

REPORT ON THE SURVEY OF

Family Planning  
Knowledge, Attitude and Practice in Hong Kong  
2007

BY

THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG

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## PREFACE

The Survey of Family Planning Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) in Hong Kong is a serial territory wide survey conducted by the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong since 1967. It is the longest-standing survey in the territory. Conducted every 5 years, it monitors trends and patterns in local people's family formation and related issues. The eighth and ninth in the series, the 2002 and 2007 surveys interviewed married or cohabiting women aged between 15 and 49 and their spouses by home visits. Various aspects of family planning including parity, fertility, contraception and induced abortion were studied in the survey.

Building on the foundations laid down by our pioneers of the survey, changes have been introduced over the years to better reflect changing norms in the society. However the fundamental elements have been retained as far as possible to allow for longitudinal analysis of trends. The key findings of the 2002 and 2007 surveys have been released to the public. This report presents the data in greater detail and with more in-depth correlation of various factors which impact on family planning.

It is our sincere hope that the findings of the KAP Survey will be of interest and provide useful references for policy makers, academics and service providers working for the local community.

Prof. Paul YIP

*Chairman*

Research Subcommittee

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The Family Association of Hong Kong wishes to express its sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to the continuation of this Survey.

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Finally, the Association would like to thank the married women and their spouses who took part in the Survey. Without their cooperation, this Survey would not have been possible.

Dr. Susan Fan

*Executive Director*

The Family Planning Association of Hong Kong

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## GLOSSARY AND LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

There are a number of terms or names frequently used in day-to-day communication within the Association or among people associated with family planning. Their abbreviations and meanings are given below:

- C&SD**      Census and Statistics Department  
This refers to the government department of the same title, which is responsible for the collection of major territory-wide statistics.
- FPAHK**      The Family Planning Association of Hong Kong
- Prevalence**      The number of persons having a particular disease at a given point in time as a proportion of the population at risk.

### Statistical Test

#### Test of independence

Using a chi-square test to evaluate the dependency of two nominal variables

#### Large-sample test of hypothesis for the difference

Using normal test to evaluate the difference of 2 binomial populations

#### Independent t-test

A simple student t-test to evaluate the difference of interval variable between 2 populations

#### Trend analysis

Simple linear regression on trend data to evaluate the increasing or decreasing trend of consecutive survey figures

#### One-way ANOVA

To evaluate the heterogeneity across different populations on an interval variable

#### Significant

“Significant” or “significantly” indicate that a statistical hypothesis test is done and the difference is unlikely to be due to chance.



# Chapter 1

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## Executive Summary

### Survey Overview

A total of 6,907 living quarters were visited, and 3,860 of them had eligible women who were aged 15-49 and got married. It is expected 2,277 currently married / cohabited women were yielded. 1,510 women and 770 men were successfully interviewed. The overall female and male response rates were 66.3% and 51.0% respectively.

### Respondents' Profile

- The mean ages for male and female respondents were 43.7 and 39.2 respectively.
- Males and females have similar proportions in attaining post-secondary education.
- 39.2% of all female respondents were housewife, which decreased from over 60% in 1982. About half of the female respondents were having a full-time job.

### Actual Number of Parity

- The currently pregnancy rate is decreasing from 6.6 per 100 married women in 1977 to only 0.9 in 2007. (Table 5.1.1)
- Family with no parity, 1 parity and 2 parities are increasing throughout 1972 to 2007. The mean number of parity for each married woman is 1.5 in 2007, and it seems to be leveling off in recent years. (Table 5.2.1)
- There were more women aged 35-39 years old who had no children, from 11.6% in 1992 to 21.4% in 2007. (Table 5.3.1)
- Married women who had higher household income tend to have higher likelihood of having no children. (Table 5.3.5)

### Attitudes towards Ideal Parity

- Majority of women (49.7%) desired 2 children in family, where 26.2% wanted only 1 child and 12.5% did not want any children. (Table 5.4.1)
- There is no significant increasing trend of ideally having 2 or more parity, however, more and more women desired no parity or only 1 parity in family, from altogether only 9.6% in 1982 to 38.7% in 2007. (Figure 5.4.1)
- For age groups 30-34 and 35-39, respectively 45.4% and 30.8% women had fewer children than they ideally hope for. (Table 5.5.1) They would be more likely to become “advanced-aged pregnancy” and would affect the health of fetus and herself, if they do not get pregnant at that age.
- 37.2% of one-child mother thought they have not achieved the ideal number of children, only 5.5% of two-child mothers have the same perception. It seems that it is easier to encourage those 1-child mothers to give one more child than 2-child mothers. (Table 5.5.4)
- Women having shorter years of marriages and higher education level are more likely to have fewer children than what they ideally expect. (Table 5.5.2 and Table 5.5.3)
- Major reasons of desiring to have children again are “I like children” and “Let the children have partner”. Reasons for not desiring children are having enough children, financial burden and old age of the wife. (Table 5.6.2 and Table 5.6.3)

## Family Planning / Choice on Parities among Couples

- 81.2% of couples consistently did not desire more children, while only 11.6% wanted to have more. (Table 10.1.1) There is no significant discrepancy on the preference on number of children between the couple.
- Only 7.2% of couples were having different preferences on the number of children, compared with 67.6% in 1997. (Table 10.1.1)
- The reasons for desiring more children are more or less similar among husbands and wives including “I like children” and “Let the children have partner”. (Table 10.1.4)
- The reasons for desiring no more children were “Have enough children”, “The financial burden of raising children is heavy” and “Too old”. (Table 10.1.5)
- More couples believed that family planning was the responsibility of both husbands and wives, with the proportion significantly rise to 70% in 2007. (Table 11.2.1)
- Over 60% of husbands and wives had ever discussed with spouse about the number of parity. Over 90% of couples had the same ideas on number of parity. (Table 12.1.1 and Table 12.1.3)

## Contraceptive Use and Attitude

- Male condom is the most common contraceptive method. Other common contraceptive methods include oral pills, rhythm and withdrawal. (Table 6.1.1)
- Respondents whose couple used male condom and who used female sterilization felt satisfied with the contraceptive method they were using. The satisfaction levels for injection, withdrawal and rhythm are the lowest of all. (Table 6.1.2)
- Proportions of using condom and IUD as contraceptive methods have been increasing throughout the past 25 years. Other contraceptive methods remain very low prevalence of usage. (Table 6.3.1)
- About 56.6% husbands had ever discussed with spouse about contraception. Over 95% of both husbands and wives thought that their ideas on contraception were the same as their spouse. (Table 12.2.3)

## Contraceptive Knowledge

- Out of the 8 questions concerning the contraceptive knowledge, female respondents can answer correctly about 3 on average. (Table 6.5.1)
- Knowledge level about oral pills is not satisfactory, 53.9% of female respondents thought oral pills would gain weight and 38.3% thought oral pills have the same contraceptive effectiveness as male condom. (Table 6.5.2)
- Women with higher education background tend to have higher scores of contraceptive knowledge, but age and number of parity are not the associated factors. (Table 6.5.3 to Table 6.5.5)
- Husbands performed worse than wives in answering the 8 questions. The mean number of correct answered questions is 2.5 on average. (Table 11.1.1)
- Similar to female respondents, only 23.9% and 29.3% men can answer correctly the question of oral pills and effectiveness of male condom. (Table 11.1.2)
- Similar to female respondents, men with lower education level have lower scores in the 8 questions. (Table 11.1.4)



## Induced Abortion

- 20.8% of women have ever experienced operations of induced abortion in lifetime. There is no significant change on the prevalence of induced abortion in recent years, across age groups and number of parity. (Table 7.1.1)
- 50.5% of women who had induced abortions did practice contraception. Majority of them used male condom and oral pills. (Table 7.1.4)
- Major reasons for carrying out induced abortions were possible financial burden due to childbirth, having achieved ideal number of children, unprepared for giving birth and infant's health. (Table 7.2.1)
- 88.4% women made their own decisions to carry out the induced abortion. (Table 7.3.1)
- The two most popular places for the last induced abortion were Hospitals in Hong Kong (44.2%) and Mainland China (30.8%). 19.2% of them decided to carry out the operation at FPAHK. (Table 7.4.1)

## Marital Satisfaction

- About 76% of female respondents were satisfied with their marriages and only 2.4% felt dissatisfied. Women having married for between 2 to 6 years were more likely to be satisfied. (Table 8.2.1 and Table 8.2.3)
- 73.6% of respondents thought that satisfaction with marriage and satisfaction with sexual life are related. (Table 8.4.1)
- Younger generations did not necessarily think the link between sex life and marriage was strong, but over 80% of those married for shorter than 4 years thought that the relationship was strong. (Table 8.4.2 to Table 8.4.4)
- More husbands were satisfied with marriage than their wives (husband 84.7% and wife 80.8%). Exceptionally for age under 24, 60% husbands were satisfied with marriage, compared with 90% among wives. It can be linked to excessive pressure for a young husband. (Table 13.2.1 and Table 13.2.2)
- About 76.4% and 73.5% of husbands and wives thought that the satisfaction of marriage and sex life was related. (Table 13.4.1)

## Sex Life

- Mean number of sexual intercourse in the past 30 days among the female respondents is 4 times. (Table 8.6.1)
- Women in younger generations, without parity, satisfied with sex life, satisfied with marriage and interested with sex life have higher mean number of sex in the past 30 days. (Table 8.6.2 to Table 8.6.5)
- 23.6% of women did not have any sex in the past 30 days. (Table 8.6.1)
- About 35.2% of respondents felt interested towards sex life. Younger respondents (below 29) and shorter marriage years have higher proportion of feeling interested towards sex life. (Table 8.1.1 to Table 8.1.4)
- 60.7% of respondents were satisfied with their sex life, while about 3.3% were dissatisfied. (Table 8.3.1)
- Older generations and women who have married for over 6 years were less likely to be satisfied with sex life. (Table 8.3.2 and Table 8.3.3)
- Pressure, unmatched timing and limited living space were the major factors affecting sex life. (Table 8.7.1)
- Husbands in all ages were found to have significantly more interest in sex life and more satisfaction with sex than their wives. (Table 13.1.1 and Table 13.3.1)
- Both husbands and wives consistently agreed that pressure, limited living space and unmatched timing were the major factors affecting sex life. (Table 13.6.1)

### **Awareness of Usage of Sub-fertility Service of FPAHK**

- 60.9% of women were aware of the Sub-fertility Service of FPAHK. Older women had a higher awareness than younger counterparts. (Table 4.6.1 and Table 4.6.3)
- Only 3.6% women had ever used the Sub-fertility Service in FPAHK. Only 0.7% thought that it was necessary to them. (Table 4.6.2)

## Chapter 2

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### Introduction

#### 2.1 Survey Objectives

The Survey of Family Planning Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) in Hong Kong has been repeated every five years since 1967. The first KAP Study was carried out by the Social Research Centre (SRC) of the Chinese University of Hong Kong as a part of their Hong Kong Urban Family Life Survey. In 1972, the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong (FPAHK) joined with the SRC to conduct the second KAP Study under the title of “Impact of Industrialisation on Fertility Decline in Hong Kong”. Starting from the third KAP Study in 1977, the surveys were conducted by FPAHK on its own.

The KAP Studies, being a series of territory-wide survey, had provided valuable and essential information to FPAHK on attitudes towards and knowledge of various methods of fertility control and the practice of family planning. They had also accommodated the Association with necessary information to evaluate its programme, to identify the failure to use and the failure in using contraception in society and to figure out the future direction of its development. In addition, the Studies had provided the much needed data for family service providers, for people formulating population policy, and for demographers and social scientists interested in the development of Hong Kong. It was along these important traditions that the KAP Study was conducted again in 2007. The Nielsen Company (Hong Kong) Limited was employed to carry out the Survey.

Since 1997, the KAP Study initiated the survey design which involved both husband and wife respondents. The KAP Study 2007 was the third KAP Study which applied this design in order to identify differences in the knowledge, attitude and practice among couples.

#### 2.2 Note to this Report

The major findings of the survey are summarized in the following chapters of this Report. Efforts are made to keep each chapter independent from the others as much as possible so that readers may refer to the one(s) that they are interested in. However, it is understandable that the various reproductive behaviour or contraceptive patterns cannot be totally detached from each other. Readers may therefore at times find it necessary to make reference to other pages for a more complete understanding of the phenomenon on hand. It is also recommended that readers should go through the respondent profile before proceeding to other chapters.

In this report, Chapters 4-8 reported the KAP Study on women, while Chapters 9-13 reported the analyses on husbands and couples.

There may be a slight discrepancy between the sum of individual items and the total as shown in the tables owing to rounding.

## Chapter 3

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# Survey Objectives and Sample Design

### 3.1 Survey Objectives and Sample Design

In order to maintain continuity and comparability of the survey, most of the objectives from the previous KAP studies were adopted in this study. At the same time, new objectives were included to capture information on contemporary social phenomena.

As this was the third time the KAP Study collected information from male counterparts of married or cohabited women, and the second time that questions about sex life were being included in the survey, the objectives of the KAP Study 2007 were as below:

- (1) To evaluate the progress of the family planning movement in Hong Kong;
- (2) To evaluate the impact of the family planning programme and other factors (such as politics & socio-economics) on fertility level;
- (3) To evaluate the adequacy of current provision of family planning clinic services;
- (4) To evaluate the effectiveness of information, education and communication (IEC) efforts, with special reference to sexuality education and women's health;
- (5) To study ineffective contraceptive usage and failure, delayed decision, unplanned pregnancy and induced abortion;
- (6) To study the changing needs for family planning and the relation of sexual life and family life; and
- (7) To compare the differences in couples' knowledge, attitude and practice.

### 3.2 Target Population

For the female part, the target population was set to be the same as the previous KAP Studies, consisting of only currently married or cohabited women in the prime childbearing ages of 15-49 as they contributed the most to the prevailing fertility level and had the greatest potential of using various methods of contraception.

In terms of respondent selection, a nuclear family was the basic unit from which an eligible woman was requested to participate in the face-to-face interview. Then her spouse was asked to participate in a separate face-to-face interview. A nuclear family was defined to compose of a married or cohabited couple with or without children. In cases where extended families were located within the same living quarter, each married or cohabited couple was considered a separate unit and the eligible woman was invited to participate in the survey. Unrelated families sharing the same premise were treated in similar fashion.

### 3.3 Sampling Frame and Sampling Method

FPAHK provided Nielsen with a sample of 10,001 living quarters (LQs) which was systematically drawn by the Census & Statistics Department (C&SD) using random sampling method. Based on the 10,001 LQs, Nielsen further selected randomly 8,347 LQs systematically and proportionately to represent the LQs in each of the 18 District Boards of the territory.

### 3.4 Fieldwork Operation

To ensure the interviews of the KAP Study 2007 to be carried out smoothly, a pilot survey was conducted on 26 to 28 November 2007 prior to the main survey with the objective to ascertain the proposed survey methodology, questionnaire design and fieldwork logistics. A total of 49 pilot interviews, comprising 40 female respondents and 9 male respondents, were achieved.

Visits were made to the sampled quarters and eligible women were interviewed in those quarters. If there was more than one eligible woman in the same quarter, only one was randomly selected for the survey. In view of the sensitive nature of the questions directed to the respondents, only female interviewers were deployed to conduct the interviews. Moreover, for the second part of the questionnaire which contained questions related to sex life, respondents were requested to complete by themselves. The husbands of those women who had responded to the survey were also invited for face-to-face interviews. Interviews were processed separately. For cases where either party of the couples was unavailable for an interview during a visit, he or she was contacted later to make arrangement for a face-to-face interview.

### 3.5 Response Rate

The enumerators visited a total of 6,907 living quarters by completion of fieldwork in April 2008. As shown in the table below, 3,860 living quarters were expected to contain some 2,277 currently married / cohabited women within the age of 15-49. It was thus estimated there was 0.59 married / cohabited women per living quarter.

The overall female and male response rates for the present survey were 66.3% and 51.0% respectively.

Table 3.5.1 Summary of fieldwork statistics

2007 Fieldwork statistics	LQ with Married / Cohabited Woman	Husband
All living quarters (LQ) visited	6,907	
Ineffective LQ identified	244	
Valid LQ	6,663	
LQ identified with no eligible women	2,803	
LQ possibly with eligible women	3,860	
Estimated respondents*	2,277	1,510**
Successful interviews	1,510	770
Response rate (%)	66.3	51.0

Notes:

*An ineffective LQ was one which could not be located, was demolished, or was unoccupied, or whose usage was changed from domestic to non-domestic at the time of the fieldwork*

\* 0.59 currently married / cohabited women aged 15-49 was estimated for each living quarter in 2007

\*\* The male respondents were only approached after the female respondents had completed the questionnaire

### 3.6 Comparison of Sample and Census Age Distribution

The proportion of married or cohabited women below the age of 35 had further declined in KAP 2007, from 39.9% in 1992 to 30.1% in 1997 to 28.1% in 2002 to 22.7% in 2007. The decline in younger age groups could probably be explained by the late marriage of women nowadays. A similar decline also occurred from Census 1991, 1996 Bi-census, 2001 Census and 2006 Bi-census.

The age segment of 45-49, however, registered a continual rise from 1991 Census to 2006 Bi-census, and also from KAP 1992 to KAP 2007 (from 13.7% to 29.7%).

Other age groups had some fluctuations over the four KAPs.

Table 3.6.1 Distribution of currently married or cohabited women by age, 1991 – 2007  
Census and KAP Survey sample

Age	1991 Census %	1992 KAP %	1996 Bi- census %	1997 KAP %	2001 Census %	2002 KAP %	2006 Bi- census %	2007 KAP %
15-19	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
20-24	4.0	2.3	3.0	1.6	2.3	1.6	1.7	1.3
25-29	17.6	10.2	12.4	7.7	9.8	8.0	8.1	7.2
30-34	25.9	27.3	22.8	20.7	18.9	18.3	17.9	14.1
35-39	23.0	24.8	24.8	26.5	25.0	22.8	22.1	22.4
40-44	18.5	21.5	20.4	25.5	24.4	24.8	25.8	25.2
45-49	10.8	13.7	16.3	17.9	19.4	24.3	24.3	29.7
<b>Summary</b>								
<b>15-34</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>22.7</b>
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total married women	901,723	1,681	1,075,354	1,511	1,121,556	1,607	1,057,291	1,510

## Chapter 4

### Respondent Profile

#### 4.1 Age Distribution of Women

The mean age of women in the KAP 2007 were older compared to 25 years ago, increasing from 35.8 in KAP 1972 to 39.7 in KAP 2007. This can be attributed to two factors: women marrying late and ageing of the population. The age distribution also showed the proportions of the older age brackets, including 40-44 (from 18.9% in 1972 to 25.2% in 2007) and 45-49 (from 17.7% in 1972 to 29.7% in 2007), were rising over time. (Table 4.1.1 and Figure 4.1.1)

The age distribution also shows the proportion of women aged 30-34 had been declining gradually since 1992 (from 27.3% in 1992 to 20.7% in 1997 to 18.3% in 2002 to 14.1% in 2007), while that of the older age brackets, including 40-44 (from 18.9% in 1972 to 25.2% in 2007) and 45-49 (from 17.7% in 1972 to 29.7% in 2007), were rising tremendously over time.

Table 4.1.1 Distribution of women by age, 1972 – 2007

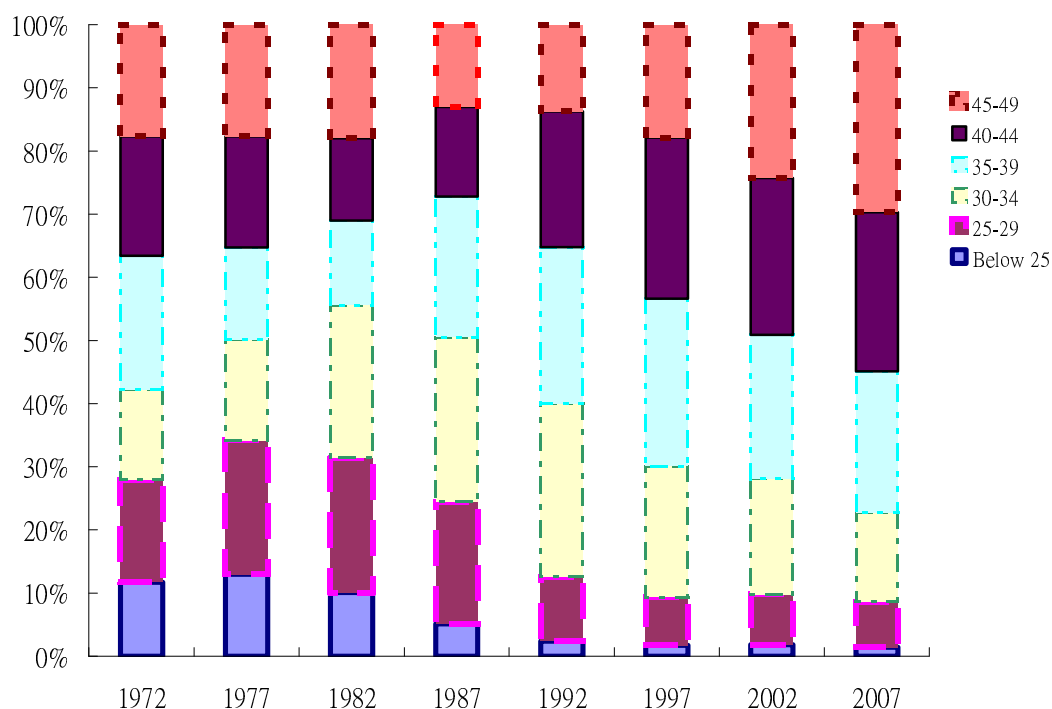
Age	1972 %	1977 %	1982 %	1987 %	1992 %	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %	Linear trend
Below 25	11.7	13.0	10.1	5.1	2.4	1.7	1.8	1.4	↓↓
25-29	16.3	21.2	21.3	19.3	10.2	7.7	8.0	7.2	↓
30-34	14.2	15.9	24.2	26.1	27.3	20.7	18.3	14.1	NS
35-39	21.2	14.6	13.4	22.2	24.8	26.5	22.8	22.4	NS
40-44	18.9	17.6	13.0	14.2	21.5	25.5	24.8	25.2	NS
45-49	17.7	17.7	18.0	13.0	13.7	17.9	24.3	29.7	NS
<b>Mean age (15-49)</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>35.3</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>39.7</b>	↑
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Total respondents	2,270	1,550	1,403	1,511	1,681	1,511	1,607	1,510	

Base: All female respondents

↓↓: Significant decreasing trend for the period 1972 - 2007;  $p < .01$

↓: Significant decreasing trend for the period 1972 - 2007;  $p < .05$

Figure 4.1.1 Distribution of respondents by age groups, 1972 – 2007



## 4.2 Education Attainment

Education attainment of currently married or cohabited women continued to improve over the previous surveys. There is an increasing trend of women with secondary and post-secondary education background. A majority of women had at least secondary education (87.1%) in KAP 2007, compared to the 25.0% observed in KAP 1972. However, the proportion of women with post-secondary education had slightly slipped from 16.4% in 2002 to 14.3% in 2007. (Table 4.2.1)

Table 4.2.1 Distribution of women by education attainment, 1972 – 2007

Education attainment	1972 %	1977 %	1982 %	1987 %	1992 %	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %	Linear trend
Primary or below	75.0	68.3	61.9	48.0	38.9	36.4	21.2	12.9	↓↓
Secondary	22.6	29.2	32.5	42.8	53.1	52.8	62.4	72.8	↑↑
Post-secondary	2.4	2.5	5.6	9.2	7.9	10.6	16.4	14.3	↑↑
No response	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	-	NS
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Total respondents	2,270	1,550	1,403	1,511	1,681	1,511	1,607	1,510	

Base: All female respondent

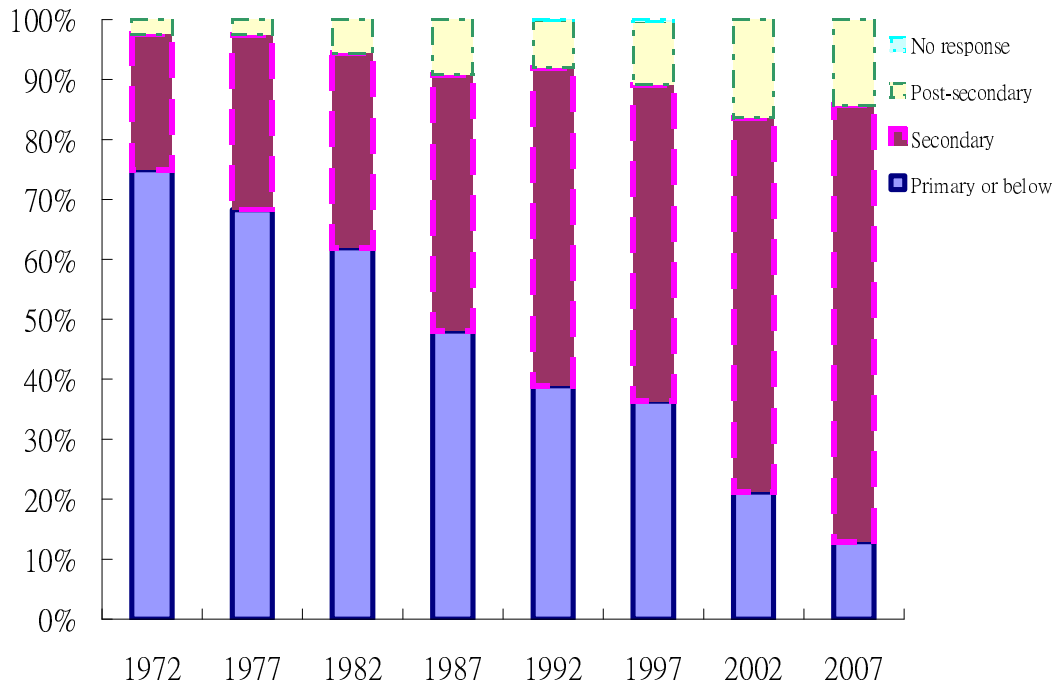
↓↓: Significant decreasing trend for the period 1972 - 2007;  $p < .01$

↑↑: Significant increasing trend for the period 1972 - 2007;  $p < .01$

NS: Insignificant increasing or decreasing trend



Figure 4.2.1 Distribution of respondents by education attainment, 1972 – 2007



### 4.3 Household Income

The household income of slightly over half (58.4%) of the respondents fell into the group of HK\$10,000 - 29,999.

The proportion of high income household (HK\$30,000 or above) showed a massive increase from 14.3% in 2002 to 23.8% in 2007. (Table 4.3.1)

Table 4.3.1 Distribution of women by household income, 1992 – 2007

<b>Household income</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
< HK\$3,999	1.4	0.7	1.7	1.1
HK\$4,000-5,999	4.2	1.5	2.6	1.5
HK\$6,000-7,999	12.0	4.6	4.7	4.3
HK\$8,000-9,999	19.8	9.9	7.8	8.0
HK\$10,000-14,999	28.2	25.0	22.5	21.1
HK\$15,000-19,999	13.6	19.1	14.5	16.9
HK\$20,000-29,999	10.2	18.8	13.5	20.5
HK\$30,000-39,999	5.5	8.9	7.3	10.9
HK\$40,000 or above	4.1	10.1	7.0	13.0
Not fixed	NA	NA	NA	1.1
No response / Do not know	1.1	1.4	2.4	1.6
<b>Summary</b>				
<b>HK\$10,000-29,999</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>62.9</b>	<b>50.5</b>	<b>58.4</b>
<b>HK\$30,000 or above</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>23.8</b>
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,681	1,511	1,607	1,510

*Base: All female respondents*

*NA : Not applicable*

#### 4.4 Economic Activity of Women

The proportion of women who reported that they had full-time job had been increasing steadily over the years, from 25.4% in 1977 to 50.9% in 2007. The rise had, however, slowed down this year form 50.2% in 2002 to 50.9% in 2007. (Table 4.4.1)

Table 4.4.1 Distribution of women by working status, 1977 – 2007

Working status	1977 %	1982 %	1987 %	1992 %	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %	Linear trend
Housewife	48.6	60.2	53.3	52.4	57.4	40.6	39.2	NS
Full-time job	25.4	25.9	35.6	36.6	31.6	50.2	50.9	↑↑
Part-time job	25.9	13.8	10.9	5.4	5.5	6.7	8.5	↓
Unidentifiable	0.1	0.0	0.2	4.5	4.2	2.5	1.3	NS
No response	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.3	0.0	—	NS
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Total respondents	1,550	1,403	1,511	1,681	1,511	1,607	1,510	

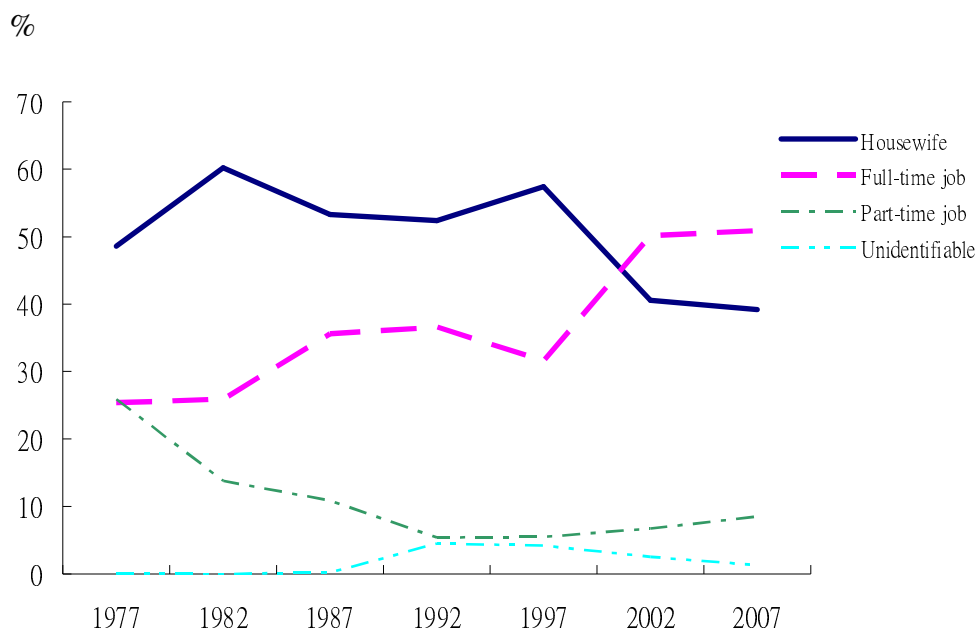
Base: All female respondents

↑↑: Significant increasing trend for the period 1977 - 2007;  $p < .01$

↓: Significant decreasing trend for the period 1977 - 2007;  $p < .05$

NS: Insignificant increasing or decreasing trend

Figure 4.4.1 Distribution of women by working status, 1977 – 2007



## 4.5 Infertility

The infertility rate showed a remarkable decrease compared with 25 years ago and the drop was observed to be consistent in the previous Surveys (from 29.3% in 1987 to 25.5% in 1992 to 22.3% in 1997 to 19.5% in 2002 to 4.8% in 2007). Regarding the causes of infertility, female sterilization dropped tremendously from 15.9% in 2002 to 1.7% in 2007, which revealed that fewer women chose to use non-reversible contraceptive method for their family planning.

The proportion of involuntary infertility was similar to the last Survey, maintaining at 2.9% in 2007.

Table 4.5.1 Infertility rate by cause of infertility, 1972 – 2007

<b>Cause of infertility</b>	<b>1972</b>	<b>1977</b>	<b>1982</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Male vasectomy	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.8	1.1	0.0	0.5	0.2
Female sterilization	10.8	17.4	18.7	22.4	21.0	17.9	15.9	1.7
Involuntary infertility*	13.3	7.2	8.3	6.1	3.4	4.4	3.0	2.9
<b>Infertility rate</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>4.8</b>
Total respondents	2,270	1,550	1,403	1,511	1,681	1,511	1,607	1,510

*Base: All female respondents*

*Note: Including menopause, health concern, accidents, primary and secondary sterility. Either the woman or her husband was accounted.*

## 4.6 Awareness and Usage of Sub-fertility Service of FPAHK

Awareness and usage of Sub-fertility Service is dependent on age group. A majority (60.9%) of respondents were aware of the Sub-fertility Service provided by FPAHK, especially among the group aged 45-49 (64.6%). On the contrary, younger respondents (25-29) were less likely to be aware of it. Only 3.6% of those respondents who were aware of the Sub-fertility Service of FPAHK had used the service. Among those respondents who were not aware or had not used the service, virtually all of them (99.3%) considered they did not have the necessity of using the service. (Tables 4.6.1 – 4.6.3)

Table 4.6.1 Distribution of awareness of Sub-fertility Service of FPAHK, 2007

<b>Awareness</b>	<b>Total %</b>	<b>Below 25 %</b>	<b>25-29 %</b>	<b>30-34 %</b>	<b>35-39 %</b>	<b>40-44 %</b>	<b>45-49 %</b>
Yes	60.9	52.4	41.3	57.3	62.1	63.7	64.6
No	39.1	47.6	58.7	42.7	37.9	36.3	35.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,510	21 <sup>#</sup>	109	213	338	380	449

Base: All female respondents

Note: <sup>#</sup> denotes small base

Chi-sq test: Significant dependent;  $p < .01$

Table 4.6.2 Distribution of usage of Sub-fertility Service of FPAHK, 2007

<b>Usage</b>	<b>Total %</b>	<b>Below 25 %</b>	<b>25-29 %</b>	<b>30-34 %</b>	<b>35-39 %</b>	<b>40-44 %</b>	<b>45-49 %</b>
Yes	3.6	—	6.7	4.9	1.4	3.7	4.1
No	96.4	100	93.3	95.1	98.6	96.3	95.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	920	11 <sup>#</sup>	45	122	210	242	290

Base: Those female respondents who were aware of the sub-fertility service of FPAHK

Note: <sup>#</sup> denotes small base

Chi-sq test: Insignificant dependent;  $p = .373$

Table 4.6.3 Distribution of necessity of Sub-fertility Service of FPAHK, 2007

<b>Necessity</b>	<b>Total %</b>	<b>Below 25 %</b>	<b>25-29 %</b>	<b>30-34 %</b>	<b>35-39 %</b>	<b>40-44 %</b>	<b>45-49 %</b>
Yes	0.7	—	1.9	2.0	0.9	—	—
No	99.3	100.0	98.1	98	99.1	100.0	100.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,465	20 <sup>#</sup>	106	202	331	370	436

Base: Those female respondents who were not aware of the sub-fertility service or had not used the service

Note: <sup>#</sup> denotes small base

Chi-sq test: Significant dependent;  $p < .01$

## Chapter 5

# Pregnancy, Parity and Attitudes towards Childbearing

## 5.1 Currently Pregnant

The regression analysis supports that the prevalence of currently pregnant is decreasing significantly throughout the 30 years, especially for age 25–34. A declining trend was noted on the current pregnancy rate at the time of the Survey, which decreased from 4.5% in 1992 to 2.3% in 1997 to 1.7% in 2002 to 0.9% in 2007. Meanwhile, there is no significant change in other age groups. The below 25 year-olds continued to show the highest proportion (9.5%) of being currently pregnant. (Table 5.1.1)

Table 5.1.1 Prevalence of respondents currently pregnant by age, 1977 – 2007

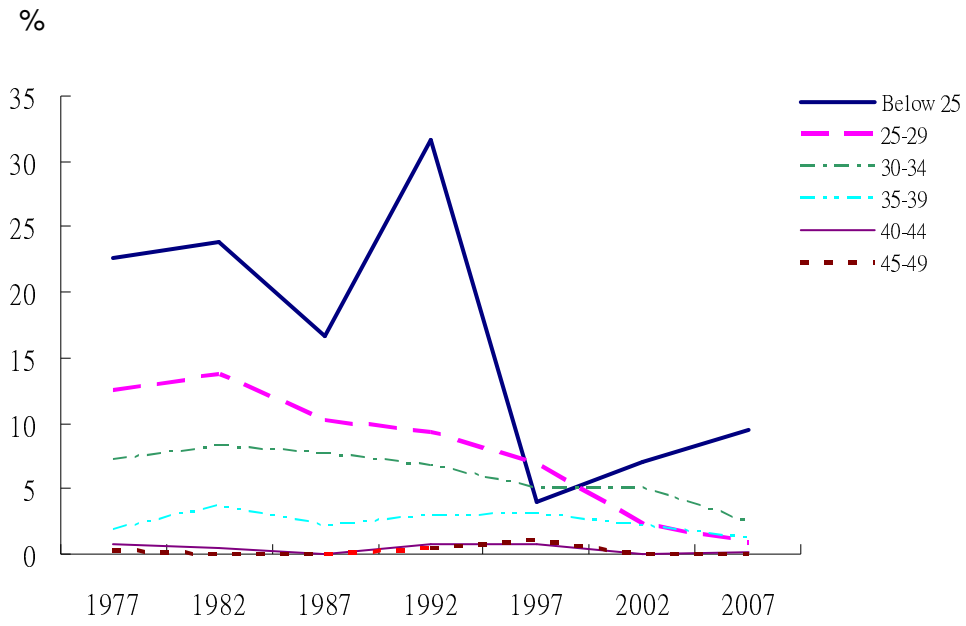
Age	1977 %	1982 %	1987 %	1992 %	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %	Linear trend
Below 25	22.6	23.9	16.7	31.7	4.0	7.1	9.5	NS
25-29	12.5	13.7	10.3	9.3	6.9	2.3	0.9	↓↓
30-34	7.2	8.3	7.6	6.8	5.1	5.1	2.4	↓↓
35-39	1.8	3.7	2.1	2.9	3.0	2.2	1.2	NS
40-44	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.2	NS
45-49	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.4	1.1	0.0	—	NS
<b>All ages</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	↓↓
Total respondents	1,550	1,403	1,511	1,681	1,511	1,607	1,510	

Base: All female respondents

↓↓: Significant decreasing trend for the period 1977 - 2007;  $p < .01$

NS: Insignificant increasing or decreasing trend

Figure 5.1.1 Distribution for prevalence of respondents currently pregnant by age, 1977 - 2007



### 5.2 Parity Distribution

The mean parity had been reducing since 1972 and reached the lowest level in 2007 at 1.5 parities per currently married or cohabited woman. More women were with one child (32.5%) or even had no children (16.1%) than 1997 or before. (Table 5.2.1)

The overall pattern of distribution continued to skew to small family size when compared to 2002.

Table 5.2.1 Distribution of women by parity, 1972 – 2007

Parity	1972 %	1977 %	1982 %	1987 %	1992 %	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %	Linear trend
0	9.3	10.0	8.4	10.7	9.8	9.9	15.3	16.1	↑
1	13.3	17.3	18.9	21.8	23.6	22.0	28.8	32.5	↑↑
2	17.8	20.0	29.2	33.4	40.5	43.1	41.0	40.5	↑↑
3	16.7	16.5	17.5	19.3	17.7	17.3	11.4	8.8	NS
4	15.3	13.6	12.0	8.9	5.8	4.9	2.6	1.5	↓↓
5 or above	27.4	22.7	14.2	5.8	2.8	2.7	0.9	0.6	↓↓
<b>Mean parity</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	↓↓
									↑↑
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Total respondents	2,270	1,550	1,403	1,511	1,681	1,511	1,607	1,510	

Base: All female respondents

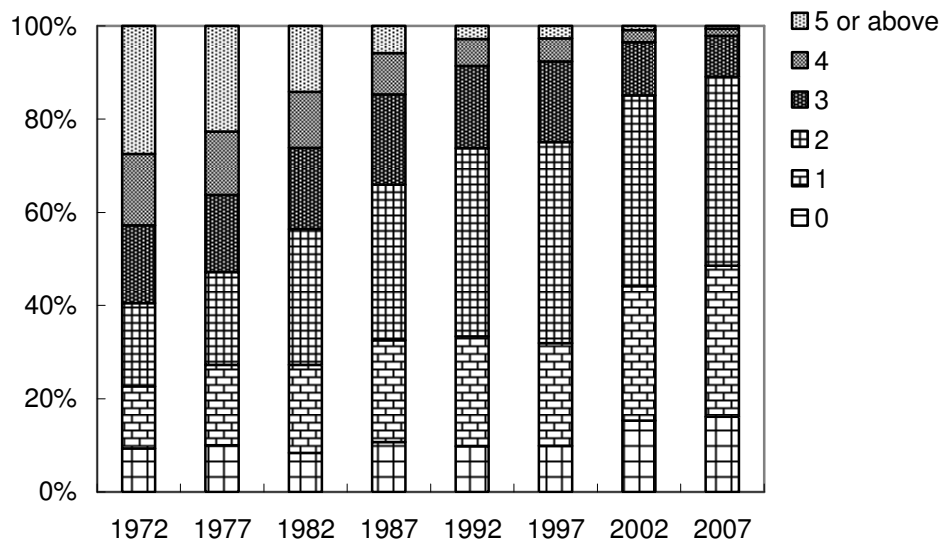
↑: Significant increasing trend; p < .05, ↑↑: Significant increasing trend; p < .01

↓: Significant decreasing trend; p < .05, ↓↓: Significant decreasing trend; p < .01

NS: Insignificant increasing or decreasing trend

All linear trend analysis are based on data from 1972 to 2007

Figure 5.2.1 Distribution of women by parity, 1972 – 2007





For those married for less than 5 years, the majority had no child. For those married for 6 to 10 years, 50% had one child and 30% had 2 children. After getting married for over 10 years, over half of the respondents had 2 or more children. (Table 5.2.2)

Table 5.2.2 Distribution of respondents without children by age, 2007

Years married	No children	1 child	2 child	3 child or more	Total
Less than 2 years	73.0	21.6	5.4	0.0	74
2-3 years	59.3	35.2	5.5	0.0	91
4-5 years	40.0	38.9	21.1	0.0	90
6-10 years	17.7	50.0	29.8	2.5	282
11-20 years	6.5	32.7	49.6	11.1	673
21 years or more	1.7	18.3	54.0	26.0	300
Total respondents	243	499	608	160	1,510

*Note: Values are row percentage*

### 5.3 Characteristics of Women with Zero Parity

Most of the married or cohabited women who had no children were found to be in the age of 25-39. (Table 5.3.1) It was noteworthy that there were more women aged 35 to 39 years old who were having no children since 1992.

Table 5.3.1 Distribution of respondents without children by age, 1992 – 2007

Age	1992 %	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %	Prevalence rate by age 2002	Prevalence rate by age 2007
Below 25	16.4	8.4	7.3	5.8	(67.9)	(66.7)
25-29	30.5	29.3	27.6	21.4	(53.5)	(47.7)
30-34	34.1	31.3	30.1	28.4	(27.2)	(32.4)
35-39	11.6	17.3	15.0	21.4	(11.2)	(15.4)
40-44	4.3	10.7	11.0	12.8	(6.5)	(8.2)
45-49	3.0	3.3	8.9	10.3	(5.6)	(5.6)
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(16.0)	(16.1)
Total respondents	165	150	246	243		

*Base: Those female respondents who had no children*

Most of the married or cohabited women who had no children had attained secondary or above education level. It is noteworthy that more married or cohabited women attained post-secondary education when compared with the previous surveys (from 22.0% in 1992 to 26.6% in 1997 to 26.0% in 2002 to 30.9% in 2007). From Table 5.3.2, we observe that the higher the education attainment, the higher is the prevalence rates of having no children.

Table 5.3.2 Distribution of respondents without children by education attainment, 1992 – 2007

<b>Education attainment</b>	<b>1992 %</b>	<b>1997 %</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>	<b>Prevalence rate by education attainment %</b>
Below primary	1.8	0.7	0.0	-	(1.5)
Primary	6.7	11.3	3.7	1.2	(9.0)
Secondary	69.6	61.3	70.3	67.9	(15.0)
Post-secondary	22.0	26.6	26.0	30.9	(34.7)
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(16.1)
Total respondents	165	150	246	243	

*Base: Those female respondents who had no children*

Although the prevalence rate of zero parity is decreasing with the number of married years, still 40 % of the women who had married for 4–5 years have not had got any children. (Table 5.3.3)

Table 5.3.3 Distribution of respondents without children by marriage duration, 1992 – 2007

<b>Years married</b>	<b>1992 %</b>	<b>1997 %</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>	<b>Prevalence rate by years married</b>
Less than 2 years	39.6	37.4	20.7	21.4	(73.0)
2-3 years	26.8	17.3	26.8	21.4	(60.0)
4-5 years	14.6	16.0	13.0	14.4	(40.0)
6-10 years	9.1	15.3	20.3	21.8	(17.7)
11-20 years	6.7	14.0	18.3	21.0	(5.0)
21 years or more	0.0	0.0	0.8	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(16.1)
Total respondents	165	150	246	243	

*Base: Those female respondents who had no children*

Those married within ages 30 to 40 have relatively high prevalence of zero parity. (Table 5.3.4)

Table 5.3.4 Distribution of respondents without children by first marriage age, 2002 – 2007

<b>First marriage age</b>	<b>Prevalence rate by years married 2002 %</b>	<b>Prevalence rate by years married 2007 %</b>
Below 20	4.6	11.7
20-24	9.3	8.1
25-29	20.0	16.9
30-34	24.7	31.0
35-39	27.5	43.1
Above 40	12.6	26.7

Similar to the previous years, the incidence of married / cohabited women who did not have any children increased with household income, with those who had HK\$30,000 or more indicating the highest proportion of having no children (25.3%). (Table 5.3.5)

The reason of this phenomenon may be attributed to more working women with high income put more emphasis on their career and deferred their child-bearing plan.

Table 5.3.5 Distribution of respondents without children by household income, 2002 – 2007

Household income	2002 %	2007 %	Prevalence of married or cohabited women without children by household income	
			2002 %	2007 %
< HK\$10,000	6.1	8.3	(5.6)	(8.9)
HK\$10,000 – 20,000	28.5	21.2	(11.8)	(8.9)
HK\$20,000 – 30,000	29.3	30.3	(21.5)	(23.6)
HK\$30,000 or more	33.3	37.8	(22.2)	(25.3)
Not fixed	NA	0.8	NA	(11.8)
Don't know / Refuse	2.8	1.6		
Total %	100.0	100.0	(15.3)	(16.0)
Total respondents	246	241		

*Base: (2002) Those female respondents who had no children  
(2007) Those female respondents who were fertile and were not born infertile and had no children*

*NA : Not applicable*

## 5.4 Ideal Parity

Similar to the previous surveys, women were asked about their ideal parity through the question “If you could start all over again, how many children would you like to have in your life time?” A majority of women desired two or fewer children (88.4%), with most thinking of two children (49.7%). Compared to 2002, there was a significant change in favour of one parity, which increased from 16.6% in 2002 to 26.2% in 2007.

From the regression analysis on the data throughout 25 years, more and more women desired zero or only one parity. The trend of desiring 2 children remains steady and comprises the highest proportion. Desiring 3 or 4 children has been significantly decreasing. (Table 5.4.1) The mean ideal parity in 2007 remained at the same level as that of 2002 at 1.6. (Figure 5.4.1)

Table 5.4.1 Distribution of respondents by ideal parity, 1982 – 2007

Parity	1982 %	1987 %	1992 %	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %	Linear trend
0	2.1	4.8	5.1	10.9	15.2	12.5	↑↑
1	7.5	10.1	10.8	13.7	16.6	26.2	↑↑
2	53.7	58.4	59.0	52.9	51.2	49.7	NS
3	18.9	16.1	11.4	8.1	5.0	6.1	↓↓
4	11.2	7.3	4.5	3.4	2.1	1.3	↓↓
5 or more	1.9	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.9	NS
Number immaterial, depends on God's will	1.5	1.3	0.9	2.4	2.4	—	NS
Don't know / Never thought about it	2.9	0.9	3.7	5.0	3.9	3.3	NS
No response	0.4	0.1	2.3	1.4	0.0	—	NS
Not applicable	0.0	0.3	2.0	1.9	0.2	—	NS
<b>Mean ideal parity</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.6</b>	↓↓
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Total respondents	1,403	1,511	1,681	1,511	1,607	1,437	

Base: (1982 – 2002) All female respondents

(2007) Those female respondents who were fertile (including pregnant women)

↑↑: Significant increasing trend for the period 1982 - 2007;  $p < .01$

↓↓: Significant decreasing trend for the period 1982 - 2007;  $p < .01$

NS: Insignificant increasing or decreasing trend for the period 1982 - 2007

Figure 5.4.1 Distribution of respondents by ideal parity, 1982 – 2007

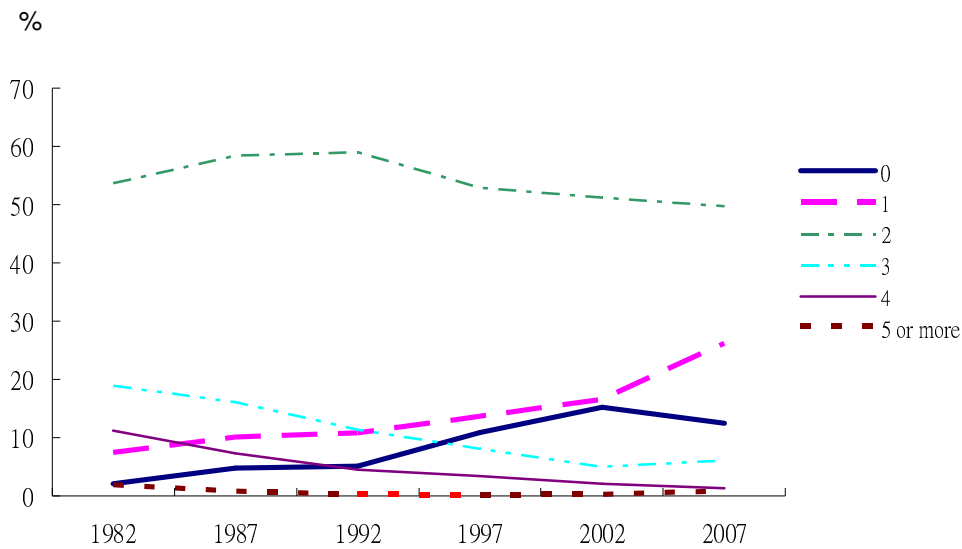
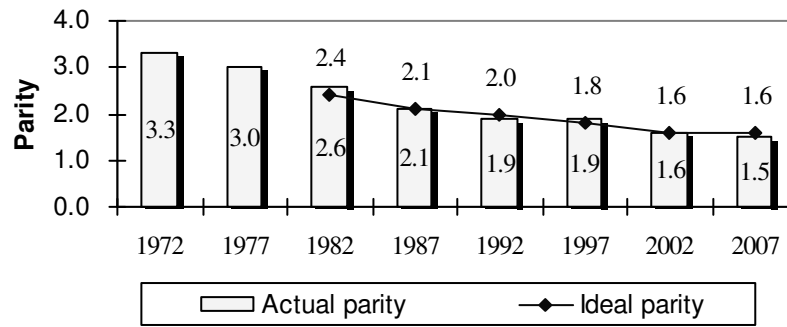


Figure 5.4.2 Actual and ideal mean parities, 1972 – 2007



### 5.5 Characteristics of Women with More Children than they Desired

Table 5.5.1 to 5.5.4 illustrates the discrepancies of actual and ideal parity by age groups, years of marriages, education attainment and number of parity. Overall, 65.9% women thought that they have achieved the ideal number of parity, and only 7.9% felt that they had more children than that of the ideal.

For age groups 30-34 and 35-39, respectively 45.4% and 30.8% women had fewer children than they ideally hope for. Advanced age pregnancy carries more health risk than others. (Table 5.5.1) It is important to enhance family planning to achieve ideal number of children especially for those women married at an advanced age.

Table 5.5.1 Comparison of actual and ideal number of parity by age groups, 2007

Age group		Ideal and actual number of children			Total Count
		Actual < Ideal	Actual = Ideal	Actual > Ideal	
2002	under 25	44.4%	33.3%	22.2%	9
	25-29	44.4%	37.0%	18.5%	54
	30-34	38.8%	42.1%	19.2%	214
	35-39	28.6%	46.5%	24.8%	318
	40-44	17.2%	48.3%	34.5%	348
	45-49	15.7%	46.1%	38.3%	332
	Total	314 (24.6%)	582 (45.6%)	379 (29.7%)	1,275
2007	under 25	<b>85.7%</b>	14.3%	0.0%	14
	25-29	<b>60.9%</b>	37.9%	1.1%	87
	30-34	<b>45.4%</b>	<b>49.4%</b>	5.2%	174
	35-39	30.8%	<b>64.5%</b>	4.7%	276
	40-44	15.8%	<b>76.3%</b>	7.9%	317
	45-49	11.4%	<b>74.9%</b>	13.7%	342
	Total	318 (26.3%)	797 (65.9%)	95 (7.9%)	1,210

*Chi-sq test p<.01*

Those women having got married for less than 5 years, majority thought that they desired more children than they were actually having. Although majority of women married over 6 years had attained their ideal number of children, still 35.9% of married for 6-10 years and 15% of married for 11-20 years reported that they had not attained the target. (Table 5.5.3)

Table 5.5.2 Comparison of actual and ideal number of parity by years of marriage, 2007

Years of marriage	Ideal and actual number of children			Total
	Actual < Ideal	Actual = Ideal	Actual > Ideal	
Less than 2 years	88.2	11.8	0.0	51
2-3 years	70.8	27.7	1.5	65
4-5 years	58.3	40.3	1.4	72
6-10 years	35.9	61.0	3.1	223
11-20 years	15.0	75.5	9.5	560
21 years or more	8.8	77.4	13.8	239
Total	318 (26.3)	797 (65.9)	95 (7.9)	1,210

*Chi-sq test p<.01*

*Note: Values represent row percentage*

Those women having higher education background have a higher likelihood to have fewer children than they ideally hope for. (Table 5.5.3)

Table 5.5.3 Comparison of actual and ideal number of parity by education attainment, 2007

Education	Ideal and actual number of children			Total
	Actual < Ideal	Actual = Ideal	Actual > Ideal	
Primary or below	14.7	71.2	14.1	156
Junior secondary	20.3	70.2	9.5	379
Senior secondary	26.9	67.5	5.6	461
Senior secondary (Form 6-7)	<b>35.6</b>	59.3	5.1	59
Tertiary (Non-degree holder)	<b>33.3</b>	57.4	9.3	54
Tertiary (Degree holder)	<b>54.5</b>	42.6	3.0	101
Total	318 (26.3)	797 (65.9)	95 (7.9)	1,210

*Chi-sq test p<.01*

Women with 2 parities have a higher proportion of achieving the ideal number of parity, compared with women of no children or only 1 child. It is also found that while 37.2% of one-child mother thought they have not achieved the ideal number of children, only 5.5% of two-child have similar perception. It is easier to encourage those 1-child mothers to give one more child than 2-childed mothers to have an additional one. (Table 5.5.4).

Table 5.5.4 Comparison of actual and ideal number of parity by actual number of parity, 2002 – 2007

	No. of parity	Ideal and actual number of children			Total
		Actual < Ideal	Actual = Ideal	Actual > Ideal	
2002	No children	94.4%	5.6%	0.0%	18
	1 child	55.0%	30.4%	14.6%	444
	2 child	7.9%	68.6%	23.5%	605
	3 child or more	2.4%	14.9%	82.7%	208
	Total	314 (24.6%)	582 (45.6%)	379 (29.7%)	1,275
2007	No children	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	122
	1 child	37.2%	<b>62.8%</b>	0.0%	433
	2 child	5.5%	87.5%	7.0%	527
	3 child or more	4.7%	50.0%	45.3%	128
	Total	318 (26.3%)	797 (65.9%)	95 (7.9%)	1,210

*Chi-sq test p<.01*

In 2002, less than 50% women had exact number of parity as what they desired. 28.7% of women felt that they had more children than they desired, compared with 7.9% in 2007. 82.7% of women who had 3 or more children thought they had more than they desired. One possible reason of such difference would be the unfavourable economic environment in 2002 which had an impact on their desire of children. Therefore, they tended to prefer less children to alleviate the financial burden.

Whilst Table 5.4.1 reported on women's ideal parity, it would be useful to compare a woman's actual parity with her stated desired number of children if she were given the chance to start all over again. Compared to the previous Surveys, only a small proportion of women had more children than they desired, probably due to better family planning. It is noteworthy that the proportion of women aged 40-49 had the highest proportion of having more children than wanted (65.0% in 2002 to 73.9% in 2007).

However, a declining trend could be observed by looking at the prevalence rate among age groups. It suggests that fewer women have more children than they desire nowadays. (Table 5.5.5)

Table 5.5.5 Distribution of respondents with more children than they desired by age, 1992 – 2007

Age	1992 %	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %	Prevalence		
					1997 %	2002 %	2007 %
20-24	0.3	0.0	0.5	—	(0.0)	(8.0)	—
25-29	3.1	1.9	2.6	2.5	(6.9)	(7.8)	(5.5)
30-34	18.3	14.3	10.7	9.1	(18.8)	(13.9)	(10.3)
35-39	24.1	25.6	21.1	14.5	(26.4)	(22.1)	(10.4)
40-44	31.4	34.5	31.6	24.9	(37.1)	(30.4)	(15.8)
45-49	22.8	23.7	33.4	49.0	(36.2)	(32.7)	(26.3)
<b>Summary</b>							
<b>40-49</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>58.2</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>73.9</b>			
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(27.4)	(23.8)	(15.9)
Total respondents	382	414	383	241			

*Base: Those female respondents who had more children than they desired*



Similar to the survey in 2002, a declining trend on prevalence rate was found across educational attainment. Among the group of below primary educated, 45.5% (prevalence rate) of women had more children than they desired. It seemed that the higher the education attainment, the better the women's planning on parity. (Table 5.5.6)

Table 5.5.6 Distribution of respondents with more children than they desired by educational attainment, 1992 – 2007

Educational attainment	1992 %	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %	Prevalence		
					1997 %	2002 %	2007 %
Below primary	6.3	3.9	6.3	2.1	(30.2)	(51.4)	(45.5)
Primary	49.0	44.2	49.0	19.5	(36.8)	(35.2)	(25.5)
Secondary	42.2	47.1	42.2	66.4	(24.4)	(23.0)	(14.6)
Post-secondary	2.6	4.3	2.6	12.0	(11.3)	(5.2)	(13.4)
No response	0.0	0.5	0.0	—			
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(27.4)	(23.8)	(15.9)
Total respondents	382	414	383	241			

*Base: Those female respondents who had more children than they desired*

Both the distribution (from 88.3% in 2002 to 70.1% in 2007) and prevalence rate (from 25.3% in 2002 to 14.1% in 2007) of women who were currently using contraception and had more children than they desired decreased compared to the previous Surveys. (Table 5.5.7) The major contraceptive method used for these women was condom (58.0%). (Tables 5.5.8)

Table 5.5.7 Distribution of respondents with more children than they desired by current contraceptive use, 1992 – 2007

Current contraceptive use	1992 %	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %	Prevalence		
					1997 %	2002 %	2007 %
Currently using	80.1	83.1	88.3	70.1	(37.4)	(25.3)	(14.1)
Stop at time of survey	12.8	13.5	9.9	25.7	(24.5)	(18.9)	(23.6)
Never use	2.9	1.9	1.8	4.1	(12.9)	(20.0)	(21.7)
No response	4.2	1.4	0.0	—			
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(27.4)	(23.8)	(15.9)
Total respondents	382	414	383	241			

*Base: Those female respondents who had more children than they desired*

Table 5.5.8 Distribution of respondents with more children than they desired by major contraceptive method used, 1992 – 2007

Major method used	1992	1997	2002	2007	Prevalence		
	%	%	%	%	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %
Pill	11.1	10.5	6.2	7.7	(18.7)	(16.8)	(12.9)
IUD	4.9	5.2	11.2	9.5	(25.7)	(27.3)	(11.8)
Injection	2.9	3.2	2.7	1.2	(34.4)	(36.0)	(10.5)
Diaphragm	1.0	—	0.3	—	—	(25.0)	—
Condom	27.5	28.8	43.7	58.0	(18.8)	(43.8)	(11.8)
Sterilization	40.8	46.5	*30.1	*22.5	(58.8)	(17.4)	(36.2)
Vasectomy	2.6	1.2			(44.4)		
Withdrawal	1.6	—	1.2	0.6	—	(21.7)	(3.3)
Rhythm	5.2	2.3	2.9	0.6	(19.0)	(33.3)	(2.6)
Abstinence	2.0	0.3	0.6	—	(20.0)	(40.0)	—
Total respondents	306	344	338	169	(22.8)	(21.0)	(11.2)

Base: Those female respondents who had more children than they desired and currently practicing contraception

\* The figure represented female sterilization and male vasectomy

“Don’t think that I’ll be pregnant” (56.3%) was the major reason for the respondents who were not currently using contraception and had more children than they desired. Therefore, more education on contraception should be reinforced to help them obtain a better understanding on using contraception. (Table 5.5.9)

Although there were more women (78.8%) who had no induced abortion and had more children than they desired, the prevalence rate (15.9%) was smaller than that in 2002 (22.1%). (Table 5.5.10)

Table 5.5.9 Distribution of respondents with more children than they desired by reason for currently not using contraceptive, 2007

Reason for not currently using contraception	Prevalence	
	2007 %	2007 %
Don't think I'll be pregnant	56.3	(20.5)
Don't care	18.8	(13.0)
Afraid of side effect	12.5	(9.5)
Find contraception very inconvenient	12.5	(14.3)
Not yet refill	6.3	(12.5) <sup>#</sup>
Total respondents	16 <sup>#</sup>	

Base: Those female respondents who were not currently using contraception and had more children than they desired

<sup>#</sup> Be cautious because of small sample size

Table 5.5.10 Distribution of respondents with more children than they desired by number of induced abortions, 1992 – 2007

Number of induced abortion	1992	1997	2002	2007	Prevalence		
	%	%	%	%	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %
0	73.3	66.9	68.1	78.8	(24.6)	(22.1)	(15.9)
1	15.2	20.5	21.7	13.7	(32.0)	(28.9)	(14.5)
2	7.1	9.4	7.0	6.2	(45.9)	(26.2)	(23.1)
3	2.4	2.7	2.1	0.4	(45.8)	(36.4)	(9.1)
4	0.8	0.5	1.0	0.8	(22.2)	(57.1) <sup>#</sup>	(40.0) <sup>#</sup>
5	0.3	—	0.0	—	—	(0.0) <sup>#</sup>	—
No response	1.0	—	0.0	—			
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(27.4)	(23.8)	(15.9)
Total respondents	382	414	383	241			

*Base: Those female respondents who had more children than they desired*

*<sup>#</sup> Be cautious because of small sample size*

## 5.6 Desire for Children

Among those fertile women in 2007, only 12.7% desired to have children (again). (Table 5.6.1)

Table 5.6.1 Distribution of fertile respondents by whether desiring children (again), 2002 – 2007

Whether desiring children (again)	2002 %	2007 %
Yes	13.1	12.7
No	78.0	80.5
Not decided	8.2	6.1
Don't know / Never thought about it	0.7	0.7
No response	0.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,294	1,437

*Base: Those female respondents who were fertile*  
*Insignificant difference between 2002 and 2007 (p=.622)*

The major reason for desiring to have additional children was “I like children” (51.4%), followed by “let the children have partner” (33.3%) and “children can bring joy to daily life” (18.6%). (Table 5.6.2)

Table 5.6.2 Distribution of reasons for fertile respondents desiring to have children (again), 2002 – 2007

Reasons for desiring to have children (again)	2002 %	2007 %
I like children	23.9	51.4
Let the children have partner	46.3	33.3
Parents want to have more children	2.6	NA
Children can bring joy to daily life	4.1	18.6
To carry on the family line	4.0	15.3
Would not be lonely when getting old	9.2	14.8
My husband wants to have children	4.2	13.1
Children is our fruit of love	NA	11.5
Like to have a big family	5.2	8.7
Giving birth is a natural ability of women	NA	7.7
My parents want to have grandchildren	NA	5.5
To maintain matrimonial relationship	1.3	3.8
Will be financially supported by the children when getting old	NA	3.8
Want to have one more child with different gender	1.3	1.6
Have children to provide for in old age	0.1	NA
Total respondents	78	183

*Base: Those female respondents who were fertile and desiring to have (more) children*

On the other hand, there were more respondents who desired not to have children (again) when compared to the 2002 Survey (78.0% in 2002 to 80.5% in 2007). The major reasons that made respondents desiring not to have additional children were “have enough children” (36.8%), followed by “the financial burden of raising children is heavy” (22.6%) and “too old” (21.6%). The proportion of “too old” as a reason has increased from 5.2% to 22.6% which suggest a timely family planning is important especially for those who get married at an advanced age. (Tables 5.6.3)

Table 5.6.3 Distribution of reasons for fertile respondents not desiring to have children (again), 2002 – 2007

Reasons for not desiring to have children (again)	2002 %	2007 %
Have enough children	56.2	36.8
The financial burden of raising children is heavy	34.8	22.6
Too old*	5.2	21.6
Too much responsibility for raising children	14.7	6.7
Afraid that children will be led astray by corrupted social values	NA	1.7
Too busy at work	0.9	1.6
I hope to give every child as much education as possible	5.6	1.2
Do not want to be controlled by children	0.4	1.0
Worries of downturns of Hong Kong's economy	10.9	NA
Too much housework, no time to take care of the child	1.2	NA
Others less than 1%		
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>1,157</b>

*Base: Those female respondents who were fertile and did not want to have children (again)*

\* In 2007, among those who chose “Too old” as the reason, the proportion of age group 35-39, 40-44 and 45-49 were 10.4%, 27.4% and 62.3%

For those female respondents who had living children or were currently pregnant, a significant rising trend was noted for women who desired not to have children (again) (from 58.2% in 1982 to 87.6% in 2007). (Table 5.6.4)

Table 5.6.4 Distribution of fertile respondents with living children or currently pregnant by whether desiring children (again), 1982 – 2007

Whether desiring children (again)	1982 %	1987 %	1992 %	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %	Linear trend
Yes	31.5	29.1	18.6	14.1	7.3	6.8	↓↓
No	58.2	61.2	67.7	74.1	86.7	87.6	↑↑
Not decided	9.6	8.4	9.9	4.1	5.4	5.1	NS
Don't know / Never thought about it	0.6	1.3	2.8	2.8	0.6	0.5	NS
No response	0.1	0.0	1.0	4.9	0.0	—	NS
<b>Total %</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>1,194</b>	<b>1,151</b>	<b>1,064</b>	<b>1,205</b>	

*Base: Those female respondents who had living children or currently pregnant*

↑↑: Significant increasing trend for the period 1982 - 2007;  $p < .01$

↓↓: Significant decreasing trend for the period 1982 - 2007;  $p < .01$

NS: Insignificant increasing or decreasing trend for the period 1982 - 2007

Among respondents who indicated their wish for no additional children, their prevalence by parity was given in Table 5.6.5. The figures show that women with no parity and yet not desiring to have additional children were more or less the same as that of 2002 Survey. In general, more women in 2007 than in 2002 desired not to have children.

Comparing the past 35 years, fewer women, who have 1 to 4 parity, have the desire to give birth again. Even for women with no parity, the prevalence of desiring more children is significantly decreasing as well. Almost 4 in 10 women without parity do not want any child.

Table 5.6.5 Prevalence of respondents not desiring to have children (again) by parity, 1972 – 2007

Parity	1972 %	1977 %	1982 %	1987 %	1992 %	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %	Linear trend
0	10.5	12.9	8.5	7.1	6.8	13.6	37.4	39.5	↑
1	25.2	29.1	25.1	29.8	47.1	65.6	72.7	71.6	↑↑
2	56.5	70.9	69.8	85.9	87.9	88.6	96.2	91.0	↑↑
3	78.5	90.9	83.0	93.1	93.0	90.8	98.0	94.7	↑
4	91.9	94.9	92.8	91.4	94.9	97.5	95.7	82.6	NS
5 or more	94.1	97.9	97.6	100.0	100.0	88.5	88.9	88.9	NS
All parities	65.0	68.8	58.2	61.2	67.7	74.1	78.0	76.6	↑

*Base: Those female respondents who were fertile and did not want to have children (again)*  
 ↑: Significant increasing trend for the period 1972 - 2007;  $p < .05$   
 ↑↑: Significant increasing trend for the period 1972 - 2007;  $p < .01$   
 NS: Insignificant increasing or decreasing trend for the period 1982 - 2007

## 5.7 Characteristics of Women Desiring No Additional Children

Tables 5.7.1 to 5.7.7 highlight the profile of the group of women who wanted no additional children. The majority (64.1%) of such women were aged between 40 and 49. (Table 5.7.1)

Lower income group of women tend to have a lower prevalence of desiring no more children. For women with lower education background, majority of them does not want more children. (Tables 5.7.2 – 5.7.4)

A total of 69.6% (prevalence rate) of women who desired no more children had never practised contraception. (Table 5.7.5)

The group of women who had no abortion before had the lowest proportion of desiring no more children (prevalence rate 71.9%). Unlike the 2002 Survey, there was no clear relation between the number of abortions and the prevalence rate. (Table 5.7.6)

Table 5.7.1 Distribution of fertile respondents desiring no more children by age, 1997 – 2007

Age	1997	2002	2007	Prevalence		
	%	%	%	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %
15-24	0.6	0.4	0.3	(20.8)	(14.3)	(14.3)
25-29	4.7	4.3	3.4	(34.5)	(33.3)	(34.9)
30-34	19.8	16.3	10.5	(54.0)	(55.8)	(54.9)
35-39	30.9	26.9	21.8	(65.8)	(73.8)	(71.9)
40-44	27.4	29.0	29.5	(60.8)	(73.6)	(86.6)
45-49	16.6	23.2	34.6	—	—	(86.2)
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	(56.5)	(62.8)	(74.0)
Total respondents	854	1,009	1,117			

*Base: Those female respondents who were fertile with living children or currently pregnant and did not want to have children (again)*

Table 5.7.2 Distribution of fertile respondents desiring no more children by residential duration in Hong Kong, 1997 – 2007

Residential duration	1997	2002	2007	Prevalence		
	%	%	%	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %
Less than 5 years	3.9	8.4	8.6	(47.1)	(56.7)	(68.6)
5-9 years	6.3	9.7	12.5	(65.1)	(68.1)	(82.4)
10-14 years	5.2	5.2	9.0	(66.7)	(66.7)	(87.1)
Since birth / 15 years or more	83.8	76.7	69.8	(55.2)	(62.7)	(72.0)
No response	0.8	0.0	—			
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	(56.5)	(62.8)	(74.0)
Total respondents	854	1,009	1,117			

*Base: Those female respondents who were fertile with living children or currently pregnant and did not want to have children (again)*

Table 5.7.3 Distribution of fertile respondents desiring no more children by household income, 1997 – 2007

Household income	1997	2002	2007	Prevalence		
	%	%	%	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %
< HK\$10,000	18.1	17.5	15.9	(61.3)	(66.0)	(78.7)
HK\$10,000-19,999	44.4	38.3	41.8	(57.0)	(64.9)	(81.5)
HK\$20,000-29,999	11.6	19.7	19.1	(53.3)	(59.4)	(68.9)
HK\$30,000 or more	24.4	21.9	20.3	(54.0)	(59.7)	(63.1)
Not fixed	NA	NA	1.3	NA	NA	(88.2)
No response / Do not know	1.5	2.6	1.6	(61.3)	(66.0)	(75.0)
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	(56.5)	(62.8)	(74.0)
Total respondents	854	1,009	1,117			

*Base: Those female respondents who were fertile with living children or currently pregnant and did not want to have children (again)*

*NA : Not applicable*

Table 5.7.4 Distribution of fertile respondents desiring no more children by educational attainment, 1997 – 2007

Educational attainment	1997	2002	2007	Prevalence		
	%	%	%	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %
Below primary	3.2	1.6	0.8	(50.9)	(43.2)	(81.8)
Primary	32.6	18.8	14.7	(55.9)	(62.5)	(89.1)
Secondary	54.6	69.9	74.6	(56.4)	(65.8)	(75.9)
Post-secondary or above	9.6	9.7	9.1	(51.6)	(50.5)	(50.5)
Others	NA	NA	0.7	NA	NA	(57.1)
No response	0.0	0.0	—			
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	(56.5)	(62.8)	(74.0)
Total respondents	854	1,009	1,117			

*Base: Those female respondents who were fertile with living children or currently pregnant and did not want to have children (again)*

Table 5.7.5 Distribution of fertile respondents desiring no more children by current contraceptive use, 1997 – 2007

Current contraceptive use	1997	2002	2007	Prevalence		
	%	%	%	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %
Currently using	80.6	85.6	84.8	(60.5)	(65.2)	(79.0)
Stop at time of survey	14.2	1.0	12.4	(49.0)	(90.9) <sup>#</sup>	(52.5)
Never use	0.0	11.2	2.9	—	(56.2)	(69.6)
No response	5.3	2.2	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	(56.5)	(62.8)	(74.0)
Total respondents	854	1,009	1,117			

*Base: Those female respondents who were fertile and with living children or currently pregnant and did not want to have children (again)*

<sup>#</sup> *Be cautious because of small sample size.*

Table 5.7.6 Distribution of fertile respondents desiring no more children by number of abortions, 1997 – 2007

Number of abortions	1997	2002	2007	Prevalence		
	%	%	%	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %
0	71.7	71.2	76.9	(54.3)	(60.8)	(71.9)
1	19.0	20.1	17.3	(61.1)	(70.7)	(85.0)
2	6.9	6.7	4.2	(69.4)	(66.0)	(72.3)
3 or more	2.4	2.0	1.5	(61.8)	(62.5)	(89.5)
No response	—	0.0	—			
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	(56.5)	(62.8)	(74.0)
Total respondents	854	1,009	1,117			

*Base: Those female respondents who were fertile and with living children or currently pregnant and did not want to have children (again)*



## Chapter 6

### Knowledge and Practice of Contraception

#### 6.1 Usage and Satisfaction of Specific Contraceptive Methods

In the survey, usage of contraceptive methods was measured in two stages: the respondent was first asked if she had ever used the respective contraceptive methods and if so, whether she was satisfied with the contraceptive method used. She was then asked if she would use the respective contraceptive methods in the future.

In 2007, “Male condom” (83.0%) was the most common contraception method ever used by the respondents, and received at the same time the highest satisfaction level (93.0%). “Oral pills” (35.5%) followed distantly in usage incidence. Although only a small proportion of respondents were using non-reversible contraceptive methods such as female sterilization and male vasectomy, they had high percentage of satisfaction (98.2% for female sterilization and 90.0% for vasectomy). However, among those female respondents who had not tried the respective contraception methods, the intention of trying male condom was the lowest (7.0%). (Tables 6.1.1)

Compared with 2002, fewer women in 2007 ever used oral pills (35.5%), rhythm (19.9%) and withdrawal (16.8%).

Table 6.1.1 Distribution of ever usage of respective contraceptive methods, 2002 – 2007

Contraceptive methods	2002		2007 Ever Usage	
	Used %	Never used %	Used %	Never used %
Male condom	85.8	14.2	83.0	17.0
Oral pills	50.0	50.0	35.5	64.5
Rhythm	33.6	66.4	19.9	80.1
Withdrawal	27.5	72.5	16.8	83.2
IUD	18.4	81.6	16.6	83.4
Female sterilization	16.2	83.8	11.1	88.9
Injection	14.7	85.3	10.0	90.0
Emergency contraceptive pills	4.8	95.2	4.2	95.8
Abstinence	6.2	93.8	2.1	97.9
Female condom	1.9	98.1	1.3	98.7
Contraceptive patch	-	-	1.1	98.9
Diaphragm	2.2	97.8	0.9	99.1
Foaming tablet	3.0	97.0	0.8	99.2
Vasectomy	0.5	99.5	0.7	99.3
Total respondents	1,607		1,508	

Male condom and female sterilization were most satisfying contraceptive methods. received 25% to 47% of users of oral pills, rhythm, withdrawal, IUD and injection were not satisfied with these methods. For contraceptive method of emergency contraceptive pills, abstinence, female condom, contraceptive patch, diaphragm, foaming tablet and vasectomy, the satisfaction levels were very low. (Table 6.1.2)

Table 6.1.2 Distribution of satisfaction of respective contraceptive methods, 2007

Contraceptive methods	Satisfaction level		Base
	Satisfied %	Dissatisfied %	
Male condom	93.0	7.0	1,251
Oral pills	67.7	32.3	536
Rhythm	61.0	39.0	300
Withdrawal	60.1	39.9	253
IUD	74.1	25.9	251
Female sterilization	98.2	1.8	167
Injection	52.3	47.7	151
Emergency contraceptive pills	4.2	95.8	63
Abstinence	2.1	97.9	32
Female condom	1.3	98.7	19 <sup>#</sup>
Contraceptive patch	1.1	98.9	17 <sup>#</sup>
Diaphragm	0.9	99.1	13 <sup>#</sup>
Foaming tablet	0.8	99.2	12 <sup>#</sup>
Vasectomy	0.7	99.3	10 <sup>#</sup>

Base: Those female respondents who were fertile and those who were not born infertile (including pregnant women) and had ever used the respective contraceptive methods

<sup>#</sup> Be cautious because of small sample size

Table 6.1.3 Distribution of intention of trying respective contraceptive methods, 2007

Contraceptive methods	Intention of Use		Base
	Will use %	Will not use %	
Male condom	7.0	93.0	257
Oral pills	2.1	97.9	972
Rhythm	1.4	98.6	1,208
Withdrawal	1.4	98.6	1,255
IUD	3.9	96.1	1,257
Female sterilization	4.7	95.3	1,341
Injection	2.3	97.7	1,357
Emergency contraceptive pills	2.2	97.8	1,445
Abstinence	1.2	98.8	1,476
Female condom	2.4	97.6	1,489
Contraceptive patch	3.1	96.9	1,491
Diaphragm	1.2	98.8	1,495
Foaming tablet	0.9	99.1	1,496
Vasectomy	1.1	98.9	1,498

Base: Those female respondents who were fertile and those who were not born infertile (including pregnant women) and had not ever used the respective contraceptive methods

## 6.2 Current Practice Rate

The overall proportion of respondents who were currently practising contraception tended to be in the older age groups, especially among those who were aged 45-49 (27.9%). However, the prevalence rates are similar across different age groups, ranging from 70% to 80%. (Table 6.2.1)

Table 6.2.1 Distribution of currently practicing contraceptive methods, 2002 – 2007

Age	2002 %	2002 Prevalence %	2007 %	2007 Prevalence %
Below 25	3.0	(88.9)	1.3	(76.2)
25-29	7.7	(91.1)	7.3	(79.8)
30-34	18.3	(84.9)	14.6	(82.2)
35-39	24.1	(89.9)	22.9	(81.1)
40-44	25.5	(88.0)	26.0	(82.1)
45-49	21.4	(79.8)	27.9	(74.6)
Overall		86.2		79.5
Total %	100.0		100.0	
Total respondents	1,325		1,199	

*Base: Those female respondents who were currently practicing contraception*

### 6.3 Current Principal Method

Among those respondents who were currently practising contraception at the time of the Survey, most of them used condom as their principal method. The proportion increased by about 9 percentage points from 54.7% in 2002 to 63.3% in 2007. A rising trend was also noted in the proportion of respondents who used IUD which increased from 4.8% in 1982 to 11.7% in 2007. However, the proportion who used oral pills continued to decrease from 26.8% in 1982 to 8.4% in 2007 while female sterilization dropped sharply from 27.5% in 1982 to 8.9% in 2007. The usage of other minor contraceptive methods had slightly dropped except withdrawal and vasectomy which had slightly increased. (Table 6.3.1 and Figure 6.3.1)

Table 6.3.1 Distribution of current users by principal contraceptive method used, 1982 – 2007

Principal contraceptive method used	1982 %	1987 %	1992 %	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %	Linear trend
Condom	20.2	32.2	40.0	44.4	54.7	63.3 <sup>**</sup>	↑↑
IUD	4.8	5.6	5.9	5.9	10.4	11.7	↑
Female sterilization	27.5	28.3	21.9	22.9	16.8	8.9	↓↓
Oral pills	26.8	20.3	19.8	16.3	9.4	8.4	↓↓
Rhythm	11.2	6.7	5.9	3.5	3.4	2.9	↓
Withdrawal	NA	NA	NA	0.6	1.7	2.2	-
Injection	3.8	3.1	2.0	2.7	1.9	1.5	↓
Vasectomy	1.6	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.6	0.8	↓
Diaphragm / spermicides	3.5	2.2	1.7	1.0	0.5	0.3	↓↓
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Total respondents	1,015	1,221	1,314	1,187	1,336	1,078	

Base: Those female respondents who were fertile and those who were not born infertile and currently practising contraception

<sup>\*\*</sup> Including male condom and female condom

↑↑: Significant increasing trend;  $p < .01$

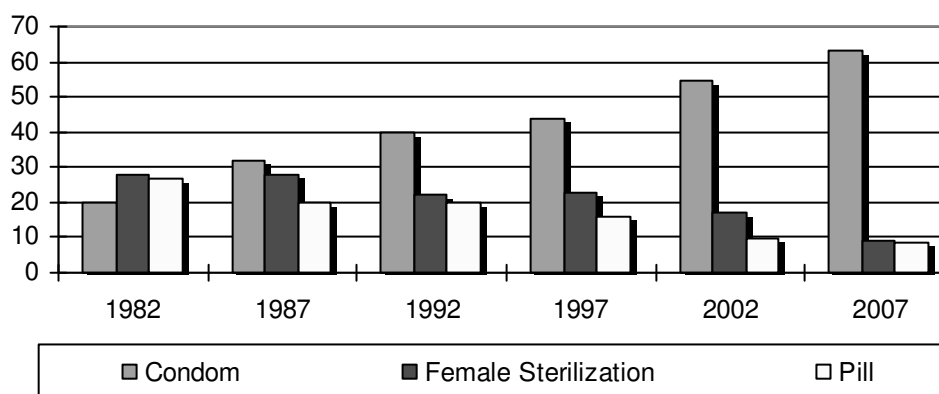
↑: Significant increasing trend;  $p < .05$

↓↓: Significant decreasing trend;  $p < .01$

↓: Significant decreasing trend;  $p < .05$

All linear trend analysis are based on data from 1982 to 2007

Figure 6.3.1 Principal contraceptive methods used by current users, 1982 – 2007



## 6.4 Reasons for Discontinuation of Contraception

The major reason for those who had discontinued to use contraception was that they did not think they would be pregnant (37.0%). Other reasons were they did not care about contraception (19.3%), followed by the fear of side effect (17.6%). (Table 6.4.1)

Table 6.4.1 Distribution of discontinued users by principal reason for discontinuation of contraceptive practice, 2002 – 2007

Principal reason for discontinuation	2002 %	2007 %
Don't think I will be pregnant	NA	37.0
Don't care	NA	19.3
Afraid of side effects	13.4	17.6
Find contraception very inconvenient	NA	11.8
Not yet refill	NA	6.7
Somebody objects to it	NA	5.0
Want to have children	25.4	2.5
To have sexual intercourse during rhythm	NA	2.5
Others	NA	1.6
Have been pregnant	11.4	NA
Too troublesome	9.0	NA
Not necessary	25.9	NA
Menstruation stopped	8.0	NA
Cannot recall	2.5	NA
Have received hysterectomy	2.5	NA
Others	2.0	NA
Total respondents	201	119

*Base: Those female respondents who had discontinued to use contraception*

Among those respondents who indicated that they did not require contraception, nearly three in ten (28.9%) had primary or less education and 41.4% had monthly household income between HK\$10,000 – 19,999. Around 20% of the respondents had had abortion before. (Tables 6.4.2 - 6.4.4)

Table 6.4.2 Distribution of respondents claiming no contraceptive needs by educational attainment, 1992 – 2007

Education attainment	1992 %	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %
Below primary	4.0	4.2	5.8	3.1
Primary	44.4	45.1	25.0	25.8
Secondary	44.4	45.1	65.4	62.5
Post-secondary	7.0	5.6	3.8	7.0
Others	NA	NA	NA	1.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	99	71	52	128

*Base: Those female respondents who claimed no contraceptive needs*

Table 6.4.3 Distribution of respondents claiming no contraceptive needs by number of induced abortion, 1992 – 2007

<b>Number of induced abortion</b>	<b>1992</b> %	<b>1997</b> %	<b>2002</b> %	<b>2007</b> %
0	73.7	59.2	63.5	81.3
1	14.1	29.6	23.1	10.9
2 or more	12.1	11.3	13.5	7.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	99	71	52	128

*Base: Those female respondents who claimed no contraceptive needs*

Table 6.4.4 Distribution of respondents claiming no contraceptive needs by household income, 1992 – 2007

<b>Household income</b>	<b>1992</b> %	<b>1997</b> %	<b>2002</b> %	<b>2007</b> %
<\$10,000	43.4	32.4	17.3	21.9
\$10,000 – 19,999	42.4	39.4	38.5	41.4
\$20,000 – 29,999	5.1	16.9	17.3	20.3
>\$30,000	8.0	11.2	26.9	14.8
No response / not fixed	1.0	—	0.0	1.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	99	71	52	128

*Base: Those female respondents who claimed no contraceptive needs*

## 6.5 General Contraceptive Knowledge

To test the respondents' general contraceptive knowledge, they were given eight statements concerning the contraceptive knowledge and asked if they thought the statements were correct or not. Over six in ten respondents (61.5%) did not score well in their general contraceptive knowledge, with the average score at 2.95 out of 8 marks. Only 38.2% of the respondents scored 4 or more marks. (Table 6.5.1)

Table 6.5.1 Distribution of score summary of general contraceptive knowledge, 2007

<b>Total Score</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
0	9.5
1	13.8
2	19.0
3	19.5
4	18.6
5	10.0
6	6.9
7	2.1
8	0.5
<b>Summary</b>	
<b>4 or above</b>	<b>38.2</b>
<b>Below 4</b>	<b>61.8</b>
<b>Mean</b>	<b>2.95</b>
Total %	100.0
Total respondents	1,508
<i>Base: Those female respondents who were fertile and were not born infertile</i>	

Among the 8 questions in this section, use of oral pill, spermicide and IUD are the top three which are not answered correctly by respondents. (Table 6.5.2)

Table 6.5.2 Distribution of respondents who correctly answered the 8 questions, 2007

Questions	Incorrect		Correct		I don't know	
	count	%	count	%	count	%
1. Using oral pills will gain weight	814	53.9	405	26.8	291	19.3
2. The contraceptive effectiveness of male condom is the same as the oral pills	578	38.3	438	29.0	494	32.7
3. The chance of having uterine or pelvic infection will increase progressively every year using IUD	456	30.2	376	24.9	678	44.9
4. IUD can be used by those female who have not given birth	407	27.0	617	40.9	486	32.2
5. Oral pills will increase the risk of womb cancer	368	24.4	463	30.7	679	45.0
6. The emergency contraceptive pills have to be used within 72 hours	287	19.0	598	39.6	625	41.4
7. Oral pills have to be regularly taken every day	177	11.7	1,061	70.3	272	18.0
8. Spermicide will kill the bacteria of sexually transmitted disease in the vagina	139	9.2	702	46.5	669	44.3

*Total respondents: 1508 (exclude infertile women)*

Looking into other factors affecting the contraceptive knowledge, there was no clear relationship between the mean score and age group and the number of parity.

Significant chi-square test in Table 6.5.3 supported that the score of contraception knowledge is related to the education attainment. Respondents who have a higher mean scores and higher proportion of having scores above 4. On the contrary, respondents who are only primary or below education have lower mean scores. (Tables 6.5.3 – 6.5.5)

Table 6.5.3 Distribution of score summary of general contraceptive knowledge by age group, 2007

Age group	Scores of contraceptive knowledge			
	1-3	4-8	Total	Mean
under 25	66.7	33.3	21	3.00
25-29	56.0	44.0	109	3.06
30-34	55.9	44.1	213	3.15
35-39	58.9	41.1	338	3.08
40-44	66.0	34.0	379	2.79
45-49	64.7	35.3	448	2.86
Total respondents	61.9	38.1	1,508	2.95

*Base: All fertile women*

*Note: Values represent row percentage*

*Chi-sq test: Insignificant; p = .06*



Table 6.5.4 Distribution of score summary of general contraceptive knowledge by education attainment, 2007

Education attainment	Scores of contraceptive knowledge			
	1-3	4-8	Total	Mean
Primary or below	73.8	26.2	195	2.32
Junior secondary	68.9	31.1	441	2.67
Senior secondary	57.8	42.2	574	3.11
Senior secondary (Form 6 - 7)	45.1	54.9	82	3.73
Tertiary (non degree holder)	52.6	47.4	76	3.26
Tertiary (Degree holder)	54.3	45.7	140	3.41
Total	61.9	38.1	1,508	2.95

*Base: All fertile women*  
*Note: Values represent row percentage*  
*Chi-sq test: Significant; p < .01*

Table 6.5.5 Distribution of score summary of general contraceptive knowledge by number of parity, 2007

Number of parity	Overall marks below 5			
	1-3	4-8	Total	Mean
0	56.0%	44.0%	241	3.14
1	61.7%	38.3%	499	2.99
2	62.8%	37.2%	608	2.94
3 or above	67.5%	32.5%	160	2.58
Total	61.9%	38.1%	1,508	2.95

*Base: All fertile women*  
*Chi-sq test: Insignificant; p = .117*

## Chapter 7

### Induced Abortion and Unwanted Births

#### 7.1 Induced Abortion

The incidence of induced abortion in 2007 was similar to that of 2002. The proportion of respondents who did not have induced abortion before (79.2%) was slightly higher than that of 2002, and that of ever having induced abortion decreased from 26.3% to 20.6% in five years time. Throughout the 25 years, the distribution of induced abortions proportions do not change significantly. (Table 7.1.1 and Figure 7.1.1)

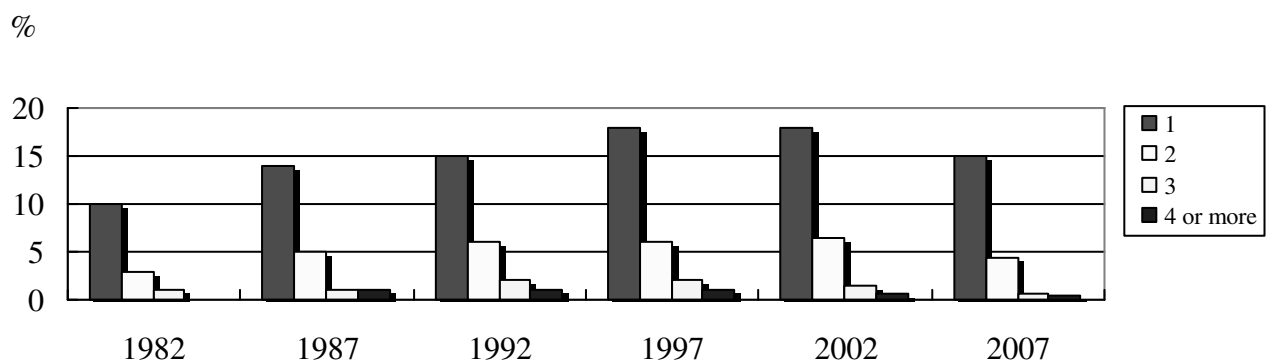
Table 7.1.1 Distribution of respondents by number of induced abortions, 1982 – 2007

Number of induced abortions	1982 %	1987 %	1992 %	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %	Linear trend
0	86.0	78.2	75.4	74.6	73.7	79.2	NS
1	9.6	14.4	14.5	17.6	17.9	15.1	NS
2	3.1	5.2	6.2	5.6	6.4	4.3	NS
3	0.7	1.1	1.5	1.6	1.4	0.7	NS
4 or more	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	NS
No response	0.1	0.3	1.8	—	—	0.2	NS
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Total respondents	1,403	1,511	1,681	1,509	1,603	1,508	

Base: All female respondents excluding those who were born infertile

NS: Insignificant increasing nor decreasing trend for the period 1982 - 2007

Figure 7.1.1 Number of induced abortions experienced by respondents, 1982 – 2007



In terms of abortion rate analysed by age, a sharp decline from 2002 to 2007 was recorded in the 15-24 age group. (Table 7.1.2 and Figure 7.1.2)

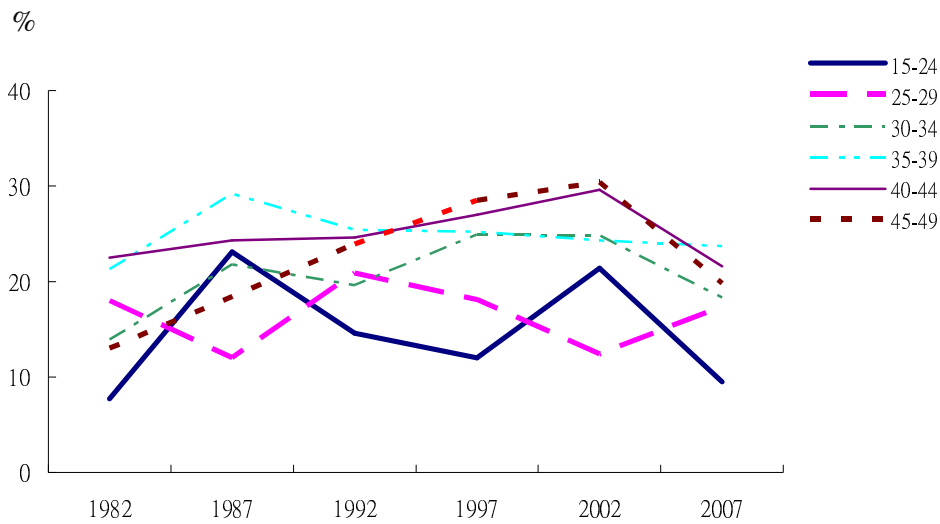
Table 7.1.2 Prevalence of induced abortion by age, 1982 – 2007

Age	1982 %	1987 %	1992 %	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %	Linear trend
15-24	7.7	23.1	14.6	12.0	21.4	9.5	NS
25-29	18.0	12.0	20.9	18.1	12.4	17.4	NS
30-34	13.9	21.8	19.6	24.9	24.8	18.3	NS
35-39	21.3	29.2	25.4	25.2	24.3	23.7	NS
40-44	22.5	24.3	24.6	27.0	29.6	21.6	NS
45-49	13.0	18.4	23.9	28.5	30.4	19.8	NS

*Base: All female respondents excluding those who were born infertile*

*NS: Insignificant increasing nor decreasing trend for the period 1982 - 2007*

Figure 7.1.2 Trend of induced abortion prevalence by age, 1982 – 2007



With respect to parity specific abortion rate, the largest decline recorded when compared with 2002 was among women who had four children or more (from 57.1% in 2002 to 35.2% in 2007). Slightly increasing trend on induced abortions is observed among women with only 1 parity. (Table 7.1.3 and Figure 7.1.3)

Table 7.1.3 Prevalence of induced abortion by parity, 1982 – 2007

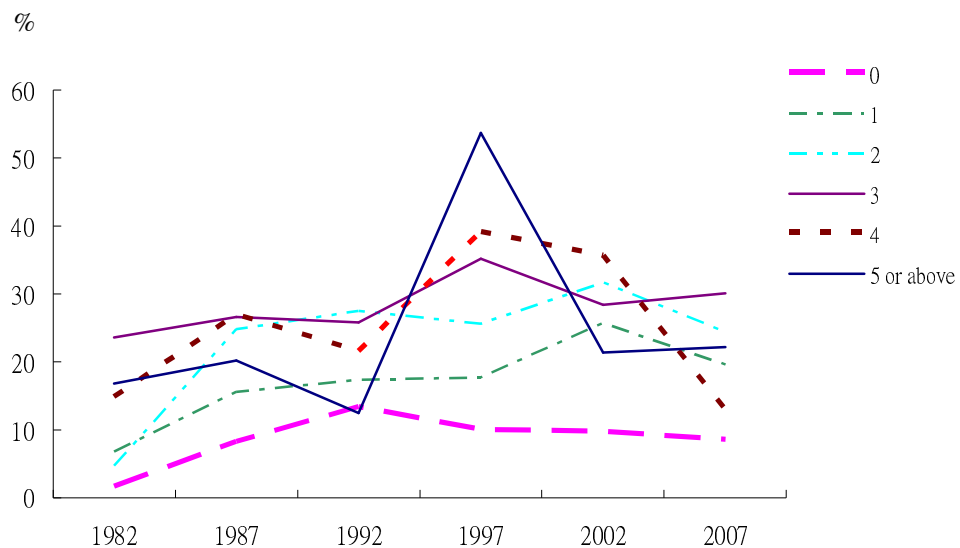
Parity	1982 %	1987 %	1992 %	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %	Linear trend
0	1.7	8.3	13.4	10.1	9.8	8.6	NS
1	6.8	15.6	17.4	17.7	25.7	19.6	↑
2	4.7	24.8	27.5	25.6	31.7	24.4	NS
3	23.6	26.6	25.8	35.2	28.4	30.1	NS
4	14.9	27.0	21.6	39.2	35.7	13.0	NS
5 or more	16.8	20.2	12.5	53.7	21.4	22.2	NS

Base: All female respondents excluding those who were born infertile

↑: Significant increasing trend;  $p < .05$  for the period 1982 - 2007

NS: Insignificant increasing nor decreasing trend for the period 1982 - 2007

Figure 7.1.3 Trend of induced abortion prevalence by parity, 1982 – 2007



The two tables below show the incidence of practising contraception and the major contraceptive methods used before induced abortion. It was observed that half of the respondents (50.5%) had induced abortion even though they practised contraception, while 22.2% of the respondents who had induced abortion were pregnant due to the discontinuation of contraceptive methods before the last pregnancy. (Table 7.1.4)

Table 7.1.4 Distribution of incidence of practising contraception before induced abortion, 2002 – 2007

Whether practise contraception	2002 %	2007 %
Yes*	42.9	50.5
No, pregnant due to the discontinuation of contraceptive methods**	34.8	22.2
No, did not practise contraception before induced abortion	22.3	27.3
Total %	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	422	311

*Base: Those female respondents who had had induced abortion*

For those respondents who had practised contraception before induced abortion, the majority used male condom (61.5%) as their major contraceptive method, followed by oral pills (11.9%). (Table 7.1.5)

Table 7.1.5 Distribution of respondents by major contraceptive method used before induced abortion, 2002 – 2007

Major contraceptive method used	2002 %	2007 %
Male condom	52.1	61.5
Oral pills	18.9	11.9
IUD	7.0	8.8
Rhythm	11.9	8.4
Withdrawal	5.2	4.0
Injection	2.4	2.7
Female sterilization	0.0	1.8
Foaming tablet	1.2	0.4
Contraceptive patch	0.0	0.4
Others	1.2	NA
Total %	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	328	226

*Base: Those female respondents who practised contraception before induced abortions*

## 7.2 Reasons of Last Induced Abortion

The most widely cited reason for induced abortion was financial burden (26.7%). Other major factors included “already had the ideal number of children” (24.8%), “not mentally prepared for having children” (21.5%) and “not a suitable time for giving birth” (21.5%). (Table 7.2.1)

Table 7.2.1 Distribution of reasons for last induced abortion, 2002 – 2007

Reasons for last induced abortion	2002 %	2007 %
Financial burden	23.4	26.7
Already have the ideal number of children	25.6	24.8
I am not mentally prepared for having children	NA	21.5
It is not a suitable time for giving birth	0.5	21.5
Poor health and not suitable for pregnancy	8.1	7.7
My personality is not suitable for parenthood	NA	2.3
I don't/ My spouse doesn't like children	NA	2.0
The economy is unstable	NA	1.9
Required by the Government	6.0	1.3
Too busy, do not have time to take care of children	0.4	1.0
Afraid to be constrained by children	NA	0.3
Poor relationship between couples	0.2	0.3
Afraid of having unhealthy children	0.0	0.3
Cannot take care of children as I am not living in Hong Kong	0.2	0.3
No response	NA	2.9
Infant's health	24.2	NA
Burst of oviduct	0.2	NA
Crowded living environment	0.1	NA
Not married	4.6	NA
Not want to have children because of migration	0.2	NA
Not want to have daughters	0.5	NA
Poor relationship with spouse	0.6	NA
Too young at that time	8.1	NA
Total %	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	422	311

*Base: Those female respondents who had had induced abortion*

### 7.3 Decision Making for Last Induced Abortion

The person who decided to have induced abortion was mainly the women themselves (88.4%) followed by the baby's father (36.0%). When compared with the 2002 Survey, the proportion of women who were the decision maker rose from 79.1% to 88.4%, while that of the baby's father dipped from 44.5% to 36.0%, and that of doctor decreased from 18.7 to 5.5. (Table 7.3.1)

Table 7.3.1 Distribution of the person who made the decision for last induced abortion, 2002 – 2007

<b>Person who made the decision to have induced abortion</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
Myself*	79.1	88.4
Baby's father	44.5	36.0
Doctor*	18.7	5.5
My parents	0.5	1.3
Siblings	0.2	—
Relatives / Friends	0.5	—
Total respondents	422	311

*Base: Those female respondents who had had induced abortion*  
*\* Significant difference two-binomial-proportion t-test; p < .05*

## 7.4 Place of Last Induced Abortion

It is found that 40.2% of the respondents were born in Mainland China. That means some women were not living in Hong Kong at the time of induced abortions. When we estimate how many women chose to cross the border to have induced abortions, we have to identify those women who were Hong Kong citizens while they were having the operations.

Regardless of the citizenship, the proportion of women who chose to have induced abortion in Mainland China and hospitals in Hong Kong were 43.4% and 37%. When the citizenship is considered, only 105 out of 311 respondents were Hong Kong citizens at the time of induced abortions. More people chose the service in Hong Kong rather than Mainland China. 19.2% of the induced abortions were conducted at FPAHK. (Table 7.4.1 and Figure 7.4.1)

Table 7.4.1 Distribution of respondents with induced abortion experience by place of last induced abortion, 1987 – 2007

Place of last induced abortion	1987 %	1992 %	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %	Linear trend	2007* %
Mainland China	28.7	24.3	31.3	32.7	43.4	NS	30.8
Hospitals in Hong Kong	32.9	39.8	47.1	45.5	37.0	NS	44.2
FPAHK	5.2	6.0	7.0	8.5	9.3	↑↑	19.2
Registered medical clinic in Hong Kong	NA	NA	NA	7.6	5.8	NS	3.8
Illegal in Hong Kong	21.8	16.0	13.8	3.3	3.9	↓	1.9
Others	11.4	11.5	0.5	1.4	0.6	NS	0.0
No response / Refuse	NA	2.4	0.3	0.9	—	NS	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		100.0
Total respondents	325	382	384	422	311		105

Base: Those female respondents who had had induced abortion

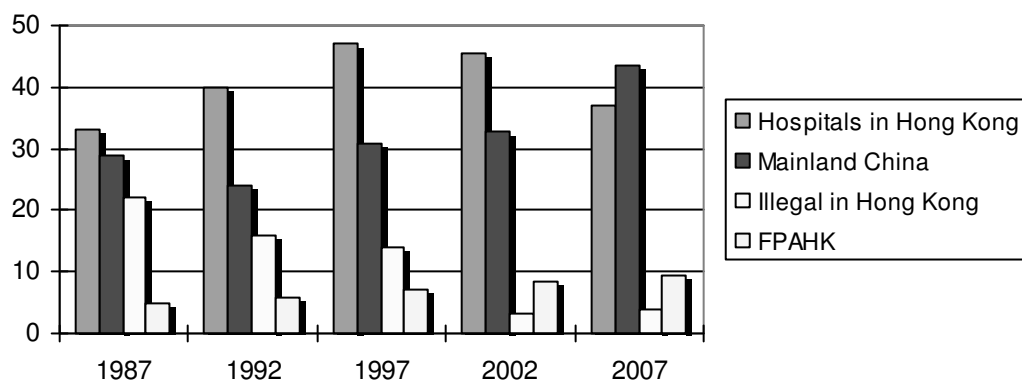
↑↑: Significant increasing trend,  $p < .01$  for the period 1987 - 2007

↓: Significant decreasing trend,  $p < .05$  for the period 1987 - 2007

NS: Insignificant increasing nor decreasing trend for the period 1987 - 2007

\* Exclude those women who were not Hong Kong citizens at the time of abortions

Figure 7.4.1 Places of last induced abortion, 1987 – 2007





## 7.5 Feeling After Induced Abortion

Half of the respondents felt guilty after having induced abortion, while around four in ten did not feel any difference after the abortion. (Table 7.5.1)

Table 7.5.1 Distribution of feeling after induced abortion, 2002 – 2007

<b>Feeling after induced abortion</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
Guilty*	22.5	50.5
No different*	68.5	40.8
Relieved*	3.6	12.2
Feeling sad*	6.9	0.6
Others	0.2	0.3
No response	0.5	—
Total %	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	422	311

*Base: Those female respondents who had had induced abortion*

*\* Significant difference two-binomial proportion t-test;  $p < .05$*

## Chapter 8

### Sex Life

#### 8.1 Attitude towards Sex Life

Over half (58.2%) of women held a positive attitude towards their sex life. Slightly over one-third (35.2%) considered they were interested or very interested in their sex life, especially those who were 25-29 years old (50.5%). Table 8.1.1)

Overall, slightly more respondents felt interested in sex life in 2007. Looking into the breakdown of age group, married years and education attainment, the increase in 2007 is found among respondents aged above 35, longer married years and primarily educated. (Table 8.1.2 – Table 8.1.4)

Similar to the previous Survey, the interest level dropped with growing age and years of marriage / cohabitation. Hence, it may be concluded that there is correlation among attitude towards sex life, age of respondents and years of marriage / cohabitation. However, it seems there was no relationship between the attitude towards sex life and educational attainment.

Table 8.1.1 Distribution of attitude towards sex life, 2002 – 2007

<b>Attitude towards sex life</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
Very interested	2.5	4.2
Interested	28.7	31.0
Average	59.4	58.2
Uninterested	5.4	5.5
Very uninterested	0.3	0.7
No response	3.7	0.5
<b>Summary</b>		
<b>Top 2 boxes*</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>35.2</b>
<b>Bottom 2 boxes</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>6.2</b>
Total %	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,607	1,510
<i>Base: All female respondents</i>		
<i>* Significant difference two-binomial proportion t-test; <math>p &lt; .05</math></i>		

Table 8.1.2 Prevalence of women interested / very interested in sex life by age, 2002 – 2007

<b>Current age</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
Below 25	50.0	42.9
25-29	56.6	50.5
30-34	45.9	46.0
35-39**	31.9	44.4
40-44*	21.9	27.1
45-49*	19.2	25.8
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>531</b>

*Base: Those female respondents who were interested / very interested in sex life*

Table 8.1.3 Prevalence of women interested / very interest in sex life by number of years married or cohabitation, 2002 – 2007

<b>Number of years married / cohabited</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
< 2 years	63.9	58.2
2 years to less than 4 years	57.3	53.8
4 years to less than 6 years	48.0	50.0
6 years to less than 11 years	37.4	42.7
11 years to less than 21 years*	24.5	30.4
21 years or more*	17.1	25.7
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>531</b>

*Base: Those female respondents who were interested / very interested in sex life*

Table 8.1.4 Prevalence of women interested / very interested in sex life by educational attainment, 2002 – 2007

<b>Educational attainment</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
Below primary*	16.2	45.5
Primary**	16.4	26.1
Secondary	31.8	34.9
Post-secondary*	53.6	44.1
Others	—	42.9
Total respondents	501	531

*Base: Those female respondents who were interested / very interested in sex life*

## 8.2 Education Attainment and Working Status

Most (76.0%) of the respondents were satisfied with their marriage. The figure could be under estimated because women who felt dissatisfied with marriage might have divorced with their husbands and were hence excluded from the Survey. (Table 8.2.1)

The highest proportion who felt satisfied with marriage shifted from the age group of 25-29 to that of 35-39 (83.1%). (Table 8.2.2) Those women who had married for 4 years to less than 6 years also had the greatest proportion in satisfaction of marriage (83.3%). (Table 8.2.3) Similar to the attitude towards sex life, educational attainment did not have a clear relation with satisfaction of marriage. (Table 8.2.4)

No significant change in the prevalence of satisfying the marriage was found from 2002 to 2007 in all age groups. Only those married for longer years and primarily educated had a higher likelihood to be satisfied with marriage.

Table 8.2.1 Distribution of satisfaction of marriage, 2002 – 2007

<b>Satisfied with marriage</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
Very satisfied	21.4	25.4
Satisfied	52.0	50.6
Average	20.5	21.1
Dissatisfied	2.4	1.7
Very dissatisfied	0.3	0.7
No response	3.4	0.5
<i>Summary</i>		
Top 2 boxes	73.4	76.0
Bottom 2 boxes	2.7	2.4
Total %	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,607	1,510

*Base: All female respondents*

Table 8.2.2 Prevalence of women satisfied / very satisfied with marriage by age, 2002 – 2007

<b>Current age</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
Below 25	78.6	81.0
25-29	82.9	78.9
30-34	78.6	78.4
35-39	74.1	83.1
40-44	70.9	72.6
45-49	68.0	71.5
Total respondents	1,180	1,148

*Base: Those female respondents who were satisfied / very satisfied with marriage*

Table 8.2.3 Prevalence of women satisfied / very satisfied with marriage by number of years of marriage or cohabitation, 2002 – 2007

<b>Number of years of marriage / cohabitation</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
< 2 years*	91.8	80.6
2 years to less than 4 years	79.5	82.5
4 years to less than 6 years	81.0	83.3
6 years to less than 11 years	77.7	78.9
11 years to less than 21 years*	71.0	75.2
21 years or more	65.5	71.1
Total respondents	1,180	1,148

*Base: Those female respondents who were satisfied / very satisfied with marriage*

*\* Significant different between 2002 and 2007;  $p < .05$*

Table 8.2.4 Prevalence of women satisfied / very satisfied with marriage by education attainment, 2002 – 2007

<b>Education attainment</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
Below primary	54.1	81.8
Primary	66.8	69.6
Secondary**	55.0	75.3
Post-secondary	86.1	85.6
Others	—	78.6
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>1,180</b>	<b>1,148</b>

*Base: Those female respondents who were satisfied / very satisfied with marriage*  
*\*\* Significant different between 2002 and 2007; p < .01*

### 8.3 Place of Birth and Martial Status

Six in ten (60.7%) women stated they were satisfied with their sex life, a proportion which was higher than the percentage of being interested in their sexual life. (Table 8.3.1) Among all the age groups, those aged below 25 were the most satisfied in their sex life (71.4%) while those who were 40-44 years old showed the least satisfaction (54.5%). (Table 8.3.2) The satisfaction also declined with the years of marriage – from 74.6% among those who were married for less than 2 years to 57.7% among those who had married for 21 years or more. (Table 8.3.3)

Table 8.3.1 Distribution of satisfaction of sex life, 2002 – 2007

<b>Satisfied with sex life</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
Very satisfied	7.8	10.2
Satisfied	49.2	50.5
Average	36.7	35.8
Dissatisfied	2.1	2.6
Very dissatisfied	0.2	0.7
No response	4.0	0.2
<b>Summary</b>		
<b>Top 2 boxes</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>60.7</b>
<b>Bottom 2 boxes</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>
Total %	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,607	1,510

*Base: All female respondents*

Table 8.3.2 Prevalence of women satisfied / very satisfied with sex life by age, 2002 – 2007

<b>Current age</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
Below 25	75.0	71.4
25-29	74.4	68.8
30-34	62.6	63.4
35-39*	60.2	67.5
40-44	51.3	54.5
45-49**	48.6	57.2
Total respondents	916	917

*Base: Those female respondents who were satisfied / very satisfied with sex life*  
 \*\* Significant different between 2002 and 2007;  $p < .01$   
 \* Significant different between 2002 and 2007;  $p < .05$

Table 8.3.3 Prevalence of women satisfied / very satisfied with sex life by number of years of marriage or cohabitation, 2002 – 2007

<b>Number of years of marriage / cohabitation</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
< 2 years	83.6	74.6
2 years to less than 4 years	66.7	73.8
4 years to less than 6 years	72.0	72.6
6 years to less than 11 years	59.7	59.5
11 years to less than 21 years*	53.6	58.3
21 years or more**	47.7	57.7
Total respondents	916	917

*Base: Those female respondents who were satisfied / very satisfied with sex life*  
 \*\* Significant different between 2002 and 2007;  $p < .01$   
 \* Significant different between 2002 and 2007;  $p < .05$

Similar to the satisfaction of marriage, educational attainment did not indicate a clear relation with satisfaction of sex life. Compared with 2002, only those respondents aged 35-39 and 45-49, longer married years and primarily educated have significant improvement in satisfying with sex life in 2007. (Table 8.3.4)

Table 8.3.4 Prevalence of women satisfied / very satisfied with sex life by education attainment, 2002 – 2007

Education attainment	2002 %	2007 %
Below primary**	29.7	72.7
Primary*	46.7	55.4
Secondary	58.1	60.7
Post-secondary*	72.2	64.4
Others	—	71.4
Total respondents	916	917

Base: Those female respondents who were satisfied / very satisfied with sex life

\*\* Significant different between 2002 and 2007;  $p < .01$

\* Significant different between 2002 and 2007;  $p < .05$

#### 8.4 Relationship of Satisfaction with Marriage and Satisfaction with Sex Life

Nearly three quarters (73.6%) of married / cohabited women thought their satisfaction with their marriage was related to their satisfaction with their sex life. The prevalence of satisfying with marriage significantly increased from 2002 to 2007. (Table 8.4.1)

Table 8.4.1 Distribution of attitude towards relationship between satisfaction of marriage and sex life, 2002 – 2007

Satisfaction with marriage and satisfaction with sexual life	2002 %	2007 %
Highly related	9.4	11.7
Related	58.7	61.9
Not very related	23.8	21.0
Not related at all	4.2	4.1
No response	3.9	1.3
<b>Summary</b>		
<b>Top 2 boxes**</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>73.6</b>
<b>Bottom 2 boxes</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>25.1</b>
Total %	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,607	1,510

Base: All female respondents

\*\* Significant different between 2002 and 2007;  $p < .01$



Tables 8.4.2 – 8.4.4 provide the prevalence analysis on marriage satisfaction against age, years of marriage and educational attainment. There is no significant difference of the prevalence across age groups and education attainment. Respondents with shorter years of marriage and cohabitation had a higher of prevalence in being satisfied about the marriage. (Tables 8.4.2 – 8.4.4)

Table 8.4.2 Prevalence of women who thought satisfaction of marriage was related to satisfaction of sex life by age, 2002 – 2007

<b>Current age</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
Below 25	71.4	66.7
25-29	73.6	78.9
30-34*	72.1	80.3
35-39**	68.7	77.5
40-44	66.3	69.7
45-49*	64.2	69.7
Total respondents	1,094	1,111

*Base: Those female respondents who thought satisfied with marriage was related to satisfied with sex life*  
 \*\* Significant different between 2002 and 2007;  $p < .01$   
 \* Significant different between 2002 and 2007;  $p < .05$

Table 8.4.3 Prevalence of women who thought satisfaction of marriage was related to satisfaction of sex life by number of years of marriage or cohabitation, 2002 – 2007

<b>Number of years of marriage / cohabitation</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
< 2 years	82.0	83.6
2 years to less than 4 years*	70.9	81.3
4 years to less than 6 years	69.0	73.8
6 years to less than 11 years*	68.7	74.9
11 years to less than 21 years*	67.3	72.9
21 years or more	64.8	70.0
Total respondents	1,094	1,111

*Base: Those female respondents who thought satisfied with marriage was related to satisfied with sex life*  
 \*Significant different between 2002 and 2007;  $p < .05$

Table 8.4.4 Prevalence of women who thought satisfaction of marriage was related to satisfaction of sex life by education attainment, 2002 – 2007

<b>Education attainment</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
Below primary	56.8	72.7
Primary	56.9	65.8
Secondary**	70.2	75.5
Post-secondary	75.8	69.3
Others	—	85.7
Total respondents	1,094	1,111

*Base: Those female respondents who were satisfied/ very satisfied with sex life*  
 \*\* Significant different between 2002 and 2007;  $p < .01$

## 8.5 Request for Sex and Refusal to Sexual Request

When compared with the 2002 Survey, slightly more women agreed that women could initiate sexual request (from 90.4% in 2002 to 92.8% in 2007) and they could certainly request sex in their own real life (from 33.5% in 2002 to 38.3% in 2007). (Tables 8.5.1 – 8.5.2)

Table 8.5.1 Attitude towards request for sex from women, 2002 – 2007

<b>Attitude towards request for sex from women</b>	<b>2002</b> %	<b>2007</b> %
Yes*	90.4	92.8
No	5.5	6.0
No response	4.0	1.1
Total %	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,607	1,510

*Base: All female respondents*  
\* Significant difference two-binomial proportion t-test

Table 8.5.2 Practice of request for sex from women, 2002 – 2007

<b>Practice of request for sex from women</b>	<b>2002</b> %	<b>2007</b> %
Certainly can*	33.5	38.3
Sometimes can	48.7	48.7
Hardly can	13.6	11.1
No response	4.2	1.9
Total %	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,607	1,510

*Base: All female respondents*  
\* Significant difference two-binomial proportion t-test

In real life, most of the women knew they could refuse sexual activities from their spouses but they hardly did it. The majority of women (93.8%) agreed that women could refuse spouse's sexual request but only 50.7% of them could certainly do it. (Tables 8.5.3 – 8.5.4)

Table 8.5.3 Attitude towards women refusal to spouse's sexual request, 2002 – 2007

<b>Attitude towards women refusal to spouse's sexual request</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
Yes*	91.4	93.8
No	4.4	4.6
No response	4.2	1.6
Total %	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,607	1,510

*Base: All female respondents*  
*\* Significant difference two-binomial proportion t-test*

Table 8.5.4 Practice of refuse spouse's sexual request, 2002 – 2007

<b>Practice of refuse spouse's sexual request</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
Certainly can*	52.5	50.7
Sometimes can	38.5	43.5
Hardly can	4.8	4.1
No response	4.3	1.7
Total %	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,607	1,510

*Base: All female respondents*  
*\* Significant difference two-binomial proportion t-test*

## 8.6 Frequency of Sex in the Past 30 Days

Around one in five four (23.6%) of the respondents had did not have sexual intercourse in the past 30 days. The mean and median are 4 and 3 times respectively. The Skewness statistics show that the distribution right-skewed with a longer right tail. (Table 8.6.1)

The proportion of no sex in the past 30 days increased from 10% in 2002 to 23.6% in 2007. There are no significant changes in other proportions. (Table 8.6.2)

Those women aged below 25 had the highest frequency (6.6) of having sex. The older the age, the less frequency of having sexual intercourse was recorded. (Table 8.6.3) Moreover, those who had attained matriculation or having no parity also showed the highest frequency of having sexual intercourse (4.2 and 4.5 respectively). Those who were satisfied with their marriage and sex life and felt interested in sex life also tended to have higher frequency in having sexual intercourse. (Tables 8.6.4 – 8.6.8)

Table 8.6.1 Distribution of frequency of sex in the past 30 days, 2007

<b>Number of sex in the past 30 days</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
None	23.6
Once	7.4
Twice	13.5
Thrice	11.4
Four times	13.3
5-8 times	20.3
9-12 times	6.7
13 times or more	3.6
No response	0.1
<b>Mean (times)</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Mode</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>9.01</b>
<b>Kurtosis</b>	<b>136.7</b>
Total %	100.0
Total respondents	1,510

*Base: All female respondents*

Table 8.6.2 Frequency of sex in the past 30 days, 2002 – 2007

<b>Number of sex in the past 30 days</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
None	10.0	23.6
1-2	19.7	20.9
3-4	24.3	24.7
5-9	19.7	20.7
10 times or more	7.6	10.0
Refusal	19.8	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,607	1,510

*Base: All female respondents*

Table 8.6.3 Mean of frequency of sex in the past 30 days by age, 2007

<b>Age</b>	<b>2007</b>
Below 25	6.6
25-29	5.3
30-34	4.5
35-39	3.8
40-44	3.5
45-49	3.3

*Base: All female respondents*

Table 8.6.4 Mean of frequency of sex in the past 30 days by education attainment, 2007

<b>Education attainment</b>	<b>2007</b>
Below primary	2.4
Primary	3.3
Secondary	3.9
Matriculation	4.2
Post-secondary	3.9
Others	2.9
Total respondents	1,510

*Base: All female respondents*

Table 8.6.5 Mean of frequency of sex in the past 30 days by number of parity, 2007

<b>Number of parity</b>	<b>2007</b>
No parity	4.5
1 parity	3.7
2 parities	3.8
3 parities or above	3.2
Total respondents	1,510
<i>Base: All female respondents</i>	

Table 8.6.6 Mean of frequency of sex in the past 30 days by sexual satisfaction, 2007

<b>Sexual satisfaction</b>	<b>2007</b>
Satisfied	4.3
Average	3.2
Dissatisfied	1.2
Total respondents	1,510
<i>Base: All female respondents</i>	

Table 8.6.7 Mean of frequency of sex in the past 30 days by marital satisfaction, 2007

<b>Marital satisfaction</b>	<b>2007</b>
Satisfied	4.0
Average	3.3
Dissatisfied	1.4
Total respondents	1,510
<i>Base: All female respondents</i>	

Table 8.6.8 Mean of frequency of sex in the past 30 days by interest in sex life, 2007

<b>Interest in sex life</b>	<b>2007</b>
Interested	4.8
Average	3.5
Not interested	1.4
Total respondents	1,510
<i>Base: All female respondents</i>	

## 8.7 Factors Affecting Sex Life

When women were asked about what factors were harmful to their sex life, “working pressure” (23.1%) was considered the major factor, followed by “living with children” (17.9%) and “spouse need to work in other countries” (17.5%). There were, however, 23.5% of women who thought there were no factor hindering their sex life. (Table 8.7.1) Overall, the most common factors of affecting sex were related to pressure (36.2%), unmatched timing (31.3%) and limited living space (28.2%). (Values not shown in the table)

Table 8.7.1 Distribution of factors affecting sex life, 2002 – 2007

<b>Factors</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
<b><u>Pressure</u></b>		
Work pressure	20.7	23.1
Financial burden	13.5	13.0
Pressure from housework	8.5	10.3
Other pressure	6.1	5.6
<b><u>Unmatched timing</u></b>		
Spouse need to work in other countries	11.5	17.5
Schedule does not match with working time of spouse	13.3	17.0
I have to work in other countries	13.4	3.4
<b><u>Limited living space</u></b>		
Living with children	14.7	17.9
Small living space	10.5	13.6
Living with parents	NA	5.6
Living with maid	NA	0.1
<b><u>Health</u></b>		
Health problems	8.7	14.8
Tired	0.6	0.7
<b><u>Poor relationship</u></b>		
Poor relationship of couples	NA	10.7
Poor relationship with family members (e.g. mother-in-law)	NA	0.1
<b><u>Others</u></b>		
Need to take care of children	NA	0.2
Afraid of pregnancy	NA	0.1
Worry about the children's education	NA	0.1
Spouse has his own family / has wife and children	NA	0.1
Inconsistent sex desire	0.1	NA
Lack of sex interest	0.2	NA
Moody / psychological problems	0.2	NA
Physiological problems	13.5	NA
Refusal	4.9	NA
Too busy	0.1	NA
No factors that hinder my sexual life	35.6	23.5
No response	0.0	2.7
Total respondents	1,607	1,510
<i>Base: All female respondents</i>		

## 8.8 Professional Advise on Counselling

The majority of respondents (72.0%) did not consider they needed any professional advice or counselling about sexual subjects. The sexual subjects liked by the respondents were advice on conflicts between herself and her spouse (10.7%), conflicts of work and family (6.8%) and new contraceptive methods (6.5%). (Table 8.8.1)

Table 8.8.1 Distribution of sexual subjects or family related that respondents would like to have professional advice or counselling, 2002 – 2007

<b>Sexual subjects or family related issues</b>	<b>2002 %</b>	<b>2007 %</b>
Conflicts between couples	11.4	10.7
Conflicts of work and family	7.0	6.8
New contraceptive methods	5.1	6.5
Sexual harmonization	3.9	5.6
Sexual intercourse technique	1.5	3.1
Methods for encountering extramarital affairs	3.7	2.4
Prevention and medication of sexual transmitted diseases	1.7	2.2
Relationship between the mother and the daughter-in-law	2.1	2.1
Prevention and medication of sexual dysfunction	1.7	1.8
Prevention and medication of aids	1.4	1.3
New methods of induced abortion (new contraceptive methods)	0.2	0.6
Abnormal sexual behaviour	0.1	0.1
Methods of teaching children	0.1	0.1
Pregnancy problem	NA	0.1
Psychological counselling	NA	0.1
Menopause	0.1	0.1
No response	0.0	4.8
Not necessary	71.6	72.0
<b>Guidance of family planning</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>Refusal</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>NA</b>
Total respondents	1,607	1,510

*Base: All female respondents*



## Chapter 9

### KAP Survey for Males: Respondent Profile

This was the third time the “Knowledge, Attitude and Practice” Study on family planning to collect information from husbands of the female respondents. The objective of the exercise was to compare the differences in knowledge, attitude and practice between husbands and wives. If possible, analysis will focus on the differences within the couples.

A total of 770 husband questionnaires were received. Profile of the subgroup (770 males) and main group (1,510 females) were found to be comparable. Therefore, husbands and their corresponding wives were analyzed in the following chapters.

#### 9.1 Age Structure

Seven in ten (69.7%) husbands were aged 40 or above, which had increased by 5.2% when compared to the previous survey. The mean age of both husbands and wives were increasing when compared with the 1997 and 2002 Surveys, with the former rising from 42.1 in 1997 to 42.4 in 2002 to 43.7 in 2007, and the latter from 38.5 in 1997 to 38.2 in 2002 to 39.2 in 2007. (Table 9.1.1)

Table 9.1.1 Distribution of husbands and wives by age, 1997 – 2007

Age	1997		2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
Under 25	0.8	1.5	0.8	1.8	0.6	1.3
25-29	3.7	8.4	4.4	9.0	3.6	7.4
30-34	12.3	22.8	13.0	20.1	9.7	16.8
35-39	23.5	26.2	17.3	23.2	16.2	22.9
40-44	21.5	24.7	23.5	23.9	21.0	25.5
45-49	24.7	16.4	22.9	22.1	24.4	26.2
50 or above	14.0	—	18.1	—	24.3	—
<b>Summary</b>						
<b>40 or above</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>64.5</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>69.7</b>	<b>51.7</b>
<b>Mean age</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>43.7</b>	<b>39.2</b>
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	871	871	1,147	1,147	770	770
<i>Base: All male respondents and their wives</i>						

## 9.2 Education Attainment and Working Status

Couples had the same education attainment in general and most of the couples had received secondary education level or above. (Table 9.2.1) About half (51.0%) of the couples were working full time. The not-working rate among husbands was 7.3%, which was lower than 2002 (8.2%). (Table 9.2.2)

Table 9.2.1 Distribution of husbands and wives by education attainment, 1997 – 2007

Education attainment	1997		2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
Below primary	1.6	2.3	1.4	1.9	0.6	0.6
Primary	24.3	30.7	17.0	16.9	12.7	9.9
Secondary	58.2	58.6	63.4	63.6	67.4	73.1
Post-secondary	15.6	8.0	18.2	17.5	18.7	16.0
Others	—	—	—	—	0.5	0.4
No response	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	871	871	1,147	1,147	770	770

*Base: All male respondents and their wives*

Table 9.2.2 Distribution of husbands and wives by couples' working status, 1997 – 2007

Working status	1997		2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
Full-time job	90.6	49.9	87.7	53.2	89.5	56.2
Not-working	5.7	48.0	9.9	40.4	7.3	36.6
Part-time job	2.1	1.8	2.4	6.5	3.2	7.1
Unidentifiable	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—
No response	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	871	871	1,147	1,147	770	770

*Base: All male respondents and their wives*

Among about one-third (32%) of the couples, the husbands were working full time while their wives were not working. However, the proportion of such couples was dropping over time (from 45.5% in 1997 to 34.5% in 2002 to 32.2% in 2007). (Table 9.2.3)

It is noteworthy that the proportion of couples who were both working full-time had been going up steadily in the past years (from 47.4% in 1997 to 47.6% in 2002 to 51.0% in 2007). Table 9.2.4 shows the major occupations of the husbands.

Table 9.2.3 Distribution of couples by couples' working status, 1997 – 2007

Occupation	1997	2002	2007
	%	%	%
Both had full-time job	47.7	47.6	51.0
Husband full-time; wife not-working	45.5	34.5	32.2
Husband full-time; wife part-time	1.6	5.6	6.2
Husband not-working; wife working	2.4	5.6	4.3
Both not-working	2.5	4.3	3.0
Husband part-time, wife working	NA	NA	1.8
Husband part-time, wife not working	NA	NA	1.4
Both had part-time job	NA	NA	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	871	1,147	770

*Base: All male respondents*

Table 9.2.4 Distribution of husbands working full-time by occupation, 1997 – 2007

Occupation	1997	2002	2007
	%	%	%
Sales	17.9	11.6	18.6
Machinist	14.4	13.2	15.8
Administration	14.1	18.2	14.9
Professional	14.6	6.1	13.9
Non-technical	7.9	0.0	13.2
Clerical	6.1	4.4	8.1
Associate professional	6.8	11.8	8.0
Arts and crafts	12.2	21.9	7.0
Fisheries and agriculture	0.2	0.0	0.4
Elementary occupations	NA	9.1	—
Others	1.7	0.1	—
No response	4.0	3.7	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	806	1,034	689

*Base: Male respondents who had full time work*

### 9.3 Place of Birth and Martial Status

The proportion of husbands who were born in Hong Kong was increasing (from 60.5% in 1997 to 64.7% in 2002 to 69.2% in 2007) but the proportion of wives who born in Hong Kong was decreasing (from 68.5% in 1997 to 62.2% in 2002 to 58.3% in 2007). A possible reason was that more men married women who came from the Mainland in the recent years. (Tables 9.3.1 – 9.3.2)

Table 9.3.1 Distribution of husbands and wives by place of birth, 1997 – 2007

Place of birth	1997		2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
Born in Hong Kong	60.5	68.5	64.7	62.2	69.2	58.3
Total respondents	871	871	1,147	1,147	770	770

*Base: All male respondents and their wives*

Table 9.3.2 Distribution of husbands and wives by number of marriage, 1997 – 2007

Number of marriage	1997 %	2002 %	2007 %
Both first	94.5	94.4	93.6
Husband not first, wife first	2.3	3.1	3.5
Husband first, wife not first	1.6	2.0	1.9
Both not first	0.6	0.4	0.9
No response	0.5	0.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	871	1,147	770

*Base: All male respondents*

## Chapter 10

### KAP Survey for Males: Parity and Attitudes towards Childbearing

#### 10.1 Choice on Parities

Similar to the previous Survey, respondents were asked whether they would like to have children (again). Table 9.1.1 gave a cross analysis of the views of the couples. There were many couples who both did not want to have children (again). Based on the respondents who had answered on having more children (excluding those who did not know or not yet decide on having children), the proportion that both husband and wife did not want to have children was more or less the same as that in 2002 (from 81.7% in 2002 to 81.2% in 2007). (Table 10.1.1)

Table 10.1.1 A 2x2 table for couples desiring more children or not by number of mentions, 1997 – 2007

			1997		2002		2007	
			Wife		Wife		Wife	
			No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Husband	Count	No	138	39	615	9	511	15
		Yes	280	15	32	97	30	73
	Total %	No	29.2	8.3	81.7	1.2	81.2	2.4
	Yes	59.3	3.2	4.2	12.9	4.8	11.6	

*Base: Husbands and wives who had opinion on having children*

There is no significant difference on abortion rates and achievement on child birth between couples who had discussed number of children and those who had not.

Table 10.1.2 Distribution of abortion and discussion the number of children with partner, 2007

Ever abortion	Discussion about the number of children with partner (column %)	
	Yes	No
Yes	15.1	18.1
No	84.9	81.9
Total %	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	913	524

Table 10.1.3 Distribution of target of children number and discussion the number of children with partner, 2007

Ideal and actual no of children	Discussion about the number of children with partner (column %)	
	Yes	No
Actual < Ideal	27.1	24.9
Actual = Ideal	64.9	67.6
Actual > Ideal	8.0	7.5
Total %	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	772	438

Table 10.1.4 showed that the major reason of desiring more children for those couple who wanted to have children. Slightly over half of the couples desired for more children because they liked children (husband: 56.2% vs. wife 52.1%). To give companion to present child also was an important factor that considered by couple to have more children (husband: 26.0% vs. wife 28.8%).

Table 10.1.5 showed the reasons of desiring no more children for those couple that do not want to have children. The major reason for not having more children was having enough number of children (husband: 50.7% vs. wife: 49.9%). Heavy financial burden for raising children and the old age of couples also influenced their decision of having children a lot.

Table 10.1.4 Distribution of husbands and wives by reason for desiring more children, 2002 – 2007

Reason for desiring more children	2002		2007	
	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife
I like children	37.4	26.4	56.2	52.1
Let the children have partner	NA	44.7	26.0	28.8
Children can bring happiness to daily life	7.9	3.5	17.8	23.3
To carry on the family line	38.4	3.3	17.8	16.4
Will not be lonely when getting old and can be accompanied by children	NA	8.2	13.7	15.1
Children is our fruit of love	NA	NA	12.3	15.1
My spouse wants to have children	NA	5.0	6.8	12.3
My parents want to have grandchildren	10.4	1.6	8.2	9.6
Giving birth is an innate ability of females	NA	NA	NA	8.2
Like to have a big family	5.3	6.4	11.0	8.2
To maintain the matrimony	3.3	1.6	5.5	4.1
To be financially supported by the children when getting old	NA	NA	4.1	1.4
Want to have one more child with gender opposite to the child I have	NA	1.6	NA	1.4
Have children to provide for in old age	0.1	0.2	NA	NA
Many couples have more than one child	1.3	NA	NA	NA
My wife wants to have more children	5.3	NA	NA	NA
Nurture the next generation for the society	1.3	NA	NA	NA
Total respondents	79	76	73	73

*Base: Couples who both want to have additional children*

Table 10.1.5 Distribution of husbands and wives by reason for desiring no more children, 2002 – 2007

Reason for desiring no more children	2002		2007	
	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife
Have enough children	44.9	53.2	50.7	49.9
The financial burden of raising children is heavy	39.3	36.5	47.0	43.8
Too old	0.1	4.6	35.2	37.2
Too much responsibility for raising children	14.5	14.8	15.1	17.2
Too busy for work	1.6	0.9	9.0	8.6
Afraid that children will go astray by corrupted social values	NA	NA	4.7	7.0
Hope to give every child as much education as possible	6.1	6.7	3.9	6.5
Not much time to take care of children due to heavy housework	0.0	1.4	1.6	4.9
Accommodation for many children is a problem	2.0	0.5	5.5	4.3
The society is unsuitable for raising children	2.9	1.1	1.8	2.7
Do not want to be controlled by children	1.0	0.3	2.0	2.5
Indecisive due to the education policy	NA	NA	2.2	2.3
Want to have more private time / space for development	NA	NA	1.8	1.8
Afraid of pregnancy and giving birth	NA	NA	0.4	1.6
The economy is unstable (2002: Worries of downturns of Hong Kong's economy)	15.1	11.7	0.6	1.2
Do not want the children to be unhappy about the resentment of the society	NA	NA	0.2	1.0
My spouse does not like children	0.2	0.0	1.0	0.8
Giving birth to many children affect mother's health	1.9	2.3	1.0	0.6
Not yet married			0.6	0.6
Poor health and not suitable for pregnancy	0.2	1.2	0.2	0.6
I don't like children	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.4
Afraid of having unhealthy children	NA	NA	0.4	0.2
Poor relationship between couples	NA	NA	—	0.2
Spouse are too old to be pregnant	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>591</b>		<b>511</b>	<b>511</b>

*Base: Couples who both not want to have additional children*

## Chapter 11

# KAP Survey for Males: Knowledge and Practice of Contraception

### 11.1 General Contraceptive Knowledge

The majority of male respondents had inadequate contraceptive knowledge and had a mean score (2.5) significantly lower than that of the female respondents. Only 32.2% men can correctly answer 4 or more items, while 41.5% women can do so. (Table 11.1.1)

Table 11.1.1 Distribution of score summary of general contraceptive knowledge, 2007

Total Score	Husband %	Wife %
0	21.7	7.9
1	15.1	12.9
2	15.5	17.1
3	15.5	20.6
4	13.8	14.4
5	9.5	15.6
6	5.3	8.1
7	2.7	3.0
8	0.9	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0
<b>Summary</b>		
<b>4 or above</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>41.5</b>
<b>Below 4</b>	<b>67.8</b>	<b>58.5</b>
<b>Mean</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3.2</b>
Total respondents	769	769
<i>Base: Those respondents who were fertile and were not born infertile</i>		
<i>Pair sample t-test = -7.474 (p &lt; .01)</i>		
<i>Pearson's correlations: 0.265 (p &lt; .01)</i>		



Similar to women, most male respondents did not answer correctly about the use of oral pills, contraceptive effectiveness and use of IUD. (Table 11.1.2)

Table 11.1.2 Distribution of husbands who correctly answered the 8 questions, 2007

Questions	Incorrect		Correct		I don't know	
	count	%	count	%	count	%
1. Using oral pills will gain weight	285	37.1	184	23.9	300	39.0
2. The contraceptive effectiveness of male condom is the same as the oral pills	273	35.5	225	29.3	271	35.2
3. The chance of having uterine or pelvic infection will increase progressively every year using IUD	163	21.2	152	19.8	454	59.0
4. Oral pills will increase the risk of womb cancer	152	19.8	198	25.7	419	54.5
5. Oral pills have to be regularly taken every day	148	19.2	357	46.4	264	34.3
6. IUD can be used by those female who have not given birth	148	19.2	245	31.9	376	48.9
7. The emergency contraceptive pills have to be used within 72 hours	132	17.2	251	32.6	386	50.2
8. Spermicide will kill the bacteria of sexually transmitted disease in the vagina	60	7.8	337	43.8	372	48.4

*Total respondents (husbands): 769*

Age group is not the significant factor determining the results of answering the 8-item questions among male. However, the result is significantly dependent of the education attainment of the husband himself. Only 16.9% of primarily educated men can answer more than 4 items, while 50.5% of tertiary graduated men can do so. (Tables 11.1.3 – 11.1.4)

Table 11.1.3 Distribution of score summary of general contraceptive knowledge by those who scored < 4 and age group, 2007

Age group	Scores of contraceptive knowledge			Total respondents	Mean
	0-3	4-8	Total %		
under 25	80.0	20.0	100.0	5	2.60
25-29	71.4	28.6	100.0	28	1.79
30-34	57.3	42.7	100.0	75	2.89
35-39	57.6	42.4	100.0	125	2.99
40-44	60.9	39.1	100.0	161	2.83
45-49	71.8	28.2	100.0	188	2.47
50 or above	79.7	20.3	100.0	187	2.00
Total respondents	67.8	32.2	100.0	769	2.53

*Base: All women*  
*Chi-sq test: insignificant (.679)*

Table 11.1.4 Distribution of score summary of general contraceptive knowledge by those scored < 4 and education attainment, 2007

Education Attainment	Scores of contraceptive knowledge			Total respondents	Mean
	0-3	4-8	Total %		
Primary or below	83.5	16.5	100.0	103	1.74
Junior secondary	73.1	26.9	100.0	227	2.33
Senior secondary	68.9	31.1	100.0	251	2.44
Senior secondary (Form 6 - 7)	60.0	40.0	100.0	40	2.88
Tertiary (Non-degree holder)	47.1	52.9	100.0	51	3.69
Tertiary (Degree holder)	49.5	50.5	100.0	97	3.35
Total respondents	67.8	32.2	100.0	769	2.53

*Base: All women*  
*Chi-sq test: Significant; p < .01*

## 11.2 Attitude towards Responsibility in Family Planning

More couples believed family planning was the responsibility of both husbands and wives, with the proportion registering a significant rise from less than 60% in 1997 and 2002 to around 70% in 2007. Fewer husbands thought family planning was the sole responsibility of wives (from 17.3% in 1997 to 17.1% in 2002 to 6.0% in 2007). This may be explained by the increase in the increasing proportion of wives who worked full-time. (Table 11.2.1)

Table 11.2.1 Distribution of husbands and wives by attitude towards responsibility in family planning, 1997 – 2007

Family Planning is the responsibility of	1997		2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
Both husband and wife	56.8	55.9	56.4	59.5	69.4	70.6
Husband	10.9	14.8	20.0	22.8	23.1	19.0
Wife	17.3	20.2	17.1	12.0	6.0	8.2
Neither	2.8	0.9	1.4	0.5	0.3	0.4
No response	3.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	—	—
Don't know	9.8	7.2	5.1	5.1	1.2	1.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	871	871	1,147	1,147	769	769

*Base: (1997 – 2002): All male respondents and their wives  
(2007): Those male respondents who were not born infertile and their wives*

## 11.3 Attitude towards Provision of Contraceptive Service to the Unmarried Youths

Over half of the husbands and wives respectively opined that it was suitable to provide contraceptive service to the unmarried youths. (Table 11.3.1)

Table 11.3.1 Distribution of husbands and wives by attitude towards the provision of contraceptive service to the unmarried youths, 2007

Attitude towards the provision of contraceptive service to the unmarried youths	2007	
	Husband %	Wife %
Agree	61.1	58.9
Agree with limitation	18.7	17.8
Disagree	18.3	21.3
Do not know	1.8	2.0
Total %	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	769	769

*Base: Those male respondents who were not born infertile and their wives*

## Chapter 12

### KAP Survey for Males: Communication between Couple

#### 12.1 Discussion on Parity

Communication played an important role in maintaining good family relationship. The survey asked respondents whether they had discussed with their spouse on the number of parity and contraceptive method. The result regarding discussion on parity was similar to the findings of 2002, with 63.8% of husbands and 66.2% of wives having had such discussions. Although there were only two-thirds of respondents who had made discussions on this subject with their spouse, nearly all of them considered the discussion was enough (95.9% for husbands, 96.9% for wives) and claimed they had the same ideas with their spouse (92.3% for husbands, 91.7% for wives). (Tables 12.1.1 – 12.1.3)

Table 12.1.1 Distribution of husbands and wives by discussed with spouse on parity, 2002 – 2007

Discussed with spouse	2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
Yes	64.9	65.5	63.8	66.2
No	35.1	33.7	36.2	33.8
No response	0.0	0.8	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	911	911	730	728

*Base: All male respondents who were fertile and their wives*

*\* Insignificant difference two-binomial proportion t-test, for both husband and wife*

Table 12.1.2 Distribution of husbands and wives by sufficiency in discussed with spouse on parity, 2002 – 2007

Opinion towards discussed with spouse on parity	2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
Enough	94.2	95.0	95.9	96.9
Not enough	5.8	5.0	4.1	3.1
No response	0.0	0.0	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	591	597	466	482

*Base: Those male respondents and their wives who had discussion with spouse on parity*

Table 12.1.3 Distribution of husbands and wives by whether they had the same ideas with spouse on parity, 2002 – 2007

Whether spouse had the same ideas on parity	2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
Yes, same as spouse	94.2	92.1	92.3	91.7
No	5.8	7.9	7.7	8.3
No response	0.0	0.0	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	591	597	466	482

*Base: Those male respondents and their wives who had discussion with spouses on parity*

## 12.2 Discussion on Contraception

About two-thirds of respondents had discussed with their spouse on contraception and the figures declined slightly when compared with the previous Study (husband: from 63.9% in 2002 to 56.6% in 2007; wife: from 60.9% in 2002 to 57.1% in 2007). Same as in parity discussion, over 90% of those respondents who had such discussion regarded their discussion was enough. Over 95% of husbands and wives expressed the acceptance on spouse' idea on contraception. (Tables 12.2.1 – 12.2.3)

Table 12.2.1 Distribution of husbands and wives by discussed with spouse on contraception, 2002 – 2007

Discussed with spouse	2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
Yes*	63.9	60.9	56.6	57.1
No	36.1	39.1	43.4	42.9
No response	0.0	0.0	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,147	1,147	769	769

*Base: (2002) All male respondents and their wives*

*(2007) All male respondents who were fertile and their wives*

*\* Significant difference two-binomial proportion t-test, for both husband and wife*

Table 12.2.2 Distribution of husbands and wives by sufficiency in discussed with spouse on contraception, 2002 – 2007

Opinion towards discussed with spouse on contraception	2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
Enough	91.8	94.0	97.2	95.4
Not enough	8.2	6.0	2.8	4.6
No response	0.0	0.0	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	733	698	435	439

*Base: Those male respondents and their wives who had discussion with spouse on contraception*  
*\* Significant difference two-binomial proportion t-test, for husband*

Table 12.2.3 Distribution of husbands and wives by whether they accepted the idea on contraception from their spouse, 2002 – 2007

Ideas accepted by spouse on contraception	2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
Very acceptable	34.0	37.1	51.5	54.9
Acceptable	63.2	59.5	48.3	43.5
Unacceptable	2.5	3.3	—	—
Very unacceptable	0.4	0.1	0.2	1.6
No response	0.0	0.0	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	733	698	435	439

*Base: Those male respondents and their wives who had discussion with spouses on contraception*

## Chapter 13

### KAP Survey for Males: Sex Life

#### 13.1 Attitude Towards Sex Life

The proportion of husbands who felt very interested / interested in sex life was more or less the same as that of 2002 Survey. Men continued to show more interest in sex life than women (husband: 59.1% vs. wives: 41.4%). Especially in the younger age groups (under 29), more husbands indicated interest in sex life than wives. (Tables 13.1.1 – 13.1.2)

Table 13.1.1 Distribution of husbands and wives by attitude towards sex life, 2002 – 2007

Attitude towards sex life	2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
Very interested in	9.2	2.8	9.0	4.5
Interested in	49.9	31.9	50.1	36.9
Average	36.0	58.0	39.0	53.8
Not interested in	1.2	4.9	1.7	4.4
Not interested in at all	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4
No response	3.4	2.3	—	—
<b>Summary</b>				
<b>Top 2 boxes*</b>	<b>59.1</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>59.1</b>	<b>41.4</b>
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,147	1,147	770	770

*Base: All male respondents and their wives*  
*\* Significant difference two-binomial proportion t-test, for wife*

Table 13.1.2 Prevalence of interested / very interested in sex life by age, 2002 – 2007

Current age	2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
24 or less	77.8	61.9	80.0	50.0
25-29	72.0	62.1	82.2	64.9
30-34	77.9	47.4	69.4	49.6
35-39	65.7	35.0	64.0	48.9
40-44	58.1	23.7	64.0	35.2
45-49	52.5	21.3	54.8	28.7
50 or above	45.2	NA	47.1	NA
Total respondents	678	398	455	319

*Base: Those male respondents and their wives who were very interested/ interested in sex life*  
*NA : Not applicable*

### 13.2 Satisfaction of Marriage

In general, about the same proportion of men and women felt satisfied with their marriage (husbands: 84.6 vs. wives: 80.8%). (Tables 13.2.1)

Table 13.2.1 Distribution of husbands and wives by satisfaction of marriage, 2002 – 2007

Satisfaction of marriage	2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
Very satisfied	29.6	23.6	34.5	30.0
Satisfied	54.2	53.9	50.1	50.8
Average	11.9	18.5	14.7	17.0
Dissatisfied	0.7	1.7	0.4	1.2
Very dissatisfied	0.3	0.3	—	0.6
No response	3.2	2.0	—	—
<b>Summary</b>				
<b>Top 2 boxes*</b>	<b>83.8</b>	<b>77.5</b>	<b>84.7</b>	<b>80.8</b>
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,147	1,147	770	770

*Base: All male respondents and their wives*  
*\* Significant difference two-binomial proportion t-test, for wife*

Only 60% of 24 or less male were satisfied with marriage. Also, wives in older ages tended to have lower prevalence of being satisfied with marriage. (Table 13.2.2)

Table 13.2.2 Prevalence of very satisfied / satisfied with marriage by age, 2002 – 2007

Current age	2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
24 or less	77.8	52.4	60.0	90.0
25-29	90.0	75.7	85.7	86.0
30-34	87.2	76.1	84.0	83.7
35-39	83.8	75.2	91.2	85.2
40-44	83.0	79.6	85.8	76.5
45-49	84.4	68.0	86.2	77.2
50 or above	80.8	NA	78.6	NA
Total respondents	962	854	652	622

*Base: Those male respondents and their wives who were satisfied/ very satisfied with marriage*  
*NA : Not applicable*



### 13.3 Satisfaction of Sex Life

About 71.3% of husbands and 65.2% of wives were satisfied with their sex life than wives. There is no significant difference between husbands and wives. (Table 13.3.1)

For both sex, satisfaction with sex life decreases with age. Husbands who were aged 25-29 (82.2%) and wives who were aged 25-29 (43.2%) showed the highest prevalence of satisfaction with their sex life. (Table 13.3.2)

Table 13.3.1 Distribution of husbands and wives by satisfaction of sex life, 2002 – 2007

Satisfaction of sex life	2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
Very satisfied	13.5	9.5	14.5	11.8
Satisfied	56.6	51.7	56.8	53.8
Average	24.5	34.1	27.3	31.6
Dissatisfied	1.7	2.2	1.2	2.1
Very dissatisfied	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.8
No response	3.5	2.4	—	—
<b>Summary</b>				
<b>Top 2 boxes</b>	<b>70.1</b>	<b>61.2</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>65.6</b>
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,147	1,147	770	770

*Base: All male respondents and their wives*

Table 13.3.2 Prevalence of very satisfied / satisfied with sex life by age, 2002 – 2007

Current age	2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
24 or less	66.7	76.2	80.0	70.0
25-29	84.0	81.6	82.2	82.5
30-34	78.5	64.3	72.0	68.2
35-39	69.2	61.7	77.6	67.6
40-44	68.5	56.2	74.1	57.2
45-49	71.5	53.8	68.1	65.4
50 or above	62.0	NA	65.8	NA
Total respondents	804	702	549	505

*Base: Those male respondents and their wives who were satisfied/ very satisfied with sex life*  
*NA : Not applicable*

### 13.4 Relationship of Satisfaction with Marriage and Satisfaction with Sex Life

The respondents were asked whether their satisfaction with marriage was related to their satisfaction with sex life. The majority agreed to the relationship of satisfaction with marriage and with sex life (husbands: 76.4% vs. wives: 73.5%). (Table 13.4.1)

The age group of 24 or under had the highest prevalence of husbands who believed there was such relationship. Furthermore, more husbands than wives believed in the relationship. (Table 13.4.2)

Table 13.4.1 Distribution of attitude towards relationship between satisfaction of marriage and sex life, 2002 – 2007

Attitude towards relationship between satisfaction of marriage and sex life	2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
Highly related	11.5	10.3	11.7	11.6
Related	61.0	58.4	64.7	61.9
Not very related	20.3	24.6	19.5	22.2
Not related at all	3.6	4.4	2.9	3.1
No response	3.6	2.4	—	—
<b>Summary</b>				
<b>Top 2 boxes*</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>68.7</b>	<b>76.4</b>	<b>73.5</b>
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,147	1,147	770	770

*Base: All male respondents and their wives*  
*\* Significant difference two-binomial proportion t-test, for wife*

Table 13.4.2 Prevalence of respondents who thought the satisfaction with marriage was related to the satisfaction of sex life by age, 2002 – 2007

Current age	2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
24 or less	66.7	76.2	100.0	80.0
25-29	82.0	78.6	71.4	79.0
30-34	75.8	70.9	81.3	79.1
35-39	68.2	69.5	72.8	80.7
40-44	76.3	66.8	79.0	66.8
45-49	73.8	63.2	78.7	68.3
50 or above	65.9	NA	72.2	NA
Total respondents	832	788	588	566

*Base: Those male respondents and their wives who thought the satisfaction with marriage was related to the satisfaction of sex life*  
*NA : Not applicable*

### 13.5 Request for Sex and Refusal to Sexual Request

The vast majority of both male (96.1%) and female (94.0%) respondents agreed that sexual request could be made by women. 68.8% of husbands could accept the sexual request from women. Wives' acceptance level was even lower, with only 40.6% thinking that they could certainly practise sexual request. However, the proportion represented a slight increase from 2002 (34.4%). (Table 13.5.2)

Table 13.5.1 Distribution of the attitude towards sexual request from women, 2002 – 2007

Attitude towards request sexual from women	2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
Yes	95.2	92.9	96.1	94.0
No	1.3	4.7	2.7	5.1
No response	3.5	2.4	1.2	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,147	1,147	770	770

*Base: All male respondents and their wives*

Table 13.5.2 Distribution of accepting / practicing sexual request from women in reality, 2002 – 2007

Accept / Practise sexual request from women	2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
Certainly could	74.1	34.4	68.8	40.6
Sometimes could	20.8	50.5	27.7	48.8
Hardly could	1.4	12.6	1.9	9.0
No response	3.7	2.6	1.6	1.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,147	1,147	770	770

*Base: All male respondents and their wives*

Again, most (94.2%) husbands thought wives could reject sexual request from their spouse. (Table 13.5.3) However, in reality, a lower proportion of husbands could certainly accept such rejection (62.5%). About a half of the women (53.1%) could certainly practise the rejection in real life. The difference between husbands and wives. (Table 13.5.4)

Table 13.5.3 Distribution of the attitude towards women could refuse spouse's sexual request, 2002 – 2007

Attitude towards women could refuse spouse's sexual request	2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
Yes	92.5	93.6	94.2	94.4
No	3.8	3.7	4.5	4.4
No response	3.7	2.6	1.3	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,147	1,147	770	770

Base: All male respondents and their wives

\* Insignificant difference two-binomial proportion t-test, for husband and wife

Table 13.5.4 Distribution of accepting / practicing on women in refusing spouse's sexual request, 2002 – 2007

Accept / practice on women in refusing sexual request	2002		2007	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
Certainly could	65.5	54.1	62.5	53.1
Sometimes could**	28.1	39.4	33.5	42.3
Hardly could	2.4	3.8	2.6	3.2
No response	4.1	2.7	1.4	1.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total respondents	1,147	1,147	770	770

Base: All male respondents and their wives

### 13.6 Factors Affecting Sex Life

The most influential factor which hindered sex life was work pressure (30.1% for husbands and 24.7% for wives). Other factors that also affected sex life were “health problems” (22.0% for husbands and 15.1% for wives), “living with children (19.5% for husbands and 20.9% for wives) and “financial burden” (19.2% for husbands and 13.2% for wives). More husbands (19.2%) were susceptible to “financial burden” likely because they were the main person responsible for the family’s income. Only one-fifth of respondents claimed there was no factor affecting their sex life. (Table 13.6.1)

Table 13.6.1 Distribution of factors affecting sex life, 2007

<b>Factors</b>	<b>Husband %</b>	<b>Wife %</b>
<b><u>Pressure</u></b>	<b>43.9</b>	<b>37.9</b>
Work pressure	30.1	24.7
Financial burden	19.2	13.2
Pressure from housework	6.9	9.9
Other pressure	7.7	6.0
<b><u>Limited living space</u></b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>30.4</b>
Living with children	19.5	20.9
Small living space	17.1	14.2
Living with parents	6.4	5.5
Living with maid	—	0.1
<b><u>Unmatched timing</u></b>	<b>29.4</b>	<b>31.8</b>
Schedule does not match with working time of spouse	16.4	18.8
Spouse need to work in other countries	11.2	16.5
I have to work in other countries	9.7	4.9
The rest time cannot be matched	—	0.1
<b><u>Health</u></b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>15.8</b>
Health problems	22.9	15.1
Tired	0.1	0.6
Long period of menstruation	—	0.1
<b><u>Poor relationship</u></b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>11.8</b>
Poor relationship of couples	14.7	11.8
<b><u>Others</u></b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.3</b>
No factors hinder my sexual life	21.0	23.8
No response	1.7	2.1
Total respondents	770	770

Base: All male respondents and their wives