

DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR
NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING
A Program of the NCCB Committee for Pro-Life Activities

DIOCESAN NFP PROGRAM - PROFILE SHEET
1994 SUMMARY

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DIOCESAN NFP PROGRAM--PROFILE SHEET

In the Fall of 1990, the Diocesan Development Program (DDP) initiated an annual national survey. Diocesan NFP coordinators or contact persons were asked to complete a "Profile Sheet" that would:

- 1) provide the DDP with a clearer understanding of diocesan NFP efforts, by focusing on the unique needs of individual dioceses, and
- 2) enable the DDP to provide the bishops and NFP coordinators with a national picture of diocesan NFP program activity.

The following information is based on responses to the 1994 Diocesan NFP program "Profile Sheet."

Overview of Findings

In November of 1994, **187*** Profile Sheets were mailed to dioceses. At the time of this report, **sixty-seven** or **36%** had completed and returned their survey forms. Some critical trends continue to hold constant when one compares the 1993 survey to that of 1994. These include:

- a) Where the diocesan bishop and clergy express public support for NFP programs, those programs are strong and effective.
- b) The most effective NFP programs receive financial support from their dioceses. A common financial arrangement is for an NFP program to share the resources of an umbrella department; e.g., the budget of Family Life; or the facilities of a Catholic hospital. The majority of dioceses provide up to \$5,000 per year toward NFP programs.

- c)The vast majority of dioceses have a person designated as the NFP coordinator. Typically this is a part-time position. Often, the responsibility for NFP activities is held by an individual who has many other responsibilities. For example, the Family Life director is also responsible for NFP.
- d)Almost all diocesan marriage preparation programs include NFP information. The average time allotted for NFP in marriage preparation programs is between twenty to thirty minutes.
- e)The Ovulation Method and the Sympto-thermal Method are the two most preferred methods of NFP.
- f)The majority of the diocesan NFP teachers are volunteers. A few dioceses provide teacher stipends.

***Dioceses participating in the 1994 National Survey:**

Allentown, Amarillo, Baker, Baltimore, Biloxi, Boston, Burlington, Camden, Cleveland, Colorado, Springs, Corpus Christi, Crookston, Des Moines, El Paso, Erie, Evansville, Fargo, Galveston-Houston, Gaylord, Greenbay, Harrisburg, Hartford, Honolulu, Houma-Thibadoux, Indianapolis, Jackson, Joliet, Lafayette, Lafayette, Little Rock, Los Angeles, Lubbock, Tyler, Madison, Manchester, Marquette, Memphis, Monterey, New Ulm, Newark, Norwich, Ogdensburg, Orange, Pensacola-Tallahassee, Peoria, Philadelphia, Portland, Providence, Raleigh, Rapid City, Salt Lake City, San Jose, San Antonio, San Francisco, Santa Fe, Sioux City, Spokane, Springfield, St. Petersburg, St. Cloud, St. Augustine, Superior, Toledo, Washington, Wichita, Yakima, Youngstown.

The DDP/NFP provides information on NFP research and activities nationally and internationally.

The following booklets which are available from the DDP/NFP contain valuable information either to begin a diocesan NFP program or to evaluate existing programs:

"Diocesan Plan for Natural Family Planning Program Development"

"National Standards of the National Conference of Catholic Bishop's Diocesan Development Program for Natural Family Planning"

1994 PROFILE SHEET REPORT*

I. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

1) Does your diocese have a person(s) who serves as the NFP Coordinator(s), either in an official or unofficial capacity?

64 [96%] YES 3 [4%] NO

2) If the answer to question (1) was "Yes" who is responsible for coordinating NFP programs and services in your diocese: e.g., Family Life Director, Director of Catholic Charities, Engaged Encounter Couple, Pre-Cana Couple, Diocesan NFP Coordinator, Respect Life Director, etc.?

Frequency: NFP Coordinator:

31 [46%] Diocesan NFP Coordinator
23 [34%] Family Life Director
4 [6%] Associate Family Life Director
9 [13%] Other: Respect Life Director, Director of Catholic Charities

3) If the answer to question (1) was "Yes" this position is: (Check only one.)

12 [18%] Full-time, paid
0 [0%] Full-time, volunteer
39 [58%] Part-time, paid/part of other responsibilities
14 [21%] Part time, volunteer
2 [3%] (no response)

4) Please check the statement which best describes your program's staff:

32 [46%] We share support staff.
10 [14%] We have our own support staff.
23 [33%] We do not have a support staff.
5 [7%] (no response)

5) How many NFP teachers work for your diocesan program?

Total NFP work force as reported by 59 dioceses consists of 685 teachers.

****Totals, percentages, and comments were compiled (1/20/95) from 67 dioceses.***

6)Please check the statement which best describes the program management of your teachers:

- 20 [30%]Most of our NFP instructors are volunteers. We give them a stipend.
36 [54%]Most of our NFP instructors are volunteers. We do not give them a stipend.
10 [15%]We pay our NFP instructors a salary (part and/or full time).
1 [1%] (no response)

7)The diocesan NFP program is: (Check one)

- 7 [10%] a) Its own department
39 [58%] b) Part of the Marriage and Family Life office
6 [9%]c) Part of Catholic Charities
5 [8%] d) Part of Pro-Life Activities
7 [10%]e) A service of our Catholic hospital(s)
3 [4%]f)Other: various diocesan institutions, departments, or approved agencies.
0 [0%] (no response)

8)Other than the diocesan NFP program, NFP services are also provided by: (Check all that apply.)

Frequency

- 35 Independent NFP teacher(s).
17 Independent NFP organization(s).
20 Does not apply
2 (no response)

9)Does your diocese have an NFP Advisory Committee?

31 [46%] YES 34 [51%] NO 2 [3%] (no response)

10)Does your diocese have its own NFP teacher training program?

17 [25%] YES 49 [73%] NO 1 [1%] (no response)

11) If the answer to question (11) was "No", who trains your teachers? (Check all that apply.)

Frequency:

- 14a) Billings Ovulation Method Association of the United States (BOMA)
- 38b) Couple to Couple League (CCL)
- 7c) Family of the Americas
- 11d) Northwest Family Services
- 21e) Pope Paul VI Institute (Creighton Model, OM)
- 6f) Other:
 - 0 (no response)

Comment: The results represent the frequency each provider was mentioned. Dioceses use a variety of national providers. NFP teacher training is diverse and is reflected in the provider(s) chosen.

12) Why was your NFP provider(s) chosen for training your teachers; e.g., methodology, affordable fees, convenient, locale, etc.?

Frequency:

- 30 Methodology
- 11 Cost
- 14 Convenient locale
 - 6 Sustained support
 - 8 Other
 - 2 Long standing association
- 18 (no response)

Comment: Dioceses select provider(s) for various of reasons; e.g., long standing association with provider; proximity; cost; quality of program; materials; sustained support; and good working relationship with the provider.

II. PROGRAM BUDGET

13) How much money was spent last year on NFP programming?

3 [4%]	0
34 [51%]	1-4,999
6 [9%]	5-9,999
10 [15%]	10-29,999
4 [6%]	30-49,999
1 [1%]	50-69,000
4 [6%]	>70,000
5 [7%]	(no response)

Comment: Only a handful of dioceses designate specific funding for NFP programs. The majority of dioceses spend only a few hundred dollars on NFP. Most NFP program money flows out of the general budget of a diocesan department; e.g., family life, pastoral ministries, or respect life office. Dioceses with large NFP programs are subsidized by a Catholic hospital(s) or federal/state grants.

14) What amount of the total in question (13) comes from diocesan funds? (Please estimate the percentage and check only one.)

23 [34%]	100%
16 [24%]	More than 50%
10 [15%]	Less than 50%
8 [12%]	0
19 [15%]	(no response)

15) Other than diocesan funding, what additional sources of income are used to support NFP programs in your diocese? (Check all that apply.)

Frequency: Sources of Funding:

6a)	Grants
6	b) Individual parishes
55	c) Client fees
7	d) Catholic organizations
4	e) NFP program fund raising activities
13	f) Other: Catholic hospitals, K of C's, etc.
3	(no response)

Comment: These numbers represent the frequency a specific source of funding was mentioned. Many programs rely on a variety of funding sources.

III. PROGRAM SERVICE

16) Please estimate the total monetary value of the contributions made by your volunteers to your NFP program. (Please give your best estimate.)

Total from 59 dioceses: \$240,795

Comment: The exact dollar amount of donated time, materials, and energy is probably much higher. Many NFP coordinators found it difficult to put a dollar value on volunteer efforts. As with other Church ministries, NFP programs exist in many dioceses because of the dedication of committed people.

17) Which NFP method(s) is currently taught in your diocesan program? (Check all that apply.)

Frequency:Methods:

54	a)	STM
37	b)	OM
7c)	BBT	
0d)	Other	
2	(no response)	

Comment: Because most dioceses use a variety of providers or teachers having been taught in different NFP methods, various NFP methods are offered. The frequency of each method reflects this reality in dioceses throughout the country.

18) Does the diocese have a policy which strongly encourages engaged couples to participate in an NFP course of instruction?

28 [42%] YES 37 [55%] NO 2 [3%] (no response)

19) Is NFP included in your various diocesan marriage preparation programs?

63 [94%] YES 2 [3%] NO 2 [3%] (no response)

20) If the answer to question (19) was "Yes", on the average, how much time is allotted to NFP education? (Give your best estimate.)

Time Allotted for NFP Education:

14 [21%]	a)	5 min. - 15 min.
24 [36%]	b)	20 min. - 30 min.
13 [19%]	c)	35 min. - 45 min.
14 [21%]	d)	1 hr. - 2 hrs. +
2 [3%]		(no response)

Comment: The time allotted to NFP varies considerably, not only from diocese to diocese, but within each diocese; e.g., emphasis of instructor, program, etc. A couple of dioceses require thorough instruction in NFP before marriage.

21) Continuing education in NFP was provided in the diocese, during the last 12 months, for:
(Check all that apply.)

Frequency:

40	NFP Teachers
33	NFP clients
19	Clergy
18	Health care professionals
6	Other: engaged couples, parish and student groups, etc.
18	(no response)

22) How was continuing education provided? (Check all that apply).

Frequency:

19	Seminars
19	Workshops
18	Special lectures
28	Articles for the diocesan newspaper
25	Informational mailings
24	Periodic informational meetings
5	Diocesan NFP newsletter
5	Other: diocesan conference, deanery meetings, individual sessions, etc.

23) Does your diocese have guidelines on human sexuality?

29 [43%] YES

29 [43%] NO

9 [13%] (no response)

Comment: Every diocese needs guidelines for the teaching of human sexuality in schools, CCD and youth programs, and adult education. NFP is an essential component.

24) If the answer to question (23) was "Yes", is NFP incorporated in your Diocesan Human Sexuality guidelines?

19 [29%] YES

9 [14%] NO

39 [58%] (no response)