

**TABLE 1. Selected characteristics of females aged 15–19, by sexual activity and childbearing, Nicaragua, 2001**

| Characteristic                      | All<br>(N=3,142) | Sexually<br>active<br>(N=1,119) | Have given<br>birth<br>(N=667) |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>MEAN/MEDIANS</b>                 |                  |                                 |                                |
| <b>Age (mean)</b>                   | 16.9             | 17.6                            | 17.8                           |
| <b>Age at sexual debut (median)</b> | 18.9             | 15.7                            | 15.5                           |
| <b>Age at first birth (median)</b>  | 19.6             | 17.4                            | 16.8                           |
| <b>PERCENTAGES</b>                  |                  |                                 |                                |
| <b>Residence</b>                    |                  |                                 |                                |
| Urban                               | 62               | 55                              | 53                             |
| Rural                               | 38               | 45                              | 47                             |
| <b>Education</b>                    |                  |                                 |                                |
| None                                | 6                | 11                              | 12                             |
| Primary                             | 40               | 51                              | 53                             |
| Secondary                           | 51               | 37                              | 35                             |
| Higher                              | 3                | 1                               | <1                             |
| <b>Marital status</b>               |                  |                                 |                                |
| Unmarried, no partner               | 70               | 1                               | 9                              |
| Partnered, living separately        | 8                | 23                              | 21                             |
| Unmarried, cohabiting               | 17               | 49                              | 53                             |
| Married                             | 5                | 15                              | 17                             |
| <b>Aware of</b>                     |                  |                                 |                                |
| Contraceptive methods               | 96               | 98                              | 98                             |
| Ovulatory cycle                     | 11               | 12                              | 12                             |
| <b>Has had sexual intercourse</b>   | 35               | 100                             | 100                            |
| <b>Has given birth</b>              | 25               | 71                              | 100                            |
| <b>Has used a modern method†</b>    |                  |                                 |                                |
| Ever-use                            | na               | 68                              | 70                             |
| Current use                         | na               | 40                              | 44                             |

†Includes hormonal and barrier methods, as well as sterilization and the IUD.  
 Note: na=not applicable.