

Reviewer's report

Title: Assessing regional differences in contraceptive discontinuation, failure and switching in Brazil

Version: 1 **Date:** 9 February 2006

Reviewer: Paula Bednarek

Reviewer's report:

General

This is a well-written, interesting article. This is an excellent way to use the DHS database, and the authors give a good explanation of the value of the calendar records in aiding recall and improving the quality of the data.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Page 8, paragraph 2: define "traditional methods" here rather than later – these methods are more often called "natural family planning."

A little more description of how TV watching impacts contraceptive use would be useful – are there public health programs or announcements that women would see and therefore give them useful information? Or is this an indicator of lower education and not having reliable sources for health information? How is TV used for public health in Brazil?

I don't fully understand why discontinuing a contraceptive method in order to become pregnant or because one is not sexually active is put in the same category as continuing use of a contraceptive method (category 4). For women who think they are not sexually active often enough to get pregnant this could be considered a switch from an effective to a less effective method. Even infrequent sex can lead to an unintended pregnancy without contraception. For example, did these women plan to use a condom if/when they decided to become sexually active again in the future?

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.