

TABLE 1. Selected characteristics of young adult dating relationships, and background characteristics of respondents, 1997 cohort of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth

Characteristic	%†	Characteristic	%†
DEPENDENT VARIABLE		INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY	
Contraceptive use at last sex		Age at last sex with partner	
None	25.4	18–19	19.3
Condom only	25.8	20–21	36.5
Hormonal only	25.8	22–26	44.2
Dual methods	23.0		
		Neither employed nor enrolled in school	12.0
RELATIONSHIP		Partner neither employed nor enrolled in school	5.5
Duration (mos.)		Ever attended college	55.5
0–6	31.2	Was a parent prior to last sex	14.2
7–12	20.1		
13–23	22.5	No. of partners in last year	
≥24	26.2	1	57.1
		2	19.2
Timing of first sex in the relationship		≥3	23.7
Before dating began	9.0		
In first or second month	55.6	Gender‡‡	
After second month	35.4	Male	47.2
		Female	52.8
Closeness to partner‡		Race/ethnicity‡‡	
Low	8.6	White	70.0
Medium	45.7	Black	16.7
High	45.7	Hispanic	12.1
		Other	1.2
Partner's caring about respondent‡		Foreign-born‡‡	5.1
Low	5.1		
Medium	35.3	Lived with two biological/adoptive parents‡‡	56.6
High	59.5		
Likelihood of being together in six mos.		Either parent ever attended college‡‡	60.8
0–40%	5.9		
50%	17.0	Age at first sex‡‡	
60–90%	35.8	≤14	18.9
100%	41.2	15–17	52.3
		≥18	28.8
Discussed marriage/cohabitation	72.6		
Medium/high level of conflict§	43.6		
Partner asymmetry††			
0	35.8		
1	43.8		
2	18.1		
3	2.4		

†Unless otherwise noted, characteristics are time-varying, and percentages are based on the sample of 4,014 relationships. ‡On a scale of 0–10: low, 0–6; medium, 7–9; high, 10. §On a scale of 0–10: medium/high, 4–10. ††Based on a three-item summative index of partner differences in race or ethnicity, age and educational attainment. ‡‡Time-invariant; percentages are based on the sample of 3,498 respondents. Note: Percentages are weighted.

TABLE 2. Percentage distribution of young adult dating relationships, by contraceptive method used at last sex within the relationship, according to selected relationship characteristics

Characteristic	None	Condom only	Hormonal only	Dual method	Total
Duration of relationship (mos.)					
0–6	27.2	30.7***	20.4***	21.7	100.0
7–12	26.0	23.5	29.8	20.7	100.0
≥13	23.9	23.4	28.4	24.3	100.0
Timing of first sex in the relationship					
Before dating began	24.7**	28.9*	24.2***	22.1***	100.0
In first or second month	27.6	24.0	29.4	18.9	100.0
After second month	22.4	28.0	21.8	27.9	100.0
Intimacy scale†					
Low	31.4***	31.3***	18.5***	18.8**	100.0
Medium	25.0	25.9	26.4	22.6	100.0
High	22.2	22.6	28.9	26.3	100.0
Discussed marriage/cohabitation					
Yes	26.4***	23.7***	28.0***	21.9**	100.0
No	22.4	31.8	19.8	26.0	100.0
Level of conflict‡					
Low	21.9***	26.1	27.2*	24.8*	100.0
Medium/high	29.5	26.0	23.9	20.6	100.0
Partner asymmetry§					
0	22.7**	25.7	26.0	25.7*	100.0
1	25.5	25.5	27.2	21.8	100.0
2	29.0	27.1	23.1	20.8	100.0
3	32.8	28.3	16.3	22.5	100.0

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$. †Index combining closeness to partner, partner's caring about respondent and likelihood of being together in six months, on a scale of 0–10: low, 0–7; medium, 8–9; high, 10. ‡On a scale of 0–10: low, 0–3; medium/high, 4–10. §Based on a three-item summative index of partner differences in race or ethnicity, age and educational attainment. Note: Chi-square tests examined differences across all categories.

TABLE 3. Odds ratios from logistic regression analysis assessing likelihood of any contraceptive use, and relative risk ratios from multinomial logistic regression analysis assessing likelihood of use of specific methods, by selected characteristics

Characteristic	Any method vs. none	Condom only vs. none	Hormonal only vs. none	Dual method vs. none	Hormonal only vs. condom only	Dual method vs. condom only	Dual method vs. hormonal only
Relationship							
Duration	1.00	0.99	1.01**	1.00	1.01***	1.01*	0.99*
Timing of first sex in the relationship							
Before dating began	1.35*	1.50*	1.09	1.52*	0.73	1.01	1.40
In first or second month (ref)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
After second month	1.22*	1.44**	0.75*	1.63***	0.52***	1.13	2.17***
Intimacy scale	1.08**	1.01	1.15***	1.13***	1.14***	1.12***	0.98
Discussed marriage/cohabitation	0.69***	0.63***	1.00	0.56***	1.59***	0.89	0.56***
Level of conflict scale	0.97*	0.97*	0.98	0.96*	1.01	0.99	0.98
Partner asymmetry scale	0.90*	0.95	0.87*	0.87*	0.92	0.92	1.00
Individual/family							
Age at last sex with partner	0.95*	0.95	0.95	0.93**	1.00	0.97	0.97
Neither employed nor enrolled in school	0.73**	0.89	0.54***	0.72*	0.61**	0.81	1.34
Partner neither employed nor enrolled in school	0.64**	0.72	0.56**	0.61*	0.77	0.85	1.11
Ever attended college	1.59***	1.38**	2.09***	1.39**	1.52***	1.01	0.67***
Was a parent prior to last sex	0.53***	0.54***	0.53***	0.54***	0.98	1.00	1.02
No. of partners in last year	0.93***	0.92***	0.97	0.91***	1.05	0.99	0.95
Male	0.90	1.23*	0.73**	0.81*	0.60***	0.65***	1.10
Race/ethnicity							
White (ref)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Black	0.80*	1.31*	0.38***	0.83	0.29***	0.63***	2.17***
Hispanic	0.83	1.19	0.70*	0.61**	0.59***	0.52***	0.87
Other	0.99	1.40	0.67	0.94	0.47	0.67	1.42
Foreign-born	1.12	1.27	0.98	1.05	0.77	0.82	1.07
Lived with two biological/adoptive parents	1.07	1.13	0.95	1.15	0.84	1.02	1.21
Either parent ever attended college	1.16	1.03	1.55***	1.01	1.51***	0.98	0.65***
Age at first sex	1.03	1.07**	0.98	1.04	0.92***	0.98	1.06**
<i>F</i>	12.92***	8.46***	8.46***	8.46***	8.46***	8.46***	8.46***
<i>df</i>	22	66	66	66	66	66	66

*p<.05. **p<.01. ***p<.001. Note: ref=reference category.