

## CHAPTER 2

### CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS AND RESPONDENTS

This chapter presents information on selected socioeconomic characteristics of the household population and individual survey respondents including age, sex, education, school enrollment and participation in the labor force. The chapter also considers the conditions surrounding the households in which the survey population live, including the source of drinking water, availability of electricity, sanitation facilities, housing materials, and housing congestion. This background information is useful for understanding the factors which affect reproductive and contraceptive use behavior.

#### 2.1 Characteristics of the Household Population

The YDMCHS Household Questionnaire was used to collect data on the demographic and social characteristics of all usual residents of the sampled household (de jure population).

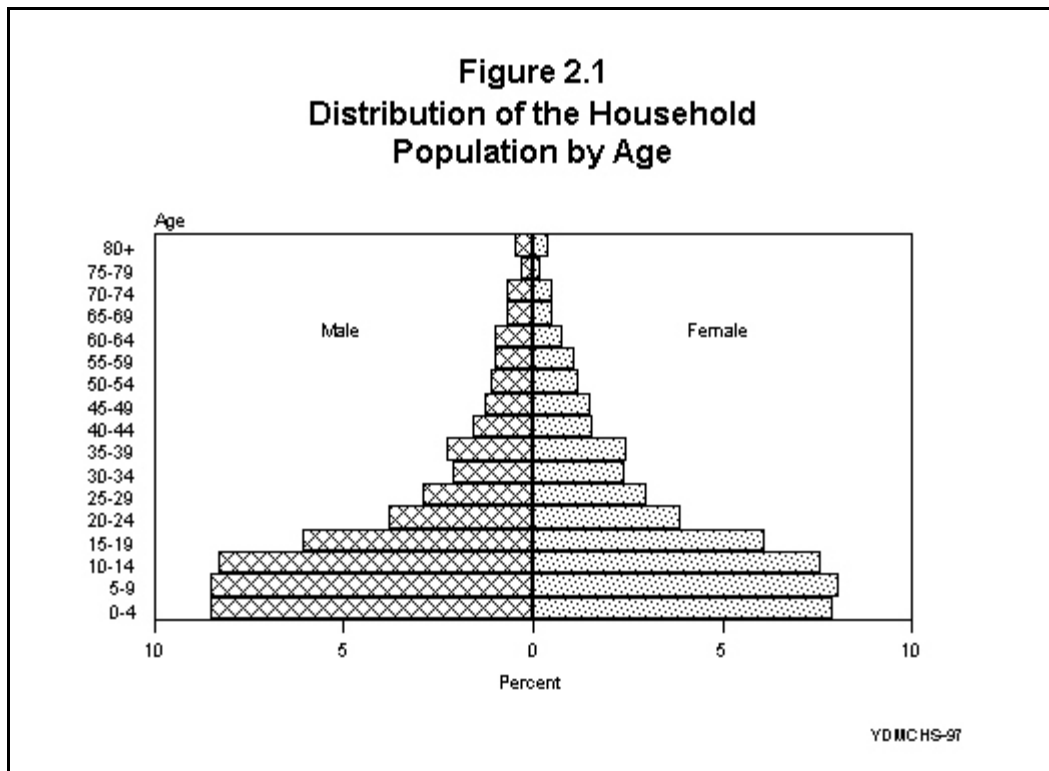
##### Age and Sex Composition

Table 2.1 presents the percent distribution of the de jure population by age, according to urban-rural residence and sex. The table shows the effects of past demographic trends on the structure of the Yemeni population and indicates the context in which a variety of demographic processes are operating.

Age group	Urban				Rural				Total			
	Male	Female	Total	Sex ratio	Male	Female	Total	Sex ratio	Male	Female	Total	Sex ratio
0-4	14.9	14.7	14.8	109	17.4	16.4	16.9	107	16.7	16.0	16.4	107
5-9	14.4	14.4	14.4	107	17.7	17.1	17.4	105	16.8	16.4	16.6	105
10-14	15.9	15.0	15.4	113	16.6	15.6	16.1	107	16.4	15.5	15.9	109
15-19	13.0	13.9	13.4	100	11.6	11.8	11.7	100	12.0	12.3	12.1	100
20-24	9.5	9.4	9.4	108	6.7	7.4	7.1	92	7.5	7.9	7.7	96
25-29	6.8	6.8	6.8	107	5.2	5.9	5.6	89	5.6	6.1	5.9	94
30-34	5.0	5.5	5.3	97	3.9	4.8	4.3	83	4.2	4.9	4.6	87
35-39	5.0	5.4	5.2	99	4.3	5.0	4.6	88	4.5	5.1	4.8	91
40-44	3.7	3.3	3.5	118	3.0	3.1	3.0	98	3.2	3.2	3.2	103
45-49	2.8	2.3	2.6	128	2.6	2.4	2.5	109	2.6	2.4	2.5	114
50-54	2.1	2.9	2.5	79	2.3	3.2	2.7	73	2.2	3.1	2.7	74
55-59	1.7	2.0	1.9	89	1.9	2.2	2.1	90	1.9	2.2	2.0	90
60-64	1.9	1.4	1.6	141	2.1	1.7	1.9	123	2.0	1.6	1.8	127
65-69	1.4	0.9	1.2	171	1.4	1.0	1.2	147	1.4	1.0	1.2	152
70-74	1.0	0.9	0.9	116	1.4	1.0	1.2	142	1.3	1.0	1.1	136
75-79	0.4	0.4	0.4	111	0.6	0.5	0.6	143	0.6	0.4	0.5	136
80 +	0.6	0.8	0.7	77	1.2	0.9	1.1	133	1.0	0.9	1.0	120
Missing/Don't know	0.0	0.0	0.0	84	0.0	0.0	0.0	137	0.0	0.0	0.0	107
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	107.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	101.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	103.0
Median	16.7	17.0	16.8	NA	14.4	15.3	14.9	NA	15.0	15.7	15.4	NA
Number	9,879	9,251	19,130	NA	27,890	27,569	55,459	NA	37,768	36,820	74,589	NA

Note: Table is based on de jure members, i.e., usual residents. Sex ratio is the number of males per 100 females.  
NA = Not applicable

The YDMCHS households constitute a population of 74,589 persons and the sample is 26 percent urban. There are slightly more men (51 percent) than women (49 percent), and there are larger numbers of the population in the younger age groups than in the older age groups. This applies in both urban and rural areas and among both males and females. The information on sex and age distribution can be used to construct a population pyramid describing the 1997 YDMCHS household population (see Figure 2.1). The pyramid has a wide-base, with a large concentration (49 percent) of the population under 15 years of age. This pattern is typical of countries with high fertility.



As Table 2.1 shows, the median age is 15.4 years, a slight increase compared with the 1991-92 survey (14.1 years). The median age in urban areas (16.8) is higher than that in rural areas (14.9). In addition, the proportion under age 15 is greater in rural areas than in urban population. The differences in the age distribution are evidence of lower recent fertility in urban areas compared with rural areas (see Chapter 3 on Fertility).

The distribution of the de jure population by broad age groups presented in Table 2.2 indicates that children under 15 years of age account for 49 percent of the population, while individuals in age group 15-64 account for 47 percent, with the remaining population over 65

Table 2.2 Population by age, 1991-92, 1994, and 1997

Percent distribution of the population by broad age group 1991-92 YDMCHS, 1994 Census, and 1997 YDMCHS

Age group	1991-92 YDMCHS	1994 Census	1997 YDMCHS
< 15	52.1	50.3	48.9
15-64	43.5	46.2	47.2
65+	4.4	3.5	3.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Median age	14.1	13.9	15.4

years of age. The dependency ratio, defined as the ratio of the nonproductive population (the sum of persons under 15 years and over 64 years) to the population age 15-64, is 112 which means that there are 112 persons under 15 years or over 64 years in Yemen for every 100 persons age 15-64 years. The dependency ratio decreased from 130 in 1991-92 to 116 in 1994 and 112 in 1997, indicating a change in fertility levels.

## Household Composition

Table 2.3 presents the distribution of households in the 1997 YDMCHS sample by sex of the head of household and by the number of household members. These characteristics are important because they are often associated with socioeconomic differences between households. For example, female-headed households frequently are poorer than households headed by males. In addition, the size and composition of the household affects the allocation of financial and other resources among household members, which in turn influences the overall well-being of these individuals. Household size is also associated with crowding in the dwelling, which can lead to unfavorable health conditions.

Female-headed households make up less than 10 percent of the households in the 1997 YDMCHS., and there is no variation by residence. This is a slight decrease from the 1991-92 survey when the level of female-headed households was 12 percent.

There are, on average, 7 persons in a Yemeni household. Less than one in five households has fewer than four members, while one in two households has seven or more members. Households in urban areas are slightly larger (7.2 persons) than those in rural areas (6.9 persons).

Foster children are those persons under 15 years of age who are not living with either of their biological parents. Less than 4 percent of households have foster children; urban households are more likely to have foster children than rural households.

Information regarding foster children and orphans under 15 years of age is presented in Table 2.4. More than 85 percent of children under 15 years of age live with both parents, 8 percent live with their mothers (but not their living fathers), and 1 percent live with their fathers (but not their living mothers), while less than 1 percent live with neither parent, although both are alive. Four percent of children live with only one parent because the other parent is dead. The percentage of children not living with both parents increases with increasing age of the child. The proportion living with both parents varies little by sex, residence, or region.

**Table 2.3 Household composition**

Percent distribution of households by sex of head of household and household size and percentage of households with foster children, according to residence, Yemen 1997

Characteristic	Urban	Rural	Total
<b>Household headship</b>			
Male	90.6	90.5	90.5
Female	9.4	9.5	9.5
<b>Number of usual members</b>			
1	2.7	2.9	2.9
2	4.9	8.0	7.2
3	7.5	8.4	8.1
4	9.4	9.2	9.3
5	11.0	9.7	10.0
6	10.8	10.9	10.9
7	12.5	11.0	11.3
8	9.9	10.7	10.5
9+	31.3	29.3	29.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Mean size</b>	7.2	6.9	7.0
<b>Percentage of households with foster children<sup>1</sup></b>	4.7	3.1	3.5

Note: By convention, foster children are those who are not living with either of their biological parents. This includes orphans, i.e., children with both parents dead.

-- Less than 0.05 percent

**Table 2.4 Fosterhood and orphanhood**

Percent distribution of de jure children under age 15 by survival status of parents and child's living arrangements, according to child's age, sex, residence, and region, Yemen 1997

Background characteristic	Living with both parents	Living with mother but not father		Living with father but not mother		Not living with either parent			Missing info. on father/mother	Total	Number	
		Father alive	Father dead	Mother alive	Mother dead	Both alive	Father only alive	Mother only alive				Both dead
<b>Age</b>												
<2	90.0	8.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	--	--	--	100.0	7,351
3-5	86.9	9.1	1.5	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	100.0	7,005
6-8	84.5	8.9	2.8	1.1	1.2	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.1	--	100.0	8,027
9-11	83.5	7.6	3.6	1.5	1.8	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	--	100.0	7,111
12+	80.9	6.6	5.1	1.8	2.5	1.8	0.3	0.5	0.4	--	100.0	6,998
<b>Sex</b>												
Male	85.4	7.9	2.7	1.1	1.3	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.2	--	100.0	18,862
Female	85.0	8.4	2.6	1.1	1.3	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.1	--	100.0	17,628
<b>Residence</b>												
Urban	86.2	6.4	2.4	1.3	1.5	1.5	0.3	0.1	0.3	--	100.0	8,532
Rural	84.9	8.7	2.7	1.1	1.3	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.1	--	100.0	27,959
<b>Region</b>												
Coastal	86.7	7.7	2.3	0.7	1.2	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.2	--	100.0	7,680
Mountainous	85.2	8.3	2.4	1.1	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.2	--	100.0	11,235
Plateau and Desert	84.6	8.3	3.0	1.3	1.5	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.1	--	100.0	17,575
<b>Total</b>	85.2	8.2	2.7	1.1	1.3	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.2	--	100.0	36,491

Note: By convention, foster children are those who are not living with either of their biological parents. This includes orphans, i.e., children with both parents dead.  
 -- Less than 0.05 percent

## 2.2 Education of the Household Population

The educational level of household members is among the most important characteristics of the household because it is associated with many phenomena including reproductive behavior, use of contraception, and the health of children.

### Educational Attainment

The educational level of household members is an important characteristic because educational attainment affects many areas including reproductive behavior, proper hygienic practices, health of children and the status of women.

Table 2.5.1 presents data on the educational level of the female population age 6 and over. Overall, two-thirds of the females have no education, less than 21 percent have not completed their primary education, leaving only 12 percent of all females who completed primary education and higher.

An examination of the changes in educational indicators over successive cohorts indicates that there has been an increase over time in the educational attainment of women. For example, the percentage of women with some schooling is 55 percent in the 15-19 age group compared with 9 percent in the 35-39 age group.

Table 2.5.1 Educational level of the female household population

Percent distribution of the de jure female household population age 6 and over by highest level of education completed, and median number of years of schooling, according to selected background characteristics, Yemen 1997

Background characteristic	No education	Incomplete primary	Complete primary	Incomplete secondary	Complete secondary+	Missing	Total	Number	Median years of schooling
<b>Age</b>									
6-10	59.0	38.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	2.7	100.0	4,994	0.0
10-14	44.9	42.9	6.5	5.5	0.0	0.2	100.0	5,695	1.1
15-19	48.6	20.3	8.1	22.4	0.4	0.2	100.0	4,534	1.0
20-24	60.7	14.4	5.7	14.0	5.2	0.0	100.0	2,920	0.0
25-29	75.9	9.3	3.3	7.5	4.0	0.0	100.0	2,264	0.0
30-34	83.2	6.4	2.8	5.5	2.2	0.0	100.0	1,821	0.0
35-39	91.1	3.4	1.4	3.2	0.9	0.0	100.0	1,869	0.0
40-44	94.5	2.3	0.7	1.6	0.8	0.0	100.0	1,160	0.0
45-49	97.2	1.2	0.5	1.0	0.2	0.0	100.0	878	0.0
50-54	99.1	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.1	100.0	1,140	0.0
55-59	99.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	100.0	792	0.0
60-64	99.7	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	100.0	606	0.0
65+	99.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	100.0	1,201	0.0
Missing/Don't know	82.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.8	100.0	8	0.0
<b>Residence</b>									
Urban	41.1	28.8	6.9	18.6	3.8	0.8	100.0	7,662	1.5
Rural	76.2	17.6	2.5	3.1	0.2	0.4	100.0	22,219	0.0
<b>Region</b>									
Coastal	62.3	19.7	3.9	11.2	2.6	0.3	100.0	6,892	0.0
Mountainous	78.4	16.1	1.9	3.1	0.1	0.4	100.0	9,023	0.0
Plateau and Desert	62.5	23.7	4.5	7.5	1.0	0.7	100.0	13,965	0.0
Total	67.2	20.5	3.6	7.1	1.1	0.5	100.0	29,881	0.0

Note: Six women for whom age was not reported are not shown separately.

-- Less than 0.05 percent

Urban women are more likely to have attended school than rural women. Fifty-nine percent of females in urban areas have attended school compared with only 24 percent of females in rural areas. By region, the proportion of women with no education is higher in the Mountainous region (78 percent) than in the Coastal (62 percent) or the Plateau and Desert region (63 percent).

Table 2.5.2 shows that two-thirds of males age six and over have some education, and that 5 percent have completed at least secondary education. The differentials in the level of education among the male population presented in this table indicate that they follow the same pattern found in the female population.

Tables 2.5.1 and 2.5.2 indicate that there is a large gap between male and female education. The proportion of males who have some education is twice that of females—67 percent compared with 33 percent, respectively. This gap widens as the educational level increases. For example, only 12 percent of women have completed at least primary education compared with 37 percent of males.

### School Attendance

Table 2.6 presents the school attendance rates of the household population age 6 to 24 years according to age, sex, and urban-rural residence. A school attendance rate is the number of persons attending school at a specific age group per hundred persons in that age group. Fifty-eight percent of children age 6-15 are in school; and school attendance in urban areas (80 percent) is more than 29 percentage points higher than rural enrollment (51 percent).

**Table 2.5.2 Educational level of the male household population**

Percent distribution of the de jure male household population age 6 and over by highest level of education completed, and median number of years of schooling, according to selected background characteristics, Yemen 1997

Background characteristic	No Education	Incomplete primary	Complete Primary	Incomplete secondary	Complete secondary	Missing	Total	Number	Median years of schooling
<b>Age</b>									
6-10	36.9	59.8	0.2	0.2	0.0	2.9	100.0	5,263	0.2
10-14	7.3	65.0	13.0	14.4	0.0	0.2	100.0	6,183	3.7
15-19	5.2	18.9	11.0	63.7	1.1	0.1	100.0	4,514	7.3
20-24	6.8	12.1	9.4	55.5	16.2	0.1	100.0	2,817	8.9
25-29	16.2	12.6	11.0	39.6	20.5	0.1	100.0	2,129	7.6
30-34	34.3	14.5	14.1	25.1	11.8	0.2	100.0	1,581	5.1
35-39	52.8	9.4	11.0	17.1	9.3	0.4	100.0	1,694	0.0
40-44	70.5	5.2	6.1	11.8	6.2	0.1	100.0	1,199	0.0
45-49	78.9	5.5	3.8	6.6	5.1	0.1	100.0	998	0.0
50-54	83.8	4.5	3.5	5.1	2.9	0.2	100.0	847	0.0
55-59	89.3	3.1	2.5	3.5	1.5	0.0	100.0	712	0.0
60-64	93.4	2.4	0.7	2.5	0.8	0.2	100.0	767	0.0
65+	96.8	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.2	0.1	100.0	1,640	0.0
Missing/Don't know	65.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	34.4	100.0	8	0.0
<b>Residence</b>									
Urban	21.2	28.9	8.8	30.6	9.7	0.9	100.0	8,133	4.9
Rural	36.7	31.0	7.6	21.2	3.0	0.5	100.0	22,219	2.0
<b>Region</b>									
Coastal	34.7	31.0	7.0	21.4	5.4	0.5	100.0	7,224	2.4
Mountainous	38.5	29.9	7.1	21.1	2.8	0.6	100.0	8,719	1.9
Plateau and Desert	27.9	30.5	8.8	26.3	5.8	0.7	100.0	14,410	3.6
Total	32.6	30.4	7.9	23.7	4.8	0.6	100.0	30,352	2.8

Note: Eleven men for whom age was not reported are not shown separately.

Table 2.6 shows that the gender differences in school attendance are large. For example, while 75 percent of boys age 6-15 are attending school, this figure is only 40 percent for girls age 6-15. Similar differences by gender are observed in the attendance rates for the other age groups, with the gap increasing with age of child. Boys are more than three times as likely as girls at age 16-20 and more than four times as likely at age 21-24 to be attending school. The gender disparity in school attendance widens substantially in rural areas at higher ages.

**Table 2.6 School Enrollment**

Percentage of the de jure household population age 6-24 years enrolled in school by age group, sex, and residence, Yemen 1997

Age group	Male			Female			Total		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
6-10	80.2	63.4	67.1	75.9	31.5	41.2	78.1	47.8	54.5
11-15	90.2	81.4	83.6	74.6	25.7	38.4	82.6	54.7	61.9
6-15	85.1	71.5	74.8	75.3	29.0	39.9	80.4	50.9	57.9
16-20	58.5	50.2	52.7	39.0	8.5	17.2	48.9	29.2	34.9
21-24	31.8	22.7	25.8	14.3	2.4	6.0	23.5	11.9	15.6

## 2.3 Employment Status of Household Population

In the household questionnaire, three questions were asked about the employment status of household members age 10 years and over.<sup>1</sup> Table 2.7 shows that, overall, 50 percent of men were working at the time of the interview with very little difference in urban and rural areas (48 percent and 52 percent, respectively). Thirty-six percent declared that they were nonworking students, 6 percent were classified as unemployed, and 2 percent were handicapped.

**Table 2.7 Activity status of household population**

Percent distribution of the de jure household population age 10-64 years by current activity status, according to residence and sex, Yemen 1997

Activity status	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Currently working	47.5	4.6	26.6	51.5	3.6	27.1	50.4	3.8	27.0
Unemployed, worked before	2.6	0.1	1.4	2.0	0.0	1.0	2.2	--	1.1
Housewife, working	NA	2.6	1.3	NA	24.9	12.7	NA	19.0	9.5
Student, working	1.5	0.1	0.8	2.9	0.3	1.6	2.5	0.3	1.4
Unemployed, never worked before	6.8	0.7	3.8	5.2	0.4	2.7	5.6	0.5	3.0
Housewife	NA	60.9	29.6	NA	59.0	30.0	NA	59.5	29.9
Student	38.7	29.7	34.3	34.9	9.8	22.1	36.0	15.1	25.5
Income recipient	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4
Retired	0.9	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.5	--	0.3
Handicapped	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.7	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.2	1.3
Don't know/Missing	0.5	0.2	0.4	1.0	0.4	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,646	6,283	12,929	16,795	17,396	34,190	23,441	23,678	47,119

Note: Activity status categories are those used in the census.

NA = Not applicable

-- Less than 0.05 percent

For women, only 4 percent were working at the time of the survey; 79 percent were classified as either housewives (60 percent) or housewives and working (19 percent). Fifteen percent reported that they were students, and 1 percent were handicapped.

## 2.4 Household Environment

### Housing Characteristics

The physical characteristics of the household have an important bearing on environmental exposure to disease, as well as reflecting the household's economic condition. Respondents to the Household Questionnaire were asked about a number of questions about their housing situation, including type of dwelling, source of drinking water, type of toilet facilities, floor material, total number of rooms and number of rooms used for sleeping, type of cooking fuel, and type of salt used for cooking. Table 2.8 summarizes this information by residence.

<sup>1</sup> Status categories were the same as those used in the census.

Table 2.8 Housing characteristics

Percent distribution of households by selected housing characteristics, according to urban-rural residence, Yemen 1997

Characteristic	Urban	Rural	Total	Characteristic	Urban	Rural	Total
<b>Type of household</b>				<b>Farm animals in living area</b>			
Single house	74.6	87.1	84.0	No	75.1	21.2	34.5
Apartment	19.3	1.5	5.9	Yes	24.6	78.7	65.3
Hut	1.3	10.3	8.1	Missing	0.4	0.1	0.1
Sandaka	4.5	0.6	1.6	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Other	0.3	0.4	0.4	<b>Type of toilet facility</b>			
Missing	0.0	--	--	Connected flush toilet	36.4	1.4	10.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	Disconnected F. toilet	20.0	3.1	7.3
<b>Main floor material</b>				Traditional pit	8.5	22.0	18.6
Earth	7.6	39.3	31.5	Improved pit	26.7	16.7	19.2
Stone/Mud	3.0	12.3	10.0	Uncovered toilet	4.6	13.4	11.2
Gypsum	4.9	1.2	2.1	In the nature	3.5	43.3	33.4
Wood	0.2	0.0	0.1	Other	0.3	0.1	0.1
Tile	31.5	1.4	8.8	Missing	0.0	0.1	--
Marble	0.1	--	--	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cement	46.0	33.3	36.4	<b>Fuel for cooking<sup>1</sup></b>			
Other materials	0.0	--	--	Gas	85.2	50.7	59.2
Hut, Sandaka, Other	6.6	11.8	10.5	Wood	14.6	80.3	64.0
Missing	0.1	0.6	0.5	Kerosene	5.7	9.6	8.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	Coal/Charcoal	0.4	0.4	0.4
<b>Number of persons per room</b>				Electricity	0.2	0.1	0.1
<3	68.7	51.8	55.9	Cows dung	0.1	3.1	2.4
3-4	22.0	28.6	27.0	Other	0.3	0.1	0.2
5-6	5.5	10.5	9.2	<b>Type of Salt</b>			
7+	3.8	8.9	7.6	Iodized salt	69.6	29.0	39.0
Missing /Don't know	0.1	0.2	0.2	Non-iodized salt	3.5	3.6	3.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	Local salt/salt not analyzed	26.5	67.1	57.1
Mean number of persons per room	2.6	3.2	3.1	Missing	0.4	0.2	0.3
<b>Persons per sleeping room</b>				Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<3	39.2	29.5	31.9	<b>Garbage disposal</b>			
3-4	40.5	38.0	38.6	Garbage collector	6.9	0.9	2.4
5-6	13.3	17.7	16.6	Dumped in special place	65.0	15.4	27.7
7+	7.0	14.5	12.7	Burned	2.0	4.6	3.9
Missing /Don't know	0.1	0.3	0.3	Thrown in street	26.0	79.0	65.9
Mean number of persons per sleeping room	3.5	4.2	4.0	Other	0.1	--	--
<b>Source of drinking water</b>				Missing	0.1	0.1	0.1
Piped into residence	66.3	19.2	30.8	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Piped outside	2.5	7.8	6.4	<b>Household possessions</b>			
Artesian well	4.3	13.1	11.0	Radio/cassette recorder	66.3	45.9	51.0
Well	1.0	32.0	24.3	Radio	26.1	25.7	25.8
Spring	0.2	15.6	11.8	Any radio	73.1	57.1	61.1
Uncovered pond	0.4	3.5	2.7	Black & White television	34.3	20.1	23.6
Covered pond	0.4	3.7	2.8	Color television	58.4	11.3	23.0
Tanker truck	7.8	4.2	5.1	Any television	83.4	29.2	42.6
Bottled water	14.6	0.1	3.7	Video	17.0	1.5	5.3
From the neighbors	2.4	0.5	1.0	Refrigerator	56.2	7.7	19.7
Other	0.1	0.3	0.3	Gas, electric range	82.4	43.0	52.7
Missing	--	0.1	0.1	Water heater	23.2	2.6	7.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	Sewing machine	30.3	10.1	15.1
<b>Time to water source</b>				Electric fan	38.3	4.6	12.9
Water within 15 minutes	85.5	40.5	51.7	Washing machine	51.3	4.4	16.0
Median time to source	0.0	14.9	9.8	Telephone	26.2	1.3	7.5
<b>Light</b>				Air conditioner	11.1	0.3	2.9
Government light	85.2	14.9	32.3	Vacuum cleaner	20.5	1.4	6.1
Cooperative light	3.5	3.9	3.8	Blender	45.7	5.0	15.0
Private light	0.8	4.7	3.7	Bicycle	11.4	2.0	4.3
Generator	0.4	3.5	2.7	Motorcycle	3.3	1.5	2.0
Gas	2.8	10.1	8.3	Private Car	20.7	10.2	12.8
Kerosene	6.1	61.9	48.1	Taxi	5.7	3.1	3.7
No light	1.2	0.7	0.8	Satellite dish	14.1	0.5	3.9
Other	0.1	0.1	0.1	<b>Number of households</b>			
Missing	0.0	--	--		2,645	8,056	10,701
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0				

-- Less than 0.05 percent  
<sup>1</sup> multiple answers allowed



*Type of dwelling:* The majority of Yemenis live in separate houses (84 percent). There are more singles homes in rural areas than in urban areas (87 percent and 75 percent, respectively). Huts are second with only 8 percent, followed by apartments with 6 percent. As expected, the majority of huts are found in rural areas (10 percent), and most apartments are in cities (19 percent).

*Floor of dwelling:* More than 36 percent of households live in dwellings with cement floors, 42 percent have earth or mud/stone floors; only 9 percent of households are in dwellings with tile floors. There are substantial differences in the flooring materials in urban and rural areas. Among urban households, 32 percent have a tile floor compared with 1 percent of rural households. Conversely, 51 percent of rural households live in dwellings that have earth or mud/stone floors compared with only 11 percent of urban households.

*Measure of crowding:* Information on the number of persons per sleeping room was collected in the 97 YDMCHS in order to provide a measure of crowding. Table 2.8 shows that 32 percent of households have one or two persons per sleeping room, and 39 percent have three to four persons per sleeping room. The mean is 4.0 persons per sleeping room. Rural households are more crowded than urban households. The mean number of persons per sleeping room in rural areas is 4.2 compared with 3.5 in urban areas. The average number of persons per room (3.1) is lower than the average number of persons per sleeping room (4.0).

Crowding is further exacerbated by the presence of animals in the living quarters at night. Sixty-five percent of households keep farm animals in their living area. In rural areas, the proportion exceeds three-quarters (79 percent) compared with one-quarter (25 percent) in urban areas.

*Fuel used for cooking:* Overall, the majority of households (64 percent) use wood as a fuel for cooking, followed by gas as the second most common source of fuel (59 percent). Gas is used by 85 percent of urban households compared with 51 percent of rural households. Conversely, 80 percent of rural households use wood compared with 15 percent of urban areas. Other limited sources of fuel for cooking are kerosene (9 percent), and cow dung (2 percent).

*Source of lighting:* The percentage of households supplied with electricity is about 43 percent of all households. As expected, electricity is more available in urban areas than in rural areas. Nine in ten urban households use electricity for lighting, compared with less than three in ten rural households. The majority of households in rural areas use kerosene lamps for lighting (62 percent).

*Sources of drinking water:* In Yemen, 37 percent of households have access to piped water, mainly within their dwelling (31 percent). The other main sources of drinking water are wells (24 percent), spring water (12 percent) and artesian wells (11 percent).

The survey data for urban areas indicate that about seven in ten households are connected to the public water supply; in 1991-92, this figure was almost nine in ten households. The proportion has fallen during the last few years due, probably, to housing expansion, which has outstripped expansion of the water supply network.

In rural areas, however, wells are a common source for drinking water. Nearly half of rural households (45 percent) get their water from wells. The majority of these households have wells without pumps (32 percent). Springs are the source of drinking water for 16 percent of rural households.

Table 2.8 also shows that about 52 percent of all households can get water within 15 minutes. About 86 percent of urban households obtain water within 15 minutes, compared with only 41 percent of rural households. Overall, the median time to obtain drinking water is 10 minutes.

*Sanitation system:* Only 17 percent of Yemeni households have a modern flush toilet; almost half of households have traditional pit toilets or latrines. One-third of households have no toilet facilities. There are differences in types of toilet facilities available to households by urban-rural residence. More than half of households in urban areas (56 percent) have a flush toilet, and 40 percent have a pit or latrine. Only 4 percent of urban households have no toilet facilities. In comparison, less than 5 percent of rural households have a flush toilet, 52 percent have a pit or latrine, and 43 percent report no toilet facilities.

*Garbage disposal:* Table 2.8 indicates that about two-thirds of Yemeni households (66 percent) dispose of garbage by throwing it in the street, and 28 percent dump it in a special place. Four percent of households burn their garbage, and 2 percent give it to the garbage collector. A majority of urban households (65 percent) dispose of their garbage in garbage containers, and 26 percent throw it in the street. In rural areas, eight of ten households dispose of their garbage by throwing it in the street. This represents a slight decrease from the 1991-92 survey, where nine of ten households threw garbage in the street.

*Iodine used in food salt:* The type of salt used for cooking is included in the Yemen survey in order to assess the presence or absence of iodine in the diet, which has health implication. Interviewers were provided with a special solution to confirm the presence or absence of iodine in the salt. Table 2.8 shows that only 39 percent of households use iodized salt. Looking at the patterns by urban-rural residence, it is clear that urban households (70 percent) use more iodized salt than rural households (29 percent). The table also shows that 57 percent of all households use local salt (not analyzed). This kind of salt is used primarily in rural areas (67 percent); only 27 percent of urban households use local salt. Local salt is commonly used in rural areas because it is low in cost and easily available.

## **Household Possessions**

Table 2.8 also provides information on household ownership of durable goods and other possessions. With regard to durable goods, more than four in ten households (43 percent) in Yemen own a television (color or black white), more than six in ten households (61 percent) own a radio (radio or radio with cassette recorder), more than one in two households (53 percent) own a stove, two in ten (20 percent) own a refrigerator, and more than one in seven own a washing machine, a blender, or a sewing machine. Possession of other durable goods varies from 2 percent for a motorcycle to 13 percent for an electric fan. Urban households are more likely to have the convenience of these items than rural households. For example, 56 percent of households in urban areas own a refrigerator compared with 8 percent in rural areas. Similarly, 82 percent of urban households own a cooking stove compared with 43 percent of households in rural areas.

Table 2.8 also includes information on household ownership of a means of transportation. Almost 17 percent of households own a private car or a taxi, and 2 percent own a motorcycle.

## **2.5 Background Characteristics of Respondents**

### **General Characteristics**

Table 2.9 presents the distribution of the 10,414 respondents to the individual questionnaire by various background characteristics including age, marital status, urban-rural residence, region and education level. As noted in Chapter 1, ever-married women age 15-49 who were usual residents were eligible to be interviewed in the 1997 YDMCHS. Among the ever-married women in the sample, 94 percent are currently married, 3 percent are widowed, and 3 percent are divorced. In addition, three-fourth of the respondents live in rural areas.

**Table 2.9 Background characteristics of respondents**

Percent distribution of ever-married women and currently married women by selected background characteristics, Yemen 1997

Background characteristic	Weighted percent	Ever-married		Weighted percent	Currently married	
		Weighted	Un-weighted		Weighted	Un-weighted
<b>Age</b>						
15-19	10.7	1,110	1,082	10.9	1,063	1,028
20-24	19.1	1,992	1,931	19.4	1,902	1,843
25-29	18.7	1,943	1,964	19.0	1,855	1,862
30-34	16.1	1,680	1,701	16.2	1,585	1,596
35-39	17.0	1,766	1,778	16.7	1,637	1,654
40-44	10.5	1,091	1,101	10.2	999	1,004
45-49	8.0	833	857	7.6	746	763
<b>Marital status</b>						
Married	94.0	9,786	9,750	100	9,786	9,750
Widowed	2.7	284	288	NA	NA	NA
Divorced	2.9	307	337	NA	NA	NA
Separated	0.4	37	39	NA	NA	NA
<b>Residence</b>						
Urban	25.2	2,620	2,945	24.8	2,427	2,718
Rural	74.8	7,794	7,469	75.2	7,359	7,032
<b>Region</b>						
Coastal	22.9	2,381	2,490	22.8	2,226	2,307
Mountainous	30.0	3,125	2,897	30.2	2,952	2,735
Plateau and Desert	47.1	4,908	5,027	47.1	4,608	4,708
<b>Education</b>						
Illiterate	84.2	8,765	8,524	84.3	8,248	7,991
Literate	5.5	571	623	5.4	528	577
Primary complete	6.1	638	709	6.1	595	657
Preparatory complete	1.9	198	243	1.9	185	226
Secondary +	2.3	241	315	2.4	230.0	299
<b>Currently attending school</b>						
Yes	1.0	103	107	0.9	93.0	95
No	99	10,307	10,304	99	9,690	9,652
Missing	--	3.0	3.0	--	3.0	3
Total	100.0	10,414	10,414	100.0	9,786	9,750

NA = Not applicable

-- Less than 0.05 percent

Looking at the age distribution in Table 2.9, almost half of the 1997 YDMCHS respondents are under age 30 and around one-fifth are age 40 and over. The percentage of women in the age group 15-19 is smaller than that in 20-24 age group. This is due to the fact that only ever-married women were interviewed, and there has been a trend toward delayed marriage among Yemeni women age 15-19.

With regard to education, the majority of respondents are illiterate (84 percent); however, this is down from the 1991-92 survey when 89 percent were illiterate. The proportion of women who can read and write has increased to about 6 percent compared with about 1 percent in 1991-92. The percentage of women who have completed primary education or higher is only 10 percent; among them 2 percent have completed secondary education or higher. Among ever-married women, 1 percent were attending school at the time of the survey.

## Differentials in Education

Table 2.10 shows the percent distribution of respondents by the highest level of education attained, according to age, residence, and region. As expected, the level of education decreases with increasing age of the respondent. For example, the percentage of women age 15-19 who have completed at least primary school is more than twice the percentage among women age 30-34 (19 percent and 9 percent, respectively).

Background characteristic	Level of education					Total	Number of women
	Illiterate	Literate	Primary	Preparatory	Secondary+		
<b>Age</b>							
15-19	70.7	10.0	13.1	4.4	1.8	100.0	1,110
20-24	73.7	8.0	11.4	3.7	3.1	100.0	1,992
25-29	82.4	6.3	6.6	1.3	3.4	100.0	1,943
30-34	86.5	4.7	5.0	1.4	2.5	100.0	1,680
35-39	91.3	3.4	2.5	1.0	1.8	100.0	1,766
40-44	94.9	2.5	0.7	0.5	1.4	100.0	1,091
45-49	97.2	1.5	0.3	0.5	0.5	100.0	833
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	63.7	9.6	13.7	5.3	7.7	100.0	2,620
Rural	91.0	4.1	3.6	0.8	0.5	100.0	7,794
<b>Region</b>							
Coastal	76.3	5.9	10.4	2.6	4.8	100.0	2,381
Mountainous	93.5	2.9	2.5	0.9	0.3	100.0	3,125
Plateau and Desert	82.1	7.0	6.4	2.2	2.4	100.0	4,908
Total	84.2	5.5	6.1	1.9	2.3	100.0	10,414

Women in urban areas are more educated than those in rural areas. The proportion of urban women who have completed at least secondary school is 8 percent compared with less than 1 percent among women in rural areas. Educational levels are lowest among women from the Mountainous region, where nearly 94 percent of women are illiterate. The highest levels are found in the Coastal region, where 76 percent of women are illiterate.

## Reasons for Leaving School

Women age 15 to 24 years who had attended school but were not currently attending were asked in the YDMCHS why they had stopped attending school. One of the most important determinants of a woman's social and economic status is her level of education. Knowledge of the reasons why women leave school can provide guidance for policies designed to enhance women's status.

Table 2.11 shows the percent distribution of ever-married women age 15-24 years by whether they are currently attending school and, if not, their reasons for leaving school, according to highest level of education attended.

**Table 2.11 School attendance and reasons for leaving school**

Percent distribution of women 15 to 24 by current school enrollment and percent distribution of women not currently attending school by reason for leaving school, according to highest level of education attended and residence, Yemen 1997

School attendance/ Reason for not attending school	Incomplete primary	Complete primary	More than primary	Total
URBAN				
<b>Currently attending school</b>				
Yes	2.7	0.7	17.1	9.2
No	97.3	99.3	82.9	90.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Reason not attending school</b>				
Got pregnant	1.2	0.0	4.3	2.3
Got married	20.6	38.3	39.2	32.8
Take care of children	2.4	4.9	3.4	3.4
Family need help	8.6	7.4	2.0	5.4
Could not pay school	4.1	3.3	4.9	4.3
Need to earn money	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.4
Graduated/Enough school	12.5	9.5	27.1	18.2
Did not like school	22.3	11.7	7.2	13.3
School not accessible	4.9	5.1	2.9	4.1
Parents refused	12.6	14.7	4.9	9.7
Other	8.7	4.1	3.5	5.4
Don't know/Missing	1.4	0.6	0.3	0.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	143	95	187	424
RURAL				
<b>Currently Attending School</b>				
Yes	2.6	1.9	20.4	6.8
No	97.4	98.1	79.6	93.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Reason not attending school</b>				
Got pregnant	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1
Got married	17.3	34.4	41.3	25.7
Take care of children	2.7	1.5	2.2	2.4
Family need help	15.4	14.7	2.5	12.6
Could not pay school	4.3	2.9	2.3	3.6
Need to earn money	0.0	0.7	1.8	0.5
Graduated/Enough school	9.2	11.9	26.0	13.2
Did not like school	16.8	6.2	4.5	12.1
School not accessible	15.4	12.5	7.5	13.2
Parents refused	9.7	9.5	6.3	9.0
Other	5.8	4.6	5.5	5.5
Don't know/Missing	3.1	1.1	0.0	2.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	326	111	114	551
TOTAL				
<b>Currently attending school</b>				
Yes	2.6	1.4	18.4	7.9
No	97.4	98.6	81.6	92.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Reason not attending school</b>				
Got pregnant	0.5	0.0	2.7	1.1
Got married	18.3	36.2	40.0	28.8
Take care of children	2.7	3.0	3.0	2.8
Family need help	13.3	11.3	2.2	9.5
Could not pay school	4.2	3.1	3.9	3.9
Need to earn money	0.2	0.5	0.9	0.5
Graduated/Enough school	10.2	10.8	26.7	15.4
Did not like school	18.5	8.8	6.2	12.6
School not accessible	12.2	9.1	4.6	9.2
Parents refused	10.6	11.9	5.4	9.3
Other	6.7	4.3	4.3	5.4
Don't know/Missing	2.6	0.8	0.2	1.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	468	206	301	975

Only a small proportion of the respondents age 15-24 years (8 percent) who have attended school are continuing their education. The proportion currently attending school is highest among those who have more than primary education.

Three in ten women (29 percent) who were currently not in school reported that they left because they got married. The proportion mentioning this reason is higher among those who had completed at least primary school than those who had not. Fifteen percent of women who dropped out of school reported that they left because they graduated or had had enough school, while 13 percent cited a dislike for school. The other important reasons for stopping school attendance were “family needed help” (10 percent), “school not accessible” (9 percent), and “parents refused that their daughter continues going to school” (9 percent).

## 2.6 Access to Mass Media

Table 2.12 shows the percentage of respondents exposed to different types of mass media by age, residence, and level of education. It is important to know which persons are more/less likely to be reached by the media for purposes of planning programs intended to spread information about health and family planning. Ten percent of women read newspapers or magazines at least once a week, 34 percent watch local television at least once a week, and 31 percent listen to the local radio at least once a week. Less than 5 percent of women have access (at least once a week) to all three media. More than half of the respondents (51 percent) have no access to mass media.

Table 2.12 Access to mass media						
Percentage of ever-married women who usually read a newspaper once a week, watch local television, or listen to local radio, by selected background characteristics, Yemen 1997						
Background characteristic	No mass media	Read newspaper weekly	Watch local television	Listen to local radio	All three media	Number of women
<b>Age</b>						
15-19	43.6	18.3	35.2	40.0	8.2	1,110
20-24	44.5	16.4	36.4	36.8	8.0	1,992
25-29	51.6	11.5	32.2	31.6	5.2	1,943
30-34	53.6	8.8	32.3	29.4	3.5	1,680
35-39	52.2	6.0	34.6	27.6	2.1	1,766
40-44	56.1	3.7	32.8	24.2	1.4	1,091
45-49	58.1	1.7	30.3	25.6	0.8	833
<b>Residence</b>						
Urban	16.9	25.6	73.5	44.3	12.6	2,620
Rural	62.2	5.0	20.2	26.8	1.8	7,794
<b>Region</b>						
Coastal	49.9	13.2	37.0	24.2	3.8	2,381
Mountainous	64.0	3.6	16.9	28.7	1.2	3,125
Plateau and Desert	42.8	12.9	42.7	36.2	6.9	4,908
<b>Education</b>						
Illiterate	57.9	1.2	27.7	27.4	0.4	8,765
Literate	17.0	46.9	61.5	51.9	21.4	571
Primary complete	14.5	55.8	64.2	51.8	26.7	638
Preparatory complete	4.2	75.8	71.4	54.9	31.0	198
Secondary +	8.8	75.1	70.6	46.9	32.6	241
Total	50.8	10.2	33.6	31.2	4.5	10,414

As expected, access to all three mass media is higher for women in urban areas than in rural areas. Access to at least one type of mass media is 83 percent for women in urban areas, compared with 38 percent in rural areas. Printed material and television are less accessible to people in rural areas because of lower education levels and limited electrification. Young women under 25 years of age and those who are literate or educated are more likely to read newspapers, watch television, and listen to the radio than other women. Women in the Plateau and Desert region are more exposed to media than women in the other two regions. For example, 43 percent of women in the Plateau and Desert region say they watch television once a week, compared with 37 percent of women in the Coastal region and 17 percent of women in the Mountainous region.

## 2.7 Women's Employment Status

The YDMCHS collected information from women regarding their employment, including their current work status, whether they had worked before marriage or after marriage, and whether they had worked during the year before the survey. Women who were currently working were then asked a number of questions about the kind of work they were doing and whether they were paid in cash or not. Those who earned cash for their work were asked who made the decision about how their earnings were used. If they had small children, they were asked about the arrangements they had for child care when they were working.

Table 2.13 shows that less than 7 percent of respondents worked before marriage, less than 7 percent worked after marriage, and one-fourth (26 percent) worked before and after marriage. The majority of women (61 percent), however, never worked. A high percentage of women employed before and after marriage is found in rural areas (31 percent), in the Mountainous region (32 percent), and among women who are illiterate (28 percent). This is due to the participation of these women in agricultural work. A high proportion of women with secondary education or higher (32 percent) also reported working before and after marriage.

Background characteristic	Work status and marriage					Total	Number of women
	Worked before marriage	Worked before and after marriage	Worked after marriage	Never worked	Other		
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	7.5	10.3	5.2	76.8	0.2	100.0	2,620
Rural	6.4	30.9	7.1	55.3	0.3	100.0	7,794
<b>Region</b>							
Coastal	6.3	12.4	6.2	74.8	0.2	100.0	2,381
Mountainous	6.1	32.8	7.0	53.7	0.4	100.0	3,125
Plateau and Desert	7.2	27.7	6.6	58.3	0.2	100.0	4,908
<b>Education</b>							
Illiterate	6.8	27.8	6.5	58.5	0.3	100.0	8,765
Literate	6.8	12.1	5.3	75.5	0.4	100.0	571
Primary complete	4.6	10.1	4.2	81.0	0.1	100.0	638
Preparatory complete	6.9	14.8	8.1	70.2	0.0	100.0	198
Secondary +	5.7	31.6	19.1	43.5	0.0	100.0	241
Total	6.7	25.7	6.6	60.7	0.2	100.0	10,414

## Current Employment

Table 2.14 presents the percent distribution of respondents according to current and past employment. For those respondents who were currently working, the table provides information on whether the woman was working full-time or not. Overall, 29 percent of women were engaged in some economic activity. Most women who were not working at the time of the survey did not report recent work experience; only 1 percent of respondents said that they had worked in the 12-month period before the survey. One-third of the women (11 percent) who were working reported that they were employed full-time (five or more days per week).

Background characteristic	Not currently employed		Currently employed				Missing	Total	Number of women
	Did not work in last 12 months	Worked in last 12 months	All year		Seasonally	Occasionally			
			5+ days per week	<5 days per week					
<b>Age</b>									
15-19	73.8	1.5	7.8	1.2	14.3	1.3	0.0	100.0	1,110
20-24	75.9	0.9	8.6	0.5	12.7	1.4	0.0	100.0	1,992
25-29	73.4	0.7	10.4	0.8	13.3	1.3	0.1	100.0	1,943
30-34	70.4	1.1	11.3	0.7	14.3	2.1	0.1	100.0	1,680
35-39	68.2	0.5	11.6	0.5	17.2	2.0	0.0	100.0	1,766
40-44	61.8	0.9	14.3	1.0	19.6	2.3	0.1	100.0	1,091
45-49	63.1	1.1	14.0	0.4	20.1	1.2	0.1	100.0	833
<b>Residence</b>									
Urban	89.8	0.7	6.4	0.2	1.4	1.4	0.1	100.0	2,620
Rural	64.1	1.0	12.3	0.9	20.0	1.8	--	100.0	7,794
<b>Region</b>									
Coastal	82.7	0.9	7.7	0.5	7.2	0.9	0.1	100.0	2,381
Mountainous	62.0	0.7	12.2	0.5	23.5	1.1	0.0	100.0	3,125
Plateau and Desert	70.0	1.1	11.4	0.9	14.0	2.4	0.1	100.0	4,908
<b>Education</b>									
Illiterate	68.7	1.0	10.9	0.7	17.0	1.8	0.0	100.0	8,765
Literate	85.1	1.0	3.9	0.1	7.5	2.4	0.0	100.0	571
Primary complete	87.2	0.2	5.1	0.4	6.1	0.9	0.1	100.0	638
Preparatory complete	78.7	0.6	13.7	0.6	5.9	0.0	0.4	100.0	198
Secondary+	52.6	0.8	38.6	1.0	5.8	1.0	0.2	100.0	241
Total	70.5	0.9	10.8	0.7	15.3	1.7	--	100.0	10,414
-- Less than 0.05 percent									

As Table 2.14 shows, women in the 40-49 age group are more likely to be currently employed than younger women. As seen in other countries (El-Zanaty et al., 1996), the comparatively small proportion of working young women may be related to their greater child care responsibilities. The majority of women who work seasonally live in rural areas (20 percent compared with only 1 percent in urban areas). Regional



differences show that women in the Mountainous region are by far the most likely to be working (37 percent). This is due to the extensive farming activities in this part of the country. In terms of education, illiterate women and highly educated women are the most likely to be employed: 30 percent of women who are illiterate and 47 percent of women who completed secondary or higher are currently working.

### Employer and Form of Earnings

According to Table 2.15, more than two-thirds (68 percent) of employed women age 15-49 work for a relative, and almost all do not earn cash (67 percent). Twenty percent of women are self-employed, only one-fourth of whom earn cash and three-fourths of whom do not. Twelve percent of women are employed by nonrelatives, and the majority earn cash (9 percent).

Background characteristic	Self-employed		Employed by a nonrelative		Employed by a relative		Missing	Total	Number of women
	Earns cash	Does not earn cash	Earns cash	Does not earn cash	Earns cash	Does not earn cash			
<b>Age</b>									
15-19	2.2	7.9	2.9	2.8	1.5	82.8	0.0	100.0	274
20-24	4.5	8.6	7.8	1.8	0.7	76.7	0.0	100.0	461
25-29	3.7	15.7	11.7	4.4	1.1	63.4	0.0	100.0	503
30-34	6.1	16.9	13.2	2.2	0.7	61.0	0.0	100.0	479
35-39	6.0	20.1	9.0	2.5	1.5	60.7	0.2	100.0	552
40-44	6.1	14.1	10.2	2.5	1.1	66.0	0.0	100.0	406
45-49	3.4	19.9	8.0	4.0	0.4	64.4	0.0	100.0	298
<b>Residence</b>									
Urban	23.7	3.5	62.9	0.6	0.0	9.4	0.0	100.0	250
Rural	3.1	16.2	4.5	3.0	1.1	72.1	--	100.0	2,722
<b>Region</b>									
Coastal	8.2	7.5	40.7	7.0	1.5	35.0	0.0	100.0	391
Mountainous	2.2	22.4	2.6	2.9	0.8	69.2	0.0	100.0	1,166
Plateau and Desert	6.0	11.2	6.4	1.7	1.0	73.7	0.1	100.0	1,416
<b>Education</b>									
Illiterate	3.9	15.8	5.0	3.2	0.9	71.2	0.0	100.0	2,659
Literate	27.1	14.6	3.4	0.0	2.4	52.6	0.0	100.0	79
Primary complete	14.1	13.1	16.3	0.0	0.8	54.2	1.3	100.0	80
Preparatory complete	1.7	5.9	72.7	0.0	0.0	19.6	0.0	100.0	41
Secondary+	3.4	3.1	90.4	0.0	3.2	0.0	0.0	100.0	112
Total	4.8	15.1	9.4	2.8	1.0	66.8	0.0	100.0	2,972
-- Less than 0.05 percent									

Urban women who work are less likely to work for relatives and more likely to be paid in cash than are rural women. Working women in the Mountainous region are more likely to be self-employed (25 percent) than women in the two other regions (16-17 percent), and women in the Coastal region are more likely to earn cash for their work. More than 90 percent of employed women with secondary education or higher work for nonrelatives compared with 8 percent of illiterate women who are working.

## Occupation

Table 2.16 gives the percent distribution of women age 15-49 who are employed by current occupation and the type of agricultural land worked, according to background characteristics. Most employed women (83 percent) are occupied in agriculture, almost nine in ten of whom work on family land or their own land. Only 17 percent of working women have non-agricultural jobs and more than half of these women are engaged in professional, technical and clerical occupations or in sales and services.

Background characteristic	Agricultural			Nonagricultural				Missing	Total	Number of women
	Family/own land	Rented land	Other's land	Prof. tech./manag.	Sales/services	Skilled manual	Unskilled manual			
<b>Age</b>										
15-19	78.2	4.8	5.6	1.2	2.3	6.1	1.8	0.0	100.0	274
20-24	75.6	3.6	4.7	6.1	4.4	4.1	1.3	0.0	100.0	461
25-29	67.8	5.9	7.2	7.2	5.6	5.2	1.2	0.0	100.0	503
30-34	68.0	4.0	8.5	5.9	5.8	5.4	2.5	0.0	100.0	479
35-39	68.9	4.3	6.9	6.0	6.1	5.0	2.5	0.3	100.0	552
40-44	72.0	3.5	7.4	3.5	4.4	5.1	3.9	0.2	100.0	406
45-49	70.0	6.4	8.3	2.1	4.2	6.4	2.7	0.0	100.0	298
<b>Residence</b>										
Urban	8.8	1.1	1.1	50.5	27.0	1.2	10.1	0.4	100.0	250
Rural	76.7	4.9	7.5	0.8	2.9	5.6	1.5	0.1	100.0	2,722
<b>Region</b>										
Coastal	34.4	1.2	20.0	20.8	9.6	7.0	6.8	0.2	100.0	391
Mountainous	79.9	6.1	5.0	0.7	2.1	5.2	1.1	0.0	100.0	1,166
Plateau and Desert	73.7	4.2	5.0	4.2	6.0	4.8	2.0	0.1	100.0	1,416
<b>Education</b>										
Illiterate	75.4	4.8	7.6	0.2	4.0	5.6	2.3	0.1	100.0	2,659
Literate	60.1	2.7	3.0	4.0	25.2	3.1	1.8	0.0	100.0	79
Primary complete	55.9	5.5	2.4	9.5	19.4	2.7	4.5	0.0	100.0	80
Preparatory complete	22.9	2.6	3.0	66.4	4.4	0.0	0.7	0.0	100.0	41
Secondary +	2.3	0.0	0.0	93.8	2.7	0.7	0.5	0.0	100.0	112
<b>Total</b>	<b>71.0</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,972</b>

As expected, employment in nonagricultural occupations is more common among women who live in urban areas and among those who have more formal education. More than four in ten women (44 percent) in the Coastal region work in nonagricultural activities compared with 9 percent of women in the Mountainous region and 17 percent of women in the Plateau and Desert region.

## Control of Earnings

Information on who decides how to use the cash earned by employed women can be used as a measure of the status of women, particularly of her independence in decisionmaking and control over

resources. Table 2.17 shows that almost half of the women who receive cash for work (46 percent) decide for themselves how to use the money, while 41 percent decide jointly with their partners how the earnings are used. Nine percent of women who earn cash decide jointly with someone other than their partner how to spend their money, and in only 4 percent of cases, women say that the decision as to how to use their earnings is made by their partner.

**Table 2.17 Earnings**

Percent distribution of women receiving cash earnings by person who decides on use of earnings, according to background characteristics, Yemen 1997

Background characteristic	Person who decides how earnings will be used					Total	Number of women
	Self	Husband	Jointly with husband	Someone else	Jointly with someone else		
<b>Age</b>							
15-19	*	*	*	*	*	100.0	18
20-24	37.3	6.9	25.1	2.8	27.9	100.0	59
25-29	51.9	5.7	35.2	0.0	7.3	100.0	83
30-34	48.6	1.2	43.9	1.1	5.2	100.0	95
35-39	41.3	3.3	52.5	0.0	2.9	100.0	91
40-44	50.5	4.0	41.2	0.0	4.3	100.0	71
45-49	(33.7)	(2.3)	(51.0)	(0.0)	(13.0)	100.0	35
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	48.5	2.2	38.2	0.0	11.1	100.0	216
Rural	42.9	5.3	43.4	1.8	6.5	100.0	236
<b>Region</b>							
Coastal	37.1	1.7	50.4	1.6	9.2	100.0	197
Mountainous	53.9	7.1	31.0	0.0	8.0	100.0	65
Plateau and Desert	51.4	5.0	34.5	0.6	8.5	100.0	190
<b>Education</b>							
Illiterate	46.4	4.1	41.4	1.2	6.9	100.0	261
Literate	(53.2)	(0.0)	(29.1)	(0.0)	(17.7)	100.0	26
Primary complete	(61.6)	(4.8)	(28.0)	(0.0)	(5.5)	100.0	25
Preparatory complete	(34.9)	(2.6)	(34.4)	(0.0)	(28.1)	100.0	30
Secondary +	41.1	4.2	47.4	1.0	6.4	100.0	109
<b>Current marital status</b>							
Not married	66.6	NA	NA	4.1	29.3	100.0	63
Currently married	42.1	4.5	47.6	0.4	5.4	100.0	389
<b>Total</b>	45.6	3.8	40.9	0.9	8.7	100.0	452

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25 to 49 women; an asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 women and has been suppressed.

Two-thirds of women who are widowed or divorced (67 percent) say they alone decide how to use their earnings. Among currently married women, 42 percent say that they make the decision, while 48 percent report that the decision is made jointly with their husband.

Urban women and those in the Mountainous region and the Plateau and Desert region are more likely to decide for themselves how to spend their earnings than rural women and women in other regions. With respect to education differentials, working women are more likely to decide jointly with their husband how to spend the money they earn if they have completed secondary school or higher than if they have less education.

### **Child Care While Working**

Table 2.18 presents the distribution of employed women by whether they have a child under six years of age, and if so, the type of caretaker used by the mother while at work away of home. Sixty-nine percent of employed women have a child under six years of age, and 95 percent of these women work away from home. More than one-third of women (36 percent) use relatives other than the husband to look after their children while at work, while more than four in ten women leave their children in the care of another child, either female (30 percent) or male (13 percent). Seven percent of working mothers with pre-school age children look after their own children while working.

Working mothers in rural areas, those living outside the Coastal region, and those who are illiterate are more likely than other working mothers to say they leave their children with another child while at work. Use of other children as child care providers is also high among working mothers who are in agriculture.

Table 2.18 Child care while working

Percent distribution of currently employed women by whether they have a child under six years of age and percent distribution of employed mothers who have a child under six by person who cares for child while mother is at work, according to selected background characteristics, Yemen 1997

Background characteristic	Percentage															
	Employed women			Child's caretaker while mother is at work away from home												
	No child < 6	One or more children < 6	Number of women with children < 6 who work at home	Husband	Other relatives	Neighbors/ friends	Servants/ hired help	Institutional care	Other female child	Other male child	Left at home alone	Not worked since last birth	Missing	Total		
<b>Residence</b>																
Urban	36.4	63.6	20.2	250	11.8	5.9	39.8	3.9	6.0	7.9	13.4	7.9	3.0	0.4	0.0	100.0
Rural	30.6	69.4	3.5	2,722	7.1	1.6	36.2	3.3	0.0	---	30.8	13.0	7.4	0.6	0.1	100.0
<b>Region</b>																
Coastal	32.2	67.8	7.3	391	9.9	4.9	41.2	2.3	2.3	2.4	20.9	14.1	2.0	0.2	0.0	100.0
Mountainous	31.5	68.5	2.4	1,166	6.0	1.7	36.6	2.7	0.0	0.0	31.9	10.4	9.9	0.6	0.2	100.0
Plateau and Desert	30.4	69.6	6.1	1,416	7.8	1.3	35.0	4.2	0.2	0.5	30.1	14.2	6.1	0.6	0.0	100.0
<b>Education</b>																
Illiterate	30.6	69.4	4.0	2,659	7.5	1.7	34.2	3.4	0.0	---	31.5	13.5	7.5	0.6	0.1	100.0
Literate	39.4	60.6	35.7	79	0.0	0.0	62.5	0.0	1.6	---	19.8	12.6	3.5	0.0	0.0	100.0
Primary complete	40.3	59.7	14.7	80	12.9	6.2	56.2	0.0	0.0	2.0	16.6	3.7	2.4	0.0	0.0	100.0
Preparatory complete	37.6	62.4	0.0	41	4.8	0.0	70.3	8.0	0.0	4.5	5.5	2.5	4.3	0.0	0.0	100.0
Secondary +	26.2	73.8	1.9	112	5.5	6.8	53.3	4.6	8.6	9.8	6.2	2.2	2.2	0.6	0.0	100.0
<b>Employer</b>																
Family	30.5	69.5	1.1	2,015	7.5	1.8	38.6	3.4	0.0	0.0	29.4	11.2	7.1	0.7	0.2	100.0
Someone else	30.1	69.9	0.8	364	6.2	2.9	36.1	3.2	3.0	3.8	24.9	13.3	6.4	0.2	0.0	100.0
Self-employed	33.4	66.6	20.9	591	7.8	1.7	26.6	3.2	0.0	0.3	34.4	18.4	7.6	0.1	0.0	100.0
<b>Occupation</b>																
Agricultural	30.1	69.9	0.9	2,361	7.3	1.5	35.8	3.2	0.0	0.0	30.3	13.6	7.6	0.6	0.1	100.0
Non-agricultural	34.9	65.1	21.1	609	8.2	4.8	40.6	4.1	3.0	4.1	24.8	6.3	3.7	0.4	0.1	100.0
<b>Employment status</b>																
All year, full week	31.1	68.9	4.4	1,126	8.0	2.5	34.7	3.5	1.0	1.4	27.8	12.5	8.2	0.4	0.0	100.0
All year, part week	29.5	70.5	13.7	72	6.9	1.8	42.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.0	17.6	1.0	1.9	0.0	100.0
Seasonal	31.4	68.6	1.5	1,594	6.7	1.4	38.1	3.5	0.0	0.0	30.4	12.7	6.3	0.7	0.2	100.0
Occasional	29.2	70.8	34.0	175	11.0	3.7	26.2	2.0	0.0	0.0	37.6	8.7	10.9	0.0	0.0	100.0
Total	31.1	68.9	4.8	2,972	7.4	1.9	36.4	3.4	0.4	0.5	29.6	12.6	7.1	0.6	0.1	100.0

-- Less than 0.05 percent  
NA = Not applicable