

Table 2. Percentage distribution of ever-married women aged 13–49 who were protected by either their own or their partner's sterilization, by demographic and socioeconomic characteristics and reproductive attitudes and behaviors, Kerala, India, 1992–1993 (N=2,029)

Characteristic, attitude or behavior	%	Characteristic, attitude or behavior	%
Age		Ever had abortion or miscarriage	
≤30	22.0	Yes	17.9
>30	78.0	No	82.1
Place of residence		Source of sterilization	
Urban	29.4	Private sector	21.2
Rural	70.6	Public sector	78.8
Respondent's education		Respondent's age at own or partner's sterilization	
None	19.6	<25	36.1
Primary school	43.3	25–29	39.9
Middle school	22.5	≥30	23.9
≥high school	14.6		
Husband's education		Respondent regrets sterilization	
None	8.0	Yes	8.4
Primary school	26.3	No	91.6
Middle school	28.9		
≥high school	36.8	Respondent approves of family planning	
Religion		Yes	89.6
Hindu	64.2	No	10.4
Muslim	14.9		
Christian	20.9	Ideal birth interval	
Standard of living index		≤24 months	18.8
Low	11.0	>24 months	81.2
Medium	29.7		
High	59.3	Ideal family size	
Exposed to mass media		≤2 children	50.0
Yes	55.3	>2 children	50.0
No	44.7		
Currently employed		No. of children ever born at time of sterilization	
Yes	33.4	1	1.3
No	66.6	2	37.9
		3	33.5
		4	12.9
		≥5	14.4
Total	100.0	Total	100.0

Notes: Percentage distributions are based on different Ns for eight variables because of missing data (i.e., data are missing for six women on religion, for two women on abortion experience, for 113 on source of sterilization, for 108 on age at sterilization, for 115 on regret, for nine on approval of family planning, for five on ideal birth interval and for 10 on number of children ever born).