At interview and were more likely to have been married or to have cohabited with a partner (or both) than were those whose pregnancies were all unintended. Similarly, women who were using or had ever used drugs, those who had traded sex for drugs those who had more casual partners—or any combination of these—were significantly more likely to report at least one unintended conception.

In a multivariate model including factors significant at the bivariate level, age and drug use remained significantly and positively associated with intended conception (Table 4). Lower economic status (as indicated by the receipt of social services and/or food stamps) also had a significant and positive effect in this model. However, having had a greater number of serious partners lowered the probability of ever having intended to conceive; the number of casual partners no longer had a significant effect. (This finding results from a high correlation between numbers of casual partners and the use of drugs; when drug use was left out of the model, having more casual partners was significantly and positively associated with intention.)

When the dependent variable was defined as women whose conceptions were all wanted (even if some were mistimed), age had the opposite effect: The longer a woman was exposed to the risk of pregnancy, the less likely she was to have experienced only wanted conceptions. The number of casual partners was only marginally significant, and no other variables except race had a significant effect. Race was included in this model because—consistent with the models described above—black women were more likely than white women to have said, at some time, that they wanted no more pregnancies or none at all. When considering the “not with this partner” response on the level of the individual woman, we excluded the 20 women who never wanted to conceive and limited the sample to 227 women who had had at least one wanted pregnancy, whether or not it was mistimed. Among these women (the majority of whom had had both wanted and unintended pregnancies), having had more serious partners was significantly and positively associated with the “not with this partner” response. Having had at least some wanted conceptions was negatively related and significant. Overall, 21% cited the “not with this partner” response in connection with at least one of their mistimed or intended pregnancies.

Among women who had had both intended and unintended conceptions, 19% attributed their desire to postpone at least one pregnancy to not wanting a child with a particular partner. The women most likely to cite that reason were those who reported that none of their pregnancies had been intended; 33% of these women gave that response in connection with at least one conception. More surprising, however, is that even among the subgroup who described every pregnancy as wanted and appropriately timed, almost one woman in five (18%) claimed that, at least once in her life, she had not wanted to conceive by the man who impregnated her.

### Changes in Intention by Partner

We then asked whether a woman’s responses changed over time, by partner, or both. Was a woman likely to change her...