

Aims of Research:

The ethical analysis of contraception in marriage is incomplete without the many varied voices of married Catholics. Through this research, I hope to help fill the gap of lived experience that remains in the discussion on Natural Family Planning and artificial contraception.

Method:

10 interviews (via phone call or Zoom)
Requirements for participation: All participants must be married, at least one partner must be Catholic
Snowball sampling
Subjects were all within reproductive age

Interview Questions:

Subjects answered questions on methods of family planning, family size, financial status, religious education, and family education

Natural Family Planning: The only viable and ethical method of birth control for married Catholics in the United States?

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Common Themes:

All couples reported a strong faith, regardless of family planning method
Frustration with a lack of education on NFP and/or contraception
Health concerns
Financial concerns
All couples described Unique circumstances in their marriage
Openness to contraception as an option for some or all Catholics

Conclusions:

Married life is more varied and complicated than discussion on NFP makes it seem. In order to best care for married Catholics, the Church must listen to the diverse voices of Catholics as a method in studying theology and ethics.