

SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS AFFECTING FERTILITY

XIX. FEAR OF PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH IN RELATION TO FERTILITY-PLANNING STATUS AND FERTILITY¹

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ONE of the hypotheses in the Indianapolis Study was "The greater the fear of pregnancy the higher the proportion of couples practicing contraception effectively and the smaller the planned families." It should be stated at the outset that in the present context "fear of pregnancy" is not to be interpreted as any general apprehension over the possibility of having an unwanted pregnancy but rather as fear of the physical consequences of pregnancy and childbirth such as fear of pain and suffering, fear of impairment to wife's health, and fear of death.

The rationale for including this hypothesis in the Study was not a belief that fear of pregnancy is a *major* factor affecting fertility. However, the possibility that fear of pregnancy and childbirth was one of the deterrents to fertility of modern urban women had been mentioned recurrently in the literature and it seemed advisable to secure data on this subject.

Although the writers know of no previous study devoted exclusively to the relation of fear of pregnancy to fertility, some data along these lines are available from previous studies. Dickenson and Beam reported the occurrence of fear of pregnancy in about 300 of the 1,000 couples in their study *A THOUSAND MARRIAGES*. They afford no information on the intensity of the fear, and some of the cases of fear on the part

¹ This is the nineteenth of a series of reports on a study conducted by the Committee on Social and Psychological Factors Affecting Fertility, sponsored by the Milbank Memorial Fund with grants from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The Committee consists of Lowell J. Reed, Chairman; Daniel Katz; E. Lowell Kelly; Clyde V. Kiser; Frank Lorimer; Frank W. Notestein; Frederick Osborn; S. A. Switzer; Warren S. Thompson; and P. K. Whelpton.

The present report is based largely upon a previous treatment of the data in Schacter, Nathalie.: *Fertility in Relation to Fertility Planning and Fear of Pregnancy*. Master's Thesis, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Political Science, Columbia University, 1953, 70 pp. (unpublished).

of the husband, at least, appear to be simply apprehension over the possibility of an unwanted pregnancy. Thus the husband "dreads not only the risk to the wife, but the economic risk; and probably also the risk to love in the presence of increasing burdens." The authors further state, however, that most of the fears are "the great nameless fears of danger, of labor, and death."² The study contains no direct analysis of the relation of fear to fertility but an underlying thesis of the book is that poor sex adjustment is a deterrent to fertility and that fear or dread of pregnancy is a factor in poor sex adjustment.

In his study of factors affecting fertility in a selected professional group (United States Army Air Corps officers), Flanagan found that over 10 per cent of the wives who never had children and were not expecting any, reported that they had been "afraid of childbirth." More than a quarter of the officers in the total study stated that consideration of the wife's health had been one of the factors preventing them from planning additional children. According to Flanagan's data, "29 per cent of the officers and 26 per cent of the wives report that they would plan to have a larger family if 'painless and safe childbirth were assured by advances in medical science.' In response to another question . . . 69 per cent of the officers and 46 per cent of the wives report that they would plan to have a smaller family if 'The wife could have children only by Caesarian operation.'"³ As a general conclusion, Flanagan states that the "husband's consideration for the wife's health and the wife's fear of childbirth both play a definite but relatively minor part in determining size of family."⁴

The Data. The data from the Indianapolis Study⁵ on the

² Dickenson, R. L. and Beam, L.: *A THOUSAND MARRIAGES: A MEDICAL STUDY OF SEX ADJUSTMENT.* Baltimore, The Williams and Wilkins Company, 1931, p. 247.

³ Flanagan, John C.: *A Study of Factors Determining Family Size in a Selected Professional Group.* *Genetic Psychology Monographs*, 1942, xxv, pp. 38-39.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 61.

⁵ The general purpose, scope, and methods of the Study have been described

presence and intensity of fear of pregnancy and childbirth are based upon replies of wives and husbands to several questions. The pregnancy schedule contained provision for recording the wife's statement regarding degree of fear of each pregnancy or childbirth. The five possible replies for each pregnancy were very much, much, some, little, and very little. These data for specific pregnancies were coded and they will be presented in a later section of this report. An average rating on fear of all pregnancies was also computed for each wife. These averages range from 1 (high fear) to 5 (low fear) since the five possible replies were scored 1-5 in the order named. Fear of pregnancy was also recorded for the never-pregnant women. The single ratings for these women (and the single ratings for women having only one pregnancy) were considered as "average ratings."

The remaining questions on fear of pregnancy and childbirth appeared in the self-administered multiple-choice questionnaires.

The questions for the wives were:

How much has the fear or dread of pregnancy and childbirth discouraged you and your husband from having (more) children?

How much risk to your health do you think you would run in having a (another) child?

How much risk to your health does your husband think you would run in having a (another) child?

in detail in previous articles. The Study was conducted in Indianapolis in 1941 and the data for the present analysis relate to an adjusted sample of 1,444 "relatively fecund" couples with the following characteristics: husband and wife native white, both Protestant, both finished at least the eighth grade, married during 1927-1929, neither previously married, husband under 40 and wife under 30 at marriage, and eight or more years spent in a city of 25,000 population or over since marriage. Couples with these characteristics were located by means of a preliminary Household Survey of virtually all white households in Indianapolis.

For purposes of the Study, all couples with four or more live births were classified as "relatively fecund" regardless of other circumstances. Couples with 0-3 live births were classified as "relatively fecund" unless they knew or had good reason for believing that conception was physiologically impossible during a period of at least 24 or 36 consecutive months since marriage (24 for never-pregnant couples, 36 for others). Failure to conceive when contraception was not practiced "always" or "usually" during periods of above durations was considered "good reason" for such belief. Couples not classified as "relatively fecund" were considered "relatively sterile."

The questions for the husbands were:

How much has the fear or dread of pregnancy and childbirth discouraged you and your wife from having (more) children?

How much risk to her health do you think your wife would run in having a (another) child?

How much risk to her health does your wife think she would run in having a (another) child?

How much did you dread childbirth for your wife before your first child was born? (Not asked of childless husbands.)

Table 1. Distribution of wives or husbands in the Indianapolis Study according to three criteria of fear of pregnancy and childbirth.

CRITERION OF FEAR	NUMBER		PER CENT	
	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband
<i>Extent Couple Was Discouraged From Having (More) Children By Fear or Dread of Pregnancy and Childbirth</i>				
Replies: (Total)	1,444	1,444	100.0	100.0
Very Much	95	71	6.6	4.9
Much	87	100	6.0	7.0
Some	243	261	16.9	18.2
Little	228	305	15.8	21.2
Very Little or Not at All	789	700	54.7	48.7
No Reply	2	7		
<i>Average Rating Wife's Fear of Pregnancy</i>				
Ratings: (Total)	1,444		100.0	
1-1.9 (High Fear)	60		4.2	
2-2.9	62		4.3	
3-3.9	203		14.1	
4-4.9	328		22.8	
5 (Low Fear)	786		54.6	
Unknown	5			
<i>Husband's Dread of Childbirth for Wife Before First Child Was Born</i>				
Replies: (Total)		1,309		100.0
Very Much		413		31.6
Much		148		11.3
Some		389		29.7
Little		122		9.3
Very Little		237		18.1

Prevalence of Fear of Pregnancy. The distributions of replies to the above questions, given in Tables 1 and 2, suggest the relative infrequency of strong fear of pregnancy among the group as a whole. Only 13 per cent of the wives and 12 per cent of the husbands stated that fear or dread of pregnancy and childbirth had discouraged them "very much" or "much" from having children or more children. Over half of the wives (55 per cent) and nearly half (49 per cent) of the husbands replied "very little or not at all." Only 8 per cent of the wives exhibited average ratings on fear of pregnancy equivalent to the "very much" or "much" levels and over half (55 per cent) fell into the category of lowest fear. This last mentioned category is necessarily restricted to women with no rating except "very little" for any pregnancy.

Likewise, only 11 per cent of the wives and 15.5 per cent of the husbands thought the risk to the wife's health in having a (another) child was "very much more" or "much more" than

Table 2. Percentage distribution by risk to wife's health in having another child, as determined by wife's opinion, husband's opinion, wife's rating of husband's opinion, and husband's rating of wife's opinion.

RISK TO WIFE'S HEALTH IN HAVING A (ANOTHER) CHILD	WIFE'S OPINION	HUSBAND'S OPINION	WIFE'S RATING OF HUSBAND'S OPINION	HUSBAND'S RATING OF WIFE'S OPINION
TOTAL NUMBER OF REPLIES (Percentage Bases)	1,444	1,444	1,441 ^a	1,440 ^a
REPLIES (Per Cent)	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.9
Very Much More Than Most Women	6.3	8.6	5.3	7.8
Much More Than Most Women	4.8	6.9	6.8	6.3
Somewhat More Than Most Women	17.6	20.6	20.5	15.2
About Average	61.2	52.1	58.2	56.1
Somewhat Less Than Most Women	3.4	8.1	4.5	7.6
Much Less Than Most Women	6.7	3.7	4.7	6.9

^a Three and four unknowns in the last two columns are not included in the percentage bases.

that incurred by most women. Over half of the replies to this question were "about average." Only 9-15 per cent were to the effect that the wife's risk to her health was "somewhat" or "much" less than that incurred by most women.

It will be noted that about 43 per cent of the fathers stated that before the first child was born they had dreaded childbirth for the wife "very much" or "much." It is recognized that the movies, the comics, the novel, and the radio all picture the young husband as nervously pacing the floor and anxiously awaiting news of his wife's condition after delivery. This is perhaps an "expected" reaction on the part of the young husband. At all events, it seems likely that the husband's dread of his wife's first childbirth may be too frequently experienced to afford a good index of fear of pregnancy.

Interrelation of Replies. In view of the somewhat different types of distribution of replies to the several questions, it is not surprising to find rather low inter-correlation of some of the items. Perhaps because of reasons given above there is very little relation of husband's replies on "dread of childbirth for wife before first child was born" to husband's replies on "extent discouraged" ($r = +.12$) or "risk to wife's health" ($r = +.06$). However, a relatively high correlation is found between "average of wife's ratings on fear of pregnancy" and wife's reply on "extent discouraged" ($r = +.45$). The highest coefficient ($r = +.53$) among those presented below⁶ is that between reply of wife and reply of husband to the question regarding "risk to wife's health." The percentage of couples

⁶ Some Pearsonian coefficients of correlation are presented below (all are positive).

QUESTION AND SPOUSE CONSIDERED	EXTENT DISCOURAGED		RISK TO WIFE'S HEALTH	
	Wife's Reply	Husband's Reply	Wife's Reply	Husband's Reply
Extent Discouraged (W)		.21	.27	
Risk to Wife's Health (H)		.30	.53	
Average of Ratings on Fear (W)	.45		.13	
Dread of First Childbirth (H)		.12		.06

Table 3. Fertility planning status by statement of wife and husband concerning the extent to which the couple was discouraged from having (more) children because of fear of pregnancy and childbirth. Data for all couples and by number of live births experienced.

EXTENT DISCOURAGED FROM HAVING (MORE) CHILDREN BY FEAR OF PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH	PER CENT DISTRIBUTION BY FERTILITY-PLANNING STATUS									
	By Statement of Wife					By Statement of Husband				
	Total	Number and Spacing Planned	Number Planned	Quasi- Planned	Excess Fer- tility	Total	Number and Spacing Planned	Number Planned	Quasi- Planned	Excess Fer- tility
<i>All Couples</i>	100	29.5	15.8	18.9	35.8	100	32.4	7.0	28.2	32.4
Very Much	100	25.3	3.4	34.5	36.8	100	34.0	19.0	21.0	26.0
Much	100	24.7	11.1	29.6	34.6	100	25.7	14.2	30.7	29.5
Some	100	32.5	7.9	30.3	29.4	100	26.2	13.4	32.1	28.2
Little	100	27.8	18.0	33.3	20.9	100	27.9	14.7	33.1	24.3
<i>Couples With One Live Birth</i>	100	35.7	0.0	42.9	21.4	100	43.5	0.0	43.5	13.0
Very Much and Much	100	34.0	3.8	43.4	18.9	100	39.7	4.4	42.6	13.2
Some	100	48.5	5.9	30.9	14.7	100	33.8	5.4	43.2	17.6
Little	100	41.0	5.3	42.0	11.7	100	42.3	5.1	37.7	14.9
<i>Couples With Two Live Births</i>	100	9.1	20.5	36.4	34.1	100	14.6	31.3	27.1	27.1
Very Much and Much	100	15.5	17.5	39.8	27.2	100	9.6	27.7	33.7	28.9
Some	100	19.7	13.2	43.4	23.7	100	19.8	19.8	38.2	22.1
Little	100	24.4	28.3	34.6	12.7	100	25.2	22.6	39.4	12.8
<i>Couples With Three Live Births</i>	100	10.8	18.9	18.9	51.4	100	5.3	21.1	26.3	47.4
Very Much and Much	100	3.3	10.0	13.3	73.3	100	0.0	13.0	32.6	54.3
Some	100	5.7	5.7	28.6	60.0	100	9.1	14.5	16.4	60.0
Little	100	3.8	22.0	31.8	42.4	100	5.3	20.2	29.8	44.7
<i>Couples With Four or More Live Births</i>	100	0.0	9.1	4.5	86.4	100	0.0	12.0	8.0	80.0
Very Much and Much	100	3.0	12.1	12.1	72.7	100	3.0	15.2	24.2	57.6
Some	100	3.8	7.7	19.2	69.2	100	3.6	9.0	25.2	62.2
Little	100	3.4	11.2	32.6	52.8	100				

with wife and husband giving identical replies was 37 for the question on "extent discouraged" and 53 for the question on "risk to wife's health." There were five possible replies to the former question and six to the latter.

THE PLANNING OF FERTILITY IN RELATION TO FEAR OF PREGNANCY

As already noted, the first part of the hypothesis considered states: "The greater the fear of pregnancy the higher the proportion of couples practicing contraception effectively. . . ." As in previous reports, couples are regarded as having practiced contraception effectively if they are classified either as "number and spacing of pregnancies planned" or as "number planned." The basic classification of the 1,444 "relatively fecund" couples by fertility-planning status has been described in previous reports. It is based upon the detailed pregnancy and contraceptive histories, including data on outcome of pregnancies and attitudes toward each pregnancy. The four broad categories used in the Study, in descending degree of success in planning family size, are: number and spacing of pregnancies planned, number planned, quasi-planned, and excess fertility.⁷

Extent Fear of Pregnancy Discouraged Couple from Having (More) Children. As indicated in Table 3 and the upper half

⁷ The four categories may be briefly described as follows:

Number and Spacing of Pregnancies Planned. The 403 couples in this group exhibit the most complete planning of fertility in that they had no pregnancies that were not deliberately planned by stopping contraception in order to conceive. The group consists of two major subdivisions: (a) 121 couples practicing contraception regularly and continuously and having no pregnancy, and (b) 282 couples whose every pregnancy was deliberately planned by interrupting contraception in order to conceive.

Number Planned. This group of 205 couples consists mainly of those whose *last* pregnancy was deliberately planned by stopping contraception in order to conceive but who had one or more previous pregnancies under other circumstances. Because of this, the couples are regarded as having planned the number but not the spacing of their pregnancies.

Quasi-Planned. This group includes 454 couples who did not deliberately plan the last pregnancy in the manner described above but who either wanted the last pregnancy or wanted another pregnancy.

Excess Fertility. This group is composed of 382 couples classified as least successful in planning size of family because one or more pregnancies had occurred after the last that was wanted.

of Figure 1, there is no striking relationship between fertility-planning status and either wife's opinion or husband's opinion on extent to which fear or dread of pregnancy and childbirth had discouraged the couple from having children or more children.⁸ The relationship that does exist runs counter to the hypothesis. For instance, except for the group labeled "very much" under "wife's opinion," the proportion of "planned families" increases and the proportion of "excess fertility" couples decreases with *lowering* of discouragement from having children or more children by fear of pregnancy. This is true despite the fact that childless couples are included in the Figure 1 data and childless couples are by definition restricted almost exclusively to the "number and spacing planned" group and (as will be indicated in a later section) tend to exhibit relatively high fear of pregnancy by all measures available.

When fertile couples are considered by specific number of live births (Table 3), the tendency for the proportion of excess fertility couples to increase with degree of discouragement is found to be rather strong. This type of relationship perhaps simply illustrates again that a given factor may be the result rather than the cause of fertility behavior. In this case it seems likely that strong discouragement from having more children because of fear is more nearly the result than the cause of failure to prevent unwanted pregnancies. This type of failure is the essential characteristic of "excess fertility" couples. (See footnote 7 above.)

Risk to Health Wife Would Run in Having a (Another) Child. This item was included in a previous report on the Indianapolis Study concerning health of wife in relation to fertility-planning status and fertility. In that article distribu-

⁸ The chi square of the proportions of "number and spacing planned" couples, by extent discouraged from having (more) children by fear of pregnancy (replies of wives or husbands) indicates that the differences are *not* significant at the 5 per cent level (d.f.=4).

The chi square of the proportions of "excess fertility" couples, by wife's reply to the question on "extent discouraged" indicates significant differences at the 1 per cent level (d.f.=4). However, by husband's reply the differences are *not* significant at the 5 per cent level (d.f.=4).

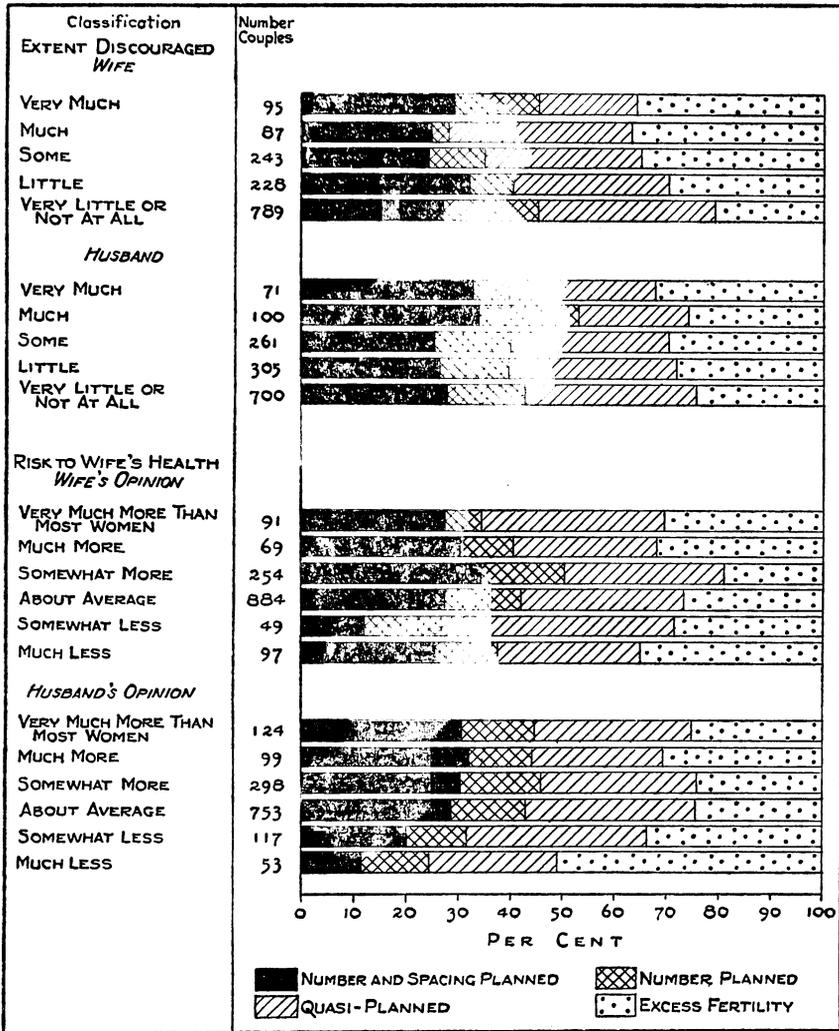


Fig. 1. Fertility-planning status by statement of the wife and husband regarding extent to which the couple was discouraged from having (more) children because of fear of pregnancy, and by risk to health wife would run in having a (another) child. (See Tables 3 and 4)

tions by fertility-planning status were shown by risk to wife's health in having a (another) child according to wife's opinion and husband's opinion (separately and jointly considered) and according to wife's rating of husband's opinion and husband's

Table 4. Fertility-planning status by risk to wife's health in having a (another) child according to wife's opinion and husband's opinion. Data presented for all couples and for fertile couples.

RISK TO WIFE'S HEALTH IN HAVING A (ANOTHER) CHILD (RELATIVE TO "MOST" WOMEN)	WIFE'S OPINION						HUSBAND'S OPINION					
	Per Cent Distribution by Fertility-Planning Status						Per Cent Distribution by Fertility-Planning Status					
	Number of Couples	Total	Number and Spacing Planned	Number Planned	Quasi-Planned	Excess Fertility	Number of Couples	Total	Number and Spacing Planned	Number Planned	Quasi-Planned	Excess Fertility
	ALL COUPLES						ALL COUPLES					
	1,444	100	27.9	14.2	31.4	26.5	1,444	100	27.9	14.2	31.4	26.5
Very Much More	91	100	27.5	6.6	35.2	30.8	124	100	30.6	13.7	30.6	26.5
Much More	69	100	30.4	10.1	27.5	31.9	99	100	32.3	12.1	25.3	25.0
Some More	254	100	33.9	16.5	30.7	18.9	298	100	30.5	15.4	29.9	
About Average	884	100	27.1	14.9	31.2	26.7	753	100	28.2	14.6	32.9	
Some Less	49	100	12.2	14.3	44.9	28.6	117	100	20.5	11.1	35.0	
Much Less	97	100	25.8	11.3	27.8	35.1	53	100	11.3	13.2	24.5	
	FERTILE COUPLES						FERTILE COUPLES					
	1,309	100	21.2	15.4	34.4	29.1	1,309	100	21.2	15.4	34.4	29.1
Very Much More	85	100	22.4	7.1	37.6	32.9	111	100	24.3	15.3	32.4	34.4
Much More	64	100	25.0	10.9	29.7	34.4	84	100	25.0	9.5	29.8	32.4
Some More	239	100	30.5	16.7	32.6	20.1	266	100	22.9	17.3	33.1	29.8
About Average	781	100	18.4	16.6	34.8	30.1	685	100	21.2	16.1	36.1	33.1
Some Less	47	100	8.5	14.9	46.8	29.8	111	100	16.2	11.7	36.9	36.1
Much Less	93	100	22.6	11.8	29.0	36.6	52	100	9.6	13.5	25.0	36.9

rating of wife's opinion.⁹ Table 4 and the lower section of Figure 1 present the classifications by fertility-planning status according to wife's opinion and husband's opinion. The data relating to husband's opinion are partially consistent with the hypothesis in that there is a fairly regular increase in the proportion of "number and spacing planned" families with increasing risk to wife's health that would be incurred by having a pregnancy or another pregnancy according to the husband's opinion. These differences are not statistically significant when tested on the basis of numbers in the uninflated sample.¹⁰ However, they do persist when the analysis is restricted to fertile couples as shown in the lower part of Table 4.

Virtually no relation is found between fertility-planning status and "risk to wife's health" as determined by the wife's opinion (Figure 1), the wife's rating of the husband's opinion, and the husband's rating of the wife's opinion.¹¹ Regarding the joint classification Herrera and Kiser stated that "the proportion of 'planned families' is about 44 per cent for the group in which both wife and husband indicated above-average risk to wife's health. It is 43 per cent for the group in which both stated 'about average' and 23 per cent for the group in which both husband and wife indicated that the risk to wife's health was below average. However, whereas the first two percentages are based upon 297 and 575 cases, the last one is based upon 53 and hence lends little support to the hypothesis."¹²

Husband's Dread of Childbirth for Wife Before First Child Was Born. Practically no relation is found between fertility-planning status and replies of fathers to the question "How

⁹ Herrera, Lee and Kiser, Clyde V.: *Social and Psychological Factors Affecting Fertility. XIII. Fertility in Relation to Fertility Planning and Health of Wife, Husband, and Children.* The Milbank Memorial Fund *Quarterly*, July, 1951, xxix, No. 3, pp. 346-347 (Study Series, Vol. III, pp. 590-591).

¹⁰ The chi square of the proportions of "number and spacing planned" couples by wife's or husband's opinion to risk to wife's health in having another child indicates that the differences are not significant at the 5 per cent level (d.f. = 5). The same holds true with reference to proportions of "excess fertility" couples.

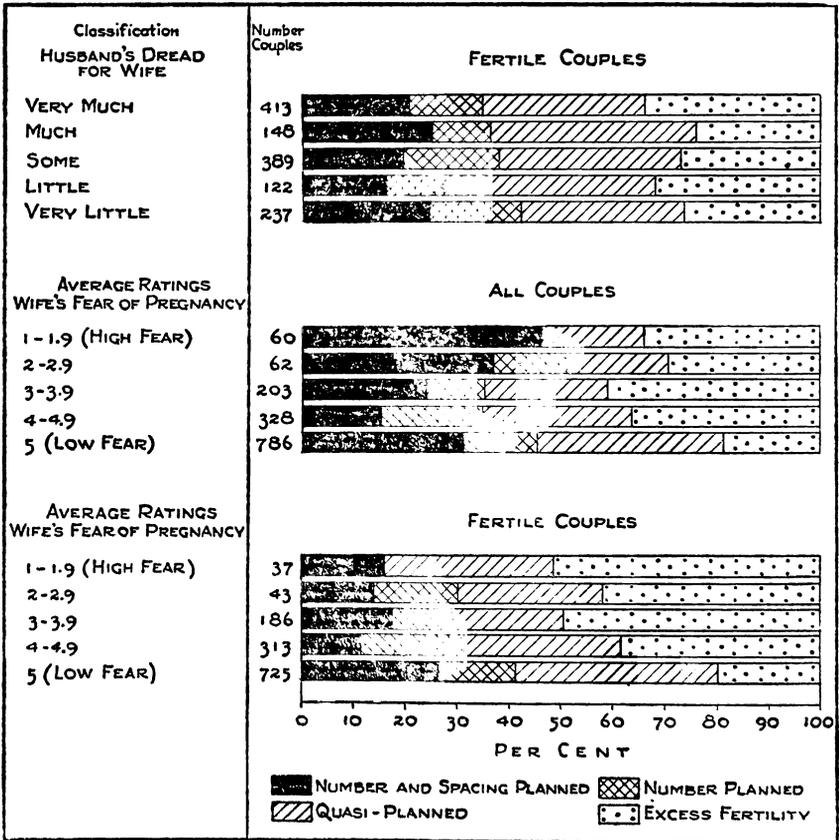
¹¹ Herrera and Kiser, *ibid.*, Table 7.

¹² *Ibid.*, Study Series, pp. 589-592.

much did you dread childbirth for your wife before your first child was born?" (See Figure 2 and Table 5.) That the replies to this question had little relation to replies to other questions has already been noted. It looks as if dread of wife's first childbirth on the part of the young husbands is too frequent to provide indication of actual fear of pregnancy. For these reasons it is perhaps not surprising that no relationship is found between responses to the question and fertility-planning status.

Average of Ratings on Wife's Fear of Pregnancy. As already

Fig. 2. Fertility-planning status by husband's dread of childbirth for wife before first child was born and by average of ratings on wife's fear of pregnancy. (See Table 5)



indicated, all wives with one or more pregnancies were asked with reference to each pregnancy "Were you afraid of pregnancy and childbirth?" These data were collected as part of the detailed information on pregnancy histories. Women who were never pregnant were asked "Are you afraid of pregnancy and childbirth?"

With a rating of replies as follows: very much (1), much (2), some (3), little (4), and very little (5), averages of

Table 5. Fertility-planning status by husband's dread of childbirth for wife before first child was born and by average of ratings on wife's fear of pregnancy and childbirth.

CRITERION OF FEAR	NUMBER OF COUPLES	PER CENT DISTRIBUTION BY FERTILITY-PLANNING STATUS				
		Total	Number and Spacing	Number Planned	Quasi-Planned	Excess Fertility
<i>Husband's Dread of First Childbirth For Wife</i>						
Fertile Couples, Total	1,309	100	21.2	15.4	34.4	29.1
Very Much	413	100	20.8	13.8	31.5	33.9
Much	148	100	25.0	11.5	39.2	24.3
Some	389	100	19.5	18.5	35.2	26.7
Little	122	100	16.4	10.7	41.0	32.0
Very Little	237	100	24.5	17.7	31.6	26.2
<i>Average of Ratings on Wife's Fear of Pregnancy</i>						
All Couples, Total	1,444 ^a	100	27.9	14.2	31.4	26.5
1-1.9 (High Fear)	60	100	46.7	0.0	20.0	33.3
2-2.9	62	100	37.1	14.5	19.4	29.0
3-3.9	203	100	24.6	10.8	24.1	40.4
4-4.9	328	100	15.9	19.2	28.7	36.3
5 (Low Fear)	786	100	31.8	13.9	36.1	18.2
Fertile Couples, Total	1,309 ^a	100	21.2	15.4	34.4	29.1
1-1.9 (High Fear)	37	100	16.2	0.0	32.4	51.4
2-2.9	43	100	14.0	16.3	27.9	41.9
3-3.9	186	100	17.7	11.8	26.3	44.1
4-4.9	313	100	11.8	20.1	30.0	38.0
5 (Low Fear)	725	100	26.9	14.8	38.6	19.7

^a Includes five couples unknown as to average of wife's ratings on fear of pregnancy.

FEAR OF SPECIFIC PREGNANCY	PER CENT DISTRIBUTION BY FERTILITY-PLANNING STATUS					
	Number of Couples	Total	Number and Spacing Planned	Number Planned	Quasi-Planned	Excess Fertility
ALL COUPLES—INCLUDING NEVER PREGNANT						
<i>First Pregnancy</i>						
Very Much and Much	115	100	43.5	4.3	21.7	30.4
Some	108	100	36.1	15.7	25.0	23.1
Little	145	100	22.8	15.2	35.9	26.2
Very Little	1,069	100	26.1	15.1	32.4	26.5
COUPLES EXPERIENCING SPECIFIED PREGNANCY						
<i>First Pregnancy</i>						
Very Much and Much	75	100	13.3	6.7	33.3	46.7
Some	92	100	25.0	18.5	29.3	27.2
Little	131	100	14.5	16.8	39.7	29.0
Very Little	1,018	100	22.4	15.8	34.0	27.8
<i>Second Pregnancy</i>						
Very Much and Much	118	100	8.5	18.6	33.1	39.8
Some	66	100	16.7	13.6	15.2	54.5
Little	148	100	12.8	15.5	31.8	39.9
Very Little	675	100	15.6	20.7	34.2	29.5
<i>Third Pregnancy</i>						
Very Much and Much	69	100	0.0	13.0	18.8	68.1
Some	34	100	11.8	8.8	20.6	58.8
Little	77	100	3.9	19.5	26.0	50.6
Very Little	331	100	6.6	16.9	26.6	49.8
<i>Fourth and Later Pregnancies</i>						
Very Much and Much	71	100	0.0	7.0	7.0	85.9
Some	31	100	0.0	9.7	12.9	77.4
Little	38	100	0.0	15.8	21.1	63.2
Very Little	287	100	2.8	8.7	24.4	64.1

Table 6. Fertility-planning status according to wife's fear of specified pregnancies.

ratings on all pregnancies were computed for each woman. As indicated in the middle section of Figure 2, when the total sample is considered, i.e., when the childless wives are included, the proportion of "number and spacing planned" couples and the proportion of all "planned families" decline rather sharply with lowering of fear according to the average ratings.¹³ Only the group of lowest fear ratings fails to conform to this pattern. However, it is also apparent that the childless couples are almost solely responsible for the indication of a direct relation between "fear" and fertility-planning status. When the analysis is restricted to couples experiencing one or more live births, as in the lowest section of Figure 2, the direct relation of the above type disappears and there is even some suggestion of the reverse relation. With reference to extreme classes, at least, the proportion of "planned families" increases and the proportion of "excess fertility" couples decreases with lowering of average fear of pregnancies among couples experiencing one or more pregnancies.

Fear of Specific Pregnancies. Table 6 gives the distributions by fertility-planning status according to wife's fear of specific pregnancies. The top-most section relates to all couples including those with no pregnancy.¹⁴ The remaining sections are restricted to couples experiencing pregnancies of given order.

The data for all couples partially support the hypothesis in

¹³ For all couples the proportions of both "n. and s. p." and "excess fertility" couples differ significantly by fear ($P < .001$). For fertile couples the differences are not significant at the 5 per cent level.

¹⁴ In the top section the wives with no pregnancies are included with those having one or more pregnancies under the assumption that the never-pregnant wife's fear of "a pregnancy" is equivalent to fear of a "first pregnancy." This consolidation is not entirely justified in view of the nature of the data. Wives with no pregnancy were asked about their *current* attitudes when they were asked "Are you afraid of pregnancy and childbirth?" Those with one or more pregnancies were asked about their *past* attitudes when they were asked with regard to each pregnancy experienced "Were you afraid of pregnancy and childbirth?" Thus in addition to the difference in time reference there is the fact that the replies of the women with pregnancies are *ex post facto* whereas the replies of the never-pregnant women are not. Nevertheless, since the never-pregnant couples are by definition "number and spacing planned" it is manifestly of interest to present the distributions by fertility-planning status according to fear of first pregnancy with and without the inclusion of the never-pregnant couples.

that there is a rather striking, although not complete, direct relation of fear of first pregnancy to proportion of couples classified as "number and spacing planned." Approximately 44 per cent of the wives stating that they feared the first pregnancy (or "a pregnancy" if never pregnant) "very much" or "much" are in "number and spacing planned" families. The comparable proportion is 23 per cent for wives replying "little" and 26 per cent for those replying "very little." However, even in the data for all couples the proportions of couples classified as "excess fertility" are not consistent with the hypothesis.

That the "never-pregnant" couples are responsible for the partial direct association of fertility-planning status and fear of first pregnancy is demonstrated by the disappearance of this type of relation when the analysis is restricted to couples actually having a first pregnancy.

Likewise, when fertility-planning status is considered in relation to wife's fear of second and succeeding pregnancies experienced, the relationships do not support the hypothesis. Instead there is again some tendency for the proportion of planned families to increase and the proportion of "excess fertility" couples to decrease with lowering of fear of these pregnancies.

In general, therefore, the hypothesis "The greater the fear of pregnancy, the higher the proportion of couples practicing contraception effectively" receives some support in the present Study but this support appears to be due entirely to the influence of never-pregnant couples. The fear of "a pregnancy" is relatively high among these couples and they are by definition restricted to the number and spacing planned group. Among couples with pregnancies, the relation of fertility-planning status to fear of pregnancy tends actually to run counter to that assumed in the hypothesis.¹⁵

¹⁵ It is also of interest to note the distributions of all pregnancies to the women in the Study by the conditions of fear under which the conceptions occurred and by fertility-planning status of the couple. Of all pregnancies rated as to fear, about 10 per cent were feared "very much" or "much" and 71 per cent were feared "very

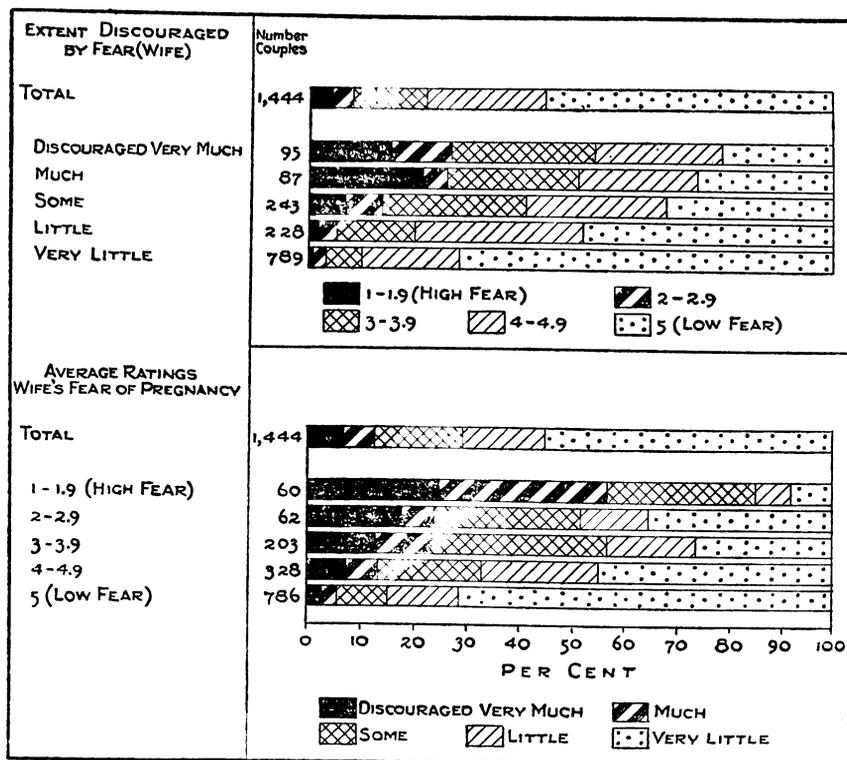


Fig. 3. The relation between wife's statement of discouragement from having (more) children because of fear of pregnancy to the average of wife's ratings on fear of pregnancy. (See Table 7)

FEAR OF PREGNANCY IN RELATION TO FERTILITY

The second part of the hypothesis "The greater the fear of

little." Among the "planned families" the corresponding percentages are 6 and 76. The complete data are as follows:

FERTILITY PLANNING STATUS OF THE COUPLE	NUMBER PREGNANCIES	PER CENT DISTRIBUTION BY FEAR OF PREGNANCY					
		Total	Very Much	Much	Some	Little	Very Little
All Couples	3,261	100	7.3	2.9	6.8	12.1	70.9
All Planned Families	983	100	3.1	3.2	7.1	10.9	75.8
Number and Spacing Planned	462	100	1.9	2.4	8.2	8.9	78.6
Number Planned	521	100	4.0	3.8	6.1	12.7	73.3
Quasi-Planned	992	100	6.3	2.0	4.8	12.8	74.1
Excess Fertility	1'286	100	11.4	3.3	8.2	12.4	64.6

pregnancy . . . the smaller the planned families" may now be considered. We have already noted that about 13 per cent of all wives and 12 per cent of all husbands replied that they had been "very much" or "much" discouraged from having (more) children because of fear of pregnancy.

It would be expected that replies to this question would depend partly on extent of fear itself and partly on the number of children the couple had. Actually the former factor appears to be more important. The proportion of wives stating that they had been "very much" or "much" discouraged from having (more) children because of fear ranges from only about 5 per cent for those in the category of lowest fear according to the average ratings to about 57 per cent for those in the cate-

Table 7. The relation between wife's statement of discouragement from having (more) children because of fear of pregnancy and the average of wife's ratings on fear of pregnancy.

EXTENT DIS- COURAGED BY FEAR OF PREGNANCY	ALL COUPLES		AVERAGE OF RATINGS OF FEAR OF PREGNANCY				
			1-1.9 (High)	2-2.9	3-3.9	4-4.9	5 (Low)
Number of Couples	1,442 ^a		60	62	203	326	786
<i>Per Cent</i>							
TOTAL	100		100	100	100	100	100
Very Much	6.6		25.0	17.7	12.8	7.1	2.5
Much	6.0		31.7	6.5	10.8	6.1	2.8
Some	16.9		28.3	27.4	33.0	19.9	9.8
Little	15.8		6.7	12.9	16.7	22.1	13.6
Very Little	54.7		8.3	35.5	26.6	44.8	71.2
	Number	Per					
	Couples	Cent					
ALL COUPLES	1,439 ^b	100	4.2	4.3	14.1	22.8	54.6
Very Much	95	100	15.8	11.6	27.4	24.2	21.1
Much	87	100	21.8	4.6	25.3	23.0	25.3
Some	243	100	7.0	7.0	27.6	26.7	31.7
Little	225	100	1.8	3.6	15.1	32.0	47.6
Very Little	787	100	.6	2.8	6.9	18.6	71.2

^a Excludes two couples unknown as to extent discouraged by fear of pregnancy.

^b Excludes five couples unknown as to average of ratings on fear of pregnancy.

gory of strongest fear. (Figure 3 and Table 7.) Conversely, the proportion of wives in the two categories of strongest fear of pregnancy ranges from about 3 per cent for those "discouraged very little" to about 27 per cent for those "discouraged very much."

When the distributions of the replies are made within subdivisions of all couples and planned families by number of live births, the childless couples are seen to be the chief deviate group. (Table 8.) This is especially the case in the distributions by reply of the husband. Thus 17 per cent of the childless wives and 24 per cent of the childless husbands state that they had been "very much" or "much" discouraged from having children because of fear or dread of pregnancy and childbirth

Table 8. Distribution of couples by statement of wife and husband concerning the extent to which the couple was discouraged from having (more) children because of fear of pregnancy and childbirth, according to specific number of live births. Data presented for all couples and for all planned families.

EXTENT COUPLE WAS DISCOURAGED FROM HAVING (MORE) CHILDREN BY FEAR OF PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH	NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS									
	0	1	2	3	4+	0	1	2	3	4+
	By Statement of Wife					By Statement of Husband				
	ALL COUPLES									
Total Number (Percentage Bases)	135	365	538	234	170	135	363	536	234	169
Per Cent—Total	99.9	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.0	99.9
Very Much	7.4	7.1	5.0	9.8	5.3	11.1	5.5	2.6	3.8	7.7
Much	9.6	8.2	3.2	6.0	7.6	13.3	7.2	6.3	4.3	7.1
Some	17.8	14.5	19.1	12.8	19.4	23.0	18.7	15.5	19.7	19.5
Little	17.0	18.6	14.1	15.0	15.3	19.3	20.4	24.4	23.5	11.2
Very Little	48.1	51.5	58.6	56.4	52.4	33.3	48.2	51.1	48.7	54.4
	ALL PLANNED FAMILIES									
Total Number (Percentage Bases)	130	164	238	53	23	130	162	236	53	23
Per Cent—Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.0	99.9	99.9	99.9	100.0
Very Much	7.7	7.3	5.5	15.1	0.0	10.8	3.7	2.5	1.9	4.3
Much	9.2	4.9	0.0	5.7	8.7	13.1	8.6	6.8	7.5	8.7
Some	18.5	12.2	14.3	7.5	21.7	23.8	18.5	13.1	11.3	26.1
Little	17.7	22.6	10.5	7.5	13.0	19.2	17.9	22.0	24.5	8.7
Very Little	46.9	53.0	69.7	64.2	56.5	33.1	51.2	55.5	54.7	52.2

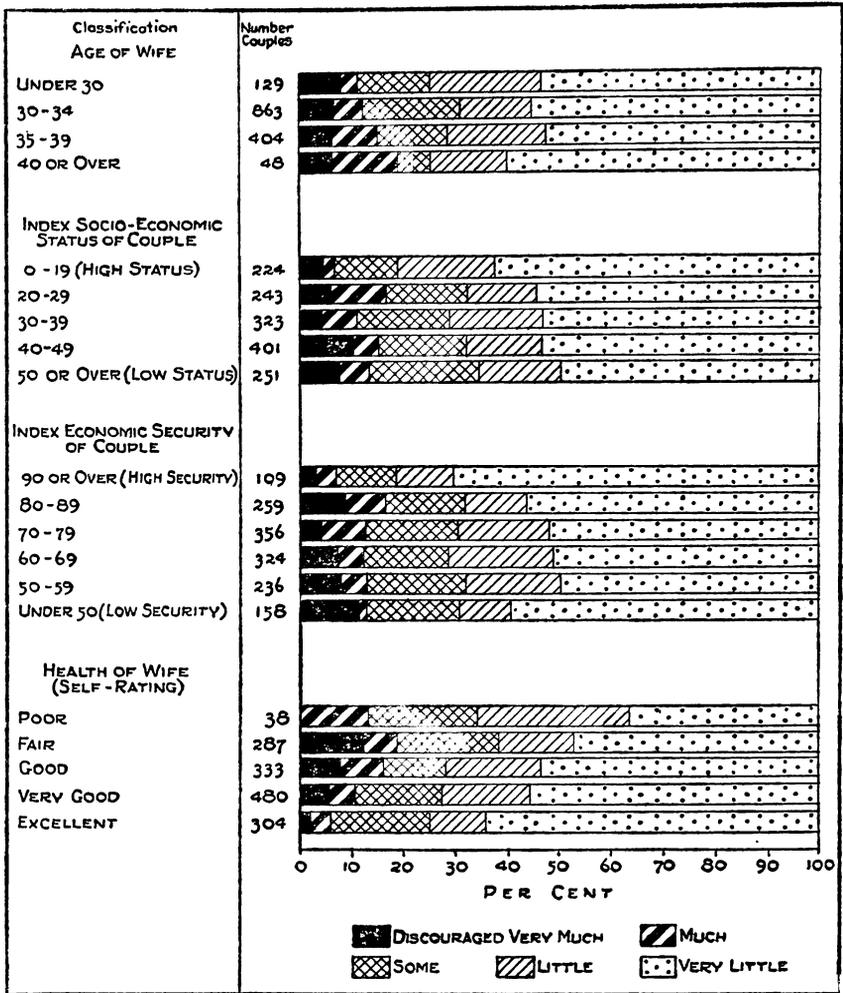


Fig. 4. Relation of wife's statement concerning extent of discouragement from having (more) children because of fear of pregnancy, to age of wife, index of socio-economic status of the couple, index of economic security of the couple, and health of wife. (See Table 9)

for the wife. For mothers or fathers of specific numbers of children the distributions do not differ in any systematic manner.

Closely related to data of the above type are the replies of wives and husbands as to which of ten listed reasons (including fear of pregnancy) were of first, second, and third importance in discouraging them from having children or more children. Thus among all wives about 6 per cent mentioned fear

of pregnancy and childbirth as the reason of first importance, 9 per cent as the reason of second importance, and 12 per cent as the reason of third importance. For the husbands the corresponding percentages are 6, 10 and 11.¹⁶ Thus about 27 per

Table 9. Relation of wife's statement concerning extent of discouragement from having (more) children because of fear of pregnancy, to age of wife, index of socio economic status of the couple, index to economic security of the couple and health of wife.

CLASS	NUMBER OF COUPLES	PER CENT BY DEGREE OF DISCOURAGEMENT					
		Total	Very Much	Much	Some	Little	Very Little
All Couples	1,442 ^a	100	6.6	6.0	16.9	15.8	54.7
<i>Age of Wife</i>							
Under 30	127 ^a	100	7.9	3.1	14.2	21.3	53.5
30-34	863	100	6.5	5.7	18.7	13.4	55.7
35-39	404	100	6.4	8.4	13.6	19.3	52.2
40 or Over	48	100	6.3	0.0	18.8	14.6	60.4
<i>Index of Socio Economic Status</i>							
0-19 (High)	224	100	4.5	1.8	12.1	18.8	62.9
20-29	243	100	5.8	10.7	15.6	13.2	54.7
30-39	323	100	4.0	6.8	18.0	17.6	53.6
40-49	401 ^a	100	10.0	5.0	16.7	14.5	53.9
50 or More (Low)	251	100	7.2	6.0	21.1	15.5	50.2
<i>Index of Economic Security</i>							
Under 50 (Low)	158	100	10.8	1.9	17.7	10.1	59.5
50-59	236	100	7.2	5.5	19.1	18.2	50.0
60-69	324	100	6.8	5.2	16.4	20.1	51.5
70-79	356	100	3.9	8.4	18.0	17.4	52.2
80-89	259	100	8.5	7.7	15.4	11.6	56.8
90 or Over (High)	109	100	2.8	3.7	11.9	11.0	70.6
<i>Health of Wife</i>							
Poor	38	100	0.0	13.2	21.1	28.9	36.8
Fair	287	100	12.2	6.6	19.5	14.3	47.4
Good	333	100	7.8	8.4	12.0	18.6	53.2
Very Good	480 ^a	100	5.6	5.0	16.9	17.1	55.4
Excellent	304	100	2.3	3.6	19.1	10.5	64.5

^a Excludes two couples unknown as to extent discouraged by fear of pregnancy.

¹⁶ In addition to the 6 per cent of the wives and husbands listing "fear or dread of pregnancy and childbirth" as the reason of first importance, 17 per cent of the wives and 20 per cent of the husbands listed "poor health of the wife" as the most important reason. See Herrera and Kiser, *op. cit.* (Vol. III, p. 593.)

cent of the wives and husbands mention "fear or dread of pregnancy and childbirth" as the reason of first, second, or third importance in their being discouraged from having children or more children.

The replies of the wives to the question on "extent of discouragement from having (more) children because of fear or dread of pregnancy and childbirth" are shown in relation to certain characteristics of all wives or couples in Figure 4 and Table 9. It will be noted that degree of discouragement is to a slight extent directly related with age of the wife.¹⁷ The replies of wives on discouragement appear to be related very little to rating of the couples on either index of economic security or index of socio-economic status. The slight relation that does exist is in each instance that of discouragement being associated with low economic security and low socio-economic status. As expected, the degree of discouragement from having (more) children because of fear of pregnancy is inversely related to the general health status of the wife.

In Figure 5 and Table 10, distributions by wife's statement on "extent discouraged" are shown according to wife's "persistent" experience with respect to complications of pregnancy, complications of the puerperium, and ease of birth. As indicated, the labels used in the stub of Table 10 are only approximate since they are based upon averages. However, these averages were computed for each of three 4-5 year periods of married life and the categories are restricted to women exhibiting no substantial variation in average rating by period of married life.¹⁸

¹⁷ The concentration of the wives within a rather narrow age group results from sampling procedures and does not permit adequate analysis of the factor of age.

¹⁸ The pregnancy history schedules contained provisions for recording the wife's rating of each pregnancy, puerperium, and birth in terms of the labels listed in the stub of Table 9. In the order named the five possible ratings in each case were coded 1-3-5-7-9. Averages of ratings on pregnancies experienced during each of three periods of married life were computed and the "pattern of average ratings by period" was coded. The categories listed in Table 10 do not include wives with substantial changes in average ratings from one period to the next. Since all couples had been married 12-15 years, the three periods of married life were of 4-5 years'

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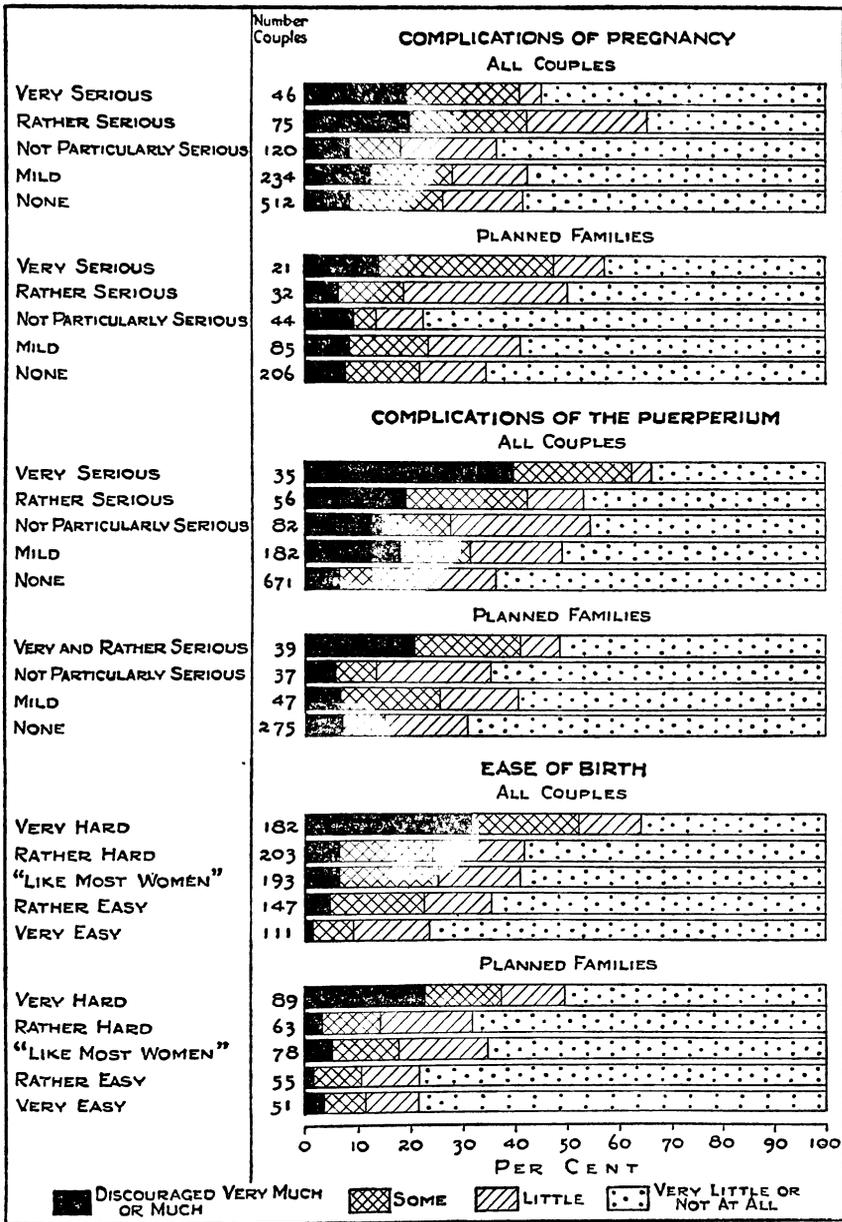


Fig. 5. Relation of wife's statement on extent to which the couple had been discouraged from having (more) children because of fear of pregnancy to persistent average ratings on complications of pregnancy, complications of the puerperium, and ease of birth. Data given for all couples and for planned families qualifying for inclusion. (See Table 10)

Table 10. Percentage distributions by wife's statement on extent to which the couple had been discouraged from having (more) children because of fear of pregnancy, according to persistent average ratings on complications of pregnancy, complications of the puerperium, and ease of birth. Data given for all couples and for all planned families qualifying for inclusion.¹

APPROXIMATE EQUIVALENT OF PERSISTENT AVERAGE RATINGS THROUGH PERIODS OF MARRIED LIFE IN WHICH PREGNANCIES OR BIRTHS OCCURRED	ALL COUPLES					ALL PLANNED FAMILIES											
	Extent Discouraged From Having More Children Because of Fear					Extent Discouraged From Having More Children Because of Fear											
	Number of Couples	Per Cent Distribution				Number of Couples	Per Cent Distribution										
		Total	Very Much or Much	Some	Little		Very Little	Total	Very Much or Much	Some	Little	Very Little					
<i>Complications of Pregnancy</i>																	
Very Serious	46	100	19.6	21.7	4.3	54.3	100	14.3	33.3	9.5	42.9	21	100	14.3	33.3	9.5	42.9
Rather Serious	75	100	20.0	22.7	22.7	34.7	100	6.3	12.5	31.3	50.0	32	100	6.3	12.5	31.3	50.0
Not Particularly Serious	120	100	8.3	10.0	18.3	63.3	100	9.1	4.5	9.1	77.3	44	100	9.1	4.5	9.1	77.3
Mild	234	100	12.4	15.8	14.5	57.3	100	8.2	15.3	17.6	58.8	85	100	8.2	15.3	17.6	58.8
None	512	100	8.6	17.8	15.4	58.2	100	7.8	14.1	12.6	65.1	206	100	7.8	14.1	12.6	65.1
<i>Complications of the Puerperium</i>																	
Very Serious	35	100	40.0	22.9	2.9	34.3	100	20.5	20.5	7.7	51.1	39	100	20.5	20.5	7.7	51.1
Rather Serious	56	100	19.6	23.2	10.7	46.4	100	5.4	8.1	21.6	64.1	37	100	5.4	8.1	21.6	64.1
Not Particularly Serious	82	100	14.6	13.4	26.8	45.1	100	6.4	19.1	14.9	59.1	47	100	6.4	19.1	14.9	59.1
Mild	182	100	18.1	13.7	17.6	50.5	100	6.9	8.0	16.0	69.1	275	100	6.9	8.0	16.0	69.1
None	671	100	6.7	15.2	14.8	63.3	100	22.5	14.6	12.4	50.0	89	100	22.5	14.6	12.4	50.0
<i>Ease of Birth</i>																	
Very Hard	182	100	31.9	20.3	12.1	35.7	100	3.2	11.1	17.5	68.1	63	100	3.2	11.1	17.5	68.1
Rather Hard	203	100	6.9	17.2	17.7	58.1	100	5.1	12.8	16.7	65.1	78	100	5.1	12.8	16.7	65.1
Like Most Women	193	100	6.7	18.7	15.5	59.1	100	1.8	9.1	10.9	78.1	55	100	1.8	9.1	10.9	78.1
Rather Easy	147	100	4.8	17.7	12.9	64.6	100	3.9	7.8	9.8	78.1	51	100	3.9	7.8	9.8	78.1
Very Easy	111	100	1.8	7.2	14.4	76.6	100						100				

¹ See text for further explanation of the categories.

Two points are evident in Figure 5. In the first place, if fertility-planning status is disregarded, the proportion of wives stating that they had been "very much" or "much" discouraged from having (more) children because of fear of pregnancy increases sharply with increasing complications of pregnancy and the puerperium and increasing difficulty of birth. In the second place, this type of relationship is much less evident for the "planned families" than for "all couples."

Fertility rates by fertility-planning status and by the several specific measures of fear of pregnancy are presented in Figures 6-9. With three of the four measures used, the data for the "number and spacing planned" group afford at least some support of the hypothesis. Thus within this group fertility rates tend to increase with lowering of extent to which the couple was discouraged from having more children by fear of pregnancy (Figure 6); with lowering of the amount of risk (relative to that of most women) the wife would run in having a (another) child (Figure 7); and with lowering of wife's fear of pregnancy and childbirth (Figure 8). The data for the "number and spacing planned" group fail to support the hypothesis only when the criterion of fear is "husband's dread of childbirth for wife before first child was born" (Figure 9).

In none of the data do the "number planned" couples alone support the hypothesis. However, in most cases the inverse relation of fear to fertility is sufficiently strong within the "number and spacing planned" group to persist within the total group of planned families. (See Appendix I.)

The next point of importance is that the strong inverse relation of fertility to fear of pregnancy within the "number and spacing planned" group accrues in large part from differentials in proportions childless.¹⁹

duration. In terms of codes the categories are:

- (1) Average rating of all three periods 1 or 1-3
- (3) Average rating of all three periods 3 or 3-5
- (5) Average rating of all three periods 5 or 5-7
- (7) Average rating of all three periods 7 or 7-9
- (9) Average rating of all three periods 9

¹⁹ It will be recalled that "relatively sterile" couples were eliminated from
(Continued on page 192)

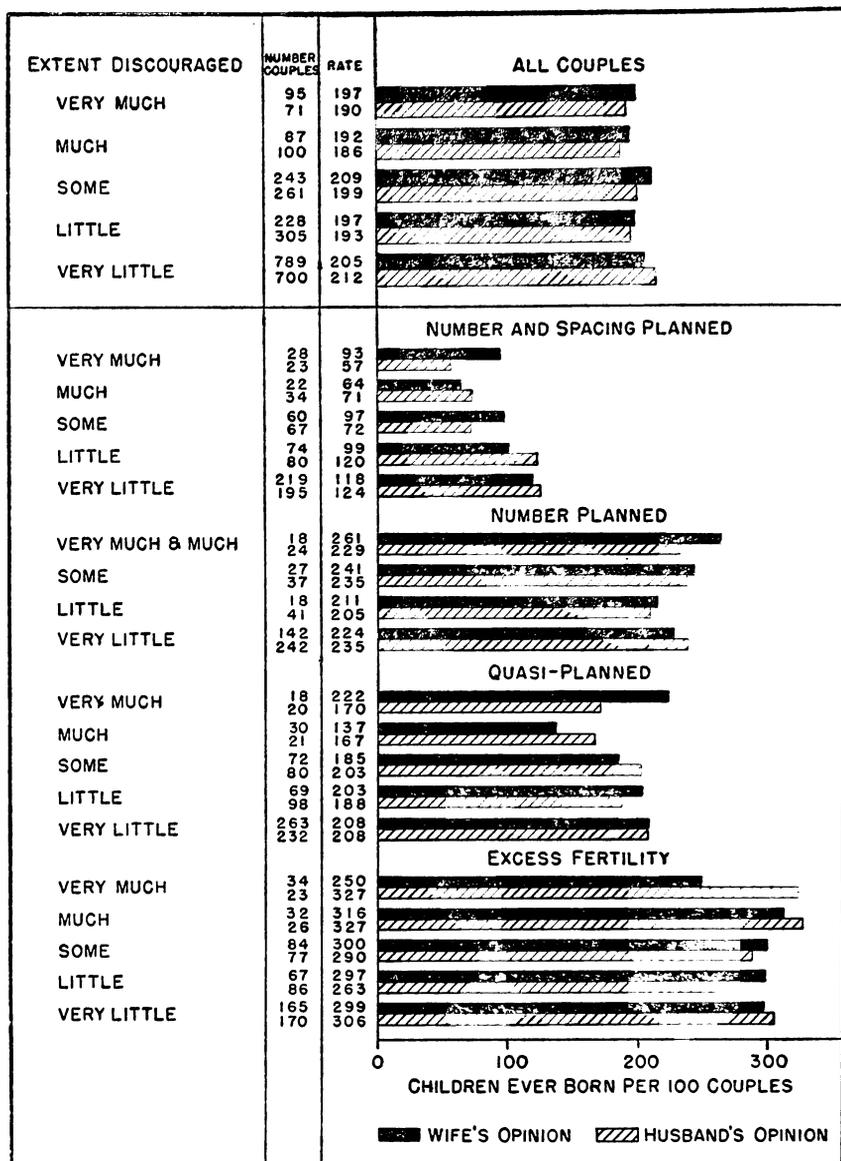


Fig. 6. Number of children ever born per 100 couples, by fertility-planning status and by statement of wife and husband regarding extent to which the couple was discouraged from having (more) children because of fear of pregnancy.

the Intensive Study and that "never pregnant" couples were classified as "relatively fecund" only if they had practiced contraception regularly and continuously since marriage. By definition, these "never pregnant" women were assigned exclusively to the "number and spacing planned" group. Hence the childless couples in the Study are in the main voluntarily childless and are restricted mainly to the "number and spacing planned" group. The few exceptions in each instance are couples having no live birth but one or more pregnancies terminating in stillbirths or unintentional abortions.

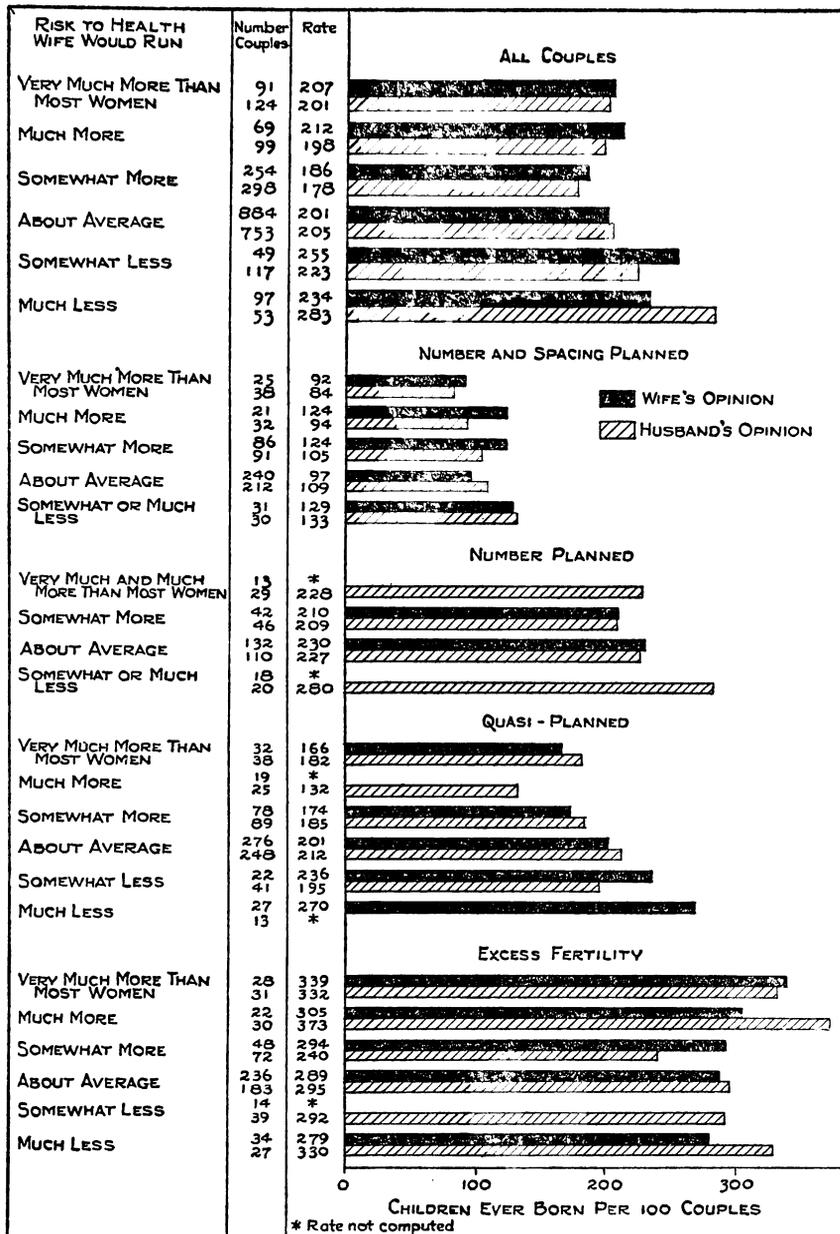


Fig. 7. Number of children ever born per 100 couples, by fertility-planning status and by opinion of the wife and husband as to the risk to health the wife would run in having a (another) child.

When the analysis is restricted to fertile couples, the inverse

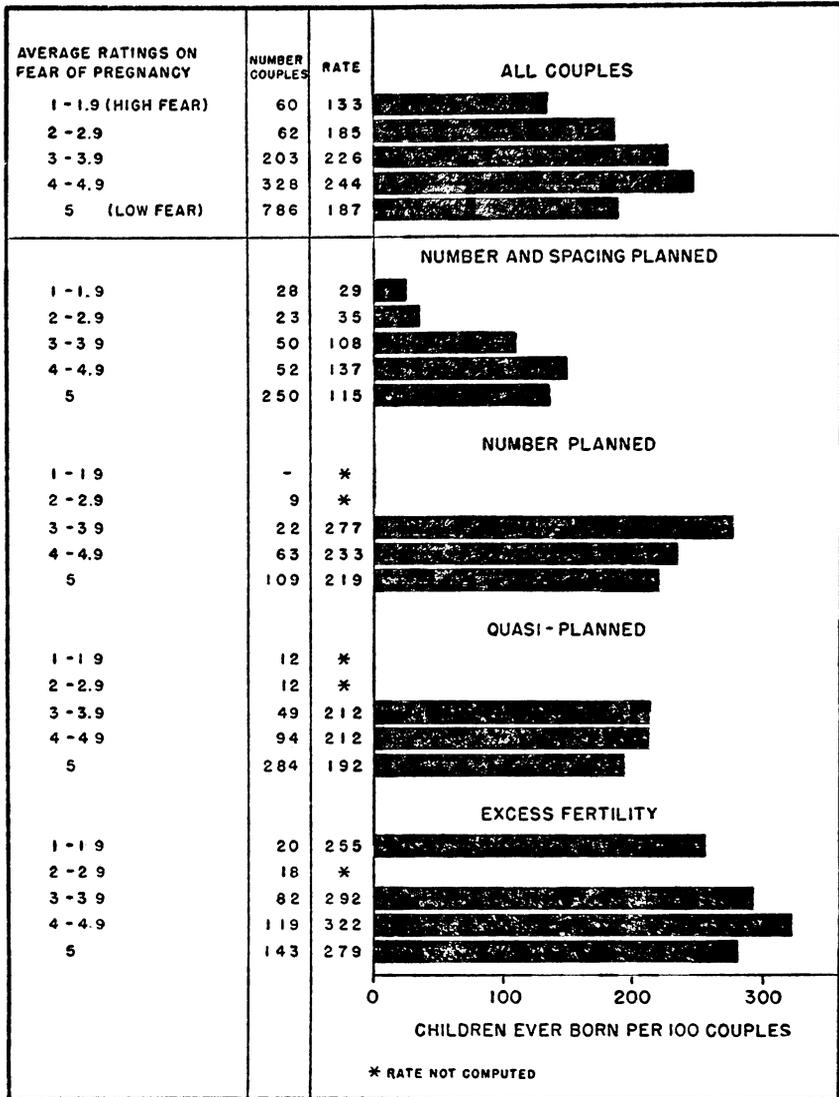


Fig. 8. Number of children ever born per 100 couples by fertility-planning status and by the average of wife's ratings on fear of pregnancy.

relation of fertility to risk to wife's health (as estimated by the wife or husband) persists to some extent with the "number and spacing planned" group and among the total group of "planned families." However, the inverse relation of fertility to wife's fear of pregnancy (as determined by average of ratings for

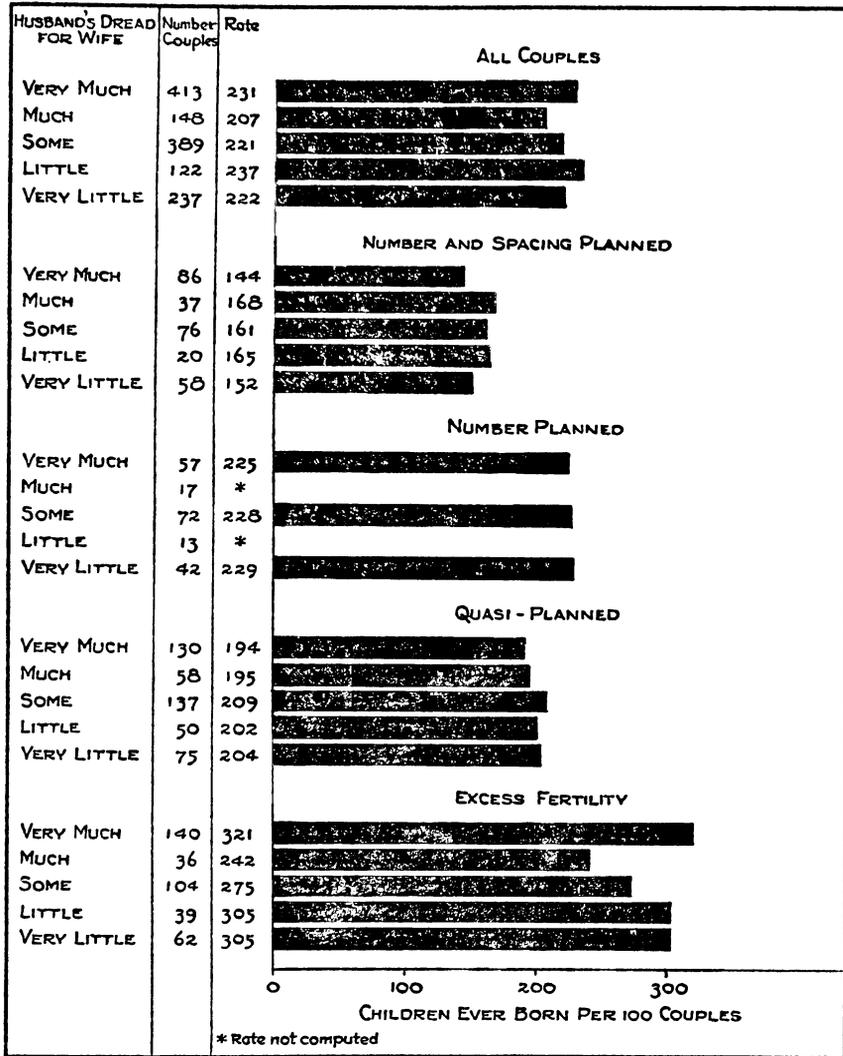


Fig. 9. Number of children ever born per 100 couples by fertility-planning status and by husband's dread of childbirth for wife before first child was born.

all pregnancies) and the extent to which the couple was discouraged from having more children because of fear of pregnancy disappears when the analysis is restricted to fertile couples. (Tables 11-13).

The differentials in proportions childless by the various measures of fear of pregnancy are quite striking. Thus among

Table 11. Fertility rates for all couples and fertile couples and per cent childless among "number and spacing planned" couples and "all planned families," by separate and jointly considered reply of wife and husband on extent to which the couple had been discouraged from having (more) children by fear or dread of pregnancy and childbirth.

EXTENT DISCOURAGED FROM HAVING (MORE) CHILDREN BY FEAR OF PREGNANCY AND CHILD BIRTH	NUMBER AND SPACING PLANNED						ALL PLANNED FAMILIES						
	Number of Couples		Children Ever Born Per 100 Couples		Per Cent Childless		Number of Couples		Children Ever Born Per 100 Couples		Per Cent Childless		
	All Couples	Fertile Couples	All Couples	Fertile Couples			All Couples	Fertile Couples	All Couples	Fertile Couples			
<i>Reply of Wife</i>													
Very Much or Much	50	28	80	143	44.0	68	46	128	189	32.4			
Some	60	36	97	161	40.0	87	63	141	195	27.6			
Little	74	51	99	143	31.1	92	69	121	161	25.0			
Very Little	219	162	118	159	26.0	361	300	160	192	16.9			
<i>Reply of Husband</i>													
Very Much or Much	57	28	65	132	50.9	81	50	114	184	38.3			
Some	67	36	72	133	46.3	104	73	130	185	29.8			
Little	80	57	120	168	28.8	121	96	149	188	20.7			
Very Little	195	152	124	159	22.1	298	255	162	190	14.4			
<i>Joint Replies¹</i>													
<i>Wife</i>													
V. M. or M.	29	22	117	155	24.1	38	31	145	177	18.4			
Some	38	22	87	150	42.1	52	36	131	189	30.8			
V. L. or L.	30	15	63	*	50.0	48	31	119	184	35.4			
V. L. or L.	51	29	69	121	43.1	72	50	115	166	30.6			
V. L. or L.	208	165	130	164	20.7	329	284	164	190	13.7			

¹ Combinations represented by fewer than 20 cases are not shown.

* Rate not shown for fewer than 20 cases.

Table 12. Fertility rates for all couples and fertile couples and per cent childless among "number and spacing planned" couples and "all planned families" according to wife's opinion, husband's opinion, wife's rating of husband's opinion, and husband's rating of wife's opinion about risk to wife's health in having a (another) child.

	NUMBER AND SPACING PLANNED						ALL PLANNED FAMILIES					
	Number of Couples		Children Ever Born Per 100 Couples		Per Cent Childless		Number of Couples		Children Ever Born Per 100 Couples		Per Cent Childless	
	All Couples	Fertile Couples	All Couples	Fertile Couples	All Couples	Childless	All Couples	Fertile Couples	All Couples	Fertile Couples	All Couples	Childless
	Couples	Couples	Couples	Couples	Couples		Couples	Couples	Couples	Couples	Couples	
<i>Wife's Opinion</i>												
Very Much or Much More	46	35	107	140	23.9	59	48	142	175	18.6		
Somewhat More	86	73	124	147	15.1	128	113	152	173	11.7		
About Average	240	144	97	162	40.0	372	274	144	196	26.3		
Somewhat or Much Less	31	25	129	160	19.4	49	43	165	188	12.2		
<i>Husband's Opinion</i>												
Very Much or Much More	70	48	89	129	31.4	99	73	129	175	26.3		
Somewhat More	91	61	105	157	33.0	137	107	140	179	21.9		
About Average	212	145	109	159	31.6	322	255	149	189	20.8		
Somewhat or Much Less	30	23	133	174	23.3	50	43	192	223	14.0		
<i>Wife's Rating of Husband's Opinion</i>												
Very Much or Much More	55	39	107	151	29.1	77	61	158	200	20.8		
Somewhat More	105	81	120	156	22.9	154	128	146	176	16.9		
About Average	205	128	95	152	37.6	316	237	141	189	25.0		
Somewhat or Much Less	36	29	136	169	19.4	58	51	172	196	12.1		
<i>Husband's Rating of Wife's Opinion</i>												
Very Much or Much More	62	45	84	116	27.4	85	68	131	163	20.0		
Somewhat More	61	40	102	155	34.4	94	71	143	189	24.5		
About Average	227	150	107	162	33.9	337	258	143	187	23.4		
Somewhat or Much Less	50	42	144	171	16.0	89	81	191	210	9.0		

the "planned families" the proportion childless extends from 16 per cent for those with wives classified as having lowest fear of pregnancy to 79 per cent for those with wives classified as having highest fear of pregnancy.

It is of interest to examine the distributions of couples by wife's fear of successive pregnancies. These are given in Table 14 for all couples, planned families, and families that were not planned as to size. In the first place, the relatively high fear of pregnancy and childbirth by the never-pregnant wives may be noted. One-third (33 per cent) of the never-pregnant wives stated "very much" or "much" fear, and 42 per cent stated "very little" fear. In comparison, only 6 per cent of all wives having a first pregnancy stated that they had feared it "very much" or "much" and 77 per cent replied "very little."

A second point apparent in Table 14 is that among all couples and among the families not planned as to size, the proportion

Table 13. Fertility rates for all couples and fertile couples and per cent childless among "number and spacing planned" couples and "all planned families", by average of ratings on wife's fear of pregnancy.

AVERAGE OF RATINGS ON WIFE'S FEAR OF PREGNANCY	NUMBER OF COUPLES		CHILDREN EVER BORN PER 100 COUPLES		PER CENT CHILD- LESS
	All Couples	Fertile Couples	All Couples	Fertile Couples	
NUMBER AND SPACING PLANNED					
1-1.9 (High Fear)	28	6	29	*	78.6
2-2.9	23	6	35	*	73.9
3-3.9	50	33	108	164	34.0
4-4.9	52	37	137	192	28.8
5 (Low Fear)	250	195	115	148	22.0
ALL PLANNED FAMILIES					
1-1.9 (High Fear)	28	6	29	*	78.6
2-2.9	32	13	84	*	59.4
3-3.9	72	55	160	209	23.6
4-4.9	115	100	190	218	13.0
5 (Low Fear)	359	302	147	175	15.9

* Rate not shown for fewer than twenty cases.

of wives stating that they had feared experienced pregnancies "very much" increases fairly regularly with order of pregnancy. This type of relation is not found among the planned families except for the relatively low fear of the experienced first pregnancy. However, the proportion of wives in planned families indicating "very little" fear of specific pregnancies experienced does decline regularly with successive order of pregnancy. A third point to be noted is that except for never-pregnant wives

Table 14. Percentage distribution of couples according to wife's fear of pregnancies of specific order. Data presented for all couples and for planned and non-planned families.

ORDER OF PREGNANCY CONSIDERED	NUMBER OF COUPLES	PER CENT DISTRIBUTION BY FEAR OF PREGNANCY					
		Total	Very Much	Much	Some	Little	Very Little
ALL COUPLES REGARDLESS OF FERTILITY-PLANNING STATUS							
First (All Couples)	1,437	100	5.7	2.3	7.5	10.1	74.4
First (Never Pregnant)	121	100	19.0	14.0	13.2	11.6	42.1
<i>Pregnancies Experienced</i>							
First	1,316	100	4.5	1.2	7.0	10.0	77.4
Second	1,007	100	7.7	4.0	6.6	14.7	67.0
Third	511	100	9.4	4.1	6.7	15.1	64.8
Fourth	239	100	10.5	2.9	7.5	11.3	67.8
Fifth	107	100	15.9	3.7	7.5	6.5	66.4
Sixth or Later	81	100	14.8	7.4	6.2	4.9	66.7
ALL PLANNED FAMILIES							
First (All Couples)	606	100	4.6	4.5	9.2	9.1	72.6
First (Never Pregnant)	121	100	19.0	14.0	13.2	11.6	42.1
<i>Pregnancies Experienced</i>							
First	485	100	1.0	2.1	8.2	8.5	80.2
Second	339	100	5.3	4.1	5.9	12.4	72.3
Third	112	100	3.6	4.5	6.3	16.1	69.6
Fourth	36	100	5.6	5.6	8.3	16.7	63.9
FAMILIES NOT PLANNED AS TO SIZE							
<i>Pregnancies Experienced</i>							
First	831	100	6.5	0.7	6.3	10.8	75.7
Second	668	100	9.0	3.9	6.9	15.9	64.4
Third	399	100	11.0	4.0	6.8	14.8	63.4
Fourth	203	100	11.3	2.5	7.4	10.3	68.5
Fifth	100	100	16.0	4.0	8.0	7.0	65.0
Sixth or Later	77	100	15.6	7.8	6.5	5.2	64.9

the fear of specific pregnancies is generally lower for planned families than for the non-planned.

The reasons for the three situations noted above may be briefly considered. There are several possible reasons for the relatively high fear of a pregnancy and childbirth among the never-pregnant wives. In the first place, it will be recalled that replies of never-pregnant women to the question on fear of "a pregnancy and childbirth" represent their current attitudes at the time of the interview. Women with histories of pregnancies, on the other hand, were asked the extent to which they had feared pregnancy and childbirth prior to the occurrence of the pregnancy considered. Therefore, there may be differences arising from the fact that replies of the women with pregnancies were *ex post facto*, whereas those of the never-pregnant women were not.

Perhaps more important, however, is the difference in time reference and hence the difference in age of the women at the time considered. The never-pregnant women replied to the question in the context of their age at interview, whereas the replies about fear of *experienced* first pregnancies related to periods when the women might have been as much as 14 years younger than at the time of the interview. In this connection it is of interest to note that one-third of the forty childless women who replied that they feared pregnancy and childbirth "very much" or "much" listed "age" as one of the reasons for the fear. None of the thirteen women in planned families who feared their actual first pregnancy "very much" or "much" listed "age" as one of the reasons for fear. (See Appendix II for data and discussion of reasons for fear or lack of fear of pregnancy among wives in planned families.)

It is also germane to mention that the actual age at interview tends to be substantially higher for the never-pregnant women than for the others. About 50 per cent of the never-pregnant women as compared with 30 per cent of the others were 35 years of age or over at the time of the interview. Despite the above situations, however, among the never-preg-

nant women themselves, the distributions by fear of pregnancy are about the same for women 35-39 years of age as for those 30-34 years of age, the two chief five-year age groups represented.^{20, 21}

A final point to be noted is that by definition the never-pregnant women in the Study did not want children. They had practiced contraception regularly since marriage. Some actually may have been deterred by fear of pregnancy and childbirth. It also seems likely, however, that some may have seized upon fear of pregnancy as a sort of rationalization.

The fact that the planned families effectively restricted births to the number desired is perhaps an important reason why fear of pregnancy increases little by order of pregnancy among this group. It may also be an important reason for the generally lower fear of specific pregnancies among wives in planned families than among the others.

²⁰ The complete distribution by age is as follows:

AGE OF WIFE AT INTERVIEW	TOTAL	NEVER PREGNANT	WITH ONE OR MORE PREGNANCIES
Number	1,444	121	1,323
Per Cent: (Total)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 30	8.9	0.8	9.7
30-34	59.8	48.8	60.8
35-39	28.0	37.2	27.1
40+	3.3	13.2	2.4

²¹ The distribution of the never-pregnant woman by age and fear of pregnancy is as follows:

AGE OF WIFE AT INTERVIEW	FEAR OF PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH					
	Total	Very Much	Much	Some	Little	Very Little
TOTAL	121	23	17	16	14	51
Under 30	1					1
30-34	59	13	8	6	6	26
35-39	45	10	4	5	6	20
40+	16		5	5	2	4

This lower fear of specific pregnancies experienced by wives in planned families than by wives in families not planned as to size persists when number of pregnancies ever experienced is held constant. This is evident from a comparison of Tables 15 and 16, which present percentage distributions for planned and non-planned families, respectively, by wife's fear of specific pregnancies and by total number of pregnancies experienced. For example, the proportion of wives in planned families stating that they feared the second pregnancy "very much" is 4.4 per cent for those having only two pregnancies, 4.2 per cent for those with three pregnancies, and 6.7 per cent for those with

Table 15. Percentage distribution of planned families by wife's fear of pregnancies of specific order, according to total number of pregnancies experienced.

NUMBER PREGNANCIES EXPERIENCED	NUMBER OF COUPLES	PER CENT DISTRIBUTION BY WIFE'S FEAR OF PREGNANCY					
		Total	Very Much	Much	Some	Little	Very Little
FEAR OF FIRST PREGNANCY							
TOTAL ¹	606	100	4.6	4.5	9.2	9.1	72.6
0	121	100	19.0	14.0	13.2	11.6	42.1
1	143	100	1.4	4.2	9.8	5.6	79.0
2	229	100	0.9	0.9	8.3	10.9	79.0
3	75	100	1.3	2.7	9.3	8.0	78.7
4	30	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	96.7
FEAR OF SECOND PREGNANCY							
TOTAL ¹	339	100	5.3	4.1	5.9	12.4	72.3
2	229	100	4.4	3.9	7.4	14.0	70.3
3	72	100	4.2	5.6	0.0	6.9	83.3
4	30	100	6.7	3.3	10.0	16.7	63.3
FEAR OF THIRD PREGNANCY							
TOTAL ¹	112	100	3.6	4.5	6.3	16.1	69.6
3	75	100	2.7	4.0	8.0	13.3	72.0
4	29	100	3.4	6.9	3.4	17.2	69.0
FEAR OF FOURTH PREGNANCY							
TOTAL ¹	36	100	5.6	5.6	8.3	16.7	63.9
4	28	100	7.1	3.6	0.0	21.4	67.9

¹ Includes eight couples with five or more pregnancies and with wife giving information on fear.

four pregnancies. (Table 15) Among wives in non-planned families the corresponding percentages are 9.0, 9.8, and 10.2. (Table 16)

Among neither the planned families nor the others, apart from never-pregnant couples, is there much relation of wife's

Table 16. Percentage distribution of families not planned as to size, by wife's fear of pregnancies of specific order, according to number of pregnancies experienced.

NUMBER PREGNANCIES EXPERIENCED	NUMBER OF COUPLES	PER CENT DISTRIBUTION BY WIFE'S FEAR OF PREGNANCY					
		Total	Very Much	Much	Some	Little	Very Little
FEAR OF FIRST PREGNANCY							
TOTAL ¹	831	100	6.5	0.7	6.3	10.8	75.7
1	164	100	5.5	0.0	7.9	15.9	70.7
2	268	100	5.2	0.0	5.6	11.6	77.6
3	190	100	7.9	2.1	7.9	11.6	70.5
4	110	100	7.3	1.8	2.7	6.4	81.8
5	54	100	7.4	0.0	5.6	3.7	83.3
FEAR OF SECOND PREGNANCY							
TOTAL ¹	668	100	9.0	3.9	6.9	15.9	64.4
2	267	100	9.0	2.2	8.2	17.2	63.3
3	193	100	9.8	4.7	7.8	20.2	57.5
4	108	100	10.2	4.6	3.7	10.2	71.3
5	55	100	7.3	7.3	5.5	7.3	72.7
FEAR OF THIRD PREGNANCY							
TOTAL ¹	399	100	11.0	4.0	6.8	14.8	63.4
3	190	100	11.1	4.7	10.0	17.4	56.8
4	109	100	11.0	4.6	3.7	12.8	67.9
5	55	100	16.4	1.8	0.0	16.4	65.5
FEAR OF FOURTH PREGNANCY							
TOTAL ¹	203	100	11.3	2.5	7.4	10.3	68.5
4	104	100	12.5	1.9	11.5	14.4	59.6
5	54	100	13.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	81.5
FEAR OF FIFTH PREGNANCY							
TOTAL ¹	100	100	16.0	4.0	8.0	7.0	65.0
5	55	100	20.0	5.5	5.5	7.3	61.8

¹ Includes forty-five couples with six or more pregnancies and with wife giving information on fear.

to all couples regardless of fertility-planning status. It provides another indication of the lack of any important relation of fear of pregnancy to fertility of couples in the Indianapolis Study.

That the relatively high fear of pregnancy and childbirth on the part of women with no pregnancy accounts almost entirely

Table 17. Percentage distribution of all couples by wife's fear of pregnancies of specific order, according to total number of pregnancies experienced.

NUMBER PREGNANCIES EXPERIENCED	NUMBER OF COUPLES	PER CENT DISTRIBUTION BY WIFE'S FEAR OF PREGNANCY					
		Total	Very Much	Much	Some	Little	Very Little
FEAR OF FIRST PREGNANCY							
TOTAL ¹	1,437	100	5.7	2.3	7.5	10.1	74.4
0	121	100	19.0	14.0	13.2	11.6	42.1
1	307	100	3.6	2.0	8.8	11.1	74.6
2	497	100	3.2	0.4	6.8	11.3	78.3
3	265	100	6.0	2.3	8.3	10.6	72.8
4	140	100	5.7	1.4	2.1	5.7	85.0
5	58	100	6.9	0.0	5.2	5.2	82.8
FEAR OF SECOND PREGNANCY							
TOTAL ¹	1,007	100	7.7	4.0	6.6	14.7	67.0
2	496	100	6.9	3.0	7.9	15.7	66.5
3	265	100	8.3	4.9	5.7	16.6	64.5
4	138	100	9.4	4.3	5.1	11.6	69.6
5	59	100	6.8	6.8	5.1	6.8	74.6
FEAR OF THIRD PREGNANCY							
TOTAL ¹	511	100	9.4	4.1	6.7	15.1	64.8
3	265	100	8.7	4.5	9.4	16.2	61.1
4	138	100	9.4	5.1	3.6	13.8	68.1
5	59	100	16.9	1.7	0.0	15.3	66.1
FEAR OF FOURTH PREGNANCY							
TOTAL ¹	239	100	10.5	2.9	7.5	11.3	67.8
4	132	100	11.4	2.3	9.1	15.9	61.4
5	58	100	12.1	3.4	1.7	1.7	81.0
FEAR OF FIFTH PREGNANCY							
TOTAL ¹	107	100	15.9	3.7	7.5	6.5	66.4
5	59	100	20.3	5.1	5.1	6.8	62.7

¹ Includes 48-49 couples with six or more pregnancies and with wife giving information on fear of specified pregnancy.

for the inverse relation of pregnancy rates to wife's fear of first pregnancy is pointed up in Table 18. This table presents for all couples and for all planned families pregnancy rates with and without the inclusion of never-pregnant women according to wife's fear of first pregnancy. Among all couples and among the planned families, pregnancy rates increase regularly and sharply with lowering of fear of first pregnancy *when the experience of the never-pregnant women is included*. The relative spread of the pregnancy rates by wife's fear of first pregnancy is much larger among planned families than among all couples. Thus, among planned families the pregnancy rate extends from 45 for wives fearing the first pregnancy "very much" or "much" to 184 for those fearing it "very little." The corresponding rates for all couples are 182 and 240, respectively.

Table 18. Pregnancy rates for all couples and for couples with one or more pregnancies, and per cent of couples never pregnant, according to wife's fear of first pregnancy. Data presented for all couples regardless of fertility-planning status and for all planned families.

WIFE'S FEAR OF FIRST PREGNANCY	NUMBER OF COUPLES		PREGNANCIES PER 100 COUPLES		PER CENT OF COUPLES NEVER PREGNANT
	All Couples (Incl. Never Pregnant)	Couples With One or More Pregnancies	All Couples (Incl. Never Pregnant)	Couples With One or More Pregnancies	
ALL COUPLES REGARDLESS OF FERTILITY-PLANNING STATUS					
TOTAL	1,444 ^a	1,323 ^a	228	248	8.4
Very Much or Much	115	75	182	279	34.8
Some Little	108	92	193	226	14.8
Very Little	145	131	201	223	9.7
	1,069	1,018	240	252	4.8
ALL PLANNED FAMILIES					
TOTAL	608 ^b	487 ^b	164	204	19.9
Very Much or Much	55	15	45	*	72.7
Some Little	56	40	130	183	28.6
Very Little	55	41	155	207	25.5
	440	389	184	208	11.6

^a Total includes seven couples with no rating on fear of first pregnancy.

^b Total includes two couples with no rating on fear of first pregnancy.

* Rate not shown for fewer than twenty cases.

There is a correspondingly regular and strong *decrease* in the percentage of never-pregnant couples with lowering of wife's fear of first pregnancy. Among the planned families these percentages extend from about 73 per cent for wives fearing first pregnancy "very much" and "much" to 12 per cent for those with "very little" fear. Among all couples the range is from about 35 to 5 per cent.

When the analysis is restricted to couples with one or more pregnancies there is very little persistence of the inverse relation of pregnancy rates to wife's fear of first pregnancy. In fact, among all wives experiencing a first pregnancy the rate (279) is highest instead of lowest for those stating that they feared the first pregnancy "very much" or "much." Owing to small numbers a comparable rate is not available for the planned families but among these the rates are 183, 207, and 208, respectively, for wives stating that they had feared their first pregnancy "some," "little," and "very little."

Table 19 takes as a point of departure the pregnancy rates by fear of experienced first pregnancies and presents similar data by fear of experienced second, third, and fourth pregnancies. For possible help in interpretation, this table shows not only the total pregnancies per 100 couples but also the number of pregnancies *after the one considered* per 100 couples, and the percentage of couples having one or more pregnancies after the one considered, by wife's fear of specified pregnancies. As before, the data are shown for all couples and for planned families in so far as those for the latter group are adequate.

In the nature of the case the rates of total pregnancies increase and the rates of *additional* pregnancies *decrease* as one considers successively the wives experiencing at least one pregnancy, at least two pregnancies, etc. Our concern here is with the internal variations of the rates by fear of pregnancies considered. The results are interesting. If the relatively high pregnancy rates for women professing "very much" or "much" fear are ignored, we find rather consistent increases in pregnancy rates with lowering of fear. Stated in another manner,

Table 19. Total number of pregnancies per 100 couples, number of pregnancies after the one considered per 100 couples, and per cent of couples having one or more pregnancies after the one considered, according to wife's fear of specified pregnancy. Data presented for all couples and for all planned families.

EXPERIENCED PREGNANCY CONSIDERED AND FEAR OF THAT PREGNANCY	ALL COUPLES				ALL PLANNED FAMILIES			
	Number of Couples	Pregnancies Per 100 Couples		Per Cent of Couples Having an Additional Pregnancy	Number of Couples	Pregnancies Per 100 Couples		Per Cent of Couples Having an Additional Pregnancy
		Total	Additional			Total	Additional	
<i>First Pregnancy</i>								
Very Much and Much	75	279	179	77.3	15	*	*	*
Some	92	226	126	70.7	40	183	83	65.0
Little	131	223	123	74.0	41	207	107	80.5
Very Little	1,018	252	152	77.5	389	208	108	71.0
<i>Second Pregnancy</i>								
Very Much and Much	118	307	107	58.5	32	278	78	40.6
Some	66	270	70	40.9	20	230	30	15.0
Little	148	279	79	47.3	42	236	36	23.8
Very Little	675	297	97	51.1	245	247	47	34.3
<i>Third Pregnancy</i>								
Very Much and Much	69	375	75	49.3	9	*	*	*
Some	34	365	65	26.5	7	*	*	*
Little	77	371	71	44.2	18	*	*	*
Very Little	331	393	93	51.1	78	338	38	30.8
<i>Fourth Pregnancy</i>								
Very Much and Much	32	463	63	43.8	4	*	*	*
Some	18	*	*	*	3	*	*	*
Little	27	441	41	22.2	6	*	*	*
Very Little	162	491	91	50.0	23	426	26	17.4

* Rates and percentages not shown if based on fewer than 20 cases.

among women who had pregnancies of a given order the percentage having one or more additional pregnancies is consistently relatively high for those indicating that they had feared the index pregnancy "very much" or "much" but the percentages of couples having an additional pregnancy otherwise increase with lowering of fear of the pregnancy considered.²²

The implications in Table 19 would seem to be that if number of previous past pregnancies is held constant, there is a partial tendency for the occurrence of a subsequent pregnancy to be inversely related to *fear of the previous pregnancy*. However, the exception is an important one in that the percentage of women having an additional pregnancy is consistently high for those expressing "very much" or "much" fear of pregnancy.

A less refined but in some respects more meaningful set of data are presented in Table 20 in which the numbers of women

Table 20. Number of couples ever exposed to risk of pregnancy of specified order and percentage of couples at risk having the pregnancy, by average of ratings on wife's fear of pregnancy. Data presented for all couples and for "all planned families."

AVERAGE OF RATINGS ON WIFE'S FEAR OF PREGNANCY	ALL COUPLES					
	ORDER OF PREGNANCY					
	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth
	NUMBER OF COUPLES EVER EXPOSED TO RISK OF GIVEN PREGNANCY					
Total ¹	1,444	1,323	1,014	516	248	108
1-2.9 (High Fear)	122	83	66	43	24	11
3-3.9	203	187	158	98	41	21
4-4.9	328	313	279	152	81	33
5 (Low Fear)	786	735	506	220	102	43
	PER CENT OF COUPLES AT RISK WHO HAD GIVEN PREGNANCY					
Total ¹	91.6	76.6	50.9	48.1	43.5	45.4
1-2.9 (High Fear)	68.0	79.5	65.2	55.8	45.8	*
3-3.9	92.1	84.5	62.0	41.8	51.2	47.6
4-4.9	95.4	89.1	54.5	53.3	40.7	57.6
5 (Low Fear)	93.5	68.8	43.5	46.4	42.2	37.2

²² It must be borne in mind that the classifications in Table 19 are on the basis of fear of the pregnancy considered—not on the basis of fear of *another* pregnancy.

experiencing given pregnancies are expressed as percentages of the total number ever exposed to the risk of pregnancies of the orders considered.²³ This time the data are shown not according to fear of a specific pregnancy, as in Table 19, but according to average of the wife's ratings on fear of all pregnancies experienced.²⁴ They are shown for planned families as well as for all couples.

As expected, the proportion of couples having a first pregnancy increases with lowering of average fear. A partial relation of this type is found in so far as the probability of second pregnancy is concerned. However, the percentages of couples at risk who had pregnancies of higher orders do not vary systematically with average ratings of fear on all pregnancies.

Table 20 (*continued*). Number of couples ever exposed to risk of pregnancy of specified order and percentage of couples at risk having the pregnancy, by average of ratings on wife's fear of pregnancy. Data presented for all couples and for "all planned families."

AVERAGE OF RATINGS ON WIFE'S FEAR OF PREGNANCY	ALL PLANNED FAMILIES			
	ORDER OF PREGNANCY			
	First	Second	Third	Fourth
	NUMBER OF COUPLES EVER EXPOSED TO RISK OF GIVEN PREGNANCY			
Total ¹	608	487	344	113
1-2.9 (High Fear)	60	21	13	4
3-3.9	72	56	42	12
4-4.9	115	100	92	39
5 (Low Fear)	359	308	195	58
	PER CENT OF COUPLES AT RISK WHO HAD GIVEN PREGNANCY			
Total ¹	80.1	70.6	32.8	33.6
1-2.9 (High Fear)	35.0	61.9	*	*
3-3.9	77.8	75.0	28.6	*
4-4.9	87.0	92.0	42.4	41.0
5 (Low Fear)	85.8	63.3	29.7	27.6

* Per cent not shown if based on fewer than twenty cases.

¹ Totals include unknowns on average ratings on fear.

²³ All women were presumed to be exposed to the risk of a first pregnancy. Those experiencing a first pregnancy became exposed to the risk of a second, etc.

²⁴ As before, for purposes of computing the probability of a first pregnancy, the never pregnant women were incorporated on the basis of their fear of "a pregnancy."

SUMMARY

Four major criteria of fear of pregnancy are available from the Indianapolis Study for testing the hypothesis "the greater the fear of pregnancy the higher the proportion of couples practicing contraception effectively, and the smaller the planned families." These are (1) statements of each spouse on the extent to which the couple had been discouraged from having (more) children by fear or dread of pregnancy and childbirth; (2) husband's dread of childbirth for wife before the first child was born; (3) statements of each spouse on the degree of risk (relative to "most women") the wife would run in having a (another) child; and (4) wife's previous fear of each pregnancy experienced or her current fear if never pregnant.

The first part of the hypothesis, the greater the fear the higher the proportion of planned families, is not supported at all when the criterion of fear is (1) "extent discouraged" (wife's or husband's statement), (2) "husband's dread" or (3) wife's statement on "risk to wife's health." It is supported by husband's statement on "risk to wife's health." This support is not statistically significant but it does persist when the analysis is restricted to fertile husbands. When the average of wife's ratings on fear of pregnancy is used as the criterion of fear, the first part of the hypothesis is supported when childless wives are included but not when they are excluded from the analysis. Similarly when wife's fear of first pregnancy is considered, the hypothesis is supported when the never-pregnant wives are included but not when they are excluded. The hypothesis is not supported in classifications based upon fear of specific pregnancies experienced after the first.

The second part of the hypothesis, the greater the fear of pregnancy the smaller the planned family, is supported when any of the criteria except "husband's dread" is used. However, the support virtually disappears when the analysis is restricted to fertile couples.

The important role of childless couples in giving support to

both parts of the hypothesis arises from the facts that (a) most of the childless wives were never pregnant, (b) the never-pregnant wives exhibited relatively high fear of "a pregnancy," and (c) the never-pregnant wives in the Study are by definition restricted to the "number and spacing planned" group.

APPENDIX I

TESTS OF SIGNIFICANCE OF DIFFERENCES IN FERTILITY RATES

On the basis of the standard errors of the means of the distributions by number of live births and the *t* test, significances of differences between fertility rates for selected subgroups represented in Figures 6, 7, and 8 were tested. For this purpose the total number of cases (*n*) for the subgroups were reduced to the size of the uninflated sample. The proportionate distributions by number of live births observed in the inflated sample were applied to the numbers in the uninflated sample. In other words, the fertility rates found in the inflated sample were maintained but the numbers of cases on which they were based were reduced for the tests of significance. The symbols used are to be interpreted as follows: VS = very significant ($p = .01$ or less); S = moderately significant (p between $.01$ and $.05$); and N = not significant ($p > .05$).

GROUPS COMPARED WITH RESPECT TO AVERAGE NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS	SIGNIFICANCE	
	Data For Wife	Data For Husband
<i>All Couples</i>		
Discouraged "very much" and "very little"	N	N
Risk to wife's health "very much more" and "much less"	N	S
Average rating on fear "high" (1-1.9) and "low" (5)	S	
<i>Number and Spacing Planned Couples</i>		
Discouraged "very much or much" and "very little"	S	VS
Risk to wife's health "very much more" and "somewhat or much less"	N	S
Average rating on fear "high" (1-1.9) and "low" (5)	VS	

APPENDIX II

REASONS FOR FEAR OR LACK OF FEAR OF GIVEN PREGNANCIES
AMONG PLANNED FAMILIES

Table 21 gives some indication of the relative importance among "planned families" of various reasons for fearing given pregnancies. The data are given separately for couples in which the wife stated that she feared given pregnancies "very much" or "much" and for those in which "some" fear of given

Table 21. Importance of given reasons for fear of first and later pregnancies among wives in planned families stating that specified pregnancies were feared "very much or much" and "some."

REASONS FOR FEAR	FEAR OF FIRST PREGNANCY				FEAR OF SECOND AND LATER PREGNANCIES EXPERIENCED	
	Very Much and Much		Some		Very Much and Much	Some
	All Couples	Never Pregnant	Pregnancy Experienced	All Couples		
Number of Wives	55	40	40	56	46	30
Number Reporting Reasons	53	40	40	50	43	25
<i>Per Cent Reporting:</i> ¹						
Fear of Death	9.4	7.5	5.0	4.0	4.7	8.0
Fear of Suffering or Illness	34.0	35.0	5.0	6.0	44.2	40.0
Fear of Abortion, Stillbirth, or Abnormality	3.8	5.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	20.0
Age (Too Old)	24.5	32.5	5.0	8.0	0.0	0.0
Complications of Previous Birth	—	—	—	—	55.8	16.0
Health of Wife	24.5	22.5	27.5	26.0	23.3	12.0
Frightened by Statements or Experiences of Friends or Relatives	35.8	40.0	30.0	30.0	7.0	12.0
Too Little Knowledge	13.2	12.5	50.0	44.0	7.0	0.0
Other Reasons	3.8	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0

¹ Percentages based on numbers of couples listing reasons for fear. The sums of the percentages exceed 100 owing to the listing of multiple reasons for fear of given pregnancies.

pregnancies was reported. In Table 22 *the reasons for lack of fear* of pregnancies of given order are given for those replying that such pregnancies were feared "little" or "very little." In all cases the percentages add to more than 100 as a result of the multiple reasons for fear or lack of fear given by some of the women. The figures are simply to be interpreted as percentages of the total women in a given category listing a given factor as a reason for fear or lack of fear of a given pregnancy.

It will be noted that of the forty childless women stating that

Table 22. Importance of given reasons for lack of fear of specified pregnancies among wives in planned families stating that given pregnancies were feared "very little" or "little."

REASONS FOR LACK OF FEAR	SPECIFIC PREGNANCIES FEARED "LITTLE" OR "VERY LITTLE"					
	First			Second	Third	Fourth or Later
	All Couples	Never Preg- nant	Preg- nancy Experi- enced			
Total Number of Wives	495	65	430	287	96	38
Number Giving Reasons for Lack of Fear (Percentage Bases)	391	44	347	225	77	25
<i>Per Cent Reporting:</i>						
Insufficient Knowledge ¹	16.9	2.3	18.7	—	—	—
Sufficient Knowledge ¹	11.3	11.4	11.2	—	—	—
Confidence Based on Prior Experience	—	—	—	37.3	31.2	32.0
<i>Experience Mainly Favorable</i> ²	—	—	—	30.2	23.4	28.0
<i>Experience Mainly Unfavorable</i> ²	—	—	—	7.1	7.8	4.0
Pregnancy a "Natural" Process	36.3	50.0	34.6	25.3	18.2	24.0
Not the Type that Worries	17.6	22.7	17.0	21.8	29.9	24.0
Strong Desire for Child	18.2	0.0	20.5	23.1	22.1	24.0
Good Health	10.5	22.7	8.9	2.7	6.5	4.0
Other Reasons	6.6	11.4	6.1	6.2	2.6	0.0

¹ Distinguished as reasons only in the coding of fear of first pregnancy.

² Subcategories based on average of ratings on complications of pregnancy, complications of the puerperium, and ease of birth for one to three prior pregnancies.

they were "very much" or "much" afraid of pregnancy and childbirth, 35 per cent mentioned as a reason the "fear or dread of suffering or illness," about 33 per cent mentioned "age," and 40 per cent stated that they had been "frightened by statements or experiences of friends or relatives." The first reason mentioned above is also one of importance among wives in planned families fearing second or later pregnancies "very much" or "much." "Complications of previous births" is another reason of outstanding importance for fearing the second or later pregnancies "very much" or "much." "Age" and "frightened by statements or experiences of friends or relatives" apparently are reasons of little or no importance for fear of the second and succeeding pregnancies among planned families.

Of the childless wives in planned families stating that they feared pregnancy "little" or "very little," half mentioned their belief that "pregnancy is a natural process" as a reason for lack of fear. About 23 per cent of the same group mentioned "good health" as a reason for lack of fear and the same proportion stated that they were "not the type that worries."

Among wives in planned families stating that they feared given pregnancies "little" or "very little" the statements "pregnancy is a natural process" and "good health of wife" tend to decrease with order of pregnancy as important reasons for not fearing the pregnancy.