

Continuation and Failure Rates: Indicators of Family Planning Service

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Using data from 1996 Contraceptive Prevalence Survey conducted by the Institute for Population and Social Research of Mahidol University, annual cross-sectional continuation and failure rates were applied as indicators of family planning service. The study employed 6,780 cases of currently married women from 9,558 cases of all women aged 15-49. Continuation rate indicated the satisfaction of users of contemporary contraceptive methods i.e. pills, IUD, injection, implants, condom, safe period, and withdrawal. Failure rate measured use-efficiency of these methods.

Contraceptive prevalence rate of currently married women aged 15-49 was 72.2 in 1996. The pattern of contraceptive use was a well-balanced mix of varieties of contraceptive methods. Majority of younger women had tendency to choose temporary method while older ones chose permanent method.

Annual cross-sectional continuation rates were between 67-83 percent indicating high user satisfaction. Implant was the most satisfying method while safe period the least. Women in the South were pleased with natural methods while condom satisfaction was among the residents of Bangkok. On the other hand, use-efficiency of pills, injection and safe period were found lower. These use-efficiency and satisfaction varied among regions and place of residence suggested difference in services. Consequently, family planning providers should give emphasis on improvement of use-efficiency while maintaining user satisfaction.