

DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR
NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

A Program of the NCCB Committee for Pro-Life Activities

DIOCESAN NFP PROGRAM - PROFILE SURVEY
1995 SUMMARY

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DIOCESAN NFP PROGRAM–NATIONAL *PROFILE* SURVEY

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* questionnaire 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 1995 Diocesan NFP program *Profile* survey.

OVERVIEW OF THE 1995 *PROFILE* RESULTS

In November of 1995, 187* *Profile* questionnaires were mailed to dioceses. At the time of this report, eighty or 43% had completed and returned their survey questionnaires. Five years have now past since the DDP/NFP began surveying diocesan NFP efforts. Some critical trends have held constant when the 1991 *Profile* survey and the 1995 *Profile* survey are compared. These critical trends include:

- A) Where the diocesan bishop and clergy publicly encourage and support NFP efforts, NFP programs are strong and effective, even with limited funding.
- B) Most NFP programs receive some financial support from their dioceses. A common financial arrangement is for an NFP program to share the funding, material, and staff support of an umbrella department, e.g., Family Life Office, Catholic Charities, or the facilities of a Catholic hospital. Typically, dioceses provide funding of less than \$5,000 per year toward NFP programs. There is a handful of dioceses who fully fund their NFP programs.
- C) Almost every diocese has a person designated as the Diocesan NFP Coordinator. Often, the responsibility for NFP activities is one hat of many. For example, the Family Life Director will be tasked with the responsibility for NFP development and implementation in his or her diocese.

D)Almost all diocesan marriage preparation programs include a brief overview of NFP methods. The time allotted for NFP in marriage preparation programs on the average is forty-five minutes or less.

E)The Ovulation Method and the Sympto-thermal Method are the most preferred methods of NFP. Various NFP national provider groups are used by dioceses.

F)The majority of the diocesan NFP teachers are volunteers. A few dioceses provide teachers with stipends to cover personal costs, e.g., gas, a baby sitter, materials, etc.

G)There are, at a minimum, more than 1,000+ NFP teachers scattered through dioceses across the nation. They contribute over \$1,000,000 in donated time and energy toward NFP efforts.

In conclusion, the 1991-1995 time span reveals that the efforts of the NFP programs in the dioceses, when viewed as a whole, remain varied and uneven. Some dioceses have made tremendous strides in improving their NFP programs, e.g., receiving endorsement through the *National Standards of the NCCB*. A few dioceses have reduced their commitment to NFP programs either through budget cuts and/or diocesan restructuring. But the compelling question for each diocese is whether couples, who wish to be faithful to Church teaching on responsible parenthood, can find the resources they need to do so.

*Grateful appreciation is extended to the dioceses participating in the 1995 *Profile* survey:

Alexandria, Allentown, Arlington, Baker, Baltimore, Beaumont, Biloxi, Boston, Bridgeport, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Burlington, Charleston, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Colorado Springs, Columbus, Corpus Christi, Crookston, Davenport, Dodge City, El Paso, Erie, Evansville, Fargo, Fort Worth, Galveston-Houston, Gary, Gaylord, Greenburg, Harrisburg, Hartford, Houma-Thibadoux, Indianapolis, Jackson, Jefferson City, Kalamazoo, Kansas City/ St. Joseph, La Crosse, Lafayette, Lansing, Little Rock, Louisville, Los Angeles, Lubbock, Tyler, Madison, Manchester, Marquette, Memphis, New Orleans, New Ulm, Nashville, Newark, Ogdensburg, Orange, Pensacola-Tallahassee, Peoria, Philadelphia, Portland, Raleigh, Richmond, Saginaw, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Antonio, Santa Rosa, Sioux City, Sioux Falls, St. Petersburg, St. Cloud, St. Augustine, Scranton, Springfield, Steubenville, Trenton, Tulsa, Wichita, Wheeling-Charleston.

The DDP is ready to consult with a diocese regarding the strengthening of its NFP services. Please contact us with questions at 202-541-3240. The following booklets which are available from the DDP 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

1995 PROFILE SURVEY 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?

76 [95%] YES 4 [5%] 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:

32 [40%] Diocesan NFP Coordinator
31 [39%] Family Life Director
17 [21%] Other: Respect Life Director, Director of Catholic Charities

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

7 [9%] Full-time, paid
2 [2%] Full-time, volunteer
48 [60%] Part-time, paid/part of other responsibilities
18 [22%] Part time, volunteer
5 [6%] (No response)

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

33 [41%] We share support staff.
19 [24%] We have our own support staff.
25 [31%] We do not have a support staff.
3 [4%] (No response)

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

Total NFP work force as reported by 69 dioceses consists of 778 teachers.

Comment: Based on other sources, there are over 1,000 NFP teachers nationally.

** Totals, percentages, and comments were compiled (1/24/95) from 80 dioceses.*

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

- 16 [20%]Most of our NFP instructors are volunteers. We give them a stipend.
48 [60%]Most of our NFP instructors are volunteers. We do not give them a stipend.
8 [10%]We pay our NFP instructors a salary (part and/or full time).
8 [10%] (No response)

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

- 7 [9%] Its own department
43 [54%] Part of the Marriage and Family Life office
12 [15%]Part of Catholic Charities
3 [4%] Part of Pro-Life Activities
6 [7%]A service of our Catholic hospital(s)
6 [7%]Other: various diocesan institutions, departments, or approved agencies.
4 [3%] (No response)

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

Frequency

- 27 Independent NFP teacher(s).
15 Independent NFP organization(s).
18 Other
21 Does not apply
12 (No response)

9)Does your diocese have an NFP Advisory Committee?

33 [41%] YES 47 [59%] NO 0 [0%] (No response)

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

22 [27%] YES 56 [70%] NO 2 [3%] (No response)

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

Frequency:

15 Billings Ovulation Method Association of the United States (BOMA)

33 Couple to Couple League (CCL)

9 Family of the Americas

10 Northwest Family Services

24 Pope Paul VI Institute (Creighton Model, OM)

9 Other:

21 (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:

29 Methodology

15 Cost

14 Convenient locale

36 Other

27 (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?

1 [4%]	0
44 [55%]	1-4,999
10 [13%]	5-9,999
11 [14%]	10-29,999
7 [9%]	30-49,999
1 [1%]	50-69,000
4 [5%]	>70,000
2 [2%]	(No response)

Comment: Only a handful of dioceses designate specific funding for NFP programs. The majority of dioceses spend only a few hundred dollars directly on NFP materials and programs. 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 partially 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.)

30 [38%]	100%
25 [31%]	More than 50%
14 [18%]	Less than 50%
5 [6%]	0
6 [7%]	(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.)

<u>Frequency:</u>	<u>Sources of Funding:</u>
5	Grants
2	Individual parishes
56	Client fees
9	Catholic organizations
6	NFP program fund raising activities
24	Other: Catholic hospitals, K of C's, etc.
17	(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 46 dioceses: \$287,000.00

Comment: The exact dollar amount of donated time, materials, and energy is much higher than reported (for all dioceses, the total would be over \$1,000,000. Many NFP coordinators found it difficult to put a dollar value on volunteer efforts. As with other Church ministries, NFP programs exist 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:

58 STM

53 OM

10BBT

1Other

5 (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 STM and OM methods of NFP are the most popular. The frequency of each method reflected 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?

44 [55%] YES 32 [40%] NO 4 [05%] (no response)

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

76 [96%] YES 2 [02%] NO 2 [02%] (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:

15 [19%]	5 min. - 15 min.
28 [35%]	20 min. - 30 min.
25 [20%]	35 min. - 45 min.
14 [17%]	1 hr. - 2 hrs. +
3 [04%]	(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, type and length of marriage prep program, etc. In many instances, NFP is discussed briefly. 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:

44	NFP Teachers
32	NFP clients
25	Clergy
19	Health care professionals
9	Other: engaged couples, seminarians, parish and student groups, etc.
22	(No response)

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

Frequency:

19	Seminars
22	Workshops
17	Special lectures
29	Articles for the diocesan newspaper
35	Informational mailings
29	Periodic informational meetings
12	Diocesan NFP newsletter
4	Other: diocesan conference, deanery meetings, individual sessions, etc.
21	(No response)

23) Does your diocese have guidelines on human sexuality?

47 [59%] YES 27 [34%] NO 6 [07%] (No response)

Comment: Every diocese needs guidelines for the teaching of human sexuality in schools, CCD and youth programs, and adult education of which NFP should be a component.

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

23 [29%] YES 15 [19%] NO 42 [52%] (No response)