gistic regression techniques\(^\text{15}\) to identify associations between relationship dynamics and consistency of condom use. In this analysis, we included ethnicity, relationship dynamics, and demographic and condom-use–related control variables as independent variables.

We compared consistent users with nonusers and with occasional users, and we compared occasional users with nonusers. Because some variables seemed to measure similar concepts or constructs, we ran multicollinearity diagnostics.\(^\text{16}\) The statistics showed no evidence of this potential problem. In the multivariable analyses, we replaced missing data with the mean value specific to that ethnic group.\(^\text{17}\) We tested interactions between ethnicity and all independent variables and found none.

### Results

#### Bivariate Analysis of Differences

According to Table 2, black and Hispanic women reported higher levels of consistent condom use (15–17%) than did white women (4%). On most items concerning relationship dynamics, black and white women tended to be relatively similar, while Hispanics differed in the expected direction, based upon past literature. For example, 94–95% of black and of white women reported being extremely or somewhat comfortable talking about sex with their partner, whereas 88% of Hispanic women did so. Among black and white respondents, 90–95% said they felt extremely or somewhat comfortable discussing condoms, compared with 76% of Hispanic participants. A larger proportion of Hispanic women (55%) reported joint decision-making about contraceptive use than did black women (26%) or white women (31%).

A larger proportion of Hispanic women reported being worried about contracting AIDS and getting pregnant (97% and 73%, respectively) than did black women (83% and 48%, respectively) or white women (70% and 55%, respectively). This may, in part, explain Hispanic women’s different contraceptive use patterns. Hispanic respondents were as likely as other women to use a highly effective contraceptive method (not shown). More than 25% of Hispanic women combined highly effective methods and condoms, almost half consistently, compared with 6% of white women.

Discussing contraception and arriving at a decision, rather than who made the decision, differentiated consistent and occasional condom users from nonusers. Among women who reported that their partner made birth control decisions, 28%