rectly define the term; however, education has a significant effect on men’s general knowledge about family planning. These findings are congruent with those from earlier, nationwide surveys.\textsuperscript{15}

Another important finding is that most men acknowledge the man’s responsibility in planning pregnancies; moreover, nearly one-third indicate a willingness to use male contraceptives, and one-half believe that men’s contraceptive use would increase if services were designed especially for them. This suggests that policymakers should undertake initiatives to expand male services and encourage greater use of male contraceptives.\textsuperscript{16} Services for men should take into account Jordan’s social and cultural context,\textsuperscript{17} should offer a variety of methods\textsuperscript{18} and should provide comprehensive information about specific methods and about the broad benefits of contraceptive use.\textsuperscript{19}

Furthermore, educational efforts should be designed to reach men who are not yet receiving family planning services. Given respondents’ interest in television as a source of information, special television programs focusing specifically on men should be encouraged. And since men’s knowledge about contraception is related to their level of schooling, more structured education about family planning should be directed toward men with the least schooling. Subsequently, contraceptive education programs that address youth at the school level should be initiated. Other studies, in diverse cultures, have yielded similar findings about the association between men’s level of education and their contraceptive beliefs and practices.\textsuperscript{20} Moreover, some have shown that well-informed men are likely to either use a method themselves or support their partners in using a method.\textsuperscript{21}

Seventy-four percent of respondents reported that they discuss issues regarding family planning with their wives. While this finding is similar to results of another Jordanian study,\textsuperscript{22} it does not necessarily mean that couples reach a decision together, because men in Jordan (as in most Arab countries) are seen as the main decision-makers in the family. A multinational study concluded that family members, particularly husbands, play a critical role in women’s family planning use and continuation.\textsuperscript{23} According to preliminary results from a nationwide study done in Egypt, some women’s fears of divorce lead them to continue childbearing even if they want no more children.\textsuperscript{24} Further research should address Jordanian couples’ decision-making on issues related to fertility and reproductive health.

The effect of religion on issues pertaining to family communication should also not be ignored. Islam’s consonance with family planning, as well as with specific contraceptive methods, is important to Jordanians, 97% of whom are Muslim. Men, in particular, are interested in religious programs and are concerned about the acceptability of various contraceptive methods within the religious law.\textsuperscript{25} Since Muslim religious leaders are perceived as an important source of information, their involvement in well-structured educational programs would be valuable. The JNPC has undertaken such a program, but its effectiveness has not yet been evaluated.\textsuperscript{26}

A limitation of this study is that men were interviewed on issues related to birthspacing and contraceptives without their wives’ being interviewed as well. Future research should examine attitudes about birthspacing and contraceptives in greater detail, including husbands and wives simultaneously. A further limitation is that, as mentioned earlier, the results are not widely generalizable. Yet, the main findings from this survey are consistent with results from the national JNPC survey.\textsuperscript{27}

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\caption{Mean score and standard deviation (SD) for statements reflecting men’s attitudes toward birthspacing and fertility}
\begin{tabular}{|l|c|c|}
\hline
Statement & Mean & SD \\
\hline
Effect of number of children on: & & \\
Health care provided to them & 1.05 & 0.38 \\
Family’s financial status & 1.27 & 0.90 \\
Parents’ tiredness and psychological problems & 1.28 & 0.81 \\
Father’s physical and mental health & 1.39 & 0.49 \\
Mother’s physical and mental health & 1.54 & 0.50 \\
Parents’ communication & 1.46 & 1.15 \\
Marriage & 2.06 & 1.06 \\
Feelings of economic insecurity & 2.12 & 1.28 \\
Family happiness & 2.68 & 1.18 \\
Men’s responsibility for planning pregnancies & 1.20 & 0.87 \\
\hline
Probability of male method use if male services are present & 1.47 & 1.29 \\
Effect of frequent deliveries on: & & \\
Marital sexual attraction & 2.13 & 1.35 \\
Mother’s health & 3.00 & 0.79 \\
Relationship between women’s contraceptive use and infertility & 2.22 & 1.43 \\
Effect of contraceptive use on marital sexual satisfaction & 2.85 & 1.56 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\caption{Percentage of men agreeing with statements reflecting attitudes toward birthspacing and fertility, by level of education}
\begin{tabular}{|l|c|c|c|}
\hline
Statement & \(<\text{secondary}>\) & \(\geq\text{secondary}>\) & \(\chi^2\) \\
\hline
Increased no. of children decreases the quality of care given to them. & 63 & 76 & 13.97 (df=12)*** \\
Mother’s physical and mental health is negatively affected by no. of children. & 70 & 87 & 46.63 (df=12)*** \\
Father’s physical and mental health is negatively affected by no. of children. & 69 & 77 & 29.70 (df=12)*** \\
Large families are less happy families. & 29 & 47 & 35.85 (df=12)*** \\
Wife’s sexual satisfaction decreases with the use of contraceptives. & 71 & 37 & 37.77 (df=12)*** \\
Frequent deliveries negatively affect wife’s health. & 66 & 86 & 48.28 (df=12)*** \\
Frequent deliveries negatively affect sexual attraction between spouses. & 31 & 47 & 46.26 (df=12)*** \\
Increased no. of children is generally reflected in parent’s tiredness and psychological problems. & 73 & 86 & 14.78 (df=6)*** \\
Contraceptive use may cause infertility complications for the woman. & 74 & 45 & 29.15 (df=12)*** \\
Small no. of children negatively influences economic security of the family. & 29 & 33 & 11.11 (df=6)*** \\
Large no. of children weakens the marital relationship. & 12 & 29 & 34.43 (df=12)*** \\
Large no. of children weakens parental communication. & 52 & 59 & 17.89 (df=12)*** \\
Large no. of children burdens family’s financial situation. & 80 & 83 & 12.74 (df=8)*** \\
Husband’s responsibility in planning pregnancies is the same as his wife’s. & 68 & 93 & 47.05 (df=8)*** \\
Husband would use male contraceptives if they were available. & 28 & 62 & 41.44 (df=8)*** \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

Notes: The higher the score, the higher degree of agreement with the statement. For complete statements, see Table 2.

References