In Morocco (to 90%). The trend among Mos
lslightly in Egypt (to 94%), while it declined
later period, this probability had increased
among Egyptian women had their first birth with-
earlier surveys, 95% of ever-married Mos-
progressed to the next within five years.
and Moroccan women at each parity who
from life tables, of ever-married Egyptian
presents the cumulative proportions, derived
changes in fertility involved changes in
countries, we now investigate whether the
marriage to a first birth
indicating that from the
productive years. At the
women stopped child-
proportions of younger
stopped child-
seven children; by 1989–
the probability of
childbearing in Egypt indicate that increasingly higher proportion of younger women stopped childbearing earlier in their reproductive years. At the same time, high-parity women (who are likely to be older) were also limiting childbearing.
In Morocco, the data indicate that from the late 1970s to the early 1990s, the probabilities of progressing from marriage to a first birth and from a first to a second birth both declined slightly (by 5% and by
3%, respectively). However, the likelihood of progressing from a second to a third birth within five years declined considerably over the period (by 24%). Among Moroccan women who had already had three children, the probability that they would go on to have more children within five years declined by values ranging from 11% (for the probability of progressing from a fifth to a sixth birth) to 27% (for the probability of progressing from a seventh to an eighth birth).

Thus, the proportion of ever-married women who were limiting childbearing in both countries increased substantially from the late 1970s to the early 1990s. This increase occurred among both low-parity women (i.e., those who had had at least three births in Egypt, and those who had had at least two in Morocco) and high-parity women. At most parity levels, declines in the pro-

### Table 2. Cumulative proportions (estimated using life-table techniques) of ever-married women of reproductive age who progress from one parity to the next within five years, by country and year of survey, and percentage change in that probability between surveys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country and survey date</th>
<th>Parity</th>
<th>M*–1</th>
<th>1–2</th>
<th>2–3</th>
<th>3–4</th>
<th>4–5</th>
<th>5–6</th>
<th>6–7</th>
<th>7–8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Egypt</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFS–80</td>
<td></td>
<td>92.2</td>
<td>94.9</td>
<td>91.9</td>
<td>88.8</td>
<td>84.7</td>
<td>81.6</td>
<td>80.5</td>
<td>78.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDHS–95</td>
<td></td>
<td>93.7</td>
<td>93.7</td>
<td>79.7</td>
<td>64.7</td>
<td>62.5</td>
<td>61.4</td>
<td>59.7</td>
<td>56.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% change</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>29.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Morocco</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENPPF–79/80</td>
<td></td>
<td>94.9</td>
<td>93.3</td>
<td>95.5</td>
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<td>89.8</td>
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<td>76.2</td>
<td>69.4</td>
<td>76.3</td>
<td>73.4</td>
<td>61.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% change</td>
<td></td>
<td>-4.9</td>
<td>-3.4</td>
<td>-24.0</td>
<td>-16.8</td>
<td>-22.7</td>
<td>-10.6</td>
<td>-14.2</td>
<td>-27.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Parity Progressions**

Having documented the impact of changes in nuptiality on fertility decline in both countries, we now investigate whether the changes in fertility involved changes in the family-building process. Table 2 presents the cumulative proportions, derived from life tables, of ever-married Egyptian and Moroccan women at each parity who progressed to the next within five years. In the period of childbearing covered by the earlier surveys, 95% of ever-married Moroccan women and 92% of comparable Egyptian women had their first birth within five years of marrying. However, by the later period, this probability had increased slightly in Egypt (to 94%), while it declined in Morocco (to 90%). The trend among Moroccan women who remained childless for five years after marriage may be attributable to their increased contraceptive practice, which went from 3% of women who had never given birth in 1980 to 13% in 1995.17

The data on progressions from the first to succeeding births suggest that the proportion of Egyptian women who went on to have a second birth within five years of a first declined by only 1% over the study period (from 95% in 1974–1978 to 94% in 1989–1993). The

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**Figure 1. Cumulative proportions (estimated using life-table techniques) of married women of reproductive age who progress from one parity to the next within five years, by survey, Egypt and Morocco**

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*Summary:* The data on successive birth intervals indicate that in both Egypt and Morocco, the transition to marriage delayed the timing of childbearing, with corresponding increases in the proportion of women who were limiting childbearing. In Egypt, this trend was more pronounced, with a notable decline in the proportion of women progressing from a second to a third birth within five years. In Morocco, while the delay in childbearing occurred, the decline was not as steep. These changes were attributed to increases in female education, delaying marriage and birth, and improved contraceptive use.