

## **Recent evidence on withdrawal use in Turkey**

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### **Abstract:**

This paper investigates the determinant of withdrawal use and recent trends in Turkey. Women's educational attainment levels, occupational statuses as well as marital patterns and reproductive health indicators are examined and some background variables were compared with their male counterparts. Regional, ethnic and religious differences were also visited.

The data used here comes from the Turkish Demographic and Health Survey 1998 (TDHS) data which is the latest available data. The TDHS is a part of the worldwide Demographic Health Survey (DHS) programme and it was based on a nationwide representative sample of 8,059 households with 8,576 women in reproductive ages of 15 to 49.

To test the relationships between withdrawal use and other variables Chi square and student's t-test is used in this study. Besides to gain some idea of the direction and the strength of individual relationships summarised in cross tabulations, Spearman's rho is used as a method.

Indicating the widespread use of withdrawal as a method of contraception in Turkey, this study reveals empowerment of women is the key variable while education or profession of men do not significantly influence the usage patterns. The most important determinants for WD use are found the sex of household head and the usual residence of husband. When women are empowered and became household head, it is less likely to use withdrawal as a contraceptive method. Educational attainment levels of women are negatively correlated with the use of withdrawal: use of withdrawal decreases as the level of education increases among women. Occupation of women is also decisive in using withdrawal. Ethnic differences are found statistically insignificant. Better education among women means less use of withdrawal as well as women with higher levels of income are less likely to be users of withdrawal. Having own room has a symbolic meaning but it is found relevant to decision of withdrawal use.