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VILAYVANH BANOUVONG: CONTRACEPTIVE USE AMONG
MARRIED WOMEN IN LUANGPRABANG DISTRICT OF LAO PDR. THESIS
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This study examines contraceptive use among married women of reproductive age in Luangprabang district of Lao PDR. Data collection was carried out over a two-week period in April 1997 in four urban villages and four semi-urban villages of the district; 396 women were selected for face-to-face questionnaire interview.

It was found that most women in this study had heard of contraceptive methods. However, further investigation needs to be done to find out how much they actually know about contraceptive methods. Most women believed that contraceptive use was necessary but only 55% of them were current users of a contraceptive method. In terms of their attitude, they believed that the ideal birth spacing interval was three years. Most of the women felt that the ideal number of children that a woman

should have is three and all except women with four or more children desired more children than they actually had. Pills and IUD were the two contraceptive methods used most by the respondents. Traditional and less effective methods like rhythm and withdrawal were adopted among 24% of the current contraceptive users which suggested a demand for contraception. Condom use was 10%. Male sterilization had not been done and female sterilization was rarely known.