rents studied. One-third of women with a lifetime history of alcohol abuse or a recent history of depression reported that health risks were a major deterrent; women with a lifetime history of alcohol abuse also were concerned with not having a place to store methods, and those recently suffering from depression, with having a partner who dislikes contraceptives.

Analyses that adjusted for all the characteristics in Table 3 suggested that certain characteristics are independently associated with elevated odds of perceiving deterrents to contraceptive use (Table 4). Black women were significantly more likely than whites and members of other racial or ethnic groups* to cite not having a place to store methods, not knowing which methods to use, feeling that methods are uncomfortable or unnatural and fearing that contraceptives are harmful to one’s health as major deterrents to contraceptive use (odds ratios, 3.3–6.0). Hispanic women had elevated odds of not knowing how to use a method or which method to use (9.4–9.8). Having a lifetime history of drug abuse was associated with reporting that not knowing how to use methods or which methods to use and cost were big problems deterring contraceptive use (5.2–7.7); having a recent history of depression was associated with not knowing where to get contraceptives (2.4). Women younger than 25 appeared to be more likely than those aged 35–44 to not know how to use contraceptives (5.7). Although this result was not quite significant at the p=.05 level, it is supported by the bivariate analyses and would probably have been significant at a lower alpha level if the sample size had been larger.

Other characteristics were associated with decreased odds of perceiving deterrents to contraceptive use. Women who had graduated from high school were less likely than those who had not graduated to cite having a partner who dislikes birth control as a problem that deters them from practicing contraception (0.3). Living outdoors was associated with decreased odds of reporting that side effects,