**Background and Notes on Family Planning Effort Index Scores**

August 2015

The Family Planning Effort Scores were first estimated in a preliminary exercise in 1972 and were collected subsequently in 1982, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, and 2014. Thirty indices, arranged under four components, were included in each year, increasing to 31 starting in 2004 by adding an access score for the injectable. In addition, another brief set of variables was added starting also in 2004, and in 2014 a further small set was added.

The main list of scores from 1982 onward was organized under the four components of Policies (8 scores), Services (13 scores), Evaluation (3 scores), and Access (6, later 7 scores). For easier comparisons across component averages, all scores are given as the percent of the maximum value. From 1972 through 1999, each score ranged from 0 to 4; after that the questions were modified to a 1 to 10 score, so every score in each country was converted to a percentage value. The four Component scores are the average of their member scores (e.g. 8 for Policy), and the Total score is the average of all 30 (later 31) scores.

A long form of over 100 items was used from 1982 to 1999; those items were coded and reduced to the 30 scores. Also in 1999, the questionnaire included a short form, which asked simply for a summary rating from 1 to 10 on each of the 30 scores. That permitted a comparison of results from the two approaches, to calibrate time trends before and after 1999. For many purposes the results from 1999 through 2014, over 15 years, will cover a long enough time period and analysts can start with the 1999 “short” form given in the accompanying Excel file.

Note that the list of countries is somewhat different each year due to a small number of non-responding countries.

In years prior to 1999, dashes indicate zeros, not missing values.  There are no missing values since there were usually multiple respondents in each country. For a relatively small number of missing values, an imputation procedure was employed in each round based on the average of other scores or by using known data to produce correlations between the missing score and other scores for the same country or for cross-country patterns for the same score. (After 1999 there were no zero values since the lowest score was 1 for no or minimal effort)

Random variation, or “noise” is greatest for an individual score for a single country, and less so for averages for components, countries, or regions.

Please let us know of problems or anomalies that appear during use of the scores. You can email us at [track20@avenirhealth.org](mailto:track20@avenirhealth.org).

**Latest publication on FPE:**

Ross, JA and Smith, E. “Trends in National Family Planning Programs, 1999, 2004, and 2009.” *International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 2011, 37(3):125-133, doi: 10.1363/3712511

This reference is available at: <http://www.track20.org/pages/resources/all-resources/articles>

*For more information on earlier FPE rounds, please see the references cited within this article*