

In 1969 NIH supported research on the medical effects of oral contraceptives at a level of approximately \$1.6 million a year. Some of this research is undertaken at Institutes other than the one in which the Center for Population Research is located. For example, scientists at the National Cancer Institute are studying the relationship between the use of these agents and cancer in experimental animals. Dr. Dunn's work has already been referred to. And other work is underway at the National Heart and Lung Institute on the relation of oral contraceptives and blood clotting.

I shall now describe the work underway at the Center for Population Research.

The Center, a part of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, was established in August 1968, at the direction of the President. The Center is charged to undertake an organized inquiry into the population field and to be the cognizant agency for population research throughout the Federal Government. The need for population research was stated in President Nixon's message to Congress of July 18, 1969, as follows:

* * * it is clear * * * that we need additional research on birth control methods of all types and the sociology of population growth. Utilizing its Center for Population Research the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare should take the lead in developing with other Federal agencies an expanded research effort * * *."

Our research program involves both the biological and social sciences. The biological science program is directed toward increasing the ability of couples to control the size of their families, improving the safety and efficacy of the methods used, and adding to our understanding of the genetic and biologic implications of the various forms of intervention employed. Our current emphasis is on means to limit fertility, but population research is also concerned with means to increase fertility of couples unable to have the number of children they wish.

Population research in the social sciences is much broader in scope, involving such topics as the multitude of reasons for population change, the consequences of such change, studies of population policies, and motivation for contraceptive use.

Our studies of the medical effects of oral contraceptives are an indivisible part of our total population research program. Our first population contract, written with Princeton University, was a survey of American family planning practices. This was done primarily to discover how many American women use oral contraceptives and, therefore, may be at risk, but a great deal of extremely useful sociological data was also obtained. The survey was done in September 1965 and showed that approximately 6.4 million women in the United States had used oral contraceptives at one time or another and that another 4.7 million expected to use them in the future. It is estimated that about 8 million women are using oral contraceptives now but we plan to undertake another survey this calendar year, so that a more accurate figure may be obtained.

In 1967 Congress allocated \$1 million to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to undertake studies of the medical effects of contraceptives. This action reflected an increasing concern by the scientific community and by society as a