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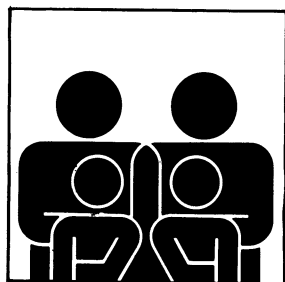
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From incidental to planned parenthood

Results of the Second National Fertility Survey in Belgium

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Preface

In 1971, the Dutch-language branch of the Population and Family Study Centre (CBGS)* of the Department of Public Health and the Family organized, in collaboration with investigators from the *Rijksuniversiteit Gent*, the *Katholieke Universiteit Leuven*, and the *Vrije Universiteit Brussels*, the Second National Fertility Survey in Belgium (NEGO II)** (Cliquet et al., 1970). NEGO II was a result of and related to the First National Fertility Survey performed in Belgium (NEGO I) in 1966 (Cliquet, 1967; Morsa, 1967). Both of these surveys were modelled on the Growth of American Families (GAF) studies performed at five-year intervals in the United States since 1955 (Freedman et al., 1959; Whelpton et al., 1966; Ryder and Westoff, 1971). Meanwhile, plans were made for the Third National Survey (NEGO III) in Belgium (CBGS Annual Report, 1975, 54).

The CBGS fertility surveys (NEGO I-II-III) form part of the interdisciplinary research programme on the mating and reproductive behaviour of the Belgian population. In addition to these surveys, special investigations are performed in the Departments of Gynaecology and Obstetrics of various universities in Belgium. In the American surveys and similar studies done in many other countries, particularly those performed as part of the World Fertility Survey, the main emphasis has been given to the socio-demographic investigation of realized fertility and family planning. The approach applied by the CBGS has from the start placed these problems, both thematically and scientifically, in a wider perspective. This approach was based on the view that family planning has an influence on not only the quantitative development of the population but also its qualitative composition and — on the family level — is not only a question of individual awareness and application of contraceptive measures but is also related to the nature of the relationship between the partners, their motivation, and their attitudes toward family planning. As a result, in addition to fertility and fertility

* CBGS: Centrum voor Bevolkings- en Gezinsstudien.

** NEGO: Nationale Enquête Gezinsontwikkeling (National Survey on Family Development).

regulation, NEG0 II was planned to include the subject of partner relations, the project itself concerning the relationships between the three topics.

Most of the results of NEG0 II have already been published in Dutch, including a detailed report on contraception patterns (Cliquet and Schoenmaeckers, 1975b). The present monograph is intended to make these results available in condensed form to those who are not familiar with the Dutch language. The more theoretical and evaluated introductory chapters have been omitted, and the contents are restricted mainly to the empirical research results, which it is hoped will also prove useful to readers in other countries, either from the methodological point of view or as an illustration of behaviour patterns in a community undergoing a transitional phase with respect to family planning behaviour. The 1971 national survey was organized by R.L. Cliquet and Mrs. Gertie Van den Bogaert, and the data were analyzed by an interdisciplinary and interuniversity team under the direction of R.L. Cliquet, M. Thiery, R. Lesthaeghe, and P. Nijs and composed of members of the CBGS and other institutions for the investigation of the mating and reproductive behaviour of the Belgian population. Several members of this team assisted the authors in the preparation of the present volume. Professor M. Thiery was willing to adapt the text as a whole; Mrs. Gertie van den Bogaert, part-time member of the CBGS staff, prepared Chapter 7; R. Van Malderghem, assistant at the *Centrum voor Sociologie* of the *Vrije Universiteit Brussel*, prepared Chapters 2 and 8; F. Van Loon of the *Onderzoekcentrum voor Antropologie en Sociale Biologie* of the *Rijksuniversiteit Gent*, contributed to Chapter 4 and worked out the path model for Chapter 9; L. Klinkenborg of the same centre contributed to the effectivity calculations for Chapter 5; F. Deven of CBGS contributed to Chapter 3; and Mrs. Anne-Marie Lerou, part-time member of the CBGS staff, made the estimations of the frequency of induced abortion for Chapter 5. For the conclusions, extensive use was made of an earlier memorandum on contraception policy in Belgium (1973) prepared by the same team at the request of the *Hoge Raad voor het Gezin*. The drawings were prepared by W. Decraemer at the *Onderzoekcentrum voor Antropologie en Sociale Biologie*. The translation and correction of the present monograph was done by Mrs. I. Seeger and the technical preparation of the book by Mrs. Claudine De Meyer.

The survey could not have been completed successfully without the logistic support of the administrative staff of the *Centrum voor Bevolkings- en Gezinsstudien*. Most of the technical analysis was performed at the *Onderzoekcentrum voor Antropologie en Sociale Biologie* of the *Rijksuniversiteit Gent* (Director: Professor L. de Coninck). A very important role was played by the 56 interviewers, who visited the subjects in their homes. Mrs. Ethel Rondos was responsible for the organization of the interview work and the editing of the completed questionnaires and Mrs. Vera De Windt for the coding of the

questionnaire as well as the preliminary administrative work associated with the computer processing, in which she was assisted by Mrs. Angeline Coosemans.

The electronic processing of the data treated in this monograph was performed at the *Centraal Digitaal Rekenlaboratorium* of the *Rijksuniversiteit Gent* (former director: Professor C. Grosjean; present director: C. Lagrain) under the successive supervision of B. Becue, Mrs. Romana Dhanis, and D. Gekiere and with the collaboration of P. Overmeire, Mrs. Tonia Demeester, and others.

Lastly, we wish to acknowledge our indebtedness to the 3,397 women in the 30-34 year age group who were willing to be interviewed and to whom we dedicate this book.

R. L. Cliquet and R. Schoenmaeckers

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