

TASK FORCE REPORTS

August 1, 1969

As in the previous Report on the Oral Contraceptives, the Committee was divided into four task forces, each headed by a chairman, as follows:

TASK FORCES

1. Utilization, Effectiveness, and Current Investigations
S. J. Segal, Ph. D., Chairman
H. F. Fuller, M.D.
C. Tietze, M.D.
2. Thromboembolic Disorders
P. E. Sartwell, M.D., Chairman
A. T. Masi, M.D.
S. G. Kohl, M.D.
3. Carcinogenesis
R. Hertz, M.D., Chairman
B. M. Peckham, M.D.
C. Tietze, M.D.
4. Biologic Effects
P. A. Corfman, M.D., Chairman
K. Adamsons, M.D.
E. R. Carrington, M.D.
E. M. Delfs, M.D.

The report of each Task Force and the Chairman's Summary have been carefully reviewed and unanimously approved by the Committee as a whole. The summary of this report incorporates the conclusions drawn up by the individual task force reports which are appended in detail.

APPENDIX 1

REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON UTILIZATION, EFFECTIVENESS, AND CURRENT INVESTIGATIONS

S. J. Segal, Ph. D., Chairman

UTILIZATION

American women are interested in oral contraception. By 1965 they were consuming progestin and estrogen tablets at the rate of 2,660 tons yearly. One of every four married women under age 45 had used or was using an oral contraceptive. Actual users in 1965 numbered 3.8 million; 2.6 million women more had discontinued use. These estimates from the National Fertility Survey of 1965 (11) are based on interviews with a carefully drawn sample of American women. To the extent that the sample excluded unmarried women, married women separated from their husbands, and users of oral contraceptives over age 45, the figures are underestimates of the total experience with oral contraceptives up to 1965. The survey revealed that the use of oral contraceptives was much greater among younger than older women. Of women under 30, more than two-fifths had already used the pill; of women over 40, fewer than one-tenth had used it. The number of years of schooling proved to be a variable of major relevance. The percentage of users varied strongly and positively with the extent of education, from 37 per cent for college graduates to 12 per cent for women with less than high school education. Thus, by 1965 nearly one third of all American women who ever used any method of contraception reported having used the pill (18).