Seven in 10 respondents had other children, and three-fourths had not used any family planning method at the time of conception. Thirty-four percent had intended to become pregnant when they did; 42% became pregnant sooner than they had wanted and 24% had not wanted a pregnancy at any time. Forty-one percent of women reported that they were happy about being pregnant, 40% were moderately happy and 19% were unhappy.

At baseline, 18% of respondents had smoked cigarettes in the past week, 57% had been exposed to environmental tobacco smoke in the past week and 44% reported having been depressed in the past month. Thirty-two percent of women reported physical or sexual intimate partner violence perpetrated by a partner in the past year, and 17% reported violence perpetrated by either a partner or herself during the pregnancy. Twenty-two percent of respondents had used alcohol during the pregnancy, and 12% had used illicit drugs in this period.

Pregnancy Intention, Happiness and Risk Behaviors

A woman’s happiness about being pregnant was significantly associated with pregnancy intention (correlation coefficient, 0.6; \(p<0.05\)). Sixty-seven percent of women who were happy to be pregnant had intended to become pregnant at the time they did, compared with 16% of those who were moderately happy and 4% of those who were unhappy (Figure 1, page 196). Twenty-seven percent of women who were happy to be pregnant had a mistimed pregnancy, in contrast, 59% of women who were moderately happy and 39% of those who were unhappy reported having a mistimed pregnancy. Finally, 6% of women who were happy to be pregnant had an unwanted pregnancy, compared with 25% of those who were moderately happy and 57% of those who were unhappy.

In bivariate comparisons, a woman’s happiness about being pregnant was strongly associated with behavioral and psychosocial risk (Table 2, page 197). Significantly higher proportions of women who were happy to be pregnant than of those who were moderately happy or happy reported five of the seven risk factors: having smoked cigarettes in the past week (26% vs. 16–17%), having been depressed in the past month (60% vs. 37–43%), having experienced intimate partner violence in the past year (40% vs. 27–33%), and having drunk alcohol (26% vs. 17–24%) or used illicit drugs (16% vs. 9–13%) during pregnancy. In contrast, exposure to environmental tobacco smoke in the past week was less common among women who were unhappy to be pregnant than among those who were moderately happy or happy (48% vs. 58–60%).

Pregnancy intention had fewer associations with the various risk factors. A higher proportion of women with unwanted pregnancies than of those with intended or mistimed pregnancies had smoked in the past week (28% vs. 15–16%). Women with unintended pregnancies were at greater risk than those with intended pregnancies of having been depressed in the past month (46% vs. 39%) or having drunk alcohol during their pregnancy (23% vs. 18%). Finally, a larger proportion of women reporting an unwanted pregnancy than of those reporting a wanted pregnancy had smoked cigarettes in the past week (28% vs. 15%), whereas a smaller proportion had been exposed to environmental tobacco smoke (51% vs. 59%).

Multivariate findings confirmed many of the bivariate findings; most of the significant differences were between women who were unhappy and those who were happy about being pregnant (Table 3). Compared with the latter women, the former had higher odds of having smoked cigarettes in the past week (odds ratio, 1.9), having drunk alcohol (1.9) or used illicit drugs (1.7) during pregnancy, having been depressed in the past month (2.6) or having experienced intimate partner violence in the past year (1.8); they had reduced odds of having been exposed to environmental tobacco smoke (0.6). Only one comparison between moderately happy and happy women reached significance: The odds of having drunk alcohol during pregnancy were elevated for those who were moderately happy (1.8).

In multivariate comparisons of pregnancy intention, there was less consistency, and fewer comparisons were