



## *Developments*

- Condom sales at subsidized rates, workplace reproductive health programs and clinics for sexually transmitted infections have been successful with men. Newer programs encourage men to take more responsibility for their sexual behavior, care better for pregnant wives, increase use of reproductive health services, and communicate better with their partners.<sup>2</sup>
- Research on new contraceptive methods for men has lagged in part because major drug companies have been reluctant to invest, as men have not demanded more products.<sup>1</sup>
- As much as 22 percent of infertility worldwide results from male causes, but women are traditionally blamed. Treating sexually transmitted infections early and correct diagnoses would help reduce the social stigma and abuse childless women receive in some cultures.<sup>1</sup>

## *Examples*

- Only 4 percent of married women in developing countries report that their partners use condoms, and 4 percent report that their partners had vasectomies, making these the two least-used contraceptive methods worldwide.<sup>1</sup>
- In eight of 12 African countries surveyed, at least 70 percent of men approved of family planning. But many men did not use it, seeing it as women's responsibility. Many also saw family planning clinics as serving only women and children and felt uncomfortable seeking services or information there.<sup>1</sup>
- In Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal, men say they want between two and four more children than their wives do. In Cameroon, Mali and Senegal, fewer than half of men say they approve of family planning.<sup>3</sup>
- In Uttar Pradesh, India, 87 percent of married women who said they wanted to avoid pregnancy said the decision to use contraception rested with their husbands, and 25 percent said the man "would get very angry" if the woman brought it up.<sup>1</sup>
- In Tanzania, 63 percent of wives said their husbands disapproved of family planning, but this was not so—59 percent approved. Many couples rarely or never discuss such matters.<sup>1</sup>
- A 1997 survey found that 70 percent of U.S. men agreed they should share more responsibility for choosing and using contraception, and 66 percent said they would be willing to try an oral contraceptive if one became available.<sup>1</sup>
- In the Philippines, 25 percent of couples making no decisions jointly reported that the husband hit the wife. Where decisions were made together, such violence was 6 percent.<sup>3</sup>
- A religious and a village leader in Senegal visited 10 nearby villages to enlist elders and local leaders to stop female genital mutilation. Their success encouraged the president of Senegal to seek a law barring the practice.<sup>1</sup>
- Rebecca Mahlunge draws men to Population Services Zimbabwe by offering regular health care to teenagers and counseling on prostate troubles as part of family reproductive health care. Vasectomies "in no way interfere with a man's desire or potency," she tells them.<sup>4</sup>

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1. "New Perspectives on Men's Participation," *Population Reports* Series J, Vol. 26 #2, Population Information Program, Center for Communication Programs, The Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, Baltimore MD, October 1998

2. UN Population Fund, *Lives Together, Worlds Apart: The State of World Population 2000*, UNFPA, New York, 2000

3. Rosen, James B., and Conly, Shanti R., *Africa's Population Challenge: Accelerating Progress in Reproductive Health*, Population Action International, Washington DC, 1998

4. Mutandwa, Grace, "Reproductive Health is Mahlunge's Pet Subject," *Africa News*, Jan. 11, 2001

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