

## 6. TECHNICAL ANNEX

The sample for the Polish FFS was selected in two stages: first, districts that were representative of the country were selected; then, dwelling units in these districts were drawn. Special sampling procedures developed by the Central Statistical Office were utilized in carrying out these steps.

### The sampling procedure

The first stage of the sampling was based on districts that had been drawn up earlier for purposes of the 1988 National Census and covered the whole country. The districts were assigned to 99 sampling areas, including 49 separate areas each for urban and rural districts with seven or more dwelling units plus one common area for urban and rural districts with fewer than seven dwelling units. Districts were drawn from each of the 99 sampling areas with a probability equal to the share of districts in that sampling area.

At the second stage, dwelling units were drawn from the districts with a probability equal to the number of dwelling units within the district. The final sample was comprised of all persons aged 18 and over living in the 4,313 households that occupied these dwellings. A total of 8,544 individuals were interviewed, including 4,209 women and 4,335 men.

The results presented in the Polish Standard Country Report are derived from the questionnaires of the 7,685 survey respondents who were aged 20-49 years. Of these, 3,902 were females and 3,783 were males. Persons aged less than 20 years (267 males and 280 females) or more than 49 years (281 men and 29 females) are excluded. This restriction was imposed because, within the age range selected, the sample distribution by basic characteristics was very close to what would have been expected on the basis of the latest census (1988) and vital statistics for the intervening years. It should be kept in mind, however, that since some respondents failed to answer specific items in the questionnaire and the volume of non-response varies from item to item, the base numbers given in the tables may fall short of the totals given here and may differ somewhat from one variable to another.

A pilot study for the survey was conducted in 8 out of 49 voivodeships in June and July 1991. The main purpose was to test the questionnaire and to prepare instructions for the interviewers. Interviews were conducted with 314 individuals aged 18-49 in 263 households. The sample for the pre-test was drawn from the list of dwelling units registered in the 1988 National Census.

### Data collection

The actual field work was carried out in all voivodeships in November and December 1991. The interviews were done by means of personal visits to the respondents. The interviewers were regular staff members of the regional statistical offices; all of them were trained by their office managers who had previously attended a one-day course of instruction.

**Table 6.1**  
**The survey population and non response**

Age group	Women			Men		
	Single	Married	Previously Married	Single	Married	Previously Married
<b>a. Number of eligible persons according to statistics</b>						
20-24	578 637	619 642	9 518	975 585	286 987	2 244
25-29	221 964	1 140 870	37 504	490 670	937 956	15 357
30-34	149 750	1 425 388	81 689	303 874	1 350 403	40 196
35-39	108 997	1 348 815	114 991	184 652	1 343 318	56 975
40-44	70 457	982 627	117 686	95 853	1 006 741	54 711
45-49	47 015	764 683	123 551	64 426	784 664	48 507
<b>b. Number of persons in target sample</b>						
20-24	297	333	7	479	169	2
25-29	86	495	19	203	415	14
30-34	58	619	31	150	580	15
35-39	53	712	51	76	656	23
40-44	30	654	94	63	697	21
45-49	14	401	67	17	426	26
<b>c. Number of persons interviewed</b>						
20-24	278	325	7	429	157	1
25-29	81	485	18	188	393	13
30-34	54	608	31	137	552	14
35-39	51	691	48	70	623	21
40-44	29	638	88	54	665	19
45-49	24	391	65	15	407	25
<b>d. Percent age of target not interviewed</b>						
20-24	6.4	2.4	0.0	10.4	7.1	50.0
25-29	5.8	2.0	5.3	7.4	5.3	7.1
30-34	6.9	1.8	0.0	8.7	4.8	6.7
35-39	3.8	2.9	5.9	7.9	5.0	8.7
40-44	3.3	2.4	6.4	14.3	4.6	9.5
45-49	0.0	2.5	3.0	11.8	4.5	3.8

Source: Appendix, table 36

Two questionnaires were used in the Polish FFS. A preliminary household form contained questions concerning the characteristics of the household and the basic personal characteristics of all household members. The second form was used for the collection of detailed data from individuals aged 18 and over who lived in these households. The individual questionnaire was the same for females and males, except that the questions on pregnancy history were omitted for males, and the wording of certain questions was slightly

different for males than for females.

Table 6.1 provides the distribution of the universe of eligible persons by: (a) sex, age, and marital status; the target sample; (b) the net sample; and (c) the non-response rate. Within the age range 20-49 years, 8,053 persons were selected for the sample, 368 of whom were not successfully interviewed, yielding a non-response rate of 4.6 per cent.

Overall, the level of non-response is low, even lower than for other surveys conducted by the Central Statistical Office. Hence, the sample can be considered representative of the country as a whole. It is an appropriate basis for conclusions about changes in Polish attitudes and behaviour concerning nuptiality and reproduction during the period of transition to a free market economy.

The level of non-response does vary to some extent by sex, age and marital status. It is higher for men than for women: among the 4021 women selected, 119 were not successfully interviewed, yielding a non-response rate of 3.0 per cent; among the 4032 men, 249 did not respond, for a rate of 6.2 per cent. Within each sex, non-response is highest for the youngest age group: the rates at ages 20-24 are 4.2 per cent for females and 9.7 per cent for males. Married and previously married women have particularly low non-response rates (2.4 and 5.0 per cent, respectively); the rates for single and previously married men are especially high (9.6 and 7.9 per cent, respectively). The main reasons for failure to respond were temporary absence from home, change of residence, or the person could not be found.

In accordance with PAU recommendations, the Polish FFS included a number of questions on intimate topics such as partnerships and sexual history. To avoid refusals on such items, the respondent was offered the option of responding "that is my private business" in certain parts of the questionnaire. This made it possible to achieve a very high response rate on the majority of questions and simultaneously provided a means of evaluating which topics Polish respondents considered to be most intimate.