

6. TECHNICAL ANNEX

The sample for the Family and Occupation Survey 1988 was selected in two stages following the general sampling procedure employed by Statistics Norway.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

First, the sample areas were grouped into ten regions (pairs of counties). Within each of these regions, municipalities of more than 30,000 inhabitants were treated as separate strata. The remaining sample areas were stratified according to type of municipality (i.e. industrial structure and centrality) and number of inhabitants. The sample areas were grouped in this way into 102 strata.

In the first stage of sampling, one sample area was drawn from each of the 102 strata. All areas that constituted separate strata were selected. Sample areas were selected from the remaining strata with a probability equal to the population share of the stratum.

In the second stage, the final sample was drawn at random from the 102 sample areas. Women from birth cohorts 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965 and 1968 and men from birth cohorts 1945 and 1960 were eligible. We selected from single-year cohorts only in order to facilitate the use of life-course methods of analysis and to simplify the identification of the eventual effects of specific events experienced by the respondents, such as changes in family policy. In order to achieve a self-weighting sample, the sampling at the second stage took into account the unequal probabilities that a given sample area would have been selected in the first stage. A total of 6,907 persons, including 4,933 women and 1,974 men, were selected to take part in the survey.

One version of the questionnaire was used for each gender. The male version lacks some subjects covered in the female version (abortions, stillbirths, contraceptive history and involuntary childlessness). Otherwise the two versions are as similar as possible.

COLLECTION OF DATA

The interviewing was done by the regular staff of interviewers from Statistics Norway. Women were interviewed by female and men by male interviewers. Every precaution was taken to ensure that interviewer and respondent did not know each other. All interviewers attended a one-day training course before the start of field work.

80 per cent of the interviews were conducted between October and December, 1988. An additional 13 per cent were done during the first quarter of 1989. The great majority of interviews were carried out by personal visit to the respondents; some were done by telephone. Altogether 4,019 women and 1,543 men were interviewed, coming to a total of 5,562 persons.

Table 6.1 presents the distribution of the universe, the target sample, the net sample, and the non-response rate, by age and marital status. 917 of the 4,933 women selected for the survey, representing 18.5 per cent, did not respond. Of the 1,974 men selected, 431 men, or 21.8 per cent, were not interviewed.

SAMPLE BIAS AND NON-RESPONSE

Table 6.1
The survey population and non response

Age group	Women			Men		
	Single	Married	Previously married	Single	Married	Previously married
a. Number of eligible persons according to national statistics						
20	31 351	1 980	105	..	..	..
23	24 169	7 714	634	..	..	..
28	11 058	17 325	2 217	18 339	12 772	1 290
33	5 228	22 091	3 432	..	..	..
38	2 633	22 595	4 180	..	..	..
43	1 834	22 783	4 758	3 412	23 552	4 060
b. Number of persons in target sample						
20	819	51	5	..	..	..
23	648	204	16	..	..	..
28	349	462	54	547	404	40
33	153	581	100	..	..	..
38	74	604	109	..	..	..
43	46	537	121	102	751	130
c. Number of persons interviewed						
20	672	46	3	..	..	..
23	510	173	13	..	..	..
28	281	411	45	390	356	31
33	117	489	85	..	..	..
38	52	497	78	..	..	..
43	28	432	87	71	609	86
d. Percentage of target sample not interviewed ^a						
20	17.9	9.8	40.0	..	..	..
23	21.3	15.2	18.8	..	..	..
28	19.4	11.0	16.7	28.7	11.9	22.5
33	23.5	15.8	15.0	..	..	..
38	29.7	17.7	28.4	..	..	..
43	39.1	19.6	28.1	30.4	18.9	33.8

^a Computed as 100 * (b - c)/b.

Source: Appendix, table 36.

Fully half of the non-response was due to persons who actively refused to take part. The rest was due to different causes, such as illness, temporary absence from home, change of residence, persons not found and various other reasons. The level of non-response is similar to most other surveys conducted by Statistics Norway, although the proportion of refusals is somewhat larger than normal.

As expected, non-response was higher among childless women and men than among those who were parents, coming to 22.8 per cent and 17.5 per cent, respectively. The high non-response rate among childless persons was particularly prominent at older ages, by which time not many remain childless, and most of them are probably permanently childless. The non-response rate was as high as 32.7

per cent among childless women aged 33, 38 and 43, compared to 18.9 per cent among those aged 20, 23 and 28. Only 13.0 per cent of the women in the three oldest age groups were childless, however.

With respect to marital status, non-response was considerably higher among men and women who were unmarried or previously married than among those who were married (table 6.1, d). This pattern is familiar from many surveys.

Women aged 43 had the highest non-response rate, at 22.2 per cent, and women aged 28 the lowest, at only 14.9 per cent. This difference was not found among men, where both age groups displayed a non-response rate of about 22 per cent.

Geographically, non-response for females was highest in Northern Norway, 24.7 per cent. Among men, the middle part of the country had the highest rate of non-response, at 27.5 per cent; the Southern and Northern regions of the country were not far behind with rates of 26.2 and 24.7 per cent respectively.

Many of the results for women can be compared with figures from a similar survey conducted in 1977. The Fertility Survey 1977 was also carried out by Statistics Norway. The main results are published in *Fertility survey 1977, NOS B 197, Central Bureau of Statistics 1981*.

EARLIER FFS-TYPE SURVEYS

The sample in the first fertility survey was drawn from the 27 single-year cohorts born between 1933 and 1959 and includes only women. The analysis is mostly based on five-year groups of cohorts. Each single-year of age (as of 31 December, 1987) represented in the Family and Occupation Survey 1988 corresponds to the central year in a five-year age group covered in FS 77. For instance, women aged 42 in F&O 88 (those born in 1945) can be compared with the age group 40-44 years in FS 77.

Like F&O 88, FS 77 contains biographical data about pregnancies, marriages and consensual unions and use of contraception. Systematic biographical information on education, occupation, income and migration was not collected in the first survey. On some of these topics, there is scattered information, however, relating mainly to the time of interview. Some identical questions about family values and beliefs were also included in both surveys.