

Further studies on family formation patterns and health



World Health
Organization

**FURTHER STUDIES ON FAMILY FORMATION PATTERNS AND
HEALTH**

FAMILY FORMATION PATTERNS AND HEALTH

Further Studies

An international collaborative study
in
Colombia, Egypt, Pakistan, and the Syrian Arab Republic

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INTRODUCTION

A. R. Omran & C. C. Standley

In 1976 the World Health Organization published *Family formation patterns and health*, reporting the results from 5 of the 10 centres that collaborated in these epidemiological studies. Their purpose was to determine the extent to which certain components of family formation, particularly the age of the mother at pregnancy, pregnancy intervals, parity and family size, affected the health of the mothers, their reproductive performance, and the health and development of their children.

The 1976 volume presented the findings from the centres in India, Iran, Lebanon, Philippines, and Turkey. This volume contains the results from centres that joined the study later, and were located in Colombia, Egypt, Pakistan and the Syrian Arab Republic. The findings from the centre in China (Province of Taiwan), that withdrew from the study in 1972, are being published separately by the centre.

For ease of reading, we have sought to make this volume independent of the preceding one, although following the same format. We have therefore repeated, with the required modifications, the methodological sections, i.e., the chapter on the design of the collaborative studies and the introductions to the substantive chapters. The review of the literature, with which the first volume opened, has not, however, been reproduced. It has been replaced by an update of the review, focusing mainly on publications that have appeared since 1976, but nevertheless giving a general indication of earlier findings.

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PART I: BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

