pregnant are excluded, as are women who don't intend more children or are not sure whether they intend more children.

See Also:

[IFSS_RWANT](#)
[IFSS_PWANT](#)
[IFSS_INTEND](#)
[IFSS_CURRMETH1](#)

IFSS_USELSTSX: R used method at last sex?

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTSX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_USELSTSX

R used method at last sex?

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1995 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[USELSTP](#)
[USELSTSX](#)
[C 44](#)

Source Questions

EF-1	2002 NSFG
EI-5	1995 NSFG
C-44	1988 NSFG

Description

IFSS_USELSTSX describes whether the respondent used contraception the last time she had sex.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: There are differences in question universe across surveys.

Question wording is essentially the same across surveys: respondents were asked if they or their partner used any method of birth control the last time they had intercourse. However, question universe varies substantially across surveys, and caution should be used in comparing responses.

In the 2002 NSFG, IFSS_USELSTSX is defined if the respondent had sex at least once in the past 12 months and reported using a contraceptive method the last time she had sex. If the respondent had sex only once in the 12 months before the survey and that time was with her first sexual partner, IFSS_USELSTSX is not defined.

The 1995 NSFG asked about method use at last sex only for respondents who reported having sex in the three months prior to the survey, who had ever used a contraceptive method, and who reported using a method in the past three months. However, respondents who used a method in the past three months, but only used coitus-independent methods (pill, Norplant, Depo-Provera, IUD, vasectomy/male

sterilization) were not asked which method they used the last time they had sex and so are not included in the question universe. In addition, women who are sterile for surgical or other reasons are excluded from IFSS_TYPALLLM in 1995.

In the 1988 NSFG, the question universe excludes respondents who had not had sex since their first period, had only had sex once, had never used a method, or reported sterilization as their only current method.

See Also:

[IFSS_TYPALLLM](#)
[IFSS_LMCERV](#)
[IFSS_LMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_LMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_LMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_LMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_LMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_LMIUD](#)
[IFSS_LMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_LMMORN](#)
[IFSS_LMMULT](#)
[IFSS_LMNORP](#)
[IFSS_LMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_LMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_LMPILL](#)
[IFSS_LMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_LMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_LMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_LMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_LMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_VASECTMY: Ever used partner's vasectomy?

Summary for Variable Group: Sterilizing operations

This variable group provides information on each of five types of sterilizing operations: tubal ligation, hysterectomy, ovary removal (oophorectomy), other female sterilizing operations, and vasectomy. For each type of operation, variables include the date of operation, where it was performed, how it was paid for, and the reason(s) the respondent (or her husband) had the operation. Additional information is provided for tubal ligation and vasectomy reversals, as well as whether the respondent or her partner would like to have her/his operation reversed. The group also includes summary variables on the surgical sterility status of the respondent and her partner. For non-sterile respondents and partners, information is included on whether they will have a sterilizing operation in the future and whether the respondent would terminate future pregnancies.

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_VASECTMY

Description

IFSS_VASECTMY measures whether the respondent has ever used partner's sterilization as a contraceptive method.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: In some surveys, this measure is taken directly from questions about lifetime use. In other years, it is constructed based on contraceptive use histories. Finally, some surveys draw information from reports of sterilization history. In addition, in the 1973 National Survey of Family Growth, this variable only describes usage in the past three years.

The primary difference in this variable across survey years is whether IFSS_VASECTMY is derived from a direct question about lifetime use of contraception, constructed based on contraceptive use history, taken from reports of partner's sterilization, or some combination of information from different sources. In the National Surveys of Family Growth, partner's vasectomy is included as a method in questions about contraceptive use. IFSS_VASECTMY is based on a direct question about contraceptive methods in the 1995 and 2002 NSFGs, constructed based on contraceptive use history in the 1973 NSFG, and created using a combination of both questions in the 1976, 1982, and 1988 NSFGs. In the Growth of American Families surveys of 1955 and 1960 and the National Fertility Surveys of 1965 and 1970, vasectomy is not included as a contraceptive method, so IFSS_VASECTMY is coded based on questions about inability to conceive and surgical sterilization.

There is also some minor variation in question wording across surveys.

In all years, IFSS_VASECTMY exists for all women who were eligible to be asked about contraceptive use. In most surveys, this universe is defined as women who had ever had sex; for the GAF and NFS surveys and the 1973 and 1976 NSFGs, in which the sample is limited to married women or ever married women, virtually all women are included in this universe. There are some small variations in question universe across surveys.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, all respondents who had ever had sex were asked, "Have you ever had sex with a partner who had a vasectomy?"

For the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, the NSFG staff produced a recoded variable summarizing method use across the interval described by the method use calendar (see IFSS_CCMETH and related variables). IFSS_VASECTMY was created based on this variable where possible. However, the method use calendar only covers a limited time period (since January, 1979 for the 1982 NSFG; since January, 1984 for the 1988 NSFG). In addition to the calendar, respondents who had had sex at least once since they started menstruating were asked, "Have you or your partner ever used a method of birth control or family planning, even if it was only one time?" They were presented with a list of methods to refer to when they answered the question. Women who reported having ever used a method were then asked to circle all methods on the list that they had ever used. Women who reported partner's vasectomy in the method calendar or in the direct questions were coded as yes for IFSS_VASECTMY. Women who did not report it in any question were coded as no. Women who had not yet menstruated or had not had sex since their first menstruation are excluded from the question universe in addition to women who had never had sex.

The variable in the 1976 NSFG is structured roughly similarly to those in 1982 and 1988, except that there is no existing summary variable for the method use calendar, and the additional methods question does not include methods mentioned in the pregnancy interval file. Thus, IFSS created a summary variable reflecting whether the respondent reporting using partner's vasectomy, alone or in combination with another method, during any month covered by the method use calendar (since January, 1973). This is combined with variables measuring contraceptive use in the intervals between pregnancies and the open interval (the period since the respondent's last pregnancy or first sex). Respondents were also asked, "Have you or your husband ever used any (other) method to delay or prevent a pregnancy?" As in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, information from this question was used to supplement information from the method calendar and pregnancy interval file in constructing IFSS_VASECTMY.

The 1973 NSFG includes no summary questions on lifetime use of contraception. Information for IFSS_VASECTMY is derived from the contraceptive calendar and variables measuring use of contraception in the interval between pregnancies and the open interval (IFSS_VASECTINT). Both of these sources cover only the period since July, 1970. Thus, IFSS_VASECTMY may understate lifetime use of vasectomy in the 1973 NSFG. However, since vasectomy is a non-reversible method, most women whose partners had had a

vasectomy in the past would also report vasectomy in the past three years. Underreporting is most likely for women with previous sexual partners before the current marriage.

In the 1970 NFS, women were asked if they believed it was impossible or impossible for them to have (more) children. Women who said it was impossible were asked if they or their husband had had a sterilizing operation. Women who said that their husband had had a vasectomy or other sterilization operation were coded as "yes" for IFSS_VASECTMY. Some women reported multiple operations; because it was not possible to identify whether vasectomy was one of these operations, IFSS_VASECTMY was coded "no" for these women (a total of 57 cases). Women who reported that it was possible to have more children were coded as "no" for IFSS_VASECTMY. In the 1965 NFS, all women were asked if they or their husband had had "an operation that made it impossible to have any more children." Women who reported an operation were then asked what kind of operation it was. For women who had more than one operation, only the first operation was reported; thus, this question may undercount vasectomies. As in the 1970 survey, both vasectomy and other male operations were coded as "yes" for IFSS_VASECTMY. In both years, women who did not report an operation or who reported another operation were coded as "no."

The question structure in the 1960 Growth of American Families survey was similar to that in the 1970 NFS: women were first asked whether they could have (more) children and then, if they said no, asked about sterilizing operations. Both vasectomy and other male operations were included in IFSS_VASECTMY. In the 1955 GAF, women who reported difficulty having children were asked if they had been told by a doctor that they could not have children. Women who said yes were asked directly if they or their husband had had a sterilizing operation. Women who said no were not asked a direct question, but were asked about the reason for their difficulty, and sterilizing operations were a response category. The 1955 survey did not use the label "vasectomy," but instead the category "male sterilizing operation." In both GAF surveys, women who did not report a male sterilizing operation in any of these questions were coded "no" for IFSS_VASECTMY, as were women who reported that it would be possible for them to have more children.

See Also:

[IFSS_VASECTINT](#)
[IFSS_CERVLCAP](#)
[IFSS_CONDOM](#)
[IFSS_DIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FEMSTER](#)
[IFSS_FOAMALON](#)
[IFSS_INJECTABLES](#)
[IFSS_IUD](#)
[IFSS_JELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_MORNPILL](#)
[IFSS_NORPLANT](#)
[IFSS_OTHRMETH](#)
[IFSS_PATCH](#)
[IFSS_PILL](#)
[IFSS_RHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_TEMPSAFE](#)
[IFSS_TODAYSPG](#)
[IFSS_WIDRAWAL](#)
[IFSS_WOCONDOM](#)

IFSS_WIDRAWAL: Ever used withdrawal, pulling out?

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her

last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_WIDRAWAL

Ever used withdrawal, pulling out?

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1995 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)
[1982 NSFG](#)
[1976 NSFG: Interval File](#)
[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)
[1973 NSFG](#)
[1973 NSFG](#)
[1970 NFS](#)
[1965 NFS](#)
[1960 GAF](#)
[1955 GAF](#)

Source Variables

[WIDRAWAL](#)
[WIDRAWAL](#)
[C_39](#)
[CMETHP](#)
[C40P](#)
[MC_M](#)
[C47_3](#)
[C47_2](#)
[C47_1](#)
[C46](#)
[C34](#)
[C17_4](#)
[C17_3](#)
[C17_2](#)
[C17_1](#)
[C16](#)
[METH_173](#)
[C45_4](#)
[C45_3](#)
[C45_2](#)
[C45_1](#)
[C37_LM](#)
[C37_3](#)
[C37_2](#)
[C37_1](#)
[C36](#)
[PREG_MTHDUSE](#)
[PREG_4THMTHD](#)
[PREG_3RDMTHD](#)
[PREG_2NDMTHD](#)
[PREG_1STMTHD](#)
[PREG702_MTHDUSE](#)
[PREG702_MTHDINT4](#)
[PREG702_MTHDINT3](#)
[PREG702_2NDMTHD](#)
[PREG702_1STMTHD](#)

Source Questions

EA-4	2002 NSFG
EA-10	1995 NSFG
C-39	1988 NSFG
Computed	1988 NSFG
C-40	1988 NSFG
Computed	1982 NSFG
C-47	1982 NSFG
C-47	1982 NSFG
C-47	1982 NSFG
C-46	1982 NSFG
C-34	1982 NSFG
M_C-17	1976 NSFG: Interval File
M_C-17	1976 NSFG: Interval File
M_C-17	1976 NSFG: Interval File
M_C-17	1976 NSFG: Interval File
M_C-16	1976 NSFG: Interval File
Computed	1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-45	1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-37	1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-36	1976 NSFG: Couple File
50	1973 NSFG
51	1973 NSFG
51	1973 NSFG
51	1973 NSFG
51	1973 NSFG
37	1973 NSFG
38	1973 NSFG
38	1973 NSFG
38	1973 NSFG
38	1973 NSFG

PREG701_MTHDUSE	37	1973 NSFG
PREG701_MTHDINT4	38	1973 NSFG
PREG701_MTHDINT3	38	1973 NSFG
PREG701_2NDMTHD	38	1973 NSFG
PREG701_1STMTHD	38	1973 NSFG
BC_770	Computed	1973 NSFG
PREG4_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG3_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_6	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_5	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_4	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_3	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_2	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_1	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_6	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_5	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_4	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_3	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_2	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_1	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP	CM107/PM99	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH_3	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH_2	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH_1	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METHLAST	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH	CM136/PM113	1970 NFS
METH_EVERUSE	CM224	1970 NFS
FP_METHNOW_3	CM124	1970 NFS
FP_METHNOW_2	CM124	1970 NFS
FP_METHNOW_1	CM124	1970 NFS
PREG3_METH1_6	100	1965 NFS
PREG2_METH1_6	100	1965 NFS
PREG1_METH1_6	100	1965 NFS
PREG0_METH1_6	113	1965 NFS
METH_USE	65	1960 GAF
WITHDRAW_USE	44	1955 GAF

Description

IFSS_WIDRAWAL measures whether the respondent has ever used withdrawal.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: In some surveys, this measure is taken directly from questions about lifetime use. In other years, it is constructed based on contraceptive use histories. In addition, in the 1973 National Survey of Family Growth, this variable only describes usage in the past three years.

The primary difference in this variable across survey years is whether IFSS_WIDRAWAL is derived from a direct question about lifetime use, constructed based on contraceptive use history, or some combination of information from both sources. IFSS_WIDRAWAL is based on a direct question in the National Surveys of Family Growth in 1995 and 2002 and the Growth of American Families Surveys in 1955 and 1960, constructed based on contraceptive use history in the 1973 NSFG and the 1965 and 1970 National Fertility Surveys, and created using a combination of both questions in the 1976, 1982, and 1988 NSFGs. There is also some minor variation in question wording across surveys.

In all years, IFSS_WIDRAWAL exists for all women who were eligible to be asked about contraceptive use. In most surveys, this universe is defined as women who had ever had sex; for the GAF and NFS surveys and the 1973 and 1976 NSFGs, in which the sample is limited to married women or ever married women, virtually all women are included in this universe. There are some small variations in question universe across surveys.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, all respondents who had ever had sex were asked whether they had ever used withdrawal or "pulling out."

For the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, the NSFG staff produced a recoded variable summarizing method use across the interval described by the method use calendar (see IFSS_CCMETH and related variables). IFSS_WIDRAWAL was created based on this variable where possible. However, the method use calendar only covers a limited time period (since January, 1979 for the 1982 NSFG; since January, 1984 for the 1988 NSFG). In addition to the calendar, respondents who had had sex at least once since they started menstruating were asked, "Have you or your partner ever used a method of birth control or family planning, even if it was only one time?" They were presented with a list of methods to refer to when they answered the question. Women who reported having ever used a method were then asked to circle all methods on the list that they had ever used. Women who reported using withdrawal, either alone or in combination with another method, in the method calendar or in the direct questions are coded as yes for IFSS_WIDRAWAL. Women who did not report using withdrawal in any question are coded as no. Women who had not yet menstruated or had not had sex since their first menstruation are excluded from the question universe in addition to women who had never had sex.

The variable in the 1976 NSFG is structured roughly similarly to those in 1982 and 1988, except that there is no existing summary variable for the method use calendar, and the additional methods question does not include methods mentioned in the pregnancy interval file. Thus, IFSS created a summary variable reflecting whether the respondent reporting using withdrawal, alone or in combination with another method, during any month covered by the method use calendar (since January, 1973). This is combined with variables measuring contraceptive use in the intervals between pregnancies and the open interval (the period since the respondent's last pregnancy or first sex). Respondents were also asked, "Have you or your husband ever used any (other) method to delay or prevent a pregnancy?" As in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, information from this question is used to supplement information from the method calendar and pregnancy interval file in constructing IFSS_WIDRAWAL.

The 1973 NSFG includes no summary questions on lifetime use of contraception. Information for IFSS_WIDRAWAL is derived from the contraceptive calendar and variables measuring use of contraception in the intervals between pregnancies (IFSS_WITHINT). The 1973 NSFG contains information on contraceptive use in pregnancy intervals that ended since July, 1970 and the open interval, defined as the period since the respondent's last pregnancy, or July, 1970 if she has never been pregnant. For women whose last pregnancy was prior to 1970, the open interval extends back to that most recent pregnancy, but this is a small fraction of women. Thus, for most women, IFSS_WIDRAWAL covers only the period since July, 1970 and understates lifetime use of withdrawal; this error is likely greater for older women, for whom the period not covered by the contraceptive calendar represents a larger proportion of their lifespan.

In the National Fertility Surveys in 1965 and 1970, IFSS_WIDRAWAL is derived from questions about method use in each pregnancy interval. For each pregnancy, and for the open interval (time between the most recent pregnancy and the survey, or since first intercourse for respondents who had never been pregnant), respondents were asked to report all contraceptive methods used for any period of time (see IFSS_WITHINT and related interval variables for a full description of these measures).

The Growth of American Families surveys in 1955 and 1960 asked respondents about their lifetime use of contraception. In 1955, respondents were first asked "Now in your own case, have you or your husband ever done anything to limit the number of your children or to keep from having them at certain times?" Women who said yes were asked to list the methods they had used, referring to a provided list. In the 1960 survey, women were provided with a list of "methods some married couples use to avoid getting pregnant" and asked to identify which, if any, they had used. (Women were also asked to specify methods not listed.) The question indicated that it referred to methods used with a previous husband as well as the current husband. For both years, respondents who indicated that they had used withdrawal are coded yes for IFSS_WIDRAWAL and those who did not are coded no.

See Also:

[IFSS_WITHINT](#)
[IFSS_CERVLCAP](#)
[IFSS_CONDOM](#)
[IFSS_DIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FEMSTER](#)
[IFSS_FOAMALON](#)
[IFSS_INJECTABLES](#)
[IFSS_IUD](#)
[IFSS_JELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_MORNPILL](#)
[IFSS_NORPLANT](#)
[IFSS_OTHRMETH](#)

[IFSS_PATCH](#)
[IFSS_PILL](#)
[IFSS_RHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_TEMPSAFE](#)
[IFSS_TODAYSPG](#)
[IFSS_VASECTMY](#)
[IFSS_WOCONDOM](#)

IFSS_WOCONDOM: Ever used female condom, vaginal pouch?

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_WOCONDOM

Ever used female condom, vaginal pouch?

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[WOCONDOM](#)

[WOCONDOM](#)

Source Questions

EA-11

2002 NSFG

EA-11

1995 NSFG

Description

IFSS_WOCONDOM measures whether the respondent has ever used female condoms

General Comparability Notes

Summary: Question wording, structure, and universe are identical in the two surveys.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, all respondents who had ever had sex were asked whether they had ever used female condoms or vaginal pouches.

See Also:

[IFSS_CERVLCAP](#)

[IFSS_CONDOM](#)

[IFSS_DIAFRAGM](#)

[IFSS_FEMSTER](#)

[IFSS_FOAMALON](#)

[IFSS_INJECTABLES](#)

[IFSS_IUD](#)

[IFSS_JELCRMSUP](#)

[IFSS_MORNPILL](#)

[IFSS_NORPLANT](#)

[IFSS_OTHRMETH](#)

[IFSS_PATCH](#)
[IFSS_PILL](#)
[IFSS_RHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_TEMPSAFE](#)
[IFSS_TODAYSPG](#)
[IFSS_VASECTMY](#)
[IFSS_WIDRAWAL](#)

IFSS_INJECTABLES: Ever used Depo Provera or Lunelle?

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_INJECTABLES

Ever used Depo Provera or Lunelle?

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[LUNELLE](#)

[DEPOPROV](#)

[DEPOPROV](#)

Source Questions

EA-18

EA-5

EA-18

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

Description

IFSS_INJECTABLES measures whether the respondent has ever used injectable contraception, such as Depo-Provera or Lunelle.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: Question wording, structure, and universe are highly comparable in the two surveys.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, all respondents who had ever had sex were asked whether they had ever used Depo-Provera or injectables. The 2002 survey also asked a separate question about Lunelle, a once-a-month injectable method that did not exist in 1995. Use of Lunelle is combined with use of other injectables for IFSS_INJECTABLES.

See Also:

[IFSS_CERVLCAP](#)

[IFSS_CONDOM](#)

[IFSS_DIAFRAGM](#)

[IFSS_FEMSTER](#)

[IFSS_FOAMALON](#)

[IFSS_IUD](#)

[IFSS_JELCRMSUP](#)

[IFSS_MORNPILL](#)

IFSS_NORPLANT
IFSS_OTHRMETH
IFSS_PATCH
IFSS_PILL
IFSS_RHYTHM
IFSS_TEMPSAFE
IFSS_TODAYSPG
IFSS_VASECTMY
IFSS_WIDRAWAL
IFSS_WOCONDOM

IFSS_KNOWCOND: Does R know how condom, rubber is used to prevent pregnancy?

Summary for Variable Group: Method knowledge

These variables ascertain whether the respondent knows how various contraceptive methods (the Pill, condoms, vasectomy, female sterilization, withdrawal, the rhythm method, diaphragm, foam, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the IUD, and other methods) are used to prevent pregnancy.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_KNOWCOND

Does R know how condom, rubber is used to prevent pregnancy?

Availability

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)

Source Variables

[C1B](#)

[C1A](#)

[C1B](#)

[C1L](#)

Source Questions

C-1

C-1

C-1

M_C-1

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1982 NSFG

1976 NSFG: Couple File

Description

IFSS_KNOWCOND specifies whether the respondent knows how a condom (or rubber) is used to prevent pregnancy.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is highly comparable across all three surveys, with small differences in respondent universe in 1982 and in response format in 1988.

The respondent universe differs across time, with the 1982 survey being more restrictive than the 1988 and 1976 surveys. In the 1988 and 1976 National Surveys of Family Growth, this variable applies to all respondents. In the 1982 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who have menstruated and who report having had sexual intercourse. Because the universe restriction in 1982 is more likely to exclude respondents who are either younger in age (and thus earlier in their education) or less knowledgeable about sexual intercourse in general, this difference in respondent universe could result in more affirmative answers for the 1982 survey when compared to the 1988 and 1976 surveys. Otherwise, this difference is unlikely to substantively affect analysis.

The question wording is highly similar across all three surveys. In the 1988 NSFG, respondents were asked: "Another important part of women's health is the use of methods to plan the number of children one has and when they are born. [This card] lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. Do you know how [method] is used?" The card listed the following 16 methods: "Condom, rubber; Condom and foam, used together; Diaphragm with or without jelly or cream; Douching after intercourse; Foam; IUD, coil, loop; Jelly or cream alone; Pill; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test, natural family planning; Female sterilization operation, tubal ligation; Suppository, insert; Today(TM) sponge; Vasectomy, Male sterilization; Withdrawal, pulling out; Do you know of any other method? (If yes, please specify)." Responses to two of these methods--"Condom, rubber" and "Condom and foam, used together" are used to harmonize IFSS_KNOWCOND. The additional response option of "Condom and foam, used together" is unlikely to substantively affect analysis.

In the 1982 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. What about [this method]?" The card listed roughly the same options as in 1988, but without "Condom and foam, used together" and "Today(TM) sponge". The list also included the additional method "Abstinence, not having intercourse for a month or more." Responses to "Condom, rubber" are used here.

In the 1976 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that many people use to plan their families. Please follow the list with me; as I read each method will you tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'Yes' or 'No' answer." The card listed the following 16 methods: "Pill; Foam; Diaphragm; Jelly, cream, suppository; Diaphragm and jelly; Douche; IUD, coil, loop; Abortion; Operation: female sterilization; Operation: male sterilization; Condom, rubber; Rhythm or safe period by temperature; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Withdrawal or coitus interruptus; Abstinence (non-intercourse to avoid pregnancy); Do you know of other method? (If yes, specify)." Responses to "Condom, rubber" are used here.

The response format is highly comparable across all three surveys. Respondents could answer either "Yes" or "No." In the 1988 NSFG, a respondent who answered "Yes" to either one of the two methods is coded as "Yes" in the harmonized variable. "Refused" and "Not ascertained" responses are imputed and flagged accordingly.

See Also:

[IFSS_KNOWPILL](#)
[IFSS_KNOWVSC](#)
[IFSS_KNOWFSTER](#)
[IFSS_KNOWWTH](#)
[IFSS_KNOWRHY](#)
[IFSS_KNOWDIAF](#)
[IFSS_KNOWFOAM](#)
[IFSS_KNOWJEL](#)
[IFSS_KNOWIUD](#)
[IFSS_KNOWOTH](#)

IFSS_KNOWDIAF: Does R know how a diaphragm is used to prevent pregnancy?

Summary for Variable Group: Method knowledge

These variables ascertain whether the respondent knows how various contraceptive methods (the Pill, condoms, vasectomy, female sterilization, withdrawal, the rhythm method, diaphragm, foam, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the IUD, and other methods) are used to prevent pregnancy.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_KNOWDIAF

Does R know how a diaphragm is used to prevent pregnancy?

Availability

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)

Source Variables

[C1C](#)

[C1F](#)

[C1E](#)

[C1C](#)

Source Questions

C-1

1988 NSFG

C-1

1982 NSFG

M_C-1

1976 NSFG: Couple File

M_C-1

1976 NSFG: Couple File

Description

IFSS_KNOWDIAF specifies whether a respondent knows how a diaphragm is used to prevent pregnancy.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is highly comparable across all three surveys, with small differences in respondent universe in 1982.

The respondent universe differs across time, with the 1982 survey being more restrictive than the 1988 and 1976 surveys. In the 1988 and 1976 National Surveys of Family Growth, this variable applies to all respondents. In the 1982 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who have menstruated and who report having had sexual intercourse. Because the universe restriction in 1982 is more likely to exclude respondents who are either younger in age (and thus earlier in their education) or less knowledgeable about sexual intercourse in general, this difference in respondent universe could result in more affirmative answers for the 1982 survey when compared to the 1988 and 1976 surveys. Otherwise, this difference is unlikely to substantively affect analysis.

The question wording is highly similar across all three surveys. In the 1988 NSFG, respondents were asked: "Another important part of women's health is the use of methods to plan the number of children one has and when they are born. [This card] lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. Do you know how [method] is used?" The card listed the following 16 methods: "Condom, rubber; Condom and foam, used together; Diaphragm with or without jelly or cream; Douching after intercourse; Foam; IUD, coil, loop; Jelly or cream alone; Pill; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test, natural family planning; Female sterilization operation, tubal ligation; Suppository, insert; Today(TM) sponge; Vasectomy, Male sterilization; Withdrawal, pulling out; Do you know of any other method? (If yes, please specify)." Responses to "Diaphragm with or without jelly or cream" are used to harmonize IFSS_KNOWDIAF.

In the 1982 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. What about [this method]?" The card listed roughly the same options as in 1988, but without "Condom and foam, used together" and "Today(TM) sponge". The list also included the additional method "Abstinence, not having intercourse for a month or more." Responses to "Diaphragm with or without jelly or cream" are used here.

In the 1976 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that many people use to plan their families. Please follow the list with me; as I read each method will you tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'Yes' or 'No' answer." The card listed the following 16 methods: "Pill; Foam; Diaphragm; Jelly, cream, suppository; Diaphragm and jelly; Douche; IUD, coil, loop; Abortion; Operation: female sterilization; Operation: male sterilization; Condom, rubber; Rhythm or safe period by temperature; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Withdrawal or coitus interruptus; Abstinence (non-intercourse to avoid pregnancy); Do you know of other method? (If yes, specify)." Responses to two of these methods--"Diaphragm" and "Diaphragm and jelly"--are used here. It is unlikely that this slight change in question wording would substantively affect analysis.

The response format is highly comparable across all three surveys. Respondents could answer either "Yes" or "No." In the 1976 NSFG, a respondent who answered "Yes" to either one of the two methods is coded as "Yes" in the harmonized variable. "Refused" and "Not ascertained" responses are imputed and flagged accordingly.

See Also:

[IFSS_KNOWPILL](#)
[IFSS_KNOWCOND](#)
[IFSS_KNOWVSC](#)
[IFSS_KNOWFSTER](#)
[IFSS_KNOWWTH](#)
[IFSS_KNOWRHY](#)
[IFSS_KNOWFOAM](#)
[IFSS_KNOWJEL](#)
[IFSS_KNOWIUD](#)
[IFSS_KNOWOTH](#)

IFSS_KNOWFOAM: Does R know how foam is used to prevent pregnancy?

Summary for Variable Group: Method knowledge

These variables ascertain whether the respondent knows how various contraceptive methods (the Pill, condoms, vasectomy, female sterilization, withdrawal, the rhythm method, diaphragm, foam, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the IUD, and other methods) are used to prevent pregnancy.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_KNOWFOAM

Does R know how foam is used to prevent pregnancy?

Availability

[1988 NSFG](#)
[1982 NSFG](#)
[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)

Source Variables

[C1E](#)
[C1C](#)
[C1B](#)

Source Questions

C-1	1988 NSFG
C-1	1982 NSFG
M_C-1	1976 NSFG: Couple File

Description

IFSS_KNOWFOAM specifies whether respondent knows how foam is used to prevent pregnancy.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is largely comparable across all three surveys. There are small differences in respondent universe in 1982. In the 1988 NSFG, both foam alone and condoms and foam are included in the response.

The respondent universe differs across time, with the 1982 survey being more restrictive than the 1988 and 1976 surveys. In the 1988 and 1976 National Surveys of Family Growth, this variable applies to all respondents. In the 1982 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who have menstruated and who report having had sexual intercourse. Because the universe restriction in 1982 is more likely to exclude respondents who are either younger in age (and thus earlier in their education) or less knowledgeable about sexual intercourse in general, this difference in respondent universe could result in more affirmative answers for the 1982 survey when compared to the 1988 and 1976 surveys. Otherwise, this difference is unlikely to substantively affect analysis.

The question wording is highly similar across all three surveys. In the 1988 NSFG, respondents were asked: "Another important part of women's health is the use of methods to plan the number of children one has and when they are born. [This card] lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. Do you know how [method] is used?" The card listed the following 16 methods: "Condom, rubber; Condom and foam, used together; Diaphragm with or without jelly or cream; Douching after intercourse; Foam; IUD, coil, loop; Jelly or cream alone; Pill; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test, natural family planning; Female sterilization operation, tubal ligation; Suppository, insert; Today# sponge; Vasectomy, Male sterilization; Withdrawal, pulling out; Do you know of any other method? (If yes, please specify)." Responses to "Foam" and "Condom and foam, used together" are used to harmonize IFSS_KNOWFOAM. The additional response option of "Condom and foam, used together" may increase the number of respondents who report knowing the method if respondents who know how condoms are used respond affirmatively to this question without strong knowledge of contraceptive foam.

In the 1982 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. What about [this method]?" The card listed roughly the same options as in 1988, but without "Condom and foam, used together" and "Today(TM) sponge". The list also included the additional method "Abstinence, not having intercourse for a month or more." Responses to "Foam" are used here.

In the 1976 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that many people use to plan their families. Please follow the list with me; as I read each method will you tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'Yes' or 'No' answer." The card listed the following 16 methods: "Pill; Foam; Diaphragm; Jelly, cream, suppository; Diaphragm and jelly; Douche; IUD, coil, loop; Abortion; Operation: female sterilization; Operation: male sterilization; Condom, rubber; Rhythm or safe period by temperature; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Withdrawal or coitus interruptus; Abstinence (non-intercourse to avoid pregnancy); Do you know of other method? (If yes, specify)." Responses to "Foam" are used here.

The response format is highly comparable across all three surveys. Respondents could answer either "Yes" or "No." "Refused" and "Not ascertained" responses are imputed and flagged accordingly.

See Also:

[IFSS_KNOWPILL](#)
[IFSS_KNOWCOND](#)
[IFSS_KNOWVSCT](#)
[IFSS_KNOWFSTER](#)
[IFSS_KNOWWTH](#)
[IFSS_KNOWRHY](#)
[IFSS_KNOWDIAF](#)
[IFSS_KNOWJEL](#)
[IFSS_KNOWIUD](#)
[IFSS_KNOWOTH](#)

IFSS_KNOWFSTER: Does R know how female sterilization is used to prevent pregnancy?

Summary for Variable Group: Method knowledge

These variables ascertain whether the respondent knows how various contraceptive methods (the Pill, condoms, vasectomy, female sterilization, withdrawal, the rhythm method, diaphragm, foam, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the IUD, and other methods) are used to prevent pregnancy.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_KNOWFSTER

Does R know how female sterilization is used to prevent pregnancy?

Availability

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)

Source Variables

[C1K](#)

[C1I](#)

[C1J](#)

Source Questions

C-1

1988 NSFG

C-1

1982 NSFG

M_C-1

1976 NSFG: Couple File

Description

IFSS_KNOWFSTER specifies whether the respondent knows how a female sterilization operation is used to prevent pregnancy.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is highly comparable across all three surveys, with small differences in respondent universe in 1982.

The respondent universe differs across time, with the 1982 survey being more restrictive than the 1988 and 1976 surveys. In the 1988 and 1976 National Surveys of Family Growth, this variable applies to all respondents. In the 1982 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who have menstruated and who report having had sexual intercourse. Because the universe restriction in 1982 is more likely to exclude respondents who are either younger in age (and thus earlier in their education) or less knowledgeable about sexual intercourse in general, this difference in respondent universe could result in more affirmative answers for the 1982 survey when compared to the 1988 and 1976 surveys. Otherwise, this difference is unlikely to substantively affect analysis.

The question wording is highly similar across all three surveys. In the 1988 NSFG, respondents were asked: "Another important part of women's health is the use of methods to plan the number of children one has and when they are born. [This card] lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. Do you know how [method] is used?" The card listed the following 16 methods: "Condom, rubber; Condom and foam, used together; Diaphragm with or without jelly or cream; Douching after intercourse; Foam; IUD, coil, loop; Jelly or cream alone; Pill; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test, natural family planning; Female sterilization operation, tubal ligation; Suppository, insert; Today(TM) sponge; Vasectomy, Male sterilization; Withdrawal, pulling out; Do you know of any other method? (If yes, please specify)." Responses to "Female sterilization operation, tubal ligation" are harmonized in IFSS_KNOWFSTER.

In the 1982 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. What about [this method]?" The card listed roughly the same options as in 1988, but without "Condom and foam, used together" and "Today(TM) sponge". The list also included the additional method "Abstinence, not having intercourse for a month or more." Responses to "Operation - female sterilization" are used here.

In the 1976 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that many people use to plan their families. Please follow the list with me; as I read each method will you tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'Yes' or 'No' answer." The card listed the following 16 methods: "Pill; Foam; Diaphragm; Jelly, cream, suppository; Diaphragm and jelly; Douche; IUD, coil, loop; Abortion; Operation: female sterilization; Operation: male sterilization; Condom, rubber; Rhythm or safe period by temperature; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Withdrawal or coitus interruptus; Abstinence (non-intercourse to avoid pregnancy); Do you know of other method? (If yes, specify)." Responses to "Operation: female sterilization" are used here.

The response format is highly comparable across all three surveys. Respondents could answer either "Yes" or "No." "Refused" and "Not ascertained" responses are imputed and flagged accordingly.

See Also:

[IFSS_KNOWPILL](#)

[IFSS_KNOWCOND](#)

[IFSS_KNOWVSCT](#)

IFSS_KNOWWTH
IFSS_KNOWRHY
IFSS_KNOWDIAF
IFSS_KNOWFOAM
IFSS_KNOWJEL
IFSS_KNOWIUD
IFSS_KNOWOTH

IFSS_KNOWIUD: Does R know how IUD is used to prevent pregnancy?

Summary for Variable Group: Method knowledge

These variables ascertain whether the respondent knows how various contraceptive methods (the Pill, condoms, vasectomy, female sterilization, withdrawal, the rhythm method, diaphragm, foam, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the IUD, and other methods) are used to prevent pregnancy.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_KNOWIUD

Does R know how IUD is used to prevent pregnancy?

Availability

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)

Source Variables

[C1F](#)

[C1H](#)

[C1G](#)

Source Questions

C-1

C-1

M_C-1

1988 NSFG

1982 NSFG

1976 NSFG: Couple File

Description

IFSS_KNOWIUD specifies whether respondent knows how an IUD is used to prevent pregnancy.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is highly comparable across all three surveys, with small differences in respondent universe in 1982.

The respondent universe differs across time, with the 1982 survey being more restrictive than the 1988 and 1976 surveys. In the 1988 and 1976 National Surveys of Family Growth, this variable applies to all respondents. In the 1982 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who have menstruated and who report having had sexual intercourse. Because the universe restriction in 1982 is more likely to exclude respondents who are either younger in age (and thus earlier in their education) or less knowledgeable about sexual intercourse in general, this difference in respondent universe could result in more affirmative answers for the 1982 survey when compared to the 1988 and 1976 surveys. Otherwise, this difference is unlikely to substantively affect analysis.

The question wording is highly similar across all three surveys. In the 1988 NSFG, respondents were asked: "Another important part of women's health is the use of methods to plan the number of children one has and when they are born. [This card] lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. Do you know how [method] is used?" The card listed the following 16 methods: "Condom, rubber; Condom and foam, used together; Diaphragm with or without jelly or cream; Douching after intercourse; Foam; IUD, coil, loop; Jelly or cream alone; Pill; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test,

natural family planning; Female sterilization operation, tubal ligation; Suppository, insert; Today(TM) sponge; Vasectomy, Male sterilization; Withdrawal, pulling out; Do you know of any other method? (If yes, please specify)." Responses to "IUD, coil, loop" are harmonized in IFSS_KNOWIUD.

In the 1982 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. What about [this method]?" The card listed roughly the same options as in 1988, but without "Condom and foam, used together" and "Today(TM) sponge". The list also included the additional method "Abstinence, not having intercourse for a month or more." Responses to "IUD, coil, loop" are used here.

In the 1976 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that many people use to plan their families. Please follow the list with me; as I read each method will you tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'Yes' or 'No' answer." The card listed the following 16 methods: "Pill; Foam; Diaphragm; Jelly, cream, suppository; Diaphragm and jelly; Douche; IUD, coil, loop; Abortion; Operation: female sterilization; Operation: male sterilization; Condom, rubber; Rhythm or safe period by temperature; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Withdrawal or coitus interruptus; Abstinence (non-intercourse to avoid pregnancy); Do you know of other method? (If yes, specify)." Responses to "IUD, coil, loop" are used here.

The response format is highly comparable across all three surveys. Respondents could answer either "Yes" or "No." "Refused," "Don't know," and "Not ascertained" responses are imputed and flagged accordingly.

See Also:

[IFSS_KNOWPILL](#)
[IFSS_KNOWCOND](#)
[IFSS_KNOWVSCT](#)
[IFSS_KNOWFSTER](#)
[IFSS_KNOWWTH](#)
[IFSS_KNOWRHY](#)
[IFSS_KNOWDIAF](#)
[IFSS_KNOWFOAM](#)
[IFSS_KNOWJEL](#)
[IFSS_KNOWOTH](#)

IFSS_KNOWJEL: Does R know how jelly, cream, suppository are used to prevent pregnancy?

Summary for Variable Group: Method knowledge

These variables ascertain whether the respondent knows how various contraceptive methods (the Pill, condoms, vasectomy, female sterilization, withdrawal, the rhythm method, diaphragm, foam, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the IUD, and other methods) are used to prevent pregnancy.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_KNOWJEL

Does R know how jelly, cream, suppository are used to prevent pregnancy?

Availability

[1988 NSFG](#)
[1982 NSFG](#)
[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)

Source Variables

[C1L](#)
[C1G](#)

Source Questions

C-1 1988 NSFG
C-1 1988 NSFG

C1E	C-1	1982 NSFG
C1D	C-1	1982 NSFG
C1D	M_C-1	1976 NSFG: Couple File

Description

IFSS_KNOWJEL specifies whether respondent knows how jelly, cream, and/or suppositories are used to prevent pregnancy.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is highly comparable across all three surveys, with small differences in respondent universe in 1982.

The respondent universe differs across time, with the 1982 survey being more restrictive than the 1988 and 1976 surveys. In the 1988 and 1976 National Surveys of Family Growth, this variable applies to all respondents. In the 1982 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who have menstruated and who report having had sexual intercourse. Because the universe restriction in 1982 is more likely to exclude respondents who are either younger in age (and thus earlier in their education) or less knowledgeable about sexual intercourse in general, this difference in respondent universe could result in more affirmative answers for the 1982 survey when compared to the 1988 and 1976 surveys. Otherwise, this difference is unlikely to substantively affect analysis.

The question wording is highly similar across all three surveys. In the 1988 NSFG, respondents were asked: "Another important part of women's health is the use of methods to plan the number of children one has and when they are born. [This card] lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. Do you know how [method] is used?" The card listed the following 16 methods: "Condom, rubber; Condom and foam, used together; Diaphragm with or without jelly or cream; Douching after intercourse; Foam; IUD, coil, loop; Jelly or cream alone; Pill; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test, natural family planning; Female sterilization operation, tubal ligation; Suppository, insert; Today(TM) sponge; Vasectomy, Male sterilization; Withdrawal, pulling out; Do you know of any other method? (If yes, please specify)." Responses to two of these methods--"Jelly or cream alone" and "Suppository, insert"--are harmonized in IFSS_KNOWJEL. "Diaphragm with or without jelly or cream" is not included here because it does necessarily indicate knowledge of jelly or cream.

In the 1982 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. What about [this method]?" The card listed roughly the same options as in 1988, but without "Condom and foam, used together" and "Today(TM) sponge". The list also included the additional method "Abstinence, not having intercourse for a month or more." Responses to "Jelly or cream, alone" and "Suppository or insert" are harmonized here.

In the 1976 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that many people use to plan their families. Please follow the list with me; as I read each method will you tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'Yes' or 'No' answer." The card listed the following 16 methods: "Pill; Foam; Diaphragm; Jelly, cream, suppository; Diaphragm and jelly; Douche; IUD, coil, loop; Abortion; Operation: female sterilization; Operation: male sterilization; Condom, rubber; Rhythm or safe period by temperature; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Withdrawal or coitus interruptus; Abstinence (non-intercourse to avoid pregnancy); Do you know of other method? (If yes, specify)." Responses to "Jelly, cream, suppository" are harmonized here. The slight difference in question wording is unlikely to substantively affect analysis.

The response format is highly comparable across all three surveys. Respondents could answer either "Yes" or "No." In the 1988 NSFG and the 1982 NSFG, respondents who answered "Yes" to either of the two methods are coded as "Yes." "Refused" and "Not ascertained" responses are imputed and flagged accordingly.

See Also:

[IFSS_KNOWPILL](#)
[IFSS_KNOWCOND](#)
[IFSS_KNOWVSC](#)
[IFSS_KNOWFSTER](#)
[IFSS_KNOWWTH](#)
[IFSS_KNOWRHY](#)
[IFSS_KNOWDIAF](#)
[IFSS_KNOWFOAM](#)

IFSS_KNOWOTH: Does R know how to use other methods to prevent pregnancy?

Summary for Variable Group: Method knowledge

These variables ascertain whether the respondent knows how various contraceptive methods (the Pill, condoms, vasectomy, female sterilization, withdrawal, the rhythm method, diaphragm, foam, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the IUD, and other methods) are used to prevent pregnancy.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_KNOWOTH

Does R know how to use other methods to prevent pregnancy?

Availability

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)

Source Variables

[C1Q1](#)

[C1M](#)

[C1D](#)

[C1P](#)

[C1N](#)

[C1G](#)

[C1S](#)

[C1R](#)

[C1H](#)

[C1F](#)

Source Questions

C-1

1988 NSFG

C-1

1988 NSFG

C-1

1988 NSFG

C-1

1982 NSFG

C-1

1982 NSFG

C-1

1982 NSFG

M_C-1

1976 NSFG: Couple File

M_C-1

1976 NSFG: Couple File

M_C-1

1976 NSFG: Couple File

M_C-1

1976 NSFG: Couple File

Description

IFSS_KNOWOTH specifies whether respondent knows of how other methods (not listed elsewhere, including but not limited to douche and abstinence) are used to prevent pregnancy.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is largely comparable across all three surveys, with small differences in respondent universe in 1982. The methods included in "other methods" vary slightly across surveys.

The respondent universe differs across time, with the 1982 survey being more restrictive than the 1988 and 1976 surveys. In the 1988 and 1976 National Surveys of Family Growth, this variable applies to all respondents. In the 1982 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who have menstruated and who report having had sexual intercourse. Because the universe restriction in 1982 is more likely to exclude respondents who are either younger in age (and thus earlier in their education) or less knowledgeable about sexual intercourse in general, this difference in respondent universe could result in more affirmative answers for the 1982 survey when compared to the 1988 and 1976 surveys. Otherwise, this difference is unlikely to substantively affect analysis.

The question wording is largely similar across all three surveys, with some survey years being more specific than others. In the 1988 NSFG, respondents were asked: "Another important part of women's health is the

use of methods to plan the number of children one has and when they are born. [This card] lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. Do you know how [method] is used?" The card listed the following 16 methods: "Condom, rubber; Condom and foam, used together; Diaphragm with or without jelly or cream; Douching after intercourse; Foam; IUD, coil, loop; Jelly or cream alone; Pill; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test, natural family planning; Female sterilization operation, tubal ligation; Suppository, insert; Today(TM) sponge; Vasectomy, male sterilization; Withdrawal, pulling out; Do you know of any other method? (If yes, please specify)." Women who knew of another method were then asked to specify what method that was. Responses included "Cervical cap," "Abstinence," and "Other." Responses for three of these methods--"Douching after intercourse," "Today(TM) sponge," and any affirmative answer for "Do you know of any other method? (If yes, please specify)"--are harmonized in IFSS_KNOWOTH.

In the 1982 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. What about [this method]?" The card roughly the same options as in 1988, but without "Condom and foam, used together" and "Today(TM) sponge". The list also included the additional method "Abstinence, not having intercourse for a month or more." Responses for three of these methods--"Douching after intercourse," "Abstinence, not having intercourse for a month or more," and "Do you know of any other method? (If yes, specify)"--are harmonized here.

In the 1976 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that many people use to plan their families. Please follow the list with me; as I read each method will you tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'Yes' or 'No' answer." The card listed the following 16 methods: "Pill; Foam; Diaphragm; Jelly, cream, suppository; Diaphragm and jelly; Douche; IUD, coil, loop; Abortion; Operation: female sterilization; Operation: male sterilization; Condom, rubber; Rhythm or safe period by temperature; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Withdrawal or coitus interruptus; Abstinence (non-intercourse to avoid pregnancy); Do you know of other method? (If yes, specify)." Responses to four of these methods--"Douche," "Abortion," "Abstinence (non-intercourse to avoid pregnancy)," "Do you know of other method? (If yes, specify)"--are harmonized here.

The response format is highly comparable across all three surveys. Respondents could answer either "Yes" or "No." Though it is not harmonized here, C1Q2 in 1988 provides additional information about which other method the respondent knows. Across all three surveys, a respondent who answered "Yes" to any of the counted options is coded as "Yes" in the harmonized variable. "Refused," "Don't know," and "Not ascertained" responses are imputed and flagged accordingly.

See Also:

[IFSS_KNOWPILL](#)
[IFSS_KNOWCOND](#)
[IFSS_KNOWVSCT](#)
[IFSS_KNOWFSTER](#)
[IFSS_KNOWWTH](#)
[IFSS_KNOWRHY](#)
[IFSS_KNOWDIAF](#)
[IFSS_KNOWFOAM](#)
[IFSS_KNOWJEL](#)
[IFSS_KNOWIUD](#)

IFSS_KNOWPILL: Does R know how a pill is used to prevent pregnancy?

Summary for Variable Group: Method knowledge

These variables ascertain whether the respondent knows how various contraceptive methods (the Pill, condoms, vasectomy, female sterilization, withdrawal, the rhythm method, diaphragm, foam, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the IUD, and other methods) are used to prevent pregnancy.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes

information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_KNOWPILL

Does R know how a pill is used to prevent pregnancy?

Availability

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)

Source Variables

[C1H](#)

[C1A](#)

[C1A](#)

Source Questions

C-1

1988 NSFG

C-1

1982 NSFG

M_C-1

1976 NSFG: Couple File

Description

IFSS_KNOWPILL specifies whether the respondent knows how the birth control pill is used to prevent pregnancy.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is highly comparable across all three surveys, with small differences in respondent universe in 1982.

The respondent universe differs across time, with the 1982 survey being more restrictive than the 1988 and 1976 surveys. In the 1988 and 1976 National Surveys of Family Growth, this variable applies to all respondents. In the 1982 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who have menstruated and who report having had sexual intercourse. Because the universe restriction in 1982 is more likely to exclude respondents who are either younger in age (and thus earlier in their education) or less knowledgeable about sexual intercourse in general, this difference in respondent universe could result in more affirmative answers for the 1982 survey when compared to the 1988 and 1976 surveys. Otherwise, this difference is unlikely to substantively affect analysis.

The question wording is highly similar across all three surveys. In the 1988 NSFG, respondents were asked: "Another important part of women's health is the use of methods to plan the number of children one has and when they are born. [This card] lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. Do you know how [method] is used?" The card listed the following 16 methods: "Condom, rubber; Condom and foam, used together; Diaphragm with or without jelly or cream; Douching after intercourse; Foam; IUD, coil, loop; Jelly or cream alone; Pill; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test, natural family planning; Female sterilization operation, tubal ligation; Suppository, insert; Today(TM) sponge; Vasectomy, Male sterilization; Withdrawal, pulling out; Do you know of any other method? (If yes, please specify)." Responses to "Pill" are harmonized in IFSS_KNOWPILL.

In the 1982 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. What about [this method]?" The card listed roughly the same options as in 1988, but without "Condom and foam, used together" and "Today(TM) sponge". The list also included the additional method "Abstinence, not having intercourse for a month or more." Again, responses to "Pill" are harmonized here.

In the 1976 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that many people use to plan their families. Please follow the list with me; as I read each method will you tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'Yes' or 'No' answer." The card listed the following 16 methods: "Pill; Foam; Diaphragm; Jelly, cream, suppository; Diaphragm and jelly; Douche; IUD, coil, loop; Abortion; Operation: female sterilization; Operation: male sterilization; Condom, rubber; Rhythm or safe period by temperature; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Withdrawal or coitus interruptus; Abstinence (non-intercourse to avoid pregnancy); Do you know of other method? (If yes, specify)." Responses to "Pill" are harmonized here.

The response format is highly comparable across all three surveys. Respondents could answer either "Yes" or "No." "Refused" and "Not ascertained" responses are imputed and flagged appropriately.

See Also:

[IFSS_KNOWCOND](#)
[IFSS_KNOWVSCT](#)
[IFSS_KNOWFSTER](#)
[IFSS_KNOWWTH](#)
[IFSS_KNOWRHY](#)
[IFSS_KNOWDIAF](#)
[IFSS_KNOWFOAM](#)
[IFSS_KNOWJEL](#)
[IFSS_KNOWIUD](#)
[IFSS_KNOWOTH](#)

IFSS_KNOWRHY: Does R know how rhythm is used to prevent pregnancy?

Summary for Variable Group: Method knowledge

These variables ascertain whether the respondent knows how various contraceptive methods (the Pill, condoms, vasectomy, female sterilization, withdrawal, the rhythm method, diaphragm, foam, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the IUD, and other methods) are used to prevent pregnancy.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_KNOWRHY

Does R know how rhythm is used to prevent pregnancy?

Availability

[1988 NSFG](#)
[1982 NSFG](#)
[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)

Source Variables

[C1J](#)
[C1I](#)
[C1L](#)
[C1K](#)
[C1N](#)
[C1M](#)

Source Questions

C-1	1988 NSFG
C-1	1988 NSFG
C-1	1982 NSFG
C-1	1982 NSFG
M_C-1	1976 NSFG: Couple File
M_C-1	1976 NSFG: Couple File

Description

IFSS_KNOWRHY specifies whether the respondent knows how the rhythm method, safe period by calendar or temperature, and/or natural family planning are used to prevent pregnancy.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is highly comparable across all three surveys, with small differences in respondent universe in 1982.

The respondent universe differs across time, with the 1982 survey being more restrictive than the 1988 and 1976 surveys. In the 1988 and 1976 National Surveys of Family Growth, this variable applies to all respondents. In the 1982 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who have menstruated and who report having had sexual intercourse. Because the universe restriction in 1982 is more likely to exclude respondents who are either younger in age (and thus earlier in their education) or less knowledgeable about

sexual intercourse in general, this difference in respondent universe could result in more affirmative answers for the 1982 survey when compared to the 1988 and 1976 surveys. Otherwise, this difference is unlikely to substantively affect analysis.

The question wording is highly similar across all three surveys. In the 1988 NSFG, respondents were asked: "Another important part of women's health is the use of methods to plan the number of children one has and when they are born. [This card] lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. Do you know how [method] is used?" The card listed the following 16 methods: "Condom, rubber; Condom and foam, used together; Diaphragm with or without jelly or cream; Douching after intercourse; Foam; IUD, coil, loop; Jelly or cream alone; Pill; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test, natural family planning; Female sterilization operation, tubal ligation; Suppository, insert; Today# sponge; Vasectomy, Male sterilization; Withdrawal, pulling out; Do you know of any other method? (If yes, please specify)." The responses to two of these methods--"Rhythm or safe period by calendar" and "Safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test, natural family planning"--are used to harmonize IFSS_KNOWRHY.

In the 1982 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. What about [this method]?" The card listed roughly the same options as in 1988, but without "Condom and foam, used together," and "Today(TM) sponge". The list also included the additional method "Abstinence, not having intercourse for a month or more." Responses to two of these methods--"Natural family planning, safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test" and "Rhythm or safe period by calendar"--are used to harmonize IFSS_KNOWRHY.

In the 1976 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that many people use to plan their families. Please follow the list with me; as I read each method will you tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'Yes' or 'No' answer." The card listed the following 16 methods: "Pill; Foam; Diaphragm; Jelly, cream, suppository; Diaphragm and jelly; Douche; IUD, coil, loop; Abortion; Operation: female sterilization; Operation: male sterilization; Condom, rubber; Rhythm or safe period by temperature; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Withdrawal or coitus interruptus; Abstinence (non-intercourse to avoid pregnancy); Do you know of other method? (If yes, specify)." Responses to two of these methods--"Rhythm or safe period by temperature" and "Rhythm or safe period by calendar"--are used here.

The response format is highly comparable across all three surveys. Respondents could answer either "Yes" or "No.". Across all three surveys, a respondent who answered "Yes" to either one of the two methods is coded as "Yes" in the harmonized variable. "Refused," "Don't know," and "Not ascertained" responses are imputed and flagged accordingly.

See Also:

[IFSS_KNOWPILL](#)
[IFSS_KNOWCOND](#)
[IFSS_KNOWVSCT](#)
[IFSS_KNOWFSTER](#)
[IFSS_KNOWWTH](#)
[IFSS_KNOWDIAF](#)
[IFSS_KNOWFOAM](#)
[IFSS_KNOWJEL](#)
[IFSS_KNOWIUD](#)
[IFSS_KNOWOTH](#)

IFSS_KNOWVSCT: Does R know how vasectomy is used to prevent pregnancy?

Summary for Variable Group: Method knowledge

These variables ascertain whether the respondent knows how various contraceptive methods (the Pill, condoms, vasectomy, female sterilization, withdrawal, the rhythm method, diaphragm, foam, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the IUD, and other methods) are used to prevent pregnancy.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes

information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_KNOWVSCT

Does R know how vasectomy is used to prevent pregnancy?

Availability

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)

Source Variables

[C1N](#)

[C1J](#)

[C1K](#)

Source Questions

C-1

1988 NSFG

C-1

1982 NSFG

M_C-1

1976 NSFG: Couple File

Description

IFSS_KNOWVSCT specifies whether the respondent knows how a vasectomy or male sterilization operation is used to prevent pregnancy.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is highly comparable across all three surveys, with small differences in respondent universe in 1982.

The respondent universe differs across time, with the 1982 survey being more restrictive than the 1988 and 1976 surveys. In the 1988 and 1976 National Surveys of Family Growth, this variable applies to all respondents. In the 1982 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who have menstruated and who report having had sexual intercourse. Because the universe restriction in 1982 is more likely to exclude respondents who are either younger in age (and thus earlier in their education) or less knowledgeable about sexual intercourse in general, this difference in respondent universe could result in more affirmative answers for the 1982 survey when compared to the 1988 and 1976 surveys. Otherwise, this difference is unlikely to substantively affect analysis.

The question wording is highly similar across all three surveys. In the 1988 NSFG, respondents were asked: "Another important part of women's health is the use of methods to plan the number of children one has and when they are born. [This card] lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. Do you know how [method] is used?" The card listed the following 16 methods: "Condom, rubber; Condom and foam, used together; Diaphragm with or without jelly or cream; Douching after intercourse; Foam; IUD, coil, loop; Jelly or cream alone; Pill; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test, natural family planning; Female sterilization operation, tubal ligation; Suppository, insert; Today(TM) sponge; Vasectomy, Male sterilization; Withdrawal, pulling out; Do you know of any other method? (If yes, please specify)." The response to "Vasectomy, Male sterilization" is used to harmonize IFSS_KNOWVSCT.

In the 1982 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. What about [this method]?" The card listed roughly the same options as in 1988, but without "Condom and foam, used together" and "Today(TM) sponge". The list also included the additional method "Abstinence, not having intercourse for a month or more." The response to "Operation - male sterilization" is used here.

In the 1976 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that many people use to plan their families. Please follow the list with me; as I read each method will you tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'Yes' or 'No' answer." The card listed the following 16 methods: "Pill; Foam; Diaphragm; Jelly, cream, suppository; Diaphragm and jelly; Douche; IUD, coil, loop; Abortion; Operation: female sterilization; Operation: male sterilization; Condom, rubber; Rhythm or safe period by temperature; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Withdrawal or coitus interruptus; Abstinence (non-intercourse to avoid pregnancy); Do you know of other method? (If yes, specify)." The response to "Operation: male sterilization" is used here.

The response format is highly comparable across all three surveys. Respondents could answer either "Yes" or "No.". "Refused" and "Not ascertained" responses are imputed and flagged accordingly.

See Also:

[IFSS_KNOWPILL](#)
[IFSS_KNOWCOND](#)
[IFSS_KNOWFSTER](#)
[IFSS_KNOWWTH](#)
[IFSS_KNOWRHY](#)
[IFSS_KNOWDIAF](#)
[IFSS_KNOWFOAM](#)
[IFSS_KNOWJEL](#)
[IFSS_KNOWIUD](#)
[IFSS_KNOWOTH](#)

IFSS_KNOWWTH: Does R know how withdrawal is used to prevent pregnancy?

Summary for Variable Group: Method knowledge

These variables ascertain whether the respondent knows how various contraceptive methods (the Pill, condoms, vasectomy, female sterilization, withdrawal, the rhythm method, diaphragm, foam, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the IUD, and other methods) are used to prevent pregnancy.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_KNOWWTH

Does R know how withdrawal is used to prevent pregnancy?

Availability

[1988 NSFG](#)
[1982 NSFG](#)
[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)

Source Variables

[C1P](#)
[C1M](#)
[C1P](#)

Source Questions

C-1	1988 NSFG
C-1	1982 NSFG
M_C-1	1976 NSFG: Couple File

Description

IFSS_KNOWWTH specifies whether respondent knows how withdrawal, pulling out, or coitus interruptus is used to prevent pregnancy.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is highly comparable across all three surveys, with small differences in respondent universe in 1982.

The respondent universe differs across time, with the 1982 survey being more restrictive than the 1988 and 1976 surveys. In the 1988 and 1976 National Surveys of Family Growth, this variable applies to all respondents. In the 1982 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who have menstruated and who report having had sexual intercourse. Because the universe restriction in 1982 is more likely to exclude respondents who are either younger in age (and thus earlier in their education) or less knowledgeable about sexual intercourse in general, this difference in respondent universe could result in more affirmative answers for the 1982 survey when compared to the 1988 and 1976 surveys. Otherwise, this difference is unlikely to substantively affect analysis.

The question wording is highly similar across all three surveys. In the 1988 NSFG, respondents were asked: "Another important part of women's health is the use of methods to plan the number of children one has and when they are born. [This card] lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. Do you know how [method] is used?" The card listed the following 16 methods: "Condom, rubber; Condom and foam, used together; Diaphragm with or without jelly or cream; Douching after intercourse; Foam; IUD, coil, loop; Jelly or cream alone; Pill; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test, natural family planning; Female sterilization operation, tubal ligation; Suppository, insert; Today(TM) sponge; Vasectomy, Male sterilization; Withdrawal, pulling out; Do you know of any other method? (If yes, please specify)." The response to "Withdrawal, pulling out" is used to harmonize IFSS_KNOWWTH.

In the 1982 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that some people use for birth control and family planning. As I read each one, please tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'yes' or 'no' answer. What about [this method]?" The card listed roughly the same options as in 1988, but without "Condom and foam, used together" and "Today(TM) sponge". The list also included the additional method "Abstinence, not having intercourse for a month or more." Responses to "Withdrawal/pulling out" are used here.

In the 1976 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This card lists methods that many people use to plan their families. Please follow the list with me; as I read each method will you tell me if you know how it is used. Just give me a 'Yes' or 'No' answer." The card listed the following 16 methods: "Pill; Foam; Diaphragm; Jelly, cream, suppository; Diaphragm and jelly; Douche; IUD, coil, loop; Abortion; Operation: female sterilization; Operation: male sterilization; Condom, rubber; Rhythm or safe period by temperature; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Withdrawal or coitus interruptus; Abstinence (non-intercourse to avoid pregnancy); Do you know of other method? (If yes, specify)." Responses to "Withdrawal or coitus interruptus" are used here.

The response format is highly comparable across all three surveys. Respondents could answer "Yes" or "No," which are coded as is. "Refused" and "Not ascertained" responses are imputed and flagged accordingly.

See Also:

[IFSS_KNOWPILL](#)
[IFSS_KNOWCOND](#)
[IFSS_KNOWVSCT](#)
[IFSS_KNOWFSTER](#)
[IFSS_KNOWRHY](#)
[IFSS_KNOWDIAF](#)
[IFSS_KNOWFOAM](#)
[IFSS_KNOWJEL](#)
[IFSS_KNOWIUD](#)
[IFSS_KNOWOTH](#)

IFSS_CMFIRSM: CM date of first birth control method use

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_CMFIRSM

CM date of first birth control method use

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[CMFIRSM](#)

[WNVOLSEX](#)

[WNFSTUSE](#)

[WNFSTSEX](#)

[FIRSTIME](#)

[DATFIRSM](#)

[C_9](#)

[C_6](#)

[C_43](#)

[C43B](#)

[C43A](#)

Source Questions

Computed

CH-9

EB-3

CH-1

EB-2

Computed

C-9

C-6

C-43

C-43b

C-43a

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

Description

IFSS_CMFIRSM records the date that R first used a contraceptive method, for any reason, in century-month form.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_CMFIRSM is largely comparable across surveys. In the 2002 NSFG, it is defined based on a direct question for all women, while in the other years it is calculated based on the date of first sex for some women.

In the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, all respondents who had ever used a contraceptive method were asked to report the month and year they first used a method. This information was recorded in century-month format in IFSS_CMFIRSM.

A similar question was asked in the 1995 NSFG, but respondents whose first method use was the first time they had sex were not asked the question. For those respondents, the timing of first method use was calculated from questions about when they first had sex and whether their first method use was at first sex. The 1995 NSFG included a calculated variable that was constructed by the NSFG staff to incorporate both the direct question and the calculated question; IFSS used this calculated variable to create the harmonized value for IFSS_CMFIRSM.

In the 1988 NSFG, like the 1995 NSFG, timing of first method use is calculated differently for respondents whose first use was at the time of first sex. All respondents were first asked about whether their first use of a contraceptive method was before the first time they had sex, at the same time, or after their first sex. For respondents whose method use was at first sex, IFSS_CMFIRSM is calculated based on the month and year respondents reported that they first had sex. Respondents whose first method use was not at first sex were then asked to report the month and year they first used a method; this date is used to calculate IFSS_CMFIRSM. Some women did not know the exact month, but reported the season they first used a method. To create IFSS_CMFIRSM for these women, a random month was imputed within the three-month window implied by the season (Dec/Jan/Feb for winter, Mar/Apr/May for spring, Jun/Jul/Aug for summer, and Sept/Oct/Nov for fall). Women who did not know the month and year they first used a method were asked how old they were when they first used a method. Age was used to estimate IFSS_CMFIRSM by adding 12 times the reported age to the respondent's century month of birth and then adding a random number between 1 and 12 to impute a random month within the implied year. Both women who reported the season instead of the month and women who reported age instead of date are flagged in the imputation flag.

IFSS_CMFIRSM is defined for all women who have ever used a contraceptive method for any reason. IFSS_CMFIRSM takes on values of not ascertained, refused, or don't know for women who cannot report the date of first method use and for women who report first method use at first sex but cannot report the date of first sex. Not ascertained, refused and don't know responses are imputed and flagged accordingly.

Separate variables exist for age at first method use (IFSS_AGEFSTUS) and date of first method use (IFSS_CMFIRSM). Respondents were asked for this information separately in the 1995 and 2002 NSFGs, and responses may not be consistent.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMPILL](#)
[IFSS_FMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_CERVLCAP: Ever used cervical cap?

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_CERVLCAP

Ever used cervical cap?

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[CERVLCAP](#)

[CERVLCAP](#)

Source Questions

EA-14

EA-14

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

Description

IFSS_CERVLAP measures whether the respondent has ever used a cervical cap.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: Question wording, structure, and universe are identical in the two surveys.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, all respondents who had ever had sex were asked whether they had ever used a cervical cap.

See Also:

[IFSS_CONDOM](#)
[IFSS_DIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FEMSTER](#)
[IFSS_FOAMALON](#)
[IFSS_INJECTABLES](#)
[IFSS_IUD](#)
[IFSS_JELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_MORNPILL](#)
[IFSS_NORPLANT](#)
[IFSS_OTHRMETH](#)
[IFSS_PATCH](#)
[IFSS_PILL](#)
[IFSS_RHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_TEMPSAFE](#)
[IFSS_TODAYSPG](#)
[IFSS_VASECTMY](#)
[IFSS_WIDRAWAL](#)
[IFSS_WOCONDOM](#)

IFSS_FREQSEX: Frequency of intercourse in last 4 weeks

Summary for Variable Group: Sexual history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's sexual experience including whether she has ever had sex (and if not, why not), century month of first sex, age at first sex, the age of her first sexual partner at first sex, her relationship to him, whether she is still having sex with him, the date she last had sex with him, whether she has had sex after her first period (menarche), and century month of and age at her first sex after menarche. It also includes information on the number of male sexual partners she has had in her lifetime, in the last 12 months, and prior to marriage. Additional variables capture her experience with sex education, including whether she ever talked with her parents about how pregnancy occurs, birth control, or sexually transmitted diseases, as well as whether (and in what grade) she received formal education on how pregnancy occurs, how to say no to sex, and STDs.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FREQSEX

Frequency of intercourse in last 4 weeks

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1995 NSFG](#)
[1982 NSFG](#)
[1970 NFS](#)
[1965 NFS](#)

Source Variables

[PST4WKSX](#)
[FREQSEX](#)
[C43](#)
[PREG0_COITFR](#)
[PREG0_COITFR](#)

Source Questions

EL-1	2002 NSFG
EI-1	1995 NSFG
C-43	1982 NSFG
CM241	1970 NFS
109	1965 NFS

Description

IFSS_FREQSEX specifies approximately how often the respondent has had sexual intercourse with a male partner in the previous month.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is comparable across all five surveys for purposes of determining average but not exact frequency of sexual intercourse. There are significant differences in the respondent universe and in the question wording, particularly whether respondent was asked to specify the number of instances of sexual intercourse during the last four weeks or the frequency of sexual intercourse during the last three months.

There are significant differences in the respondent universe across all five surveys. In the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, this variable applies to respondents who reported having sexual intercourse in the previous 12 months. In the 1995 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who reported having sexual intercourse in the previous 3 months. In the 1982 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who reported having sexual intercourse at least twice in their lifetime and at least once since menarche. In the 1970 National Fertility Survey, this variable applies to respondents who are currently married. In the 1965 NFS, this variable applies to all respondents. It is possible that the significant differences in respondent universe could substantively affect analysis.

The question wording differs across all five surveys. These five surveys inquired about the frequency of sexual intercourse over varying lengths of time, with three surveys asking respondents to specify precisely how many times they had sexual intercourse over the previous four weeks and two surveys asking respondents to select an answer from a list of possible responses concerning how many times they had sexual intercourse over the previous three months. In the 2002 NSFG, respondents were asked: "How many times have you had sexual intercourse with a male in the last four weeks?" In the 1970 NFS and the 1965 NFS, respondents were asked: "In the past four weeks, how many times have you had intercourse?" Respondents across these three surveys had the option of specifying a number, answering that they did not know, or not answering the question. Notably, the 2002 NSFG is unique in specifying sexual intercourse with a male. It is therefore possible, though unlikely, that the other four surveys overstate the incidence of heterosexual intercourse in the previous month.

The 1995 and 1982 surveys asked respondents to select an answer from a list of possible responses concerning how many times they had sexual intercourse over the previous three months. In the 1995 NSFG, respondents were asked: "In the last three months, that is, during [the month before the survey and the two months prior to that,] how frequently did you have intercourse?" Respondents for the 1995 NSFG had the option of selecting one of the following answers: "Once a month or less," "Two or three times a month," "Once a week," "Two or three times a week," or "Four or more times a week." In the 1982 NSFG, respondents were asked: "In the last three months (in which you were having intercourse), how frequently did you have intercourse? Just tell me the letter [response] that is closest to your answer" Respondents for the 1982 NSFG had the option of selecting one of the following letter responses: "Once a month or less," "Two or three times a month," "Once a week," "Several times a week," or "Almost every day or every day." It should be noted that both surveys ask about the three months prior to the month in which the survey took place; for instance, respondents taking the survey in October would be reporting their sexual activity in September, August, and July. It is possible that this might influence some answers, though the direction of any effect is ambiguous. Moreover, because the 1982 NSFG asks respondents during "the last three months in which [they] were having intercourse" as opposed to simply the "last three months," the 1982 NSFG may overstate the frequency of sexual intercourse.

There are significant response format differences across the five surveys. Much of the disparity can be attributed to the differences in question wording, as three surveys asked respondents to specify a number and two surveys asked respondents to select an answer from a list. In the 2002 NSFG, the 1970 NFS, and the 1960 NFS, responses of 0 and 1 are coded as "Once a month or less," responses of 2 and 3 are coded as "Two or three times a month," responses of 4, 5, and 6 are coded as "Once a week," responses between 7 and 15 are coded as "Two or three times a week," and responses greater than 15 are coded as "Four times or more a week." This crosswalk between numerical responses in these three surveys and

frequency responses in the harmonized variable may substantively affect analysis in some cases because it assumes that instances of intercourse are evenly spaced throughout the interval, which may not be the case. Individuals with short, intense spurts of sexual activity are likely to be misclassified in this variable.

The crosswalk between the harmonized variable and the 1995 and 1982 NSFGs, which asked respondents to select a frequency level over the past three months from a list of possible responses, also requires some averaging to control for respondent's frequency of sexual intercourse over the previous month. In both the 1995 NSFG and the 1982 NSFG, responses of "Once a month or less," "Two or three times a month," and "Once a week" have been coded in the harmonized variable accordingly. In the 1995 NSFG, responses of "Two or three times a week" and "Four or more times a week" have also been coded in the harmonized variable accordingly. By contrast, in the 1982 NSFG, responses of "Several times a week" have been coded as "Two or three times a week" in the harmonized variable, and responses of "Almost every day or every day" have been coded as "Four or more times a week" in the harmonized variable. This crosswalk between frequency responses of the 1982 NSFG and frequency responses in the harmonized variable may substantively affect analysis in some cases because the response likely represents more of an average of the respondent's sexual activity rather than an exact number. In particular, over a compressed time frame in 1995 and 1982, responses may no longer be accurate for any particular individual (depending on her pattern of sexual activity within the three-month interval) but should still be accurate in the aggregate. Users should therefore exercise care when using this variable to represent sexual activity over the last month in 1982 and 1995.

"Not ascertained," "Refused," and "Don't know" responses are flagged appropriately in IFSS_FREQSEX_I and imputed.

See Also:

[IFSS_EVERSEX](#)
[IFSS_YNOSEX](#)
[IFSS_CMFSTSEX](#)
[IFSS_AGEFSTSX](#)
[IFSS_DKAGEFSX](#)
[IFSS_FPAGE](#)
[IFSS_KNOWFP](#)
[IFSS_STILFPSX](#)
[IFSS_CMFPLAST](#)
[IFSS_WHICH1ST](#)
[IFSS_SEXAFMEN](#)
[IFSS_CMSEXAFM](#)
[IFSS_AGESXAFM](#)
[IFSS_DKAGESXAFM](#)
[IFSS_LIFEPR](#)
[IFSS_MON12PRT](#)
[IFSS_PTSB4MAR](#)

IFSS_DIAFRAGM: Ever used diaphragm, with or without jelly/cream?

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

PREG2_FP_5	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_4	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_3	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_2	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG2_FP_1	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_6	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_5	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_4	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_3	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_2	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG1_FP_1	CM108	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH_3	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH_2	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METH_1	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
PREG0_METHLAST	CM142/PM116	1970 NFS
DIA_EVERUSE	CM83/PM76	1970 NFS
PREG3_METH1_7	100	1965 NFS
PREG2_METH1_7	100	1965 NFS
PREG1_METH1_7	100	1965 NFS
PREG0_METH1_7	113	1965 NFS
METH_USE	65a	1960 GAF
DIA_USE	44	1955 GAF

Description

IFSS_DIAFRAGM indicates whether the respondent has ever used a diaphragm with or without jelly or cream.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: In some surveys, this variable is taken directly from questions about lifetime use. In other years, it is constructed based on contraceptive use histories. In addition, in the 1973 National Survey of Family Growth, this variable only describes usage in the past three years.

The primary difference in this variable across survey years is whether IFSS_DIAFRAGM is derived from a direct question about lifetime use, constructed based on contraceptive use history, or some combination of information from both sources. IFSS_DIAFRAGM is based on a direct question in the National Surveys of Family Growth in 1995 and 2002 and the Growth of American Families Surveys in 1955 and 1960, constructed based on contraceptive use history in the 1973 NSFG and the 1965 National Fertility Survey, and created using a combination of both questions in the 1976, 1982, and 1988 NSFGs and the NFS in 1970. There is also some minor variation in question wording across surveys; in particular, some surveys ask specifically about the use of the diaphragm to prevent sexually transmitted diseases.

In all years, IFSS_DIAFRAGM exists for all women who were eligible to be asked about contraceptive use. In most surveys, this universe is defined as women who had ever had sex; for the GAF and NFS surveys and the 1973 and 1976 NSFGs, in which the sample is limited to married women or ever married women and single women with own children, virtually all women are included in this universe. There are some small variations in question universe across surveys.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, all respondents who had ever had sex were asked whether they had ever used a diaphragm.

For the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, the NSFG staff produced a recoded variable summarizing method use across the interval described by the method use calendar (see IFSS_CCMETH and related variables). IFSS_DIAFRAGM was created based on this variable where possible. However, the method use calendar only covers a limited time period (since January, 1979 for the 1982 NSFG; since January, 1984 for the 1988 NSFG). In addition to the calendar, respondents who had had sex at least once since they started menstruating were asked, "Have you or your partner ever used a method of birth control or family planning, even if it was only one time?" They were presented with a list of methods to refer to when they answered the question. Women who reported having ever used a method were then asked to circle all methods on the list that they had ever used. Finally, in the 1988 NSFG, women were asked, "To keep you or your partner from catching diseases such as genital herpes, chlamydia, or AIDS, do you use any of the methods listed on Card 26?" Diaphragm was a response option for this question. Women who reported using a diaphragm either in the method calendar or in the direct questions were coded as yes for IFSS_DIAFRAGM. Women who did not

report using a diaphragm in any question were coded as no. Women who had not yet menstruated or had not had sex since their first menstruation are excluded from the question universe in addition to women who had never had sex.

The variable in the 1976 NSFG is structured roughly similarly to those in 1982 and 1988, except that there is no existing summary variable for the method use calendar, and the additional methods question does not include methods mentioned in the pregnancy interval file. Thus, IFSS created a summary variable reflecting whether the respondent reporting using the diaphragm, alone or in combination with another method, during any month covered by the method use calendar (since January, 1973). This is combined with variables measuring contraceptive use in the intervals between pregnancies and the open interval (the period since the respondent's last pregnancy or first sex). Respondents were also asked, "Have you or your husband ever used any (other) method to delay or prevent a pregnancy?" As in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, information from this question was used to supplement information from the method calendar and pregnancy interval file in constructing IFSS_DIAFRAGM.

The 1973 NSFG includes no summary questions on lifetime use of contraception. Information for IFSS_DIAFRAGM is derived from the contraceptive calendar and variables measuring use of contraception in the intervals between pregnancies (IFSS_DIAINT). The 1973 NSFG contains information on contraceptive use in pregnancy intervals that ended since July, 1970 and the open interval, defined as the period since the respondent's last pregnancy, or July, 1970 if she has never been pregnant or her last pregnancy ended prior to July, 1970. Thus, IFSS_DIAFRAGM covers only the period since July, 1970 and understates lifetime use of the diaphragm; this error is likely greater for older women, for whom the period not covered by the contraceptive calendar represents a larger proportion of their lifespan.

In the National Fertility Survey in 1970, IFSS_DIAFRAGM is derived from questions about method use in each pregnancy interval along with direct questions about the diaphragm. For each pregnancy, and for the open interval (time between the most recent pregnancy and the survey, or since first intercourse for respondents who had never been pregnant), respondents were asked to report all contraceptive methods used for any period of time (see IFSS_DIAINT and related interval variables for a full description of these measures). In addition, all respondents were asked directly about use of the diaphragm: "Have you ever used a diaphragm?" As in the 1976, 1982, and 1988 NSFGs, information from these questions about ever use was used to supplement information from the interval variables.

IFSS_DIAFRAGM in the 1965 NFS is constructed based on measures of contraceptive use in each pregnancy interval (IFSS_DIAINT and related variables). Unlike in the 1970 survey, there is no summary question to supplement this information.

The Growth of American Families surveys in 1955 and 1960 asked respondents about their lifetime use of contraception. In 1955, respondents were first asked "Now in your own case, have you or your husband ever done anything to limit the number of your children or to keep from having them at certain times?" Women who said yes were asked to list the methods they had used, referring to a provided list. In the 1960 survey, women were provided with a list of "methods some married couples use to avoid getting pregnant" and asked to identify which, if any, they had used. (Women were also asked to specify methods not listed.) The question indicated that it referred to methods used with a previous husband as well as the current husband. For both years, respondents who indicated that they had used a diaphragm were coded yes for IFSS_DIAFRAGM and those who did not were coded no.

See Also:

[IFSS_DIAINT](#)
[IFSS_CERVLCAP](#)
[IFSS_CONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FEMSTER](#)
[IFSS_FOAMALON](#)
[IFSS_INJECTABLES](#)
[IFSS_IUD](#)
[IFSS_JELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_MORNPILL](#)
[IFSS_NORPLANT](#)
[IFSS_OTHRMETH](#)
[IFSS_PATCH](#)
[IFSS_PILL](#)
[IFSS_RHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_TEMPSAFE](#)
[IFSS_TODAYSPG](#)

[IFSS_VASECTMY](#)
[IFSS_WIDRAWAL](#)
[IFSS_WOCONDOM](#)

IFSS_PATCH: Ever used contraceptive patch?

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_PATCH

Ever used contraceptive patch?

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[PATCH](#)

Source Questions

EA-19

2002 NSFG

Description

IFSS_PATCH measures whether the respondent has ever used the contraceptive patch.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_PATCH exists only in the 2002 NSFG.

Because the contraceptive patch did not exist when most surveys were administered, IFSS_PATCH exists only in the 2002 NSFG. The harmonized variable is created for comparability with other contraceptive use variables.

All respondents were asked whether they had ever used the contraceptive patch.

See Also:

[IFSS_CERVLCAP](#)
[IFSS_CONDOM](#)
[IFSS_DIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FEMSTER](#)
[IFSS_FOAMALON](#)
[IFSS_INJECTABLES](#)
[IFSS_IUD](#)
[IFSS_JELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_MORNPILL](#)
[IFSS_NORPLANT](#)
[IFSS_OTHRMETH](#)
[IFSS_PILL](#)
[IFSS_RHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_TEMPSAFE](#)
[IFSS_TODAYSPG](#)

IFSS_VASECTMY
IFSS_WIDRAWAL
IFSS_WOCONDOM

IFSS_PILLBRAND: Brand of pill R is currently using or most recently used?

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_PILLBRAND

Brand of pill R is currently using or most recently used?

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1995 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)
[1982 NSFG](#)
[1970 NFS](#)
[1965 NFS](#)

Source Variables

[TYPEPILL2](#)
[TYPEPILL](#)
[C_37](#)
[C54](#)
[BCP_BRAND](#)
[BCP_BRAND](#)

Source Questions

EJ-2	2002 NSFG
EJ-2	1995 NSFG
C-37	1988 NSFG
C-54	1982 NSFG
CM76/PM69	1970 NFS
69	1965 NFS

Description

IFSS_PILLBRAND identifies the brand of birth control pill that the respondent is currently using or has most recently used.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is largely comparable across all six surveys, with minor respondent universe differences concerning how recently respondents had used birth control pills and their sexual history.

The respondent universe differs across all six surveys, with variation in respondent universes stemming primarily from differences across surveys in how recently respondents must have used the birth control pill and in respondents' sexual histories. The universe for IFSS_PILLBRAND is identical to that for IFSS_PILLDUR, except for not ascertained, refused and don't know responses, which are coded as missing in IFSS_PILLDUR. In the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, this variable applies to respondents who had used the pill in the month of the survey or within the two months prior to the survey. In the 1995 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who had ever had sexual intercourse and who had used the pill in the month they were surveyed or in the previous month. In the 1988 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who reported having sexual intercourse at least twice, at least one time since menarche, and who were currently using the pill. In the 1982 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who reported having had sexual intercourse after menarche and who had ever used the pill. In the 1970 and 1965 National Fertility Surveys, this variable applies to respondents who had ever used the pill. Thus the universe for the 2002 NSFG is the only universe that includes women who have never had intercourse, as the 1965 and 1970 NFS only sampled ever-married women or single women with biological children who are assumed to have had sex.

The question wording differs across all six surveys. In the 2002 NSFG and the 1995 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This chart shows types of oral contraceptive pills that are available for women today. Please tell me the number next to the type that you are currently using or used most recently." In the 1988 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This chart shows types of oral contraceptive pills that are available for women today. Please tell me the number next to the type that you are currently using." In the 1982 NSFG, respondents were asked: "Please look at this chart and tell me the number next to the [pill] brand you last used/are using." In the 1970 NFS, respondents were asked: "Which of these pills are you taking/did you last take?" The 1965 NFS asks "What brand of pill are you using/were you using last?" Note that the 1988 NSFG is the only year that does not include prior use in the question, so care should be used when comparing 1988 to other years.

Response options differed across all six surveys, with pill brand, rather than cycle duration or dosage level, being the focus of the harmonization process. While availability of specific brands as well as the names of specific brands and regimens differed across all six surveys, the response options are highly comparable, and any differences are unlikely to substantively affect analysis. Across all years, all mentions of a particular brand of pill are harmonized under that brand, regardless of the dose or regimen (21 or 28 day). IFSS_PILLDUR contains information on the regimen (21 or 28 day) reported. Response options vary over time, as not all brands of the pill were available in all years. In particular, Norinyl and Ortho-novum are the only brands that were response options in all years. Estrostep, Alesse, Levlite, Mircette and Yasmin are only response options in 2002. Jenest, Desogen, Ortho-cyclen, Ortho Tri-cyclen, and Ortho-cept are only response options in 1995 and 2002. Levlen, Tri-levlen, Triphasil, and Tri-norinyl are only available from 1988 to 2002. Ovcan, Lo/Ovral, Nordette, Ovrette, Loestrin, Brevicon, Modicon, Nor-QD, and Micronor are only available from 1982 to 2002. Demulen and Ovral are available from 1970 to 2002. Ovulen is available from 1970 to 1988. Noriday and Noriquen are only available in 1970. Norlestrin and Enovid are available from 1965 to 1988. C-Quens is available from 1965 to 1982. And Provest is only available in 1965 and 1970. All years also contained a category "Other;" which methods would have been grouped under "other" varies as well by year. Respondents could also answer "Don't know" or refuse to answer, and some responses were not ascertained; these responses are imputed and flagged accordingly.

See Also:

[IFSS_PILL](#)

[IFSS_PILLDUR](#)

[IFSS_MEDPILL](#)

IFSS_PILLDUR: Type of pill R is currently using or most recently used

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_PILLDUR

Type of pill R is currently using or most recently used

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

[1970 NFS](#)

[1965 NFS](#)

Source Variables

[TYPEPILL2](#)

[TYPEPILL](#)

[C_37](#)

Source Questions

EJ-2

EJ-2

C-37

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

C54
[BCP_BRAND](#)
[BCP_BRAND](#)

C-54
CM76/PM69
69

1982 NSFG
1970 NFS
1965 NFS

Description

IFSS_PILLDUR describes the cycle duration of the current or most recent oral contraception that the respondent has used.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is highly comparable across all six surveys, with minor respondent universe differences concerning how recently respondents had used birth control pills and their sexual history.

The respondent universe differs across all six surveys, with variation stemming primarily from differences across surveys in how recently respondents must have used the birth control pill and in respondents' sexual histories. The universe for IFSS_PILLDUR is identical to that for IFSS_PILLBRAND, except for not ascertained, refused and don't know responses, which are coded as missing in IFSS_PILLDUR. In the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, this variable applies to respondents who had used the pill in the month of the survey or within the two months prior to the survey. In the 1995 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who had ever had sex and who had used the pill in the month in which they were surveyed or in the previous month. In the 1988 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who had reported having sexual intercourse at least twice and at least one time since menarche and who were currently using the pill. In the 1982 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who reported having sexual intercourse after menarche and who had ever used the pill. In the 1965 and 1970 National Fertility Surveys, this variable applies to respondents who had ever used the pill. Thus the universe for the 2002 NSFG is the only universe that includes women who have never had intercourse, as the 1965 and 1970 NFS only sampled ever-married women or single women with biological children who are assumed to have had sex.

The question wording differs across all six surveys. In the 2002 NSFG and the 1995 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This chart shows types of oral contraceptive pills that are available for women today. Please tell me the number next to the type that you are currently using or used most recently." In the 1988 NSFG, respondents were asked: "This chart shows types of oral contraceptive pills that are available for women today. Please tell me the number next to the type that you are currently using." In the 1982 NSFG, respondents were asked: "Look at this chart and tell me the number next to the brand you last used/are using." In the 1970 NFS, respondents were asked: "Which of these pills are you taking, did you last take?" In the 1965 NFS, respondents were asked: "What brand of pill are you using/were you using last?" Note that the 1988 NSFG is the only year that does not include prior use in the question, so care should be used when comparing 1988 to other years.

Response options differed across all six surveys, with cycle duration, rather than pill brand or dosage level, being the focus of the harmonization process. While availability of durations differed slightly across all six surveys, the response options are highly comparable, and any differences are unlikely to substantively affect analysis. Across all survey years, any mention of a 21-day regimen is harmonized as "21 days" and any mention of a 28-day regimen is harmonized as "28 days," regardless of the brand. Responses that did not indicate a cycle duration and those that reported a 42-day cycle are harmonized as "Other or unspecified." Not ascertained, refused and don't know responses are harmonized in IFSS_PILLBRAND and are coded as missing for IFSS_PILLDUR.

See Also:

[IFSS_PILL](#)
[IFSS_PILLBRAND](#)
[IFSS_MEDPILL](#)

IFSS_PLACCUR1: Where R got method used last month, 1st mention

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method)

and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_PLACCUR1

Where R got method used last month, 1st mention

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[PLACCUR9](#)

[PLACCUR2](#)

[PLACCUR10](#)

[PLACCUR1](#)

[TYPAGYC0](#)

[PLACCUR0](#)

[C_47](#)

[C_42](#)

[BOX34](#)

[C52](#)

[C51](#)

Source Questions

EH-3

EH-3

EH-3

EH-3

Computed

EH-3

C-47

C-42

Box 34

C-52

C-51

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1982 NSFG

1982 NSFG

Description

IFSS_PLACCUR1 describes the first location where the respondent received a birth control method used in the month prior to being surveyed.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is largely comparable across all four surveys, however the 2002 NSFG uses different question wording and may underreport the number of sources.

Respondent universes vary across all four surveys. In the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, information on where the respondent obtained the method is split into two variables in the original data, depending on whether the method was prescription or not. In the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, this variable applies to respondents who mentioned that they had used a drug or device as a birth control method in the month prior to the survey. In the 1995 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who reported having sexual intercourse in the month they were interviewed, who were not pregnant or sterile at the time of the interview, and who used a drug or device as a birth control method in the month prior to the interview. Across both surveys, methods classified as a drug or device include: "birth control pills; condom; Depo-Provera, injectables (shot); Norplant(TM) implants; diaphragm; female condoms, vaginal pouch; foam; jelly or cream; cervical cap; suppository or insert; Today(TM) sponge; IUD, coil, or loop; morning after pills or emergency contraception; Lunelle injectable (monthly shot); and contraceptive patch." Methods not classified as a drug or device include: "Partner's vasectomy; sterilizing operation/tubal ligation; withdrawal, pulling out; rhythm or safe period by calendar; safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test, natural family planning; respondent was sterile, respondent's partner was sterile; and other method."

In the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, this variable applies to respondents who reported having had sexual intercourse at least once post-menarche, and who reported that their current birth control method included at least one drug or device. The list of methods that are not classified as a drug or device is very similar to that in 1995 and 2002, except that "Douching after intercourse" is explicitly included in both years and "Abstinence, not having intercourse for a month or more" is explicitly included in 1982 (though they were both likely implicitly included in later years in "other methods.") The 1988 NSFG adds the additional restriction that the respondent must have had sexual intercourse more than once. The 1982 universe includes respondents who initially answered "Some other method" and then provided additional information that included a drug or device. Respondents who answered "Some other method" and then provided additional information that did not include a drug or device and those that did not provide additional information are excluded from the universe.

Question wording varies across all four surveys. In the 2002 NSFG, respondents were asked separate questions about prescription and non-prescription methods, and could report up to three sources for each type of method. Respondents using non-prescription methods were asked: "You may have already told me, but where did you get the [birth control method] you used last month?" Respondents using a prescription method were asked: "You may have already told me, but where did you get the prescription for the [birth control method] you used last month?" Only respondents who reported using a combination of prescription and non-prescription methods in the month prior to the interview were asked both questions. Respondents could choose from fourteen possible options: "Private doctor's office; HMO facility; Community health clinic, community clinic, [or] public health clinic; family planning or Planned Parenthood clinic; Employer or company clinic; School or school-based clinic; Hospital outpatient clinic; Hospital emergency room; Hospital regular room; Urgent care center, urgi-care or walk-in facility; friend; partner or spouse; drug store; [or] some other place." The options "friend," "partner or spouse," and "drug store" were only available for non-prescription methods.

Respondents in 2002 who mentioned any prescription birth control methods have their first mentioned source for a prescription birth control method coded in the harmonized variable. Those who did not mention any prescription birth control methods have their first mentioned source for a non-prescription birth control method coded in the harmonized variable. It is also worth noting that respondents in all years were asked where they obtained non-prescription methods, but where they obtained the prescription for prescription methods. As a result, a respondent who obtained a prescription for birth control pills from her doctor and picked them up at a drugstore may have only "private doctor's office" and not "drug store" listed.

In the 1995 NSFG, respondents were shown a card listing various locations and asked: "Where did you get the (prescription for the) [birth control method] you used last month?" Three possible options were listed: "Clinic; private doctor's office, or HMO; [or] some other place." Respondents who answered "Clinic" were asked to specify what type: "Hospital; health department; Planned Parenthood; [or] other." Respondents who answered "Some other place" were asked to specify where. If they mentioned a hospital, they were asked whether their answer was better described as "Hospital--emergency room [or] Hospital--not emergency room." Respondents could list up to four locations.

In the 1988 NSFG, respondents who were not currently using their first method were asked: "When you started to use the method you are now using, from which of the people or places on [this card] did you get (it/the prescription)?" Eight possible options were listed: "Private doctor, medical services; clinic; drug store; other store; husband/partner/boyfriend; girlfriend; parents; [or] other (specify)." Respondents could select up to two of these options. For respondents who were currently using their first method, IFSS_PLACCUR_1 is coded from the source of their first method (see IFSS_PLACGOTF_1).

In the 1982 NSFG, respondents were asked: "From which of the people or places on this card did you last get supplies for the method you are now using?" Respondents whose current method was different from their first method were also asked: "When you started to use the method you are now using, from which of the people or places on this card did you get (it/the prescription)?" Ten possible responses were listed: "Private doctor/medical service; Clinic; Drug store; Other store; Husband/partner/boyfriend; Girlfriend; Other; Hospital; [or] Instruction/self-instruction." Responses as to where the current method was last obtained are coded in the harmonized variable where possible. For respondents whose responses were not ascertained, refused, or don't know for where the method was last obtained, responses as to where respondents first obtained supplies are used.

It is worth noting a subtle difference in question wording and respondent universes across surveys. In the 2002 NSFG, respondents are asked about one source per birth control method. Universes require that respondents use an increasing number of birth control methods if they are to list an increasing number of sources, and questions end with notes of "non-prescription method--Xth mentioned" or "prescription method - Xth mentioned." The remaining survey years allow respondents to list multiple sources for each birth

control method. Respondent universes do not require that additional birth control methods be listed, and the 1995 NSFG ends its questions with notes of "Xth mentioned," without specifically referring to a birth control method. As a result, respondents to the 2002 NSFG may list fewer birth control sources than they actually used, though it is unclear how this will affect the distribution of responses. For example, if a respondent to the 2002 NSFG obtained condoms from both a drugstore and a friend, only one of these sources would appear in the 2002 NSFG; therefore, only that source would appear in the harmonized variable.

Two-part coding is used in the harmonized variable to facilitate comparisons across time without sacrificing information. The first digit classifies responses into private offices or HMOs, clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, partners or spouses, or some other place. Response format differs across all four surveys. In the 2002 NSFG, response options were largely preserved in the harmonized variable. "Private doctor's office" and "HMO facility" are combined into "Private doctor's office or HMO," "Hospital regular room" is coded as "Hospital--non-emergency room," and "Friend" is coded as "Some other place," but otherwise all categories are coded as written. "Drug store," "Partner or spouse," and "Friend" were only options for non-prescription methods.

In the 1995 NSFG, responses of "Clinic" with no further specification are coded as "Clinic, other or unspecified" in the harmonized variable; respondents who specified "Hospital" are coded as "Hospital outpatient clinic," those who specified "Health department" are coded as "Community health clinic, community clinic, public health clinic," and those who specified "Planned Parenthood" are coded as "Family planning or planned parenthood clinic." "Private doctor's office or HMO," "Hospital emergency room," and "Hospital--non emergency room" are coded as is. Respondents who answered "Some other place" were encouraged to provide additional information, and 1,302 respondents out of 3,658 volunteered one of five unlisted responses: "School or college; military facility; home; pharmacy, drug store, [or] other store; [or] male partner supplied." Responses of "School or college" are coded as "School or school-based clinic." "Pharmacy, drug store, other store" is coded as "Pharmacy, drug store." "Male partner supplied" is coded as "Partner or spouse." "Some other place," "Military facility," and "Home" are all coded as "Some other place."

In the 1988 NSFG, respondents who circled "Private doctor, medical services," alone or in combination with any other responses are all coded as "Private doctor's office or HMO" in the harmonized variable. Respondents who circled "Clinic" and/or "drug store" are both coded as "Clinic, other or unspecified." Respondents who circled "Drug store" or "Other store," alone or in combination, are coded as "Pharmacy, drug store." "Husband/partner/boyfriend" is coded as "Partner or spouse." "Girlfriend," "Parents," and "Other" are all coded as "Some other place." Additionally, in 1988 for women whose current method is the same as their first method, "Hospital" is combined with "Private doctor, medical services." This will result in an undercount of women obtaining methods from hospitals and an overcount of women receiving methods from private doctor's or HMOs. (See IFSS_PLACGOTF1.)

In the 1982 NSFG, "Private doctor/medical service" is coded as "Private doctor's office or HMO" in the harmonized variable. "Clinic" is coded as "Clinic, other or unspecified." "Hospital" is coded as "Hospital, unspecified." "Drug store" and "Other store" are coded as "Pharmacy, drug store." "Husband/partner/boyfriend" is coded as "Partner or spouse." "Girlfriend," "Parents," "Other," and "Instruction/self-instruction" are all coded as "Some other place."

Across all years, not ascertained, refused and don't know responses are imputed and flagged accordingly.

See Also:

[IFSS_PLACCUR2](#)
[IFSS_PLACCUR3](#)
[IFSS_PLACCUR4](#)
[IFSS_CURRMETH1](#)
[IFSS_CURRMETH2](#)
[IFSS_CURRMETH3](#)
[IFSS_CURRMETH4](#)
[IFSS_USELSTX](#)

IFSS_PLACCUR2: Where R got method used last month, 2nd mention

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam,

injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_PLACCUR2

Where R got method used last month, 2nd mention

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[PLACCUR2](#)

[PLACCUR10](#)

[PLACCUR1](#)

[TYPAGYC1](#)

[PLACCUR1](#)

[C_47](#)

[C_42](#)

[BOX34](#)

[C51](#)

Source Questions

EH-3

EH-3

EH-3

Computed

EH-3

C-47

C-42

Box 34

C-51

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1982 NSFG

Description

IFSS_PLACCUR2 describes the second location where the respondent received a birth control method used in the month prior to being surveyed.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is largely comparable across all four surveys, however the 2002 NSFG uses different question wording and may underreport the number of sources.

Respondent universes vary across all four surveys. In the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, information on where the respondent obtained the method is split into two variables in the original data, depending on whether the method was prescription or not. In the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, this variable applies to respondents who mentioned that they had used a drug or device as a birth control method in the month prior to the survey. In the 1995 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who reported having sexual intercourse in the month they were interviewed, who were not pregnant or sterile at the time of the interview, and who used a drug or device as a birth control method in the month prior to the interview. Across both surveys, methods classified as a drug or device include: "birth control pills; condom; Depo-Provera, injectables (shot); Norplant(TM) implants; diaphragm; female condoms, vaginal pouch; foam; jelly or cream; cervical cap; suppository or insert; Today(TM) sponge; IUD, coil, or loop; morning after pills or emergency contraception; Lunelle injectable (monthly shot); and contraceptive patch." Methods not classified as a drug or device include: "Partner's vasectomy; sterilizing operation/tubal ligation; withdrawal, pulling out; rhythm or safe period by calendar; safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test, natural family planning; respondent was sterile, respondent's partner was sterile; and other method."

In the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, this variable applies to respondents who reported having had sexual intercourse at least once post-menarche, and who reported that their current birth control method included

at least one drug or device. The list of methods that are not classified as a drug or device is very similar to that in 1995 and 2002, except that "Douching after intercourse" is explicitly included in both years and "Abstinence, not having intercourse for a month or more" is explicitly included in 1982 (though they were both likely implicitly included in later years in "other methods.") The 1988 NSFG adds the additional restriction that the respondent must have had sexual intercourse more than once. The 1982 universe includes respondents who initially answered "Some other method" and then provided additional information that included a drug or device. Respondents who answered "Some other method" and then provided additional information that did not include a drug or device and those that did not provide additional information are excluded from the universe.

Question wording varies across all four surveys. In the 2002 NSFG, respondents were asked separate questions about prescription and non-prescription methods, and could report up to three sources for each type of method. Respondents using non-prescription methods were asked: "You may have already told me, but where did you get the [birth control method] you used last month?" Respondents using a prescription method were asked: "You may have already told me, but where did you get the prescription for the [birth control method] you used last month?" Only respondents who reported using a combination of prescription and non-prescription methods in the month prior to the interview were asked both questions. Respondents could choose from fourteen possible options: "Private doctor's office; HMO facility; Community health clinic, community clinic, [or] public health clinic; family planning or Planned Parenthood clinic; Employer or company clinic; School or school-based clinic; Hospital outpatient clinic; Hospital emergency room; Hospital regular room; Urgent care center, urgi-care or walk-in facility; friend; partner or spouse; drug store; [or] some other place." The options "friend," "partner or spouse," and "drug store" were only available for non-prescription methods.

Respondents in 2002 who mentioned any prescription birth control methods have their second mentioned source for a prescription birth control method coded in the harmonized variable. Those who did not mention any prescription birth control methods have their second mentioned source for a non-prescription birth control method coded in the harmonized variable. It is also worth noting that respondents in all years were asked where they obtained non-prescription methods, but where they obtained the prescription for prescription methods. As a result, a respondent who obtained a prescription for birth control pills from her doctor and picked them up at a drugstore may have only "private doctor's office" and not "drug store" listed.

In the 1995 NSFG, respondents were shown a card listing various locations and asked: "Where did you get the (prescription for the) [birth control method] you used last month?" Three possible options were listed: "Clinic; private doctor's office, or HMO; [or] some other place." Respondents who answered "Clinic" were asked to specify what type: "Hospital; health department; Planned Parenthood; [or] other." Respondents who answered "Some other place" were asked to specify where. If they mentioned a hospital, they were asked whether their answer was better described as "Hospital--emergency room [or] Hospital--not emergency room." Respondents could list up to four locations.

In the 1988 NSFG, respondents who were not currently using their first method were asked: "When you started to use the method you are now using, from which of the people or places on [this card] did you get (it/the prescription)?" Eight possible options were listed: "Private doctor, medical services; clinic; drug store; other store; husband/partner/boyfriend; girlfriend; parents; [or] other (specify)." Respondents could select up to two of these options. For respondents who were currently using their first method, IFSS_PLACCUR_2 is coded from the source of their second method (see IFSS_PLACGOTF_2).

In the 1982 NSFG, respondents were asked: "From which of the people or places on this card did you last get supplies for the method you are now using?" Respondents whose current method was different from their first method were also asked: "When you started to use the method you are now using, from which of the people or places on this card did you get (it/the prescription)?" Ten possible responses were listed: "Private doctor/medical service; Clinic; Drug store; Other store; Husband/partner/boyfriend; Girlfriend; Other; Hospital; [or] Instruction/self-instruction." Responses as to where the current method was last obtained are coded in the harmonized variable where possible. For respondents whose responses were not ascertained, refused, or don't know for where the method was last obtained, responses as to where respondents first obtained supplies are used.

It is worth noting a subtle difference in question wording and respondent universes across surveys. In the 2002 NSFG, respondents are asked about one source per birth control method. Universes require that respondents use an increasing number of birth control methods if they are to list an increasing number of sources, and questions end with notes of "non-prescription method--Xth mentioned" or "prescription method--Xth mentioned." The remaining survey years allow respondents to list multiple sources for each birth control method. Respondent universes do not require that additional birth control methods be listed, and the 1995 NSFG ends its questions with notes of "Xth mentioned," without specifically referring to a

birth control method. As a result, respondents to the 2002 NSFG may list fewer birth control sources than they actually used, though it is unclear how this will affect the distribution of responses. For example, if a respondent to the 2002 NSFG obtained condoms from both a drugstore and a friend, only one of these sources would appear in the 2002 NSFG; therefore, only that source would appear in the harmonized variable.

Two-part coding is used in the harmonized variable to facilitate comparisons across time without sacrificing information. The first digit classifies responses into private offices or HMOs, clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, partners or spouses, or some other place. Response format differs across all four surveys. In the 2002 NSFG, response options were largely preserved in the harmonized variable. "Private doctor's office" and "HMO facility" are combined into "Private doctor's office or HMO," "Hospital regular room" is coded as "Hospital--non-emergency room," and "Friend" is coded as "Some other place," but otherwise all categories are coded as written. "Drug store," "Partner or spouse," and "Friend" were only options for non-prescription methods.

In the 1995 NSFG, responses of "Clinic" with no further specification are coded as "Clinic, other or unspecified" in the harmonized variable; respondents who specified "Hospital" are coded as "Hospital outpatient clinic," those who specified "Health department" are coded as "Community health clinic, community clinic, public health clinic," and those who specified "Planned Parenthood" are coded as "Family planning or planned parenthood clinic." "Private doctor's office or HMO," "Hospital emergency room," and "Hospital--non emergency room" are coded as is. Respondents who answered "Some other place" were encouraged to provide additional information, and 1,302 respondents out of 3,658 volunteered one of five unlisted responses: "School or college; military facility; home; pharmacy, drug store, [or] other store; [or] male partner supplied." Responses of "School or college" are coded as "School or school-based clinic." "Pharmacy, drug store, other store" is coded as "Pharmacy, drug store." "Male partner supplied" is coded as "Partner or spouse." "Some other place," "Military facility," and "Home" are all coded as "Some other place."

In the 1988 NSFG, respondents who circled "Private doctor, medical services," alone or in combination with any other responses are all coded as "Private doctor's office or HMO" in the harmonized variable. Respondents who circled "Clinic" and/or "drug store" are both coded as "Clinic, other or unspecified." Respondents who circled "Drug store" or "Other store," alone or in combination, are coded as "Pharmacy, drug store." "Husband/partner/boyfriend" is coded as "Partner or spouse." "Girlfriend," "Parents," and "Other" are all coded as "Some other place." Additionally, in 1988 for women whose current method is the same as their first method, "Hospital" is combined with "Private doctor, medical services." This will result in an undercount of women obtaining methods from hospitals and an overcount of women receiving methods from private doctor's or HMOs. (See IFSS_PLACGOTF1.)

In the 1982 NSFG, "Private doctor/medical service" is coded as "Private doctor's office or HMO" in the harmonized variable. "Clinic" is coded as "Clinic, other or unspecified." "Hospital" is coded as "Hospital, unspecified." "Drug store" and "Other store" are coded as "Pharmacy, drug store." "Husband/partner/boyfriend" is coded as "Partner or spouse." "Girlfriend," "Parents," "Other," and "Instruction/self-instruction" are all coded as "Some other place."

Across all years, not ascertained, refused and don't know responses are imputed and flagged accordingly.

See Also:

[IFSS_PLACCUR1](#)
[IFSS_PLACCUR3](#)
[IFSS_PLACCUR4](#)
[IFSS_CURRMETH1](#)
[IFSS_CURRMETH2](#)
[IFSS_CURRMETH3](#)
[IFSS_CURRMETH4](#)
[IFSS_USELSTSX](#)

IFSS_PLACGOTF2: Where R got first method, 2nd mention

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary

variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_PLACGOTF2

Where R got first method, 2nd mention

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[PLACGOTF2](#)

[PLACGOTF10](#)

[PLACGOTF1](#)

[PLACGOT1](#)

[C_42](#)

Source Questions

EB-5

EB-5

EB-5

EB-5

U24_C-42

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

Description

IFSS_PLACGOTF2 describes the second mentioned location where the respondent received her first method of birth control.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is largely comparable across all three surveys, with slight differences in respondent universe and response formats.

Respondent universes differ across all three surveys, but despite some anomalies in the 1988 survey, all three surveys are largely comparable. In the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, information on where the respondent obtained the method is split into two variables in the original data, depending on whether the first method was prescription or not. Information in the 1988 and 1995 NSFGs is contained in a single variable for both prescription and non-prescription methods. In the 2002 and 1995 NSFGs, this variable applies to respondents who were less than 25 years old and whose first birth control method used was a drug or device. The 1995 NSFG additionally excludes respondents who had never had sexual intercourse. For both surveys, methods classified as a drug or device include: "birth control pills; condom; sterilizing operation/tubal ligation; Depo-Provera, injectables (shot); Norplant(TM) implants; diaphragm; female condoms, vaginal pouch; foam; jelly or cream; cervical cap; suppository or insert; Today(TM) sponge; IUD, coil, or loop; morning after pills or emergency contraception; Lunelle injectable (monthly shot); and contraceptive patch." Methods not classified as a drug or device include: "Partner's vasectomy; withdrawal, pulling out; rhythm or safe period by calendar; safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test, natural family planning; respondent was sterile, respondent's partner was sterile; and other method."

In the 1988 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who were less than 25 years old, who reported having had sexual intercourse post-menarche, and who did not report that one of the following options was their first (or only) birth control method used: "Douching after intercourse; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Female sterilization operation, tubal ligation; Vasectomy, Male sterilization; Withdrawal, pulling out; any other method." The 1982 NSFG also includes "Abstinence, not having sex" in the list of non-drug, non-device methods. This is essentially the same restriction as in 1995 and 2002. It is worth noting that respondents who answered "Any other method" were encouraged to volunteer additional information. Those who volunteered additional information--for example, specifying "The pill and condom" or "Condom and withdrawal"--are included within the 1988 universe, which leaves only four respondents in the "Any other

method" category. Those respondents presumably declined the invitation to volunteer additional information. These four respondents are not included in the question universe for this variable.

Question wording differs across all three surveys, but these differences are unlikely to substantively affect analysis. Across all three surveys, respondents were permitted to describe where they obtained prescription and non-prescription methods of birth control. In 2002, sources of prescription methods are coded first, followed by sources of non-prescription methods. After taking this ordering into account, sources are coded in the order that they were mentioned by the respondent. In all other years, sources are listed in the order mentioned by the respondent. In the 2002 NSFG, respondents were asked: "Please look at [this card]. Where did you get the [first method used]?" The card listed the following twelve options for prescription methods: "Private doctor's office; HMO facility; Community health clinic, Community clinic, Public health clinic; Family planning or Planned Parenthood Clinic; Employer or company clinic; School or school-based clinic; Hospital outpatient clinic; Hospital emergency room; Hospital regular room; Urgent care center, urgent care or walk-in facility; [or] Some other place." The card for non-prescription methods additionally included "Drug store; Partner or spouse; [or] Friend." Respondents could list sources for up to two prescription methods and up to two non-prescription methods for a total of four sources. The type of method (prescription or non-prescription) described in IFSS_PLACGOTF2 depends on the combination of methods reported by the respondent.

In the 1995 NSFG, respondents were asked: "Please look at [this card]. Where did you get the (prescription for) [first method used] you used as your first birth control method? Did you get it from a#?" The card listed the following three options: "Clinic; Private doctor's office, or HMO; Or, from some other place?" Respondents who answered "Or, from some other place?" were asked to specify where. Respondents who volunteered "Hospital" were encouraged to specify whether the emergency room was used. Respondents could list up to four sources for their first method.

In the 1988 NSFGs, respondents were asked: "The first time you (or your partner) ever used ([previously mentioned] method), from which of the people or places on [this card] did you get (it/the prescription)?" The card listed the following eight options: "Private doctor or medical service; Clinic; Drug store; Other store; Husband/partner/boyfriend; Girlfriend; Parents; [or] Other (Specify)." (Respondents who reported that their first method ever used was either the pill or a diaphragm were asked for the source of their prescription.) In 1988, some respondents gave two sources. The first source in the combination is coded in IFSS_PLACGOTF1, and the second is coded here.

Two-part coding is used in the harmonized variable to facilitate comparisons across time without sacrificing information. The first digit classifies responses into private offices or HMOs, clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, partners or spouses, or some other place. Response formats differ across all three surveys, with the most significant difference being that "Hospital" is included in "Private doctor, medical services or hospital" in 1988, which is coded as "Private doctor's office or HMO." In the 2002 NSFG, response options were largely preserved in the harmonized variable. "Private doctor's office" and "HMO facility" are combined into "Private doctor's office or HMO," "Hospital regular room" is coded as "Hospital--non-emergency room," and "Friend" is coded as "Some other place," but otherwise all categories are coded as written. "Drug store," "Partner or spouse," and "Friend" were only options for non-prescription methods.

It is worth noting a subtle difference in question wording and respondent universes across surveys. In the 2002 NSFG, respondents are asked about one source per birth control method. Universes require that respondents have used an increasing number of birth control methods if they are to list an increasing number of sources, and questions end with notes of "Xth non-prescription method mentioned" or "Xth prescription method mentioned." The remaining survey years allow respondents to list multiple sources for each birth control method. Respondent universes do not require that additional birth control methods be listed, and the 1995 NSFG refers to the "first method (you used as your first birth control method)" in every sub-question. As a result, respondents to the 2002 NSFG may list fewer birth control sources than they actually used, though it is unclear how this will affect the distribution of responses. For example, if a respondent to the 2002 NSFG obtained condoms from both a drugstore and a friend, only one of these sources would appear in the 2002 NSFG; therefore, only that source would appear in the harmonized variable.

In the 1995 NSFG, responses of "Clinic" are coded as "Clinic, other or unspecified" in the harmonized variable. "Private Doctor's office or HMO" and "Some other place" are all coded as is. Some respondents who answered "Some other place" volunteered additional information, and many of these responses are coded accordingly. Volunteered responses of "Hospital emergency room" and "Hospital non-emergency room" are coded as is. "School or College" is coded as "School or School-Based Clinic." "Pharmacy, Drug Store, Other Store" is coded as "Pharmacy, Drug Store." "Male Partner Supplied" is coded as "Partner or Spouse." "Other place," "Military facility," and "Home" are all coded as "Some other place."

In the 1988 NSFG, responses of "Private doctor, medical services, or hospital" are coded as "Private Doctor's office or HMO" in the harmonized variable. Respondents who answered with two sources are coded according to the first method listed in the combination in IFSS_PLACGOTF1. The second method is coded in IFSS_PLACGOTF2. "Clinic" is coded as "Clinic, other or unspecified." "Drug Store" and "Other Store" are coded as "Pharmacy, Drug Store." "Husband/Partner/Boyfriend" is coded as "Partner or Spouse." "Girlfriend," "Parents," and "Other" are all coded as "Some other place."

Across all years, not ascertained, refused and don't know responses are imputed and flagged accordingly.

See Also:

[IFSS_PLACGOTF1](#)
[IFSS_PLACGOTF2](#)
[IFSS_PLACGOTF4](#)
[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMPILL](#)
[IFSS_FMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_PLACGOTF1: Where R got first method, 1st mention

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_PLACGOTF1

Where R got first method, 1st mention

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[PLACGOTF9](#)

[PLACGOTF2](#)

[PLACGOTF10](#)

[PLACGOTF1](#)

[PLACGOT2](#)

[PLACGOT1](#)

[PLACGOT0](#)

[C_42](#)

[C49](#)

Source Questions

EB-5

EB-5

EB-5

EB-5

EB-5

EB-5

EB-5

U24_C-42

U25_C-49

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1982 NSFG

Description

IFSS_PLACGOTF1 describes the first mentioned location where the respondent received her first method of birth control.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is largely comparable across all four surveys, with slight differences in respondent universe and response formats.

Respondent universes differ across all four surveys, but despite some anomalies in the 1988 and 1982 surveys, all four surveys are largely comparable. In the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, information on where the respondent obtained the method is split into two variables in the original data, depending on whether the first method was prescription or not. Information in the 1982, 1988, and 1995 NSFGs is contained in a single variable for both prescription and non-prescription methods. In the 2002 and 1995 NSFGs, this variable applies to respondents who were less than 25 years old and whose first birth control method used was a drug or device. The 1995 NSFG additionally excludes respondents who had never had sexual intercourse. For both surveys, methods classified as a drug or device include: "birth control pills; condom; sterilizing operation/tubal ligation; Depo-Provera, injectables (shot); Norplant(TM) implants; diaphragm; female condoms, vaginal pouch; foam; jelly or cream; cervical cap; suppository or insert; Today(TM) sponge; IUD, coil, or loop; morning after pills or emergency contraception; Lunelle injectable (monthly shot); and contraceptive patch." Methods not classified as a drug or device include: "Partner's vasectomy; withdrawal, pulling out; rhythm or safe period by calendar; safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test, natural family planning; respondent was sterile, respondent's partner was sterile; and other method."

In the 1982 and 1988 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who were less than 25 years old, who reported having had sexual intercourse post-menarche, and who did not report that one of the following options was their first (or only) birth control method used: "Douching after intercourse; Rhythm or safe period by calendar; Female sterilization operation, tubal ligation; Vasectomy, Male sterilization; Withdrawal, pulling out; any other method." The 1982 NSFG also includes "Abstinence, not having sex" in the list of non-drug, non-device methods. This is essentially the same restriction as in 1995 and 2002. It is worth noting that respondents who answered "Any other method" were encouraged to volunteer additional information. Those who volunteered additional information--for example, specifying "The pill and condom" or "Condom and withdrawal"--are included within the 1988 universe, which leaves only four respondents in the "Any other method" category. Those respondents presumably declined the invitation to volunteer additional information. These four respondents are not included in the question universe for this variable.

Question wording differs across all four surveys, but these differences are unlikely to substantively affect analysis. Across all four surveys, respondents were permitted to describe where they obtained prescription and non-prescription methods of birth control. In 2002, sources of prescription methods are coded first, followed by sources of non-prescription methods. After taking this ordering into account, sources are coded in the order that they were mentioned by the respondent. In all other years, sources are listed in the order mentioned by the respondent. In the 2002 NSFG, respondents were asked: "Please look at [this card]. Where did you get the [first method used]?" The card listed the following twelve options for prescription

methods: "Private doctor's office; HMO facility; Community health clinic, Community clinic, Public health clinic; Family planning or Planned Parenthood Clinic; Employer or company clinic; School or school-based clinic; Hospital outpatient clinic; Hospital emergency room; Hospital regular room; Urgent care center, urgent care or walk-in facility; [or] Some other place." The card for non-prescription methods additionally included "Drug store; Partner or spouse; [or] Friend." Respondents could list sources for up to two prescription methods and up to two non-prescription methods for a total of four sources. IFSS_PLACGOTF1 contains the source of the first prescription method if the first method included a prescription, and the source of the first non-prescription method if the first method did not include a prescription method.

In the 1995 NSFG, respondents were asked: "Please look at [this card]. Where did you get the (prescription for) [first method used] you used as your first birth control method? Did you get it from a#?" The card listed the following three options: "Clinic; Private doctor's office, or HMO; Or, from some other place?" Respondents who answered "Or, from some other place?" were asked to specify where. Respondents who volunteered "Hospital" were encouraged to specify whether the emergency room was used. Respondents could list up to four sources for their first method.

In the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, respondents were asked: "The first time you (or your partner) ever used ([previously mentioned] method), from which of the people or places on [this card] did you get (it/the prescription)?" For both surveys, the card listed the following eight options: "Private doctor or medical service; Clinic; Drug store; Other store; Husband/partner/boyfriend; Girlfriend; Parents; [or] Other (Specify)." (For both surveys, respondents who reported that their first method ever used was either the pill or a diaphragm were asked for the source of their prescription.) In 1988, some respondents gave two sources. The first source in the combination is coded here, and the second in IFSS_PLACGOTF2. Only one source was reported in 1982.

Two-part coding is used in the harmonized variable to facilitate comparisons across time without sacrificing information. The first digit classifies responses into private offices or HMOs, clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, partners or spouses, or some other place. Response formats differ across all four surveys, with the most significant difference being that "Hospital" is included in "Private doctor, medical services or hospital" in 1988, which is coded as "Private doctor's office or HMO." In the 2002 NSFG, response options were largely preserved in the harmonized variable. "Private doctor's office" and "HMO facility" are combined into "Private doctor's office or HMO," "Hospital regular room" is coded as "Hospital--non-emergency room," and "Friend" is coded as "Some other place," but otherwise all categories are coded as written. "Drug store," "Partner or spouse," and "Friend" were only options for non-prescription methods.

It is worth noting a subtle difference in question wording and respondent universes across surveys. In the 2002 NSFG, respondents are asked about one source per birth control method. Universes require that respondents have used an increasing number of birth control methods if they are to list an increasing number of sources, and questions end with notes of "Xth non-prescription method mentioned" or "Xth prescription method mentioned." The remaining survey years allow respondents to list multiple sources for each birth control method. Respondent universes do not require that additional birth control methods be listed, and the 1995 NSFG refers to the "first method (you used as your first birth control method)" in every sub-question. As a result, respondents to the 2002 NSFG may list fewer birth control sources than they actually used, though it is unclear how this will affect the distribution of responses. For example, if a respondent to the 2002 NSFG obtained condoms from both a drugstore and a friend, only one of these sources would appear in the 2002 NSFG; therefore, only that source would appear in the harmonized variable.

In the 1995 NSFG, responses of "Clinic" are coded as "Clinic, other or unspecified" in the harmonized variable. "Private Doctor's office or HMO" and "Some other place" are all coded as is. Some respondents who answered "Some other place" volunteered additional information, and many of these responses are coded accordingly. Volunteered responses of "Hospital emergency room" and "Hospital non-emergency room" are coded as is. "School or College" is coded as "School or School-Based Clinic." "Pharmacy, Drug Store, Other Store" is coded as "Pharmacy, Drug Store." "Male Partner Supplied" is coded as "Partner or Spouse." "Other place," "Military facility," and "Home" are all coded as "Some other place."

In the 1988 NSFG, responses of "Private doctor, medical services, or hospital" are coded as "Private Doctor's office or HMO" in the harmonized variable. Respondents who answered with two sources are coded according to the first method listed in the combination in IFSS_PLACGOTF1. The second method is coded in IFSS_PLACGOTF2. "Clinic" is coded as "Clinic, other or unspecified." "Drug Store" and "Other Store" are coded as "Pharmacy, Drug Store." "Husband/Partner/Boyfriend" is coded as "Partner or Spouse." "Girlfriend," "Parents," and "Other" are all coded as "Some other place."

In the 1982 NSFG, responses of "Private doctor or medical service" is coded as "Private Doctor's office or HMO." "Clinic" is coded as "Clinic, other or unspecified." "Drug Store" and "Other Store" are coded

as "Pharmacy, Drug Store." "Husband/Partner/Boyfriend" is coded as "Partner or Spouse." "Girlfriend," "Parents," and "Other" are all coded as "Some other place." "Hospital" is coded as "Hospital, unspecified." Across all years, not ascertained, refused and don't know responses are imputed and flagged accordingly.

See Also:

[IFSS_PLACGOTF2](#)
[IFSS_PLACGOTF2](#)
[IFSS_PLACGOTF4](#)
[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRSM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMPILL](#)
[IFSS_FMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_PLACCUR3: Where R got method used last month, 3rd mention

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTSX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_PLACCUR3

Where R got method used last month, 3rd mention

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[PLACCUR3](#)
[PLACCUR2](#)
[PLACCUR1](#)
[TYPAGYC2](#)
[PLACCUR2](#)

Source Questions

EH-3	2002 NSFG
EH-3	2002 NSFG
EH-3	2002 NSFG
Computed	1995 NSFG
EH-3	1995 NSFG

Description

IFSS_PLACCUR3 describes the third location where the respondent received a birth control method used in the month prior to being surveyed.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is largely comparable across both surveys, however the 2002 NSFG uses different question wording and may underreport the number of sources.

Respondent universes vary across both surveys. In the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, information on where the respondent obtained the method is split into two variables in the original data, depending on whether the method was prescription or not. In the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, this variable applies to respondents who mentioned that they had used a drug or device as a birth control method in the month prior to the survey. In the 1995 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who reported having sexual intercourse in the month they were interviewed, who were not pregnant or sterile at the time of the interview, and who used a drug or device as a birth control method in the month prior to the interview. Across both surveys, methods classified as a drug or device include: "birth control pills; condom; Depo-Provera, injectables (shot); Norplant(TM) implants; diaphragm; female condoms, vaginal pouch; foam; jelly or cream; cervical cap; suppository or insert; Today(TM) sponge; IUD, coil, or loop; morning after pills or emergency contraception; Lunelle injectable (monthly shot); and contraceptive patch." Methods not classified as a drug or device include: "Partner's vasectomy; sterilizing operation/tubal ligation; withdrawal, pulling out; rhythm or safe period by calendar; safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test, natural family planning; respondent was sterile, respondent's partner was sterile; and other method."

Question wording varies across the three surveys. In the 2002 NSFG, respondents were asked separate questions about prescription and non-prescription methods, and could report up to three sources for each type of method. Respondents using non-prescription methods were asked: "You may have already told me, but where did you get the [birth control method] you used last month?" Respondents using a prescription method were asked: "You may have already told me, but where did you get the prescription for the [birth control method] you used last month?" Only respondents who reported using a combination of prescription and non-prescription methods in the month prior to the interview were asked both questions. Respondents could choose from fourteen possible options: "Private doctor's office; HMO facility; Community health clinic, community clinic, [or] public health clinic; family planning or Planned Parenthood clinic; Employer or company clinic; School or school-based clinic; Hospital outpatient clinic; Hospital emergency room; Hospital regular room; Urgent care center, urgi-care or walk-in facility; friend; partner or spouse; drug store; [or] some other place." The options "friend," "partner or spouse," and "drug store" were only available for non-prescription methods.

Respondents in 2002 who mentioned any prescription birth control methods have their third mentioned source for a prescription birth control method coded in the harmonized variable. Those who did not mention any prescription birth control methods have their third mentioned source for a non-prescription birth control method coded in the harmonized variable. It is also worth noting that respondents in all years were asked where they obtained non-prescription methods, but where they obtained the prescription for prescription methods. As a result, a respondent who obtained a prescription for birth control pills from her doctor and picked them up at a drugstore may have only "private doctor's office" and not "drug store" listed.

In the 1995 NSFG, respondents were shown a card listing various locations and asked: "Where did you get the (prescription for the) [birth control method] you used last month?" Three possible options were listed: "Clinic; private doctor's office, or HMO; [or] some other place." Respondents who answered "Clinic" were asked to specify what type: "Hospital; health department; Planned Parenthood; [or] other." Respondents who answered "Some other place" were asked to specify where. If they mentioned a hospital, they were asked whether their answer was better described as "Hospital--emergency room [or] Hospital--not emergency room." Respondents could list up to four locations.

Two-part coding is used in the harmonized variable to facilitate comparisons across time without sacrificing information. The first digit classifies responses into private offices or HMOs, clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, partners or spouses, or some other place. Response format differs across both surveys. In the 2002 NSFG, response options were largely preserved in the harmonized variable. "Private doctor's office" and "HMO facility" are combined into "Private doctor's office or HMO," "Hospital regular room" is coded as "Hospital--non-emergency room," and "Friend" is coded as "Some other place," but otherwise all categories are coded as written. "Drug store," "Partner or spouse," and "Friend" were only options for non-prescription methods.

In the 1995 NSFG, responses of "Clinic" with no further specification are coded as "Clinic, other or unspecified" in the harmonized variable; respondents who specified "Hospital" are coded as "Hospital outpatient clinic," those who specified "Health department" are coded as "Community health clinic, community clinic, public health clinic," and those who specified "Planned Parenthood" are coded as "Family planning or planned parenthood clinic." "Private doctor's office or HMO," "Hospital emergency room," and "Hospital--non emergency room" are coded as is. Respondents who answered "Some other place" were encouraged to provide additional information, and 1,302 respondents out of 3,658 volunteered one of five unlisted responses: "School or college; military facility; home; pharmacy, drug store, [or] other store; [or] male partner supplied." Responses of "School or college" are coded as "School or school-based clinic." "Pharmacy, drug store, other store" is coded as "Pharmacy, drug store." "Male partner supplied" is coded as "Partner or spouse." "Some other place," "Military facility," and "Home" are all coded as "Some other place."

Across both years, not ascertained, refused and don't know responses are imputed and flagged accordingly.

See Also:

[IFSS_PLACCUR1](#)

[IFSS_PLACCUR2](#)

[IFSS_PLACCUR4](#)

[IFSS_CURRMETH1](#)

[IFSS_CURRMETH2](#)

[IFSS_CURRMETH3](#)

[IFSS_CURRMETH4](#)

[IFSS_USELSTSX](#)

IFSS_PLACCUR4: Where R got method used last month, 4th mention

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTSX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_PLACCUR4

Where R got method used last month, 4th mention

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[PLACCUR3](#)
[PLACCUR2](#)
[TYPAGYC3](#)
[PLACCUR3](#)

Source Questions

EH-3	2002 NSFG
EH-3	2002 NSFG
Computed	1995 NSFG
EH-3	1995 NSFG

Description

IFSS_PLACCUR4 describes the fourth location where the respondent received a birth control method used in the month prior to being surveyed.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is largely comparable across both surveys, however the 2002 NSFG uses different question wording and may underreport the number of sources.

Respondent universes vary across both surveys. In the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, information on where the respondent obtained the method is split into two variables in the original data, depending on whether the method was prescription or not. In the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, this variable applies to respondents who mentioned that they had used a drug or device as a birth control method in the month prior to the survey. In the 1995 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who reported having sexual intercourse in the month they were interviewed, who were not pregnant or sterile at the time of the interview, and who used a drug or device as a birth control method in the month prior to the interview. Across both surveys, methods classified as a drug or device include: "birth control pills; condom; Depo-Provera, injectables (shot); Norplant(TM) implants; diaphragm; female condoms, vaginal pouch; foam; jelly or cream; cervical cap; suppository or insert; Today(TM) sponge; IUD, coil, or loop; morning after pills or emergency contraception; Lunelle injectable (monthly shot); and contraceptive patch." Methods not classified as a drug or device include: "Partner's vasectomy; sterilizing operation/tubal ligation; withdrawal, pulling out; rhythm or safe period by calendar; safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test, natural family planning; respondent was sterile, respondent's partner was sterile; and other method."

Question wording varies across the two surveys. In the 2002 NSFG, respondents were asked separate questions about prescription and non-prescription methods, and could report up to three sources for each type of method. Respondents using non-prescription methods were asked: "You may have already told me, but where did you get the [birth control method] you used last month?" Respondents using a prescription method were asked: "You may have already told me, but where did you get the prescription for the [birth control method] you used last month?" Only respondents who reported using a combination of prescription and non-prescription methods in the month prior to the interview were asked both questions. Respondents could choose from fourteen possible options: "Private doctor's office; HMO facility; Community health clinic, community clinic, [or] public health clinic; family planning or Planned Parenthood clinic; Employer or company clinic; School or school-based clinic; Hospital outpatient clinic; Hospital emergency room; Hospital regular room; Urgent care center, urgi-care or walk-in facility; friend; partner or spouse; drug store; [or] some other place." The options "friend," "partner or spouse," and "drug store" were only available for non-prescription methods.

Respondents in 2002 who mentioned any prescription birth control methods have their third mentioned source for a prescription birth control method coded in the harmonized variable. Those who did not mention any prescription birth control methods have their third mentioned source for a non-prescription birth control method coded in the harmonized variable. It is also worth noting that respondents in all years were asked where they obtained non-prescription methods, but where they obtained the prescription for prescription methods. As a result, a respondent who obtained a prescription for birth control pills from her doctor and picked them up at a drugstore may have only "private doctor's office" and not "drug store" listed.

In the 1995 NSFG, respondents were shown a card listing various locations and asked: "Where did you get the (prescription for the) [birth control method] you used last month?" Three possible options were listed: "Clinic; private doctor's office, or HMO; [or] some other place." Respondents who answered "Clinic" were asked to specify what type: "Hospital; health department; Planned Parenthood; [or] other." Respondents who answered "Some other place" were asked to specify where. If they mentioned a hospital, they were asked whether their answer was better described as "Hospital--emergency room [or] Hospital--not emergency room." Respondents could list up to four locations.

Two-part coding is used in the harmonized variable to facilitate comparisons across time without sacrificing information. The first digit classifies responses into private offices or HMOs, clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, partners or spouses, or some other place. Response format differs across both surveys. In the 2002 NSFG, response options were largely preserved in the harmonized variable. "Private doctor's office" and "HMO

facility" are combined into "Private doctor's office or HMO," "Hospital regular room" is coded as "Hospital--non-emergency room," and "Friend" is coded as "Some other place," but otherwise all categories are coded as written. "Drug store," "Partner or spouse," and "Friend" were only options for non-prescription methods.

In the 1995 NSFG, responses of "Clinic" with no further specification are coded as "Clinic, other or unspecified" in the harmonized variable; respondents who specified "Hospital" are coded as "Hospital outpatient clinic," those who specified "Health department" are coded as "Community health clinic, community clinic, public health clinic," and those who specified "Planned Parenthood" are coded as "Family planning or planned parenthood clinic." "Private doctor's office or HMO," "Hospital emergency room," and "Hospital--non emergency room" are coded as is. Respondents who answered "Some other place" were encouraged to provide additional information, and 1,302 respondents out of 3,658 volunteered one of five unlisted responses: "School or college; military facility; home; pharmacy, drug store, [or] other store; [or] male partner supplied." Responses of "School or college" are coded as "School or school-based clinic." "Pharmacy, drug store, other store" is coded as "Pharmacy, drug store." "Male partner supplied" is coded as "Partner or spouse." "Some other place," "Military facility," and "Home" are all coded as "Some other place."

Across both years, not ascertained, refused and don't know responses are imputed and flagged accordingly.

See Also:

[IFSS_PLACCUR1](#)

[IFSS_PLACCUR2](#)

[IFSS_PLACCUR3](#)

[IFSS_CURRMETH1](#)

[IFSS_CURRMETH2](#)

[IFSS_CURRMETH3](#)

[IFSS_CURRMETH4](#)

[IFSS_USELSTSX](#)

IFSS_PLACGOTF3: Where R got first method, 3rd mention

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_PLACGOTF3

Where R got first method, 3rd mention

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[PLACGOTF2](#)

[PLACGOTF1](#)

[PLACGOT2](#)

Source Questions

EB-5

EB-5

EB-5

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

Description

IFSS_PLACGOTF3 describes the third mentioned location where the respondent received her first method of birth control.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is largely comparable across both surveys, with slight differences in respondent universe and response formats.

Respondent universes differ across both surveys, but overall both surveys are largely comparable. In the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, information on where the respondent obtained the method is split into two variables in the original data, depending on whether the first method was prescription or not. Information in the 1995 NSFG is contained in a single variable for both prescription and non-prescription methods. In the 2002 and 1995 NSFGs, this variable applies to respondents who were less than 25 years old and whose first birth control method used was a drug or device. The 1995 NSFG additionally excludes respondents who had never had sexual intercourse. For both surveys, methods classified as a drug or device include: "birth control pills; condom; sterilizing operation/tubal ligation; Depo-Provera, injectables (shot); Norplant(TM) implants; diaphragm; female condoms, vaginal pouch; foam; jelly or cream; cervical cap; suppository or insert; Today(TM) sponge; IUD, coil, or loop; morning after pills or emergency contraception; Lunelle injectable (monthly shot); and contraceptive patch." Methods not classified as a drug or device include: "Partner's vasectomy; withdrawal, pulling out; rhythm or safe period by calendar; safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test, natural family planning; respondent was sterile, respondent's partner was sterile; and other method."

Question wording differs across both surveys, but these differences are unlikely to substantively affect analysis. Across both surveys, respondents were permitted to describe where they obtained prescription and non-prescription methods of birth control. In 2002, sources of prescription methods are coded first, followed by sources of non-prescription methods. After taking this ordering into account, sources are coded in the order that they were mentioned by the respondent. In all other years, sources are listed in the order mentioned by the respondent. In the 2002 NSFG, respondents were asked: "Please look at [this card]. Where did you get the [first method used]?" The card listed the following twelve options for prescription methods: "Private doctor's office; HMO facility; Community health clinic, Community clinic, Public health clinic; Family planning or Planned Parenthood Clinic; Employer or company clinic; School or school-based clinic; Hospital outpatient clinic; Hospital emergency room; Hospital regular room; Urgent care center, urgent care or walk-in facility; [or] Some other place." The card for non-prescription methods additionally included "Drug store; Partner or spouse; [or] Friend." Respondents could list sources for up to two prescription methods and up to two non-prescription methods for a total of four sources. IFSS_PLACGOTF3 contains the source of the first non-prescription method.

In the 1995 NSFG, respondents were asked: "Please look at [this card]. Where did you get the (prescription for) [first method used] you used as your first birth control method? Did you get it from a#?" The card listed the following three options: "Clinic; Private doctor's office, or HMO; Or, from some other place?" Respondents who answered "Or, from some other place?" were asked to specify where. Respondents who volunteered "Hospital" were encouraged to specify whether the emergency room was used. Respondents could list up to four sources for their first method.

Two-part coding is used in the harmonized variable to facilitate comparisons across time without sacrificing information. The first digit classifies responses into private offices or HMOs, clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, partners or spouses, or some other place. Response formats differ across both surveys. In the 2002 NSFG, response options were largely preserved in the harmonized variable. "Private doctor's office" and "HMO facility" are combined into "Private doctor's office or HMO," "Hospital regular room" is coded as "Hospital--non-emergency room," and "Friend" is coded as "Some other place," but otherwise all categories are coded as written. "Drug store," "Partner or spouse," and "Friend" were only options for non-prescription methods.

It is worth noting a subtle difference in question wording and respondent universes across surveys. In the 2002 NSFG, respondents are asked about one source per birth control method. Universes require that respondents have used an increasing number of birth control methods if they are to list an increasing number of sources, and questions end with notes of "Xth non-prescription method mentioned" or "Xth prescription method mentioned." The remaining survey years allow respondents to list multiple sources for each birth control method. Respondent universes do not require that additional birth control methods be listed, and the 1995 NSFG refers to the "first method (you used as your first birth control method)" in every sub-question. As a result, respondents to the 2002 NSFG may list fewer birth control sources than they actually used, though it is unclear how this will affect the distribution of responses. For example, if a respondent to the 2002 NSFG

obtained condoms from both a drugstore and a friend, only one of these sources would appear in the 2002 NSFG; therefore, only that source would appear in the harmonized variable.

In the 1995 NSFG, responses of "Clinic" are coded as "Clinic, other or unspecified" in the harmonized variable. "Private Doctor's office or HMO" and "Some other place" are all coded as is. Some respondents who answered "Some other place" volunteered additional information, and many of these responses are coded accordingly. Volunteered responses of "Hospital emergency room" and "Hospital non-emergency room" are coded as is. "School or College" is coded as "School or School-Based Clinic." "Pharmacy, Drug Store, Other Store" is coded as "Pharmacy, Drug Store." "Male Partner Supplied" is coded as "Partner or Spouse." "Other place," "Military facility," and "Home" are all coded as "Some other place."

Across all years, not ascertained, refused and don't know responses are imputed and flagged accordingly.

See Also:

[IFSS_PLACGOTF1](#)
[IFSS_PLACGOTF2](#)
[IFSS_PLACGOTF4](#)
[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMPILL](#)
[IFSS_FMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_PLACGOTF4: Where R got first method, 4th mention

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_PLACGOTF4

Where R got first method, 4th mention

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[PLACGOTF2](#)

[PLACGOTF1](#)

[PLACGOT2](#)

Source Questions

EB-5

2002 NSFG

EB-5

2002 NSFG

EB-5

1995 NSFG

Description

IFSS_PLACGOTF4 describes the fourth mentioned location where the respondent received her first method of birth control.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is largely comparable across both surveys, with slight differences in respondent universe and response formats.

Respondent universes differ across both surveys, but overall both surveys are largely comparable. In the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, information on where the respondent obtained the method is split into two variables in the original data, depending on whether the first method was prescription or not. Information in the 1995 NSFG is contained in a single variable for both prescription and non-prescription methods. In the 2002 and 1995 NSFGs, this variable applies to respondents who were less than 25 years old and whose first birth control method used was a drug or device. The 1995 NSFG additionally excludes respondents who had never had sexual intercourse. For both surveys, methods classified as a drug or device include: "birth control pills; condom; sterilizing operation/tubal ligation; Depo-Provera, injectables (shot); Norplant(TM) implants; diaphragm; female condoms, vaginal pouch; foam; jelly or cream; cervical cap; suppository or insert; Today(TM) sponge; IUD, coil, or loop; morning after pills or emergency contraception; Lunelle injectable (monthly shot); and contraceptive patch." Methods not classified as a drug or device include: "Partner's vasectomy; withdrawal, pulling out; rhythm or safe period by calendar; safe period by temperature or cervical mucus test, natural family planning; respondent was sterile, respondent's partner was sterile; and other method."

Question wording differs across both surveys, but these differences are unlikely to substantively affect analysis. Across both surveys, respondents were permitted to describe where they obtained prescription and non-prescription methods of birth control. In 2002, sources of prescription methods are coded first, followed by sources of non-prescription methods. After taking this ordering into account, sources are coded in the order that they were mentioned by the respondent. In all other years, sources are listed in the order mentioned by the respondent. In the 2002 NSFG, respondents were asked: "Please look at [this card]. Where did you get the [first method used]?" The card listed the following twelve options for prescription methods: "Private doctor's office; HMO facility; Community health clinic, Community clinic, Public health clinic; Family planning or Planned Parenthood Clinic; Employer or company clinic; School or school-based clinic; Hospital outpatient clinic; Hospital emergency room; Hospital regular room; Urgent care center, urgent care or walk-in facility; [or] Some other place." The card for non-prescription methods additionally included "Drug store; Partner or spouse; [or] Friend." Respondents could list sources for up to two prescription methods and up to two non-prescription methods for a total of four sources. IFSS_PLACGOTF4 contains the source of second non-prescription method.

In the 1995 NSFG, respondents were asked: "Please look at [this card]. Where did you get the (prescription for) [first method used] you used as your first birth control method? Did you get it from a#?" The card listed the following three options: "Clinic; Private doctor's office, or HMO; Or, from some other place?" Respondents who answered "Or, from some other place?" were asked to specify where. Respondents who volunteered "Hospital" were encouraged to specify whether the emergency room was used. Respondents could list up to four sources for their first method.

Two-part coding is used in the harmonized variable to facilitate comparisons across time without sacrificing information. The first digit classifies responses into private offices or HMOs, clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, partners or spouses, or some other place. Response formats differ across both surveys. In the 2002 NSFG, response options were largely preserved in the harmonized variable. "Private doctor's office" and "HMO

facility" are combined into "Private doctor's office or HMO," "Hospital regular room" is coded as "Hospital--non-emergency room," and "Friend" is coded as "Some other place," but otherwise all categories are coded as written. "Drug store," "Partner or spouse," and "Friend" were only options for non-prescription methods.

It is worth noting a subtle difference in question wording and respondent universes across surveys. In the 2002 NSFG, respondents are asked about one source per birth control method. Universes require that respondents have used an increasing number of birth control methods if they are to list an increasing number of sources, and questions end with notes of "Xth non-prescription method mentioned" or "Xth prescription method mentioned." The remaining survey years allow respondents to list multiple sources for each birth control method. Respondent universes do not require that additional birth control methods be listed, and the 1995 NSFG refers to the "first method (you used as your first birth control method)" in every sub-question. As a result, respondents to the 2002 NSFG may list fewer birth control sources than they actually used, though it is unclear how this will affect the distribution of responses. For example, if a respondent to the 2002 NSFG obtained condoms from both a drugstore and a friend, only one of these sources would appear in the 2002 NSFG; therefore, only that source would appear in the harmonized variable.

In the 1995 NSFG, responses of "Clinic" are coded as "Clinic, other or unspecified" in the harmonized variable. "Private Doctor's office or HMO" and "Some other place" are all coded as is. Some respondents who answered "Some other place" volunteered additional information, and many of these responses are coded accordingly. Volunteered responses of "Hospital emergency room" and "Hospital non-emergency room" are coded as is. "School or College" is coded as "School or School-Based Clinic." "Pharmacy, Drug Store, Other Store" is coded as "Pharmacy, Drug Store." "Male Partner Supplied" is coded as "Partner or Spouse." "Other place," "Military facility," and "Home" are all coded as "Some other place."

Across all years, not ascertained, refused and don't know responses are imputed and flagged accordingly.

See Also:

IFSS_PLACGOTF1
IFSS_PLACGOTF2
IFSS_PLACGOTF2
IFSS_AGEFSTUS
IFSS_CMFIRSM
IFSS_FIRSTIME
IFSS_TYPALLFM
IFSS_FMCERV
IFSS_FMCONDOM
IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM
IFSS_FMFEMCON
IFSS_FMFOAM
IFSS_FMINJECT
IFSS_FMIUD
IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP
IFSS_FMMORN
IFSS_FMMULT
IFSS_FMNORP
IFSS_FMOTHER
IFSS_FMPATCH
IFSS_FMPILL
IFSS_FMRHYTHM
IFSS_FMSPONGE
IFSS_FMSTERILOP
IFSS_FMVASECT
IFSS_FMWITHDR

IFSS_CURRMETH1: Method used in month of interview - 1st mention

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTSX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the

rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_CURRMETH1

Method used in month of interview - 1st mention

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[CURRMETH1](#)

[METHH228](#)

[METHH224](#)

[METHH220](#)

[METHH216](#)

[METHH212](#)

[METHH208](#)

[METHH204](#)

[METHH200](#)

[METHH196](#)

[METHH192](#)

[A_DOI](#)

[CMAY88](#)

[CMAR88](#)

[CJUN88](#)

[CJUL88](#)

[CJAN88](#)

[CFEB88](#)

[CAUG88](#)

[CAPR88](#)

[BOX29](#)

Source Questions

Computed

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

Computed

C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33

C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33

C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33

C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33

C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33

C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33

C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33

C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33

BOX29

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1982 NSFG

Description

This variable records whether the respondent was using a contraceptive method in the month of the interview and if so, which one. IFSS_CURRMETH1 contains the first method reported.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is largely comparable across surveys. Question universe and response categories vary slightly.

In the National Surveys of Family Growth in 1982, 1988, 1995, and 2002, respondents were asked about month-by-month use of contraception. IFSS_CURRMETH1 was taken from the report from the current month. In the 1982 and 1988 surveys, respondents could provide only a single answer, but that answer could include combinations of up to two methods. In the 1995 survey, respondents could list up to five methods, and in the 2002 survey they could list up to four methods. IFSS_CURRMETH1 contains the first method reported; in 1982 and 1988, the first method is based on the order methods were listed in the

response category and may not be the first method named by the respondent. In all years, "no method used" is a possible response category.

The question universe in the 2002 NSFG included all women who had ever used a contraceptive method. In 1995, women who had never had sex and women who had never used a method were not asked about current contraceptive use. In the 1988 NSFG, pregnant women and women who reported not having sex in the month were not included in the question universe. Because these women are disproportionately likely not to be using a contraceptive method, caution should be used in comparing proportions of women reporting no method used across surveys. The 1982 NSFG excludes women who have never used a contraceptive method, women who have never had sex, and women who have not had sex since their period started.

In all four surveys, respondents chose among methods listed on a card. They could also respond that they used another method not listed. The methods listed varied across surveys. In some cases variation is due to changes in the availability of contraceptive methods. Depo-Provera, Norplant, emergency contraception, and the female condom were not available in the 1980s and so were provided as a response option only in the 1995 and 2002 surveys. In other cases, the methods listed varied because of changes in how "contraceptive method" was defined. For example, douching was listed as a method in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs but not in the other surveys, and abstinence was listed as a method only in 1982. If these methods were reported in other years, they were coded as "other."

In all four surveys, rhythm method based on calendar and rhythm methods based on temperature were listed as separate methods in the original data but combined into a single response in the harmonized variable. Similarly, contraceptive jelly or cream and suppositories or inserts were listed as two categories in the original variables but combined in IFSS_CURRMETH1. These categories are combined for comparability with other measures of contraceptive use.

In most survey years, response options distinguished between respondents who were surgically sterile and respondents who were sterile for other reasons. In the 1995 NSFG, however, only a single response was available for sterile respondents. In the harmonized variable, respondents were coded as surgically sterile if they reported being sterile and had ever reported a sterilizing operation and non-surgically sterile if they reported being sterile but did not report a sterilizing operation.

See Also:

[IFSS_CURRMETH1](#)

[IFSS_CURRMETH2](#)

[IFSS_CURRMETH3](#)

[IFSS_CURRMETH4](#)

IFSS_CURRMETH2: Method used in month of interview - 2nd mention

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_CURRMETH2

Method used in month of interview - 2nd mention

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[CURRMETH2](#)

[METHH229](#)

[METHH225](#)

[METHH221](#)

[METHH217](#)

[METHH213](#)

[METHH209](#)

[METHH205](#)

[METHH201](#)

[METHH197](#)

[METHH193](#)

[A DOI](#)

[CMAY88](#)

[CMAR88](#)

[CJUN88](#)

[CJUL88](#)

[CJAN88](#)

[CFEB88](#)

[CAUG88](#)

[CAPR88](#)

[BOX29](#)

Source Questions

Computed

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

Computed

C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33

C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33

C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33

C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33

C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33

C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33

C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33

C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33

BOX29

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1982 NSFG

Description

This variable records whether the respondent was using a contraceptive method in the month of the interview and if so, which one. IFSS_CURRMETH2 contains the second method reported.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is largely comparable across surveys. Question universe and response categories vary slightly.

In the National Surveys of Family Growth in 1982, 1988, 1995, and 2002, respondents were asked about month-by-month use of contraception. IFSS_CURRMETH2 was taken from the report from the current month. In the 1982 and 1988 surveys, respondents could provide only a single answer, but that answer could include combinations of up to two methods. In the 1995 survey, respondents could list up to five methods, and in the 2002 survey they could list up to four methods. IFSS_CURRMETH2 contains the second method reported; in 1982 and 1988, the second method is based on the order methods were listed in the response category and may not be the second method named by the respondent.

IFSS_CURRMETH2 is only defined for women who reported using at least two contraceptive methods in the month. The question universe in the 2002 NSFG included all women who had ever used a contraceptive method. In 1995, women who had never had sex and women who had never used a method were not asked about current contraceptive use. In the 1988 NSFG, pregnant women and women who reported not having sex in the month were not included in the question universe. Because these women are disproportionately likely not to be using a contraceptive method, caution should be used in comparing proportions of women reporting no method used across surveys. The 1982 NSFG excludes women who have never used a contraceptive method, women who have never had sex, and women who have not had sex since their period started.

In all four surveys, respondents chose among methods listed on a card. They could also respond that they used another method not listed. The methods listed varied across surveys. In some cases variation is due to changes in the availability of contraceptive methods. Depo-Provera, Norplant, emergency contraception, and the female condom were not available in the 1980s and so were provided as a response option only in the 1995 and 2002 surveys. In other cases, the methods listed varied because of changes in how "contraceptive

method" was defined. For example, douching was listed as a method in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs but not in the other surveys, and abstinence was listed as a method only in 1982. If these methods were reported in other years, they were coded as "other."

In all four surveys, rhythm method based on calendar and rhythm methods based on temperature were listed as separate methods in the original data but combined into a single response in the harmonized variable. Similarly, contraceptive jelly or cream and suppositories or inserts were listed as two categories in the original variables but combined in IFSS_CURRMETH2. These categories are combined for comparability with other measures of contraceptive use.

In most survey years, response options distinguished between respondents who were surgically sterile and respondents who were sterile for other reasons. In the 1995 NSFG, however, only a single response was available for sterile respondents. In the harmonized variable, respondents were coded as surgically sterile if they reported being sterile and had ever reported a sterilizing operation and non-surgically sterile if they reported being sterile but did not report a sterilizing operation.

See Also:

[IFSS_CURRMETH1](#)

[IFSS_CURRMETH3](#)

[IFSS_CURRMETH4](#)

IFSS_CURRMETH3: Method used in month of interview - 3rd mention

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTSX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_CURRMETH3

Method used in month of interview - 3rd mention

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[CURRMETH3](#)

[METHH230](#)

[METHH226](#)

[METHH222](#)

[METHH218](#)

[METHH214](#)

[METHH210](#)

[METHH206](#)

[METHH202](#)

Source Questions

Computed

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

METHH198	EF-1	1995 NSFG
METHH194	EF-1	1995 NSFG
A_DOI	Computed	1995 NSFG
CMAY88	C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33	1988 NSFG
CMAR88	C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33	1988 NSFG
CJUN88	C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33	1988 NSFG
CJUL88	C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33	1988 NSFG
CJAN88	C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33	1988 NSFG
CFEB88	C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33	1988 NSFG
CAUG88	C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33	1988 NSFG
CAPR88	C-16, C-17, C-31, C-33	1988 NSFG

Description

This variable records whether the respondent was using a contraceptive method in the month of the interview and if so, which one. IFSS_CURRMETH3 contains the third method reported.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is largely comparable across surveys. Question universe and response categories vary slightly.

In the National Surveys of Family Growth in 1988, 1995, and 2002, respondents were asked about month-by-month use of contraception. IFSS_CURRMETH3 was taken from the report from the current month.

In the 1995 survey, respondents could list up to five methods, and in the 2002 survey they could list up to four methods. IFSS_CURRMETH3 contains the third method reported; in 1988, the third method is based on the order methods were listed in the response category and may not be the third method named by the respondent.

The 1988 NSFG coded only a single response for the method used at first sex, but this response could include combinations of up to two methods. Three methods could be reported in 1988 only if the first method reported was "condom and foam," which was treated as two methods. Thus, IFSS_CURRMETH3 likely underestimates the number of respondents who used three methods in that year.

IFSS_CURRMETH3 is only defined for women who reported using at least three contraceptive methods in the month. The question universe in the 2002 NSFG included all women who had ever used a contraceptive method. In 1995, women who had never had sex and women who had never used a method were not asked about current contraceptive use. In the 1988 NSFG, pregnant women and women who reported not having sex in the month were not included in the question universe. Because these women are disproportionately likely not to be using a contraceptive method, caution should be used in comparing proportions of women reporting no method used across surveys.

In all three surveys, respondents chose among methods listed on a card. They could also respond that they used another method not listed. The methods listed varied across surveys. In some cases variation is due to changes in the availability of contraceptive methods. Depo-Provera, Norplant, emergency contraception, and the female condom were not available in the 1980s and so were provided as a response option only in the 1995 and 2002 surveys. In other cases, the methods listed varied because of changes in how "contraceptive method" was defined. For example, douching was listed as a method in the 1988 NSFG but not in the other surveys. If these methods were reported in other years, they were coded as "other."

In all three surveys, rhythm method based on calendar and rhythm methods based on temperature were listed as separate methods in the original data but combined into a single response in the harmonized variable. Similarly, contraceptive jelly or cream and suppositories or inserts were listed as two categories in the original variables but combined in IFSS_CURRMETH3. These categories are combined for comparability with other measures of contraceptive use.

In most survey years, response options distinguished between respondents who were surgically sterile and respondents who were sterile for other reasons. In the 1995 NSFG, however, only a single response was available for sterile respondents. In the harmonized variable, respondents were coded as surgically sterile if they reported being sterile and had ever reported a sterilizing operation and non-surgically sterile if they reported being sterile but did not report a sterilizing operation.

See Also:

[IFSS_CURRMETH1](#)
[IFSS_CURRMETH2](#)
[IFSS_CURRMETH4](#)

IFSS_CURRMETH4: Method used in month of interview - 4th mention

Summary for Variable Group: Current/last method use

Variables in this group describe the respondent's use of contraception the last time she had sex, her current use of contraception, and where she obtained her current contraceptive method. IFSS_USELSTSX indicates whether the respondent used a method at her last sex or not, and IFSS_TYPALLM is a summary variable that has a value of 1 if any method was recorded and missing otherwise. Variables also record which method was used the last time the respondent had sex (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used, as well as up to four methods used in the month of the interview and where she obtained those methods.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_CURRMETH4

Method used in month of interview - 4th mention

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[CURRMETH4](#)

[METHH231](#)

[METHH227](#)

[METHH223](#)

[METHH219](#)

[METHH215](#)

[METHH211](#)

[METHH207](#)

[METHH203](#)

[METHH199](#)

[METHH195](#)

[A_DOI](#)

Source Questions

Computed

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

EF-1

Computed

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

Description

This variable records whether the respondent was using a contraceptive method in the month of the interview and if so, which one. IFSS_CURRMETH4 contains the fourth method reported.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: This variable is largely comparable across surveys. Question universe and response categories vary slightly.

In the National Surveys of Family Growth in 1995 and 2002, respondents were asked about month-by-month use of contraception. IFSS_CURRMETH4 was taken from the report from the current month. In the 1995 survey, respondents could list up to five methods, and in the 2002 survey they could list up to four methods. IFSS_CURRMETH4 contains the fourth method reported.

IFSS_CURRMETH4 is only defined for women who reported using at least four contraceptive methods in the month. The question universe in the 2002 NSFG included all women who had ever used a contraceptive

method. In 1995, women who had never had sex and women who had never used a method were not asked about current contraceptive use.

In both surveys, respondents chose among methods listed on a card. They could also respond that they used another method not listed. The methods listed varied across surveys. In 2002, response options distinguished between respondents who were surgically sterile and respondents who were sterile for other reasons. In the 1995 NSFG, only a single response was available for sterile respondents. In the harmonized variable, respondents were coded as surgically sterile if they reported being sterile and had ever reported a sterilizing operation and non-surgically sterile if they reported being sterile but did not report a sterilizing operation.

In both surveys, rhythm method based on calendar and rhythm methods based on temperature were listed as separate methods in the original data but combined into a single response in the harmonized variable. Similarly, contraceptive jelly or cream and suppositories or inserts were listed as two categories in the original variables but combined in IFSS_CURRMETH4. These categories are combined for comparability with other measures of contraceptive use.

See Also:

[IFSS_CURRMETH1](#)

[IFSS_CURRMETH2](#)

[IFSS_CURRMETH3](#)

IFSS_FEMSTER: Ever used female sterilization?

Summary for Variable Group: Sterilizing operations

This variable group provides information on each of five types of sterilizing operations: tubal ligation, hysterectomy, ovary removal (oophorectomy), other female sterilizing operations, and vasectomy. For each type of operation, variables include the date of operation, where it was performed, how it was paid for, and the reason(s) the respondent (or her husband) had the operation. Additional information is provided for tubal ligation and vasectomy reversals, as well as whether the respondent or her partner would like to have her/his operation reversed. The group also includes summary variables on the surgical sterility status of the respondent and her partner. For non-sterile respondents and partners, information is included on whether they will have a sterilizing operation in the future and whether the respondent would terminate future pregnancies.

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FEMSTER

Ever used female sterilization?

Availability

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

[1976 NSFG: Interval File](#)

[1976 NSFG: Couple File](#)

[1973 NSFG](#)

[1973 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[C_39](#)

[CMETHK](#)

[C40K](#)

[MC_1](#)

[C47_3](#)

[C47_2](#)

[C47_1](#)

[C46](#)

[C34](#)

[C17_4](#)

[C17_3](#)

[C17_2](#)

[C17_1](#)

[C16](#)

[METH_273](#)

[METH_173](#)

[C45_4](#)

[C45_3](#)

[C45_2](#)

[C45_1](#)

[C44](#)

[C37_LM](#)

[C37_3](#)

[C37_2](#)

[C37_1](#)

[C36](#)

[PREG_MTHDUSE](#)

[PREG_4THMTHD](#)

[PREG_3RDMTHD](#)

[PREG_2NDMTHD](#)

[PREG_1STMTHD](#)

[PREG701_MTHDUSE](#)

[PREG701_MTHDINT4](#)

[PREG701_MTHDINT3](#)

[PREG701_2NDMTHD](#)

[PREG701_1STMTHD](#)

[BC_870](#)

[BC_770](#)

Source Questions

C-39

Computed

C-40

Computed

C-47

C-47

C-47

C-46

C-34

C-17

C-17

C-17

C-17

C-16

Computed

Computed

C-45

C-45

C-45

C-45

C-44

C-37

C-37

C-37

C-37

C-36

50

51

51

51

51

37

38

38

38

38

Computed

Computed

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1982 NSFG

1982 NSFG

1982 NSFG

1982 NSFG

1982 NSFG

1982 NSFG

1976 NSFG: Interval File

1976 NSFG: Interval File

1976 NSFG: Interval File

1976 NSFG: Interval File

1976 NSFG: Interval File

1976 NSFG: Couple File

1976 NSFG: Couple File

1976 NSFG: Couple File

1976 NSFG: Couple File

1976 NSFG: Couple File

1976 NSFG: Couple File

1976 NSFG: Couple File

1976 NSFG: Couple File

1976 NSFG: Couple File

1976 NSFG: Couple File

1976 NSFG: Couple File

1976 NSFG: Couple File

1973 NSFG

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1973 NSFG

Description

IFSS_FEMSTER measures whether the respondent has ever used surgical sterilization as a contraceptive method.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: In some surveys, this measure is taken from direct questions about lifetime use. In other years, it is constructed based on contraceptive use histories. In addition, in the 1973 National Survey of Family Growth, this variable only describes usage in the past three years.

IFSS_FEMSTER describes information about sterilizing operations used as a method of contraception. All IFSS component surveys include information about female sterilizing operations, but in some surveys it is not clear whether the surgery was undertaken for contraceptive purposes or for other reasons. Thus, IFSS_FEMSTER is only created for the 1973, 1976, 1982, and 1988 National Surveys of Family Growth. More general information on female sterilizing operations is harmonized in variables about specific operations (IFSS_EVERHYST, IFSS_EVEROVRs, IFSS_EVERTUBS, IFSS_EVEROTHR).

The primary difference in IFSS_FEMSTER across survey years is whether it is constructed solely based on contraceptive use history or whether information is also taken from direct questions about method use.

IFSS_FEMSTER is constructed based on contraceptive use history in the 1973 National Survey of Family Growth and created using a combination of both questions in the 1976, 1982, and 1988 NSFGs.

There is also some minor variation in question wording across surveys.

In all years, IFSS_FEMSTER exists for all women who were eligible to be asked about contraceptive use. In most surveys, this universe is defined as women who had ever had sex; for the 1973 and 1976 NSFGs, in which the sample is limited to married women or ever married women, virtually all women are included in this universe. There are some small variations in question universe across surveys.

For the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, the NSFG staff produced a recoded variable summarizing method use across the interval described by the method use calendar (see IFSS_CCMETH and related variables). IFSS_FEMSTER was created based on this variable where possible. However, the method use calendar only covers a limited time period (since January, 1979 for the 1982 NSFG; since January, 1984 for the 1988 NSFG). In addition to the calendar, respondents who had had sex at least once since they started menstruating were asked, "Have you or your partner ever used a method of birth control or family planning, even if it was only one time?" They were presented with a list of methods to refer to when they answered the question. Women who reported having ever used a method were then asked to circle all methods on the list that they had ever used. Female sterilizing operations were a response option on both lists of contraceptive methods; women who reported this method either in the method calendar or in the direct questions were coded as yes for IFSS_FEMSTER. Women who did not report it in any question were coded as no. Women who had not yet menstruated or had not had sex since their first menstruation are excluded from the question universe in addition to women who had never had sex.

The variable in the 1976 NSFG is structured roughly similarly to those in 1982 and 1988, except that there is no existing summary variable for the method use calendar, and the additional methods question does not include methods mentioned in the pregnancy interval file. Thus, IFSS created a summary variable reflecting whether the respondent reporting using female sterilization, alone or in combination with another method, during any month covered by the method use calendar (since January, 1973). This is combined with variables measuring contraceptive use in the intervals between pregnancies and the open interval (the period since the respondent's last pregnancy or first sex). Respondents were also asked, "Have you or your husband ever used any (other) method to delay or prevent a pregnancy?" As in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, information from this question was used to supplement information from the method calendar and pregnancy interval file in constructing IFSS_FEMSTER.

The 1973 NSFG includes no summary questions on lifetime use of contraception. Information for IFSS_FEMSTER is derived from the contraceptive calendar and variables measuring use of contraception in the interval between pregnancies and in the open interval, the period since the respondent's last pregnancy (IFSS_STERILINT). Both of these sources cover only the period since July 1970. Thus, IFSS_FEMSTER may understate lifetime use of sterilization in the 1973 NSFG. However, since most sterilizing operations are difficult or impossible to reverse, most women who had had a sterilizing operation in the past would also report having been sterilized in the past three years.

See Also:

[IFSS_STERILINT](#)
[IFSS_EVERHYST](#)
[IFSS_EVEROVR](#)
[IFSS_EVERTUBS](#)
[IFSS_EVEROTHR](#)
[IFSS_CERVLCP](#)
[IFSS_CONDOM](#)
[IFSS_DIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FOAMALON](#)
[IFSS_INJECTABLES](#)
[IFSS_IUD](#)
[IFSS_JELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_MORNPILL](#)
[IFSS_NORPLANT](#)
[IFSS_OTHRMETH](#)
[IFSS_PATCH](#)
[IFSS_PILL](#)
[IFSS_RHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_TEMPSAFE](#)
[IFSS_TODAYSPG](#)

[IFSS_VASECTMY](#)
[IFSS_WIDRAWAL](#)
[IFSS_WOCONDOM](#)

IFSS_NEWMETH: What other birth control methods has R used?

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_NEWMETH

What other birth control methods has R used?

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[NEWMETH](#)

[NEWMETH](#)

Source Questions

Recode

2002 NSFG

Recode

1995 NSFG

Description

IFSS_NEWMETH specifies what type of other contraception the respondent used.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: Question wording and universe are highly comparable across surveys, but response categories vary.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, all respondents were asked a series of questions about whether they had ever used any of a list of contraceptive methods. After the questions about particular methods, respondents were asked, "Have you used any other methods?" In the 2002 NSFG, this question was asked of all respondents; in 1995 only respondents who had ever had sex were asked about other methods. Respondents who said that they had used other methods (harmonized in IFSS_OTHRMETH) were then asked what those other methods were. Methods volunteered by the respondents were recorded, and some of these methods were assigned a code. In the 2002 NSFG, the coded methods were abstinence, tubal ligation, and vaginal contraceptive film, as well as a code for methods that had already been assigned codes. The women who incorrectly said they used other methods are also coded as yes in the applicable variable for the method that they specified. In the 1995 NSFG, the coded methods were abstinence and vaginal contraceptive film. Both years included a response category for "other method, not shown separately." Don't know and not ascertained responses were also possible.

See Also:

[IFSS_OTHRMETH](#)

[IFSS_CERVLAP](#)

[IFSS_CONDOM](#)

[IFSS_DIAFRAGM](#)

[IFSS_FEMSTER](#)

[IFSS_FOAMALON](#)
[IFSS_INJECTABLES](#)
[IFSS_IUD](#)
[IFSS_JELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_MORNPILL](#)
[IFSS_NORPLANT](#)
[IFSS_PATCH](#)
[IFSS_PILL](#)
[IFSS_RHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_TEMPSAFE](#)
[IFSS_TODAYSPG](#)
[IFSS_VASECTMY](#)
[IFSS_WIDRAWAL](#)
[IFSS_WOCONDOM](#)

IFSS_NORPLANT: Ever used Norplant implants?

Summary for Variable Group: Method ever use

Variables in this group record whether a respondent had ever used each of series of contraceptive methods (cervical cap; condoms; diaphragm; injectables; the IUD; jellies, creams, or suppositories; the morning after pill; norplant; the patch; the Pill; the rhythm method, and the temperature method in particular; the sponge; foam; female condoms; or withdrawal) or female or male sterilization. The group also includes a variable for the use of any other method. In some cases the variables come from direct questions about lifetime use, while in other years they are constructed based on contraceptive use histories.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_NORPLANT

Ever used Norplant implants?

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[NORPLANT](#)

[NORPLANT](#)

Source Questions

EA-6

EA-4

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

Description

IFSS_NORPLANT measures whether the respondent has ever used contraceptive implants.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: Question wording, structure, and universe are identical in the two surveys.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, all respondents were asked whether they had ever used Norplant (implants).

See Also:

[IFSS_CERVLCAP](#)

[IFSS_CONDOM](#)

[IFSS_DIAFRAGM](#)

[IFSS_FEMSTER](#)

[IFSS_FOAMALON](#)

IFSS_INJECTABLES
IFSS_IUD
IFSS_JELCRMSUP
IFSS_MORNPILL
IFSS_OTHRMETH
IFSS_PATCH
IFSS_PILL
IFSS_RHYTHM
IFSS_TEMPSAFE
IFSS_TODAYSPG
IFSS_VASECTMY
IFSS_WIDRAWAL
IFSS_WOCONDOM

IFSS_FMCONDOM: First method ever used was condoms

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FMCONDOM

First method ever used was condoms

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[FIRSMETH04](#)

[FIRSMETH03](#)

[FIRSMETH02](#)

[FIRSMETH01](#)

[FIRSME04](#)

[FIRSME03](#)

[FIRSME02](#)

[FIRSME01](#)

[FIRSME00](#)

[C_41](#)

[C48](#)

Source Questions

EB-1

EB-1

EB-1

EB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

C-41

C-48

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1982 NSFG

Description

For respondents who ever used a contraceptive method, IFSS_FMCERV indicates whether the first method used was condoms.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_FMCONDOM is largely comparable across surveys.

Question wording was highly similar across surveys. In both the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked "The very first time you ever used a birth control method, which method did you use?" In 1988, the question was "Thinking back, the very first time you ever used a method of birth control, or had intercourse with a partner who was using a method, which method was that?" The 1982 survey asked "Thinking back to the very first time you had intercourse when a method was used, which method was that?"

In all four surveys, respondents were asked to choose from a card listing possible methods and could also report "other" if they used a method not listed on the card. Women could report up to four methods in 2002 and up to five methods in 1995. In the 1982 and 1988 surveys, respondents could report using a combination of methods. If the condom was mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_FMCONDOM is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_FMCONDOM is coded as "no."

The 1982 and 1988 NSFGs only asked about the first method used for respondents who had used more than one method. For respondents who had only used one method, IFSS_CONDOM was used to ascertain whether they had ever used condoms.

IFSS_FMCONDOM is defined only for women who reported a valid method as their first method (coded 1 in IFSS_TYPALLFM). This includes nearly all women who reported ever using a contraceptive method. Women who had never had sex, or had not had sex since their first period, were not asked about contraceptive use in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs and so were not eligible to be asked questions about the first method used.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRSM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMPILL](#)
[IFSS_FMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_FMCERV: First method ever used was cervical cap

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FMCERV

First method ever used was cervical cap

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[FIRSMETH04](#)

[FIRSMETH03](#)

[FIRSMETH02](#)

[FIRSMETH01](#)

[FIRSME04](#)

[FIRSME03](#)

[FIRSME02](#)

[FIRSME01](#)

[FIRSME00](#)

Source Questions

EB-1

EB-1

EB-1

EB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

Description

For respondents who ever used a contraceptive method, IFSS_FMCERV indicates whether the first method used was the cervical cap.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_FMCERV is largely comparable across surveys.

In both the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked "The very first time you ever used a birth control method, which method did you use?" Respondents were asked to choose from a card listing possible methods and could also report "other" if they used a method not listed on the card. Women could report up to four methods in 2002 and up to five methods in 1995; if the cervical cap was mentioned in any of those reports, IFSS_FMCERV is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_FMCERV is coded as no.

IFSS_FMCERV is defined only for women who report a first method (coded 1 in IFSS_TYPALLFM). This includes nearly all women who reported ever using a contraceptive method.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)

[IFSS_CMFIRM](#)

[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)

[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)

[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)

[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)

[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)

[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)

[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)

[IFSS_FMIUD](#)

[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)

[IFSS_FMMORN](#)

[IFSS_FMMULT](#)

[IFSS_FMNORP](#)

IFSS_FMOTHER
IFSS_FMPATCH
IFSS_FMPILL
IFSS_FMRHYTHM
IFSS_FMSPONGE
IFSS_FMSTERILOP
IFSS_FMVASECT
IFSS_FMWITHDR

IFSS_FIRSTTIME: Timing of first method use in relation to first intercourse

Summary for Variable Group: Sexual history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's sexual experience including whether she has ever had sex (and if not, why not), century month of first sex, age at first sex, the age of her first sexual partner at first sex, her relationship to him, whether she is still having sex with him, the date she last had sex with him, whether she has had sex after her first period (menarche), and century month of and age at her first sex after menarche. It also includes information on the number of male sexual partners she has had in her lifetime, in the last 12 months, and prior to marriage. Additional variables capture her experience with sex education, including whether she ever talked with her parents about how pregnancy occurs, birth control, or sexually transmitted diseases, as well as whether (and in what grade) she received formal education on how pregnancy occurs, how to say no to sex, and STDs.

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FIRSTTIME

Timing of first method use in relation to first intercourse

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1995 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)
[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[FIRSTIME2](#)
[FIRSTIME1](#)
[FIRSTIME](#)
[C_43](#)
[C50](#)

Source Questions

EB-2	2002 NSFG
EB-2	2002 NSFG
EB-2	1995 NSFG
C-43	1988 NSFG
C-50	1982 NSFG

Description

IFSS_FIRSTIME records whether the respondent first used a contraceptive method when she first had sex or after she first had sex. In some surveys, this variable also records whether first use was before first sex.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: Question structure and universe are highly comparable, but the response options for IFSS_FIRSTIME vary across surveys.

In the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked: "Thinking again of the very first time you ever used a method of birth control, was it before your first intercourse, the first time you had intercourse, less than a month after your first intercourse, one to three months after your first intercourse, four to twelve months after your first intercourse, or more than twelve months after your first intercourse?" In the 1995 surveys, for respondents whose first sexual intercourse was involuntary and who had ever had voluntary intercourse, the question asked about timing of first method use relative to the first voluntary sexual intercourse.

In the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs, respondents were first asked what method they used first and then asked when they first used that method. Possible response options were the first time R had intercourse, within a month of first intercourse, one to three months after first intercourse, four to six months after first intercourse, seven to twelve months after first intercourse, and more than a year after first intercourse.

The response option "before your first intercourse" was only available in 1995 and 2002, and in 1995 it was not available for coitus-dependent methods (condoms, diaphragm, foam, jelly or cream, cervical cap, suppository, sponge, withdrawal, or morning after pills) The 1982 and 1988 surveys did not provide a response option for respondents whose first use took place before first intercourse. It is unclear how respondents in this category would have responded to the question.

The response categories four to six months and seven to twelve months in 1982 and 1988 were combined into a single category, four to twelve months, in the harmonized variable.

In the 1995 and 2002 NSFGs, IFSS_FIRSTIME is defined for all respondents who had ever had sex and ever used a contraceptive method. In the 1988 and 1982 NSFGs, IFSS_FIRSTIME is defined for respondents who had ever used a method and had had sex at least once since their first period.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRM](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMPILL](#)
[IFSS_FMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM: First method ever used was diaphragm

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female

condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM

First method ever used was diaphragm

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[FIRSMETH04](#)

[FIRSMETH03](#)

[FIRSMETH02](#)

[FIRSMETH01](#)

[FIRSME04](#)

[FIRSME03](#)

[FIRSME02](#)

[FIRSME01](#)

[FIRSME00](#)

[C_41](#)

[C48](#)

Source Questions

EB-1

EB-1

EB-1

EB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

C-41

C-48

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1982 NSFG

Description

For respondents who ever used a contraceptive method, IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM indicates whether the first method used was the diaphragm.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM is largely comparable across surveys.

Question wording was highly similar across surveys. In both the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked "The very first time you ever used a birth control method, which method did you use?" In 1988, the question was "Thinking back, the very first time you ever used a method of birth control, or had intercourse with a partner who was using a method, which method was that?" The 1982 survey asked "Thinking back to the very first time you had intercourse when a method was used, which method was that?"

In all four surveys, respondents were asked to choose from a card listing possible methods and could also report "other" if they used a method not listed on the card. Women could report up to four methods in 2002 and up to five methods in 1995. In the 1982 and 1988 surveys, respondents could report using a combination of methods. If the diaphragm was mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM is coded as "no."

The 1982 and 1988 NSFGs only asked about the first method used for respondents who had used more than one method. For respondents who had only used one method, IFSS_DIAFRAGM was used to ascertain whether they had ever used the diaphragm.

IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM is defined only for women who reported a valid method as their first method (coded 1 in IFSS_TYPALLFM). This includes nearly all women who reported ever using a contraceptive method. Women who had never had sex, or had not had sex since their first period, were not asked about contraceptive use in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs and so were not eligible to be asked questions about the first method used.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRSM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMPILL](#)
[IFSS_FMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_FMFEMCON: First method ever used was female condoms

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FMFEMCON

First method ever used was female condoms

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

Source Questions

FIRSMETH04	EB-1	2002 NSFG
FIRSMETH03	EB-1	2002 NSFG
FIRSMETH02	EB-1	2002 NSFG
FIRSMETH01	EB-1	2002 NSFG
FIRSME04	FB-1	1995 NSFG
FIRSME03	FB-1	1995 NSFG
FIRSME02	FB-1	1995 NSFG
FIRSME01	FB-1	1995 NSFG
FIRSME00	FB-1	1995 NSFG

Description

For respondents who ever used a contraceptive method, IFSS_FMFEMCON indicates whether the first method used was the female condom.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_FMFEMCON is largely comparable across surveys.

In both the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked "The very first time you ever used a birth control method, which method did you use?" Respondents were asked to choose from a card listing possible methods and could also report "other" if they used a method not listed on the card. Women could report up to four methods in 2002 and up to five methods in 1995; if the female condom was mentioned in any of those reports, IFSS_FMFEMCON is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_FMFEMCON is coded as "no."

IFSS_FMFEMCON is defined only for women who report a valid method as their first method (coded 1 in IFSS_TYPALLFM). This includes nearly all women who reported ever using a contraceptive method.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRSM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMPILL](#)
[IFSS_FMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_FMFOAM: First method ever used was foam

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FMFOAM

First method ever used was foam

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[FIRSMETH04](#)

[FIRSMETH03](#)

[FIRSMETH02](#)

[FIRSMETH01](#)

[FIRSME04](#)

[FIRSME03](#)

[FIRSME02](#)

[FIRSME01](#)

[FIRSME00](#)

[C_41](#)

[C48](#)

Source Questions

EB-1

EB-1

EB-1

EB-1

FB-1

FB-1

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FB-1

FB-1

C-41

C-48

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1982 NSFG

Description

For respondents who ever used a contraceptive method, IFSS_FMFOAM indicates whether the first method used was foam.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_FMFOAM is largely comparable across surveys.

Question wording was highly similar across surveys. In both the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked "The very first time you ever used a birth control method, which method did you use?" In 1988, the question was "Thinking back, the very first time you ever used a method of birth control, or had intercourse with a partner who was using a method, which method was that?" The 1982 survey asked "Thinking back to the very first time you had intercourse when a method was used, which method was that?"

In all four surveys, respondents were asked to choose from a card listing possible methods and could also report "other" if they used a method not listed on the card. Women could report up to four methods in 2002 and up to five methods in 1995. In the 1982 and 1988 surveys, respondents could report using a combination of methods. If contraceptive foam was mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_FMFOAM is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_FMFOAM is coded as "no."

The 1982 and 1988 NSFGs only asked about the first method used for respondents who had used more than one method. For respondents who had only used one method, IFSS_FOAM was used to ascertain whether they had ever used contraceptive foam.

IFSS_FMFOAM is defined only for women who reported a valid method as their first method (coded 1 in IFSS_TYPALLFM). This includes nearly all women who reported ever using a contraceptive method. Women who had never had sex, or had not had sex since their first period, were not asked about contraceptive use in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs and so were not eligible to be asked questions about the first method used.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRSM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMPILL](#)
[IFSS_FMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_FMINJECT: First method ever used was injectable (Depo-provera, Lunelle)

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FMINJECT

First method ever used was injectable (Depo-provera, Lunelle)

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[FIRSMETH04](#)

[FIRSMETH03](#)

[FIRSMETH02](#)

[FIRSMETH01](#)

Source Questions

EB-1

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EB-1

EB-1

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

FIRSME04	FB-1	1995 NSFG
FIRSME03	FB-1	1995 NSFG
FIRSME02	FB-1	1995 NSFG
FIRSME01	FB-1	1995 NSFG
FIRSME00	FB-1	1995 NSFG

Description

For respondents who ever used a contraceptive method, IFSS_FMINJECT indicates whether the first method used was an injectable contraceptive, such as Depo-Provera or Lunelle.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_FMINJECT is largely comparable across surveys.

Question wording was highly similar across surveys. In both the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked "The very first time you ever used a birth control method, which method did you use?"

In both surveys, respondents were asked to choose from a card listing possible methods and could also report "other" if they used a method not listed on the card. Women could report up to four methods in 2002 and up to five methods in 1995. If injectables were mentioned in any report, IFSS_FMINJECT is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_FMINJECT is coded as "no."

IFSS_FMINJECT is defined only for women who reported a valid method as their first method (coded 1 in IFSS_TYPALLFM). This includes nearly all women who reported ever using a contraceptive method.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMPILL](#)
[IFSS_FMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERIOP](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP: First method ever used was jelly, cream, suppository or insert

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP

First method ever used was jelly, cream, suppository or insert

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[FIRSMETH04](#)

[FIRSMETH03](#)

[FIRSMETH02](#)

[FIRSMETH01](#)

[FIRSME04](#)

[FIRSME03](#)

[FIRSME02](#)

[FIRSME01](#)

[FIRSME00](#)

[C_41](#)

[C48](#)

Source Questions

EB-1

EB-1

EB-1

EB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

C-41

C-48

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1982 NSFG

Description

For respondents who ever used a contraceptive method, IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP indicates whether the first method used was contraceptive jelly, cream, suppositories, or inserts.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP is largely comparable across surveys.

Question wording was highly similar across surveys. In both the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked "The very first time you ever used a birth control method, which method did you use?" In 1988, the question was "Thinking back, the very first time you ever used a method of birth control, or had intercourse with a partner who was using a method, which method was that?" The 1982 survey asked "Thinking back to the very first time you had intercourse when a method was used, which method was that?"

In all four surveys, respondents were asked to choose from a card listing possible methods and could also report "other" if they used a method not listed on the card. Women could report up to four methods in 2002 and up to five methods in 1995. In the 1982 and 1988 surveys, respondents could report using a combination of methods. If contraceptive jelly, cream, suppositories, or inserts were mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP is coded as "no." Note that in all four surveys, "jelly or cream" and "suppository or insert" are separate response categories in the original variables. They are combined into IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP in the harmonized variable for consistency with other contraceptive use variables.

The 1982 and 1988 NSFGs only asked about the first method used for respondents who had used more than one method. For respondents who had only used one method, IFSS_JELCRMSUP was used to ascertain whether they had ever used jelly, cream, suppositories, or inserts.

IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP is defined only for women who reported a valid method as their first method (coded 1 in IFSS_TYPALLFM). This includes nearly all women who reported ever using a contraceptive method. Women who had never had sex, or had not had sex since their first period, were not asked about

contraceptive use in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs and so were not eligible to be asked questions about the first method used.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRSM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMPILL](#)
[IFSS_FMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_FMIUD: First method ever used was IUD

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FMIUD

First method ever used was IUD

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1995 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)
[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[FIRSMETH04](#)

Source Questions

EB-1

2002 NSFG

FIRSMETH03	EB-1	2002 NSFG
FIRSMETH02	EB-1	2002 NSFG
FIRSMETH01	EB-1	2002 NSFG
FIRSME04	FB-1	1995 NSFG
FIRSME03	FB-1	1995 NSFG
FIRSME02	FB-1	1995 NSFG
FIRSME01	FB-1	1995 NSFG
FIRSME00	FB-1	1995 NSFG
C_41	C-41	1988 NSFG
C48	C-48	1982 NSFG

Description

For respondents who ever used a contraceptive method, IFSS_FMIUD indicates whether the first method used was the IUD.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_FMIUD is largely comparable across surveys.

Question wording was highly similar across surveys. In both the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked "The very first time you ever used a birth control method, which method did you use?" In 1988, the question was "Thinking back, the very first time you ever used a method of birth control, or had intercourse with a partner who was using a method, which method was that?" The 1982 survey asked "Thinking back to the very first time you had intercourse when a method was used, which method was that?"

In all four surveys, respondents were asked to choose from a card listing possible methods and could also report "other" if they used a method not listed on the card. Women could report up to four methods in 2002 and up to five methods in 1995. In the 1982 and 1988 surveys, respondents could report using a combination of methods. If the IUD was mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_FMIUD is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_FMIUD is coded as "no."

The 1982 and 1988 NSFGs only asked about the first method used for respondents who had used more than one method. For respondents who had only used one method, IFSS_IUD was used to ascertain whether they had ever used the IUD.

IFSS_FMIUD is defined only for women who reported a valid method as their first method (coded 1 in IFSS_TYPALLFM). This includes nearly all women who reported ever using a contraceptive method. Women who had never had sex, or had not had sex since their first period, were not asked about contraceptive use in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs and so were not eligible to be asked questions about the first method used.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMPILL](#)
[IFSS_FMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_FMMORN: First method ever used was morning-after pill or emergency contraception

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FMMORN

First method ever used was morning-after pill or emergency contraception

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[FIRSMETH04](#)

[FIRSMETH03](#)

[FIRSMETH02](#)

[FIRSMETH01](#)

[FIRSME04](#)

[FIRSME03](#)

[FIRSME02](#)

[FIRSME01](#)

[FIRSME00](#)

Source Questions

EB-1

EB-1

EB-1

EB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

Description

For respondents who ever used a contraceptive method, IFSS_FMMORN indicates whether the first method used was the morning after pill.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_FMMORN is largely comparable across surveys.

Question wording was highly similar across surveys. In both the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked "The very first time you ever used a birth control method, which method did you use?"

In both surveys, respondents were asked to choose from a card listing possible methods and could also report "other" if they used a method not listed on the card. Women could report up to four methods in 2002 and up to five methods in 1995. If the morning after pill or emergency contraception was mentioned in any report, IFSS_FMMORN is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_FMMORN is coded as "no."

IFSS_FMMORN is defined only for women who reported a valid method as their first method (coded 1 in IFSS_TYPALLFM). This includes nearly all women who reported ever using a contraceptive method.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRSM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMPILL](#)
[IFSS_FMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_FMMULT: First method ever used was combination of multiple methods

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FMMULT

First method ever used was combination of multiple methods

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1995 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)
[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[FIRSMETH04](#)
[FIRSMETH03](#)

Source Questions

EB-1
EB-1

2002 NSFG
2002 NSFG

FIRSMETH02	EB-1	2002 NSFG
FIRSMETH01	EB-1	2002 NSFG
FIRSME04	FB-1	1995 NSFG
FIRSME03	FB-1	1995 NSFG
FIRSME02	FB-1	1995 NSFG
FIRSME01	FB-1	1995 NSFG
FIRSME00	FB-1	1995 NSFG
C_41	C-41	1988 NSFG
C48	C-48	1982 NSFG

Description

For respondents who ever used a contraceptive method, IFSS_FMMULT indicates whether multiple methods were used at the time of first use.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_FMMULT is largely comparable across surveys.

Question wording was highly similar across surveys. In both the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked "The very first time you ever used a birth control method, which method did you use?" In 1988, the question was "Thinking back, the very first time you ever used a method of birth control, or had intercourse with a partner who was using a method, which method was that?" The 1982 survey asked "Thinking back to the very first time you had intercourse when a method was used, which method was that?"

In all four surveys, respondents were asked to choose from a card listing possible methods and could also report "other" if they used a method not listed on the card. Women could report up to four methods in 2002 and up to five methods in 1995. In the 1982 and 1988 surveys, respondents could report using a combination of methods. If more than one method was reported in 1995 and 2002, or if a combination was reported in 1982 and 1988, IFSS_FMMULT is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_FMMULT is coded as "no."

IFSS_FMMULT is defined only for women who reported a valid method as their first method (coded 1 in IFSS_TYPALLFM). This includes nearly all women who reported ever using a contraceptive method. Women who had never had sex, or had not had sex since their first period, were not asked about contraceptive use in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs and so were not eligible to be asked questions about the first method used.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMPILL](#)
[IFSS_FMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_FMNORP: First method ever used was Norplant

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FMNORP

First method ever used was Norplant

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[FIRSMETH04](#)

[FIRSMETH03](#)

[FIRSMETH02](#)

[FIRSMETH01](#)

[FIRSME04](#)

[FIRSME03](#)

[FIRSME02](#)

[FIRSME01](#)

[FIRSME00](#)

Source Questions

EB-1

EB-1

EB-1

EB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

Description

For respondents who ever used a contraceptive method, IFSS_FMNORP indicates whether the first method used was Norplant implants.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_FMNORP is largely comparable across surveys.

Question wording was highly similar across surveys. In both the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked "The very first time you ever used a birth control method, which method did you use?"

In both surveys, respondents were asked to choose from a card listing possible methods and could also report "other" if they used a method not listed on the card. Women could report up to four methods in 2002 and up to five methods in 1995. If Norplant was mentioned in any report, IFSS_FMNORP is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_FMNORP is coded as "no."

IFSS_FMNORP is defined only for women who reported a valid method as their first method (coded 1 in IFSS_TYPALLFM). This includes nearly all women who reported ever using a contraceptive method.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)

[IFSS_CMFIRM](#)

[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)

[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)

[IFSS_FMCERV](#)

[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMPILL](#)
[IFSS_FMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_FMOTHER: First method ever used was Other, not listed separately

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FMOTHER

First method ever used was Other, not listed separately

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1995 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)
[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[FIRSMETH04](#)
[FIRSMETH03](#)
[FIRSMETH02](#)
[FIRSMETH01](#)
[FIRSME04](#)
[FIRSME03](#)
[FIRSME02](#)
[FIRSME01](#)

Source Questions

EB-1	2002 NSFG
EB-1	2002 NSFG
EB-1	2002 NSFG
EB-1	2002 NSFG
FB-1	1995 NSFG
FB-1	1995 NSFG
FB-1	1995 NSFG
FB-1	1995 NSFG

[FIRSME00](#)
[C_41](#)
[C48](#)

FB-1
C-41
C-48

1995 NSFG
1988 NSFG
1982 NSFG

Description

For respondents who ever used a contraceptive method, IFSS_FMOTHER indicates whether the first method used was a method not listed on response cards, including abstinence and douche.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_FMOTHER is largely comparable across surveys. Because the list of specified response options varied across surveys, the methods captured in the "other" response category might also vary. "Douching after intercourse" is explicitly included in 1982 and 1988 as well as "Abstinence, not having intercourse" in 1982.

Question wording was highly similar across surveys. In both the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked "The very first time you ever used a birth control method, which method did you use?" In 1988, the question was "Thinking back, the very first time you ever used a method of birth control, or had intercourse with a partner who was using a method, which method was that?" The 1982 survey asked "Thinking back to the very first time you had intercourse when a method was used, which method was that?"

In all four surveys, respondents were asked to choose from a card listing possible methods and could also report "other" if they used a method not listed on the card. Women could report up to four methods in 2002 and up to five methods in 1995. In the 1982 and 1988 surveys, respondents could report using a combination of methods. If an "other"/unspecified method was mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_FMOTHER is coded as "yes." Additionally, if "Douching after intercourse" was mentioned alone or in a combination in 1982 and 1988, IFSS_FMOTHER is coded as "yes." Mentions of "Abstinence, not having intercourse" are also coded as "yes" in 1982. Otherwise, IFSS_FMOTHER is coded as no.

The 1982 and 1988 NSFGs only asked about the first method used for respondents who had used more than one method. For respondents who had only used one method, IFSS_OTHRMETH was used to ascertain whether they had ever used any other methods besides those specified.

IFSS_FMOTHER is defined only for women who reported a valid method as their first method (coded 1 in IFSS_TYPALLFM). This includes nearly all women who reported ever using a contraceptive method. Women who had never had sex, or had not had sex since their first period, were not asked about contraceptive use in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs and so were not eligible to be asked questions about the first method used.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMPILL](#)
[IFSS_FMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_FMPATCH: First method ever used was contraceptive patch

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FMPATCH

First method ever used was contraceptive patch

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[FIRSMETH04](#)
[FIRSMETH03](#)
[FIRSMETH02](#)
[FIRSMETH01](#)

Source Questions

EB-1	2002 NSFG
EB-1	2002 NSFG
EB-1	2002 NSFG
EB-1	2002 NSFG

Description

For respondents who ever used a contraceptive method, IFSS_FMPATCH indicates whether the first method used was the contraceptive patch.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_FMPATCH only exists in a single survey.

In the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, respondents were asked "The very first time you ever used a birth control method, which method did you use?"

Respondents were asked to choose from a card listing possible methods and could also report "other" if they used a method not listed on the card. Women could report up to four methods. If the patch was mentioned in any report, IFSS_FMPATCH is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_FMPATCH is coded as "no."

IFSS_FMPATCH is defined only for women who reported a valid method as their first method (coded 1 in IFSS_TYPALLFM). This includes nearly all women who reported ever using a contraceptive method.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)

IFSS_FMIUD
IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP
IFSS_FMMORN
IFSS_FMMULT
IFSS_FMNORP
IFSS_FMOTHER
IFSS_FMPILL
IFSS_FMRHYTHM
IFSS_FMSPONGE
IFSS_FMSTERILOP
IFSS_FMVASECT
IFSS_FMWITHDR

IFSS_FMPILL: First method ever used was birth control pills

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FMPILL

First method ever used was birth control pills

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[FIRSMETH04](#)

[FIRSMETH03](#)

[FIRSMETH02](#)

[FIRSMETH01](#)

[FIRSME04](#)

[FIRSME03](#)

[FIRSME02](#)

[FIRSME01](#)

[FIRSME00](#)

[C_41](#)

[C48](#)

Source Questions

EB-1

EB-1

EB-1

EB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

C-41

C-48

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1982 NSFG

Description

For respondents who ever used a contraceptive method, IFSS_FMPILL indicates whether the first method used was the pill.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_FMPILL is largely comparable across surveys.

Question wording was highly similar across surveys. In both the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked "The very first time you ever used a birth control method, which method did you use?" In 1988, the question was "Thinking back, the very first time you ever used a method of birth control, or had intercourse with a partner who was using a method, which method was that?" The 1982 survey asked "Thinking back to the very first time you had intercourse when a method was used, which method was that?"

In all four surveys, respondents were asked to choose from a card listing possible methods and could also report "other" if they used a method not listed on the card. Women could report up to four methods in 2002 and up to five methods in 1995. In the 1982 and 1988 surveys, respondents could report using a combination of methods. If the pill was mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_FMPILL is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_FMPILL is coded as "no."

The 1982 and 1988 NSFGs only asked about the first method used for respondents who had used more than one method. For respondents who had only used one method, IFSS_PILL was used to ascertain whether they had ever used the pill.

IFSS_FMPILL is defined only for women who reported a valid method as their first method (coded 1 in IFSS_TYPALLFM). This includes nearly all women who reported ever using a contraceptive method. Women who had never had sex, or had not had sex since their first period, were not asked about contraceptive use in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs and so were not eligible to be asked questions about the first method used.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRSM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_FMRHYTHM: First method ever used was rhythm (temp or calendar)

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary

variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FMRHYTHM

First method ever used was rhythm (temp or calendar)

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[FIRSMETH04](#)

[FIRSMETH03](#)

[FIRSMETH02](#)

[FIRSMETH01](#)

[FIRSME04](#)

[FIRSME03](#)

[FIRSME02](#)

[FIRSME01](#)

[FIRSME00](#)

[C_41](#)

[C48](#)

Source Questions

EB-1

EB-1

EB-1

EB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

C-41

C-48

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1982 NSFG

Description

For respondents who ever used a contraceptive method, IFSS_FMRHYTHM indicates whether the first method used was the rhythm method.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_FMRHYTHM is largely comparable across surveys.

Question wording was highly similar across surveys. In both the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked "The very first time you ever used a birth control method, which method did you use?" In 1988, the question was "Thinking back, the very first time you ever used a method of birth control, or had intercourse with a partner who was using a method, which method was that?" The 1982 survey asked "Thinking back to the very first time you had intercourse when a method was used, which method was that?"

In all four surveys, respondents were asked to choose from a card listing possible methods and could also report "other" if they used a method not listed on the card. Women could report up to four methods in 2002 and up to five methods in 1995. In the 1982 and 1988 surveys, respondents could report using a combination of methods. If rhythm was mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_FMRHYTHM is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_FMRHYTHM is coded as "no." Note that in all four surveys, temperature and calendar methods are listed as separate response categories in the original variables. They are combined into IFSS_FMRHYTHM in the harmonized variable for consistency with other contraceptive use variables.

The 1982 and 1988 NSFGs only asked about the first method used for respondents who had used more than one method. For respondents who had only used one method, IFSS_RHYTHM was used to ascertain whether they had ever used a rhythm method.

IFSS_FMRHYTHM is defined only for women who reported a valid method as their first method (coded 1 in IFSS_TYPALLFM). This includes nearly all women who reported ever using a contraceptive method. Women who had never had sex, or had not had sex since their first period, were not asked about contraceptive use in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs and so were not eligible to be asked questions about the first method used.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRSM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMPILL](#)
[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_FMSTERILOP: First method ever used was female sterilization

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FMSTERILOP

First method ever used was female sterilization

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)
[1988 NSFG](#)
[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

Source Questions

FIRSMETH04	EB-1	2002 NSFG
FIRSMETH03	EB-1	2002 NSFG
FIRSMETH02	EB-1	2002 NSFG
FIRSMETH01	EB-1	2002 NSFG
C_41	C-41	1988 NSFG
C48	C-48	1982 NSFG

Description

For respondents who ever used a contraceptive method, IFSS_FMSTERILOP indicates whether the first method used was female sterilization.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_FMSTERILOP is largely comparable across surveys.

Question wording was highly similar across surveys. In the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, respondents were asked "The very first time you ever used a birth control method, which method did you use?" In 1988, the question was "Thinking back, the very first time you ever used a method of birth control, or had intercourse with a partner who was using a method, which method was that?" The 1982 survey asked "Thinking back to the very first time you had intercourse when a method was used, which method was that?"

In all three surveys, respondents were asked to choose from a card listing possible methods and could also report "other" if they used a method not listed on the card. Women could report up to four methods in 2002. In the 1982 and 1988 surveys, respondents could report using a combination of methods. If female sterilization was mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_FMSTERILOP is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_FMSTERILOP is coded as "no."

The 1982 and 1988 NSFGs only asked about the first method used for respondents who had used more than one method. For respondents who had only used one method, IFSS_FEMSTER was used to ascertain whether they had ever used female sterilization.

IFSS_FMSTERILOP is defined only for women who reported a valid method as their first method (coded 1 in IFSS_TYPALLFM). This includes nearly all women who reported ever using a contraceptive method. Women who had never had sex, or had not had sex since their first period, were not asked about contraceptive use in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs and so were not eligible to be asked questions about the first method used.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMPILL](#)
[IFSS_FMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_FMVASECT: First method ever used was partner's vasectomy

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FMVASECT

First method ever used was partner's vasectomy

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[FIRSMETH04](#)

[FIRSMETH03](#)

[FIRSMETH02](#)

[FIRSMETH01](#)

[FIRSME04](#)

[FIRSME03](#)

[FIRSME02](#)

[FIRSME01](#)

[FIRSME00](#)

[C_41](#)

[C48](#)

Source Questions

EB-1

EB-1

EB-1

EB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

FB-1

C-41

C-48

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1982 NSFG

Description

For respondents who ever used a contraceptive method, IFSS_FMVASECT indicates whether the first method used was partner's vasectomy.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_FMVASECT is largely comparable across surveys.

Question wording was highly similar across surveys. In both the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked "The very first time you ever used a birth control method, which method did you use?" In 1988, the question was "Thinking back, the very first time you ever used a method of birth control, or had intercourse with a partner who was using a method, which method was that?" The 1982 survey asked "Thinking back to the very first time you had intercourse when a method was used, which method was that?"

In all four surveys, respondents were asked to choose from a card listing possible methods and could also report "other" if they used a method not listed on the card. Women could report up to four methods in 2002 and up to five methods in 1995. In the 1982 and 1988 surveys, respondents could report using a combination of methods. If partner's vasectomy was mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_FMVASECT is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_FMVASECT is coded as "no."

The 1982 and 1988 NSFGs only asked about the first method used for respondents who had used more than one method. For respondents who had only used one method, IFSS_VASECTMY was used to ascertain whether they had ever used vasectomy.

IFSS_FMVASECT is defined only for women who reported a valid method as their first method (coded 1 in IFSS_TYPALLFM). This includes nearly all women who reported ever using a contraceptive method. Women who had never had sex, or had not had sex since their first period, were not asked about contraceptive use in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs and so were not eligible to be asked questions about the first method used.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)
[IFSS_FMPILL](#)
[IFSS_FMRHYTHM](#)
[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)

IFSS_FMWITHDR: First method ever used was withdrawal, pulling out

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_FMWITHDR

First method ever used was withdrawal, pulling out

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)
[1982 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[FIRSMETH04](#)
[FIRSMETH03](#)
[FIRSMETH02](#)
[FIRSMETH01](#)
[FIRSME04](#)
[FIRSME03](#)
[FIRSME02](#)
[FIRSME01](#)
[FIRSME00](#)
[C_41](#)
[C48](#)

Source Questions

EB-1	2002 NSFG
EB-1	2002 NSFG
EB-1	2002 NSFG
EB-1	2002 NSFG
FB-1	1995 NSFG
FB-1	1995 NSFG
FB-1	1995 NSFG
FB-1	1995 NSFG
FB-1	1995 NSFG
FB-1	1995 NSFG
C-41	1988 NSFG
C-48	1982 NSFG

Description

For respondents who ever used a contraceptive method, IFSS_FMWITHDR indicates whether the first method used was withdrawal.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_FMWITHDR is largely comparable across surveys.

Question wording was highly similar across surveys. In both the 1995 and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth, respondents were asked "The very first time you ever used a birth control method, which method did you use?" In 1988, the question was "Thinking back, the very first time you ever used a method of birth control, or had intercourse with a partner who was using a method, which method was that?" The 1982 survey asked "Thinking back to the very first time you had intercourse when a method was used, which method was that?"

In all four surveys, respondents were asked to choose from a card listing possible methods and could also report "other" if they used a method not listed on the card. Women could report up to four methods in 2002 and up to five methods in 1995. In the 1982 and 1988 surveys, respondents could report using a combination of methods. If withdrawal was mentioned in any report or as part of a combination, IFSS_FMWITHDR is coded as "yes." Otherwise, IFSS_FMWITHDR is coded as "no."

The 1982 and 1988 NSFGs only asked about the first method used for respondents who had used more than one method. For respondents who had only used one method, IFSS_WIDRAWAL was used to ascertain whether they had ever used withdrawal.

IFSS_FMWITHDR is defined only for women who reported a valid method as their first method (coded 1 in IFSS_TYPALLFM). This includes nearly all women who reported ever using a contraceptive method. Women who had never had sex, or had not had sex since their first period, were not asked about contraceptive use in the 1982 and 1988 NSFGs and so were not eligible to be asked questions about the first method used.

See Also:

[IFSS_AGEFSTUS](#)
[IFSS_CMFIRM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
[IFSS_FMINJECT](#)
[IFSS_FMIUD](#)
[IFSS_FMJELCRMSUP](#)
[IFSS_FMMORN](#)
[IFSS_FMMULT](#)
[IFSS_FMNORP](#)
[IFSS_FMOTHER](#)
[IFSS_FMPATCH](#)

IFSS_FMPILL
IFSS_FMRHYTHM
IFSS_FMSPONGE
IFSS_FMSTERILOP
IFSS_FMVASECT

IFSS_AGEFSTUS: Age at first birth control method use

Summary for Variable Group: First method use

Variables in this group describe the timing of the respondent's first use of contraception - the age she first used a method, the date she first used a method, and whether the first method use was before or after first sex. Variables also record which method was the first method (cervical cap, condoms, diaphragm, female condom, foam, injectables, the IUD, jellies, creams, or suppositories, the morning after pill, Norplant, the patch, the Pill, the rhythm method, the sponge, withdrawal, partner's vasectomy, female sterilization, or some other method) and whether multiple methods were used at first method use. In addition, a summary variable is available (IFSS_TYPALLFM) that has a value of 1 if any first method was recorded and missing otherwise.

Summary for Variable Group: Contraceptive history

This variable group provides information on the respondent's knowledge of how various contraceptive methods are used to prevent pregnancy, whether she has ever used any contraceptive method, whether she has ever used particular methods, the method(s) she used at her first sex, the method(s) she used at her last sex, the method(s) she is currently using, and where she obtained her current method(s). It also includes information on whether the respondent has ever taken birth control pills for medical reasons, what type of pill she has used most recently, and her frequency of intercourse over the last month. More complete measures of contraceptive use history are located in the contraceptive calendar.

IFSS_AGEFSTUS

Age at first birth control method use

Availability

[2002 NSFG](#)

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

Source Variables

[FIRSTIME2](#)

[FIRSTIME1](#)

[AGEFSTUS](#)

[AGEFSTSX](#)

[FIRSTIME](#)

[AGFSTVOL](#)

[AGESXAFM](#)

[AGEFSTUS](#)

[C43B](#)

[C43A](#)

Source Questions

EB-2

EB-2

EB-4

CE-4

EB-2

CH-10

CI-24

EB-4

C-43b

C-43a

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

2002 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1988 NSFG

Description

IFSS_AGEFSUS records R's age when she first used a contraceptive method.

General Comparability Notes

Summary: IFSS_AGEFSTUS is largely comparable across surveys. In the 1988 NSFG, IFSS_AGEFSTUS is calculated based on the month and year of first method use, while in the other surveys IFSS_AGEFSTUS is taken directly from questions about age at first use. There are some differences in question universe across surveys.

In the 2002 and 1995 National Surveys of Family Growth, all respondents who had ever used a contraceptive method were first asked whether the first time they used a method was before the first time they had sex, at the same time, or after their first sex. For respondents whose first use was when they first

had sex, IFSS_AGEFSTUS is taken from a question about how old the respondent was when she first had sex. Respondents whose first use was before or after their first sexual intercourse were asked how old they were when they first used a method. This information is recorded in IFSS_AGEFSTUS.

In the 1988 NSFG, respondents were only asked their age at first method use if they reported that they did not know the month and year of first method use. For respondents who did know the month and year of first use, IFSS_AGEFSTUS is calculated from that variable, IFSS_CMFIRSM, combined with the month and year the respondent was born. Some women did not know the exact month of first method use, but reported the season they first used a method. To create IFSS_CMFIRSM for these women, a random month was imputed within the three-month window implied by the season.

IFSS_AGEFSTUS is defined for all women who have ever used a contraceptive method for any reason. IFSS_AGEFSTUS takes on values of not ascertained, refused, or don't know for women who cannot report their age at first method use and for women who report first method use at first sex but cannot report their age at first sex. Not ascertained, refused and don't know responses are imputed and flagged accordingly.

Separate variables exist for age at first method use (IFSS_AGEFSTUS) and date of first method use (IFSS_CMFIRSM). Respondents were asked for this information separately in the 1995 and 2002 NSFGs, and responses may not be consistent. In 2002, some women report ages of first method use less than 5. These are highly suspect and have been flagged with IFSS_AGEFSTUS_I=-1.

See Also:

[IFSS_CMFIRSM](#)
[IFSS_FIRSTIME](#)
[IFSS_TYPALLFM](#)
[IFSS_FMCERV](#)
[IFSS_FMCONDOM](#)
[IFSS_FMDIAFRAGM](#)
[IFSS_FMFEMCON](#)
[IFSS_FMFOAM](#)
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[IFSS_FMSPONGE](#)
[IFSS_FMSTERILOP](#)
[IFSS_FMVASECT](#)
[IFSS_FMWITHDR](#)