

TABLE 3. Percentage distribution of sexually active women aged 18–49 who were not regularly using a contraceptive method, by reason for nonuse or irregular use, according to year

Reason	1994	1995	1996	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003
Nonuse	(N=1,355)	(N=1,258)	(N=1,065)	(N=1,500)	(N=1,629)	(N=1,762)	(N=1,857)	(N=3,732)
Does not have sex regularly*	25.8 (22.2–29.4)	29.3 (25.1–33.4)	30.4 (26.1–34.8)	30.0 (26.1–33.9)	31.6 (27.7–35.4)	32.6 (28.9–36.3)	29.6 (25.9–33.3)	28.8 (25.5–32.1)
Wants to get pregnant***	13.3 (10.3–16.2)	15.9 (12.4–19.4)	17.4 (13.7–21.1)	15.0 (11.9–18.1)	15.6 (12.6–18.6)	15.1 (12.4–17.9)	17.5 (14.5–20.4)	21.8 (18.7–24.9)
Is unable to get pregnant***	22.2 (19.1–25.3)	23.1 (19.6–26.6)	18.5 (15.5–21.5)	17.9 (15.1–20.8)	16.2 (13.2–19.1)	13.8 (11.4–16.2)	13.4 (11.2–15.7)	14.9 (12.4–17.5)
Feels contraceptives are uncomfortable or unpleasant***	9.3 (6.8–11.8)	8.9 (6.0–11.7)	6.4 (3.8–9.1)	7.6 (5.3–10.0)	9.0 (6.6–11.5)	15.9 (12.9–18.9)	16.2 (13.1–19.3)	15.0 (12.2–17.8)
Has health problems**	17.9 (14.9–20.9)	12.7 (10.0–15.4)	14.1 (11.1–17.2)	14.6 (11.8–17.5)	13.7 (11.1–16.3)	11.6 (9.2–14.1)	13.8 (11.3–16.4)	11.4 (9.2–13.7)
Could get abortion if necessary***	9.3 (6.9–11.8)	7.8 (5.4–10.3)	8.2 (5.7–10.7)	6.3 (4.3–8.3)	7.0 (4.7–9.2)	6.1 (4.1–8.1)	6.4 (4.4–8.4)	6.0 (4.2–7.8)
Cannot obtain a method	1.1 (0.2–2.1)	1.5 (0.2–2.8)	1.6 (0.0–3.2)	2.9 (1.4–4.5)	4.2 (2.4–5.9)	1.6 (0.7–2.5)	2.0 (1.1–2.9)	1.6 (0.7–2.5)
Cannot afford a method*	1.0 (0.2–1.8)	0.7 (0.0–1.5)	3.3 (1.3–5.2)	5.6 (3.6–7.6)	2.7 (1.5–3.9)	3.2 (1.7–4.7)	1.0 (0.3–1.7)	0.5 (0.0–1.2)
Irregular use	(N=158)	(N=103)	(N=112)	(N=129)	(N=121)	(N=128)	(N=149)	(N=244)
Does not have sex regularly	26.5 (18.1–34.9)	41.2 (29.0–53.4)	43.7 (34.2–53.1)	35.3 (26.4–44.2)	39.4 (29.6–49.2)	24.9 (17.5–32.2)	35.7 (27.3–44.1)	29.8 (19.3–40.2)
Wants to get pregnant	10.8 (5.1–16.5)	12.6 (4.4–20.9)	9.3 (3.1–15.5)	3.1 (0.0–6.9)	6.1 (2.1–10.1)	10.1 (3.6–16.7)	9.7 (4.8–14.6)	6.6 (2.3–10.9)
Is unable to get pregnant	2.3 (0.1–4.5)	4.0 (0.0–9.5)	0.0 (0.0–0.0)	4.6 (0.4–8.9)	4.5 (0.2–8.8)	5.6 (1.6–9.5)	4.1 (0.1–8.1)	0.0 (0.0–0.0)
Feels contraceptives are uncomfortable or unpleasant†	16.0 (9.5–22.6)	13.7 (7.3–20.1)	13.1 (6.0–20.2)	10.7 (5.1–16.3)	20.3 (11.7–28.9)	29.1 (19.8–38.3)	21.6 (14.6–28.6)	26.8 (15.8–37.7)
Has health problems	12.1 (6.6–17.7)	4.2 (0.3–8.2)	5.0 (0.3–9.6)	6.9 (2.6–11.2)	2.3 (0.0–5.1)	4.3 (0.5–8.1)	4.0 (0.5–7.5)	11.6 (4.1–19.1)
Could get abortion if necessary	18.4 (11.8–25.0)	17.4 (7.4–27.5)	17.4 (9.2–25.5)	18.3 (9.7–26.8)	16.4 (8.0–24.7)	9.0 (3.5–14.5)	10.0 (4.7–15.4)	14.5 (6.8–22.3)
Cannot obtain a method	11.2 (5.0–17.3)	4.0 (0.0–8.4)	9.0 (3.1–14.8)	10.2 (3.8–16.5)	7.1 (2.3–11.9)	10.7 (4.3–17.1)	12.4 (6.2–18.6)	10.2 (3.4–16.9)
Cannot afford a method	2.7 (0.1–5.2)	2.9 (0.0–6.8)	2.6 (0.0–6.6)	10.9 (3.6–18.3)	3.9 (0.0–8.9)	6.4 (1.4–11.4)	2.4 (0.0–5.2)	0.6 (0.0–1.6)
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*p<.05. **p<.01. ***p<.001. †p<0.1 Notes: P values refer to trends over time. Women were considered sexually active if they reported having had sex in the past 30 days. Percentages may not total 100.0 because of rounding. Numbers in parentheses are 95% confidence intervals.