

TABLE 1. Contraceptive features whose importance was examined among women seeking abortions at selected clinics in six U.S. cities, 2010, and methods that possess each feature

Feature	Male con- doms	Female con- doms	Pill	OTC pill	Ring	Patch	Inject- able	Implant	IUD	Self-remov- able IUD	Sponge	Dia- phragm	OTC dia- phragm
I can stop using the birth control method at any time	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X
I can get pregnant immediately after I stop using it	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
The method is easy to use					X	X	X	X	X	X			
I don't have to remember to use the method each time I have sex			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
I use the method only when I am going to have sex	X	X									X	X	X
The method is easy for me to get	X	X		X							X		X
I can get it without seeing a doctor or going to a clinic	X	X		X							X		X
The method has few or no side effects	X	X									X	X	X
The method doesn't detract from my sexual enjoyment			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
The method does not detract from my partner's sexual enjoyment			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
The method has a health benefit			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
The method protects against STDs	X	X											
The method does not change my menstrual periods	X	X									X	X	X
The method is very effective at preventing pregnancy			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
I am responsible for using the method and not my sexual partner		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
I have control over when and whether to use the method		X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X
No one can tell that I am using the method			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Notes: The features examined also included affordability, but it was not assessed here because we cannot know what the price of a method would be for a particular woman. OTC=over-the-counter. FP=family planning. EC=emergency contraception.

TABLE 1 continued

With- drawal	Natural FP	EC	Male steriliza- tion	Female steriliza- tion	Peri- coital pill	OTC peri- coital pill	None
X	X	X			X	X	X
X	X	X			X	X	X
		X	X	X			X
			X	X			X
X	X	X			X	X	
X	X	X				X	X
X	X	X				X	X
X	X		X	X			X
		X	X	X	X	X	X
		X	X	X	X	X	X
					X	X	
X	X		X	X			X
			X	X	X	X	
		X		X	X	X	X
		X	X	X	X	X	X

TABLE 2. Percentage distribution of study participants, by selected characteristics

Characteristic	% (N=574)
Age	
14–19	17
20–24	32
25–29	22
30–49	22
Missing	7
Race/ethnicity	
Black	45
White	25
Hispanic	11
Asian/Pacific Islander	6
American Indian	4
Missing/other	9
Trimester	
First	76
Second	19
Third	5
Frequency of intercourse in the three months prior to conception	
Every day	13
3 times/week	41
1 time/week	22
2 times/month	15
1 time/month	2
Once or twice	5
Never	3
% of acts in which a contraceptive was used in the three months prior to conception	
0	29
10–40	19
50	17
60–90	23
100	11
Likelihood of unprotected sex in the next three months	
Extremely likely	6
Somewhat likely	16
Not at all likely	75
Prefer not to answer	3
Total	100

Note: Percentages may not total 100 because of rounding.

TABLE 3. Percentage distribution of women, by opinions of importance of selected contraceptive features

Feature	Extremely important	Somewhat important	Not at all important	No answer	Total
Very effective	84	9	2	5	100
Few/no side effects	78	16	3	2	100
Affordable	76	14	5	6	100
Easy to get	74	17	4	5	100
Easy to use	74	18	3	6	100
Woman controls when and whether to use	70	19	6	4	100
Woman, and not her partner, is responsible for use	69	21	6	4	100
Not used at time of sex	65	19	8	7	100
Does not reduce woman's sexual enjoyment	64	21	9	5	100
Does not reduce partner's sexual enjoyment	61	22	11	6	100
Protects against STDs	61	20	13	6	100
Use is undetectable	57	18	19	6	100
Has a health benefit	56	25	13	7	100
Does not change menstrual period	51	27	17	6	100
Can be stopped at any time	50	29	12	9	100
Pregnancy possible immediately after use ends	50	22	17	11	100
No doctor/clinic visit needed	42	24	25	9	100
Used only at time of sex	35	18	35	12	100

Note: Percentages may not total 100 because of rounding.

TABLE 4. Mean number of contraceptive features that are extremely important to women, and percentage of women who consider each feature extremely important, by selected characteristics of women

Feature	Likely to have unprotected sex		Race		Age	
	No	Yes	White	Black	≥20	<20
Means						
No. of features that are extremely important	10.8	9.7*	9.7	11.0*	10.6	9.7
Percentages						
Very effective	89	71*	90	82*	85	80
Few/no side effects	81	70*	76	81	79	77
Affordable	82	61*	81	77	78	63*
Easy to get	80	63*	74	78	77	62*
Easy to use	78	63*	72	75	75	66
Woman controls when and whether to use	73	68	65	74*	71	65
Woman, and not her partner, is responsible for use	71	66	64	76*	70	63
Not used at time of sex	68	56*	60	73*	67	58
Does not reduce woman's sexual enjoyment	67	58	72	60*	65	56
Does not reduce partner's sexual enjoyment	64	54*	70	57*	63	49*
Protects against STDs	63	57	45	68*	60	65
Use is undetectable	56	63	57	58	56	62
Has a health benefit	59	51	50	62*	57	54
Does not change menstrual periods	52	52	40	55*	52	44
Can be stopped at any time	53	44	40	56*	51	43
Pregnancy possible immediately after use ends	51	48	39	55*	50	47
No doctor/clinic visit needed	43	45	37	45	43	36
Used only at time of sex	35	39	18	45*	35	37

*p<.05 in t test (for means) or chi-square test (for percentages).

TABLE 5. Percentage of extremely important features possessed by current and potential new methods of contraception, and percentage of women for whom each method is a perfect match or a good match

Contraceptive method	% of extremely important features	% of women	
		Perfect match	Good match
Currently available methods			
Ring	67	3	31
Sponge	67	3	24
Emergency contraception	66	4	23
Patch	62	3	19
Pill	60	2	15
Female condom	56	3	15
IUD	56	1	14
Diaphragm	56	2	11
Female sterilization	55	1	12
Male sterilization	52	2	14
Injectable	51	1	11
Implant	51	1	11
Male condom	42	1	9
Withdrawal/natural family planning	37	1	8
Potential new methods			
Over-the-counter pill	71	4	41
Over-the-counter pericoital pill	68	3	27
Pericoital pill	64	2	21
Self-removable IUD	61	3	18
Over-the-counter diaphragm	60	2	14

Notes: A method is a perfect match if it has 100% of the features a woman said were extremely important. A method is a good match if it has at least 75% of a woman's extremely important features.