

spread and deeply held desire for families as small as, or smaller than, those desired by the well-to-do. No major survey shows this to be the case.

Not only do persons of lower socioeconomic status prefer larger families than the more affluent do, they also generally favor birth control less. Tables 3 and 4 show the percentages of white men and women who expressed approval of birth control in surveys made between 1937 and 1964, by educational level and economic status, respectively.

Looking at the educational differential (Table 3), one finds that, in general, the proportion of those who approve birth control drops precipitately between the college and grade school levels. As far back as the early 1940's, over 80 percent of women and 75 percent of men with some or more college education approved government action on birth control. By 1964, over 90 percent of both sexes approved. By contrast, only 60 percent of men and women with an elementary school education approved in the 1940's, and, despite a rise in approval, there is still a differential. When non-Catholics alone are considered, the educational difference is even more pronounced in many cases.

Turning to economic or income status (Table 4), one generally finds the same results. The high proportions (close to 100 percent) of women in the highest and next-to-highest economic brackets who, in recent years, have approved birth-control efforts is noteworthy, as is the fact that approximately 80 percent of women in these brackets approved such efforts as far back as the 1930's. On the other hand, men and women in lower income brackets have been slower to approve birth-control policies.

TABLE 3.—PERCENTAGES OF WHITE U.S. MEN AND WOMEN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 21 AND 44 WHO, IN VARIOUS NATIONAL POLLS TAKEN BETWEEN 1943 AND 1964, EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT BIRTH-CONTROL INFORMATION SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUALS WHO DESIRED IT. THE PERCENTAGES ARE GIVEN BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION¹; THE NUMBERS IN PARENTHESES ARE TOTAL NUMBERS OF RESPONDENTS IN EACH CATEGORY.

Year	Men			Women		
	College	High school	Grade school	College	High school	Grade school
1943.....	75 (184)	68 (284)	56 (157)	82 (216)	74 (442)	60 (207)
1945.....	74 (202)	62 (360)	58 (140)	83 (216)	68 (434)	56 (207)
1947.....	91 (84)	72 (199)	67 (66)	81 (89)	74 (228)	72 (81)
1959.....	88 (89)	76 (163)	65 (49)	91 (55)	79 (279)	68 (41)
1961.....	88 (102)	81 (188)	67 (46)	84 (81)	81 (265)	78 (50)
1962.....	91 (93)	85 (171)	61 (23)	84 (79)	82 (258)	66 (44)
1963.....	86 (105)	79 (178)	53 (40)	81 (80)	78 (251)	81 (42)
1964.....	92 (107)	88 (188)	83 (29)	94 (79)	86 (293)	74 (38)

¹ The level of education is measured by the last grade completed.

TABLE 4.—PERCENTAGES OF WHITE U.S. MEN AND WOMEN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 21 AND 44 WHO, IN VARIOUS NATIONAL POLLS TAKEN BETWEEN 1937 AND 1964, EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT BIRTH-CONTROL INFORMATION SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUALS WHO DESIRED IT. THE PERCENTAGES ARE GIVEN BY ECONOMIC STATUS (LEVELS 1-4¹); THE NUMBERS IN PARENTHESES ARE TOTAL NUMBERS OF RESPONDENTS IN EACH CATEGORY.

Year	Men				Women			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1937.....	78 (112)	70 (406)	61 (520)		67 (69)	78 (293)	64 (372)	
1938.....	65 (125)	74 (453)	62 (521)		80 (51)	73 (232)	70 (259)	
1939.....	78 (116)	75 (432)	73 (553)		71 (68)	77 (260)	71 (302)	
1940.....	79 (131)	75 (443)	68 (553)		80 (49)	78 (258)	71 (311)	
1943.....	76 (80)	72 (219)	62 (330)		80 (90)	79 (272)	68 (500)	
1945.....	73 (67)	66 (286)	62 (352)		83 (75)	77 (264)	64 (531)	
1947.....	86 (42)	77 (123)	72 (188)		92 (38)	71 (119)	73 (237)	
1959.....	83 (101)	76 (120)	73 (79)		83 (139)	82 (152)	72 (95)	
1961.....	93 (42)	85 (80)	87 (103)	69 (111)	88 (41)	80 (97)	80 (76)	81 (138)
1962.....	82 (45)	89 (71)	86 (94)	80 (74)	82 (51)	80 (75)	84 (110)	77 (140)
1963.....	88 (60)	84 (79)	76 (96)	61 (97)	87 (67)	79 (107)	79 (98)	75 (100)
1964.....	90 (67)	87 (26)	93 (82)	85 (79)	96 (90)	90 (87)	85 (104)	78 (120)

¹ Levels 1 to 4 for the years 1961-64 range from income of \$10,000 and over down to incomes under \$5,000. Prior to 1961, levels 1 to 3 represent "upper," "middle," and "lower" income brackets.