

**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)
<b>Age</b>	
14–19	17
20–24	32
25–29	22
30–49	22
Missing	7
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>	
Black	45
White	25
Hispanic	11
Asian/Pacific Islander	6
American Indian	4
Missing/other	9
<b>Trimester</b>	
First	76
Second	19
Third	5
<b>Frequency of intercourse in the three months prior to conception</b>	
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
<b>% of acts in which a contraceptive was used in the three months prior to conception</b>	
0	29
10–40	19
50	17
60–90	23
100	11
<b>Likelihood of unprotected sex in the next three months</b>	
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
<b>Means</b>						
No. of features that are extremely important	10.8	9.7*	9.7	11.0*	10.6	9.7
<b>Percentages</b>						
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
<b>Currently available methods</b>			
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
<b>Potential new methods</b>			
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.